

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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



## Important Dates

11-06 All Saints Sunday  
11-09 Wednesday Women's  
Bible Study 9:00 AM  
11-14 Council Meeting 6:30 PM  
11-27 Hanging of the Greens  
Worship Service 9:30 AM  
11-27 Community Dinner  
5:00 PM Great Hall

## 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  
[blcsecretary@lcom.net](mailto: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](http://www.wbbethany.org)) or images



Over the past two years every aspect of our lives changed drastically because of the Covid pandemic—how and where we could work, eat, gather, serve and worship changed. Buildings closed and social gatherings were discouraged, but the Council, Pastor, and members at Bethany stepped forward to ensure ministry continued. Through activities such as online services, Zoom meetings, and take-home faith formation kits we responded, in both word and action.

As we are returning to our church building and post-pandemic life, we are once again offering more ministries. We want to thank everyone for their gifts of time and money that help our congregation thrive and accomplish the many great things we do. Your financial support is vital to carry out the church's work. Whether we gather for worship inside our building, in our parking lot or online, we continue to be the body of Christ through our ministries, our witness, and our care for one another.

Your gifts of time help grow our youth programs, keep our church grounds looking nice, and help worship run smoothly. Your gifts of money help support our local ministries such as the food pantry, hope chest and fourth Sunday meals. They also support our synod ministries such as campus ministries and the FreeIndeed Prison congregation. It also allows us to staff and maintain the church building.

Every year the church council prepares a budget based on our best estimates of weekly offerings and expenses. We are beginning the budgeting process for 2023 and have some concerns. This year the offerings through September are running short by just under \$8,000 (just over 6%) and during September we had the unanticipated expense of the copier replacement for just over \$5,000. This shortfall in offerings and increased expenses will not only have an impact on 2022, but it will also affect our ability to support programs in the 2023 budget.

We have not done a stewardship pledge program for several years and do not intend to run one this year. We simply ask everyone to prayerfully reflect on what you can do. We hope that you will consider increasing your weekly offerings if able, so that we can continue to support the great ministries here at Bethany.

There are several different ways to conveniently donate ranging from the offering plate, to online donations which can be accessed by the blue Give Now button on our website, to automatic bank withdrawal (Simply Giving). Sign-up forms for the automatic bank withdrawal program are on the table at the base of the stairs as you enter the church. You can also find them on our website on the "how to give page."

Thank you again for all that you do.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions and I can help.

Dave Poppen—Bethany Council President



## Birthdays

11-02 Addison Langley  
11-03 Betty Slach  
11-06 Tammy Urmie  
11-07 Paul Weismann  
11-08 Madelyn Anderson  
11-09 Eulyn Frostestad,  
Sadie McElhinney  
11-14 Josephine Hervey  
11-16 Kevin Crosthwaite  
11-17 Cheyanne Crow  
11-18 Alex Poppen  
11-22 Scott Marsh, Julian Kilburg  
11-23 John Hierseman  
11-26 Patty Yeater  
11-27 Steve Campbell



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



Don't forget!

Turn back your clocks  
one hour this Sunday,  
November 6th.



## Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

This month the featured book is another novel by Beverly Lewis. *The Orchard* is the very latest book by her on the Old Order Amish. A number of you have, in the past, been interested in her books so I hope that you read this one. Besides being rich in the ways of the Amish there is usually a young women as the main character. This is no different. Ellie Hostetler has been brought up in Lancaster County on a farm that features an orchard that forms a backdrop for the story. Most of these books discuss the coming of age of a person and their quest for a mate. This follows that pattern. The game changer and what makes this book unique is that it is 1970 and the United States is involved in the Vietnam War. Ellie is 19 and has a twin brother Evan who registered for the draft at age 18 as one is supposed to. What he did not do, as most Old Order Amish did, he did not file for conscientious objector status. The Old Order Amish do not want to have anything to do with government. They do not vote or hold public office, for example. They do not join the military. They have a deep belief in non-resistance. The family is shocked to learn that he did not acquire an exempt status. He is the one who the family expects to continue the family orchard business. His draft number is called up in the lottery and he is sent to boot camp. After advanced training, as an infantryman, he is sent to Vietnam. The faraway war that has caused so much turmoil and grief for others now threatens them. They need to carry on in a world that, for them, is changing. Other Amish look down on them for not seeming to have raised their son correctly. Plans that they had seem increasingly uncertain. Ellie and her family need to find the courage to face a future unlike any they could have imagined.



**Evangelical  
Lutheran**  
Church in America

## HANGING OF THE GREENS

During Worship  
Sunday, November 27

First Sunday of Advent

## Church Staff

**Pastor - Chad Whaley**  
(319) 643-5998 or (319) 643-7257  
pastor@wbbethany.org

**Admin. Assistant - Paula Casper**  
(319) 331-9456  
blcsecretary@lcom.net

**Custodian - Pat Cassabaum**

**Pianist - Jill Barnhart**

## Church Council

**Dave Poppen-President**  
(563)940-8012  
dkpoppen@hotmail.com

**Howard Moss-Building & Grounds**  
(319)643-7190  
hntmoss@lcom.net

**Anne Fetzter-Evangelism & Missions/Secretary**  
(319)333-8217  
arfetzer77@gmail.com

**Kristin McElhinney-Education**  
(319)930-0130  
mkmcelhinney@gmail.com

**Jill Taylor-Treasurer**  
(319)430-8419  
jtmtemrt@gmail.com

**Kent Kaufman-Stewardship/Vice president**  
(319)643-5734  
bkkaufman@lcom.net

**Amber Marsh-Youth**  
(605)231-0492  
amberrenemarsh@yahoo.com

**Patsy Ernst-Fellowship**  
(319)800-5647  
sunshinegundy@gmail.com

**Cindy Knoop-Worship & Music**  
(319)643-5484  
Cindy.knoop@gmail.com

## Financial Secretary

**Claudia Beyer**  
(319)643-2136  
iabeyers@aol.com



**Thank you for the new refrigerator that was purchased from the Jane Frauenholtz memorials.**

## All Saints' Day

THIS POOR SOUL CRIED,  
AND WAS **HEARD BY THE LORD**,  
AND WAS SAVED FROM  
EVERY TROUBLE.

PSALM 34:6, NRSV



Join us for worship November 7<sup>th</sup> as we give thanks for and honor our Senior Saints, those who are 80 and older.

Betty Slach, Bonnie Conner, Marilyn Crow, Dorothy Holmes, Delores Paulsen, Richard Madsen, June Madsen, Jerry Dodds, Patricia Ernst, Paul Weismann, Deanna Weismann, Herb Friis, Ronald Madsen, Marv Brick, Karen Brick, Alberta (Peaches) Sweat and Norm Fitzgerald.

We will also give thanks for the newly baptized.

Annabelle Burnette  
Dylan Casady  
Everett Dlhv

We will also remember and give thanks for the saints who have died since last All Saints' Sunday.

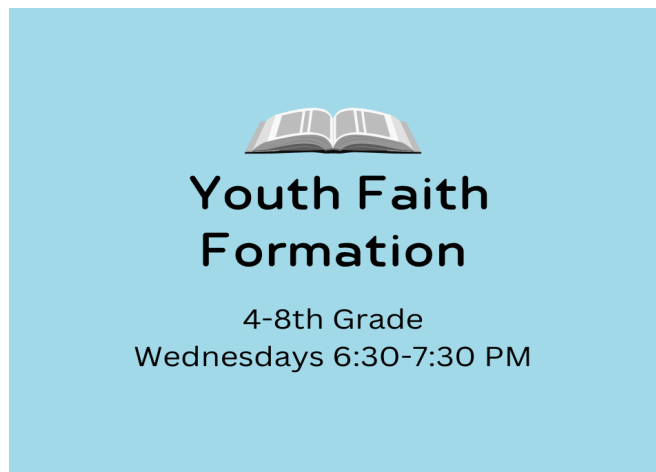
Jim Peak  
Matt Taylor  
Jane Frauenholtz  
Paul Friis  
Herman Boedecker







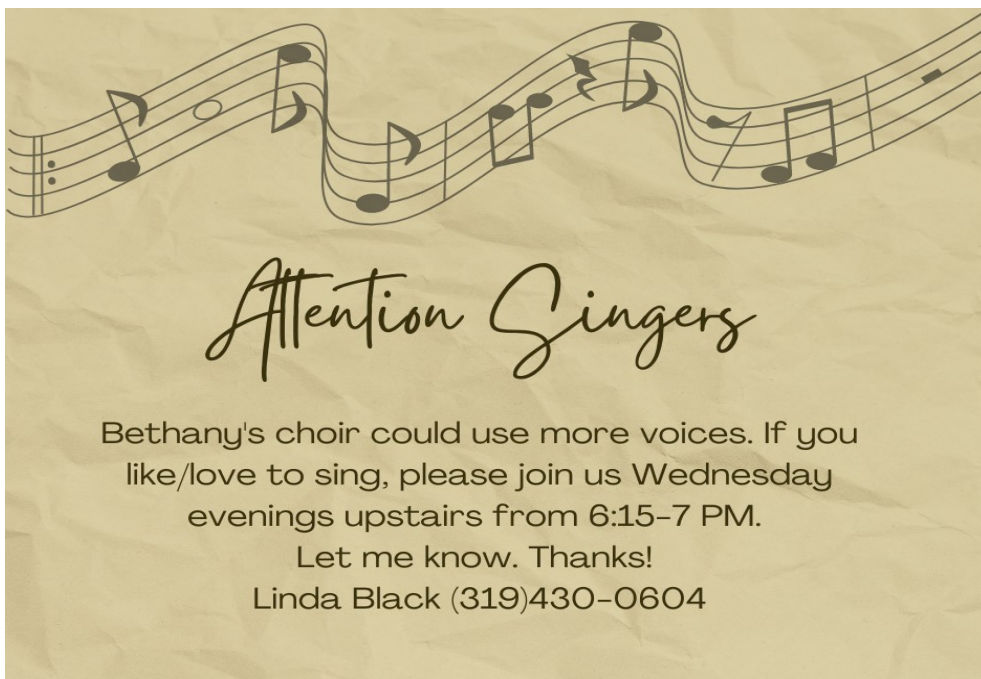
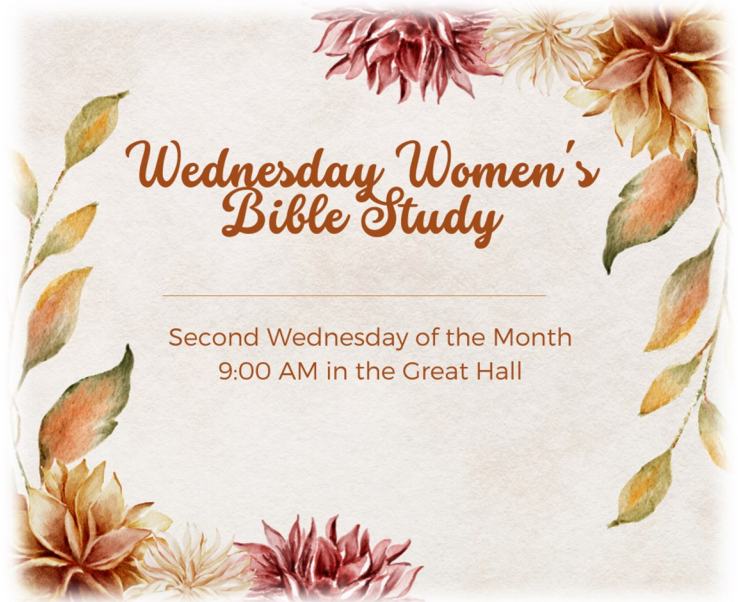
Join us for our new children's program, Storytime Sunday! November 13th after Worship service (about 10:15-10:30 am). We'll gather in the nursery area of the Great Hall to read a couple of Christian/Faith-Based children's books, have a snack, and play with toys. Parents can enjoy our Fellowship time 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](mailto:mkmcelhinney@gmail.com), the Church Office, or the sign-up form by the North entryway.***



**Children's Bible Presentation  
October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Jesus loves me  
this I know  
for the  
Bible tells me so.



**GATHER**  
*with us*





## Synod Candidacy Retreat

The 2022 Southeastern Iowa Synod Candidacy Retreat was held at Bethany October 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. Participants of the retreat are current seminarians preparing for rostered leadership. Below is a thank you received from Deacon Jodi Schuman, Assistant to the Bishop.



Dear Pastor Chad & Bethany Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your hospitality for the 2022 Candidacy Retreat. Everything was so well done and appreciated by everyone.

Peace,

Deacon Jodi Schuman



Southeastern Iowa Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



**Confirmation**  
2022



## BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Poppen at 6:32 p.m.

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

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

#### ***Joys, Celebrations, and Thanksgivings***

Reception of Jennie Wombacher into membership on September 4

Beginning of children and youth faith formation

Wonderful attendance on September 11<sup>th</sup> for the blessing of backpacks

Other ministries in action

Two Women's groups, Men's group

Thanks to Kristin McElhinney for her many Facebook posts and signage

Thanks to Scott Marsh and PIP Printing for printing our bulletins and newsletters

#### ***Ministry Happenings***

26 pastoral visits

Funerals of Jane Frauenholtz and Paul Friis

Many thanks to all who assisted with services

West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC) Meeting @ Bethany

- Welcome Pastor Beth Graham of WBUMC
- Officer Cathy Steen and the school counselor also present
- Opportunity to catch up and share any updates

Attend Youth Activities :Two cross country meets, high school football games

Copy Machine: Three meetings with vendors as we solicited bids, many emails and conversations.

Thanks to the task force: Paula Casper, Scott Marsh, Jill Taylor, and Dave Poppen

Attend Wednesday morning men's study group

Attend 4th Sunday meal

Be present during the preparation for Angel Meals

Prepare and plan for Affirmation of Baptism

Opening Night on 9/7 – meal and a fun game of trivia

New member meeting with Jennie W.

Work with Howard and Dave on meeting custodial needs following Patsy's resignation and moving forward to find a replacement

Thanks to those who have volunteered to keep the church property clean!

Partner Launch Meeting (Mentor) Via the invitation of the Office of the Bishop and Wartburg Theological Seminary, I will serve in a mentoring role with a student beginning semi-

nary this year

Requirements: One annual meeting with the entire group and meetings with mentee every other month.

Other normal ministry tasks: bulletin and newsletter preparation, worship and sermon preparation, updates of the website, Facebook, and Twitter pages, etc.

Prayer

### ***Community Happenings***

Childhood Hunger Golf Tournament was held on August 12<sup>th</sup> 12 teams and approximately \$2,000 raised for school hunger programs to assist those in need

#### ***Upcoming***

Possible hike this month with hiking team

Fall Theological Conference (Southeastern Iowa Synod): September 25-27

Looking into a possible Trivia Night open to all

First Communion Instruction

### ***Secretary's Report – Anne Fetzer***

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

### ***Treasurer's Report – Jill Taylor***

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

### ***Committee Reports***

#### ***Building & Grounds – Howard Moss***

Special thank you to Patsy for her custodial services and to those stepping in to fill the role while we look for a replacement.

Dave Poppen repaired the ovens.

Small hall air conditioning repaired.

Remaining carpet cleaning to be finished after the first of the year.

For the butterfly garden installation, all the work, and supplies were donated for phase one. A beautiful addition to our outdoor space. Howard moves we approve all phases of the butterfly garden installation, and Jill seconded. Motion approved.

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

Fall Sunday School, Faith Formation, and Confirmation classes kicked off last week. Approximately 20 total students are participating across the classes.

Backpack Blessing held on Sunday, September 11, with 16 keychains handed out so far. More on order for further distribution.

Discussed a possible fellowship option before worship to engage with Sunday School parents and families.

### ***Evangelism & Missions – Anne Fetzer***

Many have assisted in preparing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spaghetti  
(Continued on page 9)



## Council Minutes

*(Continued from page 7)*

Dinner. This includes promoting it through social media, signage, bulletin, and announcements, as well as purchasing and donating supplies. There are still volunteer spots open, but it's encouraging to see members pitching in to help make the event successful. We planning to serve 350-400 meals.

### **Fellowship – Patsy Ernst**

Fellowship following services are going well with many participating.

September's Fourth Sunday meal is the spaghetti dinner. October's meal will be hosted by Del & Sue Hughes.

### **Stewardship – Kent Kaufman**

Held a few committee meetings with Dave Poppen and Stacey Beyer to review stewardship ideas.

The committee looking into the online viewers and crafting a stewardship message toward the online community.

### **Worship & Music – Cindy Knoop**

Planning for one more outdoor service this year.

Host Acolyte training if there is interest. Also, looking into adding Technology training for additional volunteers for the rotation.

Cindy coordinating piano tuning this fall.

Planning for Reformation Sunday at the end of October and All Saints Sunday in November.

Council discussed hosting a staff appreciation following worship. A date has not been determined yet.

### **Old Business**

Reminder: "God's work. Our hands" scheduled on September 25

Holding a "family-friendly" service on fourth Sundays

Plan to incorporate more familiar worship music

Updated activity bags to help keep little ones entertained

Slightly shorter service

Operation back-pack follow-up discussion

No additional support is needed from Bethany at this time.

### **New Business**

Create a Constitution Review Committee

Some items to review and modify include updating the dollar threshold for the council to approve non-budgeted items, plus other recommendations out of the annual Synod meeting.

West Branch Fall Fest is scheduled on Saturday, October 8

Main Street West Branch asked for volunteers to sponsor a table on behalf of Bethany at the town hall from noon to 3:00.

This is an opportunity to get our name out, the services we provide, as well as find ways BLC can be involved in the community.

Patsy offered to lead and represent Bethany for this event.

Purchase of Copy machine

Congregational meeting to vote scheduled for Sunday, September 25 due to the cost. Cost \$5090 + tax.

Vendor agreed to order the machine even without our commitment as the lead-time is 6-8 weeks.

Discuss the purchase of a new refrigerator.

One refrigerator needs replaced. We need to consider that most of the kitchen appliances are 20 years old.

The estimated cost is around \$700.

To note, we are now close to the 2022 maintenance budget limits

Jill moves to purchase a new refrigerator using memorial funds if possible, and Howard seconded. Motion approved. Custodian

Pat Cassabaum applied for the custodian position. Kent moves we approve the committee's recommendation to hire Pat Cassabaum as custodian, Kristin seconded. Motion approved.

Sunday Bulletins

It had been suggested that we discontinue adding songs to the bulletin. We have a large online presence requiring a bulletin with the songs, so if we remove them from the printed bulletin, we would need to create two versions. Review to determine the cost savings of reduced printing offsets the time cost of creating two versions of the bulletin.

The council determined to continue creating bulletins as is.

Establish a Budget Committee

2023 budget planning begins in October.

Committees need to start thinking about their needs to bring forward to the council and the budget committee.

Synod Resources

Helpful resources available at: <https://seiasynod.org/>.

It includes ideas for all types of committees, and you can also sign-up for the weekly e-newsletter.

Community Tailgate scheduled on September 28 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Bethany sponsors this event with the United Methodist Church. The tailgate is located at Beranek Park this year.

Howard moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m., and Amber seconded. Motion approved.

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

**Next Regular Meeting – 10/10/2022**



## Special Congregational Meeting September 25, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Poppen at 10:27 a.m. with 37 voting members participating in person and two by Zoom.

A committee was formed to review and recommend options for replacing the church's current copy machine. Dave Poppen presented on behalf of the committee, noting parts for our existing copier are no longer available and the committee recommends a replacement using funds from the Mission Investment Fund. The cost of the new machine is \$5,090 plus tax. Laura Twing moved that we accept the committee proposal, seconded by Kami Poppen. The members present unanimously approved the motion.

A special thanks to Scott Marsh and PIP Printing for creating worship bulletins and other printed materials during this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

## Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) News

November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children and teens. For LSI, it is a time to celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption services, and to raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children in need of a safe, healthy home.

LSI Foster Care and Adoption recruits, licenses, and supports foster and adoptive families to ensure every Iowa child grows up in a safe, stable environment. But more work needs to be done. Thousands of children in the U.S. are waiting to be adopted from foster care into a "forever family".

To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit [LSIowa.org/Foster](http://LSIowa.org/Foster), or contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563.676.2065. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit [LSIowa.org/church-relations](http://LSIowa.org/church-relations) or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

*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 [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### **A Picture of Foster Care and Adoption**

The goal of foster care is to reunite children with the parents when possible. The foster family can play an integral part in making that happen, often becoming mentors to the birth parents, helping them learn parenting skills they may not have had modeled to them.

An LSI provider told me about a picture she had recently received. Imagine, if you would, a photo of two women, one on each end of a bench, and four kids with them. All happy. All smiling. It looks like they were enjoying a beautiful day in the park.

On the left is the birth mother of those kids. She will be the first to admit, things haven't been easy – but she loves these kids.

The other woman is the foster mother. She loves these kids too. Two of the kids were adopted by the foster family, one lives with the birth mom, and the foster child on the mother's lap was soon to be reunited with the birth mom. They are celebrating Mother's Day together.

Foster families provide more than a safe place for children to land. This foster/adoptive parent is a wonderful mentor for this birth mom!



## ATTENTION COOKIE BAKERS

Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.  
(or until cookies are gone)

Please bring your cookies to the church Friday  
evening or Saturday morning  
by 8:30 a.m.

Help is needed for the event, including setup  
and cleanup.

Setup will be Friday afternoon.  
1:00--2:00 p.m.

See Kristin McElhinney  
with questions.

Proceeds from the event are used to fund  
various mission efforts.

It's time to order your poinsettia  
to decorate the altar for Christmas.  
Plants are \$10.00 each.

Please return this form with payment to the church office. Or mail to:  
P.O. Box 236 West Branch, IA 52358  
by December 11th. Please make checks out to Bethany Lutheran.  
Plants will be set out for the Christmas Eve service.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias in memory or in honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





## November 2022

View Calendar on our [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 9:30am Worship in person and Online via Facebook (Confirmation Sunday)	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Youth Faith Formation (Grade 4-8)	<b>3</b> 6:00am Women's Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:30am All Saints Worship in person and Online via Facebook	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 9:00am Wednesday Women's Bible Study 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Youth Faith Formation (Grade 4-8)	<b>10</b> 6:00am Women's Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30am Worship in person and Online via Facebook 5:30pm Clover Kids GH	<b>14</b> 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Youth Faith Formation (Grade 4-8)	<b>17</b> 6:00am Women's Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30am Worship in person and Online via Facebook	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Study Club	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice	<b>24</b> 6:00am Women's Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:30am Hanging of the greens Worship in person and Online via Facebook	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Youth Faith Formation (Grade 4-8)	<b>1</b> 6:00am Women's Study	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>



### Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

	Sept 2022		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 10,762	Budget 13,837	Actual 116,683	Budget 124,539
Total Expenses	Actual 14,152	Budget 14,152	Actual 125,004	Budget 127,527

**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)

11-6 Bruce Jeffries  
11-13 Beth Kaufman  
11-20 Jeni Schiele  
11-27 Pat Cassabaum

### Ministers of Technology

11-6 Cole Crosthwaite & Tate  
Frantz  
11-13 Paula Casper  
11-20 Alex Poppen  
11-27 Jill Taylor

### Ministers of Christ's Light (Acolytes)

11-13 & 11-27  
Jake and Addy Langley  
*Opportunities available. Sign Up:*  
<https://tinyurl.com/nhkyxwjs>

**Ministers of Altar Care:**  
Samuelson Family



## Find us on Facebook

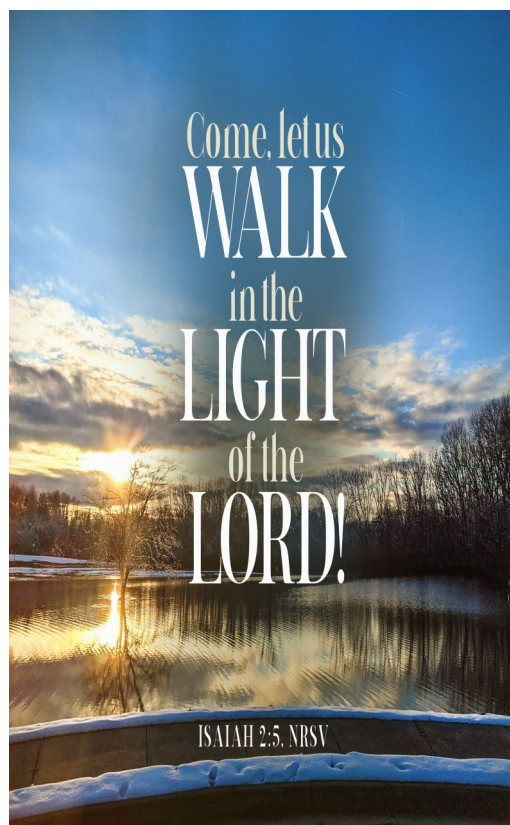
To find Bethany's main page,  
search "**Bethany Lutheran  
Church (ELCA) West Branch,  
Iowa**"

DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US!



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

**You Are Loved!**



# Bethany Branches November 2022

**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
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[www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)