

# Bethany Lutheran Church

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



## February

### Important Dates

- 2-06** Loving Global Neighbor  
6:30-8:00 PM
- 2-09** Council installation  
during worship
- 2-10** Council meeting  
6:30 PM
- 2-16** High School Event  
6:00-7:00 PM
- 2-23** Community meal  
5:00-6:00 PM
- 2-26** Faith Forward Event  
6:00-7:30PM

### 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, 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](http://www.wbbethany.org)) or images

DO NOT SEEK REVENGE OR BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST ANYONE AMONG YOUR PEOPLE, BUT LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.

LEVITICUS 19:18

[JESUS SAID], "AND THE SECOND [COMMANDMENT] IS LIKE IT: 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'"

MATTHEW 22:39

Dear people of God,

Both the Old Testament and New Testament of the Bible direct God's people to love their neighbor. Loving the neighbor is at the core of who God is, because God created everyone in God's image the book of Genesis tells us. We often observe our Lord travel beyond the borders of Judea to bring God's healing to neighbors that may have even been deemed enemies. One way to love our neighbor is to better know our neighbor. Listen to their story. Be open to learning something about them, even if we don't agree or understand it. We do so through the lenses that God created them and loves them. God's care, concern, and grace has no limits, boundaries, or borders. Bishop Amy Current, of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, invites us all into a time when we can learn about and better love our global neighbors (see image below). I will be hosting an opportunity to gather as a group on the first two sessions, January 30 and February 6. I am unable to be present the final 2 sessions, so depending on attendance and if someone is willing and able to lead those sessions, we will determine if additional group offerings are made available. You can also always join from home. In Christ's peace! - Pastor Chad

## Listen God is Calling Loving Our Global Neighbors



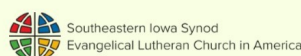
**January 30:** Loving our Neighbors of Palestine, Israel, and the Middle East.

**February 6:** Loving our Neighbors by "Preaching and Teaching with Love and Respect for the Jewish People"

**February 13:** Loving our Neighbors through Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.

**February 20:** Loving our Neighbors in partnership with the Pare and Mwangi Dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania as global companions.

**Register once to attend  
any or all sessions**





## Birthdays

- 02/01 Jennie Wombacher
- 02/02 Becky Paulsen
- 02/04 Del Hughes
- 02/06 Jamie Fetzer
- 02/10 Dave Bahnsen  
Kristin McElhinney
- 02/12 Katherine White
- 02/15 Kyle Colvin, Dave Poppen
- 02/20 Joshua Snyder,  
Jamie Zimmerman
- 02/21 Tina Webb, Avery Fonseca
- 02/23 Arik Marsh
- 02/24 Lynn Lovetinsky
- 02/26 Isaac Kimpe
- 02/28 JoAnne Brooksheer  
Brad Kinsinger



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



**Our Camera Crew is in need of a few more people to run the video cameras during our Sunday Service.** 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](mailto:blcsecretary@lcom.net) (319) 643-5998

Thank you!



It's not too early to begin thinking about visiting EWALU Camp & Retreat Center in Strawberry Point, IA this summer for camp. They offer a wide variety of camps for children and youth Grades 1-12. Visit their website ([www.ewalu.org](http://www.ewalu.org)) to find out more or scan the QR code in the graphic above to see an online brochure. Brochures are also available at the church.



## Church Staff

### Pastor

Chad Whaley  
(319) 643-5998  
pastor@wbbethany.org

### Admin. Assistant

Paula Casper  
blsecretary@lcom.net

### Custodian

Pat Cassabaum

### Pianist

Jill Barnhart

## Church Council

Courtney Heid

### President

Curt Casper

### Building & Grounds

Dale Swenson

### Stewardship/ Vice President

Kristen Van Scoyoc

### Education

Jon Twing

### Treasurer

Darla Crosthwaite

### Evangelism & Missions

Jessica Fonseca

### Youth

Pat Cassabaum

### Fellowship

Heidi Christensen

### Worship & Music

Claudia Beyer

### Financial Secretary



## Food Pantry News



In 2024 the WB Food Pantry and the Paw Pantry combined in one location (the old middle school), and now serves all in West Branch. The much larger space provides for a greater variety of foods and non-SNAP essentials, as well as refrigerated and frozen foods!

Uniting the two has also meant the doubling of staff, so that clients can visit weekly to meet their needs, rather than monthly as in the past. Bethany and the pantry are now both drop-off locations for donations.

Many thanks to all who faithfully donate, and to those who help with the monthly deliveries!

In 2024 Bethany delivered 225 bags of food, and the pantry served 18 families per week.



## Church Library News

We are grateful for the ministry of Frank Frostestad in stewarding the library for so many years. With his death, we are in need of someone to oversee the library and continuation of it. If you are interested, please let Pastor Chad know. Thank you!



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

During worship, January 19, we welcome new and returning members. They include:

Heintz family  
Kinsinger family  
McFarland family  
Jane Slach



Our Lenten journey will begin with Ash Wednesday on March 5.  
Join us for worship at 7:00 PM.

There will also be Wednesday activities during the Lent season. All are invited and welcome!

Those gatherings will be held March 12, 26 and April 2, 9. More information will follow in upcoming bulletins and the March newsletter.





## West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC) News

At the annual meeting, Pastor Chad presented the document below. This is his annual report to the congregations of WBARC. As is evident, much wonderful ministry was accomplished in 2024. Thanks to all who continue to support this ministry. Thanks to the people of Bethany for your ongoing commitment to our shared partnership and the work we do together in the name of Jesus Christ. We have a unique and special relationship in that we work closely with the West Branch Police Department and West Branch Community School District to identify and address community needs. If you have any questions about WBARC, please see Pastor Chad.

# WEST BRANCH AREA RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (WBARC)

*Our Mission is to foster interfaith connections in order to address needs as they arise in our community.*

## 2024 Annual Report



### WHO WE ARE

#### Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

235 S. 2nd St.  
West Branch, IA 52358

#### West Branch Friends Meeting Conservative

317 N. 6th St.  
West Branch, IA 52358

#### Springdale United Methodist Church

554 290th St.  
West Branch, IA 52358

#### West Branch Friends Church

116 N. Downey St.  
West Branch, IA 52358

#### St. Bernadette's Catholic Church

507 E. Orange St.  
West Branch, IA 52358

#### West Branch United Methodist Church

203 N. Downey St.  
West Branch, IA 52358

### GIFTS RECEIVED

\$800

*Thank you for your generosity!*

### MINISTRY EXPENDITURES

\$2,241.43

### SCHOOL HUNGER PROGRAMS

\$600

*Provide weekend meals through Operation Backpack*

### ASSIST STUDENTS & FAMILIES

\$500

*Gift cards provided to WBCSD Resource Navigator to give to families as needs are identified*

### RENTAL ASSISTANCE

\$300

### CELEBRATE OUR YOUTH

\$500

*Assists students celebrate their graduation and prepare for the next stage of their life*

### JACK N' JILL VOUCHERS

\$267

### HOTEL LODGING

*Provide shelter for stranded motorist*

*Though many, we are one body in Christ. - Romans 12:5*



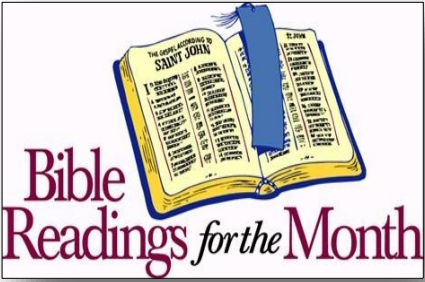
# Adult Faith Formation Opportunities



## February Sunday Bible Readings

The passages below are the assigned readings for **February** 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.

**February 2, 2025**  
[Malachi 3:1-4](#)  
[Psalm 84](#)  
[Hebrews 2:14-18](#)  
[Luke 2:22-40](#)



**February 9, 2025**  
[Isaiah 6:1-8 \[9-13\]](#)  
[Psalm 138](#)  
[1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#)  
[Luke 5:1-11](#)

**February 16, 2025**  
[Jeremiah 17:5-10](#)  
[Psalm 1](#)  
[1 Corinthians 15:12-20](#)  
[Luke 6:17-26](#)

**February 23, 2025**  
[Genesis 45:3-11, 15](#)  
[Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40](#)  
[1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50](#)  
[Luke 6:27-38](#)



**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/>



Dear Donor,

Thank you SO MUCH for participating in this year's holiday program for our West Branch families. Because of all of you, we were able to help many families this year. I can't thank you enough and can not begin to express the heartfelt gratitude from those families blessed by your support. We could not have done it without you! I am always amazed by this community and the support this community has for each other.

From the bottom of my heart, please know how grateful we all are.

THANK YOU!

Jamie Johnson

Resource Navigator

West Branch Community School District

319-643-7211 Ex- 338



*Lutheran Church Friends,*

*Thank you all so very much for your generous donation of snowpants and boots for two of my students! Please know it is greatly appreciated!*

Tricia Harpole and 2 little friends!







LEAP INTO LENT!

# FAITH FORWARD FAMILY NIGHT

## WHEN

**WED. FEBRUARY 26  
6-7:30 PM**

Come and go as able!

## WHO

**PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS,  
MENTORS, CHILDREN & YOUTH**

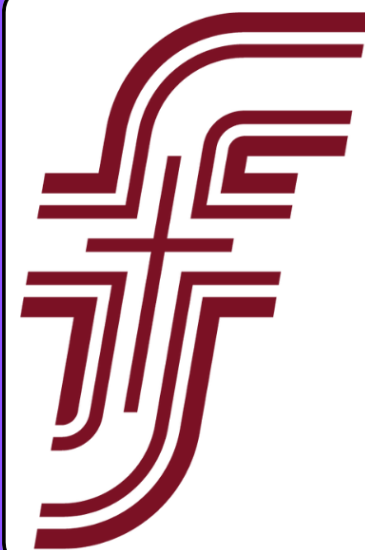
## WHAT

**PASTA - PRAYER - FAMILY  
FAITH ACTIVITIES**

## BRING

**CRAFT KIT FOR CHILDREN  
IN THE HOSPITAL**

See examples at Faith Forward table



## RSVP

ONLINE



SCAN ME

OR AT THE FAITH  
FORWARD TABLE

# FAITH HOPE LOVE

the greatest of these!  
1 Cor. 13:13

## GOD'S CANDY HEARTS

you are loved

love never fails

love one another

be mine

put on love

God is love

How many times can you find the word "love"?

Help spread God's love to the world!

Play tic tac toe with X's + O's!

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Use the conversations cards below at home or on-the-go as prompts for faith conversations and times of prayer. Your Faith Forward team hopes these are beneficial to pass faith forward.

Bible Reading

Faith Conversations

“Don’t be afraid. I am with you. Don’t tremble with fear. I am your God. I will make you strong, as I protect you with my arm and give you victories.” —Isaiah 41:10 (CEV)

- † We won’t have trouble-free lives but we can know that—
- † We need not be afraid of life’s challenges because God—
- † I need a victory for—

Prayer

Complete these sentence stems as a prayer:

- † Forgive us Lord for our sins as we forgive each other and—
- † Protect our family this week and—
- † Lord, let all that we do—

We pray with gratitude in Jesus name, Amen

“Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered.” —Jesus in John 15:7 (CEV)





# February 2025

View Calendar on our [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2</b> 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Faith Formation (Grades 3-8)	<b>6</b> 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters 6:30-8:00pm—Loving our Global Neighbor Zoom	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) Council installation  10:30am Fellowship Hour	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Faith Formation (Grades 3-8)	<b>13</b> 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour 6:00pm High School Night	<b>17</b> 7:00pm WB Study Club	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Faith Formation (Grades 3-8)	<b>20</b> 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour 5:00pm Community meal	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Faith Forward Family Night	<b>27</b> 6:00am Women's Study 1:00pm Quilters 2:00pm Crestview Worship	<b>28</b>	1



## Monetary Gifts Report Submitted by Jon Twing

	December 2024		YTD	
Total Gifts	Actual 15,632	Budget 14,338	Actual 178,518	Budget 172,061
Total Expenses	Actual 12,951	Budget 14,683	Actual 169,299	Budget 176,451
Net Revenue	2,681		9,219	

To give an offering visit our website [wbbethany.org](http://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 Lutheran Church**  
235 South Second Street  
PO BOX 236  
West Branch, Iowa 52358  
www.wbbethany.org

# Bethany Branches

## February 2025



### Ministry Assistants

#### Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

- 2-2 Cheryl Boerjan
- 2-9 Del Hughes
- 2-16 Pat Cassabaum
- 2-23 Paula Casper

#### Ministers of Technology

- 2-2 Jill Taylor
- 2-9 Dale Swenson
- 2-16 Dave Poppen
- 2-23 Alan Beyer

#### Ministers of Hospitality

- 2-2 Anne & Jamie Fetzer
- 2-9 Wayne Frauenholtz
- 2-16 Del & Sue Hughes
- 2-23 Howard & Terry Moss

#### Ministers of Altar Care: Nancy Bruns



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**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  
**@blcwestbranch**

**You Are Loved!**

