

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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



## Important Dates

- 1-9 Council Meeting
- 1-11 Women's Circle 9:00AM
- 1-22 Annual Meeting following worship
- 1-22 Fourth Sunday Community Meal 5:00-6:00 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](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. [wbbethany.org](http://wbbethany.org)) or images

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us,  
so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the  
encouragement they provide we might have hope.—Romans 15:4 (NIV)



Dear blessed communion of saints,

Recently, I was reviewing the words located in the liturgy of  
"Affirmation of Baptism" in our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran  
Worship* (Copyright © 2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
America; published by Augsburg Fortress, Publishers). The baptized are asked  
the following question (p.236), "Do you intend to continue in the covenant God  
made with you in holy baptism?" That is lived out in the following ways:

- To live among God's faithful people
- To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper
- To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- To serve all people, following the example of Jesus
- To strive for justice and peace in all the earth

As we affirm our baptism, we respond "We do, and we ask God to help and  
guide us." Leading into a new year, I am pondering the second bullet point, "to  
hear God's word." The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) web-  
site says (<https://tinyurl.com/4k3kyzdm>):

There are many ways we hear God's Word:

- The public reading of Scripture
- Preaching
- Bible study, devotional reading and retreats
- Sacraments
- Experiencing the Arts
- Forgiveness of sin
- All aspects of a congregation's educational ministry
- Continue the fellowship of the Lord's Supper through meal time prayer at  
the dinner table

I am pondering ways that may be of assistance in hearing God's word.  
Scripture is a primary way in which God's word is revealed to us. As the  
Apostle Paul reminded the church in Rome through the reading of scripture we  
find hope and endurance.

In 2023, every newsletter will feature the texts used in worship every Sunday  
(see page 4) of that month. If viewing this bulletin in its digital format, you can  
click on the text and be taken directly to it as found on the website  
"[Bible Gateway](http://BibleGateway.com)". My hope is this will be a resource to assist all of us enter  
more fully into the passages each Sunday. Use these passages in the week  
leading up to Sunday. May the Spirit assist us to "hear" the word of God!

*Pastor Chad*



## Birthdays

1/09 Hallie Fitzgerald  
 1/11 Tonya Lovetinsky  
 1/14 Deanna Pedersen  
 1/15 Alberta Sweat  
 1/17 Cliff Hinkhouse  
 1/20 Tonya Samuelson  
 1/23 Deb Lund  
 1/24 Robbie Boaz, Paul Bruns  
 1/25 Lisa Zimmerman  
 1/26 Hunter Niles,  
 Diana Fuhrmeister  
 01/29 Lance Schiele  
 01/30 Kent Pedersen  
 01/31 Pat Cassabaum



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

## God loves you!!!

### SYNOD WORSHIP FIRST SUNDAY



AFTER CHRISTMAS  
JAN. 1, 2023

The Office of the Bishop of the South-eastern Iowa Synod is providing a worship service on January 1, 2023 for congregations throughout the Synod. While Bethany will be gathering in person and online New Year's Day at 9:30 AM, you can still view this service (Of course, not between 9:30—10:30 AM). A link to the service and bulletin are located on our website at:

<https://wbbethany.org/?p=6712>

## Bethany Books



This month I plan to feature magazines that provide some helpful information to our biblical literacy. The first is *Biblical Archaeology Review*. It is helpful in understanding a biblical text to have some understanding of the physical and cultural environment in which it takes place. Articles include one on pilgrims and immigrants in Jerusalem in the time of Herod. An article on the desert origins of Yahweh and how the ritual practices influenced Israelite worship and religion. One article explains how David was able to defeat Goliath with a sling. There are many other articles that shed light on the practices and archaeology of the time. (donated)

The next magazine contains 25 stories of the bible featuring *Women Of The Bible*. This is done through text, photographs, and paintings. The introduction features what lessons we can gain from their lives. Part I on the Old Testament features Eve, Lilith, Sarah and Hagar, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah, Zipporah, and Miriam. Part II Ancient Israel features Deborah, Delilah, Ruth, Bathsheba, Jezebel, Judith, and Esther. Part III The New Testament features Mary, Elizabeth, the Samaritan Woman, Mary and Martha of Bethany, Salome, Mary Magdalene, Priscilla, and Thecla. (donated)

The third magazine is the *Atlas of The Bible*. It uses text, photographs, and paintings to illustrate exploring the Holy Lands. The use of many maps are particularly helpful in guiding the reader to understand the text. Part I highlights the key narratives from the creation to the great flood, from the stay in Egypt to the exodus and the promised land. It then follows the rise of the Israelite kingdoms to the conquest by Assyria and Babylon. Part II highlights the key narratives from the four Gospels that form the core of the New Testament and well as stories from the Acts of the Apostles and the letters of Paul. (donated)

The fourth magazine is *Jesus And The Origins Of Christianity*. The life of Jesus is recounted and then the growth of early Christianity is followed. The Age of Expansion is next, the high point of the churches influence is followed by the Renaissance. It ends with Christianity overseas and then with Christianity in the Americas. It uses text, photographs, paintings and maps. (donated)

thank you

Thank you John Black for plowing the church lot during recent snowfalls. If willing to assist with other areas of snow removal around the church grounds, please contact Howard Moss at (319) 330-1976.

## 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  
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**Anne Fetzer-Evangelism & Missions/Secretary**  
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**Kent Kaufman-Stewardship/Vice president**  
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**Amber Marsh-Youth**  
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**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



Our Camera Crew is in need of a few more people to run the video cameras during our Sunday Service. As many people join us in worship online, this is an essential ministry role in our proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ!

This is easy to learn and do! You would only be scheduled once a month or less. We will train you!

Please contact Paula (319)-331-9456 or blcsecretary@lcom.net if interested. Thank you!

**Preschool - Grade 3**

**SUNDAY MORNINGS**  
**8:30 - 9:15 AM**

January 22	March 26
January 29	April 2
February 5	April 16
February 12	April 23
February 26	May 7
March 5	May 14
March 19	May 21





### Amplifying the Voices of Iowa Children and Families

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) works to provide services to Iowa children and families and to share their stories with the community. As a way of amplifying our communities' voices, we invite you to be a part of the annual Lutheran Day on the Hill event. Join Lutheran Services in Iowa and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines on March 14, 2023! This day is essential for amplifying the voices of those who are not heard, for seeking social justice and for empowering people to exercise their right and responsibility to be part of the legislative process. If you are interested in joining LSI for Lutheran Day on the Hill, visit our website at <https://lsiowa.org/ldh/>. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

### A Journey of Overwhelming Joy

After going through fertility treatments and being told they weren't able to have any more kids, Dani and her husband pursued their foster care license in 2015 and have cared for 13 kids since. "Throughout our journey of being foster parents, we've had many great placements," said Dani. "Our shortest placement lasted five days when we cared for a girl, whose mother was incapable of watching her while she recovered in the hospital, and our longest lasted 18 months." Dani shared that one of their biggest blessings was having the opportunity to adopt some of the children they fostered. The family adopted their first child at age one, and they had plans to adopt another when the child turned 18 years old. "Every time our family adopts another child, I get the same feeling of overwhelming joy," said Dani. "I feel like any expectant mom —not being able to contain my joy when their adoption comes up, and telling everyone I know about it." Dani shared that it is hard to explain the full impact fostering — and the lows and highs it brings — has had on her family. "We've cried, stressed and lost a lot of sleep. We loved, laughed and had so many firsts," said Dani. "But I still tell everyone who is considering being a foster parent to do it. It's a roller coaster, but so worth it."

## January Sunday Bible Readings

The passages below are read in worship as referenced in Pastor Chad's article on page 1. You can click on each reading and be taken to the passage on "Bible Gateway." May this be one more way we can hear the word of God.

### Christmas 1 January 1, 2023

Isaiah 63:7-9  
Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10-18  
Matthew 2:13-23

### Baptism of our Lord January 8, 2023

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany January 15, 2023

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany January 22, 2023

Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany January 29, 2023

Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

<https://www.elca.org/>



**Southeastern Iowa Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

<https://seiasynod.org/>



## Christmas Eve Worship

It was a wonderful night of worship to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Below are a couple photos. As you can see there were many gathered in person and over 300 views online. If you were not in attendance and would like to view the recording of the service visit: <https://vimeo.com/784174812>  
Thank you to all who attended, purchased poinsettias, the choir and all the fabulous ministry assistants.



## Children & Youth Christmas Program



The annual children and youth Christmas program was held during worship December 11th. Thanks to Kristin McElhinney and Amber Marsh for their efforts. Thanks to all the children and youth. It was a great morning of worship!

## Angel Tree

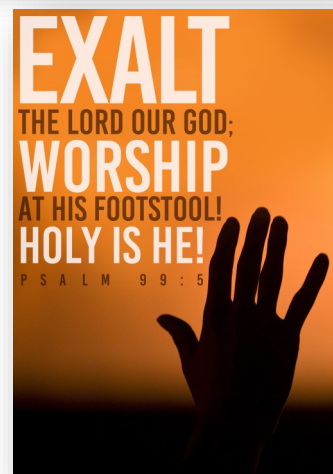
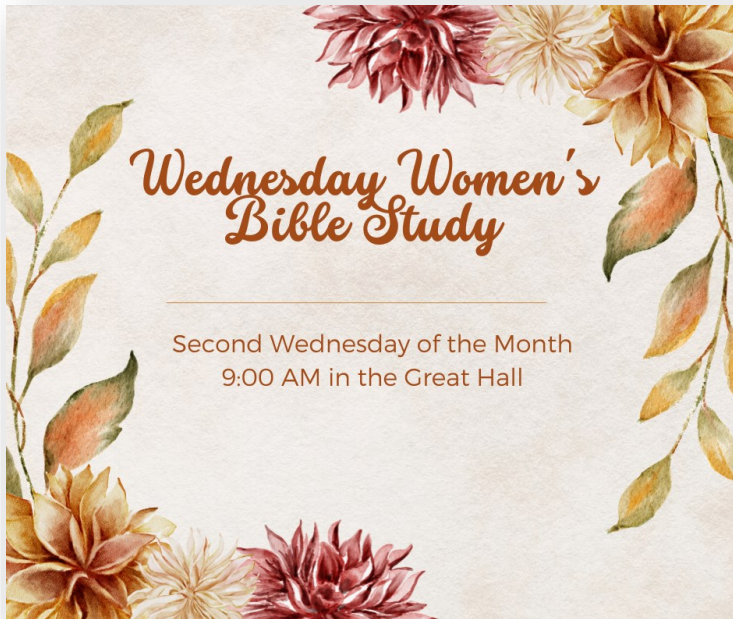


Once again, the people of Bethany provided an abundance of gifts for 3 families in our community. Thank you people of God and thank you Alex Poppen for overseeing this ministry.





## Adult Faith Formation Opportunities



# 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



Scan QR code with your phone  
or visit our website  
<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 [blcsecretary@lcom.net](mailto:blcsecretary@lcom.net)

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

## IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

Tax-free donation directly from an IRA to Bethany Lutheran Church  
This is a tax-free way to give your required minimum distributions from your IRA to charity.

# 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

# YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

## Council Minutes — November, 14 2022

We opened with a prayer then the meeting was called to order by President Dave Poppen at 6:30 p.m.

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

**Members Absent:** Amber Marsh

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

*Thanksgiving and Joys*

### **Volunteers**

Assist with faith formation, synod candidacy retreat, fellowship, the funeral of Hermann Boedeker, worship (e.g., altar care, cameras, acolyte, choir) and so many other ways people serve God

### **Worship Attendance**

Has been wonderful. Returning faces. New faces. Young and wise faces. Much to give thanks and praise for.

### **Ministry Happenings**

Men's Group

Women's Circle

Confirmation

Trivia Night (Thankful for the youth and parents that attended and one other Bethany member! Hoped more would be in attendance to get to know our amazing youth.)

Pre-Marital counseling

Be present at Angel Meals preparation

Meetings with Cindy about upcoming worship

WBARC (2x)

Synod Candidacy Retreat

Worship and sermon preparation

Spend time with preK-3rd grade classroom Sunday mornings

Hermann Boedeker Funeral

Graveside service of Aubrey Davisson, Deanna Pedersen's father

21 pastoral visits

### **Upcoming**

Wedding of Anna Bruns and Charles Headings - November 19

**Secretary's Report – Anne Fetzer**

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

**Treasurer's Report – Jill Taylor**

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

### **Committee Reports**

**Building & Grounds – Howard Moss**

Many thanks to Kent Kaufman for painting the foyer. Fluorescent tubes disposed of at the landfill.

New refrigerator installed, waiting on Alliant to pick up the old one to recycle and provide \$50 rebate.

The broken piano has been removed from storage.

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

14 Bibles distributed to Sunday School students.

Sunday school is a full house with 13-15 preschool – grade 3 students. Stacy Beyer has been assisting with class.

Faith formation is underway on Wednesday nights.

The Christmas program is planned for December 11 during worship with preschool through 8th-grade students. A cake will be served by families during fellowship following the program.

Updating bulletin board with winter extracurricular activities.

Thank you to Amanda Whaley, Lauren Whaley, and Dave Bahnsen for story time volunteering.

**Evangelism & Missions – Anne Fetzer**

Designate net proceeds (\$106) from spaghetti dinner towards a meal packaging event this winter. Funds moved to Hunger Projects.

Also, hosting November's Fourth Sunday dinner using leftover meal components.

Discuss future needs for church marketing materials like brochures for Main Street West Branch baskets for new residents or other events. A small group to discuss this winter. Angel Tree – the school has provided us with one family so far. Once we have finalized needs, the congregation to choose items using Sign-Up Genius.

**Fellowship – Patsy Ernst**

Anne Fetzer hosting November's Fourth Sunday dinner on 11/27. No meal planned for December due to Christmas. Fellowship following worship is going well and thankful for the volunteers.

**Stewardship – Kent Kaufman**

Committee continuing to remind congregation on giving options, how it works, and ways to update online contributions.

Possibly looking at resending time and talent worksheets to the congregation.

**Worship & Music – Cindy Knoop**

Preparing for the Hanging of the Greens services starting on 11/27. Looking for volunteers to participate in worship and decorating.

After discussion, we decided to adjust the late Christmas Eve worship service time. Kent moved that we continue with two services at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Howard seconded. Motion approved.

*(Continued on page 9)*



## Council Minutes continued.

(Continued from page 8)

### Old Business

Updates from Constitution Review Committee

No updates, the committee is meeting next Tuesday, 11/22.

Updates from Budget Committee

Committee meeting next Monday, 11/21. The committee consists of John Black, Nancy Bruns, Claudia Beyer, Dave Poppen & Pastor Chad.

Clover Kids' use of the Great Hall

The club began using the hall this month and provided a key for access.

Updates from Council Nominating Committee

No updates.

### New Business

Discuss the 2022 budget line for 'local missions'

We planned a special offering where we would have speakers from various missions come and speak to the congregation. We had this budgeted to give the offering for those days to the missions. This will be discussed with the budget committee.

Annual reports

Council committee chair reports due to BLC Secretary by 12/1.

Annual meeting announcement to BLC Secretary by the council president

Set Annual Meeting date

The Constitution says it needs to be held within the first 25 days of January.

Jill moved to hold the annual meeting on Sunday, 1/22/23. Howard seconded; motion approved.

Cookie Walk discussion

Event planned for Saturday, 12/3 from 9:00 -10:30 a.m.

Set up on Thursday, 12/1 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Cookies can be brought in during the day on Friday or by 8:45 a.m. Saturday.

Considering a coffee and hot cocoa station, and Nativity display.

Kristin moves that the past and 2022 funds are used toward covering any Cookie Walk expenses plus future family and youth events, Anne seconded. Motion approved.

Howard moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m., and Kent seconded. Motion approved.

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

Next Regular Meeting – 12/12/2022



GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY

# NEXUS

where God's call meets your life



## High school students!

Dig into Lutheran theology

Immerse in community

Discern God's call on your life

## Apply to The NEXUS Institute at Grand View University!

NEXUS is a week-long, on-campus experience that will change your life. Come live in the residence halls, explore Des Moines, & make new friends who are passionate about learning & living for Jesus, just like you! Space is limited - applications taken starting Sept 1! Preference given to those interested in working in vocational ministry.

**NEXUS Dates: July 16-22, 2023**

[www.grandview.edu/NEXUS](http://www.grandview.edu/NEXUS)



How will YOU be a Christian leader?

[www.grandview.edu/NEXUS](http://www.grandview.edu/NEXUS)

## 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 2:10-12

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

- For me, Christmas...
- The gifts I bring to Jesus are...
- My star, or what is guiding me to Jesus, is...



### Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

- The issues that are close to home concerning fairness and justice are...
- For me, learning to love kindness...
- Walking humbly with God, I...



**January 2023**

View Calendar on our [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:30am Worship in person and online via Facebook	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Youth Faith Formation (Grade 4-8)	<b>5</b> 6:00am Women's Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:30am Worship in person and online via Facebook	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</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>12</b> 6:00am Women's Study 5:30pm Clover Kids GH	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Youth Faith Formation (Grade 4-8)	<b>19</b> 6:00am Women's Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:45am Sunday School (PreK-3rd Grade) 9:30am Worship in person and online via Facebook 10:30am Annual Meeting following worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Youth Faith Formation (Grade 4-8)	<b>26</b> 6:00am Women's Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:45am Sunday School (PreK-3rd Grade) 9:30am Worship in person and online via Facebook	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				



## Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

	November 2022		YTD	
Total Receipts	Actual 17,295	Budget 13,837	Actual 152,604	Budget 152,213
Total Expenses	Actual 13,075	Budget 14,146	Actual 152,877	Budget 155,822

**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.



Bethany Lutheran Church  
235 South Second Street  
PO Box 236  
West Branch, Iowa 52358  
www.wbbethany.org

## Bethany Branches

January 2023

### Ministry Assistants

#### Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

1-1 Mike Fryauf  
1-8 Pat Cassabaum  
1-15 Kami Poppen  
1-22 Patsy Ernst  
1-29 Jill Barnhart

#### Ministers of Technology

1-1 Paula Casper  
1-8 Jill Taylor  
1-15 Alex Poppen  
1-22 Paula Caser  
1-29 Cole Crosthwaite & Tate

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

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:  
**@blwestbranch**

**You Are Loved!**

**I AM FILLED**

**WITH**

**Hope**

**AND**

**Joy.**

Romans 15:13