Bethany Beacon



On August 10, 2020, a storm called a derecho hit eastern Iowa. Soon after the storm, Bethany members were ready to jump in to assist with cleanup and recovery. Groups from Lutheran Emergency Response Team (LERT) have also been in the area, working with the Iowa District East to assist with disaster relief. Thank you for sharing Christ's love in our community! If you have any needs at this time, please continue to contact the church office at 319-364-6026 or email office.bethanycr@gmail.com. We would love to walk alongside you and assist with things such as meals, laundry, basic manual labor, etc.









Bethany Living and Sharing God's Love

PASTOR'S PAGE 2

Members and Friends of Bethany,

In the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic and the aftermath of the August 10th storm, I in no way want to minimize the suffering of so many people in our congregation and community. Yet despite the tragedy upon tragedy that has effected so many, I would be remiss if I didn't point out and give thanks for the many and amazing ways that God continues to work through our congregation, perhaps now more than ever.

First, and perhaps most importantly, despite the challenges that congregations like Bethany have been facing since March, I am happy to say that Word and Sacrament ministry continues in our congregation during these challenging times so that sinners may be led to repentance and find comfort in the grace and mercy of God through Jesus Christ. This has happened on Sunday mornings, both inside and outside of the walls of our church due to the efforts of faithful servants like Carolyn, Luke, Gerard, and many others serving as ushers, elders, musicians, and members of the Altar Guild. Their faithful service, often while facing difficult times themselves, is a testimony to God's providence in providing the comfort of the Gospel in the shadow of the gates of hell.

In addition to what has been happening on Sunday mornings, the other staff members of Bethany continue to faithfully serve our congregation and community every day of the week. Ronda Anderson, our Parish Nurse, has contacted scores of people and families to check in on their physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. Missy Gingrich, our Office Manager, has been working to ensure the building and congregation continues to be ready to meet the needs of our members. Maren Hopkins, our Communications Coordinator, has gracefully overcome the many challenges of our time to organize the various ministries of the congregation and link people who need help with those who can help. And moreover, each one of them been letting God's love shine through them as they have spent many hours helping people during the cleanup and recovery after the storm.

As gifted and dedicated as the staff is at Bethany, we would fall far short of God's purpose for our congregation if it were not for the many lay leaders and volunteers who enable us to *Live and Share God's Love*. Leaders like Steve Hanchera, Jim Novitch, and the rest of our Elders, who have been providing for the

needs of our members and reaching out to reassure them of God's providence and care. Or Debbie Mills and the rest of the Board of Education who have been planning, not only how to teach our youngest members God's Word in Sunday School, but also how to instill in them the sense of community that comes with being a member of a church. Then there are the boards of Human Care, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Trustees, and the many other individuals who have been volunteering – all working to ensure that Word and Sacrament ministry is able to continue among us, but also that our members and friends are comforted and cared for during such difficult times.

Of course, our lives as Christians are not just lived within the context of our congregation. Therefore, I'm pleased to hear of and see the many instances of our members who have been honoring our Lord by helping their neighbors in their various vocations outside of the church. Members like Ed and Gloria Schumacher or Troy Donels, who seem to be everywhere in our community helping and encouraging people through their skill and talents in the trades. Or Mitch and Lori Myers who have been feeding the many linemen who have come into our area to rebuild our infrastructure. Or the many members of Bethany, young (like the Zimmerman children) and old (I won't name names!), who came to help with the Washington High School Food Drive held in our parking lot. Or Mark and Laura Holt who, like many having suffered damage to their own home, nevertheless were out and about helping others.

These are but just a few examples of God's redeemed people living as God's redeemed people. (As appreciated as each one is, there is simply not enough room to list them all). But I mention these to reassure all of us, that despite the difficulties we have faced over the last few months and the challenges that we will face in the future, God is still active and working His good and gracious will among us through His people. Therefore, let us mourn with those who mourn, and pray for all those who continue to be in need. But let us also give thanks to God, not only for the victory over sin and death that we have through Jesus Christ, but also that so many of those who have been saved by His death and resurrection continue to fearlessly and boldly Live and Share God's Love.

PRAYER PAGE

Thanksgiving:

New members

*Darrell Chiavetta (fiancé of *Naomi Pfeil)- baptized 8/2 Mary Jane (mother of *Phil Hedtke)- Recovering after surgery Joyce (mother of Amanda Segebart)- Recovering after surgery

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Those affected by COVID-19 and the derecho storm
Judy (niece of *Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after surgery
Ron (brother of *Gloria Schumacher)- Health issues
Lee (husband of *Brenda Heims)- Recovering after surgery
Joe (relative of *Bonnie Bubke)- Medical issues
LoAnn (relative of * Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after broken leg
Agnes (friend of *Siebenmanns)- Health issues
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
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
Rod (nephew of *Bonnie Bubke)- Parkinson's Disease

Safety:

Tailor & Charlie (grandsons of *Kim Neuhaus)- Deployed

Homebound members of Bethany:

- *Rollis Deetz- at home
- *Wayne & Darlene Schilling- at home

Candi Engel- at West Ridge Care Center

- *Ann Meyer-Terrace Glen, Marion
- *Del & *Dee Block-Summit Pointe, Marion
- *Larry & *Sharon Easler Summit Pointe, Marion
- *Dee Rose- hospice care at home
- *Darlene Eckert- recovering after broken leg

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:

Shel (friend of *Siebenmanns)- Died 7/26

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

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

Local/National/World:

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

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, September 1

6:00 pm Evangelism Committee

Wednesday, September 2

6:00 pm Confirmation Orientation

Thursday, September 3

6:00 pm Human Care Meeting 7:00 pm Book Study - Zoom

Sunday, September 6

1:00 pm Communion

Monday, September 7

Office Closed

Tuesday, September 8

7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 9

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

6:00 pm Confirmation

Thursday, September 10

7:00 pm Book Study - Zoom

Monday, September 14

10:00 am Women's Group6:00 pm Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, September 16

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

6:00 pm Confirmation

Thursday, September 17

7:00 pm Book Study - Zoom

Sunday, September 20

12:00 pm Church Picnic - Squaw Creek Park

Monday, September 21

10:00 am Women's Group

Wednesday, September 23

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

6:00 pm Confirmation

Thursday, September 24

7:00 pm Book Study - Zoom

Monday, September 28

10:00 am Women's Group

Wednesday, September 30

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

6:00 pm Confirmation

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/1	Greg Dunn	9/9	Jeff Madsen	9/20	Janet Gebert
	Carolyn Johnson		Fran Struck	9/21	Zollie Duve
	Becky Thur		Kent Zenor		Doug Francik
	Sydney Wilson	9/11	Whitney Fountain		Macy Oja
9/2	John Hamm	9/13	Kevin Hansen	9/23	Ethan Myers
	Larry Throndson	9/14	Keenan Diers		Ken Smith
9/3	Jeannine Robinson	9/15	Eli Henderson	9/24	Linda Patten
9/7	Colton Keldgord		Sasha Knutson		Natalie Prohaska
	Shirley McElroy	9/17	Cherie Miller	9/28	Harold Schoen
	Bernice Stonewall		Maleta Montague	9/29	Kathy Hanchera
9/8	Adam Henderson	9/18	Jackson Rinderknecht		Darlene Schilling
	Trae Robinson	9/19	Donice McDonald	9/30	Joel Knutson

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/6	Brad & Brooke Oja	9/20	Rick & Sandy Thorington
9/12	Joel & Kristan Conrad	9/21	Mark & Laura Holt
9/17	Jerald & Karissa Scott	9/23	Darren & Cindy Bogner
9/18	Ryan & JJ Theriault	9/26	Karen & Eugene Schmidt

Pastor's Thoughts on the Lectionary

In September, the seasonal canticle is recorded in 1 Chronicles and is from King David's prayer of praise to God at the donation of supplies for the building of the first temple. As David confesses that all things, even his own, come from God, we confess the same truth as we give to God an offering of what He entrusts to our care.

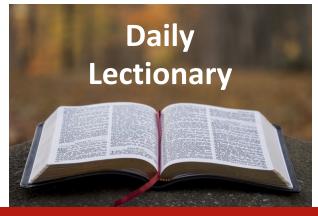
On the first four days of September, we (appropriately) finish reading the book of Job. One of the so-called "wisdom" books, Job gives us a good understanding of God's justice in light of human suffering that many people in our area are experiencing these days. At times we feel, as did Job, that God is only wrathful towards us, but grace is always there. God's answer to a somewhat disrespectful Job in chapters 38-41 helps us keep the right perspective when we want to ask God those seemingly unanswerable questions.

During September 5-14, Proverbs, another wisdom book, is our central focus. Many of these short, practical sayings are from King Solomon; 1 Kings 3 tells how Solomon prayed to God for wisdom, and 1 Kings 4:32 tells of his ability to speak proverbs. The "wisdom" so often described is the result of reverence (fear) for God. Jesus personifies Wisdom, and we herein read of His summoning us to His banquet: "Come, eat of My bread, and drink of the wine I have mixed" (Proverbs 9:5). That statement can point to Christ's invitation in His Holy Supper!

For four days in the middle of the month, we read Ecclesiastes. King Solomon may also have authored this honest look at human beings, though the author's name is not directly given in the book. Human wisdom cannot figure out God's larger purposes or the meaning of our existence: it all seems meaningless, but life centered on God has purpose and meaning.

Next in September we spend two days with another "wisdom" book, Song of Songs (that is, the greatest of songs), also called Song of Solomon (which could be simply a song about Solomon, or by Solomon). While the book can be taken to endorse marital love in all its beauty, it is perhaps best understood as giving us an Old Testament picture of the Church as the Bride of Christ, a figure of speech St. Paul also uses by Divine inspiration in Ephesians 5, with clear references to the role of Baptism ("the washing of water by the Word") in making the Church holy.

Lastly in September we begin the book of Jeremiah, one of the longest in the Bible, and one of the so-called "latter prophets". Jeremiah prophesied of God's coming judgment upon the people of Judah and its capital, Jerusalem. Yet, he also foretells of the people's release and return from exile to their land. He prophesies of Christ and His kingdom, especially in the 23rd and the 31st chapters. Especially notable in Jeremiah 31 is the promise of the new covenant under which God forgives sins and changes minds and hearts through His Sacrament of Holy Baptism.



September 2020

- 1 1 Chron. 29:10-13 & Job 31-33
- 2 Psalm 86 & Job 34-36
- 3 Psalm 87 & Job 37-39
- 4 Psalm 88 & Job 40-42
- 5 Psalm 89 & Proverbs 1-3
- 6___ Psalm 90 & Proverbs 4-7
- 7___ Psalm 91 & Proverbs 8-10
- 8 Psalm 92 & Proverbs 11-13
- 9 Psalm 93 & Proverbs 14-16
- 10__ Psalm 94 & Proverbs 17-19
- 11 Psalm 95 & Proverbs 20-22
- 12__ Psalm 96 & Proverbs 23-25
- 13__ Psalm 97 & Proverbs 26-28
- 14__ Psalm 98 & Proverbs 29-31
- 15 Psalm 99 & Ecclesiastes 1-3
- 16 Psalm 100 & Ecclesiastes 4-6
- 17 Psalm 101 & Ecclesiastes 7-9
- 18 Psalm 102 & Ecclesiastes 10-12
- 19 Psalm 103 & Song of Sol.1-4
- 20 Psalm 104 & Song of Sol.5-8
- 21 Psalm 105 & Jeremiah 1-3
- 22 Psalm 106 & Jeremiah 4-6
- 23 Psalm 107 & Jeremiah 7-9
- 24 Psalm 108 & Jeremiah 10-12
- 25 Psalm 109 & Jeremiah 13-15
- 26 Psalm 110 & Jeremiah 16-18
- 27 Psalm 111 & Jeremiah 19-22
- 28__ Psalm 112 & Jeremiah 23-25
- 29 Psalm 113 & Jeremiah 26-28
- 30_1 Chron. 29:10-13 & Jer. 29-31



Vacation Bible School

Thank you for participating in virtual Rainforest Explorers Vacation Bible School. If you missed a week, all resources can still be found on our website at bethanyer.org/children-youth.







Family Fun Day Church Picnic: September 20

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, September 20.** A church picnic and family fun day will be held after services at Squaw Creek Park. If the park is not open yet by then, the picnic will be held at Bethany. Please plan to join us for fellowship and fun activities. The board of education will provide sack lunches.

Sunday School

Based on a survey that was sent to families, we will start the Sunday School year with virtual lessons. Sunday School will start on September 6. Please plan to join us on Sundays at 10:00-10:30 a.m. on Zoom. Look for an email that will provide the Zoom link.

This will be for kids in preschool through high school. All students will start together, then they will go into breakout sessions for their age group.



The plan is to try online lessons four weeks at a time, then evaluate for the next four weeks. The first lessons are from the Old Testament, covering lessons on Genesis, the Fall, Noah, and Abram.



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.

BULLETIN 7

Stay Connected

Even in social distancing, we can send cards and make phone calls to friends and family. Please remember to check in on your loved ones! One way to stay connected is to call someone to read through Sunday at-home services with them. This works well as the service guides are formatted in a way to be read responsively. Please contact the church if you need any assistance at this time. Call 319-364-6026 or email office.bethanycr@gmail.com.



Warrior Supply Assistance

Washington High School hosted a community food and supply drive in our parking lot on Tuesday, August 25. Thank you to all the Bethany members who lived and shared God's love by donating supplies and volunteering their time.



FEMA Assistance

FEMA approved the state's request for individual assistance to families and households in Linn County who were impacted by the derecho.

Below you will find instructions from FEMA on how to apply for individual assistance in **Linn County only:**

To register and follow-up inquiries: 1-800-621-3362

If you use a TTY: 1-800-462-7585

711 or Video Relay Service (VRS): **1-800-621-3362**

Online disaster assistance registration: **DisasterAssistance.gov**

While only Linn County has been approved so far, FEMA still has other impacted counties under review.

You can still help ensure FEMA has a full understanding of the damage caused by the storm by reporting damage to property or nearby infrastructure by filling out the state damage assessment form at:

https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/7ddd269f8fbf4b8a9bd0f512dc53484d

BULLETIN 8



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. The next one will be on September 6.

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.

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. We are no longer asking people to sign up to attend. 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.









Outdoor Worship

Service was held in our parking lot on August 16. Services will be outdoors again on Sunday, August 30 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., weather permitting. Please bring a lawn chair if you have one. Plan to park in the south (back) lot, as services will be held in the north (main) lot.

BULLETIN 9



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:

August 30: A Biblical Perspective on Racism September 6: A Biblical Perspective on Racism September 13: Combating Racism in the Church

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. Please read chapter one for September 3.

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.

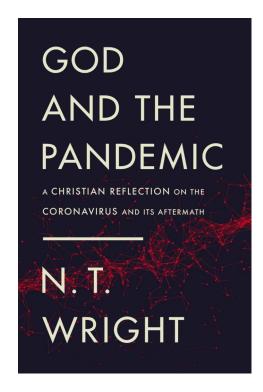
N.T. Wright invites you to consider a response that draws on a careful reading of the Bible, Christian history, and above all on the way of living, thinking, and praying revealed to us by Jesus.

September 3: Where Do We Start?

September 10: Reading the Old Testament

September 17: Jesus and the Gospels

September 24: Reading the New Testament October 1: Where Do We Go From Here?





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.

As the challenges we have all experienced this year were topped off with the storm that hit our area on August 10, many members began asking how they can financially support those who are in need after the devastating damage that has occurred. In response, the church council has transferred \$15,000 from our budget surplus to the benevolent fund to assist Bethany members and families. In addition, Bethany added an option on our online giving to provide for the 2020 recovery. If you would like to support Bethany families in need at this time, you can do this by referring to the website giving page and select "2020" Recovery Fund" in the dropdown menu. The other option is to send a check to Bethany or drop it in the offering plate with a note in the Memo line "2020 Recovery Fund". If you are not familiar with our electronic giving options please see the information below. Please feel free to contact the church office with any additional questions you may have at 319-364-6026 or email office.bethanycr@gmail.com.

Support Iowa Storm Recovery

Iowa District East has a storm relief grant which is intended to assist congregations and schools who have submitted insurance claims. The grant is intended to help with insurance deductibles for these affected congregations.

If you would like to give support to the synod, there are three ways to do so:

First, you can donate to the Iowa District East (via check, memo: IDE Storm Relief) in support of meeting insurance deductibles for congregations and schools. Second, you can directly support the storm relief effort program at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca so that volunteers have adequate food, supplies, and equipment. Third, you can donate to LCMS Disaster Response who has arranged volunteers and essential equipment.

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.

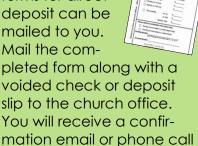
Mobile App Giving:

Search your app store for "GivePlus Church" and download the GivePlus app to make a one-time or recurring offering. Set up

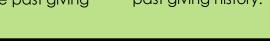
an account you so can make changes at any time and see past giving history.

Paper Form:

Authorization forms for direct deposit can be mailed to you. Mail the com-



when it has been set up.





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

App Store

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:		AMOUNTS:			
	General/Operating					
	1st of Month		\$			
FREQUENCY OF DONATION:	15th of Month		\$			
Weekly – Mondays	ondays Weekly Amount		\$			
Semi-monthly—1st & 15th						
Monthly on the I st	Monthly TO	ĀL:	\$			
Monthly on the 15 th	,					
Please debit my contribution from my (check on Savings Account (attach a voided deposit slip) Check Number Account Number Account Number 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 BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH 2202 FOREST DR SE CEDAR RAPIDS IA 52403-1654

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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



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 | facebook.com/bethanycria