

Bethany Lutheran Church

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

 April

Important Dates

4-7 Pulpit Exchange Sunday
4-8 Council meeting 6:30 PM
4-28 4th Sunday meal 5-6 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

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

Alleluia!
HE IS ALIVE!



Dear Resurrection People,

"Alleluia! He is alive!" I was searching through a website Paula and I use that contains a plethora of clip art for bulletins, the newsletter, etc. I was looking for an image for this article and the one above caught my attention. Other images portrayed the resurrection in the past tense, "He has been raised," like it was only something that happened 2,000 years ago. But this one makes it known he is alive right now.

He is alive every time forgiveness is extended in his name. He is alive every time a hungry mouth is fed, a cup of water given, or a foot is washed. He is alive when the naked are clothed. He is alive when the stranger is welcomed. He is alive when those who mourn are comforted. He is alive when the waters of baptism are poured upon the head of a precious child of God. He is alive when the bread is broken and the cup is shared for all. He is alive when we acknowledge where creation groans and strive to alleviate its suffering and live into our calling as stewards. He is alive when instead of pointing a finger, placing blame, or scapegoating one another, we instead listen, observe, and respond with empathy. He is alive when we roll the stones away from the many ways in which we entomb ourselves and others. He is alive! Let's go meet him in Galilee, just as he told us. Let's go and be Easter people proclaiming the good news, "He is risen. Alleluia!"

Children of the resurrection, you are the beautiful body of Christ and he is alive in each of you! May the peace of the risen Christ be with you!

Pastor Chad



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/>



Birthdays

- 04-01 Sharon Schubert
Jacob Webb
- 04-04 Asher Goodman
- 04-09 Macy Kinsinger, Steve Yeater
- 04-10 John Black, David Fischer
- 04-11 Kent Kaufman
- 04-14 Cassie Colvin
- 04-15 Aizlyn Marsh, Scott Wieneke
- 04-16 Tony Johnston
- 04-18 Paula Casper
- 04-20 Evie White
- 04-22 Addison Wombacher
- 04-23 Nancy Wieneke
- 04-25 London Kiley
- 04-27 Courtney Halls, Lindsey Wiele
- 04-28 Karen Friis
- 04-30 Samantha Knoop



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

Pulpit Exchange Sunday April 7

West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC) is reinstating an event that has not taken place since prior to the pandemic. Join us in worship April 7th as we welcome Pastor Christine Humrichouse of the West Branch Friends Church. Pastor Chad will be going to the West Branch Friends Meeting Conservative. For those who may not know, WBARC is an ecumenical association of the churches of West Branch and Springdale. Our mission is to, "Foster interfaith connections in order to address needs as they arise in our community."



Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

Books For Adults

Parenting Your Out Of Control Teenager, by Scott P. Sells is the first book this month. It lists seven steps to reestablish authority and reclaim love. Every teenager seems to rebel against authority at some point. It may be talking back, breaking curfew, or disobeying in some manner. But many teens take their rebellion to a point where it disrupts their families and endangers their own futures or even their lives. If one of these teens is yours, you have probably lived through years of conflicting advice and pat solutions that do not last. This book is a guide to seven steps to a permanent change. It is a step by step guide of how to recover out of control kids. It has real life solutions to real life problems. It provides tools that will hopefully make a difference. It could help to regain a peace of mind. (donated)

The second book this month is *The Language Of Love and Respect: Cracking the Communication Code with Your Mate*, by Emerson Eggerichs. Communication between couples remain the number one marriage issue. The reason for this, Eggerichs maintains, is that most spouses do not know that they speak two different languages. They are sending each other messages in code. They will not crack that code until she listens to hear the language of love, and he listens to hear the language of respect. He presents in this book, a step by step approach for how husbands and wives can learn to speak each other's distinctly different language. This is respect for him and love for her. The result is mutual understanding and hopefully a happy marriage. (donated)

Book For Children

Search and Find books are popular among young people. This month's children's book is *Search And Find In The Bible*. In this delightfully illustrated search and find book, kids will be engaging with their favorite stories found in the Bible. Each story comes with objects for kids to find in the illustrations. Surprising elements are included that will keep them coming back to explore the exciting word of God in the Bible.

Solar Update

The graphics below show our solar production for March and the positive environmental effects since the system became operational.



CO2 Emission Saved

3,926.6 lb

Equivalent Trees Planted

30





Church Staff

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Custodian—Pat Cassabaum

Pianist—Jill Barnhart

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Holy Baptism

During worship on March 24th Charlie Victoria, daughter of Tim Casady and Kristin Black Casady was baptized. Baptismal sponsors are Rebecca Black and Renee Bowyer.



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.





THIS MONTH, ENJOY SOME EASTER PUZZLES LOCATED WITHIN THE NEWSLETTER.

Easter

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

celebrate

lily

Mary

alive

women

dazzling

dawn

see

worshiped

angel

empty

tomb

joy

amazed

Jesus

risen

alleluia

resurrection

WISHING YOU
Easter Joy



Children, Youth, and Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

Men's Group
 WEDNESDAYS @ 7:00 AM
 Breakfast, Bible Study and Discussion

MEETS IN THE GREAT HALL

YOUR
WORD
 IS
TRUTH.
 JOHN 17:17

Women's Group
 Thursdays at 6:00 AM
 Small Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Women's Bible Study

Second Wednesday of the Month
 9:00 AM in the Great Hall

Wednesday
FAITH FORMATION

Grades 3-8

April 3, 10, 17, 24

Wednesday Faith Formation resumes in April. As a reminder we begin at 6:30 PM and conclude at 7:30 PM.

sunday school with Bethany Lutheran Church

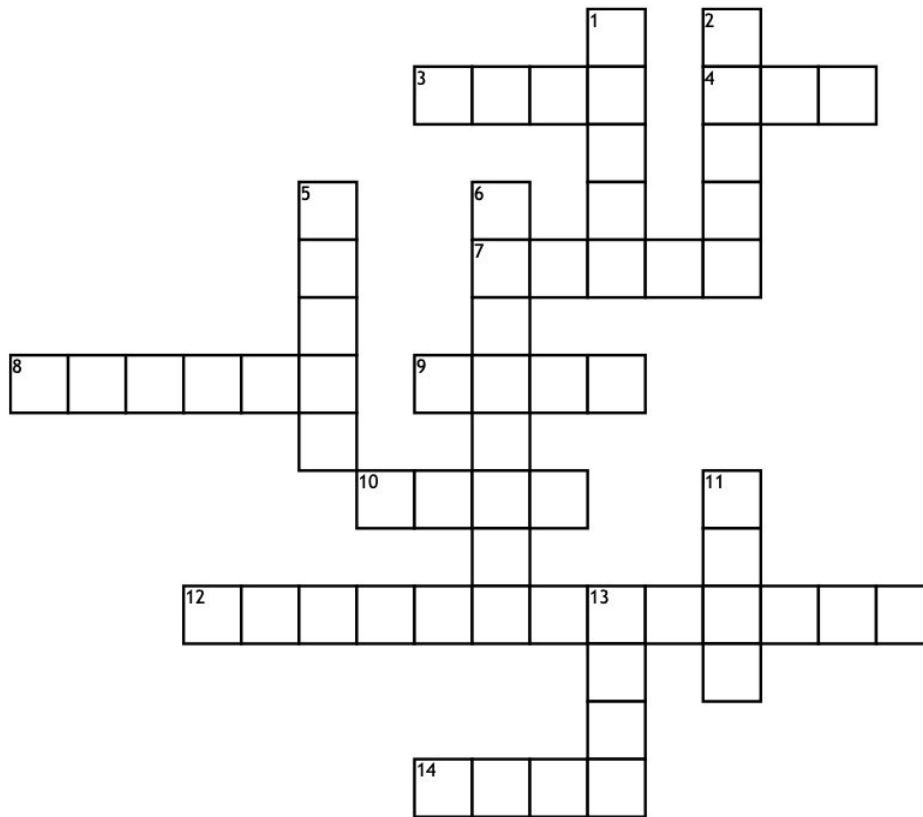
Preschool - Grade 3

April 7, 14, 28

8:30 - 9:15 AM
 WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM



Easter



Across

- 3. The words told the disciples by the women in Luke seemed like an _____ tale.
- 4. Number of men in dazzling clothes at the tomb in Luke.
- 7. According to Mark the stone rolled away was very _____.
- 8. The women brought this to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body.
- 9. What Jesus rose from.

10. The resurrection appearance is found in how many gospel accounts.

12. In John's gospel, this woman alone is mentioned as the first one to encounter the resurrection.

14. This gospel includes the "other disciple whom Jesus loved" also present.

Down

1. This disciple runs to the tomb in both Luke and John.

2. This had to be rolled away from the tomb.

5. The resurrection happened this day of the week (numerical).

6. A word meaning "praise the Lord" repeated often in worship on Easter.

11. This flower is synonymous with Easter.

13. It was this time of the day the women arrived at the tomb to find it empty.



God loves you!!!



RECENTLY, THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN (PREK-3RD GRADE) DEVELOPED A LIST OF WORDS THEY THOUGHT OF AROUND THE THEME 'CHURCH AND PRAYER'. THOSE WORDS ARE INCLUDE IN THE WORD CLOUD BELOW. GREAT JOB PRECIOUS CHILDREN OF GOD!

God
 Jesus
 praise
 kindness
 forgiveness
 good feelings
 thank God
 Jesus
 calm
 God is for everyone
 hug
 sins
 happy
 confess
 love
 friends
 family
 world
 pray

EASTER

How many different words can you make using these letters?

Make your own design on these eggs. Then color them!

DID YOU KNOW? JESUS IS LORD!

Eggs are a sign of new life, just like our new life in Christ!

HAPPY EASTER!

You can have new life too! Use the alphabet code and your Bible to solve the puzzle and find out how.

“IF YOU C _____ WITH YOUR MOUTH THAT _____ IS LORD AND BELIEVE IN YOUR _____ THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE _____.”

ROMANS 10:9, ESV

Can you find 9 other symbols of new life on this page? Circle each one, then color them!

Use the grid to draw the other side!

He is not here, for... **HE IS RISEN!**

Matthew 28:6

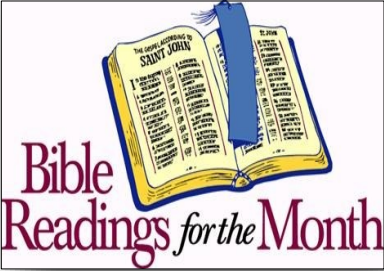
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April Sunday Bible Readings

The passages below are the assigned readings for April 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.

April 7
[Acts 4:32-35](#)
[Psalm 133](#)
[1 John 1:1--2:2](#)
[John 20:19-31](#)



April 14
[Acts 3:12-19](#)
[Psalm 4](#)
[1 John 3:1-7](#)
[Luke 24:36b-48](#)

April 21
[Acts 4:5-12](#)
[Psalm 23](#)
[1 John 3:16-24](#)
[John 10:11-18](#)



April 27
[Acts 8:26-40](#)
[Psalm 22:25-31](#)
[1 John 4:7-21](#)
[John 15:1-8](#)


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 19:4-6

He answered, "Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.

- For a marriage relationship to work...
- Divorce...
- When God is part of a relationship...




Isaiah 40:6-8

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

- A message that God might ask me to cry out to the world is...
- Past human ideas and beliefs that needed to wither and fade...
- The message of God that stays consistent throughout history...

Council Minutes—February 2024

Call to Order at 6:35pm by President Kent Kaufman

Members Present: Jon Twing, Pastor Chad, Cindy Knoop, Kent Kaufman, Kristen Van Scoyoc, Howard Moss, Courtney Heid, Jessica Fonseca, Dale Swensen, Pat Cassabaum

Members absent: none

Opening Prayer & Discussion

Pastor's Report

Joys and Thanksgivings
Grateful for all the cards, messages, and words of support and encouragement
These are the words, comfort, love, and light of Christ shining in my time of loss.
Financial support to move our Solar Project forward.
All our council members but especially our three new ones: Dale, Pat, and Jess

Ministry Happenings

8 pastoral visits (2 in Cedar Rapids)

Crestview worship

Wednesday Faith Formation

Held confirmation via Zoom last week due to illness

Plan upcoming Lent mission activity for confirmation class

Newsletter

Lent planning and preparation

A lot of time getting caught up following my father's death

Synod Compensation Committee

Asked to be mentor for the SAM program (Synod Authorized Minister) at Trinity, Tipton but declined.

Meeting with Kent

Attend basketball game for confirmation student

Upcoming

Ash Wednesday (2/14)

Wednesdays in Lent (2/21 & 28, 3/6 & 20, no class 3/13 due to spring break)

Vacation (possibly gone a few days during spring break and Sunday, 3/24)

Faith Forward starting in April

Secretary's Report - Courtney

January Council Meeting Minutes

Cindy moved to approve; Kristen seconded. Motion approved.

January Special Meeting Minutes

Cindy moved to approve; Howard seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report - Jon's January Treasurer's Report
Howard moved to approve; Cindy seconded. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds – Howard

Water – front meter now a landscape meter, pay \$18/mo
Parsonage furnace repaired

Tree in courtyard needs to come down due to damage from heavy snow

We need to think about what we are doing with Hope Chest and old bathroom spaces

Education & Youth - Kristen & Courtney

Tentative VBS dates Monday July 15th-18th 5:30pm-8pm

Serving dinner

Work being done to get youth involved in choir

Met with committee last week to plan for events for the year

Evangelism & Missions – Jessica

First meeting

Gods Work Our Hands – September 8th, 2024

Fellowship – Pat

First meeting

Ordered more paper products for the kitchen.

Lent meals

2/21 – council

2/28 – women's group

3/6 – men's group

3/20– Faith Formation

Stewardship – Dale

First meeting

Thoughts about environmental stewardship

Worship and Music – Cindy

Preparation for Lenten/Easter season

Palm branches ordered

Old Business

Solar project

Funding point (\$30,000) has been met

Materials here – installation 2/15. Then inspections need done, hopefully operational 4/1.

Alliant - Pay \$25/month for meter

Insurance



Council Minutes—February 2024

(Continued from page 9)

Grinnell Mutual no longer covers churches - current policy ends 3/24

Pastor talking to Lee Agency about options Fund allocations

Angel Tree Funds \$60

Howard motioned to move \$60 to Confirmation group to support upcoming mission project.

Kristen seconded; motion approved.

Cookie Walk Funds \$487

Leave in fund at this point

New Business

Handout council binders

Jon moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm,

Howard seconded. Motion approved.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer



CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED *Alleluia*



From Sheep to Shepherd: An LSI Early Childhood Services Story

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a mother, recently released from treatment, found herself in her new empty apartment with her son. She felt lost and needed a shepherd to guide her. So, Hali contacted LSI's Early Childhood Services, and Gretchen O'Brien, a Family Support Worker, answered the call. Gretchen began virtual home visits using the Healthy Family America home-visiting model.

For the next three years, Gretchen connected Hali and her son to community resources, served as a support system and a shoulder to cry on, and celebrated Hali's sobriety milestones with her. Even when Hali doubted herself, Gretchen guided and believed in her. I just remember sitting in that empty apartment crying, but I had Gretchen on the phone. You guys believed in me when nobody else did," shared Hali.

Today, Hali serves on the Healthy Family America (HFA) National Parent Advisory Committee, the first of its kind. The group is composed of 10-12 parents from around the country who have graduated from their local HFA program, each participant with their own story to share.

Hali needed a shepherd in her time of trouble and self-doubt, and Gretchen answered that call. Now, Hali serves as a shepherd to thousands of parents through the National Parent Advisory Committee. The LSI Early Childhood team

April 2024

View Calendar on our [website](#).

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



Monetary Gifts Report
Submitted by Jon Twing

	February 2024		YTD	
Total Gifts	Actual 12,310	Budget 14,339	Actual 24,086	Budget 26,678
Total Expenses	Actual 13,980	Budget 14,703	Actual 27,540	Budget 29,407
Net Revenue	(1,670)		(3,454)	

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.

Ministry Assistants

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

4-7 John Black
4-14 Wayne Frauenholtz
4-21 Dave Bahnsen
4-28 Deb Anderson

Ministers of Technology

4-7 Paula Casper
4-14 Jill Taylor
4-21 Cole Crosthwaite & Tate
Frantz
4-28 Dale Swenson

Ministers of Altar Care:

Cindy Knoop



Find us on Facebook

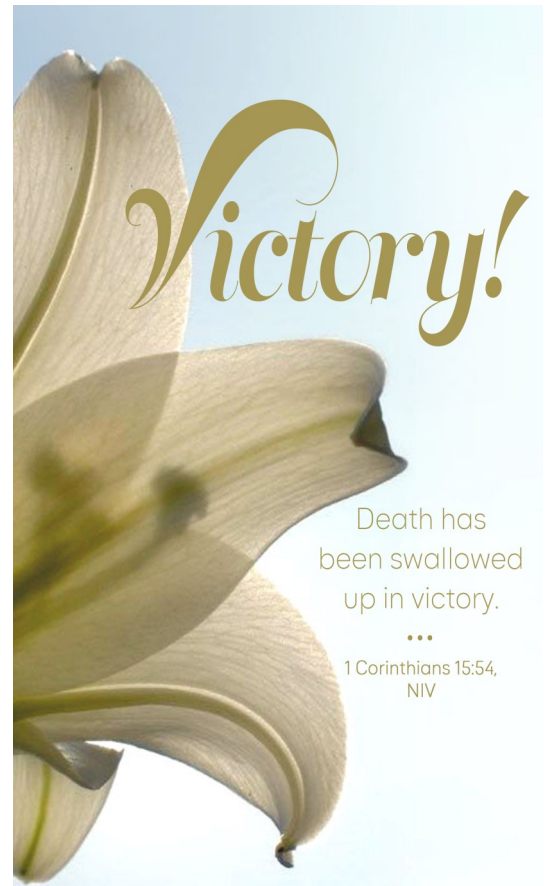
To find Bethany's main page,
search "**Bethany Lutheran
Church (ELCA) West Branch,
Iowa**"

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You Are Loved!



Bethany Branches

April 2024

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