

Bethany Beacon

AUGUST 2020

Staying Connected And in God's Word



Various small groups at Bethany have been meeting via Zoom to stay connected and in God's Word together. Some groups have been using The Bible Project (find it online at thebibleproject.com) Church at Home series. Participants can listen to a short audio and watch a short video before meeting, then when groups get together they read 2-3 Bible passages and go through discussion questions together. Topics covered by the groups have included Shema, sin, transgressions, iniquity, Ecclesiastes, generosity, and justice. If you would like to join a group, please contact Nurse Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com or 319-721-3779 to get connected.



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

Members and Friends of Bethany,

As summer begins to wind down in the midst of the pandemic, our congregation faces both challenges and opportunities that will be addressed by our leadership in the future, and some of which are described in this issue of the Beacon. And while there is much uncertainty in the world today, we can say with confidence that having been blessed by God and the faithfulness of His people at Bethany, we will continue to Live and Share God's Love as we are guided by the Holy Spirit. With this confidence and gratitude, I'd like to share the following thoughts from our Synod's stewardship ministry as we move towards the Fall...

"Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, "You know the commandments." And the ruler replied, "All these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." (Luke 18:18–22)

As we listen to this, one question is raised in our minds: Is Jesus speaking to us also or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer: No! But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor?

The simplest explanation is this: If we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't mean it isn't to be used for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth.

- We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from either our birth into the church or the birth of others by Baptism into it.
- We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from either our birth into that family or the birth of others into our family.

- Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are is to be pressed into service for the church, the family, and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and our duties toward them would falter.

So consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family. You save for college for your children.

But the one station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits – the best from off the top – even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought and intent. It means that you sit down and make a plan for what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems there are other more immediate and pressing things.

This is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time while giving is low due to high unemployment or restrictions on meeting in church to give. If we love God, his gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace we receive at church and only at church, then we will support the church just as we love our country and our family.

For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious and giving God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son into death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What is more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of the church, the family, and society, are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

Thanksgiving:

Bethany Confirmation students

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

Debbie (relative of *Carol Grimminger)- Recovered after COVID-19

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Those affected by COVID-19

Judy (niece of *Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after surgery

Ron (brother of *Gloria Schumacher)- Health issues

Lee (husband of *Brenda Heims)- Health issues

Mary Jane (mother of *Phil Hedtke)- Recovering after surgery

Joe (relative of *Bonnie Bubke)- Medical issues

LoAnn (relative of *Bonnie Bubke)- Ill with COVID-19

Agnes & Shel (friends of *Siebenmanns)- Serious illnesses

Jane (daughter of *Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after procedure

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

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:

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:

Ray (cousin of *Bonnie Bubke)- Died 7/17

Jim (cousin of *Sheryl Knutson)- Died 7/16

*Shirley Deetz (wife of *Rollis, mother of *Scott, *Barb & Kim)- Died 7/1

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

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

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, August 2

1:00 pm Communion
Virtual VBS

Monday, August 3

10:00 am Women's Group
6:00 pm Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, August 5

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Thursday, August 6

6:00 pm Human Care Meeting

Sunday, August 9

9:45 am New Member Welcome
Virtual VBS

Monday, August 10

10:00 am Women's Group

Tuesday, August 11

7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 12

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Sunday, August 16

Virtual VBS
Family Fun Day

Monday, August 17 - Thursday, August 20

9:00 am Adult VBS - Zoom

Monday, August 17

10:00 am Women's Group

Wednesday, August 19

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Monday, August 24

10:00 am Women's Group

Wednesday, August 26

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Thursday, August 27

7:00 pm Book Study - Zoom

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/1	Eric Freese Marge Grovert Alex Schweer Kora Urban	8/10	Pam Kaufman	8/20	Paul LeFevere
8/2	Dustin Bricker John Hutcheson	8/11	Ellen Holt	8/22	E.J. Brink Adalyn Gates Nikki Stackhouse
8/3	Brad Easler	8/12	Del Block Josie Hester	8/23	Donna Birkicht Talan Robinson
8/4	Gary Kaufman	8/13	Doreta Bogner Craig Riffey	8/25	Karen Pfeffer Dale Stonewall
8/6	Angie Pfeil	8/15	Lucas Heller	8/26	Matthew Rinderknecht Michelle Wiersig
8/7	Richard Hass Ed Schumacher	8/16	Claire Brusius Mya Chamberlin	8/28	Loti Moeller Drew Zimmerman
8/9	Deb Heitland Leisa Knudson	8/17	Ryne Chamberlin Carolina Rinderknecht	8/30	Joyce Fritz Pete Larson
8/10	Vern Happel Brenda Heims	8/19	Josh Bricker Elaine Willett		
		8/20	Neveah Duve Leo Hinz		

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/1	Mike & Cindy Goerd Robby & Andrea Russman	8/11	Josie & Cleo Hester
8/2	Corey & Nikki Stackhouse	8/12	Kenneth & Ellie Smith
8/3	Greg & Kris Dunn	8/14	Ben & Dawn Mims
8/4	Mike & Amy Diers	8/15	Tyler & Kaylee Hedtke Tom & Debbie Mills
8/6	Dave & Lori Dohrmann	8/16	Joel & Katia Knutson Wayne & Darlene Schilling
8/8	Jim & Deb Heitland	8/29	Josh & Marissa Keldgord
8/9	Ryan & Liz Corey		

Pastor's Thoughts on the Lectionary

We begin August by continuing to read II Chronicles, which details the reign of Solomon and summarizes the reigns of Judah's other kings through to Judah's exile in Babylon and promised return. Solomon is another type of Jesus, as Solomon's temple also is fulfilled in Jesus.

One of the more faithful kings after Solomon was Hezekiah, whose notable reformation the divinely-inspired Chronicler details (beginning in II Chronicles 29). Hezekiah not only focused on physically cleaning the House of the Lord, but he also restored the service of the House of the Lord, making provisions for music, worship, and the sacred meal, as did the 16th-century Lutheran Reformation, focusing primarily on God's service to us.

On August 13-18, we continue reading "the Writings" by taking up the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, which continue the historical account where Chronicles left off. These two books from the Bible were originally treated as one and may have been authored by the same person as Chronicles. It is generally thought that Ezra arrived in Jerusalem first (and rebuilt the Temple) and was later joined by Nehemiah (who rebuilt the city's wall). Both books show how God fulfills His gracious promise to the people by returning them from exile (as He delivers us from sin). We also see the importance of preserving the Israelites' genealogy as they await the Messiah, coming through a specific family line.

August 19-21 we read Esther. Esther was a Jewish woman who became queen of Persia. Though we read her book after Ezra-Nehemiah, she likely reigned before their time. She exhibits Christ-like qualities in being willing to die for her people and advocating on their behalf. This account gives the background for the annual Jewish festival of Purim, a festival of God's faithfulness to His people. God's faithful and gracious preservation of His people in the face of danger and opposition is readily apparent in Esther, and we should remember God's promise to likewise always preserve us.

August 22 through the month's end we read the first part of Job, which is included in a subcategory of the "Writings", the Wisdom literature. The events of this book likely took place long before Esther, while the people lived under judges (before the reign of the kings), though possibly the events were not recorded until much later. As with I and II Samuel, the name of the book does not refer to its author (who is unknown) but to its central character. The book of Job shows how God uses suffering to test and teach us. As Job asks his wife, "Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" (Job 2:10), we are reminded that all things are truly in God's control.

Daily Lectionary



August 2020

- 1__ Habakkuk 3:2-19 & 2 Chron. 1-3
- 2__ Psalm 57 & 2 Chron. 4-6
- 3__ Psalm 58 & 2 Chron. 7-9
- 4__ Psalm 59 & 2 Chron. 10-12
- 5__ Psalm 60 & 2 Chron. 13-15
- 6__ Psalm 61 & 2 Chron. 16-18
- 7__ Psalm 62 & 2 Chron. 19-21
- 8__ Psalm 63 & 2 Chron. 22-24
- 9__ Psalm 64 & 2 Chron. 25-27
- 10__ Psalm 65 & 2 Chron. 28-30
- 11__ Psalm 66 & 2 Chron. 31-33
- 12__ Psalm 67 & 2 Chron. 34-36
- 13__ Psalm 68 & Ezra 1-5
- 14__ Psalm 69 & Ezra 6-10
- 15__ Psalm 70 & Nehemiah 1-3
- 16__ Psalm 71 & Nehemiah 4-6
- 17__ Psalm 72 & Nehemiah 7-9
- 18__ Psalm 73 & Nehemiah 10-13
- 19__ Psalm 74 & Esther 1-3
- 20__ Psalm 75 & Esther 4-6
- 21__ Psalm 76 & Esther 7-10
- 22__ Psalm 77 & Job 1-3
- 23__ Psalm 78 & Job 4-6
- 24__ Psalm 79 & Job 7-9
- 25__ Psalm 80 & Job 10-12
- 26__ Psalm 81 & Job 13-15
- 27__ Psalm 82 & Job 16-18
- 28__ Psalm 83 & Job 19-21
- 29__ Psalm 84 & Job 22-24
- 30__ Psalm 85 & Job 25-27
- 31__ Habakkuk 3:2-19 & Job 28-30



Virtual Vacation Bible School

Join us online as we continue Rainforest Explorers VBS this summer!

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 are available to all Bethany families. Check your email to find the videos, which you may watch on your own time. Lesson materials can also be found at bethanycr.org/children-youth/ online. If you take any pictures of your family participating in at-home VBS, please send them to the office at office.bethanycr@gmail.com to be shared in next month's Beacon!

Family Fun Day

Mark your calendar for **August 16**. The board of education will host a time of fellowship. Please look for more information coming soon!

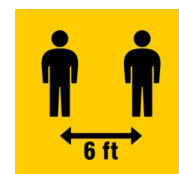
FELLOWSHIP BIKE RIDE

Bethany friends enjoyed a fellowship bike ride on July 11 in the NewBo neighborhood.

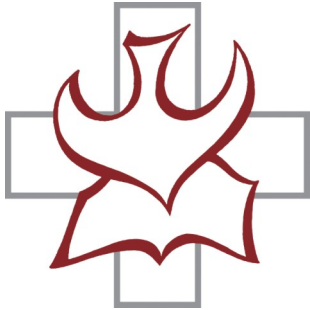


Worship Guidelines

Please refer to the "2020 Updates" tab on our website at www.bethanycr.org to stay up to date on plans for gathering and worship guidelines to follow during the pandemic. Thank you for doing your part to keep our community healthy and safe with smart practices as we continue to put our trust in the Lord.



Confirmation



The Rite of Confirmation took place on July 26.

God's blessings to our 2020 Confirmands:

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



Confirmation 2020-2021

If you have a student entering 7th or 8th grade this fall (1st and 2nd year confirmation) please plan to attend confirmation orientation with your student on Wednesday, September 2, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Please contact Pastor Erickson if you would like more information about confirmation.

Call Meeting

The voters' meeting to call a DCE took place on Sunday, June 28. Voters voted to extend a call to Jessica Dvorak, who has returned (declined) the call.



Communion Schedule

Communion will be served at the 8:30 and 11:00 services on the first and third Sunday of each month. If you would prefer receiving communion, apart from these services, in a small group at Bethany, you may sign up to receive communion in the afternoon on the first Sunday of each month, starting August 2.

Time slots will be limited to one family group at a time. To sign up for a 15-minute slot, call the church office at 364-6026 or use the link sent to your email.

Family Promise



Bethany will provide groceries and meals for Family Promise the week of August 9-15. Thank you to everyone who has signed up to donate food!



Especially For You

The Especially For You Race Against Breast Cancer will be on Sunday, October 11. This year the race will be a virtual event. Look for details to come about plans for the Bethany team. For more information and to learn where to sign up, contact Nurse Ronda: nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.

Know a Seminary Student?

Bethany has the opportunity to sponsor two seminary students at Concordia Seminaries. We sponsor students from Concordia in Fort Wayne and Concordia in St. Louis each year. We will now be sponsoring two new students and can request a student. If you know of a friend or relative who will be starting at Concordia Seminary, we can request to sponsor them. Please contact the office at 364-6026.



Sunday Morning Bible Study

Pastor Erickson leads Bible study on Sundays at 9:45 in the Family Life Center. Participants may also join from home online via Zoom.

If you plan to join us in person, you do not need to sign up, but face masks are required.

We will cover the following topics. On August 9 we will have a special event to welcome new Bethany members (all are encouraged to attend).

August 2: Stress and Our Future

August 9: *Welcome Event for our New Members*

August 16: What is Racism?

August 23 & 30: A Biblical Perspective on Racism

September 6: Combating Racism in the Church

Virtual Adult Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendar for August 17-20. Pastor Erickson will lead Adult Vacation Bible School that week, Monday-Thursday, 9:00-10:30 a.m. This year Adult VBS will be virtual, taking place on Zoom. Pastor will lead a study on the book of Ruth.

Study on “God and the Pandemic”

Pastor Erickson will lead a virtual study on Zoom on the book “God and the Pandemic” by N.T. Wright. This will take place on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., August 27-September 24.

Contact the church office if you plan to attend so we can send you the Zoom link. You may order your book on Amazon, or contact the church office if you need us to order your book.

N.T. Wright invites you to consider a response that draws on a careful reading of the Bible, Christian history, and above all on the way of living, thinking, and praying revealed to us by Jesus.

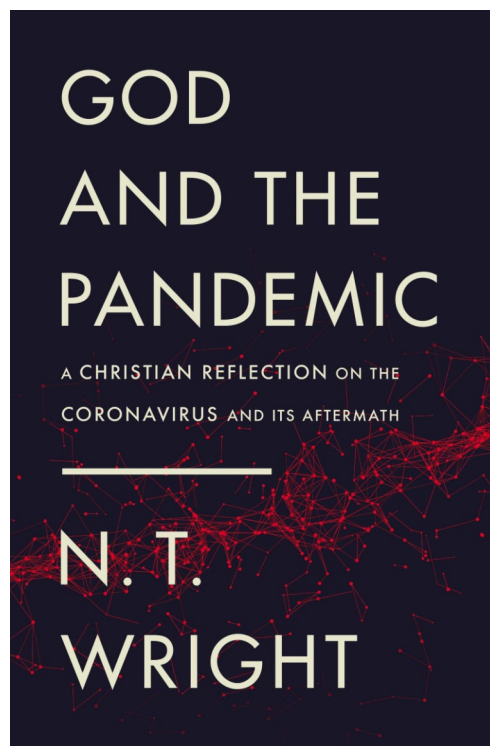
August 27: Where Do We Start?

September 3: Reading the Old Testament

September 10: Jesus and the Gospels

September 17: Reading the New Testament

September 24: Where Do We Go From Here?



Last week, midyear statements were sent out in the mail to anyone who has given to Bethany in 2020. This mailing also included an update to the 2020 financials as of June 30th and as we enter into the second half of the year.

The year 2020 has brought changes not only in how we worship but in how we support the ministry of Bethany. We have been blessed by the many members who have found the ease and convenience of the electronic giving options along with the members who have taken the time to mail or drop off their gifts. These gifts have helped to support our mission of Living and Sharing God's love during these uncertain times.

For Bethany members who would like to sign up for the electronic giving, it is easy to do. Please see the enclosed information regarding how you may set up your offering using the electronic options.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions you may have at treasurer.bethanycr@gmail.com. If you have any questions regarding the giving statement, please contact Laura Holt, Financial Secretary, at holt.laura@mchsi.com. Or leave a message at the church office 319-364-6026.

God's Blessings,

Bill Freese

Bill Freese
Treasurer

<u>Income</u>	<u>thru June 30th</u>	<u>Total for Year</u>
Offerings Budget	\$233,477	\$489,500
Offerings Actual	\$231,082	
 <u>Expenses</u>	 <u>thru June 30th</u>	 <u>Total for Year</u>
Budget for Expenses	\$260,618	\$514,379
Actual Expenses	\$214,636	

Bethany's Electronic Giving Choices

Online Giving:

Visit **Bethanycr.org** Look for the **GIVING** tab to manage or set up recurring and one-time offerings using your bank account or debit/credit card. Set up an account for easier access, make changes and see past giving history.



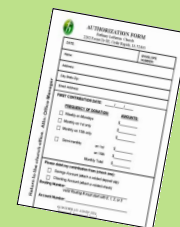
Mobile App Giving:

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 and see past giving history.



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. You will receive a confirmation email or phone call when it has been set up.



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



GIVE PLUS

Automatic 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.

GIVE PLUS AUTHORIZATION FORM

DATE: _____		ENVELOPE	
		NUMBER: _____	
Name: _____			
Address: _____			
City State Zip: _____			
Email Address: _____			
FIRST CONTRIBUTION DATE: _____ / _____ / _____	FUNDS: General/Operating 1st of Month 15th of Month Weekly Amount Monthly TOTAL:	AMOUNTS: \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____	
FREQUENCY OF DONATION: Weekly – Mondays Semi-monthly—1st & 15th Monthly on the 1 st Monthly on the 15 th			
<p>Please debit my contribution from my (check one)</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (attach a voided deposit slip)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check)</p> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Routing Number: _____</p> <p style="margin-top: 5px;">Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</p> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Account Number: _____</p> </div> <div style="flex: 1; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-left: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em;"> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 0 0 0 0 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> Routing Number Account Number Check Number </div> </div> </div>			
<p>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.</p> <p>Authorized Signature: _____</p>			

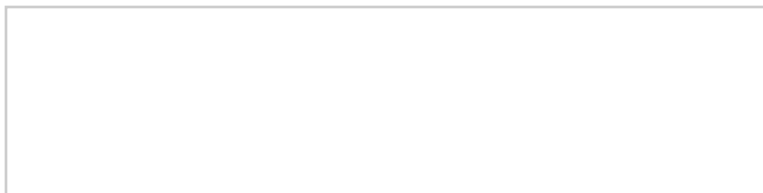
Please mail your completed form along with a voided check or deposit slip from your checking or savings account.

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

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