

# Bethany Beacon

APRIL 2020



**Easter Sunday is on April 12.**

*Even in the midst of troubling times, we still celebrate our risen Lord!*

If we do not gather in person, please check your mail or use the “Worship Resources” tab at [bethanycr.org](http://bethanycr.org) so you can worship with us from home. If you would like to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, see page 4 for instructions to sign up for a time slot.

*We  
Believe*

**March 25**

We believe He suffered.

**April 1**

We believe in the Lord and giver of life.

Join us for the final two “We Believe” midweek Lenten services. Materials will be available online for home worship on the “Worship Resources” tab at [bethanycr.org](http://bethanycr.org). For those without internet access, service guides will be mailed. Please contact the church office at 364-6026 if you would like to be added to the mailing list.



**Bethany**  
Lutheran Church

*Living and Sharing God's Love*

*And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.* – I Corinthians 15:17-20

Writing to the Christians in the city Corinth around the year 55 A.D., St. Paul tells them that if Jesus has not been raised from the dead, then everything Christians believe in and everything that the Church does is a waste of time. Even worse than this, if Christ has not been raised, then those who have died trusting in Him will have died in vain and have been lost! But, the fact is, Christ has been raised from the dead. And for Paul, and those first Christians in Corinth, and for every person who has ever been worried or scared in this fallen world, Christ's resurrection changes everything.

As God's people living today, we need to keep this in mind as we face the current COVID-19 crisis that, by all accounts, will only be getting worse in the days ahead. (Though, let us continue to pray that this will not be so!) No matter what the future holds for us, however, remember that since Paul wrote those words almost 2000 years ago, the Christians have faced countless times of trouble and danger. There have been wars, persecution, famine, depressions, and yes – even plagues – in the past that God has graciously sustained His people through before. And no small part of God sustaining providence was the hope that Christians have because of the resurrection. Because Christ is risen, we know that the ultimate victory over sin and death already has been given to us.

Will there be difficult and terrible times for God's people? Of course, there always have been and look around at the world right now! But that has never meant that our gracious God is not in control. Rather it means we live in a world that has been ruined by sin and face those consequences daily. Persecuted, starving, and sick Christians have known this for centuries, yet they also knew that Christ had died for their sins and rose again. With this faith and trust in Jesus they lived and died courageously with hope in this life and the one to come.

As we find encouragement from those who have come before us, we must not forget that the generations to come will likewise look back to us in this time of trouble and uncertainty. And when they do, what will they see and remember? Will they see that God's people turned away from Him in fear and in to-

wards themselves? Will they see that love – for God and our neighbors – was another casualty of the virus? May God never let this happen! Instead, let our children, grandchildren, and generations to come see:

- That we did not turn away from God, but turned to Him in repentance. That we daily confessed our sins and found comfort and hope in Christ's death and resurrection for our forgiveness.
- That we did not turn away from Him, but turned to God in trusting prayer. And when we didn't have our own words to pray, we prayed the Lord's Prayer as He taught us.
- That we did not stop gathering for worship out of fear or to neglect God's blessings through His Word and Sacrament, but rather because we were willing to sacrifice these benefits to ourselves so that we may love our neighbor and community by slowing the spread of the disease.
- That we did not neglect one another, but rather loved our neighbors all the more by checking in on them, going to the store for them, washing our hands for them, sewing masks for them, and in any other way that God put before us.
- And finally, that Bethany continued to *Live and Share God's Love* using all of the resources God had given to us in creative ways so that everyone could continue to be blessed through the proclamation of the Word of God and the administration of the Sacraments.

These and other God-pleasing things are what I am confident that generations to come will see when they look back at us during this time. For although what some of the ministries and activities of Bethany will look like in the future remain uncertain to us, Christ is risen! And He is still in control of the Church and the world just as He was when we were gathering for church services and *Living and Sharing God's Love* together. Therefore, let us have the confidence of Paul, and all the faithful Christians that have come before us, and trust the Lord to see us through the times of trouble we ourselves now face. For He who calls you is faithful, and He will surely do it (I Thessalonians 5:24). Amen.

In Christ's Service,

✝ Pastor Erickson

## Thanksgiving:

Noah (grandson of \*Bonnie Bubke)- Born 2/26  
 Mike (relative of \*Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after surgery  
 Justina (daughter of \*Angie Yuza)- Pregnancy  
 Carol (mother of \*Kris Larson)- Improved health  
 Brian (son in law of \*Mary Nanke)- Health issues  
 Mark (brother of \*Lori Dohrmann)- Health issues  
 James (grandson of \*Carol Grimminger)- Recovering  
 Deb (niece of \*Carol Grimminger)- Recovering after cancer  
 Kevin (brother of \*Laura Holt)- Completed cancer treatment  
 Bryan (brother of \*Trisha Brink)- Completed cancer treatment  
 Steve (brother of \*Barb Miller)- Health issues improved

## Illness, injuries, health issues:

Joyce (mother of \*A. Segebart)- Recovering after surgery  
 Gene (husband of \*Karen Schmidt)- Recovering after surgery  
 Carol (mother of \*Angie Pfeil)- Recovering after fall  
 Andrew (relative of \*Brenda Heims)- Health issues  
 Jennifer (daughter of \*Pat Krekeler)- Life challenges  
 Jane (daughter of \*Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after surgery  
 Jeff Mellgren (former member)- Recovering after stroke  
 Steve (brother of \*L Patten)- Health issues  
 Hayden (relatives of \*Bonnie Bubke)- Brain disorder  
 Gwendolyn- (friend of \*Karen Swanson)- Terminal illness  
 Susan (niece of \*Bonnie Bubke)- Health issues  
 Pastor Renfro (Trinity)- Health issues  
 Mike (friend of \*Joel Knutson)- Recovering after hospitalization  
 Steve (friend of \*Pete Larson)- Recovering after stroke  
 John (nephew of \*Bonnie Bubke)- Health issues  
 Ruth (friend of \*Velma Ziesemer)- Health issues  
 David (relative of \*Melissa Loney)- Health issues  
 Rod (nephew of \*Bonnie Bubke)- Parkinson's Disease

**Submit a prayer:** Email: nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com or call the church office at 319-364-6026

## Homebound members of Bethany:

\*Rollis Deetz- at home  
 \*Shirley Hansen- at home  
 \*Wayne & Darlene Schilling- at home  
 Candi Engel- at home  
 \*Ann Meyer- Terrace Glen, Marion  
 \*Del & \*Dee Block- Summit Pointe, Marion

## Cancer:

Jim (friend of \*Sheryl Knutson)- cancer surgery  
 Oz (father of \*Dathan Hinrichs & \*Josie Hester)- cancer treatment  
 Carol (sister of \*Lori Dohrmann)- cancer treatment  
 Marlene (aunt of \*Lori Myer)- cancer  
 Tony (friend of \*Mike Thomas)- cancer  
 David (relative of \*Hasses)- cancer  
 Gene (husband of \*N Owens)- cancer treatment  
 Julie (friend of \*Brenda Heims)- cancer  
 Janet (friend of \*Brenda Heims)-cancer  
 Judy (godmother of \*Jim Novitch)- cancer treatment  
 Chad (son of \*Vicki Huschka)- leukemia  
 Rita (friend of \*Shirley Kellogg)- cancer

## Grief, family and friends of:

Jason (son of \*Cindy Broadwater)- Died 3/7  
 Pastor Louie Gallo (friend of \*Ackermans)- Died 3/7  
 Alice (mother of \*Kerry McGraw)- Died 3/3  
 Richard Pegum (former member)- Died 2/11  
 Mary (sister of \*Wayne Schilling)- Died 2/7

## Safety:

Tailor (grandson of \*Kim Neuhaus)- Marines, Deployed  
 Charlie (grandson of \*Kim Neuhaus)- Army, Deployed

## Local/National/World:

Victims of Floods, Hurricanes, Fires & Disasters  
 Local, State and National Leaders

## Bethany Prayers

Do you have prayer requests? Let us know if you would like your request added to the prayer list, the email prayer chain, or both. Call 364-6026 or email requests to nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.

## Holy Communion



For those who desire to receive Holy Communion during this time, Bethany will keep to its regular communion schedule of having Communion on the first and third Sunday of each month (and on Easter). However, until we are able to worship together, we are asking communicants to sign-up for 15-minute time slots each Sunday morning (please keep your group to a maximum of 8 people). A link to the sign-up sheet for each Sunday will be sent out on each preceding Monday. For those without internet access, you may call the church beginning on Monday to reserve a time. When you arrive at your designated time, communicants will come to the altar rail, be led through corporate confession and absolution, hear a brief Scripture reading, read the Nicene Creed and the Lord's Prayer, see the consecration of the elements, and then receive the Sacrament. This of course is not mandatory, and those who are not feeling well are encouraged to stay home and contact Pastor Erickson directly should they need Communion.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

<b>4/1</b>	Madison Rinderknecht	<b>4/11</b>	Janet Hoech	<b>4/21</b>	Kim Neuhaus
<b>4/4</b>	John Ackerman	<b>4/13</b>	Katheryn Holtz	<b>4/24</b>	Ray McGraw
<b>4/6</b>	Karen Schmidt	<b>4/15</b>	Carol Edwards	<b>4/25</b>	Abby Bogner
<b>4/8</b>	Lorna Fischer	<b>4/16</b>	Lynn Madsen		Bonnie Bubke
	Gabe Fountain		Evan Ranbarger	<b>4/26</b>	Joe Milbach
<b>4/9</b>	Al Bachman	<b>4/17</b>	Kim McGinnis	<b>4/27</b>	Marlys Jaspersen
	Daphne Dohrmann	<b>4/18</b>	Steve Hanchera		Karen Swalley
	Larry Easler	<b>4/20</b>	Carol Grimminger	<b>4/28</b>	Michelle Hedtke
	JJ Theriault		Jamie Larson	<b>4/30</b>	Darren Bogner
<b>4/10</b>	Marcus Smith		Colin Vande Weerd		Sandy Thorington

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

<b>4/4</b>	Phil & Shirley Hoppe	<b>4/13</b>	John & Nancy Lee Siebenmann
<b>4/8</b>	Craig & Renee Riffey	<b>4/24</b>	Phil & Michelle Hedtke



**Larry and Sue Kroemer** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 28.



This month we will be reading through nearly all of St. Paul's letters, also called "epistles". St. Paul made three primary missionary journeys (more about those next month with Acts), and his letters are generally to churches he founded. Though originally directed to churches in Rome, Corinth, Galatia (a Roman province), Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae, and Thessalonica, and to young Pastor Timothy and his congregation, the Holy Spirit also speaks to us through these letters.

We will be reading Paul's letters in canonical order (that is, the order they appear in the New Testament), but this order is not the order in which St. Paul likely wrote them. The order of writing more likely something along the lines of: Galatians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Romans, Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians, Philippians, 1 Timothy, Titus, and 2 Timothy. Regardless, the epistles were likely authored over a period of some 20 years, probably around the same time as the writing of the three "synoptic" Gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark, and Luke, which accounts "see together" many of the sayings and events of Jesus' life).

In these letters, we'll notice the strong emphasis that Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, places on both law and Gospel, as he lovingly and caringly follows-up with his children in the faith. His letters encourage and chastise when each is appropriate. And have a clear focus on teaching, while at the same time they boldly preach Christ, and Him crucified.

Paul's letter to the *Romans*, whom he had not yet visited, is a fairly complete treatment of the fallen human condition, Jew and Gentile, and the Gospel's solution for it.

In the letters to the *Corinthians*, Paul concentrates on problems in their congregations and how they should be resolved in grace.

Paul in *Galatians* strongly emphasizes that law and Gospel cannot be confused and that salvation is by faith.

*Ephesians* clearly excludes the role of works in salvation, which God has elected in advance. Paul talks about the Lord's gift of the Office of the Ministry to the Church.

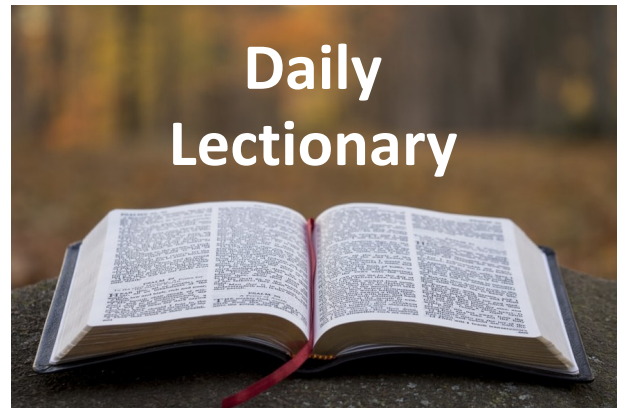
In *Philippians*, we have a wonderful "hymn" about Christ (2:6-11) and we see the practical results of faith in the lives of the believers.

Paul in *Colossians* holds up the truth of Christ against a false teaching that was circulating there.

In the letters to the *Thessalonians*, persecution is a central theme, and Paul relates it to the truth about the Lord's coming.

In the letters to *Timothy*, Paul encourages the young pastor and his people to put their trust where Paul had put his: in the Gospel.

We can look forward to God blessing all of us through these parts of His Word during the month of April!



**April 2020**

- 1\_\_ Isaiah 25:1-9 & Romans 1-3
- 2\_\_ Psalm 114 & Romans 4-6
- 3\_\_ Psalm 115 & Romans 7-9
- 4\_\_ Psalm 116 & Romans 10-13
- 5\_\_ Psalm 117 & Romans 14-16
- 6\_\_ Psalm 118 & 1 Corinthians 1-3
- 7\_\_ Ps. 119:1-8 & 1 Cor. 4-6
- 8\_\_ Ps. 119:9-16 & 1 Cor. 7-9
- 9\_\_ Ps. 119:17-24 & 1 Cor. 10-11
- 10\_\_ Ps. 119:25-32 & 1 Cor. 12-14
- 11\_\_ Ps. 119:33-40 & 1 Cor. 15-16
- 12\_\_ Ps. 119:41-48 & 2 Cor. 1-4
- 13\_\_ Ps. 119:49-56 & 2 Cor. 5-7
- 14\_\_ Ps. 119:57-64 & 2 Cor. 8-10
- 15\_\_ Ps. 119:65-72 & 2 Cor. 11-13
- 16\_\_ Ps. 119:73-80 & Galatians 1-3
- 17\_\_ Ps. 119:81-88 & Galatians 4-6
- 18\_\_ Ps. 119:89-96 & Ephesians 1-3
- 19\_\_ Ps. 119:97-104 & Eph. 4-6
- 20\_\_ Ps. 119:105-112 & Phil. 1-2
- 21\_\_ Ps. 119:113-120 & Phil. 3-4
- 22\_\_ Ps. 119:121-128 & Col. 1-2
- 23\_\_ Ps. 119:129-136 & Col. 3-4
- 24\_\_ Ps. 119:137-144 & 1 Thess. 1-3
- 25\_\_ Ps. 119:145-152 & 1 Thess. 4-5
- 26\_\_ Ps. 119:153-160 & 2 Thess. 1-3
- 27\_\_ Ps. 119:161-168 & 1 Tim. 1-3
- 28\_\_ Ps. 119:169-176 & 1 Tim. 4-6
- 29\_\_ Psalm 120 & 2 Timothy 1-2
- 30\_\_ Isaiah 25:1-9 & 2 Timothy 3-4

## Tithes and Offerings

As always, Christians give their tithes and offerings with gratitude for what God has given to them, especially through Christ our Lord. This has not changed. What has changed is that, for the time being, we are not gathering on Sundays when Bethany typically receives 2/3 of our monthly giving that supports the ministry of our congregation. Therefore, we are encouraging members to consider mailing your offering or dropping it off at the church office. Other options include using electronic contributions through our website or on your smart phone with the GivePlus app. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.



**Mobile App Giving:** Search your app store for “GivePlus Church” and download the GivePlus app to make a one-time or recurring offering. When you set up an account you can make changes at anytime.



**Online Giving:** Visit **Bethanycr.org** to set up and manage your recurring and one-time offering using your bank account or debit/credit card. Look for the **GIVE** tab.



### Paper Form:

Authorization forms for direct deposit can be mailed to you. Return the completed form along with a voided check /deposit slip to the church office.



### Swipe Giving:

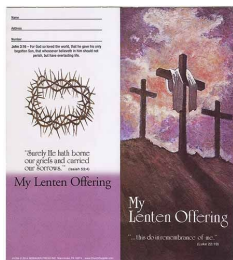
Is available in the church office you can swipe a credit or debit card to make a one-time donation.



### Offering Envelopes:

You can use your boxed giving envelopes that can be dropped off in the church office or mailed to the church.

For details, contact Office Manager Missy Gingrich at 364-6026 or [officemanager.bethanycr@gmail.com](mailto:officemanager.bethanycr@gmail.com). You may also ask Treasurer Bill Freese or any of the church staff for assistance. And “thank you” for continuing and prayerful support.



## Lenten Quarter Folders

Each day during Lent, you may place a quarter in the folder to remember Christ’s sacrifice for us. Money collected will go to the family of LCMS Vicar Mark Renner, serving in Ohio. Mark and his wife, Dana, lost their infant son in January. **You may start returning envelopes to Bethany when regular Sunday services resume.**

## Join us for SUNDAY SCHOOL



Come walk with Jesus in Sunday School as we journey through the Bible together.



**Be sure to check your email!** On Sundays that we don't meet in person, Sunday School materials are made available online. Please make time to review these lessons with your children.

## Vacation Bible School

Save the date for **June 15-18!** Children ages 3 years through 5th grade are invited to our Rainforest Explorers VBS! Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping as a volunteer at Vacation Bible School.



## Thank You for Living and Sharing God's Love

Dear Friends, My love and thanks go out to all of you. Your love, thoughts, prayers, get-well cards and encouragement have been a great blessing to me. I have re-read all of your beautiful get-well cards many times. Thank you so much. May God bless each and every one of you, especially in these virus times. With love and prayers and thanks— Bonnie Bubke.

## Jam the Wagon with Juice for Bridgehaven!

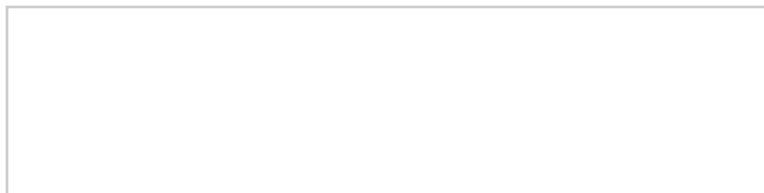
Thank you to everyone who donated juice this month! Donations will be given to Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center.



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2202 FOREST DR SE  
CEDAR RAPIDS IA 52403-1654

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



*Living and Sharing God's Love*

**WORSHIP WITH US**

**Sunday Mornings**

8:30 am	Traditional Service
9:45 am	Education Hour
11:00 am	Contemporary Service

**CONNECT WITH US**

Website	<a href="http://www.bethanycr.org">www.bethanycr.org</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:office.bethanycr@gmail.com">office.bethanycr@gmail.com</a>
Phone	319-364-6026
	<a href="https://facebook.com/bethanycr">facebook.com/bethanycr</a>