

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



Important Dates

- 9/7 Wednesday Youth Faith Formation 6:30 PM
- 9/11, 18, 25 Children's Sunday School 8:45 AM
- 9/12 Council Meeting 6:30 PM
- 9/14 Monthly Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM
- 9/25 Community Spaghetti Dinner 5:00—7:00 PM

Jesus  You!

Contact Information

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

Pastor Chad Whaley
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
blcsecretary@lcom.net

Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday 8:00-11:30 a.m.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

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

FIND US ON TWITTER!

Search @blcwestbranch

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

PSALM 150:1-6

- ¹Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise God in his mighty firmament!
- ²Praise God for his mighty deeds;
praise God according to his surpassing greatness!
- ³Praise God with trumpet sound;
praise God with lute and harp!
- ⁴Praise God with tambourine and dance;
praise God with strings and pipe!
- ⁵Praise God with clanging cymbals;
praise God with loud clashing cymbals!
- ⁶Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

Dear people of God,

As I worked on the completion of this month's newsletter, I couldn't help but notice all the wonderful opportunities available in the upcoming month to praise our Lord. There are opportunities for the Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith, foster fellowship, and draw us closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There is much happening at Bethany. Let us rejoice, give thanks, praise the Lord and offer an invitation for others to come and join us.

The words of praise from Psalm 150 came to mind in putting the finishing touches on the newsletter. It is a hymn of praise and it brings the book of Psalms to conclusion, which I have to think was intentional as the scribes and editors assembled these short hymns, poems, liturgies, and laments into what we know as the book of Psalms. Everything leading up to this point culminates in a hymn of praise. A great assembly is responding to what God has done, God's "mighty deeds" and "surpassing greatness" through worship and praise.

There is a song titled "Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord)" by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa that I invite you to listen to, if you don't already know it. You can find it on the iTunes store and most likely on many other music apps. You can also find a video of it on YouTube (<https://tinyurl.com/y4pjeeb8>) or scan the QR Code to the right. Praise the Lord!

Pastor Chad



SCAN ME



Birthdays

09-01 Dru Johnston, Jared Liebergen
Andrea Pedersen
09-03 Jaden Hierseman
09-04 Nick Fitzgerald
09-05 River Harding
09-06 Cole Bailey
09-09 Emma Fryauf, John Fuhrmeister
09-14 Jeff Arp, Jaylen Votroubek
09-15 Anne Fetzer
09-16 Rebecca Black, Victoria Yeater
09-17 Ron Madsen, Kendra Webb
09-19 Wade Holmes
09-20 Andrew Samuelson
09-22 Pam Glandon
09-23 Cindy Knoop
09-24 Kyle Anderson
09-26 Brendt Fetzer



If you don't see your birthday listed, please contact Paula so we can update our database.



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

Bethany Books



Book For Adults

Bittersweet: How Sorrow And Longing Make Us Whole by Susan Cain is a book that should especially appeal to introverts. The author reveals the power of a bittersweet outlook on life and why we've been blind to its value. Bittersweetness is a tendency toward states of longing, poignancy, and sorrow. It is an acute awareness of passing time, It is a curiously piercing joy at the beauty of the world. It recognizes that light and dark, birth and death, bitter and sweet are paired. She explores why we experience sorrow and longing and how embracing the bittersweetness

at the heart of our life is the path to creativity, connection and transcendence. Cain shows how a bittersweet state of mind is the quiet force that helps us transcend our personal and collective pain. If we do not acknowledge our own heartache, she says, we can end up inflicting it on others via abuse, domination, or neglect. If we realize that all humans know or will know loss and suffering, we can turn toward one another. At a time of discord and personal anxiety, *Bittersweet* brings us together in deep and unexpected ways. Explore why we experience sorrow and longing, and the surprising lessons these states of mind teach us about creativity, compassion, leadership, spirituality, and love.



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Pianist – Jill Barnhart

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Faith at Home

These short Bible passages and reflection starters are one more way we are trying to spur conversation about faith at home and also absorb ourselves in the word of God. We hope you find them beneficial.

Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

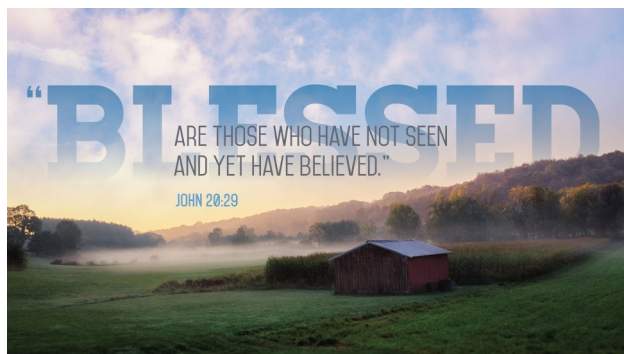
- Presently, the road I am traveling on looks like....
- Life's easy looking roads...
- Life's narrow and difficult roads...



Isaiah 40:6-8

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

- A message that God might ask me to cry out to the world is...
- Past human ideas and beliefs that needed to wither and fade...
- The message of God that stays consistent throughout history...





Faith Formation Opportunities



Wednesday Women's Bible Study

2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Starts Sept. 14 @ 9 AM
in the Great Hall



First Communion Education

Is your child ready to start receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion? A tentative date for first communion instruction has been set for Monday, October 3 at 6:30 PM.

It is our belief a child does not need to be a certain age to take communion; however, some education is required so the child will have a basic understanding of this sacrament. The decision of whether or not a child is ready is made between the parents/guardians and pastor.

Please let Pastor Chad know as soon as possible if interested so educational curriculum can be ordered.





God's work.
Our hands.

† GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS
BETHANY'S SECOND ANNUAL

Spaghetti Dinner

Come Eat!

SUNDAY, SEPT. 25TH: 5-7 PM
Drive-Thru, Dine In, or Delivery



Volunteer Help Needed →

SATURDAY KITCHEN PREP & SUNDAY EVENT
Sign-Up Sheet near north entrance doors

Volunteer Opportunities:

Kitchen Helpers
Dishwashers
Dining Room Helpers
Drive-Thru Runners
Delivery Drivers

† GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

**FREE
SPAGHETTI
DINNER** →

**DRIVE-THRU
DINE IN
DELIVERY**

↪ Call 319-643-5998

**SUNDAY,
SEPT. 25**

5-7 PM

**BETHANY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

235 S. 2nd Street, West Branch

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) News

Direct Support Professionals Week

Do you know someone who is a caregiver to a loved one? It is a role that is both demanding and meaningful. During September's National Direct Support Professionals Week, we celebrate all the ways in which professional caregivers help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful lives.

One way LSI empowers Iowans is through our Services for People with Disabilities. From 24-hour support to occasional respite care, the LSI team lifts up Iowans with disabilities as they find the confidence and independence they need to thrive in their communities. Through our innovative Host Homes program, caregivers can also become mentors to individuals with disabilities, welcoming them into their private family home where they can receive more one-on-one care and encouragement.

If you would like to learn more about how you can support crucial programming like LSI Services for People with Disabilities, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 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 LSI (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 and Facebook.com/LSI.Iowa.

A New Home for D.

D. wanted to become more connected to her community, while still ensuring she could receive the care she needed on a daily basis. Through LSI, D. has been able to enroll in the Host Homes program, which provides 24/7 care for individuals with disabilities and mental illness who thrive in a one-on-one setting instead of a busier group home environment.

D. was able to move into a private family home with her Host Homes mentor, Anita, and they have built a friendship and a shared social life. Anita is there to support D. as she works on her personal goals, while D. is still able to get the care she needs.

Currently, one of D.'s goals is to exercise and become more active in the community, so the duo enjoys shopping and walking around the local mall to stay active. Back at home, the two can work on skills – like hygiene and cooking – that make D. feel more independent and confident.

"I like helping D. and seeing her progress and growth in her daily living," Anita says. "When you and the person in your care begin living like a family, when they are able to trust you and open up, then you know you're getting somewhere."

**LSI does not identify the people we serve, except in well-vetted circumstances. The names and some personal details we use in this story have been changed.*



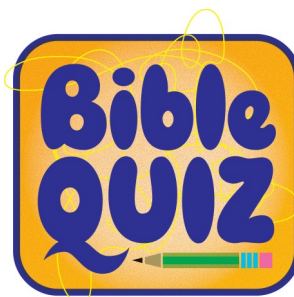
?? ? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ??

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from a psalm of thanksgiving: "Bless the LORD, my _____, and forget not all his benefits"

A. people
B. soul

C. heart
D. children

Answer: B (See Psalm 103:2, ESV)



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

By what other name(s) does the Bible identify the disciple we call "Doubting Thomas"?

A. Didymus
B. The Skeptic
C. The Twin
D. A and B
E. A and C

Answer: E (See John 20:24, NIV and ESV)

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH June 6, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Poppen at 6:36 p.m.

Members Present: Patricia Ernst, Anne Fetzer, Kent Kaufman, Cindy Knoop, Amber Marsh, Howard Moss, Dave Poppen, Pastor Chad Whaley

Members Absent: Kristin McElhinney, Jill Taylor

Pastor's Report – Pastor Chad Whaley

Joys and Thanksgivings

Everett Dlh Baptism; Welcome child of God!!!

Synod Assembly; Together again!!!

Thanks to Dave Bahnsen and Nancy Bruns, our voting members, for their attendance and service

Designing Summer Spirituality Series At-Home Kit

Survived COVID

Ministry Happenings

WBARC Meeting

Reverend Connie Markle at the West Branch United Methodist Church retiring this month. Through generous financial gifts from our congregations and other individuals from within the WB Community, WBARC has a balance of \$6,841. We continue to explore ways to steward these gifts and meet needs within our community.

Heard updates from WB School Resource Navigator and Officer Cathy Steen.

The next meeting will be in September.

Premarital Session

July 16 wedding of Madison Lynch and Kristian Welch

Synod Nomination Committee Meeting

My work on this committee ended following the Synod Assembly

Synod Assembly

See the report of Voting Member Nancy Bruns in the June/July Newsletter

Visit <https://seiasynod.org/assembly/> for a summary report from the Office of the Bishop, videos, and other information from the Assembly

Assist Bishop Amy Current on a special project

Meeting with Nancy Bruns before Assembly to acclimate her to the process

Prayer

Offered many prayers over the phone with God's people as limited in-person visitations following COVID

Pastoral Visits – 5

Summer Spiritual Series: Grow Closer to God

- 8-week at-home program beginning June 20

- Weekly activities focused upon prayer

ACTS prayer, breath prayers, Lectio Divina, journaling and

doodling our prayers, praying with music, prayer cups, prayer cards, and prayers of others

- Plan is to make 25 kits available for pickup on June 19

Hiking Ministry

Another date was set following the cancellation of a previous hike due to inclement weather. Unfortunately, rain caused us to postpone this hike too. A new date is in the works. A small group of 9 people expressed interest in this ministry. All are welcome!

Newsletter

A significant amount of time is devoted to this. May explore if there are other opportunities to make this more efficient (e.g., weekly e-news).

Confirmation

Meeting with 2 students completing the second year and preparing to be confirmed on Reformation Sunday

Attended

Girl's State Golf (Alex)

Youth baseball game

Community

Cedar/Jones County Early Childhood Iowa (<https://cedar-jones-earlychildhoodiowa.org/>) board meeting

Plan and prepare for the 5th Annual Chip Away at Childhood Hunger golf tournament that will be held on August 12 and raise funding for hunger programs within our school district

Attend high school graduation ceremony, operate scoreboard for high school boys' soccer, announce baseball junior varsity/varsity games

Upcoming

Outdoor Worship with fellowship breakfast on June 12

Gone June 22-24 celebrating 50th birthday

VBS July 10-12

Possible vacation last week of July

Secretary's Report – Anne Fetzer

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

Treasurer's Report – Jill Taylor

Report not prepared in time for the meeting.

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds – Howard Moss

Great Hall ramp repaired by Craig Cochran.

Last smoke detector installed.

Food warmer fixed and could be donated or sold.

Opener on one of the parsonage garage doors stripped but can be locked and manually opened.

The other kitchen faucet needs replacing.

(Continued on page 9)

Council Minutes Continued

(Continued from page 7)

Education & Youth – Kristin McElhinney & Amber Marsh

Sunday school and Faith Formation classes start again in September.

VBS - 17 kids registered for VBS to date, flyers posted around town, and participants of the faith at home kits notified. Still need volunteers.

Looking for the congregation to support our students at events/extracurricular activities. Preparing a bulletin board in the Great Hall with more information.

Scheduling a summer pool party. Planning includes renting the City Park Pool in Iowa City in mid-late July or early August for an end-of-summer fun event. The rental time is from 6:30-8:00 PM. We'd invite all kids and their parents from our congregation, so it would cover many ages (toddler through Grade 12).

Evangelism & Missions – Anne Fetzer

No report, but beginning preparation for God's Work, Our Hands.

Fellowship – Patsy Ernst

Fellowship attendance is increasing.

Committee is providing brunch after worship on June 12. Sunday, June 26 is the next scheduled Fourth Sunday Meal.

Stewardship – Kent Kaufman

Shifting bulletin board for youth to use.

Worship & Music – Cindy Knoop

First outdoor service this Sunday, June 12. A setup guide was created to help worship assistants prepare the outdoor space. Asking for additional volunteers to help with setup. Council members asked to fill a spot on the sign-up sheet.

For outdoor services, Communion will be celebrated during the second Sunday worship.

Old Business

Discussion of outdoor worship - frequency and ways to simplify.

First outdoor service is scheduled for June 12. No further discussion.

New Business

Fellowship Lunch planned for June 12.

"God's work. Our hands" scheduled on Sunday, September 11.

This includes community outreach projects and possibly hosting another spaghetti dinner.

July Council meeting – should we cancel and resume in

August?

Anne moved to cancel the July meeting and resume in August, Cindy seconded. Motion approved.

Amber moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m., Kent seconded. Motion approved.

Council members closed the meeting by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Next Regular Meeting – 08/08/22



God loves you!!!

September 2022

View Calendar on our [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30am Worship (Outdoors and Online via Facebook)	29	30	31 7:00am Men's Study Group	1 6:00am Women's Study	2	3
4 9:30am Worship in person and Online via Facebook	5	6	7 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:30pm Wednesday Faith Formation (Grades 4-8) Kickoff for Youth and Parents	8 6:00am Women's Study	9	10
11 8:45am Sunday School (Preschool-3rd grade) 9:30am Worship with Blessing of Backpacks for students of all ages (Outdoors and online via Facebook)	12 6:30pm Council Meeting	13	14 7:00am Men's Study Group 9:00am Women's Study Group	15 6:00am Women's Study	16	17
18 8:45am Sunday School (Preschool-3rd grade) 9:30am Worship in person and Online via Facebook 10:30am Youth Faith Formation	19	20	21 7:00am Men's Study Group	22 6:00am Women's Study	23	24
25 8:45am Sunday School (Preschool-3rd grade) 9:30am Worship (Outdoors and online via Facebook) 5:00pm Community Spaghetti Dinner	26	27	28 7:00am Men's Study Group	29 6:00am Women's Study	30	1



Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

	July 2022		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 13,146	Budget 13,837	Actual 92,155	Budget 96,865
Total Expenses	Actual 13,682	Budget 14,163	Actual 96,890	Budget 99,214

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 (Lectors)

9-4 Alan Beyer
9-11 Patsy Ernst
9-18 Jill Barnhart
9-25 Toni Dodds

Ministers of Technology

9-4 Cole Crosthwaite & Tate
Frantz
9-11 Alex Poppen
9-18 Paula Casper
9-25 Alex Poppen

Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

Opportunities available. Sign Up:

<https://tinyurl.com/nhkyxwjs>

Ministers of Altar Care

Patsy Ernst & Paula Casper



Find us on Facebook

To find Bethany's main page,
search "**Bethany Lutheran
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Iowa**"

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twitter

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

You Are Loved!



The LORD
lifts up
those who are
bowed down:
the LORD
loves
the righteous.

Psalms 146:3

Bethany Branches

September 2022

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