

Bethany Beacon

FEBRUARY 2019

Marshalltown Tornado

RECOVERY

In July 2018, a tornado devastated the community of Marshalltown, Iowa. On Saturday, February 23, a group of Bethany members will go to Marshalltown to help with recovery in the aftermath of the storm. An able body (aged 18 or older) and a willing spirit is all that is needed to serve! The group will leave Bethany at 7:00 a.m. and return by 9:30 p.m.



Volunteers should be willing to do a variety of tasks, as we won't know for sure what we will work on until we get there. The group will likely be working in VALOR—the first phase of the emergency response program through Central Iowa RSVP and Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers could be replacing windows, putting up blue board, removing and replacing drywall, remediating mold, etc. Habitat for Humanity will train and lead volunteers, so particular skills are not needed to participate. Projects will be both indoors and outdoors, so be

sure to dress for the weather. This work will prepare for the next phase which will start after March 11 and involve coming back to homes to install siding and other work that can not be done during cold weather.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Ronda Anderson at 316-364-6026 or by email at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

Many of you who are reading this edition of *The Beacon* know that recently I received and returned a call to serve as the pastor at another congregation in Michigan. What this means is that a congregation in Michigan was without a pastor and they felt that the Holy Spirit had wanted me to leave Bethany and serve God's people there. Having received this "call," I was led to believe after prayerful consideration, that God wanted me to stay here at Bethany and so the call was returned to the congregation in Michigan. This was all done in accordance with our Lutheran understanding of how God puts servants in His Church when and where He wants them. However, having considered this call for a few weeks and looking back at that time, I wanted to share a few thoughts...

When a pastor receives and considers a call, the geographical location of that call is not very high on the list of things to consider. While it is true that the wellbeing of a pastor's family, should he have one, must be an important factor in any decision he makes concerning a call, there are other important factors to consider as well. Among those are the pastor's willingness and ability to serve at the calling congregation AND the one where he is presently serving. It is this last factor that led to my decision to stay at Bethany.

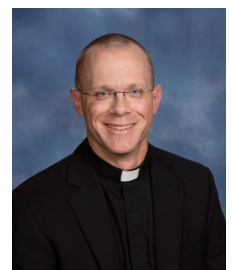
You see, it was not necessarily that I felt God did not want me to go and serve a congregation in Michigan, it was more that I felt God did not want me to leave Bethany. There are few reasons for this, one of which is that I believe having a pastoral vacancy at this time would have placed a heavy burden on the congregation. As you all know, we currently have a vacancy in the Director of Christian Education position that we have been working to fill for almost two years. We will also be facing challenges in the near future of replacing a large portion of the roof of the church, and perhaps the parking lot. In addition to all of this, it saddens me to say that some previously faithful members of the congregation have decided to leave Bethany. Thankfully, we have many dedicated members on the Call Committee, Board of Trustees, the Board of Elders and staff that have been working hard to

address all of these issues, but their tasks would not be made any easier with a pastoral vacancy.

But impacting my decision to stay at Bethany even more than the significant challenges that we face as a congregation are the overwhelming blessings that come from God here in this church – Bethany is a great place to be! Carolyn and Luke do amazing jobs with their gifts of music to help us worship God on Sunday, as do the members of the praise band, the handbell ensemble, the choir, and the many other people who share their musical, ushering, greeting, and lecturing abilities. Our boards and committees are not perfect and never will be, but they all have been filled with faithful Christian women and men who adorn their positions with honor and Christ-like service. Also, something that I will never take for granted, is the opportunity to serve God and His people everyday with an excellent office and ministry staff. It is not only a pleasure (most of the time) to serve at Bethany, but more importantly, an honor and encouraging to work with Ronda, Missy, and Maren as they all do their respective jobs with substantial skill and dedication to God and the people of our congregation and community. And I haven't even gotten around to mentioning all of our members yet! Each one of you, from the child at the Baptismal Font to the people preparing and enjoying the meals after Senior Worship, all make Bethany the wonderful congregation that it is today and a very tough place for any pastor to leave.

It is my fervent prayer as I continue to serve as the pastor at Bethany for as long as the Lord desires, that we may all serve Him together. And, according to His will, use His blessings to meet our challenges as we *Live and Share God's Love* together.

✝ Pastor Erickson



Saturday, February 2

9:00 am Holy Yoga - OR

Monday, February 4

10:00 am Women's Group - Marion

6:00 pm LWML Board Mtg. - GA

6:30 pm Stephen Min. Supervision

6:30 pm Family Promise Mtg. - FLC

6:45 pm Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, February 5

3:00 pm Bethany Prayer Group - Library

5:00 pm Praise Moves - GA

6:00 pm Evangelism - Ad Ed

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal - Balcony

Wednesday, February 6

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Ad Ed Rm

6:30 am Moms in Prayer - Library

6:00 pm Confirmation Class - LL

Thursday, February 7

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - Ad Ed

6:00 pm Human Care Mtg. - GA

Saturday, February 9

9:00 am Holy Yoga - OR

9:00 am Choir Practice - Balcony

Sunday, February 10

9:45 am Milestones (1st & 2nd grade)

12:15 pm Board of Ed Meeting

Monday, February 11

7:00 am Elders' Meeting - Ad Ed

10:00 am Women's Group - Marion

Tuesday, February 12

3:00 pm Bethany Prayer Group - Library

5:00 pm Praise Moves - GA

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal - Balcony

7:00 pm Council Meeting - Ad Ed

Wednesday, February 13

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Ad Ed Rm

6:30 am Moms in Prayer - Library

6:00 pm Confirmation Milestones - FLC

Thursday, February 14

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - Ad Ed

1:30 pm Rebekah Circle - Ad Ed

Saturday, February 16

9:00 am Holy Yoga - OR

Sunday, February 17

9:45 am Milestones (1st & 2nd grade)

Monday, February 18

10:00 am Women's Group - Marion

6:30 pm Stephen Min. Cont. Ed. - Ad Ed

Tuesday, February 19

3:00 pm Bethany Prayer Group - Library

5:00 pm Praise Moves - GA

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal - Balcony

Wednesday, February 20

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Ad Ed Rm

6:30 am Moms in Prayer - Library

4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotion

6:00 pm Confirmation Class - LL

Thursday, February 21

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - Ad Ed

11:00 am Senior Worship

Saturday, February 23

7:00 am Marshalltown Service Trip

9:00 am Holy Yoga - OR

Sunday, February 24

9:30 am Blood Pressure Screening

9:45 am Milestones (1st & 2nd grade)

Monday, February 25

10:00 am Women's Group - Marion

Tuesday, February 26

1:00 pm Beacon Assembly

3:00 pm Bethany Prayer Group - Library

5:00 pm Praise Moves - GA

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal - Balcony

Wednesday, February 27

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Ad Ed Rm

6:30 am Moms in Prayer - Library

6:00 pm Confirmation Class - LL

Thursday, February 28

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - Ad Ed

Key:

Ad Ed - Adult Education Room

FLC - Family Life Center

GA - Gathering Area

OR - Opening Room

LL - Lower Level

Lib - Library

Elders

Feb 3 Mark Holt
Feb 10 Dave Dohrmann
Feb 17 Rick Foreman
Feb 24 Jim Heitland

Ushers

Feb 3 8:30 Crew #3 11:00 Crew #7
Feb 10 8:30 Crew #4 11:00 Crew #8
Feb 17 8:30 Crew #1 11:00 Crew #6
Feb 24 8:30 Crew #2 11:00 Crew #7

Greeters

Feb 3 8:30 Arlen & Bonnie Breiholz
 Cherie Miller
 11:00 Brad & Erin Crawford
 Duane & Karen Pfeffer
Feb 10 8:30 Mark & Julie Elias
 Lorna Fischer
 11:00 Mike & Annie Prohaska
 Jeff & Melinda Crow
Feb 17 8:30 Mike & Dawn Thomas
 Ed & Gloria Schumacher
 11:00 Karen Schmidt
 Dick & Karen Hass
Feb 24 8:30 Rick & Marvelene Foreman
 Dave & Kay Karsten
 11:00 Karen Swanson
 Chris & Leisa Knudson

Lectors

Feb 3 8:30 Mark Bornemann
 11:00 Brad Crawford
Feb 10 8:30 Mark Elias
 11:00 Leonard Tiedt
Feb 17 8:30 Rick Thorington
 11:00 Dave Johnson
Feb 24 8:30 Rick Foreman
 11:00 Maren Hopkins

Coffee

Feb 3 Karsten
Feb 10 Freese
Feb 17 Knutson
Feb 24 Crow

Video

Feb 3 8:30 Jeff Gebert
 11:00 Greg Dunn
Feb 10 8:30 Renee Riffey
 11:00 Michelle Hedtke
Feb 17 8:30 Julie Holt
 11:00 Mike Diers
Feb 24 8:30 Jeff Gebert
 11:00 Doug Knutson

Acolyte

Feb 3 8:30 Carmen Ranbarger
 11:00 Lexi Brink
Feb 10 8:30 Mya Chamberlin
 11:00 Caleb Strait
Feb 17 8:30 Abby Bogner
 11:00 Noah Pelletier
Feb 24 8:30 Noah Pelletier
 11:00 Mya Chamberlin

Nursery (11:00 Service)

Feb 3 Liz & Ryan Corey
Feb 10 Brooke Oja, Melissa Loney
Feb 17 Maren Hopkins, Katia Knutson
Feb 24 Kris Dunn, Debbie Mills

Communion Sunday Prayers

Feb 3 8:30 Carol Grimminger
 11:00 Ronda Anderson
Feb 17 8:30 John Hamm
 11:00 Melissa Loney

If you would like to serve in one of these areas, please contact:

Ushers: Steve Hanchera (857-4716)
 Greeters: Kay Karsten (361-2017)
 Lectors: Rick Thorington (360-2641)
 Pray-er: Nurse Ronda (364-6026)
 Video: Greg Dunn (389-4271)
 Nursery: Nurse Ronda (364-6026)
 Coffee: Tina Freese (329-3882)

Thanksgiving:

Hudson (infant son of *Eric & *Lisa Freese)- Born 1/8
 Pat (mother of *Karen Swanson)- Recovering after surgery
 Kelley (sister of *Brad Crawford)- Improving after cancer tx
 Nick (son of *Pete & *Kris Larson)- Recovering

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Jennifer (daughter of *Pat Krekeler)- Life challenges
 Barbara (mother of *Jim Heitland)- Recovering after fall
 Lars (brother of *Pete Larson)- Health issues
 Gene (husband of *N Owens)- Recovering after surgery
 Ron (brother of *Gloria Schumacher)- Recovering
 Jane (daughter of *Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after surgery
 Junior (son of *Taletha Phillips)- Health issues
 James (grandson of *Carol Grimminger)- Recovering
 Jeff Mellgren- Recovering after stroke
 Steve (brother of *Linda Patten)- Recovering
 Ryan & Hayden (relatives of *Bonnie Bubke)- brain disorder
 Gwendolyn- (friend of *Karen Swanson)- terminal illness
 Lyla (mother of *Sheryl Knutson)- Recovering
 Kelly (sister of *Kim Neuhaus)- Recovering after surgery
 Jessica (granddaughter of *K Neuhaus)- Recovering
 Steve (brother of *Barb Miller)- Health issues
 Patti (aunt of *Ginny Urban)- Comfort and strength
 Susan (niece of *Bonnie Bubke)- Health issues
 Leota (mother of *Lori Dohrmann)- Recovering
 Pastor Renfro (Trinity)- Health issues
 Gus (friend of *Myers & *Conrads)-Recovering
 Mike (friend of *Joel Knutson)- Recovering after hospitalization
 Deb (daughter of *Bonnie Bubke) Health Issues
 Jeff (brother of Kim Carter)- Health issues
 Steve (friend of *Pete Larson)- Recovering after stroke
 John (nephew of *Bonnie Bubke)- Health issues
 Ruth (friend of *Velma Ziesemer)- Health issues
 Bella (relative of *Melissa Loney)- Health issues
 David (relative of *Melissa Loney)- Health issues
 Rod (nephew of *Bonnie Bubke) Parkinson's Disease

Local/National/World:

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

Homebound members of Bethany:

*Rollis Deetz- at home
 *Pauline Marohn- Living Center West
 *Shirley Hansen- at home
 *Wayne & Darlene Schilling- at home
 Candi Engel- at home
 *Patty King- Crestview Acres, Marion
 *Ann Meyer- Keystone Cedars

Safety:

Ben Venteicher (former DCE)- National Guard, Deployed
 Tailor (grandson of *Kim Neuhaus)- Marines

Cancer:

Rosemary (friend of Madsens)- cancer treatment
 Julie (friend of *Brenda Heims)- cancer
 Janet (friend of *Brenda Heims)-cancer
 Mary Lou (friend of *Velma Ziesemer)- cancer treatment
 Daryl (nephew of *Bonnie Bubke)- cancer
 Elaine (friend of *Dave Johnson)- cancer treatment
 Judy (godmother of *Jim Novitch)- cancer treatment
 Joe (brother of *Barb Lauthen)- cancer
 Pat (aunt of *Ginny Urban)- cancer
 Chad (son of *Vicki Huschka)- leukemia
 David (relative of *Hasses)- cancer
 Steve Godecke (former member)- cancer
 Bonnie (friend of *Mary Nanke)- cancer
 Todd (friend of Katia Knutson)- cancer treatment
 Rita (friend of *Shirley Kellogg)- cancer

Grief, family and friends of:

*Pat Kraft (mother of *Kyle Kraft)- Died 1/7
 Maxine (sister of *Shirley Deetz)- Died 12/23
 Kenny (father of *Dave Dohrmann)- Died 12/18

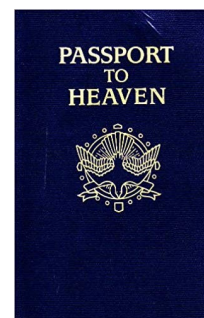
Submit a prayer: Email: nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com or call the church office at 319-364-6026



SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45-10:45 a.m.

Lower Level



Grab your "Passport to Heaven" and join us on Sundays at 9:45! All students in preschool through high school are invited to join us in the lower level to learn about God's word!

Faith Milestones



1st & 2nd Grade Milestone

Classes for parents will be held on February 10, 17, and 24.

The blessing event will take place during services on March 3.

Angie Pfeil is the facilitator for this Milestone.

Confirmation Milestone

Event for students and parents will be held on February 13.

The blessing event will take place during services on March 3.

Debbie Mills is the facilitator for this Milestone.

REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

LCMS YOUTH GATHERING | Minneapolis · July 11-15, 2019



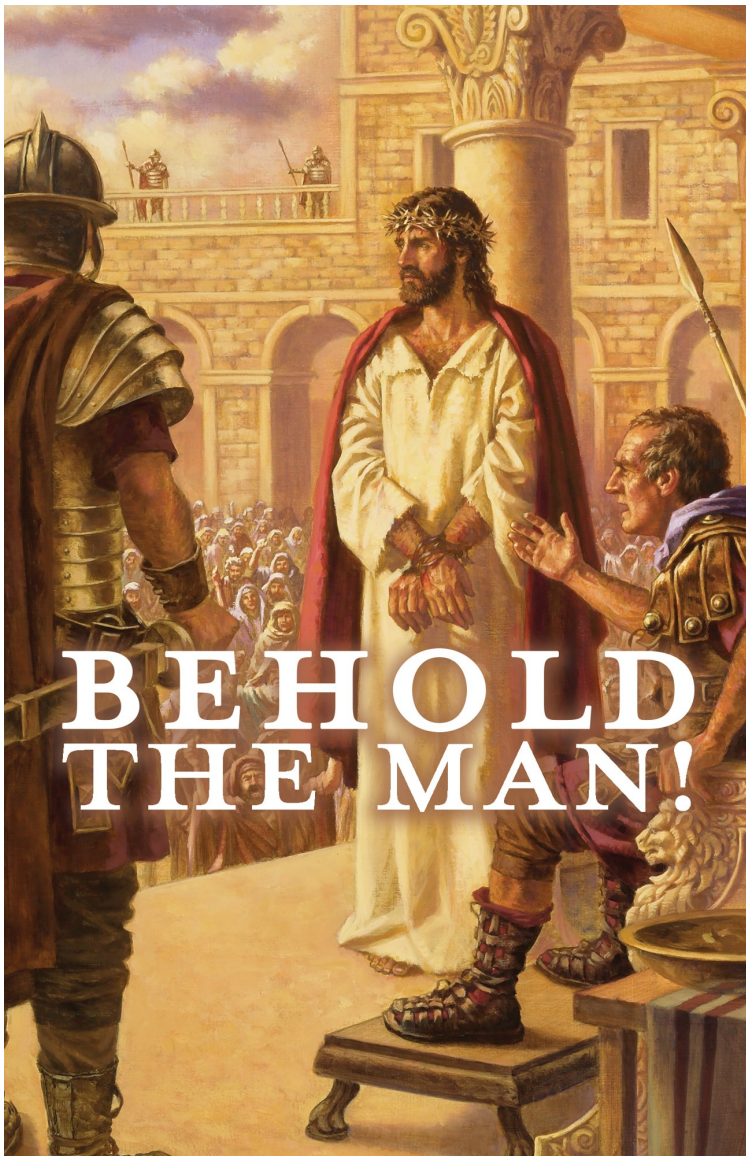
High school youth will attend the National Youth Gathering this July. To help raise funds for the trip, they sold sub sandwiches for the Super Bowl. If you ordered sandwiches, be sure to pick them up on Sunday, February 3!

The National Youth Gathering is a positive, life-changing experience for those who participate. Be sure to keep these students in your prayers as they prepare for this experience.



Baby Bottle Boomerang

Thank you for participating in the Baby Bottle Boomerang in January! All proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center, a local ministry in Cedar Rapids that provides essential services to parents including ultrasounds, classes, and material assistance. The mission of Bridgehaven is to empower choices for life through Christ-centered education and support.



Lent 2019

Behold the Man!

Ash Wednesday: March 6

Imposition of Ashes 7:00 - 9:00 am

Meal at 5:00 pm

Service with Communion and

Imposition of Ashes at 6:00 pm

Mid-Week Lenten Services

March 13, 20, & 27; April 3 & 10

Meal at 5:00 pm

Service at 6:00 pm

(Communion at March 27 service)

Palm Sunday: April 14

Services at 8:30 & 11:00 am

Maundy Thursday: April 18

Service with Communion at 7:00 pm

Good Friday: April 19

Service at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday: April 21

Services with Communion at 8:30 & 11:00 am

Family Promise

The mission of Family Promise is to **help homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through compassionate care, hospitality, and professional support.**



Our next week to host will be March 10-17. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up online at bit.ly/2G4wxSi or use the paper sign up at the Welcome Center.

Our congregation recently received this note of thanks from Family Promise:

Thank you for your continued support and generosity over the past year. With your help we have been able to help many children and families through difficult times. We hope in the new year to have your continued support.

Bethany on Facebook



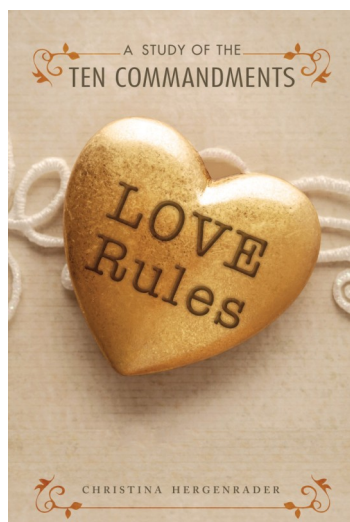
Bethany is present in two separate places on Facebook. Our **public page** (found at facebook.com/bethanycrta) is a place for information about Bethany happenings that are relevant to the general public. We also have a Facebook **group**, which is intended specifically for people who are already part of the Bethany community. In this group, anyone who is part of the group can share posts! This is a great place to share prayer requests, photos, words of encouragement, life updates, event invitations, etc. that you want to share with Bethany friends only. If you would like to be added to the Facebook **group**, contact Maren Hopkins at office.bethanycr@gmail.com.

Annual Voters' Meeting

Bethany members gathered for the annual voters' meeting on Sunday, January 27. The Annual Report for 2018 was presented to and approved by the voters' assembly. Copies of the report are still available at the Welcome Center. In addition to reviewing the report, three votes took place:

- The Church Council, in consultation with the DCE Call Committee, made the recommendation to apply for a DCE intern from one of the LC-MS Concordia universities. The voters' assembly approved the Council's recommendation after information regarding the DCE Internship program was presented and discussed.
- The voters also approved the release of money from the Doris Williams Fund to support Michelle Wiersig's studies in the Deaconess Program at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.
- The meeting wrapped up with a discussion concerning the purchase of a new outdoor digital sign to replace the current sign on Forest Drive. A motion was made and passed to use money from a dedicated account and from the Endowment Fund to remove the old sign and purchase and install the new one from MediaQuest of Cedar Rapids.

Women's Small Group



Bethany women gather for study and fellowship on **Mondays at 10:00 a.m.** at Mr. Beans in Marion. On February 4, the group will start *Love Rules*:

Love Rules tells the story of spiritual transformation, shows how God wants us to love better, and helps us see how we can. This Bible study addresses one commandment each week, then follows up with four devotions that approach the topic from different angles. The readings takes a “what does this mean” approach by asking open-ended questions and providing related Bible readings.

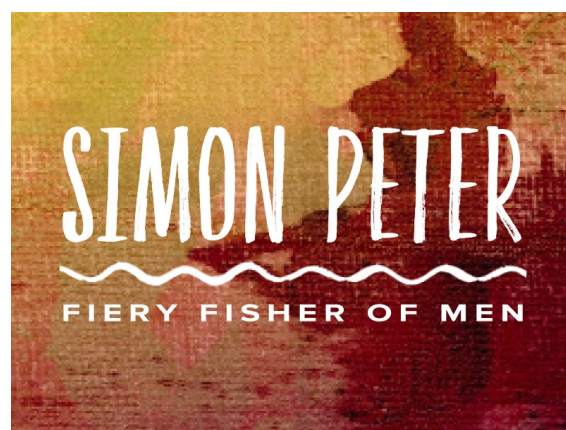
In this women's Bible study, you will see *yourself* and how pride, insecurity, grudges, and coveting damage relationships. Each narrative also shows exactly why we still need Jesus and His perfect, Commandment-keeping love.

Men's Bible Study

Men gather at Bethany on **Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m.** and are currently studying *Simon Peter: Fiery Fisher of Men*.

Simon the disciple—who would later be given the name Peter by Jesus—grew up a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee. One minute he is boldly defending Jesus, the next he is standing in His way—or completely denying Him.

But Jesus saw what Peter would become with the power of the Holy Spirit, and He turned this undependable disciple into one of the solid pillars of the Early Church. In this video study, you will see how Jesus similarly transforms you into a firm, confident, dependable man of God.



Sunday Morning Bible Study

On February 3, 10, and 17, Pastor Erickson will continue to lead the Sunday Morning Bible Study through *Unjustifiable Faiths: Four Common – and Wrong – Beliefs about Justification*. Within the Christian Church, the concept of justification refers to God's declaration of righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ. But even more people understand justification to mean “the act of showing that a person's conduct is right or reasonable.” This Bible study explores four commonly held beliefs that do not justify a person before God. Since each is an attempt to show that person's conduct is reasonable (and therefore should be acceptable to God), each is really an example of *self*-justification, and as such, falls short of what Scripture teaches. Join us for this important study each Sunday from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1	Joel Conrad David Jasper	2/13	Andy Gates	2/20	Ellie Smith
2/2	Mason Corey	2/14	Sarah Gates Rita Tiedt	2/21	Mike Prohaska
2/4	Sherry Benton Melinda Crow		Lucas Volden	2/23	Mike Raymon
2/7	Porter Brink	2/16	Jada McGinnis	2/24	Kelly Goerd Dee Rose
2/10	Joan Mosel Nancy Owens	2/17	Betty Hein	2/25	Andrea Russman Sawyer Stepanek
2/12	Erin Crawford Larry Kroemer	2/18	Robby Russman	2/27	Kyle Gates
		2/19	Aaron Elias	2/28	Dave Karsten
		2/20	Jeff Gebert Mark Ranbarger		

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2/21	Arlen & Bonnie Breiholz
2/24	Nancy & Gene Owens

LHM Spring Convention



Lutheran Hour Ministry Cares presents Dr. Beverly Yahnke as the keynote speaker at our annual Spring Convention at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca on April 13, 2019. Dr. Yahnke will address the subject of the church's response to depression.

Dr. Yahnke is a licensed clinical psychologist who regularly serves pastors, teachers and other church workers through *Doxology, the Lutheran Center for Care and Counsel* (a Recognized Service Organization of LCMS). She is the Executive Director for Christian Counsel for *Doxology*.

The convention will be held 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Please register by April 6—contact the Bethany office for a registration form. Registration is \$18, which includes meals.

Consider Joining the Bethany Prayer Group

A small group gathers weekly for prayer on Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. in the Bethany library. The prayer group would welcome a few more people to join them in the weekly prayer hour. The group uses the “Seek God for the City” format to pray for the Cedar Rapids community, and they pray for those both near and far away. For more information, contact Ronda Anderson at 319-364-6026.



Wellness Classes

Want to take care of the body God has given you? Try out one of Bethany’s faith-based wellness classes.



Holy Yoga classes take place on Saturdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m. Wear clothes that you are comfortable moving in, and bring a yoga mat if you have one. Holy Yoga costs \$5 per session. **Praise Moves** is a video-led stretch and relaxation class, and meets on Tuesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m. Praise Moves is offered at no charge.

2019 Chancel Flowers

The 2019 calendar is now up on the bulletin board. Chancel flowers are delivered each week by Oakland Road Hy-Vee, so if you sign up, you do not need to make any arrangements with a florist. They cost \$30 per Sunday, and checks may be made payable to Bethany Lutheran Church. Please pick up an envelope from the bulletin board, and use it to return your payment to the church office. If you would like a certain type of plant, please call Hy-Vee floral at 366-7756.



Senior Worship and Lunch

Next service:

Thursday, February 21
11:00 a.m.

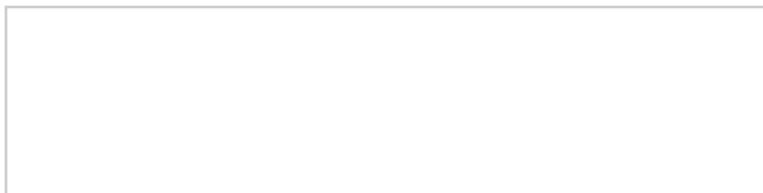
Bethany Prayers

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. Requests can be emailed to prayer.bethanycr@gmail.com, or call 364-6026.

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

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

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	www.bethanycr.org
Email	office.bethanycr@gmail.com
Phone	319-364-6026
	facebook.com/bethanycria