

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



Important Dates

11/5 All Saints Sunday
11/13 Council meeting
11/26 4th Sunday meal

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 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) or images

Jesus said [to the devil], "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."
Matthew 4:10 (NRSV)



Dear Beloved Saints in Christ,

Grace and peace to you! Thank you for all you do as the body of Christ in the world. Thank you for the many ways you shine forth the light of Christ! Thank you for the many ways in which you proclaim the good news of Christ through word, action, and deed. The ways in which the Spirit is at work in all of you doing God's work is amazing!

It won't be long until we hear the words from the angel of the Lord to the shepherd living in the fields, "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah the Lord." (Luke 2:10) Of course we know what the shepherds do upon hearing this news. They went with haste to see the Christ child and made known what the angel of the Lord had told them. But, what did they do next? They returned, glorifying and praising God. They worshipped the Lord.

Worship is central to the life of God's people. Any number of verses could be referenced that would highlight this fact. Jesus went to the temple at a young age we are told in Luke's gospel. Psalm 95 calls the people to, "Come, bow down in worship, kneel before the Lord." It is here we encounter God. In the book *Introduction to Christian Worship* by James F. White it is stated, "in a sermon preached by Martin Luther at the dedication of the first church built for Protestant worship, Torgau Castle, in 1544 Luther says of Christian worship 'that nothing else be done in it than that our dear Lord Himself talks to us through His word and that we, in turn, talk to him in prayer and song of praise.'" (Abingdon Press © 1980, 1991, 2000; p.22)

The living God, the resurrected Christ, the Holy Spirit is active as the people of God gather. Worship was important in the life of the Word made flesh and it is instrumental in our walk of faith. Theologian Nikos A. Nissiotis states, "Worship is not primarily man's initiative but God's redeeming act in Christ through his Spirit." (*Introduction to Christian Worship*; p. 23) When the Spirit gathers us in, God is at work reconciling us yet again to Godself and to one another. Healing, wholeness, and restoration are made manifest.

I do realize technology has made available a new way to worship. I do realize the gift it has been to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to so many beyond our walls. I do realize the gift it is to those physically unable to attend for any number of reasons. I do realize life happens and Sunday morning doesn't always work out. I give thanks for the gift it is in our ministry. Yet, there is a gift of gathering together in person if able to do so. There is a gift in looking in another's eyes and saying, "Peace, be with you!" There is a gift in kneeling next to another and hearing, "My body and blood given for you." There is a gift in praying together. There is a gift in glorifying God together in song or listening to the choir. There is a gift in the joy provided by children and youth.

Continued on page 2



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.

Hope Chest Closure

Following the closure of the Hope Chest last month, all clothes on hand were donated to the [Shelter House](#) and [Open Heartland](#), which are both located in Iowa City. These gifts will help clothe those most vulnerable and in need of clothing.



**Evangelical
Lutheran**
Church in America



Bethany Books

By Frank Frostestad

Book For Adults

This month the featured book is *Irresistible: reclaiming the new that Jesus unleashed for the world* by Andy Stanley.

Today an increasing number of ex-church attendees identify as "nones". Many atheists insist that Christianity is actually harmful to society. To say "the Bible says..." does not carry the weight it once did. Thanks to our digital world people know "what else" the Bible says without picking up a Bible. In spite of this, we preach, teach, and communicate as if nothing has changed. The author thinks that it is time that we hit pause on much of what we are doing. We should consider the faith modeled by our first century brothers and sisters who had no official Bible, no status, and really little chance of survival. He does not think that we should incorporate much of the Old Testament in our church today and that we should concentrate on the authority of the New Testament leaders such as Jesus, Peter, and Paul. I thought that this was an interesting point of view to consider.

Book For Teens

The book this month for teens is *The Doughnut Fix* by Jessie Janowitz. This book is more lighthearted than the last two books for teens. Its main character, Tristan is not Gifted or Talented like his sister Jeanine, and he's always been okay with that because he can make a perfect chocolate chip cookie and he lives in the greatest city in the world. His life takes a turn for the worse when his parents decide to move to middle-of-nowhere Petersville - a town with one street and no restaurants. He decides that the town needs a donut shop and so he begins to start his own business. Is it possible that he has bitten off more than he can chew? Read the book to find out.

Book For Children

The book this month that deals with grief and the afterlife is *The Next Place* by Warren Hanson. *The Next Place* is an inspirational journey of light and hope to a place where earthly hurts are left behind. It is an uncomplicated journey of awe and wonder to a destination without barriers. You can lose yourself in the uplifting sense of comfort and serenity. Pour yourself into the lives of those you love. *The Next Place* is a celebration of life.

Continued from page 1

I am well aware the physical limitations of many in our worshipping community and the sorrow you experience because you are unable to attend. I know how much you miss the joy of community. I miss you as do all the saints in light. Yet, if you are able, I pray you join us as we are on a journey that includes many opportunities for worship. It began this past Sunday as 3 amazing youth affirmed their faith. It continues this week as we gather with our Senior Saints, newly baptized saints, and give thanks for the saints that have entered into their heavenly home. On November 15th we will welcome Olivia Burnette to the waters of baptism. Then in there will be the Hanging of the Greens, children and youth Christmas program, and Christmas Eve worship. It is every Sunday that we have the invitation, opportunity and privilege to gather and worship the Lord our God. For we remember, the Spirit call us, gathers us, feeds us, and then sends us to share the good news! May the peace of Christ be with you all!
— Pastor Chad

Church Staff

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Pianist—Jill Barnhart

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



Join us for worship November 5th 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, Evie White, Frank Frostestad, Ronald Madsen, Marv Brick, Karen Brick, Alberta (Peaches) Sweat, Janice Fitzgerald, Norm Fitzgerald, Diane Hougen, Phil Hougen, Joanne Brooksheer, Wauthena Noe, Kent Kaeser, Alda Buresh

We will also give thanks for the newly baptized.

Olivia Burnette, Hazel Perkins, Addison Wombacher

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

Bob Pedersen, Herb Friis, Butch Pedersen, Jim Racey, Russell Grout

**If we inadvertently missed a name, please let Paula know as soon as possible.*



Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) News

National Adoption Month

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

Iowa foster families, like the Smiths*, raise the bar by opening their loving households to children and teens in need of a place to call home.

At LSI, we understand the importance of keeping youth in their communities to help maintain connections and stability during times of transition. So, when our staff received a referral for a teenage girl needing foster care placement, they looked inward toward the community.

At the time, homes in the area were either full or not open to accepting teenage placements. Coincidentally, the Smiths were present at a meeting the same night the referral came in. When they heard about Rebecca's* situation, they immediately knew who the child was and wanted to help in any way they could.

The Smiths were already over their licensing capacity, having been granted a variance to accept a sibling group. To be able to bring Rebecca into their home, they would need to be given another variance, which was almost unheard of.

"It was by chance, or the grace of God, that the Smiths were able to accept another child, and give Rebecca a stable placement with a family in her community," said Dawn Luetje, LSI Director of Resource Family Licensing and Support, working in conjunction with Four Oaks Family Connections.

Thanks to the combined support of the Smiths, LSI staff, and the community, Rebecca was placed in the foster home, where she could maintain her daily activities with the teachers, coaches, and friends she was comfortable with. Rebecca continues to thrive in a stable, loving foster home environment and a caring community.

Stories like these are possible through our many community partners and generous donors. To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit LSIowa.org/Foster, or contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

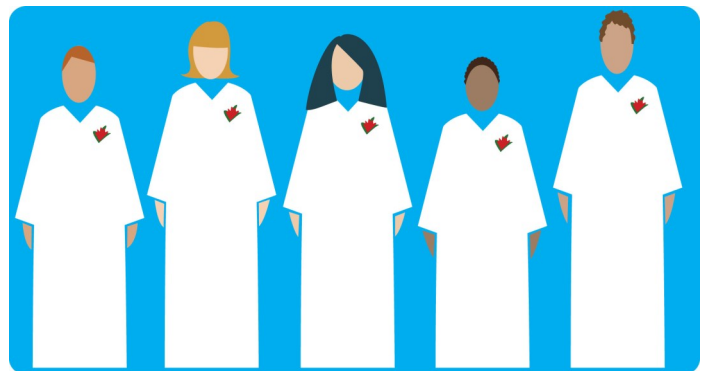
****Names have been changed to protect client privacy.***

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



Affirmation of Baptism Sunday (October 29)

Below are some photos taken on Reformation Sunday, which was also the day 3 young adults affirmed their baptisms. Congratulations Alexa, Brennan, and Shelby. Thank you to all who attended worship to celebrate with these amazing youth and surround them with the love and presence of Jesus Christ.



Kudos to Our Confirmands

God loves you!!!





Fourth Sunday Community Meal



gathered
together



We are in need of coffee for
Sunday fellowship and the
Fourth Sunday
Community meal.
Donations would be



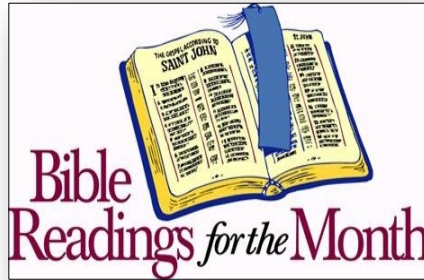
November Sunday Bible Readings

The passages below are the assigned readings for November. 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.

November 5
[Micah 3:5-12](#)

[Psalm 43](#)

[1 Thessalonians 2:9-13](#)
[Matthew 23:1-12](#)



November 12
[Amos 5:18-24](#)

[Psalm 70](#)

[1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)
[Matthew 25:1-13](#)

November 19

[Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18](#)

[Psalm 90:1-12](#)

[1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#)
[Matthew 25:14-30](#)



November 26

[Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24](#)

[Psalm 95:1-7a](#)

[Ephesians 1:15-23](#)
[Matthew 25:31-46](#)

Enjoy the word search below featuring some of the books of the New Testament. The words can be located horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

Books of the Bible (New Testament)

O S N A M O R O Z H Y O E S P C U
W V J N K R Q I E U X T Y Y R Q G
C A J I R I B B Q U N E J G F U K
O A I I U E R F Z F M U O W Q P F
L T M J R E V G V E W J H V O O Y
O O J A W S E E D C G A N F M G F
S D J S T W N U L T E M W O G K J
S C R W K T J A J A X E J S S K V
I V Z V K K H E I Y T S A C N J P
A U A C T S Z E N S P I G W A A L
N I D G I I R A W E E G O W I N M
S H M V S Z A M K Z G H O N T F W
Z P P U E M N U H A C P P L A H J
D P T S F A L Y D D X W L E L G L
U I P E Z R P H I L I P P I A N S
T X U Y A K G N I B X O N O G X S
T J O V N I I H W G T H F O F D T

Philippians	Jude	James	Titus	Hebrews
Revelation	Colossians	Galatians	Ephesians	Romans
Acts	John	Luke	Mark	Matthew

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 6:9b

"Hallowed be your name."

- The names I was raised to use for God...
- The names I now call God...
- I would like God to call me...



Matthew 6:10a

"Your kingdom come."

- Words that describe God's kingdom...
- Today, God's kingdom on earth...
- Living my life as part of God's kingdom...

Wednesday FAITH FORMATION

Grades 3-8

November 1, 8, 15, 29

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



Sunday School

with Bethany Lutheran Church

Preschool - Grade 3

November 5, 12, 19

8:30 - 9:15 AM



Children & Youth News

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
6:00-7:30 PM

HIGH SCHOOL NIGHT

All our high school youth are invited to a night of pizza and games such as Ping-Pong, foosball and perhaps the always popular indoor snowball fights. Bring a friend and come have some Sunday night fun!

Minister of Christ's Light

SIGN UP ONLINE

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



Christmas Program

Sunday, December 10

9:30 AM

"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward all!"

LUKE 2:14

Did you know...

How your weekly offering makes an impact?

It supports... youth ministries

50 children were able to attend Vacation Bible School
25 children attend Faith Formation
Sunday School



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
Quilting Group - Thursdays at 1:00 pm
Choir - Wednesdays at 6:15

It supports...community outreach programs

Food Pantry, Domestic Violence Intervention Program,
Shelter House, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Lutheran
Services of Iowa, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace



It supports... meals and fellowship

Free dinner on the 4th Sunday of the month, the
annual community tailgate, and Angel Meals

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



Scan QR code with your phone
or visit our website
<https://wbbethany.org>. Click
on the blue "Give Now" button.

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 =
125 viewers**

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



AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL

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.



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.

Council Minutes—September 2023

Call to Order at 6:28pm by President
Dave Poppen

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

Members absent: none

Opening Prayer & Discussion

Pastor's Report July & August

Joys and Thanksgivings

VBS

Baptism of Addison Wombacher

Wednesday Faith Formation Kickoff

Gods work, Our Hands

Many, many, more

Ministry Happenings

25 pastoral visits

VBS

Pack bags for summer food program

With Bruce and Peggy Jefferies, Heidi Christensen,

Cheryl Boerjan

Crestview worship

Carol Roghair assisted

Gods work, Our hands

2 meetings

Worship and activities

Hope Chest meeting

What does the future hold?

With Neil and Chris Korsmo and Paula

Men's Bible Study

Attended Quilter's group

Council potluck

Baptismal Instruction

Wednesday Faith Formation Kickoff

Meeting with seminary student mentoring

Attend Cedar County Fair

Attend 2 cross country meets and 1 football game

Present at Angel Meals

Tuesday morning prayers with Paula

Other daily and weekly activities (Worship and sermon prep, administration, etc.)

Community Activities

Hunger Golf Tournament

Volunteer at Hoover Elementary ready to students
in 1st grade

Upcoming

Community Tailgate September 13th

Fall Theological Conference September 25-26 in
Ames

Employee Appreciation Sunday - October 8th

Secretary's Report - Courtney

July Council Meeting Minutes

Howard moved to approve; Kristen seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report - Jill

July & August Treasurer's Report

Howard moved to approve; Kristen seconded. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds – Howard

Nelnet Renewable Energy – Solar company report
Committee to review – John Black, Del Hughes,
Alan Beyer, Howard, Pastor, possibly Laura Twing
Talked to city administrator about public using brick
sidewalk to drive back to park – happening more
often – safety issue.

Talked to city about making sure our water lines
get updated with the city project.

Parsonage likely has lead pipes – need to update
this when the city gets to this area. Will likely have
grant to help pay for it – waiting to hear details.

Other considerations: carpet in large hall, furnaces

Education & Youth - Kristen & Courtney

VBS

About 50 kids

Many volunteers

Family night the last night was a great success

Faith Formation

Kick off was a success, at least 40 people in attendance.

Sunday School

(Continued on page 10)

Council Minutes-September 2023

(Continued from page 10)

First class was September 10th – 15 kids attended

Evangelism & Missions – Jon

God's Work, Our Hands

Work for members' homes, non-members homes
Gutters, power washed, landscape clean up.

Public library

Outdoor cleanup, repotting of plants, carpet sections replaced, shed levelled.

Work at Bethany

Painted picnic table, landscaping, shelving unit built, quilters, shredding/filing.

A group made sack lunches for volunteers.

Laura delivered to different sites.

Kids made cards for Crestview residents.

Fellowship – Sue

Starting to think about Cookie Walk Coordination

Fellowship sign up going well

Fourth Sunday Dinner

September – Fish fry (Hughes & Twings)

October - open

Stewardship - Kent

No report

Worship and Music – Cindy

Ministers of hospitality/greeters going well

Senior Saints Sunday – November 5th

Confirmation – October 29th– Reformation Sunday

Old Business

None

New Business

Hope Chest dissolving – no volunteers to continue ministry.

Jill is working with Shelter House to donate clothes.

Pastor will give thanks for ministry over the years – September 24th

Small hall bathrooms – close to reduce water bill?

Table until next year – will have more of an idea of usage with both meters.

2024 Budgeting –

Council members please have requested budget to Dave by October 1st

Nominations for council – start thinking about possibilities.

Seats to replace – Sue, Jill, Dave

Community Picnic – Wednesday September 13th

Approve confirmands – Alexa Fitzgerald, Shelby

Klabo and Brennan Esbeck

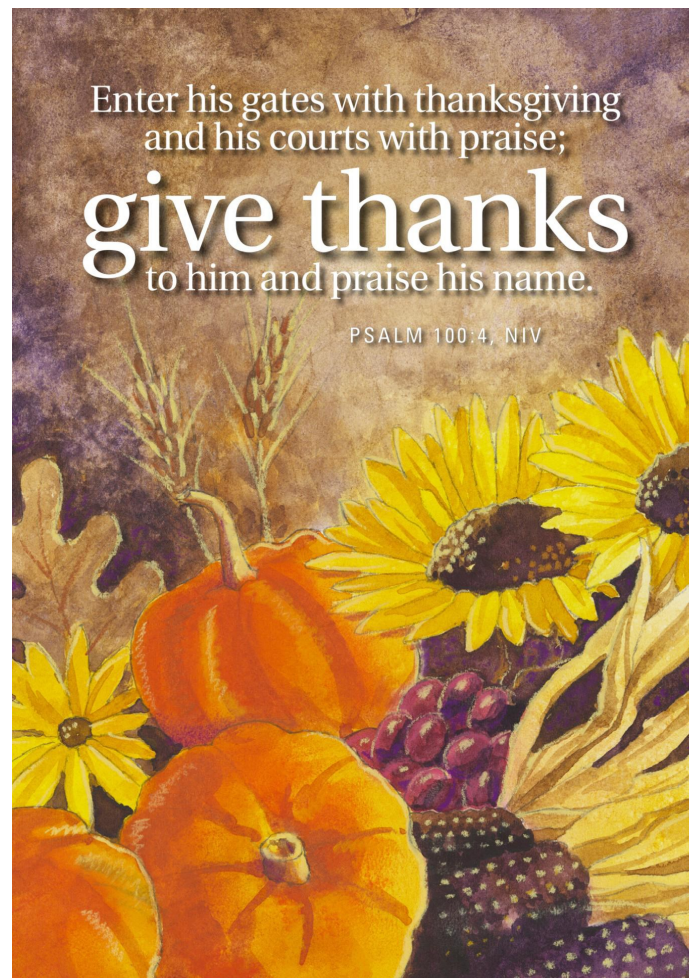
Sue moved to approve; Kristen seconded. Motion approved.

Employee Appreciation Day – October 8th

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

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Regular Meeting October 9th, 2023





Annual Cookie Walk

Saturday December 2nd
9:00 - 11:00 AM

ATTENTION COOKIE BAKERS

Saturday, December 2nd

9:00-11:00 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 Sue Hughes 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 10th. 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 2023

View Calendar on our [website](#).

			1 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Faith Formation Youth grade 3-8	2 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	3	4
5 8:30am Sunday School Preschool - Grade 3 9:30am Worship All Saints Day (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	6	7 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	8 7:00am Men's Study Group 9:00am Women's Circle 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Faith Formation Youth grade 3-8	9 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	10	11
12 8:30am Sunday School Preschool - Grade 3 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour 5:45pm Clover Kids	13 6:30pm Council Meeting	14 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	15 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Faith Formation Youth grade 3-8	16 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	17	18
19 8:30am Sunday School Preschool - Grade 3 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	20 7:00pm WB Study Club	21 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	22 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour 5:00pm 4th Sunday Community meal	27	28 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	29 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Faith Formation Youth grade 3-8	30 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	1	2



Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

	September 2023		YTD	
Total Gifts	Actual 10,518	Budget 14,333	Actual 127,540	Budget 114,668
Total Expenses	Actual 13,657	Budget 14,777	Actual 128,380	Budget 118,268
Net Revenue	(3,139)		(840)	

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.

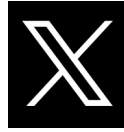




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Facebook

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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)

11-5 Kami Poppen
11-12 Patsy Ernst
11-19 Jill Barnhart
11-26 Toni Dodds

Ministers of Technology

11-5 Dave Poppen
11-12 Paula Casper/
Dale Swenson
11-19 Jill Taylor
11-26 Cole Crosthwaite & Tate
Frantz

Ministers of Hospitality

11-5 Del & Sue Hughes
11-12 Howard & Terry Moss
11-19 Dave & Kami Poppen
11-26 Kent & Beth Kaufman

Ministers of Altar Care:

Del and Sue Hughes

Bethany Branches
November 2023

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West Branch, Iowa 52358
www.wbbethany.org