

# Bethany Lutheran Church

"To grow so deep in Christ through worship, education,  
and fellowship that we celebrate by reaching out to others."



## Important Dates

5-01 Nature Walk 4:00 PM  
5-09 Council meeting 6:30 PM  
5-22 4th Sunday Meal 5:00 PM  
5-20&21 Synod Assembly

Jesus  You!

## Contact Information

Bethany Lutheran Church  
235 South Second Street  
PO Box 236  
West Branch, Iowa 52358  
(319) 643-5998

[www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)

Pastor Chad Whaley  
[pastor@wbbethany.org](mailto:pastor@wbbethany.org)

Pastor is in the office often. Call him at  
(319) 643-5998 if needed, schedule an  
appointment, or just to say "Hi!"

Admin. Assistant: Paula Casper  
[blsecretary@lcom.net](mailto:blsecretary@lcom.net)

Office Hours  
Tuesday & Thursday 8:00-11:30 AM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Simply search "Bethany Lutheran  
Church (ELCA) West Branch, Iowa" on  
Facebook and "Like" our page!

FIND US ON TWITTER!

Search @blwestbranch

Links to websites are built into the  
digital version of this newsletter.  
Click on words highlighted in blue  
(e.g. [wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)) or images

## "He is not here, but has risen."—Luke 24:5



Dear Faithful, Wonderful, Beloved People of God,

Easter worship was awesome! It always is, but maybe being able to be back in our worship space, the choir singing, the children rejoicing, and the pews more full with the people of God made it just a bit more special this year. Resurrection became a bit more visible and tangible. I find myself trying to dwell daily in that Easter energy. Trying to keep the beloved Easter hymn, "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" playing, which isn't all that difficult. Remember shortly after the onset of the pandemic, as the church was learning how to worship together in a virtual world, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians created a beautiful rendition of this hymn bringing together a multitude of voices in a completely new way. It was a gift to us then and continues to be so today. I have often found myself pausing to listen to it in my office. You can view and listen to it on You Tube (use the link or scan the QR Code below).

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8jbse9>



On one such occasion, I wrote "He is risen" vertically on a piece of paper with each letter capitalized. Then, I listened and slowly wrote a word or words behind each letter that spoke to me. I share this as a spiritual practice you might find beneficial. A way to dwell daily in that Easter energy.

**H**allelujah!

**E**aster

**I**ncredibly

**S**hout it out loud!

**R**ejoice

**I**t's amazing!

**S**hine

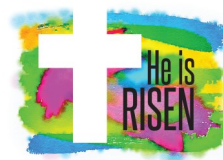
**E**nergizing

**N**othing is impossible!

A spiritual practice is anything that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, draws us into a closer, richer, and fuller relationship with our Lord and Savior. Another spiritual practice might be keeping this promise, "He is Risen" before us constantly. Let it rush over us like cool water on a hot, humid summer day. Let it be the first thing we see upon awakening and before closing our eyes at night. You will find a few "He is Risen" mentions in this newsletter. Through them, may the Spirit continue to keep the joy of Easter alive in our hearts and our voices intent on telling this good news to all just as the women at the empty tomb did.

He is risen! Alleluia!

*Pastor Chad*





- 05-01 Olivia Poppen, Cozette Sexton  
Rick Paulsen
- 05-06 Deb Anderson, Brittney Heath
- 05-09 Tyler Haub, Curt Friis
- 05-10 Jenna Sexton
- 05-12 Elijah Fetzer
- 05-14 Everett Dlh
- 05-15 Claire Kaufman, Matt Whaley,  
Bonnie Conner
- 05-16 Kody Crow
- 05-17 Candy Madsen, Cadence Heid,  
Maggie Paulsen
- 05-19 Carla Friis
- 05-21 Linda Black,  
Wayne Frauenholtz
- 05-22 Andrew Niles
- 05-26 Bill Holmes
- 05-29 Nicole Zimmerman
- 05-30 Jim Paulsen

## 2022 Synod Assembly May 20-21



An option to view the assembly online will be made available. For more information go to the Synod Assembly page on the website of the Southeastern Iowa Synod.

<https://seiasynod.org/assembly/>



## Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

### Books For Adults

For those of us who grew up in the Lutheran Church, one of the milestones was attending confirmation classes. One part of the instruction that we received was *Luther's Small Catechism*. We not only read it but had to memorize it. It is a good summary of the beliefs of the Lutheran Church. Augsburg Fortress has published *By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism*. It is a detailed account of each part of the Catechism. Many people at the time of the Reformation were quite ignorant of their faith. With the many changes that were taking place under the Reformation people were not sure what to believe. Luther then wrote the Catechism for instruction in the home and church on the main statements of the church. Luther was very skilled at writing and was able to put it in the language of the people. Luther's writings had an effect on the development of modern German. This book regards Luther's words as being already so clear and profound that nothing more need be added. But understanding the theology and history behind the words can be helpful. Knowing how this reflects Luther's own life and thought can open up its proclamation of the gospel. The text is supplemented by pictures, maps, and woodcuts.

*Unafraid: Life Lessons: Sermons to live by and tales of listeners learning to live unafraid* is by Harold Ibsen and Joy Ibsen. I think that this book about a Danish-American pastor in the American Midwest would appeal to many here at Bethany. After Harold Ibsen died after serving seven congregation's his daughter Joy reconstructed sermons of his from his notes. They follow the church year: Christmas, New Year, Epiphany, Lent, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost, Trinity, and Advent. This book unveils parish ministry as a 24/7 affair. She offers not only her father's sermons but the impact that her father's ministry had on the members of the congregations that he served. Harold Ibsen served as a pastor during times of great hardship and challenge, World War II and the Cold War. Nevertheless, the people we encounter in this book develop courage and resilience in their struggles, in light of the good Word they are given from the pulpit. It shows how our lives are relational, that our stories and lives are intertwined with the lives and stories of others, and ultimately with God. This helps us to be unafraid wherever we go and whatever we do. This is not just a collection of old sermons but also an insight into the thoughts and actions of his parishioners. (donated)

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! He is Alive! Alleluia!

## Church Staff

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**Admin. Assistant** - Paula Casper  
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**Custodian** – Patsy Ernst

**Pianist** – Jill Barnhart

## Church Council

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## Financial Secretary

**Claudia Beyer**  
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## Faith at Home

### Matthew 6:10a

"Your kingdom come."

- Words that describe God's kingdom...
- Today, God's kingdom on earth...
- Living my life as part of God's kingdom...



### Matthew 6:10b

"Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

- What is God's will is for everyone...
- In order to know what God's will is...
- God wants me to...

*He is Risen! Alleluia!*



**Evangelical  
Lutheran**  
Church in America

## Bible Quiz

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he?

- A. John
- B. Paul of Tarsus
- C. Joseph of Arimathea
- D. Cleopas



Answer: D (See Luke 24:18.)

## Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) News

### Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate the strong, loving women in your life. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we see moms through their journey to build the brightest future for their children.

We see moms turning to LSI Behavioral Health Intervention Services to ensure their child is receiving the coping skills and behavioral supports they need to thrive. In our Early Childhood Services, we see first-time moms who are eager to join our parenting education classes and support groups. In 2021, LSI's Early Childhood programs provided support to nearly 500 families of young children. We are so inspired to hear their stories and see their hard work pay off as they raise our next generation.

As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, remember how many Iowa moms are being empowered because of your support. If you are looking for a way to honor a mother in your life this year, please consider making a gift in her name to LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) and [Facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://Facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### Education for Every Parent

As a parent educator for LSI, Lindsay spent every day visiting families in their homes and teaching parents how to meet their child's developmental needs and help them thrive.

When she left LSI and welcomed her new son, Patrick, into the world, Lindsay wanted some extra support for her family. And she knew just where to turn.

LSI Early Childhood Services provide evidence-based curriculum that builds on each family's individual strengths and ensures they have the education and resources they need to achieve their personal goals and keep kids on track with their developmental milestones.

Each week, Lindsay was able to meet with her LSI parent educator, Amy, and get a fresh perspective on the best ways to help her son succeed. Together, they worked on setting nutrition goals for Patrick, and Lindsay is now getting ready to help her son learn to walk and talk.

For years, Lindsay was able to educate and empower Iowa families through LSI Early Childhood Services. Now, she gets to experience the programming from the other side, and it's given her a new outlook on how valuable the education and resources are to parents of young children.

"I want to thank everyone who has supported LSI," Lindsay says. "This programming is for everyone. Just having the opportunity for in-home visiting is awesome. I want to thank everybody for donating because I love this program."



?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

The precise number varies depending on the Bible version, but roughly how many times does the word "love" occur in the Old and New Testaments combined?

- A. 200-300
- B. 400-500
- C. 600-700
- D. 800-900

Answer: C





## Free Dinner and Fellowship Sunday May 22

Please join us for a cup of coffee and a free dinner. This is a great time to visit with people you know and to meet new people in our community.

**Dinner will be served  
from 5:00-6:00 PM in the Great Hall**



### **Created! Designed! Empowered!**

Join us for Bethany Lutheran's 3-day Vacation Bible School evening program this summer: July 10-12<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM. All Preschool-Grade 5 children are welcome!

Our key verse for the week is Ephesians 2:10: "For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them."

Let's spark imagination and kick creativity into high gear this summer with VBS! Be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities and student registration coming soon!

**CHILDREN'S**  
*Sunday School*

**Preschool — Grade 3**

**8:45-9:20 AM  
May 1, 8 and 15**

**Worship at 9:30 AM**

+

## BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

### March 2022

The meeting opened with prayer then called to order by President Poppen at 6:33 p.m.

**Members present:** Patricia Ernst, Anne Fetzer, Kent Kaufman, Cindy Knoop, Amber Marsh, Howard Moss, Dave Poppen, Jill Taylor & Pastor Chad Whaley

**Members absent:** Kristin McElhinney.

**Pastor's Report** – Pastor Chad Whaley

Joys and Thanksgivings: Ash Wednesday Worship - Great start to the Lent season. Thanks to our three high school youth who assisted in leading worship. They did a great job! Increased worship attendance and wonderful to have our choir sing.

#### Ministry Activities

- Ten pastoral visits
- Meeting with Cindy to prepare for Lent
- Executive Committee Meeting held to present a possible program "Thriving Beyond COVID: Let God, Trust God, Rise Up!" which could be used for a council retreat or beyond. Dedicated time to ask our questions and entrust them to God in prayer and then listen. This was held around the cross in the Great Hall.
- Synod Nominating Committee Meeting
  - Closing in on Synod Assembly in May Working with Bishop, Assistant to Bishop, and the committee on final preparations to secure candidates Next committee meeting on March 22
- WBARC
  - Treasurer Duties (Balance checkbook, send thank you notes for those that donate, work on review and updates to current guidelines, work with those seeking assistance, others as needed)
  - Worked with Officer Steen. We met with the new owner of Jack and Jill to discuss continued ways WBARC can utilize their help in assisting those who may be in need.
- Conference 7 Meeting—Our conference consists of congregations in Cedar, Muscatine, Johnson, and Washington counties. Held via Zoom with members from Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) joining to discuss their assistance with refugees and immigrants to Iowa
- Technology
  - Met with a technology person at Christ the King Lutheran. They are coming to Bethany on Tuesday to review our system.
  - Will continue working with Paula if streaming to YouTube works better than Facebook.
  - Created document for the next newsletter or email communication to provide ways to assist those viewing and identify ways we can make the streaming experience better when there are technical glitches.
  - Important items to note: Things take more time. Following every worship, the Facebook video must be downloaded, uploaded to an online storage site, the link embedded to our website, posted on Twitter, and emailed to members who do not have Facebook and to Crestview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. This is done by Paula or Pastor. Newsletter links are embedded where applicable and QR codes are generated to assist and enhance this mode of communication as many of our people do view this in an online format
- Worship Planning
  - Planned and Prepared for Ash Wednesday.
  - Sent hand-written notes to all our high school students inviting them to assist in leading worship. This also included Communicating with and preparing binders for the three that assisted.
  - Plan and prepare for Wednesdays in Lent. Intentionality on fellowship and interaction with our youth that attend Wednesday Faith Formation and returning to a Prayer Around the Cross service and a time to be still and listen in this season of Lent.
  - Begin looking toward Holy Week and Easter
- Weekly Prayer Meetings with Paula
- Personal Prayer and Devotion (Pray over every pew and for every person. Pray for our staff. Pray for our council. Pray for our youth. Give thanks for, pray, and seek God's blessings upon those things that assist us in worship and the people leading worship such as lectors, acolytes, audio/visual assistants, piano, cameras, etc.)
- Thanks to Linda Black who assists with editing the Newsletter each month.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Council Minutes

(Continued from page 6)

- Upcoming:
  - Wednesday Lent Fellowship and Prayer Around the Cross March 9, 23, 30, & April 6
  - Vacation March 10-17
  - Holy Week and Easter: Palm Sunday (April 10), Maundy Thursday (April 14), Good Friday (April 15), Easter (April 17)

### Secretary's Report – Anne Fetzer

Kent moved to approve the corrected February minutes, seconded by Howard. Motion approved.

### Treasurer's Report – Jill Taylor

Kent moved to approve the report, seconded by Amber. Motion approved.

## Committee Reports

### Building & Grounds – Howard Moss

- Howard reported all Christmas decorations are put away.
- The furnace room cleaning in the small hall is finished. The light in the bell tower is not working.
- Howard working with Dan Haub on options for replacing the bulb or the fixture.
- The ceiling in the foyer needs drywall repair, primed, and repaired.
- Painting is also needed in first classroom. Howard to recruit volunteers for the painting projects.

### Education & Youth – Kristin McElhinney & Amber Marsh

- Sunday School is consistently held on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sundays at 8:45 a.m. We have five families that regularly attend, with 6-8 children in total.
- Assembled six "Busy Bags" for children during worship service. Still working on a storage place/system for them.
- Brainstorming VBS formats/options to share with Amber and Pastor.
- Thank you, Pastor Chad, for incorporating children's worship during church when children are present - he does this with no notice and does a great job! Also, thanks for involving the kids with worship "jobs" like collecting offerings, etc.
- Planning for graduation

### Evangelism & Missions – Anne Fetzer

No report.

### Fellowship – Patsy Ernst

- Patsy continues to remind the congregation to sign-up for fellowship after worship.
- April 24 will be the first 'Fourth Sunday' meal since the pandemic. Patsy has volunteers through June to make and serve meals. Signs will be distributed in the community prior to each meal.

### Stewardship – Kent Kaufman

No report.

### Worship & Music – Cindy Knoop

- Cindy appreciates the help from Pastor and Paula for helping to support the worship committee.
- Fellowship is planned after each Lent service.
- Palm branches are ordered for Palm Sunday.
- Easter lilies are preordered.
- A special thanks to Bonnie Conner for purchasing four new banners, a new Christ candle, and the Easter spray on the cross.
- A prerecorded service is available from the Synod for the Sunday following Easter. The council agrees with this recommendation and plans to move forward with this plan.

### Old Business

None to discuss.

### New Business

- Transfer portion of Internal Ministries Fund balance to Angel Meals. This is not needed at this time as the Lion's Club donated \$500 to support the Angel Meals program.
- Review Covid Policy—Current policy states that the Council encourages people to wear masks while in the building. At the time of the meeting, Cedar County is considered at medium risk. Currently, CDC recommendations state if you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions. Jill moved to remove mask signage from the lobby door. Howard seconded. After further discussion, the council also determined that worship attendants are not required to mask. If CDC guidelines or conditions change, we'll revisit the policy. Masks and hand sanitizer will still be available. Motion approved.

Dave moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Howard seconded. Motion approved.

The council closed the meeting with prayers around the cross.

**Next Regular Meeting – 04/11/22**

**He is Risen!**



## Family Prayer Night

A Family Prayer Night was held April 27th. Several stations were set up to assist children and youth in their prayer life. Some of the stations included: creating a prayer journal, painting a prayer rock, drawing their prayers, writing a prayer on a sticky note and placing it on a map of the world, and creating a prayer string. Below are a few photos from the evening.



## High School Senior Recognition



**Congratulations to our  
2022 High School  
Graduate!**

**Cole Bailey**

During worship on May 15th we will recognize and pray for God's blessings upon Cole as he enters into a new stage in his life.



## SUPPORT THE MANY MINISTRIES BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1

### OFFERING PLATE

Money can be placed in offering plate on Sunday morning or mailed to:  
Bethany Lutheran Church Box 236, West Branch, IA 52358.

2

### ON-LINE DONATIONS

<https://wbbethany.org>. Click on the blue "Give Now" button.

3

### AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL

Sign up for the "Simply Giving" program for automatic withdrawals from your account. Contact Dave Poppen or Paula Casper.

4

### MOBILE APP

Download the new Vanco Mobile App from your smartphone app store. Select Bethany Lutheran Church, West Branch, IA and make your donation.

5

### TEXT 844-430-1834

Enter the amount you would like to donate  
Ex: if you want to give \$25, enter 25 in message and click send. You will receive instructions to complete the donation.

**He Is Risen!**

Use this QR Code on your mobile device to be taken to the "[Give Now](#)" page on our website.





## May 2022

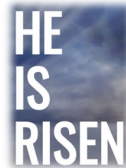
View Calendar on our [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Sunday School Preschool-3rd grade <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship in person and Online via Facebook <b>4:00 PM</b> Hiking Ministry (Meet @	<b>2</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Faith Formation (4-6 Grade & Confirmation)	<b>5</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Women's Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Mother's Day <b>8:45 AM</b> Sunday School Preschool-grade 3 <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship in person and Online via Facebook	<b>9</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting) <b>6:30 PM</b> Council Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Faith Formation (4-6 Grade & Confirmation)	<b>12</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Women's Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Sunday School Preschool-3rd grade (High School Graduates Recognition) <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship in person and Online via Facebook	<b>16</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Women's Study	<b>20</b> Synod Assembly	<b>21</b> Synod Assembly
<b>22</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship in person and Online via Facebook <b>5:00 PM</b> Community Meal in the Great Hall	<b>23</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Monday Gospel Gathering (via Zoom Meeting)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Women's Study	<b>27</b> Last day of School	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> W.B. Graduation <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship in person and Online via Facebook	<b>30</b> Memorial Day	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>6:00 AM</b> Women's Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>



### Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor



	March 2022		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 10,223	Budget 13,838	Actual 42,684	Budget 41,514
Total Expenses	Actual 14,444	Budget 14,111	Actual 42,574	Budget 42,537

**Thank you** all for faithfully stewarding the gifts God has entrusted us with in fulfilling the ministry and mission of God here at Bethany Lutheran Church! In so many ways, not just monetarily, God is abundantly providing for our needs.

## Ministry Assistants

### Ministers of Proclamation

5-01 Jon Twing  
5-08 John Black  
5-15 Wayne Frauenholtz  
5-22 Dave Bahnsen  
5-29 Deb Anderson

### Ministers of Technology

5-01 Cole Crosthwaite &  
Tate Frantz  
5-08 Chloe Klabo  
5-15 Alex Poppen  
5-22 Paula Casper  
5-29 Miley Shields

### Ministers of Christ's Light

5-01 Alexa Fitzgerald &  
Brennan Esbeck  
5-08 Jacob Langley &  
Addison Langley

Opportunities available. Sign Up:  
<https://tinyurl.com/nhkyxwjs>

### Ministers of Altar Care

Makayla Casper & Paula Casper



Find us on  
**Facebook**

To find Bethany's main page,  
search "**Bethany Lutheran  
Church (ELCA) West Branch,  
Iowa**"

DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US!

*He is Risen!*

twitter

Follow us on Twitter!  
Our Twitter Handle is:  
**@blcwestbranch**

**God loves You!!!**



## Bethany Lutheran Church

235 South Second Street  
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[www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)

Bethany Branches

May 2022