

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



March

Important Dates

3-11 Council meeting 6:30 PM
3-24 Palm Sunday Worship
3-28 Maundy Thursday Worship
7:00PM
3-29 Good Friday Worship
7:00 PM
3-31- Easter Sunday Worship
9:30 AM
No 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"

FIND US ON X

on Facebook and "Like" our page!

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

"Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord
will be with you." - 2 Chronicles 20:17



Dear wonderful, faithful, amazing people of God,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and from our
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

When was the last time you spent time in the Old Testament book Second
Chronicles? Don't feel bad if it's been a while as it's been a while for me too. In
fact, this book is never included in the Revised Common Lectionary that
assigns our readings for worship.

The men that gather Wednesday morning (7:00 AM) for breakfast and Bible
study recently had a lesson from this book. The book was written sometime
after Israel's exile in Babylon. They had returned to their homeland; however,
the Temple had not been rebuilt and life had not been returned to normal. So,
past stories of God's faithfulness were recollected to inspire hope for the future
and that their God remains steadfast to God's covenants to be with them, guide
them, care for them and love them. The above text specifically recollets a time
when Israel's enemies were approaching for battle. The people turned to God
once again and God assured them he would go with them.

In many ways, this is what we do every time we gather in worship. We recollect
God's faithfulness to God's people throughout the centuries. We recollect
God's providence to our Danish ancestors who the Spirit was alive and at work
in and established our congregation back in 1895. We recollect the ways in
which God provided following a fire in 1986. We recollect the ways in which
God provided when the Great Hall was built in 2002. We recollect, celebrate,
and live into the promise that in the face of death, there is always the hope of
new life in Christ.

As we journey to Christ's cross this Lent, we are reminded we don't go alone.
We go together and the living Christ meets us through one another. We are the
gathered community that supports, encourages, loves and strengthens one
another through the Spirit that is alive and active among us. And we are the
sent community to shine the Easter light of hope to a world that often finds
itself in the darkness of sin and death.

May the peace of Christ be with you this Lenten season! Thank you people of
God for being you and being vessels and instruments of Christ's love in the
world!

Pastor Chad

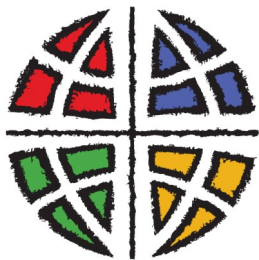


Birthdays

March 01 - Ellie Holstad
 March 06 - Travis Kaufman
 March 08 - Cheryl Boerjan
 March 09 - Alan Beyer, Abbey Fryauf
 March 11 - Johnathan Holstad,
 Mike Fryauf
 March 13 - Dylan Schiele, Miranda Dlh
 March 15 - Kris Sweat
 March 16 - Marisa Terry,
 Ainsley Kinsinger
 March 19 - Sienna McElhinney
 March 20 - Kevin Olson
 March 21 - Mark Anderson
 March 22 - Brett Schiele
 March 24 - Jill Barnhart
 March 25 - Bradley Arp
 March 25 - Terry Moss
 March 28 - Ellen Gunderson
 March 29 - Toni Dodds



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



**Evangelical
Lutheran**
Church in America

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



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Book For Adults

One of the biggest concerns of families today is how to raise their children. In the book *Hunt, Gather, Parent* by Michaelleen Doucleff, she looks at what ancient cultures can teach us about the lost art of raising happy, "healthy little humans". She looks at three communities as examples. First is a Mayan family in Mexico, then an Inuit family above the Arctic circle, and then Hadzabe families in Tanzania. Mayan parents rear helpers by including kids in household tasks from the time they can walk. When kids acts out, Inuit parents respond with a gentle demeanor that teaches children how to settle themselves down and think before acting. Hadzabe parents raise confident, self-driven kids with a simple tool that protects children from stress and anxiety. She not only lives with these families and observes their techniques firsthand, she then applies them to her own daughter with striking effect. The book is filled with practical takeaways. She shows that the typical child-centered environment of the average American home is possibly not the best situation in which to raise a child. Whether you agree with her or not, she raises some issues that are worth thinking about.

Book For Teens

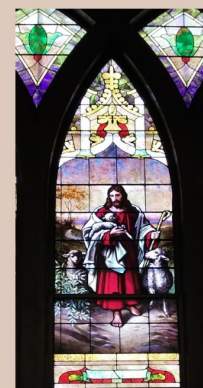
The One Year Book Of Devotions For Boys is the teen book for this month. Each day's devotional features a contemporary story that will get the reader into the Word. Then there is a "How about you?" section to personalize the lesson. A "key" at the end of each devotional summarizes in three to five words how the lesson can be applied. (donated)

Book For Children

The children's book for this month is *You Are So Wonderful!* by Jacqueline Janette Lewis and illustrated by Jeremy Tugeau. With simple rhyming text and illustrations, this read together book affirms the uniqueness of each child. Featuring illustrations of children of many races and various abilities, this book emphasizes that each person is special and deeply loved by God.

OUR
mission

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



Church Staff

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Pianist—Jill Barnhart

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First Communion Instruction

It is our belief a child does not need to be a certain age to take communion; however, some education is required so the child will have a basic understanding of this sacrament. The decision of whether or not a child is ready is made between the parents/guardians and pastor.

If interested, please contact Pastor Chad (pastor@wbbethany.org) as soon as possible so a date for instruction can be arranged with all interested.

Pentecost Sunday, May 19th, is a tentative date for first communion Sunday.



You are loved!

PAW PANTRY SUPPLIES NEEDED

During the Lenten season, the confirmation class is asking for your help in providing needed supplies for the Paw Pantry located at the old middle school. This pantry is open to all students and families in the West Branch Community School District. Currently, 30 families use the pantry. Needed supplies include: laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, deodorant, body wash, shampoo, shaving cream and disposable razors. We ask donations be returned by March 20th. They can be placed in our classroom (3rd room on left in Great Hall). Thank you so much for your support and generosity!

Arik Marsh, Addy Langley, Eli Fetzer,
Hallie Fitzgerald and Pastor Chad



March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we are grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our communities across the state!

At LSI, we believe every lowan deserves the independence they need to thrive. LSI's Host Homes is an innovative way LSI is serving adults with disabilities. Through this program, an individual moves from Supported Community Living into a private family home with a carefully selected mentor. This program is built entirely around an individual's goals and interests, and LSI's extensive matching process ensures the mentor and mentee are a great fit.

Take a moment to read the following story from a Host Homes mentee: "My journey with LSI's Host Homes started in early 2023. I've known my mentor for a few years while he provided hourly services to me. We learned about Host Homes and thought it would be a good fit for us. I moved into my mentor's home where he helps me maintain a daily routine with schoolwork, household tasks, daily living skills, improving independence, and more. I attend a college nearby and go to classes a few days a week. I am able to navigate the local bus system to access my community to attend classes and visit friends. My mentor is always available to transport me into the community as needed. This summer, I went on a trip across the country with one of my classes. While on this trip, I was able to maintain my independence with limited support, but I knew my mentor would be available by phone to assist me with my coping skills and problem solving. This trip was a big success for me knowing I had support only a phone call away. I like LSI's Host Homes Program because my mentor supports me in the way I want to be supported, assists me with some daily tasks I struggle with, and understands me."



Wednesdays in Lent

Supper: 6:00 PM
Prayer around the cross: 7:00 PM

March 6th and 20th
No activities March 13th



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday (March 28) @ 7:00 PM
Sacrament of Holy Communion celebrated

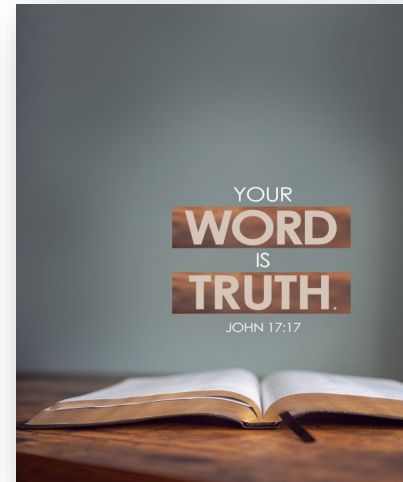
Good Friday (March 29) @ 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday (March 31) @ 9:30 AM
Sacrament of Holy Communion celebrated

All services streamed live on Facebook



Adult Faith Formation Opportunities



PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS WORSHIP
LENT 2024

2024 Council Installation

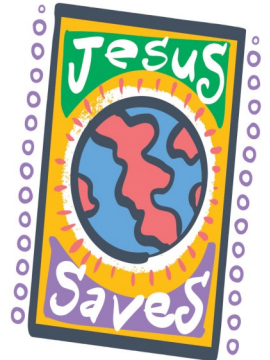


During worship February 11th the new council was installed, along with Financial Secretary Claudia Beyer. Thanks to all for serving in this capacity and for the people of God supporting them!

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ??

Not long before Jesus' arrest, he said: "I did not come to ____ the world, but to ____ the world." Fill in the blanks.

- A. judge; save
- B. hate; love
- C. condemn; teach
- D. disrupt; conform to



Answer: A (See John 12:47, NIV.)



EVERY EASTER WE ARE GREETED WITH THE BEAUTY AND SWEET FRAGRANCE OF LILIES ADORNING OUR SANCTUARY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS DISPLAY, PLEASE FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW AND RETURN THIS SLIP WITH \$10.00 PER PLANT TO PAULA BY THURSDAY, MARCH 21ST IF RETURNING BY MAIL, USE THE ADDRESS BELOW.

Dedications will be listed in the bulletin on Easter morning.

YOUR NAME:

_____ I would like Bethany to purchase an Easter lily for me.

Please print your dedication as you wish it to appear in the bulletin. Please indicate if this is "In honor of" or "In memory of" and list those names below:

Bethany Lutheran P.O. Box 236 West Branch, IA 52358

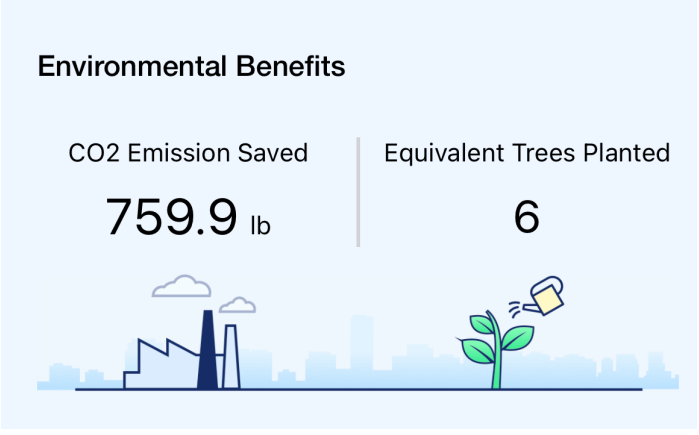
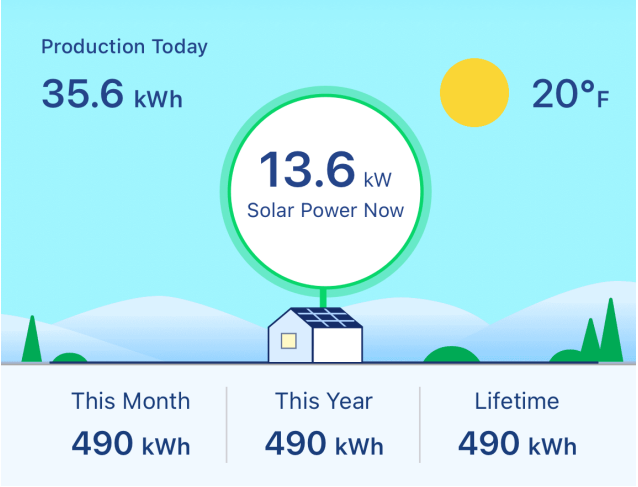


Thanks for your generosity!

Here are some photos of the installation of our solar panels by Rabe Hardware. The system became operational February 21st. Below are some images from the app that shows the output of the system. These images were taken February 28th. The bottom right image shows the benefits of being powered by solar energy or our stewardship of God's creation.



Council Member Howard Moss (Building & Grounds) flipped the switch to turn the solar system on February 21st.



Council Minutes — January 2024

Call to Order at 17:30 pm by President Dave Poppen

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

Members absent: Howard Moss

Pastor's Report

Joys and Thanksgivings

Christmas Eve Worship

Advent and Christmas Family Bingo Nights

December 20th, fun night and well attended.

Prayers and support for this past week after dad's fall.

Acceptance into Faith Forward program through Grandview University

Faith Forward | Grand View University

So many faithful helping hands to make everything go smoothly.

Ministry Happenings

WBARC meeting

Funeral of Dorothy Holmes

9 pastoral visits

A lot of planning, preparation, and memorization

Confirmation/Wednesday Faith Formation

resumes Wednesday, January 10th

Advent and Christmas Bingo Night

Men's Bible Study

Assistance with Solar Team Project

Social Media and Website postings and updates

Tuesday morning prayers with Paula

Prayer

Upcoming

Annual Meeting - January 21st

High School Night - February 4th

Ash Wednesday - February 14th

Secretary's Report - Courtney

December Council Meeting Minutes

Jon moved to approve; Kristen seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report - Jill

December Treasurer's Report

Of note:

I neglected to bring before the council our normal December discussion of how to divide up Local Missions giving which should be dated Dec. 31. I talked to Pastor and Dave and gave to same recipients in 2023 (EOY Local Missions)

Carl Sager's family approved of redeeming the lighting CD (mentioned at December 2023 mtg.) to support the solar project with the stipulation that the window continue to be lighted. We are grateful for this boost in fundraising for the Solar Project. The fund now has \$12,885.38. \$4,755.58 from the CD and \$8,129.80 from member donations.

Angel Tree fund has a balance of \$60. We generally give it to a fund at WB Schools which will need to be done in 2024.

Cookie Walk fund. We started a discussion at the December meeting about what to use this fund for, but no decision was made. The net income for the cookie walk was \$732.86. Since then, we had to order a new supply of boxes so that fund balance is \$487.22.

Kent moved to approve; Kristen seconded. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds – Howard

Solar Panels

Interconnect agreement approved by Alliant – okay to go ahead with construction.

Informational meeting held Jan 7th, plans for another on Jan 14th & plans for record and send out electronically.

Sanctuary furnace repaired.

Education & Youth - Kristen & Courtney

Meeting with group in February to plan and prep for 2024.

Ideas about children's choir/singing in worship.

(Continued on page 9)

Council Minutes — January 2024

(Continued from page 8)

Evangelism & Missions – Jon
None

Fellowship – Sue
January Fourth Sunday meal – Hughes
Fellowship signs ups going well.

Stewardship - Kent
Time and talent sheets
Newsletter articles and bulletin
announcements
Temple talks

Worship and Music – Cindy
Ash Wednesday & Lent planning
Discussions have been had about combining
some worships with other community
churches – potentially Ash Wednesday

Old Business

Annual Meeting January 21 – please send
any reports if you have not already done so.
Please recruit people to attend the annual
meeting to ensure a quorum.
Further discussion on building use fees
Kent moved to approve changes to the build-
ing use fees document; Jill seconded. Motion
approved.
Nominating committee update
Update on the Solar committee activities

New Business

Set fair market rental value for the parsonage.
Historically has been \$11,800.
Jill moved to approve a fair market rental val-
ue of \$11,800; Kent seconded. Motion ap-
proved.
New members - Heintz Family
Courtney moved to approve; Kristen second-
ed. Motion approved.

Sue moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:58pm,
Jon seconded. Motion approved.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Annual Meeting January 21st, 2024
Next Regular Meeting February 12th, 2024



Preschool – Grade 3

March 3, 10, 24

8:30 – 9:15 AM

WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM



Palm Sunday Parade

Children and youth invited to process in with palms during worship March 24th. Gather in the fellowship hall prior to worship. Thanks!

Children are also invited to sing with the choir on Palm Sunday. If interested, see Jill Barnhart or Courtney Heid or show up to choir practice at 6:15 PM on Wednesdays.



God loves you!!!

March Sunday Bible Readings

The passages below are the assigned readings for March. 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.

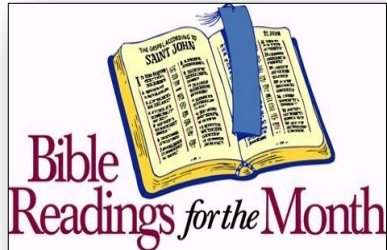
March 3

[Exodus 20:1-17](#)

[Psalm 19](#)

[1 Corinthians 1:18-25](#)

[John 2:13-22](#)



March 10

[Numbers 21:4-9](#)

[Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22](#)

[Ephesians 2:1-10](#)

[John 3:14-21](#)

March 17

[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

[Psalm 51:1-12](#)

[Hebrews 5:5-10](#)

[John 12:20-33](#)

March 24

[Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)

[Psalm 31:9-16](#)

[Philippians 2:5-11](#)

[Mark 14:1--15:47](#)

March 31

[Acts 10:34-43](#)

[Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#)

[1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#)

[Mark 16:1-8](#)

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 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

- I feel like I am carrying heavy burdens...
- In finding rest for my soul, I...
- Learning to walk and work with Jesus...



Isaiah 40:1-2

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

- After returning from captivity, from war, from slavery, people are in need of...
- Healing for a friend going through a tough life circumstance...
- I need comfort, tenderness and God's hand when...



March 2024

View Calendar on our [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:30am Sunday School Preschool - Grade 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 6:00pm Lent Dinner 7:00pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship	7 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	8	9
10 8:30am Sunday School Preschool - Grade 3 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour 5:45pm Clover Kids	11 6:30pm Council Meeting	12	13 7:00am Men's Study Group 9:00am Women's Circle 6:15pm Choir Practice No Lenten service	14 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	15	16
17 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	18 6:15 pm WB Study Club	19 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	20 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Lent Dinner 7:00pm Prayer Around the Cross Worship	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	25	26 9:00am Prayers with Pastor & Paula	27 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice	28 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters 2:00pm Crestview 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	29 7:00pm Good Friday Worship	30
31 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) <i>Easter Sunday</i>						



Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jill Taylor

	January 2024		YTD	
Total Gifts	Actual 11,775	Budget 14,339	Actual 11,775	Budget 14,339
Total Expenses	Actual 13,559	Budget 14,704	Actual 13,559	Budget 14,704
Net Revenue	(1,784)			

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

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 Branches March 2024

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

Ministry Assistants

Ministers of Proclamation

(Lectors)
3-03 Kami Poppen
3-10 Patsy Ernst
3-17 Jill Barnhart
3-24 Toni Dadds
3-31 Jon Twing

Ministers of Technology

3-03 Dave Poppen
3-10 Jill Twing
3-17 Cole C & Tate F
3-24 Dale Swenson
3-31 Dave Poppen

Ministers of Hospitality

3-03 Dave & Kami Poppen
3-10 Kent & Beth Kaufman
3-17 Jon & Laura Twing
3-24 Evie White
3-31 Paula Casper

Ministers of Altar Care:

Patsy Ernst & Paula Casper

You Are Loved!

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search "Bethany Lutheran
Church (ELCA) West Branch,
Iowa"

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