

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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



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

Pastor is in the office often. Call him  
at (319) 643-5998 if needed, sched-  
ule 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://wbbethany.org)) or images

Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "Thus says the LORD,  
the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, so that they may celebrate a festival to me  
in the wilderness.'" – Exodus 15:1



Dear servants in Christ,

*Start the Party* was the theme of Vacation Bible School just a couple weeks ago. It was an amazing week in which 60 precious children of God gathered. I want to extend a thank you to our wonderful planning team of Courtney Heid, Kristin McElhinney, Amber Marsh, and Kristen Van Scoyoc. I also want to say thank you to the many volunteers that helped provide meals, teach, and oversee all these kiddos. With this large group, you were instrumental. Thanks also to all who donated food and money. Thank you people of Bethany for your continued financial giving to provide the space and resources to hold this annual ministry. And, of course, thanks to all the parents and grandparents who brought these kiddos. If you haven't seen it yet, Courtney made a wonderful video recap of the week and it can be viewed on our Facebook page. Use this link (<https://tinyurl.com/mtkdrjew>) or scan the QR code to the right.



Scripture speaks often of celebrations, such as Moses and Aaron telling Pharaoh to let God's people go so they might celebrate a festival to God. Or, how about the celebration the father throws for his son that returns home. Or, there's the celebrations had in Jesus' parables after what has been lost is found. And in the first chapter of Genesis following God's handiwork in creation, we are told repeatedly, "God saw all God had made, and it was good." I can only imagine God celebrated amidst everything God created. Celebration is included in our mission statement, *To grow so deep in Christ through worship, education, and fellowship that we celebrate by reaching out to our neighbors.* A few weeks ago during worship I had the children gather at the conclusion and together we blew our party horns as we had a "celebration of sending" to go into the world and be extensions of Christ doing his work and being his voice.

It seems "to celebrate" is etched into the life of God and God's people. Each time we gather is a celebration of the good news of Jesus Christ. It is an Easter celebration of resurrection and new life. It is a celebration that we are freed from sin and death and freed to serve our Lord and Savior and one another. It is a celebration of grace. It is a celebration to give praise, thanks, and honor to God. It is a celebration to be the body of Christ.

As I assemble a team to move *Faith Forward* along, I pondered celebration. *Faith Forward* is another opportunity to celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ at home and in daily life. Celebrate him in the car. Celebrate him at the dinner table. Celebrate him in the morning, noontime, and evening. Celebrate him at the ballgame or recital. Celebrate Jesus with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.

Sure, there will be turbulent times in our lives; yet, there is always reason to celebrate because we have the joy and love of Jesus down in our hearts to stay! May the peace of Christ be with you all! - Pastor Chad

## Birthdays

08-01 Aiden Shields  
 08-02 Mia Olson  
 08-04 Chris Korsmo,  
 Jennifer Olson,  
 Dylan Casady  
 08-06 Bob Leslie, Jenna Helms  
 08-08 Shawn Samuelson  
 08-11 Oakley Sexton  
 08-15 Charlotte Perkins  
 08-16 Jason Friis  
 08-18 Jordan Arp, Courtney Heid  
 08-19 Anna Friis  
 08-21 Dana Arp, Rayna Sexton  
 08-23 Allison Arp, Sam McCrory  
 08-27 Miley Shields  
 08-28 Jacob Langley  
 08-29 Kaylea Zimmerman,  
 Judy Kaeser  
 08-31 Aynsley Fonseca,  
 Aubree Cassabaum



Pastor Chad will be out of the office July 29-August 11. If you have an emergency requiring immediate pastoral care, please contact Paula @ 319-331-9456.

**God loves you!!!**



## Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad

### Books For Adults

The first book is *The Beauty Of What Remains: How Our Greatest Fear Becomes Our Greatest Gift* by Steve Leder. Steve Leder is the senior rabbi of one of the largest synagogues in the world. He has learned the many ways that death teaches us how to live and love more deeply. The wisdom that he shares in this book is an essential part of living a meaningful life. Even after having sat beside more than a thousand deathbeds as a rabbi, he was not really prepared for the loss of his father. It was only then that Steve Leder, the son, truly learned how death makes life beautiful by giving it meaning and touching us with love that we have not felt before. This book takes us on a journey through the experience of loss that is fundamental to us all.

The second book is *I Am Not Sick I Don't Need Help: How To Help Someone Accept Treatment* by Xavier Amador. This book addresses the problem of mental illness. Many people are trying to reach someone with serious mental illness or addiction who is in "denial" and most likely refusing treatment and relapsing. Or, if in treatment, is dropping out again and again. This book is written both for people with serious mental illness and those with addiction. Though this book focuses on examples of persons with mental illness rather than addiction, the solutions offered can work for both. The first part of this book provides information about the nature and scope of the problem. Part II introduces LEAP, a communication strategy designed to win the trust of persons who lack insight for the purpose of becoming a "friend" whose advice they will follow. In Part III practical guidance about when and where to secure "assisted treatment" is given. Dr. Amador's research into poor insight was inspired by his success in helping his brother Henry, who developed schizophrenia, accept treatment. Like many others who had developed this and other disorders, Henry did not believe he was ill. This book is not just a reference guide for mental health and criminal justice professionals but is for family members whose loves ones have been devastated by mental illness.

At the Republican National Convention held last month in Milwaukee, former president Donald Trump selected J.D. Vance to be his vice presidential running mate. Vance is a senator from Ohio and the author of the book *Hillbilly Elegy*. Our church library has a copy of this book and it has good biographical information to his background.

### Book For Children

*Where Are You From?: The Wonderful Story Of Your Birth* by Karine-Marie Amiot and Lucie Minne tells the story of life. It uses language that is appropriate for toddlers and young children who are not quite ready to hear all about the birds and the bees yet. Children will learn that they were lovingly, purposefully created by God, and treasured and loved by their parents. This is a good book for those with little ones who are just beginning to ask, "Where did I come from?"



**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/>

**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**

Kent Kaufman—**President**

Howard Moss—**Building & Grounds**

Dale Swenson—**Stewardship**

Kristen Van Scoyoc—**Education**

Jon Twing—**Treasurer**

Jessica Fonseca—**Evangelism & Missions**

Courtney Heid—**Youth/Secretary**

Pat Cassabaum—**Fellowship**

Cindy Knoop—**Worship & Music/  
Vice President**

Claudia Beyer—**Financial Secretary**




*Outdoor Worship  
and Fellowship*

September 15

9:30 AM

Please bring a lawn chair.  
Following worship, a meal will be provided.

*Celebration of God's work!*

*Attention Singers  
Choir will begin September 4th.*

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

**START  
the  
PARTY**

**ORGANIZERS**

COURTNEY HEID, KRISTEN VAN SCOYC,  
KRISTIN MCELHINNEY, AMBER MARSH

*"You always show me the path  
that leads to life. You will fill me  
with joy when I am with you"*

Acts 2:28 NIV

**VBS 2024 RECAP!**

**ATTENDANCE: AVERAGE 55 KIDS**



**THANK YOU FOR  
SUPPORTING OUR  
YOUTH!**

# 2024 Vacation Bible School



Jesus said,  
"Let the little children  
come to me,  
and do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom  
of heaven  
belongs to such as these."  
MATTHEW 19:14, NIV



worship  
WITH US

Sunday @ 9:30 AM

REJOICE  
Always  
1 Thessalonians 5:16

# 2024 Vacation Bible School





# Five Faith Promises

## #1 Prayer

We promise to pray together every day.

## #2 Bible Reading

We promise to read the Bible together regularly.

## #3 Faith Conversations

We promise to talk together often about Jesus and our faith.

## #4 Acts of Service

We promise to perform acts of service together in our community, our congregation, and our homes.

## #5 Shared Mealtimes

We promise to share five or more meals together each week, and to engage in other rituals and traditions together.



<https://faithforwardnow.org/church/BethanyWestBranch/>

Below are Martin Luther's morning and evening prayer from *Luther's Small Catechism*, which can be found at the back of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal. May these prayers assist you in carrying out the first faith promise. Used by permission Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license # SB135727.

## Martin Luther's

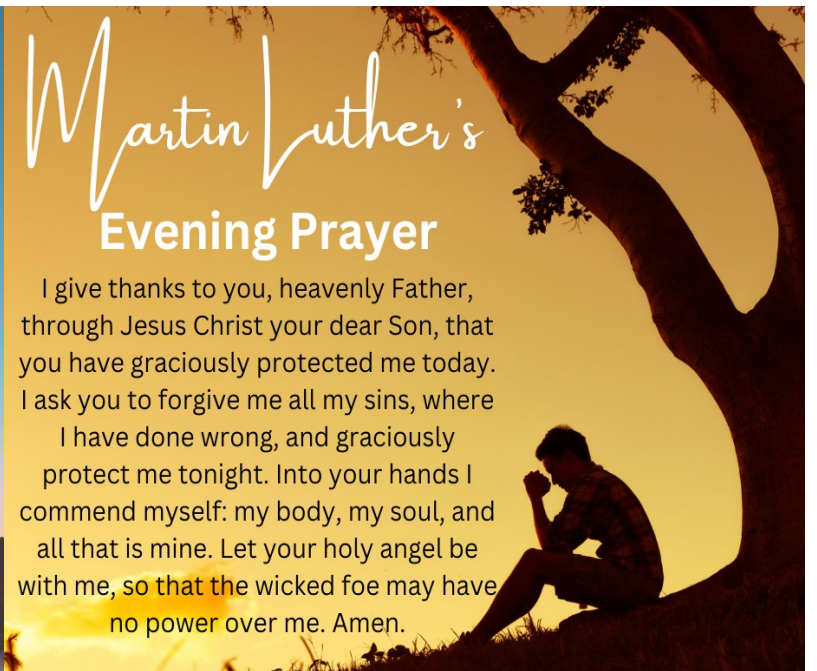
### MORNING PRAYER

I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask that you would also protect me today from sin and evil, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## Martin Luther's

### Evening Prayer

I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me today. I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously protect me tonight. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

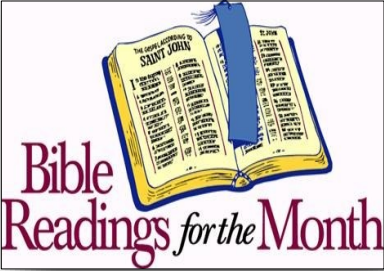




## Sunday Bible Readings

The passages below are the assigned readings . 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.

**August 4**  
[Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15](#)  
[Psalm 78:23-29](#)  
[Ephesians 4:1-16](#)  
[John 6:24-35](#)



**August 11**  
[1 Kings 19:4-8](#)  
[Psalm 34:1-8](#)  
[Ephesians 4:25—5:2](#)  
[John 6:35, 41-51](#)

**August 18**  
[Proverbs 9:1-6](#)  
[Psalm 34:9-14](#)  
[Ephesians 5:15-20](#)  
[John 6:51-58](#)



**August 25**  
[Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18](#)  
[Psalm 34:15-22](#)  
[Ephesians 6:10-20](#)  
[John 6:56-69](#)

## 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 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- To be a disciple...
- Baptism...
- When Jesus says, "I am with you always," I...



### Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

- Signs from God...
- Immanuel, meaning "God with us," gives hope for...
- If God was not with us...



June 2024

# STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

CO2 Emission  
Saved

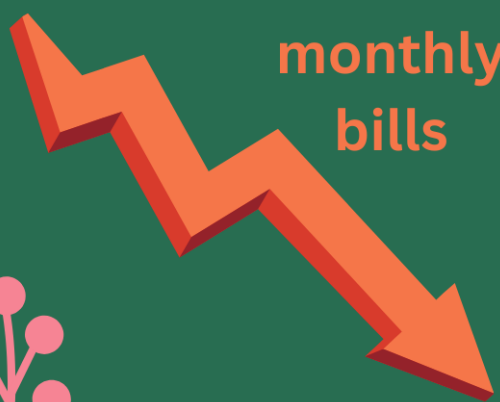
15,607 lbs.

Equivalent Trees  
Planted

118 trees



50%  
reduction in  
monthly  
bills







# GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.



**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!  
WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Save the date **Sunday September 8, 2024**  
to join the congregation in making a  
positive impact in our community.

Submit your apparel order to Jess  
Fonseca by **August 14, 2024**  
T-Shirt \$13  
Baseball Hat \$23

Questions, Ideas and Orders  
can be sent to  
[paulsen.jess@gmail.com](mailto:paulsen.jess@gmail.com)



[oldlutheran.com](http://oldlutheran.com)





### Council Minutes on Website

[www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)

To better communicate the approved council minutes quicker, they will now be published to our website following the council meeting. Please see the photo that shows “Council Minutes” on the menu bar on our website. Additionally, the council minutes will no longer be published in our newsletter. This will reduce the amount of paper used and postage expenditures. A link and QR code to the minutes will be in the newsletter. If you still desire a printed copy of the minutes, Paula will be happy to provide you with one.

### Bethany Lutheran Church – West Branch, Iowa

*Celebrating the love of Christ by reaching out to others*



### COUNCIL MINUTES ON OUR WEBSITE

[https://wbbethany.org/?page\\_id=8044](https://wbbethany.org/?page_id=8044)





# August 2024

View Calendar on our [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	2	3
4 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	5	6	7 7:00am Men's Study Group	8 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	9	10
11 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	12 6:30pm Council Meeting	13	14 7:00am Men's Study Group	15 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	16	17
18 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	19	20	21 7:00am Men's Study Group	22 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters 2:00pm Crestview Worship	23	24
25 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour 5:00pm Community meal	26	27	28 7:00am Men's Study Group	29 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	30	31



## Monetary Gifts Report Submitted by Jon Twing

	May 2024		YTD	
Total Gifts	Actual 12,789	Budget 14,399	Actual 71,195	Budget 71,695
Total Expenses	Actual 17,989	Budget 14,693	Actual 76,811	Budget 73,503
Net Revenue	(5,199)		(5,616)	

To give an offering visit our website [wbbethany.org](http://wbbethany.org) and click on the  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 Lutheran Church**  
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# Bethany Branches

## August 2024

### Ministry Assistants

#### Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

8-4 Toni Dodds  
8-11 Amber Marsh  
8-18 John Black  
8-25 Wayne Frauenholtz

#### Ministers of Technology

8-4 Cole C & Tate F  
8-11 Dale Swenson  
8-18 Dave Poppen  
8-25 Paula Casper

#### Ministers of Hospitality

8-4 Al & Claudia Beyer  
8-11 John & Linda Black  
8-18 Stacy Beyer  
8-25 Nancy Bruns

#### Ministers of Altar Care:

Patsy Ernst & Paula Casper



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**Facebook**

To find Bethany's main page,  
search "**Bethany Lutheran  
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Iowa**"

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**You Are Loved!**

