

# Bethany Beacon

APRIL 2021

## HOLY WEEK



### Holy Week Services

**March 28** Palm Sunday Service at 8:30 or 11:00 a.m.  
**\*April 1** Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m.  
**April 2** Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m.

## HE IS RISEN

Celebrate our Risen Lord at Bethany on Easter Sunday! There will be three in-person services. The sermon video will be available online at [www.bethanycr.org/sermons](http://www.bethanycr.org/sermons)

### Easter Sunday: April 4

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

\*Indicates service with communion



**Bethany**  
Lutheran Church

*Living and Sharing God's Love*

## *[Jesus] was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. – Romans 4:25*

As Christians around the world prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord this April 4<sup>th</sup>, it seems that we all know this is a special time of year. Even while the world continues to struggle with the pandemic; even while our community recovers from the derecho; even while we all feel the effects of living in a world that has been ruined by sin – Easter always has been and always will be a time of celebration and great joy. But I often wonder if people know the real reason behind our Easter joy.

It's easy to see that if Easter simply means the arrival of Spring and looking for baskets and eggs filled with candy, a person doesn't really know the true joy of Easter. Sadly, this is all that Easter is for some who think of themselves as Christians, and for many who don't believe in Jesus at all. Such people find that their joy quickly fades away as Spring gives way to Summer and Fall and that their Easter candy disappears even faster!

However, there are many in the Church, well acquainted with God's Word and the doctrine that we learn from it, who also miss the complete joy of Easter. Such people might know that the resurrection of Jesus is important and comforting because it proves that: Christ is the Son of God (Romans 1:4); Jesus' teachings are true (John 2:19); and that all believers will rise to eternal life (John 14:19). Now of course, God's Word certainly identifies all of these as blessed fruits of Jesus' resurrection. And yet, there must be something more for us to have all of the joy of Easter. For the voice from Heaven at Jesus' baptism told us that Jesus is the Son of God (Mark 1:11). Jesus' miracles of healing and power revealed not only His divinity but also that His teachings were true (John 2:23). And the resurrection of Lazarus, the son of the widow of Nain, and Jairus' daughter all firmly establish the immortality of our soul and the resurrection of our bodies.

The true source of our Easter joy is therefore something completely different. The points above are all most definitely true, but they are nothing more than the frame around the real picture. For the true joy of Easter lies in Christ's work of redemption and salvation. St. Paul clearly writes, "*And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins*" (I Corinthians 15:17). C.F.W. Walther writes that from this we see that Christ's resurrection is not simply a stone in the building of our salvation, it is the keystone to that building. The resurrection of Jesus is not just a shining jewel in the crown of our salvation, it is the entire crown itself! Simply put, without the resurrection of Jesus the world would not be saved and we would still be lost in our sin.

But Christ has risen, and we are saved from our sin and look forward to life with God that will last forever and be completely void of sin and evil! The anticipation of this eternal life changes the way in which we live in this life right now. In the midst of a deadly pandemic, we can have hope for the future. In the midst of seeing our homes and neighborhoods damaged or destroyed, we know our heavenly home is secure and waiting. The guilt over past sins has been taken away and we are strengthened to serve God and one another in the future. As God's holy and redeemed people, we are able to live in this moment with the joy of Jesus' resurrection.

I hope that as you read this month's Beacon, you will see the many effects of Jesus' rising from the grave here at Bethany. And as the Spirit desires, together we will not only heed His call to celebrate the resurrection, but also share its joy with our family, friends, and communities.

✠ Happy Easter,  
Pastor Erickson

## Thanksgiving:

Nancy (mother of Carolyn Sternowski)- recovering after broken hip  
 Gene (husband of \*Nancy Owens)- Recovered after surgery  
 Hazel (granddaughter of \*Kim Neuhaus)- improved health  
 Robert (father of \*Chris Knudson)- recovered after hospitalization  
 Gene (husband of \*K. Schmidt)- Recovered after surgery  
 Ron (brother of \*Gloria Schumacher)- Health issues  
 Brenda Heims- Good report from doctor

## Illness, injuries, health issues:

Blaine (friend of \*Bev Linman)-health issues  
 Cindy (mother of \*Amy Diers)- recovering after surgery  
 Jill (sister of \*Bridget Rinderknecht) - health issues  
 Kenny (friend of \*Bonnie Bubke)- recovering after surgery  
 Dan (relative of \*Bonnie Bubke)- recovering after shoulder injury  
 Andrew (grandson of \*Schumacher)- Recovering after surgery  
 Jane (daughter of \*Bonnie Bubke)- 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  
 Alyse (granddaughter of \*Janelle Dunbar)- brain tumor  
 LoAnn (relative of \*Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after broken leg  
 Agnes (friend of \*Siebenmanns)- Health issues  
 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:

\*Al Bachman– Cottage Grove Health Center  
 \*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– at home

## Cancer:

Darrel (father of \*Janet Hoech)-hospice care  
 Barbara (mother of \*Jim Heitland)- hospice care  
 Tammy (relative of \*Bonnie Bubke)- cancer treatment  
 Karen (mother of Bethany friend)- cancer  
 Karen (relative of \*Carol Grimminger)- cancer  
 Noelle (relative of \*Larsons)- cancer  
 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:

Harold (brother of \*Betty Hein)- Died 3/6  
 Jim (uncle of \*Nate Ackerman)- Died 2/22  
 \*Dee Rose– Died 2/12  
 VaDonna (mother of \*Dave Dohrmann)- Died 2/5

## 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, April 1

6:00 pm Human Care Meeting - Zoom  
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service

## Friday, April 2

7:00 pm Good Friday Service

## Saturday, April 3

3:00 pm Communion

## Sunday, April 4

10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

## Monday, April 5

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

## Tuesday, April 6

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

## Wednesday, April 7

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

## Sunday, April 11

9:45 pm Food Pantry Presentation - FLC  
12:00 pm Faith Milestones Event - FLC

## Monday, April 12

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

## Tuesday, April 13

5:00 pm Board of Education Mtg. - Zoom

## Tuesday, April 13

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

## Wednesday, April 14

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

## Thursday, April 15

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - FLC

## Monday, April 19

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

## Tuesday, April 20

6:30 pm Handbell Practice

## Wednesday, April 21

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

## Thursday, April 22

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - FLC

## Monday, April 26

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

## Tuesday, April 27

6:30 pm Handbell Practice

## Wednesday, April 28

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

## Thursday, April 29

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - FLC

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

<b>4/1</b>	Madison Rinderknecht	<b>4/11</b>	Janet Hoech	<b>4/24</b>	Ray McGraw
<b>4/4</b>	John Ackerman	<b>4/13</b>	Katheryn Holtz	<b>4/25</b>	Abby Bogner
	Rebecca Ballstaedt	<b>4/15</b>	Carol Edwards		Bonnie Bubke
<b>4/6</b>	Karen Schmidt	<b>4/16</b>	Lynn Madsen	<b>4/26</b>	Stephanie Ackerman
<b>4/8</b>	Lorna Fischer		Evan Ranbarger		Joe Milbach
	Gabriel Fountain	<b>4/17</b>	Kim McGinnis	<b>4/27</b>	Marlys Jaspersen
<b>4/9</b>	Al Bachman	<b>4/18</b>	Steve Hanchera		Karen Swalley
	Daphne Dohrmann	<b>4/20</b>	Carol Grimminger	<b>4/28</b>	Michelle Hedtke
	Larry Easler		Jamie Larson	<b>4/30</b>	Darren Bogner
	JJ Theriault		Colin Vande Weerd		Sandy Thorington
<b>4/10</b>	Marcus Smith	<b>4/21</b>	Kim Neuhaus		

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

<b>4/4</b>	Phil & Shirley Hoppe	<b>4/13</b>	John & Nancy Lee Siebenmann
<b>4/8</b>	Craig & Renee Riffey	<b>4/24</b>	Phil & Michelle Hedtke
<b>4/9</b>	Harold & Susan Schoen		



## Christian Faith Class

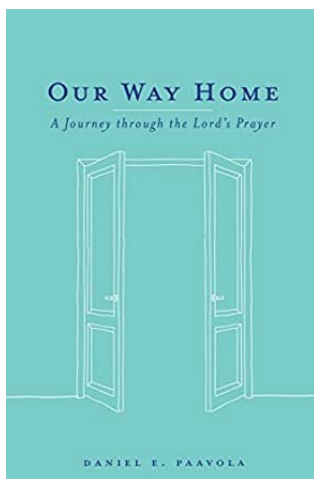


Living in times where there are so many different Christian churches, as well as different religions and worldviews, it is important for members of Bethany and those who would like to become members of our congregation to not only know what we believe, but why we believe it. Therefore, Pastor Erickson will be starting a new **Christian Faith Class** after Easter. This class will meet for several weeks at a time and in a way that is convenient for most of those interested and cover the basics of our Christian Faith as explained in Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*. This class would fulfill Pastor's expectations of those joining Bethany who have not transferred in, but also encouraged for members who like to learn more about our Faith. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Erickson.

## Thursday Morning Bible Study

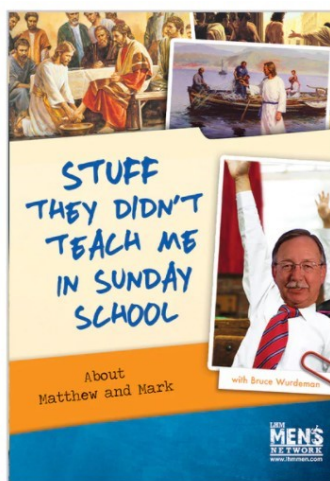
Thursday morning Bible study will resume at Bethany on April 15. Pastor Erickson will lead this in-person class on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. All adults are welcome to attend this study.

## Women's Small Group



The Monday morning women's group will start the book "Our Way Home: A Journey through the Lord's Prayer" 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.

## Joy's Journal

Happy Spring, Bethany Friends! I pray you are enjoying this beautiful world as much as I am! I can finally venture into my neighborhood on my walks (instead of just my driveway). I am amazed at all of God's creations... like sticks, leaves, grass, and rocks. I like to taste them, too! And God created loud things... like motorcycles, garbage trucks, roofers, and geese. There's just so much to explore and learn!

I've been having my training sessions with Laura King about twice a month and then I practice what I learn in between sessions. I need a lot of work on greeting people in a calm way. I guess I don't have a grasp on the word "calm" yet. But with God's help, I'll get there!

FURRwell for now!



### Who is coordinating the Comfort Dog Ministry?

The Human Care Board oversees this ministry and Parish Nurse Ronda Anderson will coordinate tasks with the Goerdt's. Joy's owners are Cindy & Mike Goerdt who are partnering with Bethany for the Comfort Dog Ministry. We have established a partnering agreement with the Goerdt's on how we share in the responsibility for this ministry.

### 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.

### 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.





## Food Pantry

Our congregation is looking into having a food pantry at Bethany.

Want to learn more? Please plan to attend an informational session on Sunday, April 11 at 9:45 a.m. Angie Albright from HACAP will join us during our education hour to help us understand how a food pantry would work here at Bethany. You may attend this session in-person in the Family Life Center, or online via Zoom (check your email for the link).



## Tree Planting

Trees not only play an important role in God's plan of our salvation (Genesis 2:17, Revelation 22:2, Galatians 3:13), they also bring numerous benefits to their ecosystems and help bring even more beauty into God's creation. Therefore, as part of Bethany's on-going effort to help our area recover from the August derecho, we are partnering with King of Kings Lutheran Church to help plant trees in our communities. Currently, we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to help transport and/or plant trees. We are also interested in receiving names of people who could use a tree from the church to replace one lost in the storm. If you can help in any of these ways, please contact Pastor Erickson.



## Sunday School

**March 28**

### **Palm Sunday**

**10:00 a.m.** Zoom Sunday School will feature Easter Bingo for all ages! Bingo cards were mailed out 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 Sunday School on Easter.

## Faith Milestones

A Faith Milestones event for youth in 7th-12th grade and their parents will be held on Sunday, April 11. Please plan to join us in the Family Life Center, noon-2:30 p.m.



## Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendar for August 2-6! God's Wonder Lab VBS will be held each evening that week. This year's Vacation Bible School will take place outside at Bever Pavilion in Bever Park. VBS is for children in preschool through elementary school.

Please contact the church office at 319-364-6026 or [office.bethanycr@gmail.com](mailto:office.bethanycr@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering. Registration will be online. Please look for information to come.



## Mission Support

The Board of Evangelism voted to support the mission project Christ's Care for Children in Kenya. Please look for more information to come about our partnership with boarding schools of the Lutheran Church of Kenya.



## Christ's Care FOR CHILDREN: KENYA



## Stephen Ministry

### 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.



It's OK to be human... 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.

Stephen Ministry began in 1975 and is in all 50 states, and 30 other countries. More than one-and-a-half million people have received care from a Stephen Minister in a formal one-to-one caring relationship.

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 Nurse Ronda Anderson. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!



## Communion Schedule

Small group communion is typically offered on the first Sunday of the month. **In April, this opportunity will be moved to the first Saturday of the month (April 3) and will be offered 3:00-5:00 p.m.**

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 on March 29.

## Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

On Sundays Pastor Erickson leads Bible study at 9:45 a.m. in the Family Life Center. The Zoom link is emailed to the congregation each Saturday or you can find it at [www.bethanycr.org/bible-study](http://www.bethanycr.org/bible-study)

Meeting ID: 857 1656 9719

Passcode: 660091

<b>April 4</b>	No Bible Study (Easter Sunday)
<b>April 11</b>	Food Pantry Presentation
<b>April 18</b>	Bible Study
<b>April 25</b>	Confirmation Public Examination



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## Upcoming Adjustments to Covid Safety Procedures

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

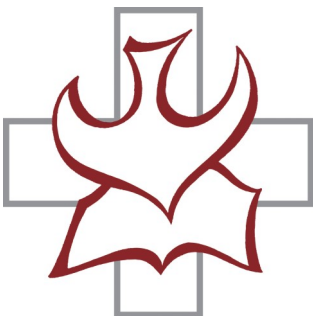
The current Covid-19 pandemic has been disruptive to all of our lives in many ways, most tragically through the deaths of over 540,000 of our fellow Americans. And while the virus continues to pose a serious threat to many people's health and well-being, there has been good news for all those wanting to get back to some sense of normalcy. New cases, hospitalizations, and deaths from the virus have dropped significantly and the rate and number of vaccinations continue to rise. While we are far from being "out of the woods," it does seem that it is appropriate for Bethany to change a few of our Covid safety procedures to reflect the progress being made.

Therefore, Bethany plans to start singing again in our worship services on Pentecost (May 23). This date has been picked for three reasons: First, it will allow more time for those who desire to be vaccinated to receive the vaccination. Second, this will give us a chance to see if some of the variants of the virus will lead to another spike in cases. And third, we need time to inform the congregation of changes, reducing the number of people who may be surprised when they show up for worship. For the time being, we are planning on everyone continuing to wear masks during the worship service. We will also have an area of the church (most likely the Gathering Area) that will have the service live-streamed for those who wish to attend, yet are still not be comfortable being in the sanctuary with people singing.

I'm also happy to say that we are currently planning on a variety of ministries and programs returning and starting at Bethany as well. While exact dates and details still need to be worked out, you can soon look forward to more in-person Bible Studies, youth activities, a tree planting ministry, and of course coffee and treats between Sunday services, just to name a few.

As noted above, while the virus has affected some more than others, we all have been affected, including our congregation. But as I have said since the beginning of this pandemic, we will act with caution and guided by the recommendations of the proper authorities, not out of fear or the lack of faith in God's protection, but out of love for our neighbor, our community, and each other. If people who believe they have been freely justified by God's grace through faith in Christ cannot sacrifice for the good of others, I don't know who will. And regardless of where we are in the current pandemic, I believe we can all agree that this type of love is Christ-like, God-pleasing, and always needed.

✝ Pastor Erickson



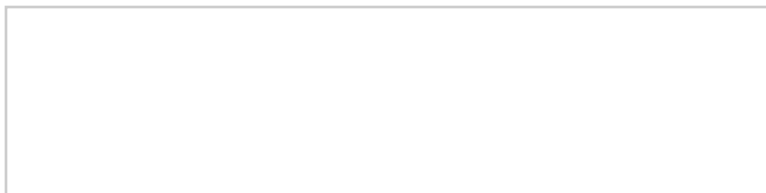
## Confirmation Public Examination

Everyone is invited to the Public Examination of our second-year confirmation students on Sunday, April 25 at 9:45 a.m. in the Family Life Center. This is an opportunity for the students to demonstrate their understanding of the Christian faith as explained in Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*. Your presence will give greatly appreciated support and encouragement to our students as they prepare to confirm their baptismal vows!

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	<a href="http://www.bethanycr.org">www.bethanycr.org</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:office.bethanycr@gmail.com">office.bethanycr@gmail.com</a>
Phone	319-364-6026
	<a href="https://facebook.com/bethanycria">facebook.com/bethanycria</a>