

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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



## Important Dates

10-09 Council meeting 6:30 PM  
10-22 Community Meal 5-6:00 PM  
10-29 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](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 X!

Search @blcwestbranch

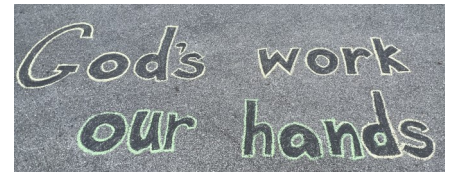
Links to websites are built into the  
digital version of this newsletter.  
Click on words highlighted in blue  
(e.g. [wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)) or images.

*"All of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every  
corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace."  
(From ELCA toolkit for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday)*

Dear beloved servants of Christ,

I sit down to write this letter following two days away at the Fall Theological Conference in Ames. During some table conversation, the topic of "God's work. Our hands." Sunday surfaced. I was a bit saddened to hear not every congregation participated. In hearing stories shared, I must admit this was one of those times I was so proud to be the pastor of Bethany. You all did amazing work, holy work, God's work on September 10th! It was a joy to share many of the ways in which we rolled up our sleeves, got dirty and reached out to others. It was truly a Spirit filled and Spirit led day!

I would like to again thank Jon Twing for his leadership along with his committee that consisted of Dave Poppen, Howard Moss, Sue Hughes, and Kent Kaufman. You all did a wonderful job organizing and carrying out a variety of activities. I have heard so many positives and recently received a thank you note in the mail from someone that we assisted. I have placed the card on the bulletin board in the Great Hall but the final sentence said, "It was so appreciated to be chosen to be a recipient of your "God's Work-Our Hands" ministry.



At the end of the gospel of John the resurrected Jesus encounters his disciples for the first time and says to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (John 20:21 NRSV) Like those disciples we too are a resurrection people and are sent by Jesus to go in peace and share the good news. We don't go alone. The Holy Spirit goes with us. On "God's work. Our hands." Sunday we were sent to do holy work. Every Sunday we are sent to do holy work that reveals the kingdom of God here and now. Thanks for all you do in the name of Jesus Christ faithful saints! In peace! — 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.



**Evangelical  
Lutheran**  
Church in America



## Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad



### Book For Adults

Tim Russert was the host of the program *Meet The Press* and an accomplished journalist. After Tim died unexpectedly, his son Luke kept looking for his father. The result is the book *Look For Me There: Grieving My Father, Finding Myself*. After eight years covering politics on TV, Luke realized he had no good answer as to why he was chasing his father's legacy. He decided to leave the familiar behind and set out to find his own answers.

What started out as a couple of months of travel to decompress and reassess ended up in a three year trip to discover the world and ultimately, to find himself. For anyone unsure about the direction of their life or unsure about how to move forward after a loss, this book is a reflection that offers encouragement to examine our choices, take risks, and discover our truest selves.

### Book For Teens

On a spring morning, neighbors Valentina Kaplan and Oksana Sovchenko wake up to an angry red sky. It is 1986, in what is today the Ukraine, and the nuclear power plant at Chernobyl has exploded. Their fathers both work at the plant. This starts *The Blackbird Girls: A disaster that changes lives. A friendship that lasts a lifetime* by Anne Blankman. Before they know it, the two girls who have always been enemies find themselves together on a train. They begin to learn what it means to trust another person. Both of them discover something they have wished for: a best friend. This book discusses many problems: hatred, intolerance, child abuse, and oppression. They are no match for the power of true friendship.

### Books For Children

This month's book on relationships and grief is *The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst. When mom tells her children that they are all connected by an Invisible String, the children insist, "That's impossible!" But still, they want to know more. It is an invisible string made of love. Even though you cannot see it, you can feel it deep in your heart and know that you are always connected to the ones you love. This classic for all ages has helped comfort and heal countless readers by easing separation anxiety, loneliness, and loss. It explores the intangible yet unbreakable connections between us all.



**God loves you!!!**



## 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**  
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Claudia Beyer—**Financial Secretary**  
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Following worship on September 24<sup>th</sup>, a group gathered near the Hope Chest for a short service of thanksgiving and sending as we closed this ministry. As Easter people, we trust that as we say good-bye to this ministry, God will breathe life into something new.



Addison Wombacher was baptized September 3<sup>rd</sup> during worship. She is the daughter of J.J. and Jennie Wombacher. It was a wonderful morning as we welcomed this precious child of God into Christ's church.

## 4th Sunday Community Meal

October 22, 2023

Bethany Lutheran Church

5:00-6:00 PM

Join us for  
our annual  
fish fry





At LSI, we celebrate all the ways professional caregivers help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful connections in their communities. LSI's Host Homes program is an innovative way Direct Support Professionals serve adults with disabilities.

Through this program, an individual moves from Supported Community Living into a private family home with a carefully selected Host Homes Provider who provides 24/7 support for the client.

"Working directly with my clients to help them complete goals and work around obstacles is my favorite part of my job," said Erica Hill Murray, a Host Homes Provider at LSI. "I enjoy showing them that there are people in their lives who care about them, are proud of them, and proud to help them."

Erica has helped many clients in the five years she has provided care at LSI, but one client, in particular, has made great strides under her care.

"I worked with a client who wanted to find a job or volunteer position, but she had two obstacles in her way: she had trouble using a computer, and she wasn't confident in her ability to speak in an interview," said Erica. "I offered to look for positions on the computer with her and to call potential employers to explain what she was looking for. After working with her, we found her a volunteer position for a couple of days a week, and she was delighted."

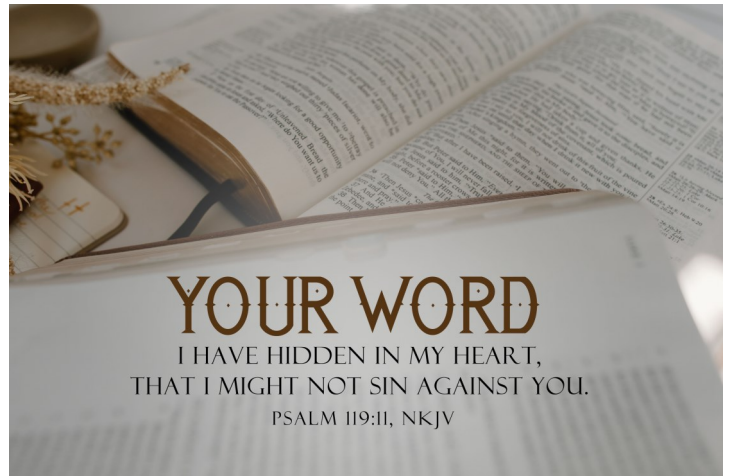
"She thanked me for helping her and said that she was happy that, for once, someone understood her drive to want to work," said Erica. "I like to make a difference – even if it is small. Helping others, no matter at what level, is impactful. I love working at LSI, and I believe my position as a Host Homes Provider has been my favorite position in life."

Jesus told many parables and we have heard several in our journey through Matthew in recent months. Unscramble the key words from some of those parables. The answers are located on page 7.

# The Parables of Jesus

1. TSMAURD SEDE \_\_\_\_\_
2. OMGKNID OF EVANEH \_\_\_\_\_
3. HEATW NDA SEEDW \_\_\_\_\_
4. TLSO HSPEE \_\_\_\_\_
5. VGERFAO \_\_\_\_\_
6. DRHSPHEE \_\_\_\_\_
7. EASTY \_\_\_\_\_
8. ASEUTERR \_\_\_\_\_
9. IENF LERAPS \_\_\_\_\_
10. HFSI \_\_\_\_\_





## 50TH RAGBRAI RIDE AGAINST HUNGER IOWA BISHOPS

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS FOR THE BISHOPS' RAGBRAI RIDE SUPPORTING ELCA WORLD HUNGER. WHILE WE PEDALED ACROSS IOWA, YOU PITCHED IN TO FEED THOSE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, YOUR GENEROSITY, AND YOUR ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS RIDE. WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU.

*Amy L. Current*

BISHOP AMY CURRENT  
SOUTHEASTERN IOWA

*Lorna H. Halaas*

BISHOP LORNA HALAAS  
WESTERN IOWA

*Kevin Jones*

BISHOP KEVIN JONES  
NORTHEASTERN IOWA



You can view the full article in the *Living Lutheran* by clicking [here](#) or by scanning the QR code below.



SCAN ME



## Children and Youth Faith Formation

***sunday school*** with Bethany Lutheran Church

Preschool - Grade 3

**October 8, 15, 22**

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

*Wednesday*  
**FAITH FORMATION**

**Grades 3-8**

*October 4, 11, 18*

Come have fun, get to know each other, sing, dance, pray, and grow in Christ! All are welcome!



**Affirmation of Baptism**  
(Confirmation Sunday)

Shelby Klabo  
Alexa Fitzgerald  
Brennan Esbeck

October 29th  
9:30 AM Worship



**Minister of Christ's Light**

SIGN UP ONLINE

<http://tinyurl.com/2txuahnc>



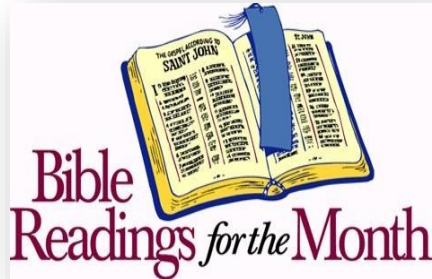
An amazing group gathered to prepare Angel Meals in August.



## October Sunday Bible Readings

The passages below are the assigned readings for October. 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.

October 1  
[Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32](#)  
[Psalm 25:1-9](#)  
[Philippians 2:1-13](#)  
[Matthew 21:23-32](#)



October 8  
[Isaiah 5:1-7](#)  
[Psalm 80:7-15](#)  
[Philippians 3:4b-14](#)  
[Matthew 21:33-46](#)

October 15  
[Isaiah 25:1-9](#)  
[Psalm 23](#)  
[Philippians 4:1-9](#)  
[Matthew 22:1-14](#)

October 22  
[Isaiah 45:1-7](#)  
[Psalm 96:1-9 \[10-13\]](#)  
[1 Thessalonians 1:1-10](#)  
[Matthew 22:15-22](#)

October 29  
[Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18](#)  
[Psalm 1](#)  
[1 Thessalonians 2:1-8](#)  
[Matthew 22:34-46](#)

THE LORD  
HAS DONE IT THIS  
*very day*  
LET US REJOICE TODAY  
AND BE GLAD.  
PSALM 105:24

Answers to Word Jumble on page 4.

1. TSMAURD SEDE Mustard Seed
2. OMGKNID OF EVANEH Kingdom of heaven
3. HEATW NDA SEEDW wheat and weeds
4. TLSO HSPEE Lost sheep
5. VGERFAO Forgave
6. DRHSPHEE Shepherd
7. EASTY Yeast
8. ASEUTERR Treasure
9. IENF LERAPS Fine pearls
10. HFSI fish

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 6:9a

"Our Father in heaven,"

- For me, the Lord's prayer...
- God, as our Father or as a parent,...
- When I pray...



Scripture  
Talk

### Amos 5:24

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

- An injustice in our world now...
- Injustice and unfairness happen when people...
- People with extra advantages in life...





# “God’s work. Our hands.”

## Sunday



To see a video compilation of the photos taken that day click [here](#) or scan the QR code.



## Council Minutes — July 2023

**Call to Order** at 6:30pm by President Dave Poppen

**Members Present:** Jon Twing, Dave Poppen, Howard Moss, Courtney Heid, Pastor Chad, Cindy Knoop, Kent Kaufmann, Kristen Van Scoyoc

**Members absent:** Jill Taylor, Sue Hughes

### Opening Prayer & Discussion

### Pastor's Report

#### Joys and Thanksgivings

Outdoor worship (beautiful morning, wonderful turnout) & butterfly garden dedication

Continued stewardship of time and talents

Offerings and volunteer helpers in so many capacities – every dollar, every minute of service help make our ministry thrive and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ! :)

#### Ministry Efforts

Quilters, men's and women's morning studies, children play dates, Angel Meals, food pantry and Hope Chest, fourth Sunday meal, and others I may have missed

Again, we are doing God's work!

Ministry Happenings

17 pastoral visits

Care Team meeting

Initial brainstorming/visioning session

Al Beyer, Jeni Schiele, Jill Taylor and Paula Casper

Formulating purpose

Summer food program packaging and distribution

Thanks to Al Beyer, Heidi Christensen, Laura Twing and Kevin and Darla Crosthwaite for assisting

Executive Committee Meeting

Visitor card came out of that meeting (now located at sign-in book and on table with bulletins) – One more way we can practice hospitality

Attend and help lead men's Bible study on Wednesday mornings

Worship planning and preparation

Sermon preparation

Deliver food to pantry

Crestview Worship

Thanks to Terry Moss for assisting and also Laura Twing who attended and worshipped with the residents

Hiking ministry only 1 RSVP so decided to cancel. Evaluating whether to continue this ministry effort

Upcoming

Vacation coverage

July 24<sup>th</sup> – Paster Hougen

August 6<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Holmes

Future Continuing Education plans

### Secretary's Report - Courtney

June Council Meeting Minutes

Kent moved to approve; Howard seconded. Motion approved.

### Treasurer's Report - Jill

June Treasurer's Report

Howard moved to approve; Kent seconded. Motion approved.

### Committee Reports

#### Building and Grounds – Howard

Tree gone

Discuss closing office bathroom d/t high bills and low usage.

Close bathroom and change to landscaping meter?

Vote next meeting.

Solar Panel

All info put together to get estimated – awaiting bids – will bring back next meeting.

#### Education & Youth - Kristen & Courtney

Ready to go for VBS next week

Pool Party at Tipton pool

August 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Evangelism & Missions – Jon

God's Work, Our Hands

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Purpose: Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace

(<https://www.elca.org/dayofservice?ga=2.251058053.241890104.1686523517-1020164437.1686523517>)

Committee: Solicitation for committee members was made to Congregation with no one expressing interest. Current members are Twing, Dave Poppen, Sue Hughes.

Should I "co-op" someone and, if so, whom?

Meeting Thursday do discuss project

#### Fellowship - Sue

Fourth Sunday Dinner July – Deb Andersen Group

August – Beyers or Blacks Fellowship covered for July

#### Stewardship - Kent None

#### Worship and Music - Cindy

Outdoor worship went well, 40+ in attendance

(Continued on page 10)



## Council Minutes—July 2023

(Continued from page 9)

Ministers of Hospitality –  
Updating/clarifying duties  
Continue using children for duties

### Old Business

God's Work Our Hands Update – see M&E report  
Policy on banner usage on church property  
Jon presented policy draft – changes discussed – Jon will update and bring back to next meeting

### New Business

Custodian coverage while Pat Cassabaum is out  
Hire Lee Cassabaum (Pat's husband) temporarily in place of her while she is out with broken foot.

Howard motion to approve, Jon seconded.

Motion approved.

AED purchase

Purchase AED through Community Foundation of Johnson County for \$500. Utilize \$250 donation from Lions Club and \$250 from memorial fund.

Howard motioned to approve; Jon seconded. Motion approved.

Kristen V. is a certified Basic Life Support instructor – willing to do a “pop-up” class for those interested.  
Donation to Southeastern Iowa Synod for hunger ministries  
Iowa Bishops' Ride Against Hunger – asking for donations - \$200.

Howard motioned to approve; Jon seconded. Motion approved.

August council meeting

Fellowship BBQ for council members in lieu of meeting  
Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>

Kristen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm, Courtney seconded. Motion approved.

**Closed** with the Lord's Prayer

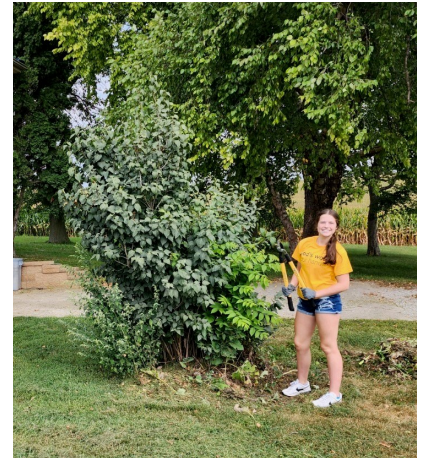
Next Regular Meeting September 11th, 2023



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

Bethany Lutheran Church  
West Branch, Iowa  
[www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)

Enjoy some more photos from “God's work. Our hands.”  
Sunday held September 10, 2023.







## October 2023

View Calendar on our [website](#).

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



## Monetary Gifts Report

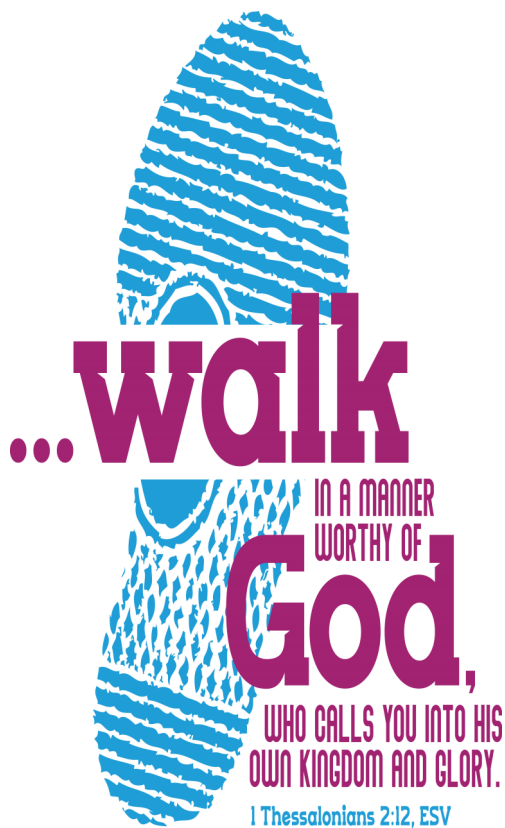
Submitted by Jill Taylor

	2023		YTD	
Total Gifts	Actual 17,415	Budget 14,333	Actual 117,021	Budget 114,668
Total Expenses	Actual 14,180	Budget 14,777	Actual 114,723	Budget 118,268
Net Revenue	3,235		2,298	

To give an offering visit our website [wbbethany.org](http://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.





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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)

10-1 John Black  
10-8 Pat Cassabaum  
10-15 Phil Hougen  
10-22 Mike Fryauf  
10-29 Lisa Zimmerman

### Ministers of Technology

10-1 Cole Crosthwaite &  
Tate Frantz  
10-8 John Black  
10-15 Dave Poppen  
10-22 Jill Taylor  
10-29 Cole Crosthwaite &  
Tate Frantz

### Ministers of Hospitality

10-1 John & Linda Black  
10-8 Patsy Ernst  
10-15 Paula Casper  
10-22 Anne & Jamie Fetzer  
10-29 Wayne Frauenholtz

### Ministers of Altar Care:

Beth & Kent Kaufman

Bethany Branches  
October 2023

**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
235 South Second Street  
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