

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



Important Dates

8/7 Pool party 6:00-8:00 PM
Tipton Aquatic Center
8/8 Council meeting 6:30 PM
8/28 Community meal 5-6 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.
Simply search "Bethany Lutheran

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

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

I lift up my eyes to you,
to you who sit enthroned in heaven.

Psalm 123:1 (NIV)



Dear Faithful Servants of Christ,

Have you ever had one of those days or weeks when you just
needed God to send a sign to reassure you of God's pres-
ence? Have you had one of those moments when you your
faith seemed to be running on empty? Of course, we all have.

How did God speak to you in those moments? How did the Spirit uphold you?
Was it through a passage of scripture? Was it through the comforting words
and presence of another? Was it in a song or sermon or a sign sent from on
high? These are stories we need to share because they reveal God's pres-
ence in our lives and in the world.

I was having one of those
moments not so long ago. I
had been praying for
answers, guidance,
wisdom, peace and the
assurance God was with
me. I walked outside,
looked to the heavens, and
saw the picture to the right.
In the lines left behind by
two jets almost a perfect
cross had formed.



Some might say this was merely coincidence. Yet, over the years I have heard
too many stories such as this. God comes to us in so many ways. I believe
wholeheartedly God heard my prayers just as the Bible informs us time and
time again God promises to do. This cross was just what I needed.

So, what story do you have to share? Let's tell them for the world to hear.
Let's proclaim all that the Lord has done. Please email me
(pastor@wbbethany.org), write a brief summary of your experience and per-
haps we will include it in future newsletters. We are called to share the good
news of Jesus Christ. The kingdom has come near.

Grace and peace!

Pastor Chad



Birthdays

08-01 Aiden Shields
 08-02 Mia Olson
 08-04 Chris Korsmo, Jennifer Olson,
 Dylan Casady
 08-06 Bob Leslie, Jenna Helms
 08-08 Shawn Samuelson
 08-11 Jane Frauenholtz
 08-16 Jason Friis
 08-18 Jordan Arp, Courtney Heid
 08-19 Anna Friis
 08-21 Dana Arp, Rayna Sexton
 08-23 Allison Arp, Sam McCrory
 08-27 Miley Shields
 08-28 Jacob Langley
 08-29 Kaylea Zimmerman
 08-31 Aynsley Fonseca

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



4th Sunday Dinner

The 4th Sunday Community Meal
 will be held on Sunday August 25th
 5:00—6:00 PM.
 Please join us for a great meal and
 fellowship.



Bethany Books



Books For Adults

I do not review books on poetry very often. This is an exception. *Call Us What We Carry* is a collection of poems by Amanda Gorman. Many of us saw her at the presidential inauguration of Joe Biden. She is the youngest presidential inaugural poet in U.S. History. The poem she read, *The Hill We Climb*, starts on page 206. Many of the poems reflect her interest in the issues of the environment, racial equality, and gender justice. All of them are done against the background of the recent Covid pandemic. She captures a rather gloomy moment in time and helps to transform it into a lyric of hope and healing. She is a voice for the future.

A Time To Mourn & A Time To Dance by Jennifer Ohman-Rodriguez is a love story of grief, trauma, healing and faith. Tramatized by the sudden loss of her husband Tony, himself a well-respected trauma therapist, and overwhelmed by the impact of his sudden death on their two sons, Jennifer Ohman-Rodriguez was determined to blaze a path toward healing. She traces her own steps out from the depths of despair back to the joy of living. This book is infused with her heartfelt prayers, real life applications of spiritual healing practices and the practical wisdom that only reveals itself in life's moments of truth. The author is a graduate of Luther Seminary and lives here in Iowa. One of the quotes at the beginning in praise of the book is by our bishop Amy Current.

Book For Children

The children's book is *I Am God's Dream* by Matthew Paul Turner. This book is a beautiful celebration of the unique, strong, and wonderful traits in every child and how God delights in each and every one. *I Am God's Dream* is a deeply encouraging exploration of the unique strengths, curiosities, and desires of every child.



**Evangelical
 Lutheran**
 Church in America

Church Staff

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Pianist – Jill Barnhart

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Claudia Beyer
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We cannot thank our VBS volunteers enough for their time & service. Without our volunteers, our Vacation Bible School program would not be able to happen. Thanks to you, we are able to share the good news of our Lord and Jesus' love within our community.

Our many thanks to:

Nancy Bruns
Deb Anderson
Scott Marsh
Amber Marsh
Aizlyn & Arik Marsh
Jennie Wombacher
Anna Bruns
Roxanne Bahnsen
Patsy Ernst
Paula Casper
Erin McFarland
Courtney Heid
Jill Taylor
Pastor Chad Whaley
Kristin McElhinney

In addition, thank you to our congregational members who also donated supplies. We appreciate your help!

Vacation Bible School 2022

Beginning on July 10, around 25 preschool through fifth graders enjoyed Bethany Lutheran's Vacation Bible School extravaganza. Kids and volunteers gathered for three evenings from 6:00-8:00. The overarching theme came from Ephesians 2:10: Created in Christ; designed for God's purpose. The kids learned more about God's workmanship through daily Bible lessons including stories of King David (Acts 13:21-23; Psalm 104), Jesus' death and resurrection (Luke 23:13-25, 44-56; 24:1-12, 36-49), and the Holy Spirit sent by God to be our helper (Acts 1:4-14; Acts 2). Each evening also incorporated engaging songs, crafts, snacks, and games.





This board is sitting inside the main entrance. If you would like to help replenish the Sunday School and Faith Formation supplies you can come by and choose what you would like to purchase.

Thank You!





Faith Formation Opportunities

Men's Group

WEDNESDAYS @ 7:00 AM
Breakfast, Bible Study and
Discussion



MEETS IN THE
GREAT HALL



Women's Group

Thursdays at 6:00 AM
Small Fellowship Hall

Sunday School with Bethany Lutheran Church

Preschool - Grade 3 (Fall 2022)
September 11, 18, 25
8:45 - 9:15 AM | WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM

FAITH FORMATION

Incoming Grades 4-8

**STARTS SEPT. 7TH WITH
FAMILY NIGHT KICK-OFF**

6:30 - 7:30 PM | WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Our gospel passages during July have all been from Luke. The word search below includes some key words from those texts. Have a bit of fun this month finding these words.

Key Words from Luke

R N T C Q D L D U F K F S Q E D T E Y F M H R F
 U D G F E E T R N K A Q B I N A P Q G C T T Y D
 B Y Y W H S V K R F O S M V O V T O M S Q G T U
 D R R F S T U C B P E I X T I Z O N K A R R I N
 J A N W A S W O Y K N T I O Q N P V J Q R L R V
 T D S T I I W N H D M L U F I T N E L P S T O O
 P L E L R J H K T I D H N Q P B R Q O Y U K H J
 W S U T K O B X A X H A R V E S T Z O H D U T A
 H A I G N L B L M L A F J W U J P J V U H G U O
 T Q E F H I C H O P E N E D M R D K P P E G A G
 Q D V U I O O H G F A A B U N D A N C E A K G I
 V Z O X R N D P O I X I H V J L T Y S E R O G P
 Z B L P A L G D P X E X Y X D R O T X E T X V E
 W C H R A S R A D A H N T O A T R R U S R Q S A
 K H M R E R R U Y L Q C K X H E I L D M K L R C
 D C W O Q Z M E R C Y J P B N H Y A O T R D W E
 E R U Y P T B Y N G Y N P G T T M D R U T H I Y
 L A R E V F O L L O W Z T A W L G E I E O H C R
 W E K P V M M L U O S H P Y B N A H A M A G A A
 O S R H H I Z Z X V J Z A T I S M C C H B U N M
 U A F O U N E N X B E B B K U D H N B D K X Z T
 Y U O O P F O C N D S H K R N D K P M P K Z W U
 Z D O I J X X W E P U V E U D F J X L C Q E Y Q
 Q I A S K C H X B R S S J B T G C T I J G H W C

Receive
 Teach
 Mary
 Heart
 Follow
 Kingdom

Opened
 Pray
 Martha
 Mercy
 Authority
 Peace

Knock
 Jesus
 Mind
 Neighbor
 Joy
 Plentiful

Search
 Lord
 Strength
 Love
 Treasures
 Harvest

Ask
 Feet
 Soul
 Proclaim
 Abundance
 Appointed

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) News

Back to School Month

School is right around the corner! This time of year can be exciting and stressful for many of us, but adjusting back into a classroom routine can be especially difficult for kids and teens with emotional or behavioral disorders.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) provides mental and behavioral health services for children and families across the state. Our therapists provide virtual and in-person therapy sessions with children, while our Behavioral Health Intervention Services (BHIS) team collaborates with families in their home to help them develop skills like anger management and healthy decision making. LSI also provides 24-hour mental health care at our Bremwood Residential Treatment Center in Waverly to empower Iowa children and teens.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! We know there are more Iowa children in need of this critical care. If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift to support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Support for the Long Run

Part of LSI's mission is to ensure hundreds of Iowa children and families have access to quality mental health care, parenting education, and crisis services.

On our Bremwood Residential Treatment Center campus in Waverly, staff are able to provide 24/7 behavioral health care and encouragement for children and teens like N. During her time on campus, N. and her team of therapists and professionals worked on developing coping skills that could help her manage her anger on the difficult days and take space for herself when she felt overwhelmed.

She was able to participate in Spiritual Life, a voluntary faith-based program offered on campus. N. says the program helped her learn important lessons about forgiveness and trust through reading passages of scripture. She says the biggest lesson she has learned is that "when you make a mistake, there are ways to fix it."

N. is now looking ahead and has goals for her future. She is working on graduating high school, and she is excited to get her driver's license. She wants to become a special education teacher and empower the next generation, and she wants her story to inspire other kids who could benefit from the same care she received through LSI.





August 2022

View Calendar on our [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3 7:00am Men's Study Group	4 6:00am Women's Study	5	6
7 9:30am Worship in person and Online via Facebook 6-8PM Pool party Tipton Aquatic center	8 6:30pm Council Meeting	9	10 7:00am Men's Study Group	11 6:00am Women's Study	12	13
14 9:30am Worship (Outdoor and Online via Facebook)	15	16	17 7:00am Men's Study Group	18 6:00am Women's Study	19	20
21 9:30am Worship in person and Online via Facebook	22	23	24 7:00am Men's Study Group	25 6:00am Women's Study	26	27
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

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 6:13a

"And do not bring us to the time of trial,"

- I worry most about...
- Things that most tempt me...
- I ask God to keep me safe from...



Lamentations 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

- Experiencing steady and ceaseless love...
- Never ending mercy, God's constant forgiveness, is even for...
- God is faithful to me, so I will be faithful to God by...



God loves you!!!

Bethany Branches August 2022

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Ministry Assistants

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

8-7 Jill Barnhart
8-14 Mike Fryauf
8-21 Lisa Zimmerman
8-28 Kami Poppen

Ministers of Technology

8-7 Cole & Tate
8-14 Paula
8-21 Alex
8-28 Miley

Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

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

Ministers of Altar Care : Sara Klabo & 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!



Follow us on Twitter!
Our Twitter Handle is:
[@blwestbranch](https://twitter.com/blwestbranch)

You Are Loved!



FOR YOU, O LORD, ARE
my hope,
my trust,
O LORD, FROM MY YOUTH.
PSALM 71:5