

Bethany Lutheran Church

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

 **September** 

Important Dates

9/6, 9/27 Faith Formation 6:30 PM
9/10 Outdoor worship 9:30 AM
God's work, our Hands Sunday
9/10, 9/17, 9/24 Sunday School
8:30-9:15 AM
9/11 Council meeting
9/13 Women's Circle 9:00 AM

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 X!

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://www.wbbethany.org)) or images

**"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish."
Matthew 14:17 (NIV)**



Dear faithful servants of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,

The verse above is from the miracle of the feeding of the multitudes, which is the only miracle found in all four gospel accounts. This story tells us much about who Jesus is. It tells us much about the kingdom of

God he has come to usher in. It tells us much about discipleship. I have been thinking about this miracle and many other parables we have recently had that speak to the kingdom of God. So many, such as the parable of the tiny mustard seed, miniscule crumbs from the master's table, one single pearl, or the story about a woman putting two small coins in the offering reveal much about God. As in the feeding of the 5,000 God can do great things with very little. Even what our minds may perceive as miniscule are not in the kingdom of God. One mustard seed can go a long way. Five loaves and two fish can feed many.

It really is easy to fall into the trap of a mindset of scarcity and miss out on the abundance of God. On our recent hiking trip I made mention to Amanda we were just a bit too late in the summer to experience the flowering plants in the mountains. Yet, then I came across a single flower and I realized that was enough ... to make me smile, to reveal God's beauty, to move me beyond the mindset I had missed out on, and to bring me joy.

It's not unlike the photo above it of a single cardinal that would often frequent our porch this spring and early summer. One was enough to remind me of the abundance of God's handiwork. One was enough to fill my heart with gladness. Or how about a single butterfly we might see spreading its wings and radiating its beautiful colors. Or, maybe it's one simple thank you, a few words of encouragement, one handshake or hug, a word of peace, a can of food or two or three, or one offer of forgiveness. Just think how freeing and healing forgiveness is and also a sign of the kingdom of God. With God all things are possible, no matter how big or how small. Grace and peace precious and beloved saints!

Pastor Chad





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.



Preschool - Grade 3

SUNDAY MORNINGS
 8:30 - 9:15 AM

September 10 November 12

September 17 November 19

September 24 December 3

October 8 December 10

October 15 December 17

October 22 *Last class until Jan.

November 5 No class dates:
 10/1, 10/29, 11/26

Bethany Books



Book For Adults

Climate change and our effect on the environment is a central news story today. The area of the state of Iowa has been geographically changed more than any other state. *Tending Iowa's Land: Pathways To A Sustainable Future* is a series of essays edited by Cornelia Mutel. Iowa's prairies and wildlands have been transformed into vast agricultural fields. This massive conversion has provided us with food, fiber, and fuel. But it has also robbed Iowa's land of its native resilience and created the environmental problems that challenge our everyday lives. This includes polluted waters, increasing floods, degradation of prairie topsoil, compromised natural systems, and climate change. In the book, Iowa scientists and experts outline viable solutions that will benefit agriculture as well as the state's human and wild residents. Also included are articles by farmers and others actively engaged in agriculture. Of special interest to us in the West Branch area is an article by Ken Fawcett, *Farming For The Future: A Personal Story*.

Book For Teens

When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed is about family, home, and the day to day life of a refugee. This is an important topic today as there are millions of refugees in the world today as a result of the many conflicts that are taking place. There are more refugees now than at any time since World War II. Life is hard in the camps, never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care that is needed. I found it to be an interesting, informative, engaging graphic novel.

Books For Children

The Fall Of Freddie The Leaf is a story of life for all ages. This is the twentieth anniversary edition of the story by Leo Buscaglia. It is a warm and simple story about a leaf named Freddie. Freddie and his companion leaves change with the seasons. They finally fall to the ground. It is an inspiring allegory illustrating the delicate balance between life and death. Both children and adults are touched by this thoughtful treatment of a sensitive aspect of life.

When Dinosaurs' Die: A Guide To Understanding Death by Laurie Krasny Brown and Marc Brown is the second book this month dealing with grief for children. This book explains in simple language the feelings people may have regarding the death of a loved one. It also includes the ways to honor the memory of someone who has died.

Church Staff

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Claudia Beyer—**Financial Secretary**
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Attention Singers
Choir will begin September 6th.

Bethany's choir could use more voices. If you love to sing, please join us Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:00.

Let me know. Thanks!

Jill Barnhart (319)541-9738

Outdoor Worship

September 10 @ 9:30 AM

Please bring a chair and invite a friend or neighbor. This will be our final outdoor worship of the summer.



OUR
mission

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





Leave a Legacy Gift

LSI has responded to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service for over 150 years. During this time, we've created a legacy of lifting up and empowering thousands of our Iowa neighbors, thanks to the generosity of donors like you.

You can celebrate your lifetime through a legacy gift, to ensure LSI can continue to provide lifesaving services for those in need. Many of our faithful donors want their gifts to continue after their lifetime, and have elected to leave a legacy through LSI's foundation or the ELCA foundation.

Planned gifts to LSI help to create a firm foundation for our ministry and contribute more than \$400,000 each year.

Thanks to the generous compassion of individual donors, congregations such as yours, and our ministry partners at the three synods of the ELCA, we can be confident LSI will be here to meet the changing needs of Iowans for years to come.

You Can Make a Lasting Impact

A longtime supporter of LSI turned an appreciated real estate asset into a charitable remainder unitrust agreement with the ELCA foundation. Because of this agreement, they will receive income from the trust for the remainder of their two lives, and subsequently to their two adult children for a twenty-year term. According to the actuarial tables, this gift will finally terminate in about forty years, leaving a very strong and greatly appreciated impact on LSI's future.

Another LSI donor elected to share their investment by directing a required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRA directly to LSI. The donor used this contribution to match new or increased gifts during the annual matching gift campaign.

We ask you to consider how you can make a lasting impact and leave a legacy. To learn more about planned giving opportunities, go to LSIowa.org/leave-a-legacy/ or contact Deb Whitford, LSI senior director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

AED

We now have an AED. Thanks to the Rotary-Kerber HeartSafe Community Campaign and the Community Foundation of Johnson County for a grant that made it much more affordable.

A training session will soon be scheduled by volunteers from the Community Campaign and open to anyone interested.

The AED is located in the hallway to the Great Hall.



Community Tailgate



Wednesday, September 13

6:00 PM

Beranek Park

Sponsored by Bethany Lutheran Church and
West Branch United Methodist Church

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

WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

September 13 @ 9:00 AM

Join faithful women of Bethany on the second
Wednesday of each month for a time of fellowship,
faith and Bible study.

*If we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another. - 1 John 1:7*



Grow in Christ

Faith Formation Kickoff

Wednesday, September 6th
6:30 PM

Youth 3rd-8th grade
and parents too.
Pizza and drinks provided.

Let your light shine... (Matthew 5:16)



September 10th

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

8:30-
9:15 am



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is Sunday, September 10, 2023.

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Needs Wanted--No Tasks Too Small! God’s work. Our Hands. Sunday is a day where we can help our friends and neighbors get things done – big or small. We can do little things like dusting, cleaning, change filters, change light bulbs, etc. Or we can do larger things like painting, power washing, pull weeds, trim bushes. Do you need things done? Do you know of someone who needs things done? Please let us know. This is the whole point about **God’s Work. Our Hands. Sunday**--where people who are able can help get things done--**big or small**. We need a list of actions needed such that we can match volunteer helpers with tasks at hand. Do you need things done? Do you know of someone who needs things done? Please let us know! Simply call, text or email any of the people on the list below (the God’s Work, Our Hands Committee) or let Paula or the Pastor know and we will get your chores on the “to do list”! We are here to help and if you don’t have a need yourself – pass this along to those who may need our services. Please send your **needs** to anyone on the committee:

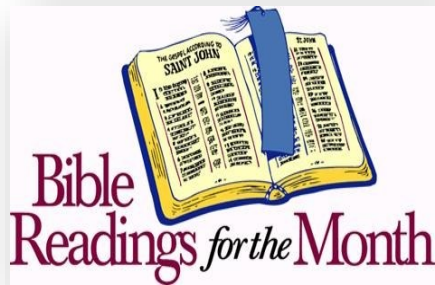
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Kent Kaufman: 319-330-8579 bkk Kaufman@lcom.net
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September Sunday Bible Readings

The passages below are the assigned readings for August You can click on each reading and be taken to the passage on "[Bible Gateway](#)."
May this be one more way we can hear and study the word of God.

September 3
[Jeremiah 15:15-21](#)
[Psalm 26:1-8](#)
[Romans 12:9-21](#)
[Matthew 16:21-28](#)



September 10
[Ezekiel 33:7-11](#)
[Psalm 119:33-40](#)
[Romans 13:8-14](#)
[Matthew 18:15-20](#)

September 17
[Genesis 50:15-21](#)
[Psalm 103:1-7](#) 8-13
[Romans 14:1-12](#)
[Matthew 18:21-35](#)



September 24
[Jonah 3:10-4:11](#)
[Psalm 145:1-8](#)
[Philippians 1:21-30](#)
[Matthew 20:1-16](#)

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.

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...



Scripture
Talk

Matthew 5:16

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

- A person who has been a light for me is...
- People who observe me see...
- I bring light to others by...

Hope Chest News

For many years, our community Hope Chest has been one way in which we have lived our mission of, "growing so deep in Christ ... that we celebrate by reaching out to others." We have provided clothing for over 700 clients. Thank you to Neil and Chris Korsmo for tracking the numbers and faithfully stewarding this ministry over the years. Thanks also to Paula who often received donations and welcomed clients. Thanks to all who have assisted with this ministry in one way or another.

There has been a significant decline in the last few years of requests for clothing. Neil, Chris and Paula have expressed their desire to step aside from this ministry. If this ministry is to continue, we are seeking individuals who might wish to steward it into the future. If you are interested, please advise Pastor Chad.

VBS VIDEO RECAP

A video of photos taken during Vacation Bible School is now available on our website (www.wbbethany.org), Facebook page or via the QR code the right.



Thank
You

To Our VBS Volunteers

Planning Team

Kristin McElhinney, Courtney Heid,
Amber Marsh, Kristen Van Scoyoc

Activity/Lesson Leaders and Kitchen Helpers

Jess Fonseca, Lauren Whaley, June Hamer, Nancy Bruns,
Lauren Bowers, Michelle Sexton, Kay Kiler, Paula Casper,
Deb Anderson, Sue Hughes, Wayne Frauenholtz, Al Beyer,
Aizlyn Marsh, Harper Driscoll, Rylee Grace

Thanks also to all who donated food.



September 2023

View Calendar on our [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) (Blessing of Backpacks) 10:30am Fellowship Hour 5:00pm 4th Sunday Community meal	28	29 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	30 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:30pm Faith Formation Youth grade 3-8	31 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	1	2
3 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	4	5 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	6 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Youth Faith Formation Kickoff (3-8th Grade)	7 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	8	9
10 8:30am Sunday School Preschool - Grade 3 9:30am Outdoor Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) (Weather Permitting) 10:30am Fellowship Hour 5:45pm Clover Kids	11 6:30pm Council Meeting	12 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	13 7:00am Men's Study Group 9:00am Women's Circle Bible Study 6:15pm Choir Practice	14 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	15	16
17 8:30am Sunday School Preschool - Grade 3 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	18 7:00pm WB Study Club	19 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	20 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Faith Formation Youth grade 3-8	21 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	22	23
24 8:30am Sunday School Preschool - Grade 3 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour 5:00pm 4th Sunday Community meal	25	26 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	27 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:15pm Choir Practice	28 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters 2:00pm Crestview Worship	29	30

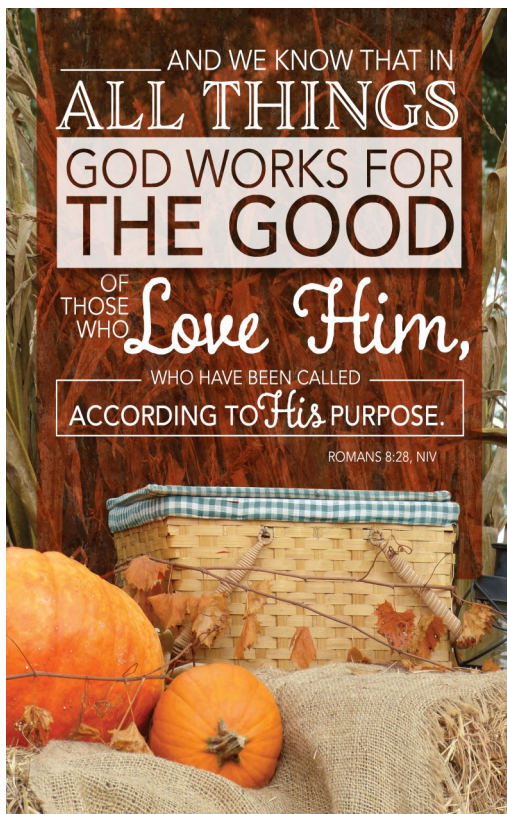
Monetary Gifts Report

There is no finance report due to the council not having a business meeting in August. As has been done in previous year's in the month of July, the council gathered with their families for a meal and fellowship time together. In the October newsletter, you will find financial reports for the months of July and August. If you have questions prior to that, please see our treasurer, Jill Taylor.



To give an offering visit our website wbbethany.org and click on the [Give Now](#) button or scan the QR code.

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.



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 X
@blcwestbranch

You Are Loved!

Ministry Assistants

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

9-3 Jon Twing
9-10 Al Beyer
9-17 Cheryl Boerjan
9-24 Del Hughes

Ministers of Technology

9-3 Cole Crosthwaite & Tate
Frantz
9-10 Dave Poppen
9-17 Paula Casper
9-24 Jill Taylor

Ministers of Hospitality

9-3 Al & Claudia Beyer
9-10 Outdoor
9-17 Nancy Bruns
9-24 Stacy Beyer

Ministers of Altar Care:

Dave & Kami Poppen

Thanks for serving!

*. If you are interested in assisting in
any of these roles, please let us know.*

Bethany Branches
September 2023

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