

Bethany Beacon

MARCH 2021



THE LAST 12 MONTHS

One year ago, our world was reminded that we are not in control. Thankfully, we serve a loving God who has all the control. Despite facing the challenges of a pandemic that prevented us from going about our lives as normal, God opened new doors that allowed our congregation to worship, connect, learn, and serve in new ways.

We give thanks to God for technology—like Vimeo, which allows us to share weekly sermons and songs, and Zoom, which allows us to connect and learn during Sunday School and small group Bible studies. We give thanks to God for volunteers who deliver worship materials to those without internet access. We give thanks to God that during difficult times, we were still able to **Live and Share God's Love** through a blood drive, virtual Vacation Bible School, Stephen Ministry training, a fellowship picnic and bike ride, derecho assistance and cleanup, providing food for Family Promise, welcoming new members, providing Angel Tree gifts, uplifting Bethany friends with material support, a virtual children's Christmas program, Baby Bottle Boomerang, and more!

"He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live..." - Ecclesiastes 3:11-12

We know that God makes everything beautiful in its time. Though we have endured challenging circumstances, we look forward to new ministry opportunities that will start at Bethany as we safely open our doors to more in-person activities in the months ahead. In 2021, the church council and stewardship committee will put together a new time and talent survey with new ministry and outreach options. We all have an important role to play. Please pray about how you are being called to serve as we enter a new era of living and sharing God's love.



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

Most of us know that St. Patrick's Day is March 17 and people around the world celebrate this missionary's life in various ways. However, there are two lesser-known Christians whose lives and witness the Church also gives thanks for in the month of March. This takes place on March 7 in the Lutheran Church, when we remember Perpetua and Felicitas.

Perpetua and Felicitas were two young women who lived in North Africa when Septimius Severus was emperor of Rome. Unfortunately, the Roman Empire was going through a series of civil wars at the time. In an effort to consolidate power, in the year 202 Septimius Severus issued a decree making it illegal, not to be a Christian, but to become a Christian. Anyone found guilty of this "crime" was to be put to death.

Many famous Christians who were teachers in the church suffered under this persecution, including the great theologians Irenaeus and Clement. But lesser-known Christians suffered as well, including Perpetua and Felicitas. Perpetua came from a wealthy family, while Felicitas was a slave. They were arrested, put into prison, and sentenced to death in 203 for being *catechumens* – new Christians who were studying the Scriptures in preparation to be baptized. At the time of their arrest, Perpetua was nursing her infant child and Felicitas was pregnant.

Perpetua's father came to visit her in prison and begged her to denounce her new faith in Christ, if only for the sake of her child. However, she replied that just as everything in life has a name and it is useless to try to give it a different name, she had the name of Christian, and this could not be changed.

Also, Felicitas was greatly concerned with her situation, but not for reasons we might think. At the time, Romans forbade executing pregnant women and Felicitas was worried she would not give birth to her child before she could join Perpetua in martyrdom. However, her prayers were answered when she gave birth to a baby girl, who was adopted by another Christian woman. When the jailers saw Felicitas react to the pain of childbirth,

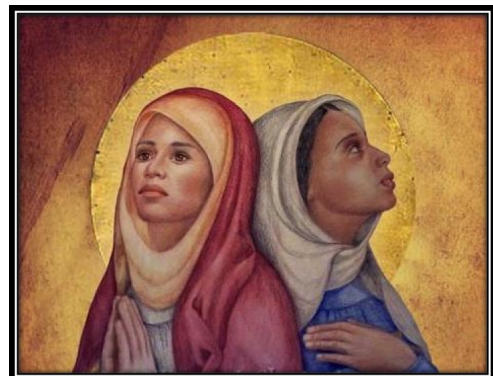
they asked how she would be able to face death in the arena. She replied, "Now my sufferings are only mine. But when I face the beasts there will be another who will live in me, and will suffer for me since I shall be suffering for him."

When the day of their execution came, three Christian men were the first to be put into the arena. Two died quickly and bravely, however no animal would attack the third man, Secundulus. It was reported that the animals put into the arena would not approach him and actually attacked the Roman soldiers instead. Finally, however, Secundulus declared that a leopard will kill him, and so it happened.

Perpetua and Felicitas were told that they would be attacked by a wild cow, and they were. After having been hit and thrown around by the animal, Perpetua asked for a break to fix her hair. Apparently during the attack it had fallen loose, and since loose hair was a sign of mourning, Perpetua asked for a moment to fix her hair since this was a joyful day when she would meet her Lord in heaven. Eventually, the two beaten and bloodied women met each other in the middle of the arena, gave each other the kiss of peace, and were killed by a soldier's sword.

Historians tell us, that for reasons that are not all together clear, after Perpetua and Felicitas were martyred for their faith in Christ, the persecution of Christians under Septimius Severus largely came to an end.

✠ Pastor Erickson



Thanksgiving:

Noah (infant son of *Russmans)- Baptized 2/18
 Noah (infant son of *Josh & Haley Dohrmann)- Born 2/5
 Owen (infant son of *Clark & Maggie Anderson- Born 1/22
 Mary Lou (mother of *Becky Thur)- Recovering after surgery

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Cindy (mother of *Amy Diers)- recovering after surgery
 Jim (uncle of Nate Ackermann)- hospitalization
 Jill (sister of *Bridget Rinderknecht) - health issues
 Kenny (friend of *Bonnie Bubke)- recovering after surgery
 Dan (relative of *Bonnie Bubke)- recovering after shoulder injury
 Robert (father of *Chris Knudson)- Hospitalization
 Andrew (grandson of *Schumacher)- Recovering after surgery
 Jane (daughter of *Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after surgery
 Hazel (granddaughter of *Kim Neuhaus)- health issues
 Gene (husband of *Nancy Owens)- Recovering after surgery
 Wilson (infant son of Luke Viertel)- health issues
 Donald (brother of *Carol Edwards)- recovering after COVID-19
 Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders (IDE President)- health issues
 Those affected by COVID-19 and the derecho storm
 Nancy (mother of Carolyn Sternowski)- recovering after broken hip
 Alyse (granddaughter of *Janelle Dunbar)- brain tumor
 Ron (brother of *Gloria Schumacher)- Health issues
 LoAnn (relative of * Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after broken leg
 Agnes (friend of *Siebenmanns)- Health issues
 Gene (husband of *K. Schmidt)- Recovering after surgery
 Andrew (relative of *B Heims)- Recovering after surgery
 Carolyn (mother of Mary Vezina)- Recovering from shingles
 Jennifer (daughter of *Pat Krekeler)- Life challenges
 Jeff Mellgren (former member)- Recovering after stroke
 Hayden (relative of *Bonnie Bubke)- Brain disorder
 Gwendolyn- (friend of *Karen Swanson)- Terminal illness
 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 & Charlie (grandsons of *Kim Neuhaus)- Deployed
 Harrison (son of *Siecks)- serving in the military

Homebound members of Bethany:

*Wayne Schilling- at home
 Candi Engel- at Garnett Place
 *Nadine Wax- at home
 *Del Block- Summit Pointe, Marion
 *Larry & *Sharon Easler- Summit Pointe, Marion
 *Darlene Eckert- recovering after broken leg

Cancer:

Karen (relative of *Carol Grimminger)- Cancer
 Noelle (relative of *Larsons)- cancer
 Darrel (father of *Janet Hoech)- cancer treatment
 Marcia (relative of *Brenda Heims)- cancer
 Oz (father of *Dathan Hinrichs & *Josie Hester)- cancer treatment
 Jerry (father of Missy Gingrich)- cancer treatment
 Glen (brother of *Rob Sieck)- cancer
 Jim (friend of *Sheryl Knutson)- cancer surgery
 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:

*Dee Rose- Died 2/12
 VaDonna (mother of *Dave Dohrmann)- Died 2/5
 *Ann Meyer- Died 1/23
 Ramona (mother of Rick Heller)- Died 1/14
 Pat (niece of *Bonnie Bubke)- Died 10/15

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.

Monday, March 1

10:00 am Women's Group - Zoom & FLC
6:00 pm Trustees Meeting - Zoom

Tuesday, March 2

6:00 pm Evangelism Committee - Zoom
6:30 pm Handbell Practice

Wednesday, March 3

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom
6:00 pm Confirmation (2nd year students)
7:00 pm Lenten Service

Thursday, March 4

6:00 pm Human Care Meeting - Zoom

Sunday, March 7

1:00 pm Communion

Monday, March 8

10:00 am Women's Group - Zoom & FLC

Tuesday, March 9

6:30 pm Handbell Practice
7:00 pm Council Meeting - Zoom

Wednesday, March 10

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom
6:00 pm Confirmation (1st year students)
7:00 pm Lenten Service w/ Communion

Monday, March 15

10:00 am Women's Group - Zoom & FLC

Tuesday, March 16

6:30 pm Handbell Practice

Wednesday, March 17

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom
6:00 pm Confirmation (2nd year students)
7:00 pm Lenten Service

Monday, March 22

10:00 am Women's Group - Zoom & FLC

Tuesday, March 23

6:30 pm Handbell Practice

Wednesday, March 24

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom
6:00 pm Confirmation (1st year students)
7:00 pm Lenten Service

Monday, March 29

10:00 am Women's Group - Zoom & FLC

Tuesday, March 30

6:30 pm Handbell Practice

Wednesday, March 31

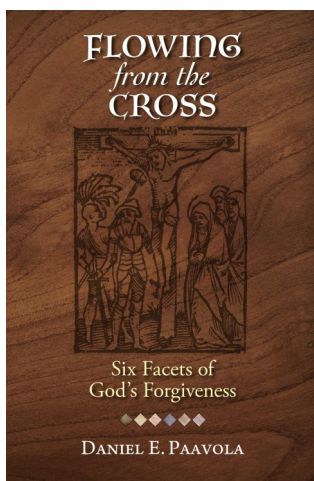
6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom
6:00 pm Confirmation (1st year students)
7:00 pm Confirmation (2nd year students)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/2 Darlene Eckert Pat Krekeler Lee Rathje	3/14 Travis Godbey James Mosel	3/27 Lisa Freese Mark Gutman Barb Miller
3/3 Ryan Corey	3/16 Ella Bricker Melissa Loney	3/28 Mercedes Henderson
3/4 Alivia Corey Sharon Easler Brittney Stepanek	3/18 Ryan Theriault	3/29 Nora Crawford Aiden Erickson
3/7 Louise Holtz	3/20 Fred Schuchmann	3/30 Darrell Chiavetta Logan Milbach Tracy Moffett
3/8 Erin Heller	3/21 Luke Zimmerman	3/31 Norma Sirotiak
3/9 Sophie Knudson	3/22 Rick Heller Angela Keslar	
3/11 Mark Elias	3/23 Rick Thorington	
	3/26 Sylvia Stepanek	

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

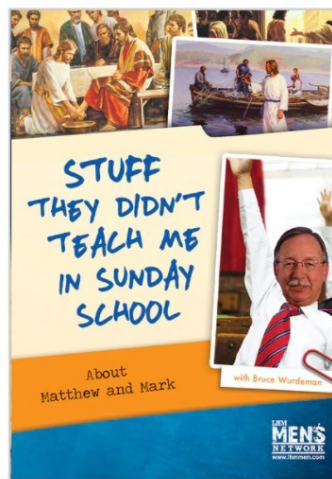
3/3 Nate and Stephanie Ackerman	3/27 Aaron and Tracy Moffett
3/19 Adam and Rachel Henderson	3/28 Larry and Sue Kroemer



Women's Small Group

The Monday morning women's group is currently reading the book "Flowing from the Cross" by Daniel Paavola. Discussions of the book take place on Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

You may choose to join in-person at Bethany or online via Zoom). Contact Nurse Ronda to join this group.



Men's Bible Study

Men meet via Zoom on Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m. The group is currently using the series "Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School," a study about Matthew and Mark from the

Lutheran Hour Ministries. All men are welcome to join this Bible study. Contact the church office for the Zoom link.

Easter Flowers

Tulips and daffodils will be available to order to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter. A sign up sheet will be at the Welcome Center, or you may contact the church office to order.



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped our women's LWML group provide 66 (\$20) gift cards for families of our congregation. It was greatly appreciated.

Convention Postponed

Whereas the congregations of the LCMS have voted to add one year to the synod convention cycle in response to the COVID-19 pandemic hence moving the LCMS Synod Convention from 2022 to 2023, the Iowa District East – LCMS Board of Directors have also moved the triennial IDE District Convention from June 25-26, 2021 to June 24-25, 2022. A more detailed letter on what this means for the existing convention delegates, nominations, reports, and other convention business will be available later this spring, in addition to forthcoming details for the 2022 IDE-LCMS District Convention.

Joy's Journal

Hi Bethany Friends! I am growing so fast! At my last DOGtor visit, I weighed 22 pounds. Some of my favorite things are snow, cold weather, and stealing socks. I am working hard to learn how to be Bethany's comfort dog. I come over to our Family Life Center a couple times a week and practice my training like walking with a loose leash, sitting when my trainer stops walking, and coming when I'm called. I still need a lot of practice on that last one! I am very treat motivated; got any??? Make sure to follow me on Facebook (Joy the Comfort Dog) and Instagram (@joy_thecomfortdog) where you'll see some pretty cute pictures of me. FURRwell for now!



Does the comfort dog belong to Bethany?

Joy does not belong to Bethany. Her owners are Cindy & Mike Goerdts who are partnering with Bethany for the Comfort Dog Ministry. We have established a partnering agreement with the Goerdts on how we share in the responsibility for this ministry.

Why are we not partnering with Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) for the Comfort Dog Ministry?

Bethany was notified at the beginning of the pandemic that Bethany would not be receiving a comfort dog for the foreseeable future. Bethany then began to pursue other avenues to obtain and train a dog.

How can I get involved with the comfort dog when she is ready to start making visits?

At this time we are waiting for Joy to be trained and grow into her role as a comfort dog. We will continue to update the congregation as opportunities to be involved come about.

Who is coordinating the Comfort Dog Ministry?

The Human Care Board oversees this ministry and Parish Nurse Ronda Anderson will coordinate tasks with the Goerdts.

How are the funds which were set aside for the Comfort Dog Ministry being used?

These funds are being used to pay for the comfort dog training and assist in part of the dog's expenses.

How will a dog allow us to bring Jesus' comfort to those that are hurting?

Joy will be a bridge for compassionate ministry, opening doors for conversation about faith and creating opportunities to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ.



Lenten Services

Midweek Lenten services are held at Bethany on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. For those who worship from home, sermon videos are available at www.bethanycr.org/sermons or on DVD. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will also be held at Bethany on April 1 and 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Midweek Lenten Service Themes

- March 3** Return from Betrayal
- *March 10** Return from False Witness
- March 17** Return from Denial
- March 24** Return from the Kingdom of God

Holy Week Services

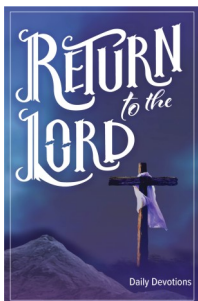
- March 28** Palm Sunday
- *April 1** Maundy Thursday
- April 2** Good Friday
- *April 4** Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday: April 4

- *6:30 AM** Sunrise Service
- *8:30 AM** Traditional Service
- *11:00 AM** Contemporary Service



*Indicates service with communion



Devotion Booklets Available

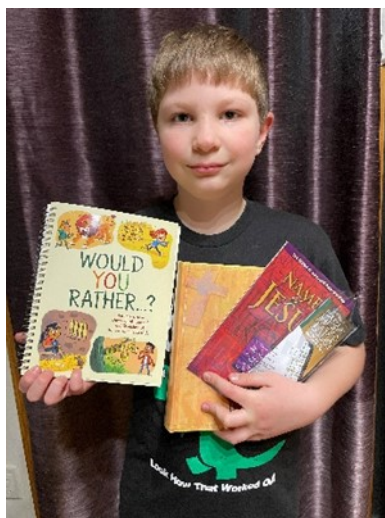
Spend daily time reflecting inwardly on yourself this Lent with *Return to the Lord: Daily Devotions*. See how God is calling you back to Him, and where you might have turned away from Him without noticing it. Each devotion includes a verse to read, a verse to reflect on, one-page devotion, and short prayer.

Faith Milestones

Congratulations to the following families who completed the virtual Milestones class: 3rd Grade Study Bibles



Claire Brusius, daughter of Nathan and Stacy Brusius



Cooper Crow, son of Jeff and Melinda Crow



Sydney Wilson, daughter of Steve and Erin Wilson



Sunday School

March 8

New Sunday School student materials will be sent out. Please look for them in the mail! If you have previously received these materials you will automatically get the next set. If you would like to start receiving materials for your student, please contact the office.

March 14 Zoom Sunday School as usual (10:00-10:30 a.m. Check your email for the link)

March 21 New unit starts

March 28 Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m. Zoom Sunday School will feature Easter Bingo for all ages! Bingo cards will be mailed out to your home with Sunday School materials.

Noon-1:00 Join us for a drive-by palm waving and Holy Week Bag distribution. Bingo prizes may be picked up at church during the drive by, or on Easter Sunday.

April 4 Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m. Meet at the front entrance of the church for an Easter Egg Hunt! We will have a short story, then hunt for eggs in the back of the church. If the weather is not good, drive by the front entrance and pick up a bag of eggs. There will not be Zoom on Easter.



Baby Bottle Boomerang for Bridgehaven

Thank you for participating in Baby Bottle Boomerang! Our support of Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center will help reach thousands of students through education programs; make abortion recovery counseling available to all; provide pregnancy testing and ultrasounds to our clients; and make it possible for mothers, fathers, and children to get material support and education through Bridgehaven's "Earn While You Learn" program.

EXHAUSTED BY THE PANDEMIC?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.

A Stephen Minister can walk alongside you or a loved one to offer support and care—and it's free and confidential.

To learn more, contact one of our Stephen Leaders.



Stephen Ministry

It's OK to be human... An important theme of the Lenten season is the humanity of Christ. In Jesus, God became human and fully experienced the wide range of emotions we all encounter in life. Jesus experienced times of loneliness, sadness, hurt, anger, disappointment, grief, and abandonment. That is part of being human. Another part of being human is needing help from each other. God never intended us to be completely self-sufficient. Part of God's plan is for us to turn to others for help when we need it.

So when you are experiencing difficult times, don't struggle alone. Our Stephen Ministers will walk with you, listen to you, encourage you, pray with you, and provide confidential one-to-one care to help you through tough times. Stephen Ministers can bring the love of Jesus back into your life. To learn more about Stephen Ministry, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders or Nurse Ronda Anderson. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!



Communion Schedule

If you would prefer receiving communion 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 March 7.

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.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

On Sundays Pastor Erickson leads Bible study at 9:45 a.m.

There is a link on the email sent to the congregation each Saturday or you can go to the church website under Resources/Bible Study. On Zoom just enter the following ID and passcode:

Meeting ID: 857 1656 9719 Passcode: 660091



Those who wish to attend in-person may join Pastor Erickson in the Family Life Center. If you attend in person, please wear a face mask. In March we will continue the study on the gospel of John.

***Electronic giving is a convenient,
easy way to give offerings.***

By giving electronically, you can:

- Give anywhere, anytime from your computer, smart phone, or tablet
- Donate to a special project fund
- Set up recurring payments and never worry about bringing your checkbook or cash again

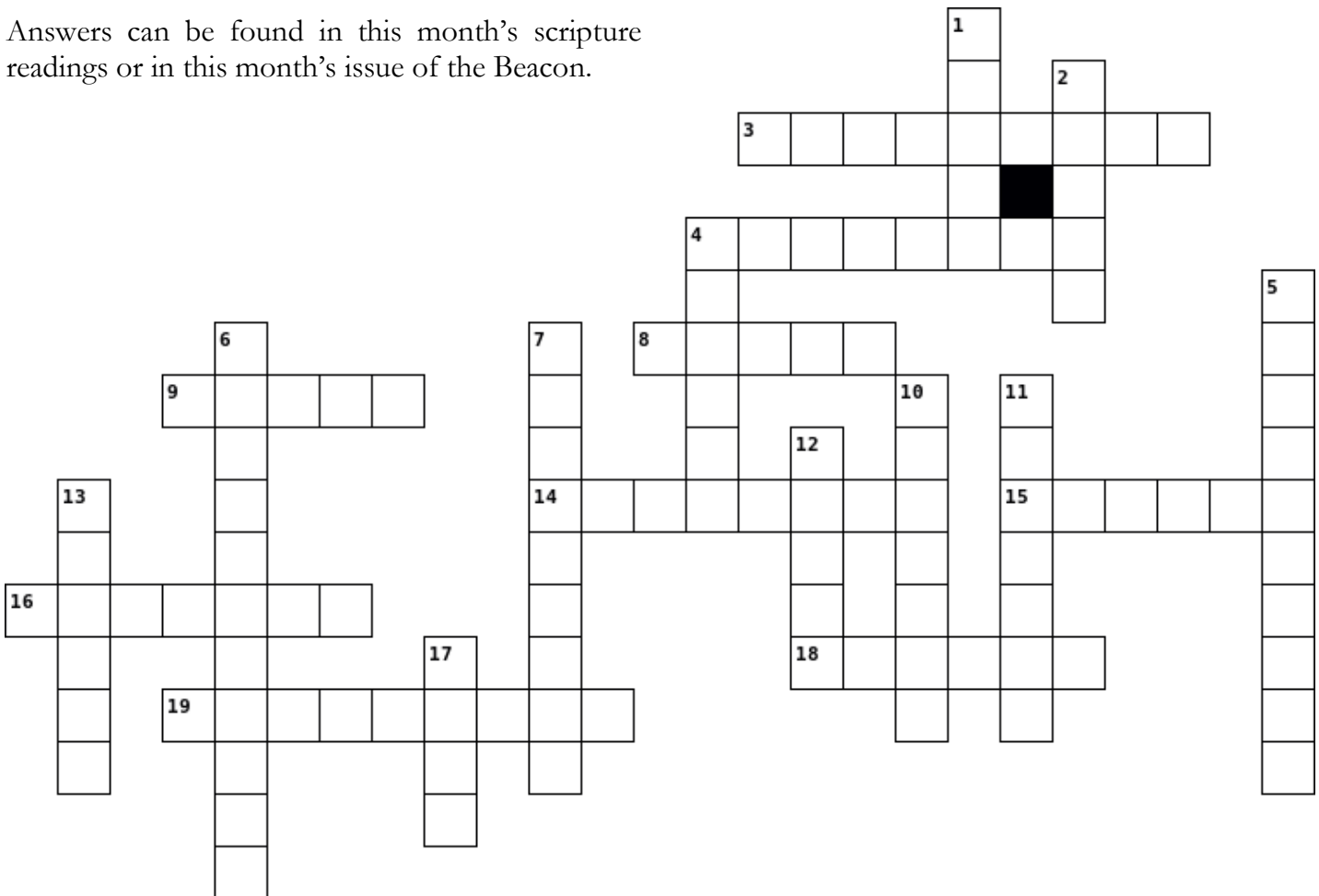
Get started today! Visit our offering page to set up your online contribution:

www.bethanycr.org/giving/



Pastor's Puzzle

Answers can be found in this month's scripture readings or in this month's issue of the Beacon.



Across

- 3. God's servant (Psalm 22:30)
- 4. Felicitas' friend on March 7th
- 8. Saved by this (Ephesians 2:8)
- 9. Name that bends knees (Philippians 2:10)
- 14. Something new in Jeremiah 31:31
- 15. Snake material (Numbers 21:9)
- 16. Ireland's March 17th missionary
- 18. Jesus' young ride (John 12:14)
- 19. Jesus' destination in John 12:12

Down

- 1. Your servant among you (Mark 10:43)
- 2. Commandment mountain (Exodus 19:23)
- 4. The color of Lent
- 5. The serpent lifting location (John 3:14)
- 6. Priestly order of Hebrews 5:10
- 7. Paul preaches Christ this way (I Corinthians 1:23)
- 10. Lazarus' hometown (John 12:1)
- 11. James' dad (Mark 10:35)
- 12. Psalm 19 author
- 13. Give this to the Lord (Psalm 107:1)
- 17. The trees of John 12:13

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/bethanycr