Bethany Beacon

Advent and Christmas Services

Mid-Week Advent Services

Wednesdays, December 4 & 11 Meal at 5:00 pm; Service at 6:00 pm

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15 Program at 4:30 pm; Meal at 5:30

Blue Christmas

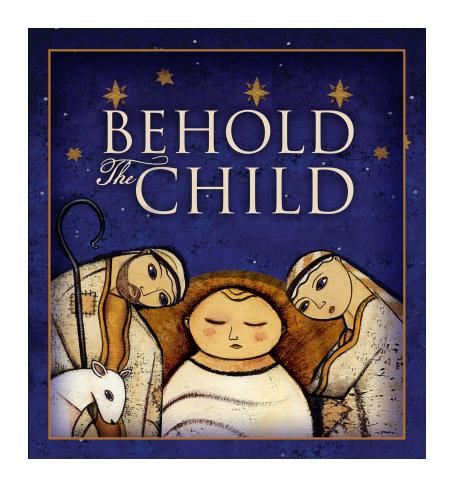
Wednesday, December 18 Meal at 5:00 pm; Service at 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24 Services at 4:30 and 11:00 pm

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25 Service at 10:00 am



Behold the Child

Behold the Child in the manger whose life, suffering, death, and resurrection paid the ultimate price for our sins. Believe in the most blessed Child, both the Son of God and man, who gives us eternal life. Following devotional themes from Matthew, Luke, and John, learn about the Child who would become the world's redeemer.



Bethany Living and Sharing God's Love

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. — Hebrews 4:15

Genesis 25 mentions that "the days of the years of Abraham's life" were 175 years. So I was not completely surprised when, a few weeks ago my son, Aiden, asked me how it was possible for Abraham to live so long. As not only Aiden's father, but also his pastor, I'm sure you can imagine how I responded to his inquiry. I quickly scolded him for asking such a question. I told him: I was shocked that he doubted the Bible was the inerrant Word of God; that he needed to pay better attention in Sunday School; and that he needed to remember he was baptized. I then sent him to his room for 175 minutes without dinner to meditate on each year of Abraham's life for one minute! When he was finished, I hugged him and told him he could always come to me with any questions he had.

Actually, that is NOT what happened when Aiden asked me about Abraham. But unfortunately, something similar often does happen when our brothers and sisters in Christ ask questions about the Bible or our faith in the church today. A person struggling with grief is told they just need to "believe" or go to church more. Someone who may not understand something written in the Bible is looked down upon, as if any "true believer" should understand everything written in the Scriptures. Instead of finding support and encouragement in the church, people may end up facing scorn, ridicule, or derision because they don't seem to be the perfect Christian that others think they should be. This cannot happen in a church that strives to live and share God's love.

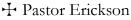
I ended up explaining to Aiden that Abraham may have lived 175 years because the world was different back then or that Abraham's DNA hadn't gone through the generations of mutations that cause the disease and sickness we know now. Regardless however, I told him that it ultimately

comes down to having faith that the Bible is God's Word and that His Word is true. As Christians, we always live by faith.

Seemingly satisfied, Aiden went on his way and I was pleased that he asked about Abraham. Not because my answer was particularly insightful, but rather because it not only showed that he was thinking about his faith and God's revelation in the Scriptures, but also that he felt comfortable enough to ask me about them. If congregations today are places where people will encounter Christ and His love, they too must be places where people are encouraged to think about their faith and are comfortable enough to ask questions about it. I, of course, never want anyone to question God or any aspect of their faith in Him. But we must also remember that Jesus was the only perfect human being, and the rest of us will never understand everything about the infinite God with our corrupted, finite minds on this side of eternity.

Our congregation has determined that God has put Bethany in this time and place to *Live and Share God's Love*. In past issues of the *Bethany Beacon*, we've all been blessed to see the many ways this has been done. But as you read this last edition of 2019, let us not only give thanks to God, but also look forward to how He will continue His work among us in the future. And let us also to resolve to be part of this mission, not only by serving and taking part in the various aspects of our ministry together, but also by supporting and encouraging one another as we *Live and Share God's Love* together!

In Christ's Service,





CALENDAR

Sunday, December 1

Lectionary Readings Begin

Monday, December 2

7:00 am Coffee Outreach

6:00 pm LWML Board Mtg. - FLC

6:30 pm Stephen Min. Supervision

6:45 pm Trustees Mtg.

Tuesday, December 3

3:00 pm Bethany Prayer Group - Library

5:00 pm Praise Moves - GA

6:00 pm Evangelism - Ad Ed

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 4

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

5:00 pm Advent Meal - FLC

6:00 pm Advent Service

7:00 pm Confirmation Classes

Thursday, December 5

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

6:00 pm Human Care Mtg. - GA

Saturday, December 7

9:00 am Holy Yoga - OR

9:00 am Vocal Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am Wind Ensemble Rehearsal

Sunday, December 8

12:15 pm Board of Education Mtg.

12:15 pm LWML General Meeting

Monday, December 9

7:00 am Coffee Outreach

Tuesday, December 10

3:00 pm Bethany Prayer Group - Library

5:00 pm Praise Moves - GA

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

7:00 pm Council Meeting - Ad Ed

Wednesday, December 11

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

5:00 pm Advent Meal - FLC

6:00 pm Advent Service w/ Communion

7:00 pm Confirmation Classes

Thursday, December 12

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - Ad Ed

Saturday, December 14

9:00 am Holy Yoga - OR

10:00 am Children's Program Rehearsal

Sunday, December 15

4:30 pm Children's Christmas Program

5:30 pm Christmas Program Meal

Monday, December 16

7:00 am Coffee Outreach

Tuesday, December 17

3:00 pm Bethany Prayer Group - Library

5:00 pm Praise Moves - GA

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 18

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotion

5:00 pm Advent Meal - FLC

6:00 pm Blue Christmas Service

7:00 pm Confirmation Classes

Thursday, December 19

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - Ad Ed

11:00 am College Age Gathering

Saturday, December 21

9:00 am Vocal Choir Rehearsal

9:00 am Holy Yoga - OR

Sunday, December 22

9:30 am Blood Pressure Screening

Tuesday, December 24

4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

11:00 9m Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25

10:00 am Christmas Service

Monday, December 30

12:00 pm Beacon Assembly

Key: Ad Ed - Adult Education Room

FLC - Family Life Center

GA - Gathering Area

OR - Opening Room

LL - Lower Level



| | | <u>Elders</u> | | <u>Video</u> | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Dec 1 | Jim Novi | itch | | Dec 1 | 8:30 | Jeff Gebert | | |
| Dec 8 | Phil Hed | | | | 11:00 | Michelle Hedtke | | |
| Dec 15 | Karl Hoe | ch | | Dec 8 | 8:30 | Greg Dunn | | |
| Dec 22 | Mark Ho | _' I† | | | 11:00 | Greg Dunn | | |
| Dec 29 | Rick Fore | ∍man | | Dec 15 | 8:30 | Jeff Gebert | | |
| | | | | D 00 | 11:00 | Mike Diers | | |
| | | <u>Ushers</u> | | Dec 22 | 8:30 | Greg Dunn | | |
| Dec 1 | 0.20 | Crew #2 | 11:00 Crew #7 | Dec 29 | 11:00 8:30 | Doug Knutson Jeff Gebert | | |
| Dec 1 | | Crew #2 Crew #3 | 11:00 Crew #7 | Dec 29 | 11:00 | Michelle Hedtke | | |
| Dec 15 | | Crew #1 | 11:00 Crew #7 | | 11.00 | WICHOIC FICURE | | |
| Dec 22 | | | | | | <u>Acolytes</u> | | |
| Dec 29 | | Crew #3 | 11:00 Crew #7 | | | Acolyles | | |
| | | | | Dec 1 | 8:30 | Lexi Brink & | | |
| | | <u>Greeters</u> | <u>s</u> | | 11:00 | Carmen Ranbarger Caleb Strait & | | |
| Dec 1 | 8.30 l or | na Fischer | | | 11.00 | Mya Chamberlin | | |
| Dec 1 | | | chumacher | Dec 8 | 8:30 | Blake Kroemer | | |
| | _ | n & Elaine (| | 2000 | 11:00 | Lauren Bricker | | |
| | | n & Lissa No | | Dec 15 | 8:30 | Kaleb Diers | | |
| Dec 8 | 8:30 Ric | k & Marvel | ene Foreman | | 11:00 | Lucas Volden | | |
| | Da | ve & Kay K | arsten | Dec 22 | 8:30 | Noah Pelletier & | | |
| | | ane & Kare | | | | Abby Bogner | | |
| | | ıd & Erin Cr | | | 11:00 | Carmen Ranbarger & | | |
| Dec 15 | | rol Grimmir | _ | | | Mya Chamberlin | | |
| | | son & Jodi S | | Dec 29 | 8:30 | Jase Bond | | |
| | | f & Melindo | d Crow drea Prohaska | | 11:00 | Blake Kroemer | | |
| Dec 22 | | rn & Betty F | | Communican Sunday, Brayers | | | | |
| Dec 22 | | ce & Dawn | | Communion Sunday Prayers | | | | |
| | | | Hass, Karen | Dec 1 | 8:30 | Karen Hass | | |
| | | | ce McDonald | | 11:00 | Lori Dohrmann | | |
| Dec 29 | 8:30 Do | n & Betty H | ein | Dec 15 | 8:30 | Ronda Anderson | | |
| | Ric | k & Sandra | Thorington | | 11:00 | Debbie Heitland | | |
| | | ris & Leisa K | | | | (44.00.0 | | |
| | Kar | ren Swanso | on & Noah | Nursery (11:00 Service) | | | | |
| <u>Lectors</u> | | | | Dec 1 | Kris Dunn, Melissa Loney | | | |
| | | | | Dec 8 Dec 15 | | Hopkins, Debbie Mills an Corey | | |
| Dec 1 | 8:30 | Pete Larso Karen Swo | | Dec 13 | | Natalie Prohaska | | |
| Dec 8 | 11:00 8:30 | Mark Borr | | Dec 29 | | chmidt, Tracy Moffett | | |
| Dec 6 | 11:00 | Leonard 1 | | 2002. | rtal of rot | | | |
| Dec 15 | 8:30 | Mark Elias | | | | Coffee | | |
| 200 10 | 11:00 | Dave Joh | | | | | | |
| Dec 22 | 8:30 | Rick Thori | | Dec 1 | | | | |
| — | 11:00 | Maren Ho | _ | Dec 8 | Freese | | | |
| Dec 29 | 8:30 | Rick Forer | • | Dec 15 | Crow | | | |
| | 11:00 | Debbie M | 1ills | Dec 22 | | | | |
| | | | | Dec 29 | | | | |

PRAYER PAGE

Thanksgiving:

Brooklyn (granddaughter of *Hedtkes)- Born 11/21 Colin (grandson of *Shari Mehlhoff) Born 11/14 Faith Milestones

Our nation's veterans

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Mark (brother of *Lori Dohrmann)- Health issues Gene (husband of *Karen Schmidt)- Recovering after surgery Carol (mother of *Angie Pfeil)- Recovering after fall Greta (daughter of Luke Viertel)- Broken finger Carol (mother of *Kris Larson)- Hip pain Andrew (relative of *Brenda Heims)- Health issues Brad (cousin of *K Pfeffer)- Recovering after heart transplant Mike (relative of *Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after surgery Jennifer (daughter of *Pat Krekeler)- Life challenges Ron (brother of *Gloria Schumacher) - Recovering Jane (daughter of *Bonnie Bubke) - Recovering after surgery James (grandson of *Carol Grimminger) - Recovering Jeff Mellgren (former member) – Recovering after stroke Steve (brother of *L Patten)- Health issues/hospitalization Hayden (relatives of *Bonnie Bubke)- Brain disorder Gwendolyn- (friend of *Karen Swanson)- Terminal illness Steve (brother of *Barb Miller)- Health issues 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

Bethany Prayers

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

Homebound members of Bethany:

*Rollis Deetz- at home

*Shirley Hansen- at home

*Wayne & Darlene Schilling- at home

Candi Engel– at home

*Ann Meyer-Keystone Cedars

*Del & *Dee Block-Summit Pointe

Cancer:

Lyla (mother of *Sheryl Knutson)- Hospice care

Deb (niece of *Carol Grimminger)- cancer

Kevin (brother of *Laura Holt)- cancer treatment

Bryan (son in law of *Mary Nanke)- radiation treatments

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:

*Margaret Speers- Died 11/23

Don (brother of *Wayne Schilling)- Died 11/16

Paul (friend of *Mark Holt)- Died 10/27

Al (friend of *Ronda Anderson)- Died 10/24

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

Submit a prayer: Email: nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com or call the

Senior Worship and Lunch

Next service:

Thursday, January 16

Join us for SUNDAY S(HOOL



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

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.





Kids in preschool - 5th grade meet in the Opening Room in the lower level. Youth in 6th-8th grade meet in the middle school room in the lower level. Youth in 9th-12th grade meet in the high school room in the lower level.

Youth Lock-In



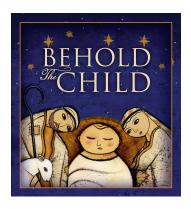


On November 8, the Bethany middle school and high school youth had a blast at the lock-in that was put on by Camp Okoboji! During the lock-in, the youth enjoyed fellowship with each other through large-group games, such as live-action Mafia, Sardines, Nerfwars, and Romans and Christians, as well as time for devotions, and Bible Studies.

In the Bible Study, the youth dug into the book of Ezekiel, and learned about Ezekiel's story and how God used the prophet Ezekiel to proclaim His promise that God will return to Israel to remove their hearts of stone and give them hearts of flesh (Ezekiel 36:22-37). Due to the Fall in the creation account, we, like the Israelites, also have hearts of stone that make us lifeless and dead inside, but thanks be to God through Christ's death and resurrection, God removes our heart of stone and gives us a heart of flesh. So how do we receive this new heart of flesh? We receive this new heart through faith in Christ's resurrection that now changes, equips, and empowers us, from the inside out, so that now we can respond to His goodness by desiring to "walk in [His] statutes" (Ezekiel 36:27).

A big thanks to Camp Okoboji and its leaders for coming here to Bethany and putting on this awesome event that was enjoyed by all!

-DCE Intern Amanda Segebart



Children's Christmas Program

Practices for the Children's Christmas Program will be during the Sunday School hour on Dec. 1, Dec. 8, and Dec. 15. The kids will start with the lesson at 9:45-10:00, then from 10:00-10:45 they will practice for the Christmas program. There will be a full run-through dress rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 10:00-noon with lunch provided afterwards. The program will be on December 15 at 4:30 p.m. For more information, please contact DCE Intern Amanda, Melinda Crow, Erin Heller, or Amy Smith.

Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 18 Meal served at 5:00 p.m. Service at 6:00 p.m.

A special service for those who are experiencing pain and sadness associated with the holidays. For those who have not experienced loss, this service is an opportunity to recognize that the holidays can be challenging for those who are grieving. For details, contact Nurse Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com or 319-364-6026.

College Age Gathering

College age students will gather on Thursday, December 19 at 11:00 a.m. at Bethany. Join us for a time to catch up with friends during break. If you plan to attend, please contact Ronda Anderson or DCE Intern Amanda Segebart.



Embracing Diversity

Save the date for **Saturday, January 18 at 11:00 a.m.** Speaker Marcy Round-tree of Cedar Rapids will be at Bethany to lead us in a workshop on embracing ethnic diversity. As a church that strives to live and share God's love, it's important for us to understand how to welcome all people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This workshop will address how we may be unintentionally creating roadblocks to people hearing that Gospel, and how we can instead be a thriving environment where inclusion and equality are embraced.

Reading the Daily Lectionary at Bethany

Jesus says in John 8 that if we abide in His Word, then we are His disciples and will know the truth that will set us free from sin and death. Therefore, reading and hearing the Bible has always been an essential part of the Christian's life. It is through God's Word, the Bible, that God brings people to a saving faith in Jesus and strengthens our relationship with Him. This is why I'm excited that many people at Bethany have committed to reading the entire Bible throughout the upcoming church year following the Daily Lectionary.

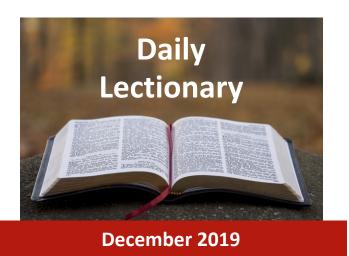
However, just as Christians are to abide in the Word of God, they are also to abide with one another. It is not good for Christians to be isolated, even as they read and study the Word of God. Also, a Christian should not keep the blessings that God gives to us through His Word to themselves. As Jesus' disciples abiding in His Word, we are the salt and the light of the world. It's no surprise then that God encourages us to devote ourselves to good works through the New Testament.

With all of this in mind, I'm encouraging everyone who is participating in the Daily Lectionary to do this with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. To have this fellowship around the Word at Bethany, I believe that it is necessary to expand, not do away with, but to expand our traditional understanding of the devotional life and small groups. As this is something new or different, there might be a few "speed bumps" along the way and it may change over time. But as we get started, here are a few initial thoughts:

- 1. Obviously, reading God's Word is essential. But how can we do this together? Some may wish to meet regularly with others reading the Lectionary in what might be considered a traditional "small group." But for others, having the commitment of regularly set times and places to meet in a group, has been an obstacle to fellowship in the Word. Therefore, we have created an online forum for everyone who is reading the Daily Lectionary to share their thoughts, questions, and ideas.
- 2. I understand that not everyone will be on the online forum, nor do I expect people to read or contribute to it every day. But as questions or ideas arise as God speaks to you through His Word, feel free to share them when you're able.
- 3. Even if you don't have anything to contribute, I'd encourage you to check the forum the see what other are saying and thinking. By sharing your thoughts on our readings and seeing what others are saying about them, it is my prayer that our fellowship and community will grow and strengthen.
- 4. I am also hoping that as groups meet or ideas are shared on the forum, people will not only grow in their faith by studying the Scriptures, but also have opportunities to devote themselves to good works together. For instance, as I read through the beginning of Isaiah I see how God wants His people to care for those in need. Now, I also am a runner and am usually willing to make time to support the running community. So, I get an idea of volunteering at a local race that will benefit the homeless. But instead of just doing this by myself, I post the idea on the forum or talk to others about it. Maybe others want to join me in helping at the race. Now we have a "small group" from Bethany doing good works in the community. Maybe this group decides to do something like this again, maybe they don't. Also, maybe some say working at a race is not something that is for them, but they and others will get an idea to help at a shelter or a kitchen. Regardless, we'll see our members being motivated by God's Word and His love to go out as a new type of small group that concentrates on doing good works, to be the salt and light of the world, and *live and share God's love*!

It's as easy as that! In actuality however, I'm sure there will be some things that arise that will need to be worked out. When they do, don't be discouraged. Also, together we may think of new things to improve what we're doing. If these changes are not implemented or are done so slowly, don't be frustrated. Rather remember what is important – that God is with you as you read His Word each day, pouring out His love into your life, through Jesus Christ.

BULLETIN BOARD



- 1 Luke 1:46-55 & Revelation 1-2
- 2 Psalm 1 & Revelation 3-5
- 3 Psalm 2 & Revelation 6-8
- 4 Psalm 3 & Revelation 9-11
- 5 Psalm 4 & Revelation 12-14
- 6 Psalm 5 & Revelation 15-17
- 7 Psalm 6 & Revelation 18-20
- 8 Psalm 7 & Revelation 21-22
- 9 Psalm 8 & Isaiah 1-3
- 10 Psalm 9 & Isaiah 4-6
- 11 Psalm 10 & Isaiah 7-9
- 12 Psalm 11 & Isaiah 10-12
- 13 Psalm 12 & Isaiah 13-15
- 14 Psalm 13 & Isaiah 16-18
- 15 Psalm 14 & Isaiah 19-21
- 16 Psalm 15 & Isaiah 22-24
- 17 Psalm 16 & Isaiah 25-27
- 18 Psalm 17 & Isaiah 28-30
- 19 Psalm 18 & Isaiah 31-33
- 13 L20111 10 Ø 1201011 21-22
- 20 Psalm 19 & Isaiah 34-36 21 Psalm 20 & Isaiah 37-39
- 22 Psalm 21 & Isaiah 40-42
- 23 Psalm 22 & Isaiah 43-45
- 24 Psalm 23 & Isaiah 46-48
- 25 Psalm 24 & Isaiah 49-51
- 26 Psalm 25 & Isaiah 52-54
- 27 Psalm 26 & Isaiah 55-57
- 28 Psalm 27 & Isaiah 58-60
- 29 Psalm 28 & Isaiah 61-63
- 30 Psalm 29 & Isaiah 64-66
- 31 Luke 1:46-55 & Mark 1

Pastor's Thoughts on the December Readings

As we begin reading through the Bible, Revelation, the last book of the Bible, may seem like an odd place to start. But remember December 1st begins a new year in the Church Year and the season of Advent. Advent often focuses on the themes of preparation for the coming of Christ. With Christmas at the end of Advent, Christians often forget that Advent can also prepare us for the Second Coming of Christ, a topic Revelation addresses in detail.

As you read Revelation, try not to get bogged down in all of the details, but find comfort in the perseverance of the Church. Also note that in a work such as Revelation, often called Apocalyptic Literature, not everything in the book was meant to be taken literally - especially the 144,000 believers or the 1,000 years. Moving into Isaiah on December 9th, note the prophecies of both Jesus and the John the Baptist in the book that is named after the man that is often considered the greatest of the writing prophets. Finally, the month begins and ends with a reading from Luke that is often called the Magnificat. This is Mary's song as she is greeted by Elizabeth when she is pregnant with Jesus. It is fitting reading during Advent, as we too rejoice over what God had done through Christ who has come and will come again!

As you read through the appointed readings each day, feel free to comment or share your thoughts or questions on our online forum. And as always, feel free to contact me if you'd like. There are few things that I like more than discussing the Word of God with His people!

How to Access the Online Forum

The discussion forum can be accessed from our website at bethanyer.org. Under the "Programs & Ministries" tab, select "Daily Lectionary." Follow the link on that page, which will take you to the forum. You may register and create your own account.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| 12/1 | Gloria Schumacher | 12/13 | Karen Hass | 12/21 | Hogan Myers |
|-------|-------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|-----------------|
| 12/2 | Cindy Goerdt | | David Johnson | | Angela Yuza |
| | Brian Holt | 12/14 | Kiaya Fortner | 12/24 | Karen Rutz |
| 12/3 | Paula Bulicek | | Barb Lauthen | | Jeff Stranathan |
| | Tracy Donels | | Bridget Rinderknecht | 12/25 | Valerie Koelper |
| | Marvelene Foreman | 12/15 | Henry Smith | | Becky McCarley |
| 12/4 | Ronda Anderson | | Diane Zenor | 12/26 | Diane Holub |
| | Ava Henderson | 12/16 | Joyce Church | | Maren Hopkins |
| | Jim Novitch | | Patricia Hinrichs | 12/27 | Shirley Kellogg |
| | Donna Stranathan | 12/17 | Stacy Brusius | | Ann Meyer |
| 12/7 | Nadine Wax | | Kaylee Hedtke | 12/28 | Hannah Madsen |
| 12/10 | Harrison Sieck | | Anna Ranbarger | | Ella Smith |
| | Mike Thomas | 12/18 | Addy Stackhouse | 12/29 | Jaden Harris |
| 12/11 | Tracy Bond | 12/19 | Bree Robinson | | Sue Kroemer |
| | | | | 12/30 | Shari Mehlhoff |
| | | | | | |

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/17 Harrison & Hannah Sieck12/23 Mark & Barb Lauthen

Memorial Poinsettias

Remember a loved one by ordering a memorial poinsettia. These plants will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas and can be taken home by those who ordered them after December 25. The poinsettia plants cost \$9 each. Please sign up at the Welcome Center by Sunday, December 15.



Angel Tree



Angel Tree is a program that provides Christmas gifts for children with parents who are incarcerated. Our Angel Tree will be up in the Gathering Area. You may pick up an ornament from the tree, purchase a gift for the child listed, and bring the gift back to Bethany. Please pick up a tag by December 11, and return the gift by December 15. Please contact Dawn Thomas 319-329-4178 or Ronda Anderson if you are willing to help deliver gifts to families December 15-21.

Christmas Gifts

The Women's Guild will collect monetary donations for Christmas gifts for Bethany families now through December 16. Checks may be made payable to Bethany Women's Guild.

Blood Drive

On Friday, November 15, the Bethany blood drive collected 17 units of blood. Thank you to everyone who donated to help save lives! Bethany will plan to host another blood drive in the fall of 2020.



New Electronic Giving Now Available

There are two new ways you can give:

Website: Visit **Bethanyer.org** to set up and manage your onetime and recurring offerings. Just click on the GIVE tab.



Mobile App Giving: Search your app store for "GivePlus Church" and download the GivePlus app to make one-time or recurring offerings. When you set up an account you can make changes at any time.

LWML Quilts

On October 19, the following items from various Lutheran churches in the surrounding area were taken to Trinity Lutheran Church for World Relief shipment.

2540 Quilts (112 of these quilts were made by the Bethany sewers over the past year.)

144 Fleece Blankets

671 Health Kits

4622 School Kits

328 Sewing Kits

584 Layettes



These World Relief items were taken by truck to a warehouse in Minneapolis where they eventually will be shipped overseas to countries in need.

Voters' Meeting

A voters' meeting was held on November 17. The budget was passed, and it was determined that funding for the comfort dog will come out of the congregational fund. If you would like to see those documents, please contact the church office.

Members were also elected into the following positions: Recording Secretary- Lora Raymon; Financial Secr-Laura Holt; Board of Education- Debbie Mills; Board of Evangelism- Lissa Novitch; Elders- Steve Hanchera, Jim Heitland, Phil Hedtke, Jim Novitch, and Rick Foreman; Trustees- Jeff Madsen and Duane Pfeffer.



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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit #118
CEDAR RAPIDS IA, 52403



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 www.bethanycr.org

Email office.bethanycr@gmail.com

Phone | 319-364-6026

facebook | facebook.com/bethanycria