

Bethany Beacon

FEBRUARY 2020

We Believe

A MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES ON THE NICENE CREED

February 26	Why have a creed?
March 4	We believe in the Maker.
March 11	We believe in the only-begotten Son.
March 18	We believe He came for our salvation.
March 25	We believe He suffered.
April 1	We believe in the Lord and giver of life.

Join us for midweek Lenten services starting on Ash Wednesday (February 26). Fellowship meals will be served on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Services focused on the theme of the Nicene Creed will be at 6:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday: Imposition of Ashes will be offered 7:30-9:00 a.m. Service with Communion and Imposition of Ashes will be held at 6:00 p.m. on February 26.



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" – John 11:24-26

What do you believe? As we move into February this year, we could ask this question about any number of topics. Everything from the Super Bowl, to the Iowa Caucuses, to the political events in Washington seem to have us all asking, "What do you believe?" But while sports and politics are important or interesting on some level, for Christians this February there is another event that will take place that should also have us thinking about what we believe.

Of course, I'm talking about Ash Wednesday (February 26th) and the beginning of the Lenten Season in the church. As many of you know, Lent is the 40-day (not including Sundays) period before Easter. It has traditionally been a time of somber reflection over one's spiritual condition and the works of Christ, as well as serving as a call to renew one's spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fasting, works of charity, and studying the Scriptures.

This year during Lent our congregation will be observing all the normal practices that we have done in the past – things like the Imposition of Ashes and our midweek meals and church services on Wednesday evenings. But this year the theme of our midweek services will take a little bit of a different direction as we focus on the Nicene Creed.

If you have attended services at Bethany, you're probably familiar with the Nicene Creed. Originally created in the 4th century, we say this creed together as a confession of our Christian faith on the Sundays we celebrate Holy Communion. While the Nicene Creed is not the Word of God, it does summarize the teachings of the Bible, and therefore is often called a *Symbol of the Faith*.

"The Nicene Creed... helps us to understand God as He has revealed Himself to us in Christ and His Word, not as our sinful nature might want Him to be."

The reasons for Bethany focusing on the Nicene Creed this Lenten season are twofold. First, as mentioned above, Lent focuses our attention on our sin and the price that Jesus paid to save us from them. At the root of many of our sins is the desire to be our own little gods, or at least to make God into our own image. The Nicene Creed works against this as it helps us to understand God as He has revealed Himself to us in Christ and His Word, not as our sinful nature might want Him to be. Knowing God in these ways, assures us of the salvation that Jesus promises.

Secondly, it is my hope that looking at the Nicene Creed this Lenten season will help Bethany continue its discussion on diversity in our congregation. While I hope there is no question among our members of embracing ethnic or racial diversity, can we have Chiefs and 49ers fans worshipping together? Democrats and Republicans? Should Arrianism have a place at Bethany? Looking at the Nicene Creed will help us define what we clearly believe as Christians, and therefore, it will also help us define what we must clearly reject. I believe that knowing where these lines are drawn will help us all to have the freedom to reach out with God's love to others who may or may not be exactly like us.

Do you believe this? What do you believe? As we move through the Lenten season, it is my prayer that our Lenten Midweek series, *We Believe* will not only help us answer that question but also strengthen our faith in Christ, so that we all may have His peace and joy and *Live and Share God's Love* together.

In Christ's Service,
✠ Pastor Erickson



Saturday, February 1

9:00 am Holy Yoga - OR
Middle School Retreat - Io-Dis-E-Ca

Sunday, February 2

12:30 pm High School Youth

Monday, February 3

7:30 am Coffee Outreach
10:00 am Women's Small Group - Marion
5:00 pm LWML Board Mtg - Ad Ed

Tuesday, February 4

3:00 pm Prayer Group - Library
5:00 pm Praise Moves - GA
6:00 pm Evangelism Board - Ad Ed
6:00 pm Trustees Meeting - LL
6:30 pm Handbells - Balcony

Wednesday, February 5

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Ad Ed
6:00 pm Confirmation Classes

Thursday, February 6

3:00 pm Adult Bible Study - Ad Ed
6:00 pm Human Care - GA

Saturday, February 8

9:00 am Vocal Choir Practice
9:00 am Holy Yoga - OR

Sunday, February 9

9:45 am Family Promise Mtg. - Ad Ed
12:15 pm Sunday School Fellowship

Monday, February 10

7:00 am Elders' Meeting
7:00 am Coffee Outreach
10:00 am Women's Small Group - Marion

Tuesday, February 11

3:00 pm Prayer Group - Library
5:00 pm Praise Moves - GA
5:00 pm Board of Education Mtg.
6:30 pm Handbells - Balcony
7:00 pm Council Meeting - Ad Ed

Wednesday, February 12

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Ad Ed
6:00 pm Confirmation classes

Thursday, February 13

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - Ad Ed
6:30 pm Leah Circle - Ad Ed

Saturday, February 15

9:00 am Holy Yoga - OR

Sunday, February 16

12:30 pm High School Youth
2:00 pm Super Bowling - CR Bowl

Monday, February 17

7:00 am Coffee Outreach
10:00 am Women's Small Group - Marion
6:30 pm Stephen Min Cont. Ed

Tuesday, February 18

3:00 pm Prayer Group - Library
5:00 pm Praise Moves - GA
6:30 pm Handbells - Balcony

Wednesday, February 19

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Ad Ed
4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotions
6:00 pm Confirmation classes

Thursday, February 20

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
11:00 am Senior Worship

Saturday, February 22

9:00 am Vocal Choir Practice
9:00 am Holy Yoga - OR

Monday, February 24

7:00 am Coffee Outreach
10:00 am Women's Small Group - Marion

Tuesday, February 25

3:00 pm Prayer Group - Library
5:00 pm Praise Moves - GA
6:30 pm Handbells - Balcony

Wednesday, February 26

6:00 am Men's Bible Study-Ad Ed
12:00 pm Beacon Assembly
5:00 pm Ash Wednesday Meal
6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
7:00 pm Confirmation Classes

Thursday, February 27

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - Ad Ed

Saturday, February 29

9:00 am Holy Yoga

Key: **Ad Ed** - Adult Education Room
 FLC - Family Life Center
 GA - Gathering Area
 OR - Opening Room
 LL - Lower Level



We will host Family Promise families the week of **Feb. 9-16**. Please keep this in mind as you come to Bethany for other activities during that week.

Elders

Feb 2 Dave Dohrmann
Feb 9 Jim Heitland
Feb 16 Rick Foreman
Feb 23 Jim Novitch

Ushers

Feb 2	8:30	Crew #4	11:00	Crew #8
Feb 9	8:30	Crew #1	11:00	Crew #6
Feb 16	8:30	Crew #2	11:00	Crew #7
Feb 23	8:30	Crew #3	11:00	Crew #6

Greeters

Feb 2	8:30	Dave & Kay Karsten
		Rick & Marvelene Foreman
Feb 9	8:30	Jason & Jodi Strait
		Carol Grimminger
Feb 16	8:30	Mike & Dawn Thomas
		Vern & Betty Happel
Feb 23	8:30	Rick & Sandy Thorington
		Don & Betty Hein

Feb 2	11:00	Karen Schmidt
		Donice McDonald
Feb 9	11:00	Karen & (Noah) Swanson
		Chris & Leisa Knudson
Feb 16	11:00	Donna Birkicht & Mary Nanke
		Shari Mehlhoff
Feb 23	11:00	Ken & Elaine Cook
		Jim & Lissa Novitch

Lectors

Feb 2	8:30	Mark Elias
	11:00	Karen Swanson
Feb 9	8:30	Rick Thorington
	11:00	Leonard Tiedt
Feb 16	8:30	Rick Foreman
	11:00	Dave Johnson
Feb 23	8:30	Harrison Sieck
	11:00	Maren Hopkins

Communion Sunday Prayers

Feb 2	8:30	Carol Grimminger
	11:00	Melissa Loney
Feb 16	8:30	John Hamm
	11:00	Lori Dohrmann

Nursery (11:00 Service)

Feb 2	Annie & Natalie Prohaska
Feb 9	Maren Hopkins, Debbie Mills
Feb 16	Kris Dunn, Tracy Moffett
Feb 23	Hannah Sieck, Karen Schmidt

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)

Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotions offer an opportunity to study God's Word through text and reflection questions. With messages based on the church calendar's three-year lectionary, devotions are based on Psalms, the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Gospel texts. Additional devotions explore a hymn from the *Lutheran Service Book*, a "classic" text from some LHM resource, and a sermon excerpt by a previous Speaker for The Lutheran Hour. These devotions can be accessed online at lhm.org under the "Resources & Training" tab.

Thanksgiving:

Brad (cousin of *K Pfeffer)- Recovering after heart transplant
 Kayleen (friend of *Novitches)- Recovering after surgery
 Newly installed Bethany Lutheran Church Officers

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Brian (son in law of *Mary Nanke)- 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
 Carol (mother of *Kris Larson)- Hip pain
 Andrew (relative of *Brenda Heims)- Health issues
 Mike (relative of *Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after surgery
 Jennifer (daughter of *Pat Krekeler)- Life challenges
 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
 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

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- at home
 *Del & *Dee Block- Summit Pointe, Marion

Cancer:

Carol (sister of *Lori Dohrmann)- cancer treatment
 Marlene (aunt of *Lori Myer)- cancer
 Bryan (brother of *Trisha Brink)- cancer treatment
 Tony (friend of *Mike Thomas)- cancer
 Deb (niece of *Carol Grimminger)- cancer
 Kevin (brother of *Laura Holt)- cancer treatment
 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:

Marilyn (friend of *Faye Sieck)- Died 1/26
 Shelly (cousin of *Karen Pfeffer)- Died 1/18
 Mark (infant of Vicar Renner)- Died 1/12

Safety:

Taylor (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 Sunday prayer list, the email prayer chain, or both. Call 364-6026 or email requests to nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.

Senior Worship and Lunch

Next service:

Thursday, February 20
 11:00 a.m.

Join us for

SUNDAY SCHOOL



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

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.



Kids in preschool - kindergarten meet in the preschool room in the lower level.

Kids in 1st - 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.

Sunday School Happenings

On Sundays, students in 1st-5th grade have rotating stations of crafts, games, or music. On January 26, preschoolers - 5th graders participated in making a Valentines craft (*pictured, right*). Find their creations on the creative wall net outside the sanctuary. The 1st-5th graders played charades to help them remember the Sunday School lesson of the day (*pictured, bottom left*). The Advent calendar was created to remind Sunday School kids of the true reason of Christmas: Jesus' birth! Daily emails were sent to families to encourage them to bless others through thoughtful gestures (*pictured, bottom right*).



**Education Session Dates:**

February 16 & 23, & March 1

Time: 9:50-11:00 a.m.

Blessing Event: March 8

Facilitator: Angie Pfeil

Faith Milestones

1st and 2nd Grade Milestones

Parents of 1st and 2nd grade students: Faith Milestones can help you and your family in bringing God into your home. This age's Milestone is a Worship Kit, which will help you learn:

- How to use the power of technology to enhance your family's worship life.
- How to have effective family devotions.
- How to create a blessing for your child.
- How to work together to make your child's Worship Kit.
- Sessions will allow time to connect with other parents.

Middle School Retreat

Students in 6th-8th grade will gather for a retreat and the annual Snowlympics at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, Jan. 31 - Feb. 1. The group will meet at Bethany at 6:00 p.m. on Friday to carpool to camp, and will return at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday.



Sunday School Family Fellowship

Sunday School kids and their parents are invited to gather for fellowship on Sunday, February 9 at 12:15. Please plan to join us after service to get to know other Sunday School families.



High School Youth

Students in 9th-12th grade gather on the first and third Sundays of each month, 12:30-2:00 p.m. Join us in the high school room for fellowship, games, and time in God's word. Invite a friend, too!



Our next time to host for Family Promise will be **February 9-16**. Family Promise is a program that works with faith communities in the area to house families who are currently homeless.

We will need several volunteers to provide meals, as well as people to stay overnight at Bethany to host families. Please sign up at the Welcome Center to volunteer, or go to bit.ly/39eu9og to sign up online. If you are signed up, please attend a meeting on February 9 at 9:45 a.m. in the Adult Education Room.



Baby Bottle Boomerang

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Baby Bottle Boomerang to benefit Bridgehaven!



Embracing Diversity

On January 18, Bethany members attended a scripture-based workshop led by Marcy Roundtree. The topic was ethnic diversity in God's kingdom, and those in attendance were challenged to get out of their comfort zone and let love lead the way in all their interactions. We participated in discussions on stereotyping and racism, and building relationships. In God's kingdom we are called to embrace and celebrate differences, as we find unity in Christ.

Bethany members are encouraged to actively pursue diverse interactions as we live and share God's love with all people. Keep your eyes open for opportunities to love, and look for more information to come as we continue the conversation on diversity in our congregation.

WHEN HAVE YOU LIVED AND SHARED GOD'S LOVE?

Living and sharing God's love is the mission of Bethany Lutheran Church. In your own life, when have you found opportunities to live and share God's love? Share your story! Contact the church office at 319-364-6026 or office.bethanycr@gmail.com to share your living and sharing God's love story.

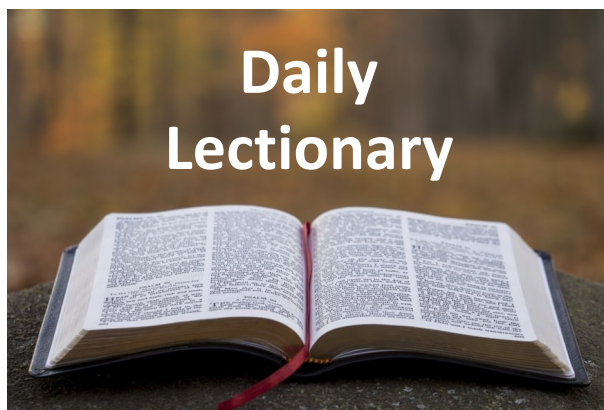
Pastor's Thoughts on the February Readings

February continues the reading of the Pentateuch. *Pentateuch* is the term, from the Greek meaning “five-vesseled,” used as early as the 3rd century to refer to the first five books of the Bible. The content of these five books are held to have been passed from generation to generation by the faithful believers until they were written down by a Spirit inspired Moses (most probably during the 40 year wanderings in the desert, around 1446-1406 B.C.).

The book of Exodus, which we begin on the first of this month, tells of God’s delivering His people from slavery in Egypt. Their “exit” or “departure” gives the book its name. Moses, the Passover, the Seven Feasts, the Exodus itself, the Manna and Water in the desert, the Tabernacle, and the High Priest are shadows of the greater grace to come in Christ Jesus (see especially how the author of Hebrews “preaches” on Exodus). Note that the people of Israel are to be freed from bondage in Egypt in order to worship God, just as we are freed from our slavery to sin to do the same—to worship God.

In the middle of the month, we take up Leviticus, in which God through Moses proscribes how He is to be worshiped. God also gives details relating to the Levites, for which the book is named. God’s grace is again clear in pictures of Christ: the five offerings, the high priest, and the seven feasts. Those offerings and feasts no longer pertain to us, but the priestly office does. Today all baptized people are priests in their offering of praise to God, and pastors continue to represent the people to God and be God’s priests to the world.

The final five days of February, we read half of the book of Numbers, which continues Exodus’ historical narrative with the people’s preparations to move from Sinai to Canaan. Remember that though a good portion of the content of the Pentateuch consists of laws of one sort, there is still Gospel, the good news of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, to be found in these books. Similarly, the Old Testament as a whole, must not be regarded as “law” in comparison to the New Testament as “Gospel”. In both Old and New Testaments one can find examples of both the law, the teaching of the Bible that shows us we are sinners, and the Gospel, the teaching of the Bible that tells us what Jesus Christ has done about our sin.



February 2020

- 1__ Luke 2:29-32 & Exodus 1-3
- 2__ Psalm 59 & Exodus 4-6
- 3__ Psalm 60 & Exodus 7-9
- 4__ Psalm 61 & Exodus 10-12
- 5__ Psalm 62 & Exodus 13-15
- 6__ Psalm 63 & Exodus 16-18
- 7__ Psalm 64 & Exodus 19-21
- 8__ Psalm 65 & Exodus 22-24
- 9__ Psalm 66 & Exodus 25-27
- 10__ Psalm 67 & Exodus 28-30
- 11__ Psalm 68 & Exodus 31-33
- 12__ Psalm 69 & Exodus 34-36
- 13__ Psalm 70 & Exodus 37-38
- 14__ Psalm 71 & Exodus 39-40
- 15__ Psalm 72 & Leviticus 1-3
- 16__ Psalm 73 & Leviticus 4-6
- 17__ Psalm 74 & Leviticus 7-9
- 18__ Psalm 75 & Leviticus 10-12
- 19__ Psalm 76 & Leviticus 13-15
- 20__ Psalm 77 & Leviticus 16-18
- 21__ Psalm 78 & Leviticus 19-21
- 22__ Psalm 79 & Leviticus 22-24
- 23__ Psalm 80 & Leviticus 25-27
- 24__ Psalm 81 & Numbers 1-3
- 25__ Psalm 82 & Numbers 4-6
- 26__ Psalm 83 & Numbers 7-9
- 27__ Psalm 84 & Numbers 10-12
- 28__ Luke 2:29-32 & Numbers 13-15

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2/21 Arlen & Bonnie Breiholz

2/24 Nancy & Gene Owens

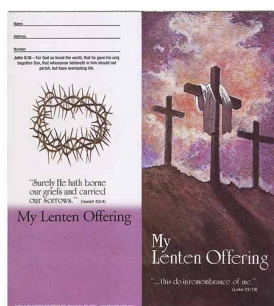
Don't forget! We offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Please consider electronic giving, which offers convenience for individual congregation members.

GIVEPLUS⁺

Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings to the church's account.

Credit Card Giving allows you to make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using a credit card.

Online Giving allows you to visit bethanycr.org at any time to set up an automatic plan, change your plan, make a one-time offering, or view your giving history.



Lenten Quarter Folders

Quarter folders for Lenten offering will be available to pick up outside the sanctuary. 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. Please return your folder in its envelope to Bethany on Easter Sunday.

Super BOWLING

February Fellowship Event



While football may be over, join Bethany friends for Super Bowling on February 16 at the Cedar Rapids Bowling Center (265 Blairs Ferry Rd. NE). We will meet at 2:00 and bowl two games, with various prizes to be awarded. Please invite friends to join us for a fun afternoon! The cost will be \$9 per person, to cover two games and shoe rental. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend.

Lenten Fellowship Meals

Midweek Lenten meals will be served on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center, followed by service at 6:00 p.m.

If you are interested in helping coordinate the meal on March 18, March 25, or April 1, contact the church office at 319-364-6026.



TACO FIESTA

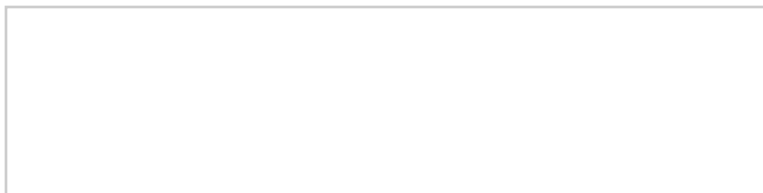
Bethany friends enjoyed tacos, games and fellowship on January 19.



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