

BETHANY BRANCHES WEEKLY

MAY 26, 2026

www.wbbethany.org

Pond Party

JUNE 14 - 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Where: Residence of Bonnie Conner
(rural West Branch)

When: June 14, 6:00-8:00 PM
(Meet at church at 5:45 to carpool)

What: Fishing and Fun
(Bring a pole or spare poles available)

Who: Children, youth, and families

If planning to attend,
contact the office to RSVP.



Newsletter

CONTACT US

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

Pastor Chad Whaley
pastor@wbbethany.org

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

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

COUNCIL MINUTES

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

WORSHIP RECORDINGS

Recordings of past worship services can be located on our [YouTube channel](#). There is also a link to the channel on the home page of our website (see the right side under "Worship with us".)

BIRTHDAYS

MAY 25-31

5/29 Nicki Zimmerman
5/30 Jim Paulsen

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Visit our online [calendar](#).

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Stay up to date with some of our partners in ministry below.

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY



Check out the ministry at the University of Iowa on their [website](#).

LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA (LSI)

Visit the [website](#) of LSI to learn more and stay up to date on this ministry partner.



SYNOD UPDATES



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



ELCA UPDATES

Stay up to date with happenings in the ELCA by visiting their website at www.elca.org

MONETARY GIFTS REPORT

Submitted by Nancy Bruns, Treasurer

April 2026 Total
Gifts
Total Expenses
Net Revenue

Actual	Budget
\$23,450	\$16,099
\$20,279	\$16,035
\$4,170	

Year to Date
Total Gifts
Total Expenses
Net Revenue

Actual	Budget
\$72,273	\$64,396
\$73,446	\$64,126
\$(1,173)	

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

[Give Online Now](#)

JUNE MINISTRY ASSISTANTS

Minister of Proclamation (Lector)

6/7 Del Hughes
6/14 Pat Cassabaum
6/21 Paula Casper
6/28 Phil Hougen

Minister of Hospitality (Greeter)

6/7 Del & Sue Hughes
6/14 Alan & Claudia Beyer
6/21 John & Linda Black
6/28 Nancy Bruns

Minister of Technology

6/7 Jill Taylor
6/14 Dale Swenson
6/21 Dave Poppen
6/28 Kent Kaufman

Minister of Altar Care

Marsh Family

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

*Thanks For
Your Help*

Minister of Food & Fellowship

6/7 Marsh Family
6/14 Opportunity to assist!
6/21 Opportunity to assist!
6/28 Opportunity to assist!

If you can help, let Heidi know.

SOLAR UPDATES

Below are two graphics pertaining to solar energy output at the church. The first graphic shows monthly output thus far in 2026. The second graphic on the right shows lifetime environmental benefits of the system.



SOUTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly was held May 15-16 at First Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids. Our voting delegates were Paula Casper and Dave Bahnsen. We are grateful for their presence and service. The assembly gathered under the theme "Peace be with you." Prayer shawls and quilts were made by congregations across the synod and given to voting delegates to be used throughout our time together as a way of being wrapped in the peace of Christ. Darla Crosthwaite made a beautiful quilt on behalf of Bethany (See photo below of Bishop Current, Paula, and Dave). Thank you very much Darla! One important piece of business was the election of bishop. On the first ballot, Bishop Amy Current was reelected to a second six-year term. You can read the press release from the ELCA [here](#). If you have questions about the assembly, please see Paula, Dave, or Pastor Chad.



BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY VIDEO

At the synod assembly, a video was shown from ELCA presiding bishop, Yehiel Curry. You can view the video titled "A Connected Church" [here](#). You may also read his letter of greetings [here](#).

2027 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 2027 Southeastern Iowa Synod assembly will be held May 14-15 at St. Mark Lutheran Church in West Des Moines. It's not too early to consider serving as a voting delegate.

WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

A list of the most needed supplies at the West Branch Food Pantry is located just inside the doors from the parking lot. Thanks to Neil and Chris for producing this list each month. Presently, the pantry is in urgent need of boxed meals (e.g., Hamburger Helper), Toilet Paper, and jellies and jams. Thanks for your ongoing support and donations! Donations can be placed in the tub below the "Needed Items" list.



Visit our [online calendar](#).



HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION

During worship May 17 we honored our high school graduates and celebrated with them during fellowship. Below are the baskets of small gifts and supplies presented to them. Thanks to Jess for assembling them and your financial gifts so we can provide these.



FAITH FORWARD RESOURCE

As another year of learning comes to a close, use some "End-of-School Year Sentence Sparkers" to foster family faith conversations. Find the resource on our [website](#).



TUESDAY MORNING PRAYERS

Join Heidi and Pastor Chad for a short time of prayer Tuesday morning at 10:00 AM. Four of us were gathered today praying for members in our community and beyond. All are welcome to attend. If you have a prayer request for the group, please email Pastor Chad (pastor@wbbethany.org).



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.



ELCA PRAYER RESOURCE

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