

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



Important Dates

- 3-05** Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 PM
- 3-10** Council meeting 6:30PM
- 3-12** Lent dinner 6:15 PM
Prayer around the cross 7:00 pm
- 3-26** Lent dinner 6:15 PM
Prayer around the cross 7:00 pm

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

Cast all your anxiety on the Lord, for he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7



Dear people of God,

We are about to embark on the season of Lent. During Lent we often focus on the ways in which we have turned from God and given ourselves over to the ways that lead to sin and death. Repentance and the need for God's forgiveness is a theme of Lent. God invites us to return yet again to God and give all we have to God. Give God our anxieties, fears, wrongdoings, and struggles. We do this trusting God receives all, hears all, bears all, and ultimately forgives all we give to God through the grace extended to us through Christ's death and resurrection.

At the recent *Faith Forward* event that helped us leap into Lent, we invited attendees to "Give it to God." A box with slips of paper greeted people as they entered and they were invited to write something they need to give to God. This box will remain in place during the season of Lent. It is located on the *Faith Forward* table in the hallway. See the sign below that explains this spiritual practice.

This Lent, the *Faith Forward* team invites all to stop, write, and drop whatever it is on your heart and mind into the box. Then, offer a silent prayer naming what you wrote and concluding with, "Lord, in your mercy, hear my prayer. Amen." In doing so, you will be fulfilling one of the five faith promises of *Faith Forward*: prayer.

There are pictures on page 6 that show children and youth making their own "Give it to God" boxes to take home. It was a fun activity and a fun night in which we passed faith forward. In peace!

Pastor Chad

GIVE IT TO GOD BOX

WHAT...

Do you need to give to God today?

Do you need to let go of & let God during the 40 days of Lent?

PROMPTS TO HELP

Give it to God:

One thing I've done wrong & need God's forgiveness for is...

Give it to God:

Something I worry about & need God to take from me is...

Give it to God:

A fear I have & need God's help with is...

Give it to God:

Something or someone I am angry with & need God to help let me go of is...

WRITE & DROP

Use as many slips of paper as you need. Drop it in the box and give it to God.

PRAY

As you drop it in the box, offer a silent prayer concluding with, "Lord, in your mercy, hear my prayer. Amen."

FAITH PROMISE UTILIZED: PRAYER



Birthdays

- March 01 - Ellie Holstad
- March 06 - Travis Kaufman
- March 08 - Cheryl Boerjan
- March 09 - Alan Beyer, Abbey Fryauf
- March 11 - Johnathan Holstad,
Mike Fryauf
- March 13 - Dylan Schiele, Miranda Dlh
- March 16 - Marisa Terry,
Ainsley Kinsinger
- March 19 - Sienna McElhinney
- March 20 - Kevin Olson
- March 21 - Mark Anderson
- March 22 - Brett Schiele
- March 24 - Jill Barnhart
- March 25 - Bradley Arp
- March 25 - Terry Moss
- March 28 - Ellen Gunderson
- March 29 - Toni Dodds



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

New Paschal Candle (aka Easter Candle)

Recently, we replaced the largest candle in the church. Many thanks to Bonnie Conner for your generosity in purchasing a new candle. This candle symbolizes our Lord's Easter victory over sin and death. Paschal candles have been used in worship since the fifth century. It is lit during the Easter season, on Pentecost, at baptisms and funerals.



LENT SCHEDULE

MARCH 12
DINNER @ 6:15 PM
PRAYER AROUND
THE CROSS
WORSHIP @ 7:00 PM

MARCH 26 DINNER
@ 6:15 PM PRAYER
AROUND THE
CROSS WORSHIP @
7:00 PM



APRIL 2
DINNER @ 6:15 PM
PRAYER AROUND
THE CROSS
WORSHIP @ 7:00 PM

APRIL 9
DINNER @ 6:15 PM
PRAYER AROUND
THE CROSS
WORSHIP @ 7:00 PM

WE INVITE EVERYONE TO JOIN US!

THERE WILL BE NO ACTIVITIES MARCH 19

The Worship Committee invites all to attend the meal and Prayer Around the Cross worship services during Lent. These services are 20-30 minutes. This year there will be a cross that younger children can put battery powered candles in.

Ash Wednesday

Worship

March 5

6:30 Pm

(Also streamed live on facebook)





Church Staff

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

Admin. Assistant Paula Casper
blcsecretary@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
Secretary**

Jessica Fonseca **Youth**

Pat Cassabaum **Fellowship**

Heidi Christensen **Worship & Music**

Claudia Beyer **Financial Secretary**



Sunday School

Preschool - Grade 2
8:30 - 9:15AM

March 2

April 6

May 4

March 23

April 13

May 18

March 30

April 27



Smile! God loves you!!!

March Sunday Bible Readings

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

March 2

[Exodus 34:29-35](#)

[Psalm 99](#)

[2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2](#)

[Luke 9:28-36 \[37-43a\]](#)

March 9

[Deuteronomy 26:1-11](#)

[Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16](#)

[Romans 10:8b-13](#)

[Luke 4:1-13](#)

March 16

[Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18](#)

[Psalm 27](#)

[Philippians 3:17-4:1](#)

[Luke 13:31-35](#)

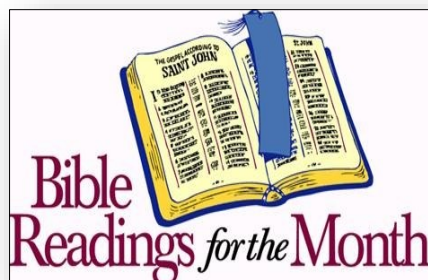
March 23

[Isaiah 55:1-9](#)

[Psalm 63:1-8](#)

[1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#)

[Luke 13:1-9](#)



March 30

[Joshua 5:9-12](#)

[Psalm 32](#)

[2 Corinthians 5:16-21](#)

[Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32](#)

SUMUD: Voices from the Holy Land

March 8
9:00-2:00 PM
Zion Lutheran Church, Iowa City
or via Zoom

This is an exciting event. In the morning we will hear from Christian and Jewish leaders in Israel and West Bank. The afternoon will feature local Palestinian voices from here in Iowa. We hope to see you there! Register online.



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



<https://www.seiasynod.org/events>



LUTHERAN DAY ON THE HILL
AMPLIFY · EMPOWER · ADVOCATE

MARCH 11

Join fellow Lutherans from across the state advocating for Lutheran Services in Iowa. Registration required.

<https://lsiowa.org/ldh/>



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

Comparative Production

● 2024
● 2025

Month Quarter Year



Month	2024 (MWh)	2025 (MWh)
Jan	0.6	1.1
Feb	0.6	0.8
Mar	1.8	
Apr	2.0	
May	2.5	
Jun	2.4	
Jul	1.9	
Aug	2.3	
Sep	2.2	
Oct	1.8	
Nov	0.9	
Dec	0.7	

Environmental Benefits

CO2 Emission Saved
33,378.1 lb



Equivalent Trees Planted
252

SOLAR UPDATE!

This graphic from “mySolarEdge” shows monthly output. Green is 2025 and blue is 2024. It also shows the cumulative amount of CO2 emission saved and the equivalent trees planted.



EVERY EASTER WE ARE GREETED WITH THE BEAUTY AND SWEET FRAGRANCE OF LILIES ADORNING OUR SANCTUARY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS DISPLAY, PLEASE FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW AND RETURN THIS SLIP WITH **\$15.00** PER PLANT TO PAULA BY TUESDAY, APRIL 1ST. IF RETURNING BY MAIL, USE THE ADDRESS BELOW.

Dedications will be listed in the bulletin on Easter morning.

YOUR NAME:

_____ I would like Bethany to purchase an Easter lily for me.

Please print your dedication as you wish it to appear in the bulletin. Please indicate if this is "In honor of" or "In memory of" and list those names below:

Bethany Lutheran P.O. Box 236 West Branch, IA 52358

This short Bible passage 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.

Romans 8:37-39

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- An experience of God's love...
- God's love includes...
- God loves even when...

FAITH FORWARD LEAP INTO LENT FEBRUARY 26, 2025



For more photos, see our Facebook page or website (www.wbbethany.org).

March 2025

View Calendar on our [website](#).

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



Monetary Gifts Report
Submitted by Jon Twing

	January 2025		YTD	
Total Gifts	Actual 12,101	Budget 14,809	Actual 12,101	Budget 14,809
Total Expenses	Actual 14,479	Budget 14,828	Actual 14,479	Budget 14,828
Net Revenue	(2,378)			

To give an offering visit our website 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 Branches March 2025

Bethany Lutheran Church
235 South Second Street
PO BOX 236
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www.wbbethany.org

Ministry Assistants

Ministers of Proclamation

3-2 Kami Poppen

3-9 Brad Kinsinger

3-16 Del Hughes

3-23 Patsy Ernst

3-30 Jill Barnhart

Ministers of Technology

3-2 Cole C. & Tate F.

3-9 Jill Taylor

3-16 Dale Swenson

3-23 Dave Poppen

3-30 Paula Casper

Ministers of Hospitality

3-2 Kent & Beth Kaufman

3-9 Dave & Kami Poppen

3-16 Jon & Laura Tving

3-23 Stacy Beyer

3-30 Nancy Bruns

Ministers of Altar Care:

Patsy Ernst & Paula Casper

Ministry Assistants

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!

Join us during this season of Lent.

