Bethany Beacon

Living and Sharing God's Love

Nurse Ronda and DCE Intern Amanda coordinated efforts for Sunday School children to send cards to Bethany members. Want to be paired with a card buddy? Contact Ronda (nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com) or Amanda (dceintern.bethanycr@gmail.com), or call the church office at 364-6026.



Card made by Lucas and Natalie Heller

"When Miss Amanda asked Sunday School families if they would like to participate in an activity that included our shut-in members, I was excited to share this opportunity with Ella. We discussed how this period of time in our lives has been difficult to social distance and stay home from our jobs and school and although we have each other, some other people are by themselves. Ella was eager to help send cheer to others. She "just knew" her cards would make someone else happy! Ella not only made cards and colored pictures, but also sent activities for them to do. This was a great opportunity for us to discuss sharing God's love and how he has blessed each of us in different ways. Ella really enjoyed participating in this activity."

- Amy Smith

"Thank you to Barry & Amy Smith and family for living and sharing God's love with me! The letter from you that told of your family activities and the Easter drawing that Ella did made me feel very good. Thank you for sharing your talents and God's love."

- Dee Rose

Please stay connected! Even in social distancing, we can send cards and make phone calls to friends and loved ones. Another great way to stay connected is to call someone to read through Sunday services with them! This works well as the service guides are formatted in a way to be read responsively. Contact 319-364-6026 or office.bethanycr@gmail.com if you would like to be connected with someone to call and read services with.





Bethany Living and Sharing God's Love

As we begin the month of May, the coronavirus continues its deadly impact all over the world. However, as states, including Iowa, begin to roll back some of the restrictions that have been put in place to help slow the spread of COVID-19, it seems that we may be getting close to at least begin the conversation of gathering back together at Bethany for worship services. To be clear, at the time of this writing (April 28th) Gov. Reynolds has not eased any of the restrictions in Linn County where Bethany is located. However, in 77 counties restrictions are being eased, including for houses of worship statewide. Therefore, it seems as if the end of our exile may soon be in sight.

I use the term "exile" for what we have been experiencing as a congregation because not being able to worship together for these last six weeks, reminds me of God's people in the Old Testament who were exiled in the land of Babylon. In the year 587 B.C. the Babylonians destroyed the Temple and the rest of the city of Jerusalem. We read at the end of II Chronicles that those who survived the sword were sent off to Babylon to be slaves. There in that land they remained, unable to offer the sacrifices that God had commanded since the time Moses because they were no longer in Jerusalem, and even if they were, there was no longer any Temple in the city. God's people were in the Babylonian Exile.

But in 539 B.C. King Cyrus of Persia defeated the Babylonian empire at the Battle of Opis. The Bible tells us that this Gentile ruler recognized that God had given him his kingdom and having conquered the land where the Jews were held, told him to let the Jews return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple (II Chronicles 36:23 and Ezra 1:2). Thus, in the first year (538/537 B.C.) of his rule over Babylon, King Cyrus of Persia issued a decree, charging the people of Judah to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple so they could once again worship God.

While the experience of Bethany's "exile" over the last few weeks has been very different from the Babylonian Exile of 2500 years ago, and therefore may be of limited interest for us in our current situation, I do believe the return of the Jews to Jerusalem may give us some helpful insights to think about as we start to think about returning to Bethany for worship services. First, Martin Luther said that he was not surprised at how few of the Jews actually returned to Jerusalem. The Jews became comfortable in captivity, and even with the prospect of freedom and true worship held before them, many chose to stay in the land of their oppressors. Luther likens this to people's lack of desire to study the Word of God. Today, there is a danger that some have not only become comfortable in their sin, but also with not coming to church. They will choose to remain in their exile, even once we have the freedom to worship together again.

Also, Dr. Andrew Steinmann points out in his commentary on Ezra and Nehemiah (Concordia Publishing House) that in the Bible not too much is said about the journey of the people to who did return. Rather, reading God's Word (Ezra 2), we see the emphasis on the people whose hearts God had aroused to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. Thus, it is God's gracious work among the Jews that is highlighted. God was not just restoring a temple or a city, but He was continuing His steadfast love for His people and restoring them to prepare the way for the coming Messiah. When the time comes for us to gather again, we must celebrate more than just the fact that we can meet in groups of 10 or 50 people. Rather we must hear God's Word and receive the sacraments so we may rejoice in God's continuing love for us, despite of And when we are together again, our "togetherness" must not be the goal itself. Instead we must come together so that together we may Live and Share God's love through the Messiah, Jesus Christ. We must do this with each other and for each other, as well as with the world that needs Him now, more than ever.

As you read this edition of the *Beacon* I pray that you will see how our congregation continues to *Live and Share God's Love* even during our time of "exile". But I also pray that it will help remind us all of God's everlasting love through Christ Jesus our Lord, and prepare us for the time when we will experience that love together back at Bethany.

May God's peace continue to be with all of you and stay safe!

→ Pastor Erickson

PRAYER PAGE

Thanksgiving:

Brooks (grandson of *Mark & *Julie Elias)- Born 4/24 Healthcare workers

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Those affected by COVID-19

DeWayne (father of *S. Hanchera)- Recovering after hospitalization

Mary Lou (mother of *Becky Thur)- Health issues Seth (son-in-law of *Zenors)- Health issues

Carolyn (mother of Mary Vezina)- Recovering from shingles Joyce (mother of *A. Segebart)- Recovering after surgery Gene (husband of *K. 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 *B. 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 *J 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

Safety:

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

Rod (nephew of *Bonnie Bubke)- Parkinson's Disease

David (relative of *Melissa Loney)- Health issues

Local/National/World:

Local, state, and national leaders Victims of floods, hurricanes, fires and disasters

Homebound members of Bethany:

*Rollis Deetz- at home

*Shirley Hansen-Hospice House, Hiawatha

*Wayne & Darlene Schilling- at home

Candi Engel– at home

*Ann Meyer-Terrace Glen, Marion

*Del & *Dee Block-Summit Pointe, Marion

Cancer:

Pat (niece of *Bonnie Bubke)- cancer

Jerry (father of Missy Gingrich)- cancer treatment

Glen (brother of *Rob Sieck)- cancer

Maryellen (mother of Tina Freese)- 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 Myers)- 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

Grief, family and friends of:

Chad (son of *Vicki Huschka)- leukemia

Rita (friend of *Shirley Kellogg)- cancer

Harold (grandfather of *Amanda Segebart)- Died 4/17
Nathan (nephew of *Mark Bornemann)- Died 4/15
Tod (friend of *Aaron Moffett)- Died 4/14
Ruth (aunt of *Carol Edwards)- Died 4/2
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

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

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.

CALENDAR 4

Tuesday, April 28

6:00 pm Evangelism Mtg. - Zoom

Thursday, May 7

6:00 pm Human Care Mtg. - Zoom

Tuesday, May 12

5:00 pm Board of Education - Zoom



MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/1	Ashley Freese	5/11	Brad Crawford	5/25	Julie Elias
Ο, .	Ally Olson	O ,	Chris Frampton	5/27	
5/2	Scott Deetz		Lucas McCarley	5/28	Blake Kroemer
	Julie Holt	5/12	Mike Diers		Tom Larson
5/3	Justin McCarley	5/13	Brianna Prohaska	5/29	Jase Bond
	Patrick McCarley	5/19	Lily McClellan		Beth Bricker
	Annie Prohaska	5/20	Amy Diers		Erin Wilson
5/4	Jakob Bulicek		Alex Theriault	5/31	Lauren Bricker
	Clara Hinz	5/21	Leonard Tiedt		Lexi Brink
5/5	Shirley Deetz	5/22	Trisha Brink		Josh Dohrmann
5/9	Kaleb Diers	5/23	Lori Dohrmann		Sage Duve
5/10	Kerry McGraw		Karen Swanson		
	Richard Pfeil	5/24	Serena Knudson		

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/2	Dave & Wendy Christian	5/19	Doug & Diana Long
5/4	Ray & Kerry McGraw	5/21	Jeff & Lynn Madsen
5/11	Scott & Kathryn Deetz	5/22	Larry & Sharon Easler
5/13	Michael & Annie Prohaska	5/23	Jake & Tami Vande Weerd
5/14	Gary & Pam Kaufman	5/29	Mark & Anna Ranbarger
5/16	Mike & Lora Raymon		

Pastor's Thoughts on the Lectionary

We begin this month with finishing the collection of St. Paul's letters on May 1st. The letter to Titus, like those to Timothy, is to a pastor and his congregation (note especially the great summaries of grace and Baptism). Philemon is a believer, who Paul asks to accept back as a brother the runaway slave, Onesimus.

Beginning on May 2nd, we start to read other New Testament letters. In reading Hebrews, notice especially how the author warns us about the dangers of abandoning the true teaching and sacraments for the sake of escaping persecution, and notice the "heroes of the faith" in chapter 11. James, the half-brother of the Lord, encourages us by describing the life that Christians should live. Peter's two letters give Jewish and Gentile Christians scattered through Asia Minor a strong Baptismal teaching and instructions regarding persecution inside and outside the church, and directions for dealing with false teachers and evildoers in the revealed church. The Apostle John has three letters in the New Testament, though, like in his Gospel account, he does not refer to himself by name in them. The first expresses God's grace very clearly and addresses false teaching. The second and third letters address the issue of discouraging false teaching by not showing hospitality. Jude, likely another halfbrother of the Lord, writes briefly of the Gospel as the antidote for false teaching.

Starting on May 14, we begin to read John's Gospel account, written for people to come to faith and continue believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, so that by believing they might have life in His Name (20:31). Written in a different style than the "synoptic" Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, John's Gospel treats in a circular, escalating fashion the very same themes.

The rest of May, our attention is directed to Acts. The book of the Acts of the Apostles is the second New Testament book recorded by St. Luke. Where the earlier book that bears his name tells "about all Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was given up to heaven" (1:1-2), this book details the spread of the Church from Jerusalem, to Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth (1:8) after Jesus' ascension.

Daily Lectionary

May 2020

- 1___ 1 Sam. 2:1-10 & Titus & Philemon
- 2 Psalm 121 & Hebrews 1-4
- 3 Psalm 122 & Hebrews 5-7
- 4 Psalm 123 & Hebrews 8-10
- 5 Psalm 124 & Hebrews 11-13
- 6 Psalm 125 & James 1-3
- 7 Psalm 126 & James 4-5
- 8 Psalm 127 & 1 Peter 1-2
- 9 Psalm 128 & 1 Peter 3-5
- 10 Psalm 129 & 2 Peter
- 11 Psalm 130 & 1 John 1-3
- 12 Psalm 131 & 1 John 4-5
- 13__ Psalm 132 & 2 John & 3 John & Jude
- 14 Psalm 133 & John 1-2
- 15 Psalm 134 & John 3-4
- 16 Psalm 135 & John 5-6
- 17 Psalm 136 & John 7-8
- 18 Psalm 137 & John 9-10
- 19 Psalm 138 & John 11-12
- 20 Psalm 139 & John 13-14
- 21 Psalm 140 & John 15-16
- 22 Psalm 141 & John 17-18
- 23 Psalm 142 & John 19
- 24 Psalm 143 & John 20-21
- 25 Psalm 144 & Acts 1-2
- 26 Psalm 145 & Acts 3-4
- 27 Psalm 146 & Acts 5-6
- 28 Psalm 147 & Acts 7-8
- 29 Psalm 148 & Acts 9-10
- 30 Psalm 149 & Acts 11-12
- 31 1 Samuel 2:1-10 & Acts 13-14

We're All in This Together.

Bethany Lutheran Church is coordinating efforts to meet some basic needs during challenging times. Starting now through the month of May, we will take a collection of household items and distribute them to those who would be blessed by a hand up!

Here's what we're collecting:

- Hand soap
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Disinfecting wipes/spray
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Store gift cards













How do I receive?

These items will be available to any Bethany members or friends who would be blessed by them. No questions asked! You will not need to provide reason for need.

Please call the office at 319-364-6026 to arrange pick-up.

How do I donate?



Items can be dropped off at Bethany Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Please call the office at 319-364-6026 ahead of time, and ring the doorbell when you arrive. You may also choose to order online, and have the store deliver items directly to Bethany. If you would like donations picked up from your home, call Nurse Ronda at 319-721-3779.

Please continue to practice responsible social distancing, and plan to purchase items when you are already at the store for your personal shopping.

BULLETIN 7

















What Have You Been Up To?

- Lorna Fischer wrote and sent letters.
- The Hellers worked on a puzzle.
- Diane tried to keep Kent at home!
- Annest has school and play at home.
- Nurse Ronda has played piano.

- Mitch and Lori kept busy at home.
- The Framptons went hiking.
- Cindy Goerdt made window hearts.
- Mike Goerdt did woodworking.
- Knutsons went shopping for TP!







It is encouraging that members are mailing their offering to the church office. Others have started using electronic contributions through our website or on their smart phones with the GivePlus app. We've had some questions from those new to these options, so here are some questions and answers to help our members feel comfortable with these options.

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 because we are not able to meet on Sundays for the time being, we are not receiving the typically monthly giving that supports the ministry of our congregation.

Q&A

I only want to make a one-time contribution. Do I have to set up an account?

Setting up an account is recommended. You don't have to set up an account; however, the advantage is that you can always go back to the account and see your electronic offering history, confirm a contribution, or make another contribution without having to re-enter all of your information. Each time you enter contributions as a guest the system will create a new customer number for you.

Is the website electronic giving secure?

Yes, our electronic giving system is secure. The giving page on our website is a link to our vendor's secure website where the transaction takes place.

When I made a contribution on the Bethany website why I didn't get a confirmation email?

The email is sent when your payment is processed. The electronic payments from a checking or savings account take two days to process, so you will not get an email right away. You can print the confirmation page from your computer screen if you want. Debit and Credit card contributions are immediate, therefore an email is generated right away. You must enter an email address to get a receipt sent to you.

Offering Envelopes: You can mail your giving envelopes to the church office. They are deposited weekly.



Bethany Lutheran Church 2202 Forest Dr SE Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

For details, please contact Office Manager Missy Gingrich at officemanager.bethanycr@gmail.com or contact the church office at 319-364-6026 to leave a message.

Electronic Choices



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



Mobile App Giving:

Search your app store for "GivePlus Church" and download the GivePlus app to make a one-time or recurring offering. Set up an account you so can make changes at anytime.



Paper Form:

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

GIVE PLUS Automatic Electronic Giving

For those who would like to participate in an electronic giving option without using the website or App you can simply fill out the Give Plus Authorization form. Electronic giving allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. You can eliminate writing checks and preparing envelopes. It is convenient for you and provides giving consistency for our church.

How to get started

To set up electronic offering, simply complete the authorization form and return it to the church. Your gifts can be debited automatically from either a checking or savings account.

You can request offering envelopes that can be used for special services throughout the year. You can also put the empty envelope in the collection plate during services as we know that the symbolic act of giving is an important part of church services.

Once the authorization form has been processed you will be contacted to confirm that your electronic giving has been set up. Your authorization form can be changed or cancelled anytime throughout the year.

Questions?

If you have questions on electronic giving, contact Office Manager Missy Gingrich at 319-929-0868 or officemanager.bethanycr@gmail.com.

GIVE PLUS AUTHORIZATION FORM



DATE:		ENVELOPE NUMBER:					
Name:							
Address:							
City State Zip:							
Email Address:							
FIRST CONTRIBUTION DATE:	FUNDS:		AMOUNTS:				
1	General/Operating						
	1st of Month		\$				
FREQUENCY OF DONATION:	15th of Month		\$				
Weekly – Mondays	Weekly Amount		\$				
Semi-monthly—1st & 15th			<u>,</u>				
Monthly on the I st	Monthly TOTAL:		\$				
Monthly on the 15 th							
Please debit my contribution from my (check one): Savings Account (attach a voided deposit slip) Checking Account (attach a voided check) Routing Number: Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number:							
I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. Authorized Signature:							

Please mail your completed form along with a voided check or deposit slip from your checking or savings account.

Bethany Lutheran Church
Attn: Office Manager
2202 Forest Dr SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403



National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer will be recognized on Thursday, May 7. Please plan to join the nation in prayer! You may join the event on Facebook live that evening, 7:00-9:00 p.m. For more information, please visit www.nationaldayofprayer.org.



New Bethany Website

A new church website is coming! The webpage will provide important information for both visitors and members, and will still be found at www.bethanycr.org. Contact office.bethanycr@gmail.com for information.

CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program

The CARES Act economic stimulus package created a forgivable loan program in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. Religious organizations are among those who may qualify for assistance. Bethany applied for participation in this program on April 5. We were approved on April 6 through our bank, Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust, obtaining a PPP loan before the first round of funding ran out on April 16.

Bethany leadership determined it was important for Bethany to apply for these funds which offers relief to ministries because of the sudden and unexpected drop in Sunday offerings. These funds will help us retain workers, maintain payroll, and cover immediate expenses.

Payments can be deferred for 6 months or forgiven altogether. The program will require us to document payroll costs and certify that PPP loan funds were used only for approved purposes. These include:

- Lease, rent, or utility payments.
- Retaining/rehiring workers and maintaining payroll (salaries, full-time and part-time employee wages, independent contractor wages, benefits, state and local tax on employee compensation).
- Mortgage interest payments.

The PPP loan is eligible for 100% forgiveness if used accordingly. The Forgivable Loan is based on 2.5 months of payroll and benefit expenses. These funds will assist Bethany in providing ongoing ministry and support to our members.

Blessings,

Bill Freese, Treasurer

Missy Gingrich, Office Manager

BULLETIN

Sunday Bible Study



Bethany friends gathered on Zoom for an online Bible study on Sunday, April 19.

Pastor Erickson will continue to lead online Bible study on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

To join the Zoom Bible study, find the link at www.bethanycr.org under Sundays > Sunday Morning Bible Class. You may click on the link, or enter the meeting ID in Zoom: 870 7027 0821

As we gather in large groups in a virtual setting, please keep these guidelines in mind to help our Bible studies go smoothly:

- Please keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking.
- If you would like to speak, raise your hand (either with the "raise hand" function, or physically raise your hand) and Pastor Erickson will call on you.
- Remember that if you use the chat function to message everybody, it will be sent to everybody.
- If you choose to use video, try to avoid things like bright lights behind you, so others can see and recognize you.

Holy Yoga

Julie Rosenberg is offering free online classes through the month of May to all Bethany members and their friends. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with Christ and others on our mats! For those wanting to maintain whole body health (heart, soul, mind, and body), these classes are for all levels.

Monday @ 9 AM - Hatha Yoga on mat

Tuesday @ 9 AM - Chair Yoga

Thursday @ 9 AM - Hatha Yoga on mat

Friday @ 9 AM - Chair Yoga

Saturday @ 9 AM - Hatha Yoga on mat

How to access Yoga classes on Zoom:

https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5575978639

Or enter Meeting ID directly on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 557 597 8639

Password: 045973

JOIN US ON SUNDAYS



SERVICE

Use the "Worship Resources" tab at www.bethanycr.org to find materials to aid you in worshipping at home.



BIBLE STUDY On Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Erickson leads a Bible Study on Zoom. To access the meeting, go to Sundays > Sunday Morning Bible Class at www.bethanycr.org.



FOR THE KIDS

Children's messages from DCE Intern Amanda Segebart and Sunday School materials are made available on the "Worship Resources" tab at www.bethanycr.org.



Holy Communion

On Palm Sunday (April 5), 55 people received communion at Bethany. The next day to sign up to receive communion is tentatively set for Pentecost Sunday (May 31), pending on circumstances at that time. Please look for information to sign up for a small-group time slot.



Living and Sharing God's Love

CONNECT WITH US

Website | www.bethanycr.org

Email office.bethanycr@gmail.com

Phone | 319-364-6026

facebook | facebook.com/bethanycria