

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



Important Dates

10/10 Council meeting 6:30 PM
10/12 Monthly Women's Study 9:00 AM
10/16 Employee Appreciation Sunday
Storybook Sunday after worship
10/23 Bible presentation for children
during worship
10/23 Community Dinner 5:00 PM
10/26 Trivia Night 6:30 PM
10/30 Confirmation Sunday

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. wbbethany.org) or images

All things come from you, and of your own have we give them.

1 Chronicles 29:14 (NRSV)

Dear Servants of Christ,

It is fall and in many congregations that means there is a focus on stewardship. Your stewardship team recently has been telling the story of the many ways your financial gifts are being utilized to do God's work here within our congregation and beyond in our community and world (See page 4). Thank you, thank you, thank you for your faithfulness! Together, with the help of God, we are proclaiming the good news, making a difference, and reaching out with the love of Christ.

In my sermon on September 25th, I quoted theologian Mark Allan Powell from his book *Giving to God The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life* (2006 Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.). He writes:

The Sunday offering is a worship event that provides us with an opportunity for expressing our love for God in the purest way imaginable, by giving up something that we value.

He makes note that in ancient Israel, the people of God would bring grain offerings, birds or small animals. The grain was placed on the altar and burned. The living creatures were killed. These gifts were things they valued, and this was done as an act of worship.

I find it hard to comprehend the giving of an offering that ultimately is destroyed. Couldn't those gifts be put to a better use? This is the response of those gathered around a table with Jesus as an unnamed woman anointed him with expensive oil (Mark 14:3-9). Jesus' response points to the fact this was an act of love, devotion and worship.

Or consider the Magi who come to see the Christ child and present gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:1-12). We are not told about the practical value of such gifts or what Joseph and Mary did with them. What we do learn is their gifts were a "pure act of worship" and "devotion" to the newborn Messiah. The Magi don't seem at all concerned about what they will get out of their gift or how it will be used.

The fact the grain was destroyed or the animals sacrificed by the ancient Israelites seems not to be the point. Rather, the significance is they, "had been touched by the goodness of God." They "wanted to worship God, and they did that by taking something that belonged to them and giving it to God in the only way they knew how."

Powell doesn't disagree with the fact we are called to faithfully steward our offerings and put them to use in the world to glorify God; however, he seeks to highlight an ethic of stewardship as found in the Bible that starts with worship. Giving motivated by the goodness of God and our love for God.

I am grateful to Powell for his work. I know in the past I have said something along the lines of "Thank you for your gifts. They are necessary to meet our needs." While not entirely wrong, I am rethinking my own understanding of "offering" and starting from a place of worship.

Thank you for your offering, your faithful act of worship and devotion to God! —
Pastor Chad

Birthdays

10/01 Laura Twing
 10/03 Lynne Haub, Neil Korsmo
 10/04 Dylan Haub
 10/05 Theodore Wiele
 10/09 Emalee Casper, Makayla Casper, Reed White
 10/10 Vicky Kimpe
 10/12 Kat Korsmo
 10/13 Katie Anderson
 10/14 Alexa Fitzgerald
 10/15 Deanna Weismann, Tyler Johnston
 10/18 Nick Yeater, Erica Fitzgerald
 10/19 Billy Friis
 10/20 Delores Paulsen, Karen Swenson, Casper Heid
 10/24 Jeni Schiele, Jill Taylor
 10/25 Frank Frostestad
 10/26 Layla Samuelson, Hannah Schiele
 10/27 Heath Graham

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



Bethany Books by Frank Frostestad



We know that millions of people in the United States have dropped out of active church membership. Millions more are leaving each year. *Faith After Doubt: why your beliefs stopped working and what to do about it* by Brian D. McLaren is for the millions of people who think that their faith is falling apart. It is for the many people who show up Sunday after Sunday but feel that the bottom is dropping out. It is for all the people who dropped out of religion long ago but still dream that there is a way for them to be both spiritually curious and intellectually honest. The author uses his own story and the stories of a diverse group of struggling people to propose a model of faith development in which questions and doubt are not the enemy of faith, but rather a doorway into a more mature and fruitful kind of faith. Religious people often find that the path into doubt is terrifying because they have been told their entire lives that they must accept certain understandings, beliefs, or dogma without question. The author helps the reader to find a deeper faith that is enriched by doubt instead of threatened by it. He feels that belief and doubt are not opposites but are actually sisters with whom an honest person of faith walks continuously. "I promise you: there is faith after doubt, and life after doubt, and life with doubt. If you thought life before doubt was good, wait until you see where doubt can lead you and what doubt can teach you." At the end of each chapter, there is a *Reflection and Action* section that offers specific questions, exercises, and practical guidelines to help you engage the chapter as an individual or as part of a small group. At the end of the book there are several appendices offering lists of resources including books, podcasts, events and classes. (donated)

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.—Psalm 95:6 (NIV)

Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) Sunday

OCTOBER 30
9:30 AM WORSHIP

Aizlyn Marsh and Jacob Langley

For all you who were baptized into Christ
 have clothed yourself with Christ.
 Galatians 3:27 (NIV)

First Communion Instruction

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.

If interested, please contact Pastor Chad
 (pastor@wbbethany.org) as soon as possible so a date
 can be arranged with all interested. Thank you!



Church Staff

Pastor - Chad Whaley

Admin. Assistant - Paula Casper

Custodian – Pat Cassabaum

Pianist – Jill Barnhart

Church Council

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Financial Secretary

Claudia Beyer

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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.

Isaiah 40:1-2

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

- After returning from captivity, from war, from slavery, people are in need of...
- Healing for a friend going through a tough life circumstance...
- I need comfort, tenderness and God's hand when...

Scripture Talk

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

- I feel like I am carrying heavy burdens...
- In finding rest for my soul, I...
- Learning to walk and work with Jesus...

THANK YOU
TO OUR STAFF!

Employee Appreciation Sunday
October 16
During worship

I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU, LORD,
WITH ALL MY HEART.
PSALM 9:1 (NIV)

TRIVIA NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25
6:30 - 7:30 PM

Join the youth and families of Wednesday Faith Formation for a night of trivia. Form a team of 4-6 people or just show up and join a team. Popcorn and refreshments will be served. Please see Pastor Chad or Amber Marsh with any questions.



Stewardship Spotlight

Did you know...



How your weekly offering makes an impact?

It helps us invest in technology to expand our reach beyond the church doors



Average Online attendance = 112 viewers

Thank you for your gifts, which support these and many more great ministries at Bethany Lutheran Church

Did you know...

How your weekly offering makes an impact?

It supports... youth ministries

30 children were able to attend Vacation Bible School
12 Children were given Bibles in the spring + 15 more this fall
Wednesday Faith Formation - Starts September 7
Sunday School resumes - September 11



It supports...small group Bible Studies

Wednesday Mornings - Men's Study Group - 7:00am
Thursday Mornings - Woman's Study Group - 6:00am
Monthly Women's Bible Study - 2nd Wednesday at 9:00am

It supports...community outreach programs

Like the Hope Chest & the Food Pantry which provide clothing and food to those in need



It supports... meals and fellowship

Free dinner on the 4th Sunday of the month
the annual community tailgate
Angel Meals
annual Spaghetti Dinner

Thank you for your gifts, which support these and many more great ministries at Bethany Lutheran Church

SUPPORT THE MANY MINISTRIES BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH



OFFERING PLATE

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



ON-LINE DONATIONS

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



AUTOMATICWITHDRAWAL

Sign up for the "Simply Giving" program for automatic withdrawals from your account.
Contact blcsecretary@lcom.net



MOBILE APP

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



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



Storytime Sunday

Sunday, Oct. 16th after Worship | 10:15- 10:30

READ ALOUD BOOKS:

All Things Bright and Beautiful by Cecil Frances Alexander

AND

When God Made the World by Matthew Paul Turner



Join us for our new children's program, Storytime Sunday! Our first date is Sunday, October 16th after Worship service (about 10:15-10:30 am). We'll gather in the nursery area of the Great Hall to read a couple of Christian/Faith-Based children's books, have a snack, and play with toys. Parents can enjoy our Fellowship time nearby, or join us. The books will be for a range of ages: age 1 through Grade 3. ***If interested in volunteering with this program, please contact Kristin McElhinney at mkmcelhinney@gmail.com, the Church Office, or the sign-up form by the North entryway.*

Storytime Sunday Volunteers Needed



Contact Kristin McElhinney with any questions.

Read two pre-selected stories to our young children after worship in the Great Hall. All generations are encouraged to volunteer.

The sign-up sheet is posted on the door leading to the Great Hall for readers and helpers.

Thank you for considering!

First Bible Presentation

Sunday, October 23rd
during Worship Service at 9:30 am



~ Ages 1 - 3

"Let the Children Come" Family Worship

Worship service geared towards families with a shorter length of service and recognizable children's songs

**Fourth Sunday
of the month
@ 9:30 AM**



Sunday School

with Bethany Lutheran Church

Preschool - Grade 3 (Fall 2022)

October 2, 9, 23

8:45 - 9:15 AM | WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 9:14 (NIV)



The Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) class will be learning several Bible passages this year. We invite you to learn them with us. These are just a few of them.

FIX THESE WORDS OF MINE IN YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS
Deuteronomy 11:18 (NIV)





God's Work Our Hands Second Annual Spaghetti Dinner, September 25



160 meals were served at our second annual spaghetti dinner. The majority were takeout or delivery. As the picture to the right reveals several people also dined in. Many contacts were made with those who received a meal. Thanks to all who assisted!



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Bethany Lutheran Church
West Branch, Iowa
www.wbbethany.org



God's Work Our Hands Butterfly Garden

A butterfly garden is under construction just off the patio from the Great Hall. This beautiful garden will showcase God's creation for the people of Bethany, our visitors and for those enjoying Beranek Park. Thanks to all assisting in making this possible!



Council Minutes - August 8, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Poppen at 6:35 p.m.

Members Present: Patricia Ernst, Anne Fetzer, Cindy Knoop, Amber Marsh, Kristin McElhinney, Howard Moss, Dave Poppen, Jill Taylor, Pastor Chad Whaley

Members Absent: Kent Kaufman

Pastor's Report – Pastor Chad Whaley

Joys and Thanksgivings

Vacation

Thanks to Jon Twing and Pastor Hougen

Thanks to the congregation for allowing me time to rest and relax

VBS

A great three days with an excellent turnout of children

Thanks to Kristin and Amber who did the heavy lifting.

Thanks to all the volunteers, those who donated, and stewardship of financial gifts that made this possible.

Ministry Happenings

19 Pastoral Visits

Attend Men's Group on Wednesday mornings

Growing Young Book Study through SEIA Synod

Summer Spiritual Journey (Prayer Kits)

Prayed for participants

Sent note cards to each mid-way through

Write notecards to our families that attended Pre-K – 3rd grade faith formation

Write notecards to our confirmation students

Write thank you notes to all VBS volunteers

Attend June 4th Sunday supper

Delivered food to the pantry

Met with Amber to plan for Wednesday Faith Formation

Funeral

Wedding

Be present when high school youth are preparing Angel Meals. Visit with them, get to know their names, and thank them for what they are doing.

VBS

Attend, lead prayer and songs, interact with children and visit with parents

Upcoming

Attempt to continue hiking ministry effort

Faith Formation begins in September

Fall Theological Conference through SEIA Synod September 25-27

Mentor a seminary student (Giving consideration)

Things to think about

Copy Machine

Current machine is 10 years old, and we have been experiencing increasing breakdowns. Will work with Paula and current vendor Marco on securing a quote for its

replacement. At some point soon, they have advised us this will be necessary.

Laptop Replacement

Community

Chip Away at Childhood Hunger Golf Tournament – August 12th

Secretary's Report – Anne Fetzer

Cindy moved to approve the June minutes, seconded by Howard. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report – Jill Taylor

Howard moved to approve the June report, seconded by Cindy. Motion approved.

Cindy moved to approve the July report, seconded by Howard. Any changes to the July report will be sent for email approval. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds – Howard Moss

Air conditioning serviced. The furnace will be serviced in the fall. Kitchen faucet replaced due to defect.

Steam table has been donated to a local business.

Great Hall carpet cleaning scheduled. Howard getting quotes on cleaning the remaining areas in the church.

Thank you to Wayne Frauenholtz for donating the exhaust fan motor.

Education & Youth – Kristin McElhinney & Amber Marsh

Vacation Bible School held in July with approximately 25 participants with 16 volunteers

Thirty people attended the family pool party held in August at the Tipton Aquatic Center

Faith Formation starts on September 7

Sunday school beginning on September 11

Youth prayer board assembled

Congratulation cards sent to youth county fair participants

Evangelism & Missions – Anne Fetzer

God's Work, Our Hands preparation discussed in Old Business

Fellowship – Patsy Ernst

Fellowship has been good with a variety of families signing up but looking for ways to get others to participate.

Fourth Sunday meals are also doing well, expect we'll have more turnout in the cooler months. The August meal will be provided by Paula Casper and Patsy Ernst. The Poppen family is providing the September meal.

Stewardship – Kent Kaufman

No report.

Worship & Music – Cindy Knoop

Two outdoor services have been held at the time of the meeting. Good feedback on the outdoor service format.

Old Business

(Continued on page 9)

Council minutes continued.

(Continued from page 8)

Outdoor Worship – First outdoor service was scheduled for June 12. No other discussion.

Moving “God’s work. Our hands” to September 25
Planning for a spaghetti dinner with onsite or drive-thru dining options

Possibly plan for Meals for the Hungry (formerly Kids Against Hunger) at another time

Continue to investigate ways we can help members with small repairs or other projects

New Business

Proposal for 30-minute service on the 4th Sunday of the month. This is an idea to make one service child friendly to encourage more families with small children to attend.

Suggest a trial period for August through October then seek congregational feedback

We could use the additional time to encourage small groups for adult Sunday school, small group missions, or simply fellowship?

Discuss adding a 2nd short service once a month

More discussion before finalizing plans

Jennie Wombacher wishes to become a member of the congregation.

Amber moved to approve Jennie’s request, and Kristin seconded. Motion approved.

Discuss Operation Backpack donation

Need approximately \$800.00 to support eight backpacks (does not include calculator. If we include those, the cost would be \$1600).

We could also vote to supply a few calculators as maybe not all backpacks need a new one as the student may have from a prior year. Need a council vote to take the money from the Internal Ministries fund. Council tabling decision until the student needs are identified and finalized.

Amber moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m., and Howard seconded. Motion approved.

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

Next Regular Meeting – 09/12/2022

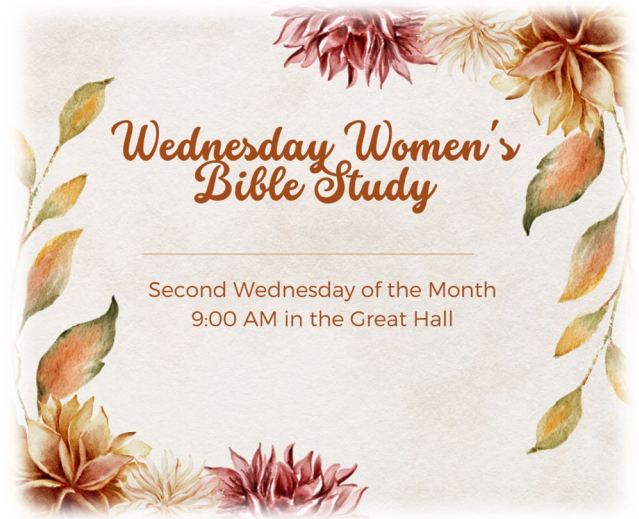


On September 4th during worship we welcomed Jennie Wombacher as our newest member. Welcome Jennie! We give thanks to God for you. Also pictured is Kent Kaufman, Vice President.

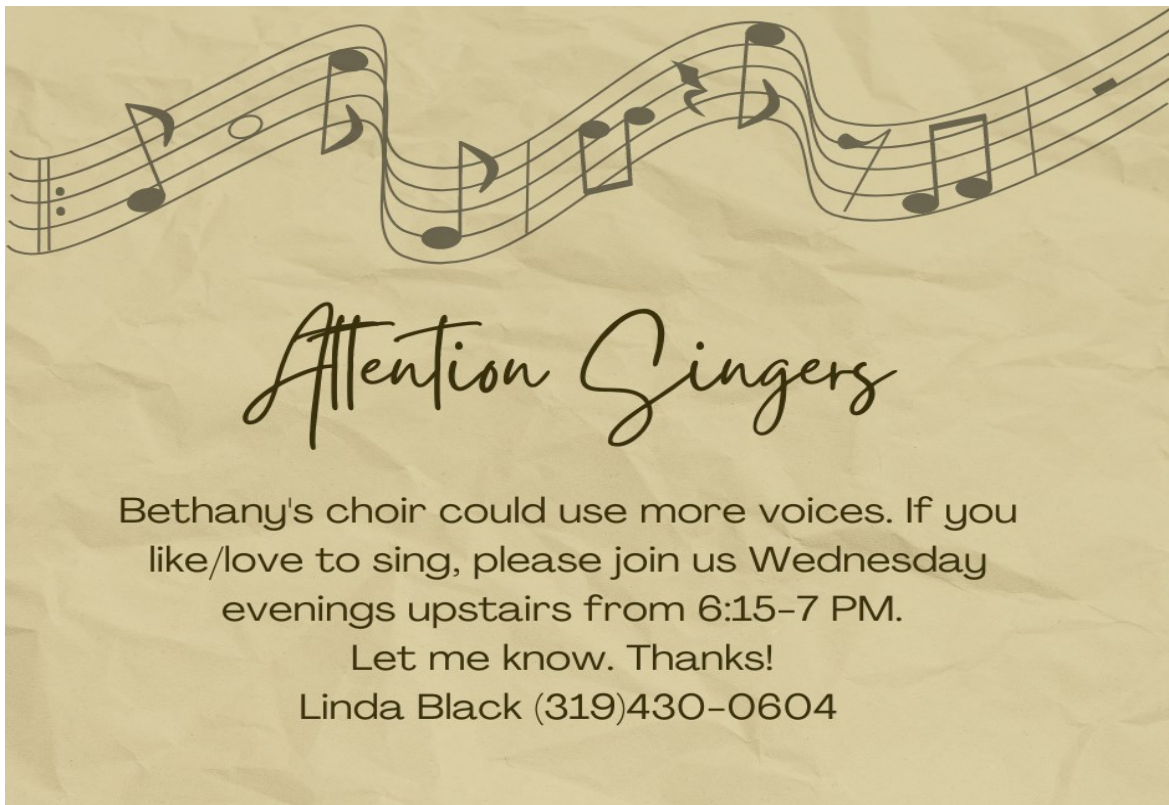
Activity Bags



New activity bags for children to use during worship are now available. They have themes such as: arts and crafts, dinosaur, cooking, farm and cars. Thank you Kristin McElhinney for providing these!



SANCTIFY THEM
IN THE TRUTH;
YOUR WORD IS TRUTH.
JOHN 17:17





October 2022

View Calendar on our [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	26	27				1
2 9:30am Worship in person and Online via Facebook	3	4	5 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Youth Faith Formation (Grade 4-8)	6 6:00am Women's Study	7	8
9 9:30aa Worship in person and online via Facebook	10 6:30pm Council Meeting	11	12 7:00am Men's Study Group 9:00am Wednesday Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Youth Faith	13 6:00am Women's Study	14 Synod Retreat (Great Hall)	15 Synod Retreat (Great Hall)
16 9:30am Worship in person and Online via Facebook (Employee Appreciation) Storybook Sunday following Worship for children	17	18	19 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice	20 6:00am Women's Study	21	22
23 9:30am Worship in person and Online via Facebook (Children Bible Presentation) 5:00pm 4th Sunday Community Meal	24	25	26 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Trivia Night	27 6:00am Women's Study	28	29
30 9:30am Worship in person and Online via Facebook (Confirmation Sunday)	31	1	2	3	4	5



Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

	August 2022		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 13,765	Budget 13,837	Actual 105,920	Budget 110,702
Total Expenses	Actual 16,031	Budget 14,161	Actual 110,742	Budget 113,375

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)

10/2 Jon Twing
10/9 John Black
10/16 Wayne Frauenholtz
10/23 Dave Bahnsen
10/30 Deb Anderson

Ministers of Technology

10/2 Miley Shields
10/9 Cole Crosthwaite & Tate
Frantz
10/16 Jill Taylor
10/23 Paula Casper
10/30 Jill Taylor

Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

Opportunities available. Sign Up:

<https://tinyurl.com/nhkyxwjs>

Ministers of Altar Care

Kent & Beth Kaufman



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:
@blcwestbranch

You Are Loved!



Bethany Branches October 2022

Bethany Lutheran Church
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