

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



Important Dates

1-13 **Council meeting** 6:30PM
1-19 **Annual meeting** following
worship
1-26 **Community Meal** 5-6PM

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 @blwestbranch

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

Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18



Happy New Year Faithful Saints,

It has been a busy time in our small congregation with so many happenings this fall and winter. Some were wonderful worship and fellowship opportunities. Others were tear-filled moments as we entrusted several of God's beloved, precious sons and daughters into God's eternal care. Through it all, we are a people that give thanks. We give thanks for every happening in our congregation because we trust the risen Christ is present with us. We give thanks for the gift of eternal life in Christ that sustains and comforts us. We give thanks for those faithful members who have died. We give thanks because, "it is the will of God in Christ Jesus."

I want to say "thank you" to all of you. You have given of your time and talents to attend to the needs of hurting families. You have given of your time and talents to beautify our building and grounds making it welcoming. You have given of your time and talents to assist our neighbors in need. You have given of your time and talents to enrich our worship of Jesus Christ. You have been the presence of Christ through your active involvement in the life of our community. You have supported, encouraged and comforted. You have given of your time behind the scenes tending to things that often go unnoticed (e.g., counting offerings, preparing budgets and tending to finances, refilling the pew envelopes and pencils, etc.). You have given of your time and talents through your leadership. You have given of your time and talents in growing faith in your children and youth. You have given your financial gifts to make all this possible. Thank you faithful servants of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

May you have a blessed New Year!

Pastor Chad

THANK
you.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 19, 2025, after worship

Remember, a "Voting Member" per our Constitution and Bylaws is defined as:

C8.02.c Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation.





Birthdays

- 1/02 Charlie Casady
- 1/08 Hayden Miller
- 1/09 Hallie Fitzgerald
- 1/11 Tonya Lovetinsky
- 1/14 Deanna Pedersen
- 1/17 Cliff Hinkhouse
- 1/20 Tonya Samuelson
- 1/23 Deb Lund
- 1/24 Robbie Boaz, Paul Bruns
- 1/25 Lisa Zimmerman
- 1/26 Hunter Niles
- 01/29 Lance Schiele
- 01/30 Kent Pedersen
- 01/31 Pat Cassabaum



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



Our Camera Crew is in need of a few more people to run the video cameras during Sunday worship. As many people join us in worship online, this is an essential ministry role in our proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ! This is easy to learn and do! You would only be scheduled once a month or less. We will train you!

If interested or have questions, please contact Paula at:
 blcsecretary@lcom.net
 (319) 643-5998

Thank you!

Baptism

The baptism of Asher Goodman was celebrated November 17th.
 He is the son of Stacy Beyer and Matt Goodman.
 Baptismal sponsors are Kristen McElhinney & Phillip Goodman.



Happy New Year

0 SING UNTO THE LORD
a new song;
 FOR HE HATH DONE
marvelous things.

PSALM 98:1, KJV





December 22, 2024

Theodore, Easton, Cadence, Avery, Sienna, Cozette
Ainsley was not available to be here. Another
Sunday is being arranged to celebrate with her.





Cookie Walk

12-7-24

 Close-up of decorated cookies, including one shaped like a Christmas tree.

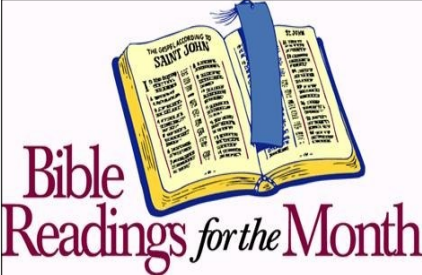



January Sunday Bible Readings

The passages below are the assigned readings for January. 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.

January 5, 2025

[Jeremiah 31:7-14](#)
[Psalm 147:12-20](#)
[Ephesians 1:3-14](#)
[John 1:10-18](#)



January 12, 2025

[Isaiah 43:1-7](#)
[Psalm 29](#)
[Acts 8:14-17](#)
[Luke 3:15-17, 21-22](#)

January 19, 2025

[Isaiah 62:1-5](#)
[Psalm 36:5-10](#)
[1 Corinthians 12:1-11](#)
[John 2:1-11](#)

January 26, 2025

[Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10](#)
[Psalm 19](#)
[1 Corinthians 12:12-31a](#)
[Luke 4:14-21](#)

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.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth

- Caring for creation...
- Proud creators hope others...
- Religion and science...



Psalms 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

- I feel my words and my heart are most acceptable when...
- I feel my words and my heart are not acceptable when...
- I need God to be my rock when...



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/>

January 2025

View Calendar on our [website](#).

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



Monetary Gifts Report Submitted by Jon Twing

	November 2024		YTD	
Total Gifts	Actual 24,515	Budget 14,338	Actual 157,723	Budget 156,125
Total Expenses	Actual 13,034	Budget 14,686	Actual 156,337	Budget 161,768
Net Revenue	11,481		1,386	

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

Ministry Assistants

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

- 1-5 Deb Anderson
- 1-12 Bruce Jeffries
- 1-19 Beth Kaufman
- 1-26 Alan Beyer

Ministers of Technology

- 1-5 Tate Frantz & Cole
Crosthwaite
- 1-12 Dale Swenson
- 1-19 Dave Poppen
- 1-26 Paula Casper

Ministers of Hospitality

- 1-5 Cindy Knoop/Heidi Christensen
- 1-12 Cindy Knoop
- 1-19
- 1-26

Ministers of Altar Care:

Cindy Knoop & Heidi Christensen



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

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You Are Loved!



January 2025
Bethany Branches

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