

# BETHANY BRANCHES WEEKLY

MARCH 31, 2026

[www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

It's a busy week and there are three opportunities to worship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Invite a friend or neighbor and let's fill the pews as we journey with Christ to the cross and then stand with the faithful women at the empty tomb Easter morning joyfully proclaiming, "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!"

Newsletter

Worship  
With Us!

Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)  
235 S 2<sup>nd</sup> St., West Branch, IA  
[www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)

*You are loved!*

### Maundy Thursday

6:30pm

Lord's Supper Celebrated

### Good Friday

6:30pm

Service of the Shadows

### Easter Sunday

9:30am

Lord's Supper Celebrated  
Bethany Choir Singing

All services streamed live via our  
Facebook page.

## CONTACT US

Bethany Lutheran Church  
235 South 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
PO Box 236  
West Branch, IA 52358  
(319) 643-5998

Pastor Chad Whaley  
[pastor@wbbethany.org](mailto:pastor@wbbethany.org)

Heidi Christensen  
Administrative Assistant  
[blcsecretary@lcom.net](mailto:blcsecretary@lcom.net)  
Office hours: Tuesday &  
Thursday 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Find us on Facebook**  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
(ELCA) West Branch

## ELCA PRAYER RESOURCE

*Prayer Ventures* is a monthly resource that includes prayer prompts for each day. You can find the April 2026 edition [here](#).

## GIVE GOD 10

Take 10 minutes to read Sunday's upcoming gospel and reflect on some questions or pray the daily prayer. Access [upcoming copies](#) now.

## BIRTHDAYS

### MARCH 30 - APRIL 5

03/31 Brian Roth  
04/01 Sharon Schubert  
04/01 Jacob Webb  
04/04 Asher Goodman

*If your birthday is not listed, please contact Heidi so we can update our member database.*



## COUNCIL MINUTES

Council minutes can be viewed on our [website](#). In the black menu bar on the home page, click "[Council Minutes](#)".

Visit our [online calendar](#).



# ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN!

## HOLY WEEK CHILDREN'S BULLETINS

Visit our [website](#) for children's bulletins that can be used at home if you can't make it to every worship service or if you are traveling. Copies will also be available at church. There are also some puzzles there.



### ELCA UPDATES

Stay up to date with happenings in the ELCA by visiting their website at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

### SYNOD UPDATES



Southeastern Iowa  
— SYNOD —  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Stay informed about events and happenings within the Southeastern Iowa Synod by subscribing to their [weekly newsletter](#).

## MONETARY GIFTS REPORT

February 2026	Actual	Budget	Year to Date	Actual	Budget
Total Gifts	\$13,106	\$16,099	Total Gifts	\$34,574	\$32,198
Total Expenses	\$14,706	\$16,035	Total Expenses	\$29,570	\$32,069
Net Revenue	\$(1,599)		Net Revenue	\$5,004	

Thank you for your faithful and generous gifts that sustain our ministries!

[Give Online Now](#)

## MARCH MINISTRY ASSISTANTS

### Minister of Proclamation (Lector)

- 4/2 Alan Beyer
- 4/3 Beth Kaufman
- 4/5 Jon Twing
- 4/12 John Black
- 4/19 Wayne Frauenholtz
- 4/26 Dave Bahnsen

### Minister of Hospitality (Greeter)

- 4/5 John & Linda Black
- 4/12 Nancy Bruns
- 4/19 Jon & Laura Twing
- 4/26 Anne Fetzer

### Minister of Technology

- 4/2 Paula Casper
- 4/3 Kent Kaufman
- 4/5 Dave Poppen
- 4/12 Darla & Kevin Crosthwaite
- 4/19 Paula Casper
- 4/26 Jill Taylor

**Minister of Altar Care**  
Cindy Knoop

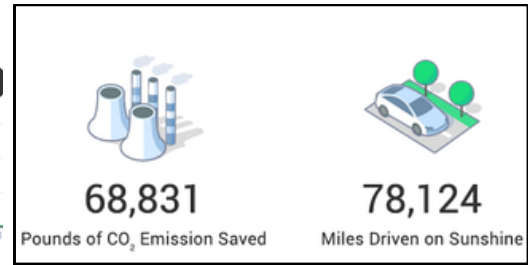
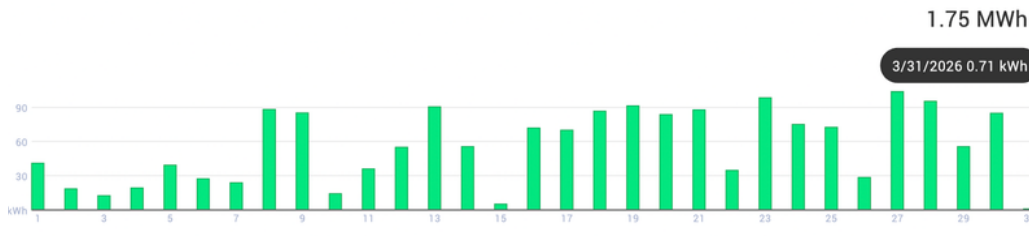


**Minister of Food & Fellowship**  
4/5 Easter Sunday  
4/12 John & Linda Black  
4/19 Please sign up!  
4/26 Please sign up!

We are always looking for additional ministry assistants. Contact Heidi to be added to the list.

## SOLAR UPDATES

Below are two graphics pertaining to solar energy output at the church. The first graphic shows daily output for March. The second graphic on the right shows lifetime environmental benefits of the system.



## DEVOTIONAL APP

[d365](#) is an app and online devotional experience produced by Passport, Inc., with youth and young adults in mind. As the name implies, there is a devotional for every day in the year. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is one of four denominational sponsors of d365. Devotions feature a reflective five-step process: Pause, Listen, Think, Pray, Go. Find it in the App Store or Google Play today and give it a try or visit the website (<https://d365.org>). Also located on their website is a devotional titled, "[Intentional Conversations for Joyful Families](#)." Check it out now.



## PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS

Below are a few photos taken at our final meal and prayer around the cross service on March 25. Photos taken by Courtney Heid. It was an amazing turnout each Wednesday as we took time to slow down.



Visit our [online calendar](#).

## HOLY WEEK / EASTER PUZZLES

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

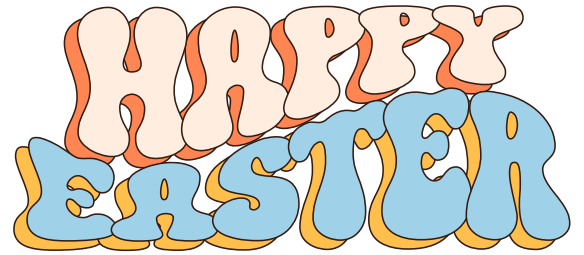
  

supper	empty	tomb	cross	Passover
Galilee	deny	fear	Mary	great joy
Pilate	example	tell	Peter	feet
love	angel	Judas	wash	risen
Jesus	towel	Alleluia	crucify	betray

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

fear	Peter	risen	angel
love	towel	feet	wash
joy	Alleluia	cross	Jesus



## Holy Week / Easter Matching Worksheet

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What Jesus died on?</li> <li>2. What God did on Easter?</li> <li>3. Who denied knowing Jesus 3 times?</li> <li>4. Who betrayed Jesus?</li> <li>5. Jesus did this to his friends feet.</li> <li>6. Who does Jesus tell us to love?</li> <li>7. Who first saw Jesus alive?</li> <li>8. A word said during worship on Easter.</li> <li>9. What we call the day Jesus died?</li> <li>10. The day before Jesus died.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Maundy Thursday</li> <li>B. Alleluia</li> <li>C. cross</li> <li>D. women</li> <li>E. Judas</li> <li>F. Peter</li> <li>G. one another</li> <li>H. washed</li> <li>I. Raised Jesus from the dead</li> <li>J. Good Friday</li> </ol> |
|--|---|