

# BETHANY BRANCHES WEEKLY

**JUNE 23, 2026**

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

## NEWSLETTER UPDATE

There will not be a newsletter next week as Pastor Chad will be out of the office. Therefore, this week's newsletter includes items normally located in the newsletter on the final Tuesday of the month.



Newsletter

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for Vacation Bible School July 20-23. This year's program is, "Illumination Station: Shining a light on who Jesus really is." It is open to children entering preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade this fall. Registration is now available by clicking [here](#) or on the graphic below.



## CONTACT US

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

## BIRTHDAYS

**JUNE 22 - JULY 5**

6/22 Hazel Perkins  
6/27 Eleanor White  
6/30 Sue Hughes  
7/2 Diane Hougen  
7/5 Kim Colvin

## GLORY TO GOD!

## 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".)

**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](#)".

**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](http://www.elca.org)

## MONETARY GIFTS REPORT

Submitted by Nancy Bruns, Treasurer

#### May 2026

|                |          |          |
|----------------|----------|----------|
| Gifts          | \$13,019 | \$16,099 |
| Total Expenses | \$13,952 | \$16,035 |
| Net Revenue    | \$(933)  |          |

#### Year to Date

|                |           |          |
|----------------|-----------|----------|
| Total Gifts    | \$85,292  | \$80,495 |
| Total Expenses | \$87,399  | \$80,149 |
| Net Revenue    | \$(2,106) |          |

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

[Give Online Now](#)

## JULY MINISTRY ASSISTANTS

#### Minister of Proclamation (Lector)

7/5 Brad Kinsinger  
7/12 Kami Poppen  
7/19 Patsy Ernst  
7/26 Jill Barnhart

#### Minister of Hospitality (Greeter)

7/5 Jon & Laura Twing  
7/12 Wayne Frauenholtz  
7/19 Linda & John Black  
7/26 Howard & Terry Moss

#### Minister of Technology

7/5 Jill Taylor  
7/12 Paula Casper  
7/19 Jill Taylor  
7/26 Dale Swenson

#### Minister of Altar Care

John & Linda Black

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

  
*Thanks For  
Your Help*

#### Minister of Food & Fellowship

7/5 Opportunity to assist!  
7/12 Marsh Family  
7/19 Opportunity to assist!  
7/26 Opportunity to assist!

*If you can help,  
sign up in the Great Hall.*

## TUESDAY MORNING PRAYERS

Join us for a time of prayer every Tuesday at 10:00 AM. A small group gathers to give thanks, pray, and share joys and concerns with one another. All are welcome to attend. If you have a prayer request for the group, please email Pastor Chad.

**REJOICE  
ALWAYS,  
PRAY  
CONTINUALLY,  
GIVE THANKS  
IN ALL  
CIRCUMSTANCES.**

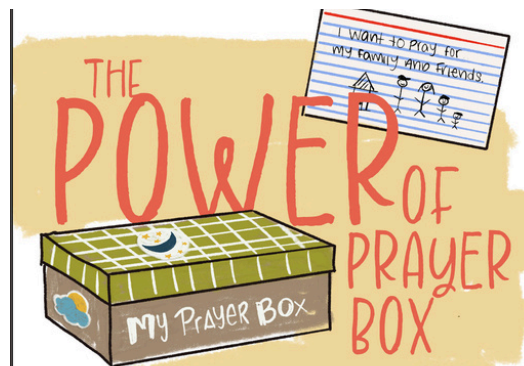
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV

## POWER OF PRAYER BOX

See the graphic to the right for a fun summer project to assist your prayer life and journey on the way with Jesus. Send us a photo of your prayer box and we may post it online or in a future newsletter.

## HYMN SING SUNDAY

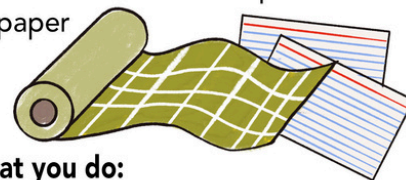
Join us July 12 for another Sunday in which we celebrate the gift of music in assisting our worship and praise of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. You will have the opportunity to sing a verse or two from your favorite hymn.



Create a simple and meaningful prayer box your family can use to share requests and pray together all week long.

### What you need:

- Shoebox with lid
- Wrapping paper or decorative paper
- Scissors & tape
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers and other craft material (optional)
- Pens or pencils
- Index cards or small pieces of paper



### What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a gift, wrapping the lid separately so it can be opened.
2. As a family, decorate the box with drawings, favorite Bible verses, photos, or stickers.
3. Place the box somewhere central, like the kitchen or living room.
4. Keep index cards and pens nearby. When someone has a prayer request, they can write or draw it and drop it in.
5. Throughout the week, take turns praying over the requests as a family, or have a parent lead prayer time.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

—Colossians 4:2, NIV

# June BAPTISMS

We celebrated baptisms on back-to-back Sundays this month during worship.

June 7th, baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit was Addie. She is the daughter of Jordan and Samantha Miller. Sponsors were Mallory Knoop and Clay Vieth. (See photo on left.)

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit was Mackenzie. She is the daughter of J.J. and Jennie Wombacher. Sponsor was Emmerson Thomas. (See photo on right.)



## ON THE WAY

*On the Way* is a weekly opportunity for a brief spiritual pause or simple way to share faith and prayer around the dinner table or in the car. It is posted every Monday on our Facebook page and website. It is focused around a verse from the upcoming Sunday readings. Check out this week's *On the Way* below.



Prompt:  
I can welcome others by...



Prayer:  
Welcoming God, help us make room for others with kindness and joy. Teach us to share your love through open hearts and caring actions. Amen.

WHOEVER WELCOMES YOU  
WELCOMES ME, AND WHOEVER  
WELCOMES ME WELCOMES THE  
ONE WHO SENT ME.  
MATTHEW 10:40

## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT - FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to the Stewardship Committee, along with the assistance of Neil and Chris Korsmo, for providing the information below. Thanks to Dave and Kami Poppen for creating the graphic! Thanks to all who have supported this ministry faithfully over so many years. We are making a difference in our community!

### How 2025 Stewardship Contributions help West Branch Pantry



23+ Families Fed Weekly

Church donations also helped 40 families during government shutdown

### Volunteers



Church members volunteer monthly to sort and distribute food donations.

~300 Bags Donated



Bags include hygiene products, paper products, and canned goods

### Thank you!



"We appreciate Bethany Lutheran Church for being our official drop off location and transporting donations to the pantry - this is amazing for us.

This Christmas season I had multiple families come forward to express thanks and tell me that they don't know what they would do without the pantry."

Food Pantry Director  
Deb Patty

### Food Pantry

Open first, second, and fourth Tuesday of each month as well as the third Saturday of each month

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OPEN

## POND PARTY

The first ever Pond Party was held June 14<sup>th</sup> at the residence of Bonnie Conner. It was a beautiful evening to catch some fish, have hot dogs and S'mores, fun and fellowship. Thanks to Jessica Fonseca and Alan Beyer for their efforts planning and preparing for the night! Thanks to John Hierseman for his fishing expertise and equipment! Thanks to all the families, children, and youth that attended! Thanks to Bonnie for welcoming us! Every child caught at least one fish, if not more. All fish were returned to the pond. Enjoy some photos below or watch a short video compilation of all photos taken from the night by clicking [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.



### ELCA PRAYER RESOURCE

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