

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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

## SEPTEMBER

### Important Dates

- 9-4 **Faith Formation Kickoff**  
6:30-7:30 PM
- 9-8 **God's Work Our Hands**  
(following worship)  
**Sunday School (PreK-Grade 2)**  
8:30-9:15 AM
- 9-11 **Choir Practice**  
6:15 PM
- 9-15 **Outdoor Worship & Brunch**
- 9-16 **Council Meeting**  
6:30 PM
- 9-22 **4th Sunday Meal**  
5-6 PM

### 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

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

Let the favor of the LORD our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands — O prosper the work of our hands! (Psalm 90:17)

Dear people of God,

Psalm 90 is not one I have spent a great deal of time in. I went searching for a verse that seemed appropriate for *God's Work, our Hands* Sunday, which is September 8<sup>th</sup>. The verse above fit the bill. As I read Psalm 90 to better understand the context of this verse, I hear the psalter reminding us of the precious time we have on earth. I also hear we will experience much during that time, including trials and tribulations. Yet, at the end, I hear of God's graciousness to restore us to a right relationship with God. It is God's steadfast love that sustains us. It is God who is at work in us, whose favor is upon us that will "prosper for us the work of our hands." This is a psalm of hope!

Over the years the saints of Bethany, including those who now rest from their labors, have accomplished so much work in the name of Jesus Christ on this annual day of service. And it's not just us, it's congregations throughout the country, which are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are joined together in mission for the sake of the world. We are joined to the body of Christ that is his church on earth. To be a member of the ELCA means many things, including the work of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, through word or deed, which is exactly what the Greek root word for evangelical means. The work of the church is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. And what is that gospel? It is the good news of God's saving work for the world through the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (John 3:16). It is the good news that Christ came for all people, especially the most vulnerable among us. It is the good news that while we were still sinners, Christ still came to save us (Romans 5:8). It is the good news that Christ calls us to Himself and uses our hands, our words, our actions to be his body in the world. It is the good news that God's grace is sufficient, and God's power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9), which is the foolishness of the cross (1 Corinthians 1:18). For it is in the cross we see the gospel of good news Jesus proclaimed and then lived out, there is "no greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13) It is the good news that Jesus is the resurrection and life and all who believe in him shall live (John 11:25).

We will proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ on September 8<sup>th</sup> through the work of our hands. We will proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through song, the reading of scripture, and the prayers of the church during worship. Please, if you are able, join us for worship at 9:30 am and then be sent in the name of Jesus Christ to do a variety of ministry activities. Many thanks to Jessica Fonseca for organizing the activities, which are located on page 6. This is truly a wonderful day to be church together, to glorify God, and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ! Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! - Pastor Chad

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



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



**Southeastern Iowa Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

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

<https://seiasynod.org>

## Birthdays

- 09-01 Dru Johnston, Jared Liebergen  
Andrea Pedersen
- 09-03 Jaden Hierseman
- 09-04 Nick Fitzgerald
- 09-05 River Harding
- 09-06 Cole Bailey
- 09-09 Emma Fryauf
- 09-14 Jeff Arp, Jaylen Votroubek
- 09-15 Anne Fetzer
- 09-16 Rebecca Black, Victoria Yeater
- 09-17 Ron Madsen, Kendra Webb
- 09-20 Andrew Samuelson
- 09-22 Pam Glandon
- 09-23 Cindy Knoop
- 09-24 Kyle Anderson
- 09-26 Brendt Fetzer
- 09-08 Janice Fitzgerald

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



Jesus  You!



## Bethany Books

by Frank Frostestad



### Books For Adults

A number of members of our congregation are currently dealing with cancer during their journey through life. It affects not only the patient themselves but also their caregivers and the people around them. I will be writing on several books that I hope will help on this journey. The first is *50 Days Of Hope: daily inspiration for your journey through cancer*. It is written by

Lynn Eib. She is a cancer survivor herself and works with cancer patients as an oncology patient advocate. She shares with the reader ideas from her books and experiences. She tells stories of people who have been touched by cancer and gives a positive outlook toward them. She lets the reader know that when God and cancer meet, hope is never far away. Each segment is a daily dose of encouragement.

*Surviving After Cancer: living the new normal* is by Anne Katz. What is a cancer survivor? With so many people surviving cancer today and living the new normal it has become important to be able to guide survivors and their families through the phases of recovery. Learning to live as a survivor and dealing with both triumphs and the challenges including fear of recurrence, depression, life and occupational stress, the need for surveillance for complications can be confusing and hard. Secondary cancers, relationship issues, diet and exercise are additional concerns. Finding resources to help equip survivors and their families for this new phase can be difficult. This book is an attempt to guide readers through the crucial areas of recovery post-cancer. Additional information is always helpful. Advice that can lead to living a healthy and productive life is valuable. I will talk about additional books on cancer next month that I have found to be helpful on the journey with cancer.

### Book For Children

*You Matter* is by Christian Robinson. The reader is reminded that no matter what happens or how one feels he or she matters. Illustrations and easy to read text make this ideal for children ages 4-8.

## ELCA Learning Opportunity

The Southeastern Iowa Synod is hosting a hearing on the text of the “Draft Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith” on September 17 at 6:30-8:00 PM at via Zoom. Bishop Amy Current will be facilitating the meeting. Join Pastor Chad in the small fellowship hall (aka church office) to join with others online to learn about this. *If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to Pastor Chad.*

**About the draft social statement:** How should Lutherans understand their relationship to civic life — including government — as individuals and as a church? After three years of study a task force has posted a draft social statement on civic life and faith. Between now and Sept. 30 you are invited to study the draft and provide feedback by filling out a survey. That statement is available in English and Spanish. Access the draft and survey at [ELCA.org/civicsandfaith](http://ELCA.org/civicsandfaith)





**Church Staff**

**Pastor**—Chad Whaley  
(319) 643-5998 or (319) 643-7257  
pastor@wbbethany.org

**Admin. Assistant**—Paula Casper  
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 & Mis-  
sions**

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

# Community Meal

SEPTEMBER 22  
5-6:00 PM

All are welcome!

Bethany Lutheran Church  
235 South 2nd St.



# Sunday Fellowship



**Items Needed**

- \*\*\* Coffee**
- \*Cookies**
- \*Bars**
- \*Juice**
- \*Coffee creamer**

*Thank You!*







The Office of the Bishop and Southeastern Iowa Synod Council are listening and perceiving that God is calling us to proclaim, accompany, equip, and celebrate all that God is doing in the Southeastern Iowa Synod through our congregations and ministries, and rostered ministers by:

#### **Engaging the larger church**

- Synod assemblies and ELCA churchwide assemblies
- Engaging with ELCA social statements
- Civic engagement, interfaith and ecumenical groups

#### **Encouraging future leaders**

- Sharing call stories, encouraging new leaders
- Lay leadership
- Synod authorized ministers (SAMs)

#### **Offering gratitude**

- Worship, fellowship, and gratitude around the synod
- Mission support and special giving
- Retired servants luncheons

#### **Loving our neighbors**

- Advocacy
- Anti-hunger efforts
- Disaster response
- Anti-racism training and events

#### **Supporting pastors, deacons, and SAMs**

- Fall Gathering
- First Call Theological Education
- Lent gatherings and retired servant gatherings

#### **Partnering with congregations**

- Area ministry strategy meetings
- Administrative workshops
- Pulpit supply and interim networks
- Synod-wide worship
- Congregational visits

## **2024 - 2025**

### **Highlighted Synod Events**

**All are welcome!**

**Visit the synod website for a full listing of synod events.**

New events are added all the time. You can also get the news and learn more about synod ministries.

**[www.seiasynod.org](http://www.seiasynod.org)**

#### **Evenings of Gratitude**

Join Bishop Current for a light dinner and an evening of fellowship, conversation, and gratitude for the ministry we share in our synod.

- Nov. 3 - Peace, Pella
- Nov. 10 - Christ the King, Iowa City
- Nov. 17- Trinity, Pleasant Valley
- Nov. 24 - Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Des Moines

#### **Synod-wide Worship**

These are pre-recorded opportunities for congregations to worship together and reflect on a shared theme across the territory of the synod.

- Sept. 29 - sermon only
- Oct. 6 - Israel-Gaza Service of Remembrance
- December 29
- April 27, 2025
- May 18, 2025 - sermon only



Southeastern Iowa Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**Children, Youth, and Adult Faith Formation Opportunities**

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



MEETS IN THE GREAT HALL



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




**FAITH FORMATION  
 KICKOFF**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**  
**6:30 - 7:30 PM**

**Who: Parents and Youth  
 (Grades 3-8)**

**Pizza will be provided.**

**Sunday  
 School AT  
 Bethany**



Kick off Sunday September 8th  
 8:30-9:15am PK - 2nd Grade

**All are welcome.  
 We can't wait to see you!**

Classes in September will be held the 8th, 22nd, & 29th





### **Scheduled Projects**

#### West Branch Cemetery Cleanup

*We will be sweeping grass clippings, dirt, and dust away from headstones. Brooms will be provided by town maintenance, but we invite you to bring one just in case we don't have enough.*

#### Various Small Projects at Member Houses

*Various outdoor projects will be completed at homes of Bethany members.*

#### Projects Around the Church Grounds

*Bring your work gloves and help keep the church grounds and buildings maintained and welcoming to all.*

#### Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

*An intergenerational event for people of all ages where will assemble kits in the fellowship hall. These care kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. We hope to assemble 100 kits! You may give a financial donation to purchase items for these kits on our website ([www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)). Click the blue "Give Now" button and then click on the "Donate Now" button under the category "God's Work Our Hands." (Or scan the QR code)*

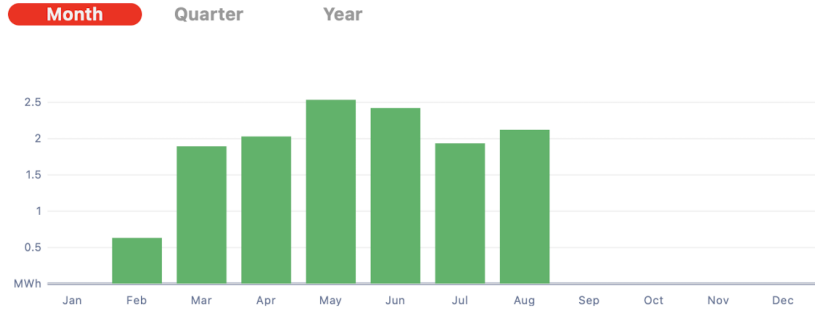




# Solar Update

## Comparative Production

2024



This graphic from “mySolarEdge” shows the monthly output in 2024. We went live at the end of February, which is why there is no output in January or month 1. It also shows the cumulative amount of CO2 emission saved and the equivalent trees planted.

## Environmental Benefits

CO2 Emission Saved

21,023.3 lb

Equivalent Trees Planted

159



## 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)



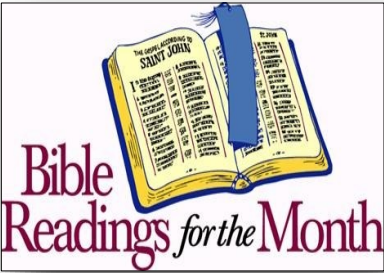
SCAN ME



## 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.

**September 1**  
[Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9](#)  
[Psalm 15](#)  
[James 1:17-27](#)  
[Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23](#)



**September 8**  
[Isaiah 35:4-7a](#)  
[Psalm 146](#)  
[James 2:1-10, 14-17](#)  
[Mark 7:24-37](#)

**September 15**  
[Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)  
[Psalm 116:1-9](#)  
[James 3:1-12](#)  
[Mark 8:27-38](#)

**September 22**  
[Jeremiah 11:18-20](#)  
[Psalm 54](#)  
[James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a](#)  
[Mark 9:30-37](#)

**September 29**  
[Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29](#)  
[Psalm 19:7-14](#)  
[James 5:13-20](#)  
[Mark 9:38-50](#)

## 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.

### Isaiah 2:4

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

- If nations disarmed, beating swords into plow share, and spears into pruning hooks...
- War is...
- A world of peace...



### Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

- The good news of God, for me...
- Repenting and believing...
- What Jesus asks of me...





# VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Sign up for weekly emails and family activity sheets.

[faithforwardnow.org/church/bethanywestbranch/](http://faithforwardnow.org/church/bethanywestbranch/)



Join us for free, online interactive workshops to help equip and encourage you in handing down your faith to your children, grandchildren, and youth in your congregation.

**THURSDAYS**  
7:00-8:15 PM CST

Oct. 24 - Grandparents  
Nov. 7 - Parents  
Nov. 21 - Triple-A-Adult Mentors



**LYLE GRINER**  
Workshop Host



**DAVID LYNN**  
Workshop Host

**REGISTER EARLY TO WIN PRIZES!**

Faith Forward is inviting parents, grandparents, and anyone eager to learn more about having faith conversations with children and youth. If interested, see Pastor Chad and he can provide more information on how to register.

## Faith Forward Themes

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

Have fun finding these key words associated with Faith Forward. They can be found vertically, horizontally, or diagonally.

- Together
- Practices
- On The Go
- Fun
- Mentors
- Grandparents
- Parents
- Family
- Jesus
- Promises
- Faith
- Service
- Conversations
- Bible
- Mealtme
- Prayer




# September 2024

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>	<b>4</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:30pm Faith Formation (Grades 3-8) Kickoff	<b>5</b> 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:30am Sunday School Kick off 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour 10:30am God's Work, Our Hands following worship	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Faith Formation (Grades 3-8)	<b>12</b> 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:30am Outdoor Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship with brunch	<b>16</b> 7:00pm WB Study Club	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Faith Formation (Grades 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 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour 5:00pm Community meal	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Faith Formation (Grades 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> 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:15pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Faith Formation (Grades 3-8)	<b>3</b> 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>



On Tuesday, August 27th the tree near the church entrance that did not bounce back after a long winter came down. You can see a section that remains, which will soon be transformed into a wood carving of our Lord and Savior, similar to the one located on the altar in our worship space. Thanks for your financial gifts to make this project possible. Thanks to John Black for coordinating things!



## PUZZLE

# Piles of praise

Every autumn, the ground is overflowing with leaves.  
What does Paul encourage us to overflow with?

*Directions: Use the key to match the leaves and complete the Bible passage.*

rooted

built

thankfulness

strengthened

continue

faith

overflowing

received

Lord

So then, just as you \_\_\_\_\_ Christ Jesus as \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to live your lives in him, \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 \_\_\_\_\_ up in him, \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ as you  
 were taught, and \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ .

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7, NIV

Answer: received, Lord, continue, rooted, built, strengthened, faith, overflowing.





## Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jon Twing

	June 2024		YTD	
Total Gifts	Actual 12,429	Budget 14,338	Actual 83,625	Budget 86,033
Total Expenses	Actual 12,459	Budget 14,688	Actual 89,376	Budget 88,191
Net Revenue	(30.00)		(5,751)	

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.

# GLORY TO GOD!



## Monetary Gifts Report

Submitted by Jon Twing

	July 2024		YTD	
Total Gifts	Actual 16,221	Budget 14,338	Actual 99,846	Budget 100,371
Total Expenses	Actual 14,202	Budget 14,688	Actual 103,578	Budget 102,876
Net Revenue	2,019		(3,732)	

To give an offering visit our website [wbbethany.org](http://wbbethany.org) and click on the  button.

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Bethany Lutheran Church  
 235 South Second Street  
 PO BOX 236  
 West Branch, Iowa 52358  
[www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)

# Bethany Branches September 2024

## Ministry Assistants

### Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

- 9-1 Dave Bahnsen
- 9-8 Deb Anderson
- 9-15 Kami Poppen
- 9-22 Beth Kaufman
- 9-28 Alan Beyer

### Ministers of Technology

- 9-1 Jill Taylor
- 9-8 Dale Swenson
- 9-15 Dave Poppen
- 9-22 Paula Casper
- 9-28 Jill Taylor

### Ministers of Hospitality

- 9-1 Anne & Jamie Fetzer
- 9-8 Wayne Frauenholtz
- 9-15 Del & Sue Hughes
- 9-22 Kent & Beth Kaufman
- 9-28 Dave & Kami Poppen

### Ministers of Altar Care Dave & Kami Poppen

Find us on  **Facebook**

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

DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US!



Follow us on X  
 @blwestbranch

**You Are Loved!**

Oh give thanks to the Lord,  
 for he is good,  
 for his love endures  
 forever!

*Psalm 107:1, 28*

