

Bethany Beacon

OCTOBER 2020

7 REASONS TO CONSIDER BECOMING A STEPHEN MINISTER

1. Make a real difference in the lives of people who are hurting.
2. Help our congregation ensure that no one suffers alone.
3. Learn what to say and do--and what not to say and do--to care effectively for people who are suffering.
4. Be involved in meaningful ministry that uses your spiritual gifts.
5. Deepen your faith as you see God at work through your ministry.
6. Be part of a group of caring Christians who support each other as they care for those who are hurting.
7. Join a worldwide tradition of caring ministry.



Kay Karsten was commissioned as a Stephen Leader on September 13.

Stephen Ministry is an important way that Bethany “lives and shares God’s love” to those experiencing a major disruption or crisis in their life. I was blessed to attend Stephen Ministry Leaders Training and now have the opportunity to serve Bethany as a Stephen Ministry Leader. If you are interested in either having a Stephen Minister or becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact our parish nurse, Ronda, or any of the Stephen Ministers or Stephen Leaders. - Kay Karsten

Stephen Ministry Training

Stephen Ministry training will take place in January. Please prayerfully consider participating in training and becoming a Stephen Minister. For information, contact a Bethany Stephen Leader (Donna Birkicht, Kay Karsten, Nancy Lee Siebenmann, Leonard Tiedt, Nurse Ronda Anderson, or Pastor Erickson).



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

Members and Friends of Bethany,

As we enter into October of this year, we begin the final quarter of a year that has seen many challenges for almost all of us. The tarps on roofs and debris that remains along many of our streets remind us of the continuing recovery efforts from the August 10 derecho. The lack of buses going down those same streets and people wearing masks out in the community are just a few of the reminders of the global pandemic we have found ourselves in for the last six and a half months. And so, with these very real and very serious problems that have in many ways turned our world upside down, it may be helpful to remind ourselves of what has not changed this year – God's love and salvation for us through Jesus Christ.

God tells His people through the prophet Isaiah, *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."* (Isaiah 43:2-3a) At the end of the Babylonian Exile, an event that for God's ancient people turned their world upside down, God promised that He would not only be with them, but also save them. In the 6th century B.C. this meant God would raise the Persian empire and King Cyrus to power so the Jewish captives could be set free from their slavery. In the first century A.D. this meant the King of Creation would be raised up on the cross so that all people could be set free from their slavery to sin. Thus, we see in the midst of chaos and evil, be it in the form of invading armies or storms or pandemics, that God is always working for the benefit of His people. We see that He orders all things, including the death and resurrection of His own Son, so that we can not only know His power and love, but that we also might be saved through our faith and trust in Him.

As always, God continues to work among us, most often today through the Church and local congregations like Bethany. Our Lutheran Confessions teach us that the essence of the church, and its distinguishing marks, is the teaching of God's Word and administering the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion (AC V & VII). Therefore,

the Church must primarily focus on Word and Sacrament ministry as the ways in which God loves and saves people today. Yet, while Word and Sacrament ministry is the essence of the Church, how this service is carried out varies from congregation to congregation.

Here at Bethany, one of the more important and visible ways this is done is through our Stephen Ministry program. Stephen Ministers are trained individuals who provide Christian care and support to those who are going through difficult times in life. While I could go on, I'd simply like to invite you to read through the information on the front page of this month's *Beacon* to find out more about Stephen Ministry and discover ways that you may be able to help and participate in this ministry.

However, I would also like to remind the congregation that Stephen Ministry, as well as all Word and Sacrament ministry at Bethany, is supported by God's people regularly giving their tithes and offerings. I'm happy to say that the members of Bethany and our friends have been incredibly faithful and generous throughout these difficult times, enabling the congregation to do many wonderful things over the last few months. But so that we may continue all of our ministries, and God willing expand them, the congregation's leaders will soon begin working on the 2021 budget. To help them accurately plan for the upcoming year, all of you should soon receive next year's pledge card in the mail. It would be a great help for everyone to prayerfully consider their offering for the upcoming year and return the pledge card to the church by Stewardship Sunday (October 18).

As mentioned above, the reminders of the hardships that 2020 has brought with it are right there in front of us and hard to escape. But praise the Lord, that by God's grace and the faithful work of His people in the Church and our congregation, we're able to see just as clearly God's love and salvation through Jesus Christ. And with Jesus in front of us, we're able to have hope and peace as we move together into 2021.

In Christ's Service,
✠ Pastor Erickson

Thanksgiving:

Gene (husband of *N Owens)- cancer free
*Darrell Chiavetta & *Naomi Pfeil- Married 9/26

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Those affected by COVID-19 and the derecho storm
Gary & Pearl (parents of *Jeff Crow)- Recovering after COVID-19
Alyse (granddaughter of *Janelle Dunbar)- brain tumor
Steve (uncle of *Erin Heller & M Rinderknecht)- Health issues
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
David (relative of *Melissa Loney)- Health issues
Rod (nephew of *Bonnie Bubke)- Parkinson's Disease

Safety:

Taylor & 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:

Marcia (relative of *Brenda Heims)- cancer
Oz (father of *Dathan Hinrichs & *Josie Hester)- cancer treatment
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
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:

*Darlene (wife of *Wayne Schilling)- Died 9/9
LeAnn (friend of *Kris Larson)
Raymond (father of *Steve Wilson)

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.

Thursday, October 1

7:00 pm Book Study - Zoom

Sunday, October 4

1:00 pm Communion

Monday, October 5

10:00 am Women's Group - FLC

Tuesday, October 6

6:00 pm Evangelism Committee

Wednesday, October 7

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

6:00 pm Confirmation

Thursday, October 8

6:00 pm Human Care Meeting

Saturday, October 10

Wedding at Bethany

Monday, October 12

10:00 am Women's Group

6:00 pm Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, October 13

7:00 pm Council Meeting - FLC

Wednesday, October 14

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

6:00 pm Confirmation

Saturday, October 17

Wedding at Bethany

Sunday, October 18

Stewardship Sunday

Monday, October 19

10:00 am Women's Group

Wednesday, October 21

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

6:00 pm Confirmation

Saturday, October 24

Wedding at Bethany

Monday, October 26

10:00 am Women's Group

Wednesday, October 28

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

6:00 pm Confirmation

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1 Carter Urban

10/2 Jennet Volden

10/3 Saul Foreman

Phyllis Landis

Carmen Ranbarger

10/4 Dawn Thomas

10/5 Mark Lauthen

10/6 Brenna Godbey

10/8 Joann Strang

10/12 Dave Christian

10/12 Nancylee Siebenmann

10/13 Darin Elm

Carolyn Zimmerman

10/14 Jack Zimmerman

10/19 Jeff Keslar

Bella Novitch

10/20 Melba Davison

Dathan Hinrichs

10/21 Noah Pelletier

Norm Rutz

10/22 Tom Mills

10/23 Betty Happel

Annest Hoech

Lili Loesch

10/25 Ron Prescott

10/26 Naomi Pfeil

10/28 Corey Gutman

Vicki Huschka

Ryan Urban

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/3 Whitney & Matt Hinz
Diane & Maynard Holub

10/4 Rick & Erin Heller

10/5 Bill & Tina Freese
Bree & Isaiah Robinson

10/6 Eric & Lisa Freese

10/7 Jeff & Janet Gebert

10/9 Travis & Jo Godbey

10/9 Don & Betty Hein

10/13 Pastor & Christine Erickson

10/14 Karl & Janet Hoech

10/16 Karen & Ken Swalley

10/18 Kent & Diane Zenor

10/21 Chris & Leisa Knudson

10/22 Steve & Erin Wilson

10/26 Chris & Kelly Frampton

Pastor's Thoughts on the Lectionary

Following the Lectionary readings, we begin October by finishing Jeremiah. Here, we mostly read about the prophecy of the fall of Jerusalem and its aftermath, as well as God's judgment against the other nations. As God appealed to people then to repent before He carried out His judgment, so He graciously appeals to us to turn from our sin and believe the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah was not only a prophet, but also a priest whose family line may have gone back to Abiathar, a priest at the time of King Solomon. At the Lord's command, Jeremiah did not raise a family because of the times, a thought echoed by St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 7. Jeremiah did have a co-worker named Baruch, who may have finished collecting Jeremiah's prophecy after the prophet's death. Jeremiah is interesting as he also reveals much about his inner struggles with God.

On October 8-9 we read Lamentations, which book Jeremiah is believed to have also authored. A lamentation or lament is a poem of grief or of mourning over sin or over God's judgment for sin. The five lamentations in this book come from watching the people of Jerusalem go into exile in 586 B.C. Yet, note well how the third lament speaks of God's goodness as the Lord of hope, love, faithfulness and salvation. Only as we appreciate God's wrath on us for our sin, however, can we truly appreciate this hope.

From October 10-25 we read Ezekiel, who prophesied about the same time as Jeremiah, but in Babylon where the people of Judah were already exiled. He confirms God's judgment against the people for their unfaithfulness yet also holds out God's gracious promise to restore and renew His people. Take notice of what Ezekiel has to say about shepherds (today's pastors) and their responsibility to God, themselves, and the people in their care. Note also the comfort these same verses speak to you!

The next four days in October we read Daniel. From Daniel we hear how even while the people were exiled, God's Name continued to be praised. We see in Daniel's life the conflict and victory of faith that is also ours. Daniel prophesies of Jesus, giving the title He would often use to refer to Himself: Son of Man. We want to be careful not to interpret too literally what is often figurative and symbolic language that Daniel uses by the Spirit's inspiration. The Old Testament book of Daniel is thus similar to the New Testament book of Revelation in that it is an apocalyptic book, similar in style and the use of symbols and numbers. But, in another sense, the word "apocalyptic" really means "revelatory", and that really applies to all the books of the Bible.

Finally, in the last two days of October we read Hosea. Hosea shows by his life and relationship to his unfaithful wife Gomer how God loves His people. Hosea prophesied against the people's idolatry, yet also speaks of God's salvation for His unfaithful people. Hosea's willingness to forgive and love his wife despite her unfaithfulness is an enduring example for married couples today, consistent with Christ's teaching to forgive as we are forgiven.

Daily Lectionary

October 2020

1. Jonah 2:2-9 & Jeremiah 32-34
2. Ps 114 & Jeremiah 35-37
3. Ps 115 & Jeremiah 38-40
4. Ps 116 & Jeremiah 41-43
5. Ps 117 & Jeremiah 44-47
6. Ps 118 & Jeremiah 48-50
7. Ps 119:1-8 & Jeremiah 51-52
8. Ps 119:9-16 & Lam. 1-2
9. Ps 119:17-24 & Lam. 3-5
10. Ps 119:25-32 & Ezekiel 1-3
11. Ps 119:33-40 & Ezekiel 4-6
12. Ps 119:41-48 & Ezekiel 7-9
13. Ps 119:49-56 & Ezekiel 10-12
14. Ps 119:57-64 & Ezekiel 13-15
15. Ps 119:65-72 & Ezekiel 16-18
16. Ps 119:73-80 & Ezekiel 19-21
17. Ps 119:81-88 & Ezekiel 22-24
18. Ps 119:89-96 & Ezekiel 25-27
19. Ps 119:97-104 & Ezekiel 28-30
20. Ps 119:105-112 & Ezek. 31-33
21. Ps 119:113-120 & Ezek. 34-36
22. Ps 119:121-128 & Ezek. 37-39
23. Ps 119:129-136 & Ezek. 40-42
24. Ps 119:137-144 & Ezek. 43-45
25. Ps 119:145-152 & Ezek. 46-48
26. Ps 119:153-160 & Daniel 1-3
27. Ps 119:161-168 & Daniel 4-6
28. Ps 119:169-176 & Daniel 7-9
29. Ps 120 & Daniel 10-12
30. Psalm 121 & Hosea 1-4
31. Jonah 2:2-9 & Hosea 5-7



New Members

Bethany welcomed new members on Sunday, August 9. The rite of new membership was held during the education in hour, both in the Family Life Center and on Zoom. Please see their photos on page 7.

Nate & Stephanie Ackerman (Benjamin, John)
Rebecca Ballstaedt (Ava, Taylor, Levi)
Nathan & Stacy Brusius (Camden, Claire)
Darrell Chiavetta (*fiancé of Naomi Pfeil*)
Darin Elm (*fiancé of Maren Hopkins*)
Stephanie Macke
Ben & Dawn Mims

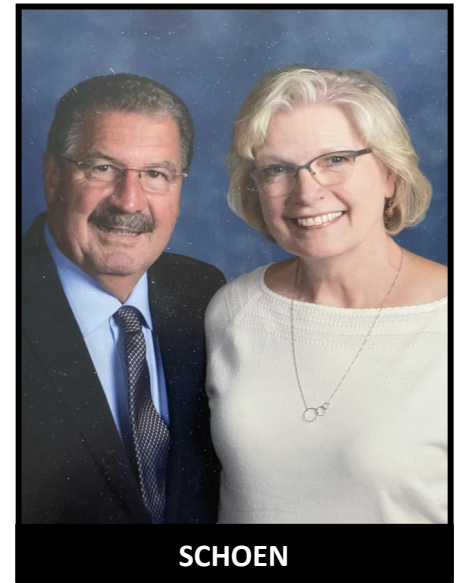
Beverly Rasmussen
Harold & Susan Schoen
Jerald & Karissa Scott (Malcolm, Darren)
Mary Vezina
Nathan & Youngor Yarwo
Drew & Carolyn Zimmerman (Jack, Everly, Luke)



Family Fun Day

Bethany friends enjoyed a time of fellowship on Sunday, September 20 at Morgan Creek Park. The Board of Education provided picnic lunches for everyone. Several people enjoyed yard games like cornhole and ladder ball.





The names of all new Bethany members are listed on page 6.





Thank you for Living and Sharing God's Love

Dear Bethany friends,

Our heartfelt thanks for all the help you provided us with yard clean up and aid due to derecho damage. You are a God send!

- Dale and Bernice Stonewall and Theresa Shaltanis

To our brothers and sisters in Christ:

We want to thank you all for your prayers, clean-up help and support following the derecho as we work to recover from the damage to our home and the surrounding trees. Your care and support for us has truly been humbling. We feel very blessed. Thank you so much!

In Christ,

Doug and Sheryl Knutson

CPR/First Aid Training: November 7

CPR and first aid training will be held at Bethany on Saturday, November 7, 8:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. If you would like to sign up for this training course, please contact Nurse Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.



AMERICAN RED CROSS



Blood Drive: November 19

Mark your calendar for Thursday, November 19. An American Red Cross blood drive will be hosted in the Family Life Center at Bethany. Please look for more information to come to sign up for this drive.

Collection of Household Items

Bethany is once again collecting various household items to distribute to those who are in need in our community. These items are kept at the church so they will be on hand as people need them. At this time our stock pile is running low, so we are asking for donations of:

- Liquid hand soap
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Disinfecting wipes/spray
- Toothpaste/toothbrushes
- Grocery store gift cards



Donated items may be dropped off at church during office hours (Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm). Many people have already been helped by our previous collection and have expressed their thankfulness both to Bethany and to our Lord.



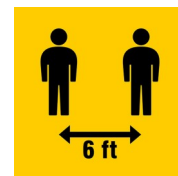
Communion Schedule

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 October 4.

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.



Thrivent Choice

Each year Thrivent credits members with dollars that can be contributed to Lutheran-affiliated nonprofit organizations and congregations, including Bethany Lutheran Church. Thrivent Financial will distribute Choice Dollars funds directed by members to organizations monthly. Through

Thrivent Choice, Bethany has received over \$6,000 over the last 3 years. Thank you for supporting our congregation through this program. These gifts will be directed to the Maintenance Reserve Fund for future large item replacement needs of the church.



Eligible Thrivent Financial members need to designate their Choice Dollars. You can continue to designate 2020 dollars throughout the year. To do so, go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/ or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and ask for "Thrivent Choice" to designate your choice dollars to Bethany Lutheran Church.



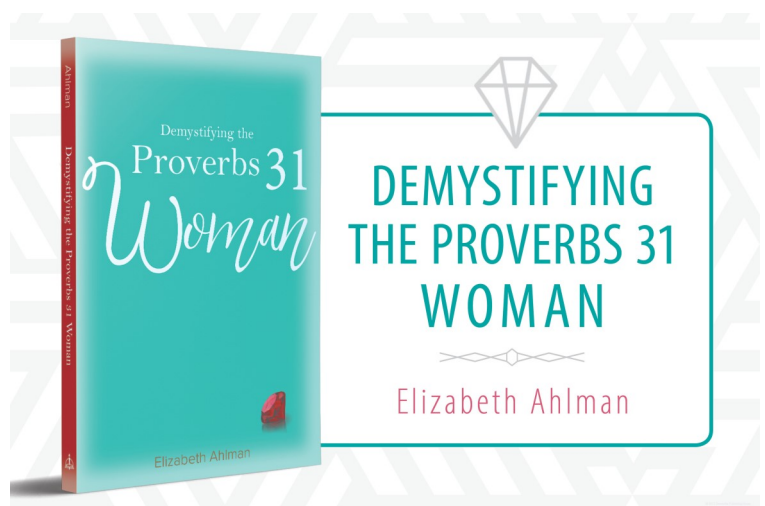
Angel Tree

Bethany will again participate in Angel Tree this year, a program that helps provide Christmas gifts for children with parents who are incarcerated. In November, please look for a tree in the Gathering Area. You may pick up an ornament from the tree, purchase a gift for the child listed, and bring the gift back to Bethany.

Women's Small Group

Women meet for small group study on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. We will gather at Bethany on October 5. Future meetings may be in person or on Zoom.

Starting in October, the group will read "Demystifying the Proverbs 31 Woman" by Elizabeth Ahlman. If you would like to join this group. Please contact Nurse Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com



Stewardship

With the current challenges that God's people are now facing in Eastern Iowa, the ministry of our congregation is needed now more than ever. With this in mind, Bethany's leadership will soon begin creating the 2021 church budget that will reflect our commitment to our mission of *Living and Sharing God's Love* among our members and our community. In order for them to do this with any sort of accuracy and relevance, it is extremely helpful for them to have an idea of what our tithes and offerings will be for the upcoming year. Therefore, on October 6, pledge cards will be mailed out to the congregation. We are asking that you please prayerfully consider your offerings to God for 2021, fill out the pledge card, and return to the church on Stewardship Sunday (October 18) or before. Also, please note that if you have been making your offerings through our electronic giving program, we would still ask that you fill out a pledge card so that we may know if we can look forward to your faithful support. While we always trust in our Lord for every good thing, we also know that God uses His Church as way for many of His blessings to come to people. We are thankful for all of the past support that has enabled this to happen at Bethany. And we look forward with anticipation to see what God will do through us in the future.

Stewardship Sunday: October 18

Stewardship letters and pledge cards will be mailed to members on October 6. Please plan to return your pledge card on Sunday, October 18.

Giving Options

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 or 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 so you 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 call when it has been set up.

GIVE PLUS AUTHORIZATION FORM

DATE: _____		ENVELOPE NUMBER: _____
Name: _____		
Address: _____		
City State Zip: _____		
Email Address: _____		
FIRST CONTRIBUTION DATE: _____	FUNDS: General Operating	AMOUNTS: \$ _____
	Use of Funds	\$ _____
FREQUENCY OF DONATION: Weekly - Mondays	Use of Funds	\$ _____
Semi-monthly - 1st & 15th	Weekly Amount	\$ _____
Monthly on the 1st	Monthly TOTAL:	\$ _____
Monthly on the 15th		

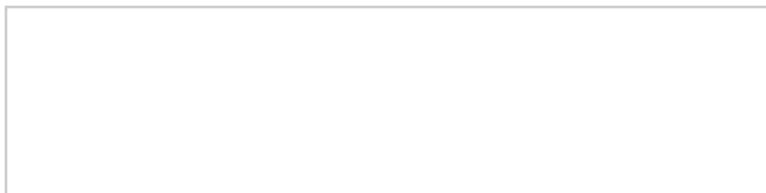
Offering Envelopes

You can mail your giving envelopes to the church office at 2202 Forest Dr. SE. They are deposited weekly.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2202 FOREST DR SE
CEDAR RAPIDS IA 52403-1654

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

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/bethanycria