

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



Important Dates

- 4-14 Council meeting 6:30 PM
- 4-17 Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM
- 4-18 Good Friday 6:30 PM
- 4-27 Pulpit Exchange Sunday
- 4-27 4th Sunday meal 5-6 PM

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 @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

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,
constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of
love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. – 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Can one ever say "thank you" enough? Those 2 words are powerful and can go such
a long way in our relationships with one another. In this article, I want to say, "thank
you" to our staff for their "work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope
in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Thank you to our musician and choir director, Jill Barnhart. So often do I hear posi-
tive comments on her musical gifts. Jill's professionalism and passion shine forth
as she plays the piano and helps us worship and glorify our Lord and Savior. Prior to
my father's death, he would often join us for worship online. He told me how much
he enjoyed watching our worship because of two things. First was all the wonderful
children of God gathered for the children's sermon and the way they helped out.
Second was to watch and listen to Jill play the piano. I would often joke with him
saying, "What about me?" The people of Bethany are truly blessed and grateful for
Jill's presence among us.

Thank you to our custodian, Pat Cassabaum. She meticulously cleans every part of
the interior of the church and while not part of her responsibilities, is often cleaning
portions of the exterior as well. If you have ever stepped in the building after Pat has
concluded her work, it's easy to know she has been here by sight and smell. Her
efforts truly provide a welcoming environment for all who enter God's house. The
people of Bethany are truly blessed and grateful for Pat's presence among us.

Thank you to our administrative assistant, Paula Casper. She does many things that
often go unnoticed. As I reflect, it dawned on me her efforts likely impact nearly
every aspect of ministry we do together in one form or the other. While recently out
of the office, I contacted her on several occasions to handle things in my absence
and she did so without hesitation. The people of Bethany are truly blessed and
grateful for Paula's presence among us.

Paula has announced her retirement as administrative assistant, which will be
effective June 1st. In the meantime, with the Executive Committee's assistance, I
will be reviewing the administrative assistant job description, and we will post that
position soon.

For the sake of this article, there is one last thank you to be said. Thank you, people
of God, for your faithfulness in stewarding your financial gifts. It is through those
gifts and God at work in each of you we can sustain the ministry efforts of Jill, Pat,
Paula, and myself too. Thank you! You are all awesome and amazing!

I close just as the Apostle Paul so often opened his letters. Let us give thanks and
pray often remembering before our God and Father—Jill, Pat, and Paula's work of
faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

In peace! - Pastor Chad

Birthdays

- 04-01 Sharon Schubert
Jacob Webb
- 04-04 Asher Goodman
- 04-09 Macy Kinsinger, Steve Yeater
- 04-10 John Black, David Fischer
- 04-11 Kent Kaufman
- 04-14 Cassie Colvin
- 04-15 Aizlyn Marsh, Scott Wieneke
- 04-16 Tony Johnston
- 04-18 Paula Casper
- 04-20 Evie White
- 04-21 Rena Holmes
- 04-22 Addison Wombacher
- 04-23 Nancy Wieneke
- 04-24 Madalyn Kilburg
- 04-25 London Kiley
- 04-27 Courtney Halls, Lindsey Wiele
- 04-28 Karen Friis
- 04-30 Samantha Miller



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

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 |
| Jessica Fonseca | Youth |
| Pat Cassabaum | Fellowship |
| Heidi Christensen | Worship & Music |
| Claudia Beyer | Financial Secretary |

*Holy Week Worship
Schedule*

Maundy Thursday (April 17) @ 6:30 PM
Sacrament of Holy Communion celebrated

Good Friday (April 18) @ 6:30 PM

Easter Sunday (April 20) @ 9:30 AM
*Sacrament of Holy Communion celebrated,
choir singing*

LENT SCHEDULE

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>APRIL 2 DINNER @ 6:15 PM PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS WORSHIP @ 7:00 PM</p> | | <p>APRIL 9 DINNER @ 6:15 PM PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS WORSHIP @ 7:00 PM</p> |
|--|--|--|

WE INVITE EVERYONE TO JOIN US!

SUMMER POOL PARTY

JUNE 8

6-8 PM

Tipton Aquatic Center
Look for more details to come from your
Education & Youth Committee!

Bible Quiz

From the cross, Jesus prayed words from the book of Psalms. What were they?

- A. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- B. "I thirst!"
- C. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
- D. "It is finished!"



Answer: A (See Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34; and Psalm 22:1.)



Springing to LIFE



New life defines the season of spring. Make this Easter craft that symbolizes rebirth.

What you need:

- Brown paper lunch bag
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Jellybeans



What you do:

1. From the bag's bottom, cut two 2-inch circles. Set aside.
2. From the sides, cut two 10-inch circles.
3. Draw a thin spiral on each large circle and cut along the lines. Crinkle spirals gently.
4. Starting at the center, wrap one spiral into a nest. Glue every few inches to hold it.
5. Glue one small circle to the bottom of the nest.
6. Repeat with the other spiral. Fill nests with jellybeans and give to a friend!



PUZZLE



OUR EASTER GIFT

Thanks to Easter, what wonderful gift does God give us?

Directions: Start at the given letter, move one space in the direction each arrow points. Write the last letter in each sequence in the spaces provided. Then write those answers in order on the blanks below to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.

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

1. C → ↓ ↓ _____
2. H → ↑ → _____
3. V → ↑ ↓ _____
4. I ← ← ↑ _____
5. T → ← ↑ _____
6. P → → ↓ ↓ _____
7. D ↓ → ↓ ↓ _____
8. T → ← ↑ ← _____



Praise be to the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us

_____ into a living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NIV

Answer: new birth



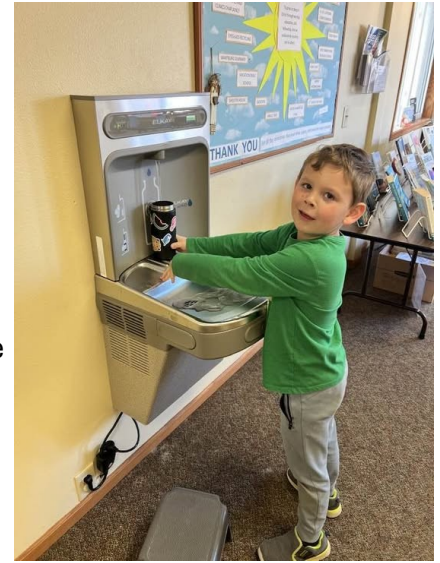
Stewardship News

As part of our efforts to encourage reducing single use plastic items (drink-and-throw-away water bottles) the Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce we have a new water fountain. The new fountain, purchased with Delores Paulsen memorial funds, has a high capacity (ANSI certified) water filter and bottle filling capability.

Thank you to the Paulsen family for their generosity!

We are now working on designing a 'Bethany Logo' to have printed on reusable cloth shopping bags and refillable bottles. We will make these available to the congregation. If you have any ideas or suggestions for the Bethany Logo please pass them along to the Stewardship Committee consisting of: Stacy Beyer, Dave Poppen, Wayne Frauenholtz and Dale Swenson.

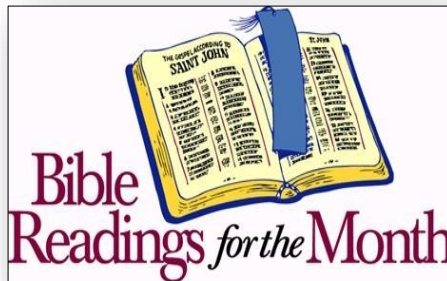
Please bring your refillable bottle and try it out.



April Sunday Bible Readings

The passages below are the assigned readings for April. 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.

April 6, 2025
[Isaiah 43:16-21](#)
[Psalm 126](#)
[Philippians 3:4b-14](#)
[John 12:1-8](#)



April 13, 2025
[Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)
[Psalm 31:9-16](#)
[Philippians 2:5-11](#)
[Luke 22:14—23:56](#)

April 20, 2025
[Acts 10:34-43](#)
[Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#)
[1 Corinthians 15:19-26](#)
[Luke 24:1-12](#)

April 27, 2025
[Acts 5:27-32](#)
[Psalm 118:14-29](#)
[Revelation 1:4-8](#)
[John 20:19-31](#)



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/>



April 2025

View Calendar on our [website](#).

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



Monetary Gifts Report Submitted by Jon Twing

| | February 2025 | | YTD | |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total Gifts | Actual 30,243 | Budget 14,809 | Actual 42,344 | Budget 29,618 |
| Total Expenses | Actual 18,245 | Budget 14,828 | Actual 32,724 | Budget 29,656 |
| Net Revenue | 11,998 | | 9,619 | |

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

Bethany Branches April 2025

Ministry Assistants

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

- 4-6 Beth Kaufman
- 4-13 Jon Twing
- 4-20 John Black
- 4-27 Wayne Frauenholtz

Ministers of Technology

- 4-6 Cole Crosthwaite & Tate Frantz
- 4-13 Jill Taylor
- 4-17 Dale Swenson
- 4-18 Dave Poppen
- 4-20 Paula Casper
- 4-27 Cole Crosthwaite & Tate Frantz

Ministers of Hospitality

- 4-6 Al & Claudia Beyer
- 4-13 Linda & John Black
- 4-20 Del & Sue Hughes
- 4-27 Patsy Ernst

Ministers of Altar Care

Cindy Knoop & Heidi Christensen



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

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You Are Loved!

