

Bethany Beacon

JULY 2020

Still Living and Sharing **GOD'S LOVE**

It's been a challenging season adapting to a "new normal" of adjusted schedules and lifestyle changes as we all try to stay healthy and safe.

While things have looked a little different at Bethany over the last few months, God is still at work, and we are still part of God's plan.

Please read this issue of the Beacon to learn about ministries that are still happening at Bethany. Whether you are still staying at home, or returning to Bethany as we start to gather in person again, there are ways for you to be in God's Word and be involved in our community of faith.

Members of the Bethany family are encouraged to continue to seek ways to live and share God's love. If you are looking for ways to connect, please reach out to the church office at 319-364-6026. Let us know how you have been finding ways to live and share God's love!



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. – John 16:33

Jesus first spoke these words to His disciples in the context of His death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. Because they followed Jesus through these events and beyond, the disciples would face trouble in the world, including persecution. But Jesus' ministry, including His death, resurrection and ascension, were all done so that He might overcome the world and its problems of sin and death. Therefore, those who believe and trust in Him as their Lord and Savior may truly live in peace, regardless of whatever tribulation or problem they may face. This is Good News for us today, because as we all know, we face some really serious problems.

Over the last few months all of us have been navigating a new world that is being ravaged by the Coronavirus and its subsequent effects on our society. Regardless of whether or not we ourselves have become ill, lost employment, find ourselves wearing masks, or just staying at home more than usual, all of us have felt the effects of the current pandemic. The adjustments that we have had to make in how we worship, work, shop, or relax have lifted the veil on how fragile our lives and communities can really be.

On top of the effects of this pandemic, we have recently seen over the last few weeks protests and discussions that are taking place in our nation, the world, and eastern Iowa concerning racial injustice in our country. While there seems to be no reasonable proponents speaking for racism today, along with the protests there are now conversations taking place, sometimes insincere and often contentious, as to the extent and the solutions for this scourge. How long all of this will continue to happen and what the results will be, if any, have yet to be seen.

Thinking of these problems for too long can be frustrating or discouraging. Thinking of how we can help with them, or even just live or survive dur-

ing such turbulent times for another week or another month, can be overwhelming. Which is why it is so important to remember what Jesus told His disciples in the verse above. The troubles that the disciples would face would not necessarily be a virus, racism, or civil unrest. But regardless of what form their tribulations took, Jesus had overcome them, just as He has overcome ours. As we're confronted with COVID-19, racial injustice, or any other problem that we face in this world, remember: Jesus has already overcome all the tribulations of this world through His death and resurrection.

This message of Jesus's victory over sin, death, and the devil through the cross and empty tomb is the essence of the Christian Church, and therefore our congregation at Bethany. However, this does not mean that Christians can sit back in a world full of problems, talk about the Gospel, and wait for Jesus to return! Rather, just as Jesus didn't just appear out of heaven to die on the cross for our sin, but rather had a ministry of three years teaching and performing amazing works of mercy and healing to show His Words were true (John 20:30-31), so too are Christians today called to teach God Word and show that it is true through their actions of mercy and love.

Therefore, as God's people at Bethany, our lives and work will continue to center around the Word and Sacraments of the One who has overcome the world. Yet, as God's redeemed people through Christ, each one of us must also be contributing to solutions to the problems and the alleviation of suffering in this world and our communities and neighborhoods. As you read this month's *Beacon* you may not see as much of that as you would like because of where we have been with the pandemic over the last few months. And if that bothers you – good, it does me too. But let's use that frustration and, most importantly, the hope that Christ's victory gives us over the problems of this world, to move us forward as His people *Living and Sharing God's Love*.

In Christ's Service,

✝ Pastor Erickson

Thanksgiving:

Christian fathers

Don & Carol Loesch (parents of *A Pfeil)- 60th anniversary 6/18

Jill (daughter of *Dick & *Karen Hass)- Recovering after surgery

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Those affected by COVID-19

Gene (husband of *K. Schmidt)- Recovering after surgery

Lyla (relative of *Sheryl Knutson)- Health issues

Andrew (relative of *B Heims)- Recovering after surgery

Barb (friend of *Pat Krekeler)- Health issues

Zoe (granddaughter of *Mary Nanke)- Recovering after cornea transplant

Mary Lou (mother of *Becky Thur)- Recovering after surgery

Seth (son-in-law of *Zenors)- Health issues

Carolyn (mother of Mary Vezina)- Recovering from shingles

Joyce (mother of *A. Segebart)- Recovering after surgery

Carol (mother of *Angie Pfeil)- Recovering after fall

Jennifer (daughter of *Pat Krekeler)- Life challenges

Jeff Mellgren (former member)- Recovering after stroke

Steve (brother of *L Patten)- Health issues

Hayden (relative of *Bonnie Bubke)- Brain disorder

Gwendolyn- (friend of *Karen Swanson)- Terminal illness

Susan (niece of *Bonnie Bubke)- Health issues

Pastor Renfro (Trinity)- Health issues

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

Safety:

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

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

Local/National/World:

Local, state, and national leaders

Victims of floods, hurricanes, fires and disasters

Homebound members of Bethany:

*Rollis Deetz- at home

*Wayne & Darlene Schilling- at home

Candi Engel- at home

*Ann Meyer- Terrace Glen, Marion

*Del & *Dee Block- Summit Pointe, Marion

*Larry & *Sharon Easler- Summit Pointe, Marion

Cancer:

Oz (father of *Dathan Hinrichs & *Josie Hester)- in patient cancer treatment at U of I

Pat (niece of *Bonnie Bubke)- cancer

Jerry (father of Missy Gingrich)- cancer treatment

Glen (brother of *Rob Sieck)- cancer

Jim (friend of *Sheryl Knutson)- cancer surgery

Carol (sister of *Lori Dohrmann)- cancer treatment

Tony (friend of *Mike Thomas)- cancer

David (relative of *Hasses)- cancer

Gene (husband of *N Owens)- cancer treatment

Julie (friend of *Brenda Heims)- cancer

Janet (friend of *Brenda Heims)-cancer

Judy (godmother of *Jim Novitch)- cancer treatment

Chad (son of *Vicki Huschka)- leukemia

Rita (friend of *Shirley Kellogg)- cancer

Grief, family and friends of:

Yonne (mother-in-law of *Doris Baker)- Died 6/24

Eleanor (mother of *Ken Cook)- Died 6/22

Ashley (friend of *Ronda Anderson)- Died 5/19

Connie (friend of *Knutsons)- Died 5/19

DeWayne (father of *Steve Hanchera)- Died 5/17

MaryEllen (mother of *Tina Freese)- Died 5/12

Bob (friend of *Pat Krekeler)- Died 5/9

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.

Sunday, June 28

10:00 am Call Meeting at Bethany

Wednesday, July 1

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Monday, July 6

10:00 am Women's Group

6:00 pm Trustees Mtg. - Ad. Ed. Rm.

Wednesday, July 8

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Thursday, July 9

9:00 am Bible Study - Family Life Center

Saturday, July 11

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Zoom

10:00 am Bike Ride - NewBo

Monday, July 13

10:00 am Women's Group

Tuesday, July 14

7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 15

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Thursday, July 16

9:00 am Bible Study - Family Life Center

Saturday, July 18

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Zoom

Sunday, June 19

Virtual VBS

Monday, July 20

10:00 am Women's Group

Wednesday, July 22

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Thursday, July 23

9:00 am Bible Study - Family Life Center

Saturday, July 25

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Zoom

Sunday, July 26

11:00 am Rite of Confirmation

Virtual VBS

Monday, July 27

10:00 am Women's Group

Wednesday, July 29

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Thursday, July 30

9:00 am Bible Study - Family Life Center

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/1 Ben Mims

7/3 Elaine Cook

Rick Foreman

John Siebenmann

7/5 Corey Stackhouse

7/6 Arlen Breiholz

Rachel Henderson

7/7 Barry Smith

7/9 Landon Oja

7/10 Phil Hedtke

7/12 Carol McGinnis

7/13 Myriah Blazicek

Tristan Bond

7/14 Jeff Bulicek

7/15 Bill Freese

Chris Knudson

Jake Sturtz

7/16 Mindy Thies

Bryce Wilson

7/17 Jim Heitland

7/19 Nicole Deetz

Mark Holt

7/20 Christine Erickson

7/21 Jo Godbey

7/22 Carson Theriault

7/23 Jodi Strait

7/24 Isaac Corey

Lainie Olson

Renee Riffey

7/27 Meghan Prohaska

7/28 Ken Cook

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/1 Nathan & Stacy Brusius

7/2 Joe & Anna Milbach

7/5 Rollis & Shirley Deetz

Josh & Haley Dohrmann

7/7 Jeff & Melinda Crow

7/8 Lee & Brenda Heims

7/11 Andy & Sarah Gates

7/12 Richard & Angie Pfeil

7/16 Steve & Kathy Hanchera

7/20 Mark & Julie Gutman

7/23 Duane & Karen Pfeffer

7/24 Dave & Kay Karsten

7/26 Brad & Erin Crawford

7/27 Vern & Betty Happel

7/28 David & Carolyn Johnson

7/29 Ryan & Ginny Urban

Pastor's Thoughts on the Lectionary

Throughout most of this month we continue reading “The Former Prophets”, picking up the historical narrative at Saul’s demise. As we finish 1 Samuel, and read all of 2 Samuel, we cover David’s kingship. Reading through 1 and 2 Kings covers all the kings after David until the people went into exile.

King David is one of the most important “types” of Jesus in the Old Testament. He rules with justice, wisdom, integrity, courage, and compassion. Though he was not perfect, he is a living prophecy of Jesus. God promised David that a king from his line would rule righteously forever. God fulfilled that promise in Jesus, the Son of David, who sits on the throne of David, and surpasses His ancestor.

After David, Solomon ruled. This wise king also foreshadows Jesus, but, again, Jesus is greater than Solomon. Solomon built the Temple David wanted to build, and his dedication tells us a lot about our coming to worship where God’s Name is today. The kingdom expanded then, even as God’s kingdom expands today.

From such thoughts about the expansion of the kingdom, we next read of the division of the kingdom and the less-than-faithful “Kings” who followed in each of its two parts. Israel, the northern kingdom, turned away from God faster and further than did Judah, the southern kingdom. (At times this narrative can be hard to follow, as it dates kings in one kingdom by referring to the other.) Ultimately, despite work of prophets such as Elijah, the leaders and people of both kingdoms were exiled for their unfaithfulness, similar to the exile we deserve from God’s presence on account of our sin. Their prophesied deliverance and return points to our salvation by grace through faith in Christ.

The books we read this month have unknown authors and have multiplied since their origin. The title of 1 and 2 Samuel has virtually nothing to do with Samuel as a potential author and virtually everything to do with Samuel’s role in the books, and the books were originally one book with various titles. Similarly, 1 and 2 Kings were one book and do not identify its human author, who remains unknown, though tradition says it was Jeremiah.

On the 26th of July, we begin the first of two books that were also one book in the Hebrew Old Testament canon and came at its end: Chronicles, one of the Old Testament “Writings”. The anonymous author, known as the Chronicler, began with a summary of the genealogies from creation to David’s reign, and, beginning with chapter 10, the book details David’s reign through to Solomon’s succession. Once again, we see God’s grace in the promise to David and the leading up to Jesus, whose family line goes back to the tribe of Judah.

Daily Lectionary



July 2020

- 1__ Deut. 32:1-4 & 1 Samuel 28-31
- 2__ Psalm 28 & 2 Samuel 1-3
- 3__ Psalm 29 & 2 Samuel 4-6
- 4__ Psalm 30 & 2 Samuel 7-9
- 5__ Psalm 31 & 2 Samuel 10-12
- 6__ Psalm 32 & 2 Samuel 13-15
- 7__ Psalm 33 & 2 Samuel 16-18
- 8__ Psalm 34 & 2 Samuel 19-21
- 9__ Psalm 35 & 2 Samuel 22-24
- 10__ Psalm 36 & 1 Kings 1-2
- 11__ Psalm 37 & 1 Kings 3-6
- 12__ Psalm 38 & 1 Kings 7-8
- 13__ Psalm 39 & 1 Kings 9-11
- 14__ Psalm 40 & 1 Kings 12-14
- 15__ Psalm 41 & 1 Kings 15-17
- 16__ Psalm 42 & 1 Kings 18-20
- 17__ Psalm 43 & 1 Kings 21-22
- 18__ Psalm 44 & 2 Kings 1-3
- 19__ Psalm 45 & 2 Kings 4-6
- 20__ Psalm 46 & 2 Kings 7-9
- 21__ Psalm 47 & 2 Kings 10-12
- 22__ Psalm 48 & 2 Kings 13-15
- 23__ Psalm 49 & 2 Kings 16-18
- 24__ Psalm 50 & 2 Kings 19-22
- 25__ Psalm 51 & 2 Kings 23-25
- 26__ Psalm 52 & 1 Chron. 1-5
- 27__ Psalm 53 & 1 Chron. 6-10
- 28__ Psalm 54 & 1 Chron. 11-15
- 29__ Psalm 55 & 1 Chron. 16-20
- 30__ Psalm 56 & 1 Chron. 21-25
- 31__ Deut. 32:1-4 & 1 Chron. 26-29



Virtual Vacation Bible School

Join us online for Rainforest Explorers VBS this summer, five Sundays in a row!

July 19: Lesson 1 (God Rescues Noah)

July 26: Lesson 2 (God Gives the Commandments)

August 2: Lesson 3 (Jesus Calls His Disciples)

August 9: Lesson 4 (Jesus Heals Ten Lepers)

August 16: Lesson 5 (Jesus Visits His Disciples)

Lesson videos will be available to all Bethany families. Check your email to find the videos, which you may watch on your own time. Each Sunday there will be an opening video from Bethany, in addition to lesson videos from Concordia Publishing House.

Please register by Wednesday, July 8 if you would like to receive a free packet with lesson leaflets, crafts, and/or a music download card. Find the link to register at www.bethanycr.org/children-youth or call the church office at 319-364-6026.

Contact the office at office.bethanycr@gmail.com or 319-364-6026 for more information.

[Register at bethanycr.org/children-youth](http://www.bethanycr.org/children-youth)

Confirmation

The Rite of Confirmation will take place at the 11:00 service on Sunday, July 26.



God's blessings to our 2020 Confirmands:

Abby Bogner
Lexi Brink
Mya Chamberlin
Ashlyn Godbey
Noah Pelletier
Carmen Ranbarger
Talan Robinson
Caleb Strait

FELLOWSHIP BIKE RIDE



Join Bethany friends for a bike ride on the Cedar River Trail on Saturday, July 11, followed by ice cream or lunch in NewBo! We will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Cedar Rapids Transit parking lot (located at 2nd St. and 12th Ave. SE in NewBo), then bike south along the Cedar River Trail for a distance before returning to NewBo. Please keep in mind social distancing guidelines as you are gathering in the parking lot and biking along the trail, so this can be a fun and safe event for anyone who would like to attend.

After the bike ride (around 11:30-noon), anyone is welcome to stick around for lunch or ice cream. Bring some money to get your favorite food from the market. We will gather outside on the plaza in front of the market.

If you plan to attend, please reply to the event in the Bethany Facebook group, or call the church office at 319-364-6026.

We're All in This Together.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the collection and distribution of household items and basic needs. Items are available to Bethany members and friends, no questions asked. If you could use assistance at this time, please do not hesitate to contact the church at 364-6026.



Call Meeting

The voters' meeting to call a DCE will take place on Sunday, June 28. The meeting will be held in Bethany's Family Life Center at 10:00 a.m.

Information about the candidates is posted on the bulletin board by the main entrance.



We will need at least 50 people in attendance for quorum. Please sign up if you plan to attend the meeting. Check your email to sign up online, or call the church office at 319-364-6026.



Holy Yoga

Julie Rosenberg will lead Holy Yoga on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 925 021 4069

Password: 0im0Wt



Family Promise

Mark your calendar for August 9-15. Please look for information to come on how to sign up. We will need volunteers to provide food and cook meals for the family. If the family stays here at Bethany that week, we will also need volunteers to stay overnight.



Especially For You

The Especially For You Race Against Breast Cancer will be on Sunday, October 11 at 8:00 a.m. Join the Bethany team! Registration is \$32. Contact Nurse Ronda for information at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.

[Register by September 14](#)



Small Group Ministry

Bethany members are encouraged to stay connected by joining a small group. Now is an important time to engage in intentional community with friends, as many of us are still isolated at home. At this time groups are currently meeting online on Zoom, and may continue meeting in person in the future.

Groups are using engaging material from the Bible Project—Church at Home: Small Group Study. Each group sets their own schedule, so you may meet at your convenience. If you would like to be connected with a group, please contact Nurse Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com or 319-721-3779 and she will help you find a small group of 3-6 people.

Adult Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendar for August 17-20. These are the tentative dates for Adult Vacation Bible School. We will continue to monitor the situation to determine the safest way to meet for this study. Please look for more information to come in next month's Beacon.

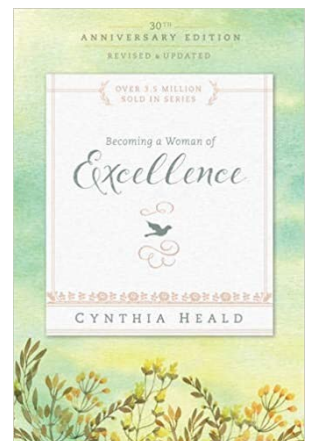
Study Opportunities for Women & Men

Women

Women's small group will continue to meet on Mondays via Zoom during the month of July. The group is currently reading the book, "Becoming a Woman of Excellence" by Cynthia Heald. For details, please contact Nurse Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.

Men

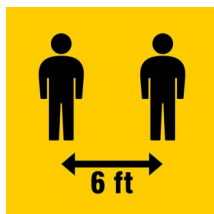
Men's Bible study is currently meeting on Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m. These online meetings are happening via Zoom. Please contact the church office if you would like to participate. All men are welcome to join the group.



Worship Guidelines

So that we may safely gather to receive God's blessings through His Word and Sacraments, please keep the following guidelines in mind before attending services at Bethany. Thank you for your understanding and willingness to adapt during these difficult times.

1. Starting June 28, two services will be held on Sundays. The 8:30 a.m. service will be traditional, and the 11:00 a.m. service will be contemporary.
2. Attendance per service will be limited to 50 people in the sanctuary and seats will be assigned. Please sign up the week before (Monday-Friday) if you plan to attend on Sunday. A link to SignUp Genius will be emailed, or you may call the church office at 364-6026 to sign up. If the sign up reaches 50, please call the church office if you wish to be added to overflow seating in the Gathering Area. You will receive an email or phone call by the end of the week with your seat assignment.
3. Those who are over the age of 65, have medical conditions that increase their risk of complications, are feeling ill, or have been recently exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 are asked to consider waiting to worship with us.
4. A mask that covers your nose and mouth must be worn. There will be a limited number of masks available at the church. Attendees are asked to wash their hands in the bathroom or make use of the available hand sanitizer. In addition, please keep 6 feet away from people not in your family group.
5. Congregation members will not sing during the service.
6. Holy Communion will be celebrated every Sunday until further notice. During the distribution, ushers will invite one family group at a time to the altar.
7. Offering plates will not be passed during the service. Tithes and offerings may be placed in the plates in the back of the sanctuary or worshippers may use one of Bethany's electronic giving options.
8. At the end of the service family groups will be dismissed starting in the back of the sanctuary.
9. There will be no coffee, doughnuts, or Sunday School between services. If you desire to mingle, you will be asked to do so outside of the building, while keeping a safe distance from each other.
10. As service attendance will be limited, we will continue to provide service resources for people access from home. This way, everyone will still have the opportunity to worship and hear the message.



Bethany has continued to be blessed with tithes and offerings from many of our members. As each of us continues to persevere and adjust during these uncertain times so have the various ways that gifts continue to come into the church. Approximately 40 households are now using the electronic giving options and we continue to receive offerings through the mail as well as Sunday offerings with the resumed services.

As always, Christians give their tithes and offerings with gratitude for what God has given to them, especially through Christ our Lord. Thank you for continuing to support the ministry at Bethany Lutheran Church and allowing us to share the good news in our community.

Bethany's Electronic Giving Choices

Online Giving:

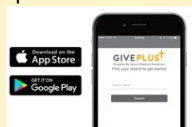
Visit **Bethanycr.org**

Look for the **GIVING** tab to manage or set up recurring and one-time offering using your bank account or debit/credit card.



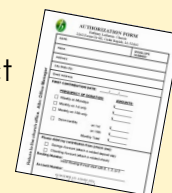
Mobile App Giving:

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 any time.



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.



Questions & Answers about electronic giving

Do I have to set up an account?

Setting up an account is encouraged! 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. Look for the Instructions on the website just click on (instructions here).

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

Questions?

Contact Office Manager
Missy Gingrich at 319-364-6026 or
officemanager.bethanycr@gmail.com

JOIN US ONLINE FOR SERVICE AND STUDY



SERVICE

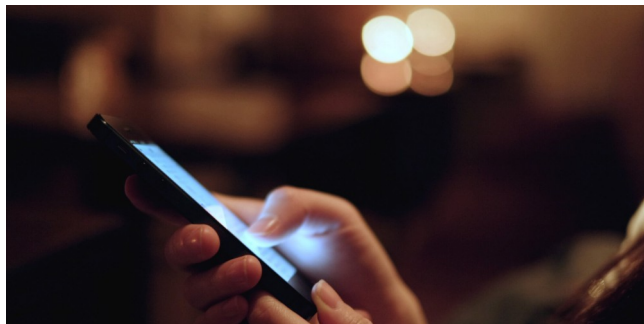
Use the “Resources” tab at www.bethanycr.org then click on “Worship” to access service materials.



BIBLE STUDY

Starting in July, Sunday morning Bible study will be both in-person (Sundays at 9:45 in the Family Life Center) and online. Please check your email for information about how to join the online Bible study.

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.



New Bethany Website

Our website (www.bethanycr.org) has been updated. Contact office.bethanycr@gmail.com if you would like assistance navigating the updated website. Please use the “2020 Updates” page to see the latest news and updates.



CONNECT WITH US

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