

Bethany Lutheran Church

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



"We have seen the Lord!"
John 20:25

Important Dates

- 6/1** Paula retirement celebration during worship & fellowship
- 6/8** Pool Party @ Tipton Aquatic Center; 6-8 PM
- 6/9** Council Meeting 6:30 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](#)

Jesus loves you!

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

Dear faithful servants of Christ,

"We have seen the Lord!" That is what the disciples said to Thomas, who wasn't present when the risen Lord presented himself to them. "I have seen the Lord!" Those are the words Mary Magdalene spoke to the disciples after encountering the risen Jesus at the empty tomb. These are words Christ's church continues to proclaim today. It is imperative in a world that so many struggle to see Christ's presence and trust in the promise he is with us.

You never know where Jesus will show up next. Sometimes, we feel his presence when we might least expect it. As we gathered in worship to recognize our graduating high school seniors and pray for God's blessings upon them as they begin a new stage in their life, each was given a mini-Jesus figure. It's a tangible reminder they are never alone and Jesus goes with them.

These small figures are showing up all over. A video from Pastor Trent Tribe went viral on TikTok when little Jesus' showed up all around church one Sunday. Indeed, in his words, "a little Jesus went a long way." I've already encountered a few mini-Jesus figures around church.

The *Faith Forward* team is going to have some fun with mini-Jesus this summer. You never know where Jesus will show up so be on the lookout. Of course, Jesus is present with us every Sunday as the people of God gather around word and sacrament. He is in the meal. He is in the baptismal waters. He is in our words of peace to one another. He is in the spoken word of God. He is in our singing and praying. He is in each of us. But, this summer mini-Jesus will also be showing up so be on the lookout. He won't be alone. There will always be 2 together. Feel free to keep one for yourself and please share the other with someone else who could use a little more Jesus in their life.

We are always striving to pass faith forward. It is about sharing our stories of how God is at work in our lives, our congregation, and in the world. It is about passing faith along to our children and youth helping them grow closer to Jesus Christ, which is part of our mission statement. The *Faith Forward* team will be utilizing mini-Jesus this summer to pass faith forward and create space and time to get just a little more Jesus in our life. So, this summer, the question might be, "Where have you seen the Lord?"

In Christ's peace - Pastor Chad



**Faith
forward**
families passing faith on



June Birthdays

06/01 Sarah Fischer, Phil Hougen
06/02 Ethan Fetzer
06/06 Gavin Hierseman,
Stacy Beyer
06/11 Lee Cassabaum
06/13 Lauren Whaley
06/15 Amanda Whaley
06/17 Jessica Harding
06/17 Curt Casper
06/18 Chad Whaley
William Van Scoyoc
06/20 Lon Liebergen
06/22 Hazel Perkins
06/27 Eleanor White
6/30 Sue Hughes

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

July Birthdays

07/02 Diane Hougen
07/05 Kim Colvin
07/07 Tara Langley
07/08 Lynn Snyder
07/08 Wauthena Noe
07/09 Tim Shields
07/10 Jerry Dodds
07/12 Dan Holstad
07/13 Peggy Jeffries
June Madsen
07/15 Claudia Beyer
Dale Swenson
07/16 Dan Haub
07/19 Roxanne Bahnsen
07/20 Matthew Paulsen,
Kristin Black Casady
07/23 Kelsi Perkins,
Emma Van Scoyoc
07/25 Patsy Ernst
07/30 Carol Roghair
07/31 Derek Fetzer



Congratulations to our graduates: Miley, Dylan, Layla, Cole and Tate. Thanks to Kristen Van Scoyoc who made gift baskets for our seniors. Thanks to everyone who attended worship to celebrate with them. It was a great morning to worship our Lord and Savior and give thanks for the gifts of these young adults. Also, a huge thank you to the choir for singing during worship!



Remember, I am with you always to the end of the age.—Matthew 28:20

Fellowship News

After careful consideration and discussion, it has been decided to discontinue the 4th Sunday Community Meals. Attendance has declined and it has been more difficult to line up individuals to prepare a meal. Thank you to all who have faithfully served or attended a meal over the years! There were many people fed physically, but perhaps more importantly was being fed socially and emotionally through the stories that were shared and the fellowship that was had. The fellowship team is taking time to ponder new fellowship opportunities. We can announce the widely popular fish fry, hosted by Del and Sue Hughes, will continue and a fall date will be made known in the future.

Church Staff

Pastor

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

Admin. Assistant

Heidi Christensen
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

THANK YOU!

As another year of Sunday school and youth faith formation concludes, let us thank our teachers!
Kristin McElhinney, Stacy Beyer, Scott & Amber Marsh



SUMMER POOL PARTY

JUNE 8

6-8 PM

Tipton Aquatic Center

Bethany Lutheran Church

VBS 2025

July 14-17
5:30-8 PM

Preschool - Grade 6

Register for Vacation Bible School at: <https://tinyurl.com/54em24r3>



Let the little children come to me...for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.—Matthew 19:14





A Father's Day Reflection: Amanda's Journey of Hope and Stability

This Father's Day, we're honored the powerful story of Amanda, a young woman whose life has been transformed over the past 13 years through the unwavering dedication of LSI's Host Home program and the compassionate care of Megan D.

Amanda came to LSI with many challenges. With a limited IQ and emotional struggles rooted in past trauma, she had difficulty connecting with others and managing daily life. Before LSI, she lived in institutional settings, heavily medicated, and unable to thrive. Her life was a series of difficult chapters, until she found her match in LSI and Megan.

Megan has been a steady and committed presence in Amanda's life. With unmatched patience, professionalism, and deep care, Megan helped guide Amanda from a place of instability to one of emotional balance. What was once a life of uncertainty is now one of structure, safety, and growth thanks to the loving environment of a Host Home.

Today, Amanda lives with "Momma Mavis," her dedicated Host Home provider, who gives her 24/7 care and inclusion in family life, appointments, and even special needs art classes. The flare-ups that once led to hospital visits are now a thing of the past. Amanda is thriving, living proof that compassion and commitment can change a life.

As Bruce C., Amanda's adoptive father, says: *"LSI and Megan never wavered. I call this stabilization in Amanda's life. The individual care from a non-family member is needed beyond words. Thanks to Mavis and Megan, Amanda's quality of life would not be possible without the LSI Host Home program."*

Amanda, the 25th foster child welcomed by the C. family and their third adoption, is still on her journey and we're honored to walk alongside her.

This Father's Day, we celebrate all the fathers, families, caregivers, and advocates who believe in second chances, and who help make stories like Amanda's possible.



God's work.
Our hands.



I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit. - John 15:16

Save the date!

September 7, 2025

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's annual day of service "[God's work, Our hands](#)" will take place Sunday, September 7th. If you have any ideas for projects, please contact Darla Crosthwaite.

Faith Formation and Fellowship Opportunities

QUILTERS MEET
EVERY THURSDAY
AT NOON IN GREAT
HALL. PLEASE JOIN US
IN MAKING THESE
MUCH APPRECIATED
QUILTS!



If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples.—John 8:31



Monetary Gifts Report Submitted by Jon Twing

	April 2025		YTD	
Total Gifts	Actual 12,433	Budget 14,809	Actual 67,859	Budget 59,236
Total Expenses	Actual 14,469	Budget 14,822	Actual 66,423	Budget 59,304
Net Revenue	(2,036)		(1,436)	

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.



June 2025

View Calendar on our [website](#).

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

July 2025

View Calendar on our [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:30am Worship (Also streamed live on Facebook) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	30	1	2 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:00pm Choir Practice	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	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 5:30pm Vacation Bible School 6:30pm Council Meeting	15 5:30pm Vacation Bible School	16 7:00am Men's Study Group 5:30pm Vacation Bible School 6:00pm Choir Practice	17 6:00am Women's Study 12:00pm Quilters 5:30pm Vacation Bible School	18	19
20 9:30am 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	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	28	29	30 7:00am Men's Study Group 6:00pm Choir Practice	31 6:00am Women's Study 12:00pm Quilters	1	2



June Sunday Bible Readings

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

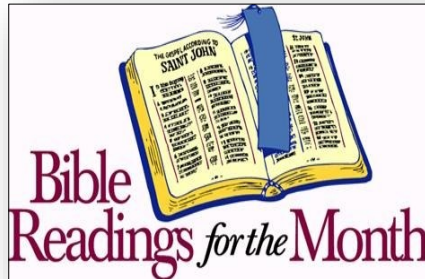
June 1, 2025

[Acts 16:16-34](#)

[Psalm 97](#)

[Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21](#)

[John 17:20-26](#)



June 8, 2025

[Acts 2:1-21](#)

[Psalm 104:24-34, 35b](#)

[Romans 8:14-17](#)

[John 14:8-17 \[25-27\]](#)

June 15, 2025

[Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31](#)

[Psalm 8](#)

[Romans 5:1-5](#)

[John 16:12-15](#)

June 22, 2025

[Isaiah 65:1-9](#)

[Psalm 22:19-28](#)

[Galatians 3:23-29](#)

[Luke 8:26-39](#)

June 29, 2025

[1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21](#)

[Psalm 16](#)

[Galatians 5:1, 13-25](#)

[Luke 9:51-62](#)

July Sunday Bible Readings

July 6, 2025

[Isaiah 66:10-14](#)

[Psalm 66:1-9](#)

[Galatians 6:\[1-6\] 7-16](#)

[Luke 10:1-11, 16-20](#)



Spend time with God this summer

July 13, 2025

[Deuteronomy 30:9-14](#)

[Psalm 25:1-10](#)

[Colossians 1:1-14](#)

[Luke 10:25-37](#)

July 20, 2025

[Genesis 18:1-10a](#)

[Psalm 15](#)

[Colossians 1:15-28](#)

[Luke 10:38-42](#)

July 27, 2025

[Genesis 18:20-32](#)

[Psalm 138](#)

[Colossians 2:6-15 \[16-19\]](#)

[Luke 11:1-13](#)



**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/>

Ministry Assistants

JUNE

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

6-1 Stacy Beyer
6-8 Dave Bahnsen
6-15 Del Hughes
6-22 Pat Cassabaum
6-29 Paula Casper

Ministers of Technology

6-1 Cole C. & Tate F.
6-8 Jill Taylor
6-15 Dale Swensen
6-22 Dave Poppen
6-29 Paula Casper

Ministers of Hospitality

6-1 Dave & Kami Poppen
6-8 Jon & Laura Twing
6-15 Al & Claudia Beyer
6-22 Nancy Bruns
6-29 Stacy Beyer

Ministers of Altar Care:

Scott & Amber Marsh



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Church (ELCA) West Branch,
Iowa**"

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You Are Loved!

Ministry Assistants

JULY

Ministers of Proclamation (Lectors)

7-6 Phil Hougén
7-13 Brad Kinsinger
7-20 Kami Poppen
7-27 Patsy Ernst

Ministers of Technology

7-6 Cole C. & Tate F.
7-13 Jill Taylor
7-20 Dale Swensen
7-27 Dave Poppen

Ministers of Hospitality

7-6 John & Linda Black
7-13 Del & Sue Hughes
7-20 Patsy Ernst
7-2 Fetzner family

Ministers of Altar Care:

John & Linda Black

Bethany Branches
June/July 2025

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