

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



Important Dates

May 12

Council meeting 6:30PM

May 17

Synod assembly

May 18

High School Senior Recognition
during worship

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 @blewestbranch

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



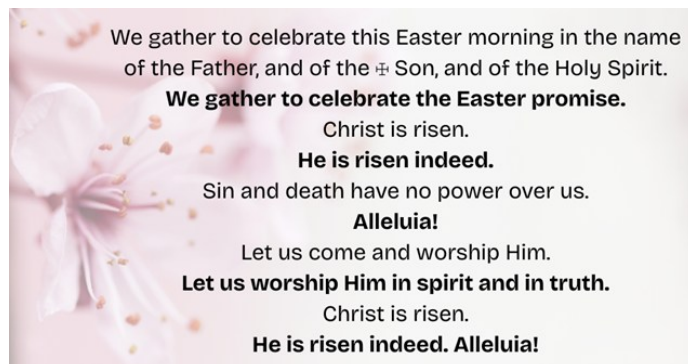
"Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ *He is not here; he has risen!* Remember how
he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to
the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " - Luke 24:5-7



He is risen! Alleluia!

Easter Sunday worship was AMAZING. We distributed all but a few of
the 125 bulletins on hand so our worship space was almost entirely
full of people of the resurrection. Then there was the choir that filled our space with
the beautiful music of Easter giving praise to God for raising Jesus to new life. Then
it was all the young children gathered at the altar to hear that the stone had been
rolled away or was it Rolo-ed away. 36 packages of Rolo candies were made to dis-
tribute to our children and youth and only 1 remained at the end of worship. There
have also been over 500 views on Facebook. God was at work! The risen Jesus was
present! The Holy Spirit was sweeping through our midst filling us with Easter joy!

I always enjoy the Easter
call to worship noted in the
graphic to the right. No
prompt was needed, the
Easter people of God gath-
ered loudly proclaimed the
good news and the Easter
promise. We could almost
hear those gathered in their
homes saying it with us. We
will continue to utilize this
Easter call to worship throughout the season of Easter. It is our reminder the story
did not end on Good Friday. Alleluia!



This is our rallying cry when death seems to have the final say. This is our rallying cry
when all hope seems lost. This is our rallying cry when God seems distant. This is
our rallying cry when it's difficult to see beyond Good Friday. This is our rallying cry
when hatred seems to overcome goodness. This is our rallying cry that reminds us
otherwise.

Just as the women at the empty tomb were sent to proclaim this good news, so are
we. We do that in word and action. We are those wounded hands of Christ showing
up in the world just as he revealed himself to his followers after his resurrection. We
are those wounded hands offering a handshake and a word of peace. We are those
wounded hands no longer bound by death but instead risen and on the move in the
world to proclaim the urgent news there is a God who will never give up on the world
God loves. Proclaim to the world there is always hope. Proclaim to the world the
world Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor Chad



Birthdays

05-01 Olivia Poppen, Cozette Sexton
Rick Paulsen
05-06 Deb Anderson, Brittney Heath
05-09 Tyler Haub, Curt Friis
05-10 Jenna Sexton
05-12 Elijah Fetzer
05-14 Everett Dlh, y
05-15 Claire Kaufman, Matt Whaley,
Bonnie Conner
05-16 Kody Crow
05-17 Candy Madsen, Cadence Heid,
Maggie Paulsen
05-19 Carla Friis
05-21 Linda Black,
Wayne Frauenholtz
05-22 Andrew Niles
05-29 Nicole Zimmerman
05-30 Jim Paulsen



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

He is risen! Alleluia!

Congratulations! Graduates

MILEY SHIELDS, LAYLA SAMUELSON,
DYLAN SCHIELE, COLE CROSTHWAITE
AND TATE FRANTZ



WE'RE ALL PROUD OF YOU

We Need Help!

Our Camera Crew is in need of a few more people to run the video cameras during our Sunday Service.

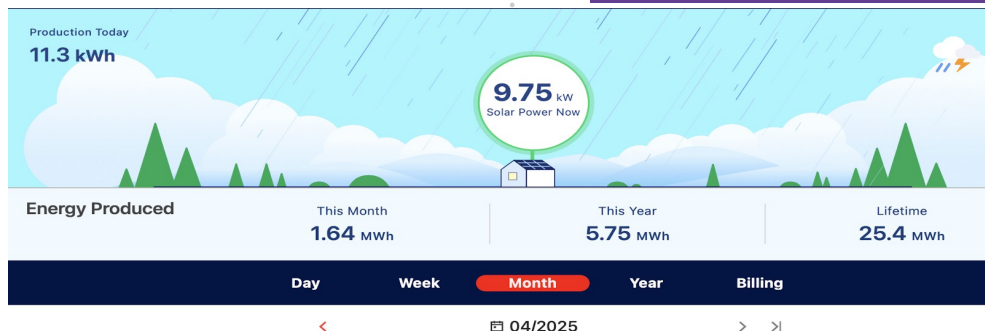
As many people join us in worship online, this is an essential ministry role in our proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ!

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 @
paulacasper@aol.com
(319) 331-9456
Thank you!



Solar Update

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.



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

REMINDER: COUNCIL MINUTES ARE ON OUR WEBSITE

https://wbbethany.org/?page_id=8044

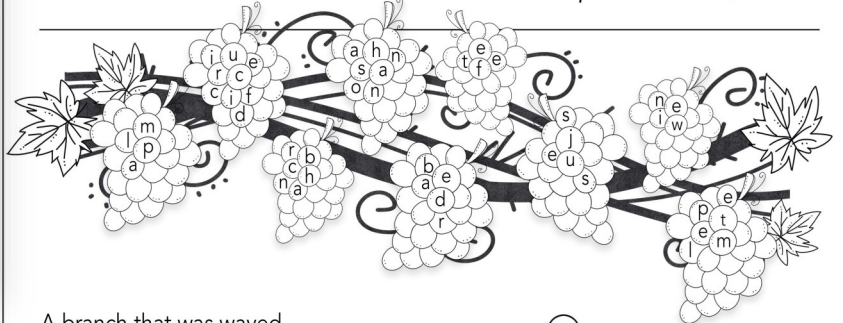




A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



- A branch that was waved _____○
- How Jesus was put to death _____○_____
- A stick attached to the vine _____○_____
- People shouted this to Jesus _____○_____
- Jesus washed these _____○_____
- This was broken and eaten _____○_____
- The Messiah _____○_____
- A drink from grapes _____○_____
- Jesus drove the money changers from here _____○_____

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _____ ;
apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5, NIV



Prayer Around the Cross Photos



Easter Worship Photos





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.

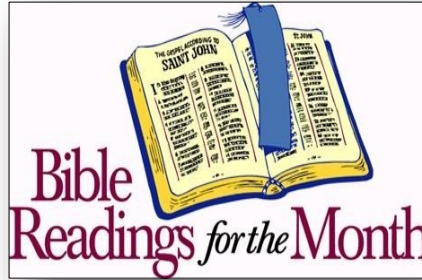
May 4th, 2025

[Acts 9:1-6 \[7-20\]](#)

[Psalm 30](#)

[Revelation 5:11-14](#)

[John 21:1-19](#)



May 11, 2025

[Acts 9:36-43](#)

[Psalm 23](#)

[Revelation 7:9-17](#)

[John 10:22-30](#)

May 18, 2025

[Acts 11:1-18](#)

[Psalm 148](#)

[Revelation 21:1-6](#)

[John 13:31-35](#)

May 25, 2025

[Acts 16:9-15](#)

[Psalm 67](#)

[Revelation 21:10, 22—](#)

[22:5](#)

[John 14:23-29](#)

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.

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

- In my heart...
- An experience of moving from dark to light...
- Power that belongs to God...

Scripture

Scripture Talk

John 20:19-20

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

- If I had been one of the disciples I would have felt...
- Jesus resurrected...
- Belief in Jesus being resurrected...

Scripture Talk



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/>



May 2025

View Calendar on our [website](#).

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



Monetary Gifts Report Submitted by Jon Twing

	March 2025		YTD	
Total Gifts	Actual 13,081	Budget 14,809	Actual 55,426	Budget 44,427
Total Expenses	Actual 19,629	Budget 14,826	Actual 51,954	Budget 44,482
Net Revenue	(6,583)		3,436	

To give an offering visit our website 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

You Are Loved!

Bethany Branches

May 2025



Ministry Assistants

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

5/4 Dave Bahnsen
5/11 Deb Anderson
5/18 Bruce Jeffries
5/25 Beth Kaufman

Ministers of Technology

5/4 Jill Taylor
5/11 Dale Swenson
5/18 Dave Poppen
5/25 Paula Casper

Ministers of Hospitality

5/4 Fetzer Family
5/11 Wayne Frauenholtz
5/18 Kent & Beth Kaufman
5/25 Howard & Terry Moss

Ministers of Altar Care:

Pat Cassabaum



Find us on
Facebook

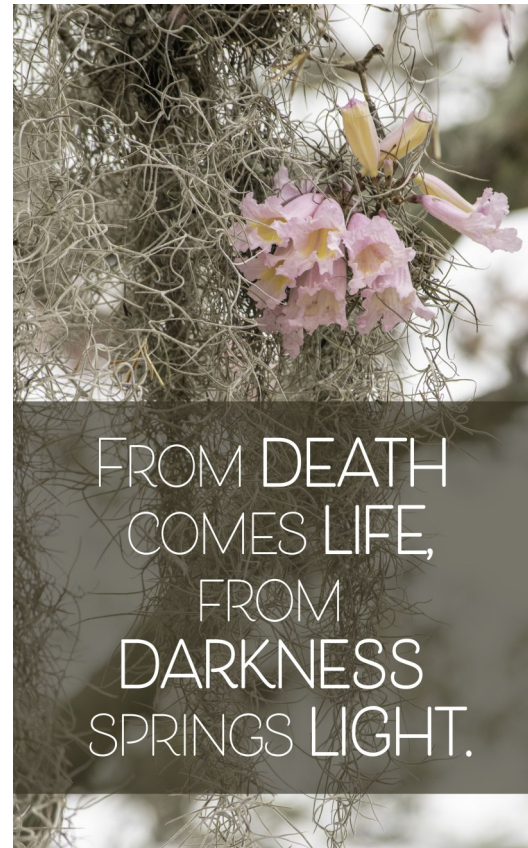
To find Bethany's main page,
search "**Bethany Lutheran
Church (ELCA) West Branch,
Iowa**"

DON'T FORGET TO LIKE US!



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@blcwestbranch

You Are Loved!



FROM DEATH
COMES LIFE,
FROM
DARKNESS
SPRINGS LIGHT.