

Bethany Beacon

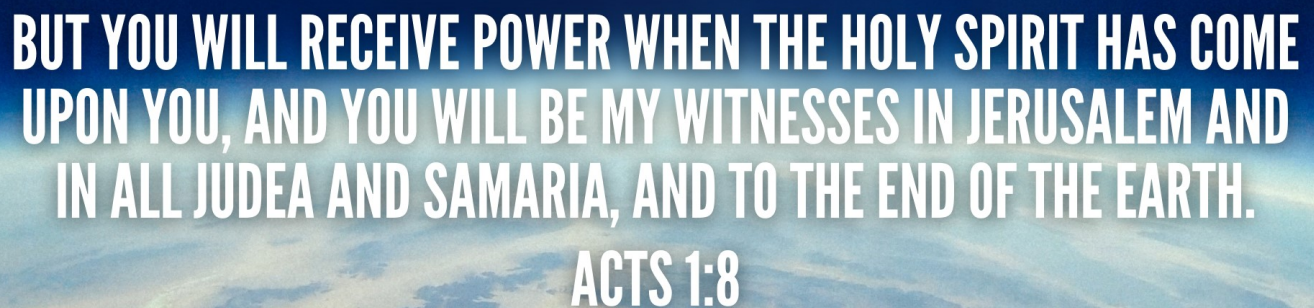
MAY 2021

SERVING TO THE END OF THE EARTH

Jesus's sacrifice on the cross for the sins of the whole world was made purely out of God's love for all people and His grace and mercy towards them, without any merit or worthiness on our part. Therefore, it is our joyful duty to thank Him, serve Him, and obey His Holy Word. God's Word of both the Old and the New Testaments plainly states that it is God's will that His people care for all who are in need, including the hungry and those who, using modern-day terminology, face food insecurity. God's people are to care for those in need to keep all aspects of His Law motivated by the Gospel – the Good News of God's love through Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of God also teaches that all that we have in this life only comes from, and belongs to, God. We are only stewards (or managers) of the good things that He gives to us, including our very lives. Therefore, we have the obligation and the privilege to use all our gifts of time, talent, and treasure in His service and for His purpose.

Motivated only by the Gospel, guided only by God's Law, and using the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that He has entrusted us with, it is the intention of Bethany Lutheran Church to help those who are hungry and face food insecurity in our area. We believe this can be done by establishing and operating what will be known as the Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry.



**BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME
UPON YOU, AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM AND
IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE END OF THE EARTH.
ACTS 1:8**

In addition to serving those in need, God's Word makes it clear that we are to be His witnesses to the end of the earth. While starting a food pantry will be a way to reach people in our community, we would also like to reach people around the globe. Each of us might not be able to travel around the world, but what we can do is support the mission work that is already happening. Missionaries are in need of our support through fervent prayer and financial giving.

The Board of Evangelism has selected a mission of schools in Kenya for our congregation to support. This mission of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod equips students with the Word of God. Bethany members are encouraged to prayerfully consider how you can be witnesses to the end of the earth through support of the Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry and the mission schools in Kenya. Please see page 7 of this newsletter to learn more about these ministries and how you can be involved.



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

*And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues
as the Spirit gave them utterance. - Acts 2:3-4*

This year Christians will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost on May 23. The word *Pentecost* comes from the Greek language, meaning “fiftieth.” The Jewish festival of Pentecost (or Weeks) falls on the fiftieth day after Passover and commemorates God giving the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai. For Christians, Pentecost falls on the fiftieth day (seventh Sunday) after Jesus’ resurrection and celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. As they began to speak in languages from around the Mediterranean world, 3000 people believed and were baptized, which is why Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the Christian Church.

Of course, the effects of the first Pentecost went beyond thousands of new Christians. For by this outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, Jesus Himself revealed to the whole world that He is truly risen from the dead and has ascended into heaven where He rules as God and Man at the right hand of the Father. For the disciples, this not only equipped them to do the amazing things we read of in the New Testament, but it also transformed their fear and weakness into heroic faith and courage. Their doubts were changed into revealed knowledge. Fishermen, a tax collector, and the other disciples became teachers and Jesus’ representatives to all the people of the world!

However, as glorious as these events of the first Pentecost are, and while they are something that all Christians should be thankful for, we would do ourselves a disservice if we only remembered and focused on the events of the past on Pentecost. For the same thing that happened to the apostles, also happens to us. It is true that the apostles were endowed on that first Pentecost with extraordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit that were necessary for the tasks that they alone would face. Nevertheless, all Christians share in the main gift the apostles re-

ceived that day – the gift of the Holy Spirit Himself. And just as the Spirit transformed the lives of the apostles, so too are the lives of all people changed through the Spirit working through the Word and Sacraments today.

As you read through this month’s *Beacon* you’ll find many ways that the Spirit continues to work through the church and our congregation. But this month there are two ministries in particular that I would like to bring to your attention. The first is our congregation’s support of Christ’s Care for Children in Kenya. This ministry provides lodging, meals, medical care, scholastic tutoring, and most importantly – the Gospel of Jesus, to children in Kenya. Everyone is invited to find out more about Bethany’s involvement in this ministry by attending our Kenyan Mission Kickoff on May 23 (Pentecost) at 9:45 a.m. The second ministry is the start of the Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry that will provide assistance to anyone in our area who is struggling with food insecurity. While more information is inside this edition of the *Beacon*, this ministry of our congregation plans to be open on Sunday afternoons to share “daily bread” and God’s love with everyone from children to senior citizens.

These ministries, as well as others at Bethany and the tasks that we face in life as God’s people, can seem daunting and are no small undertaking. But this is why we remember Pentecost. For just as the Spirit equipped and transformed the apostles with the His gifts, so too has the Spirit called us to faith and equipped us for service to our Lord and the people He brings into our care.

Happy Pentecost!

✠ Pastor Erickson

Thanksgiving:

Marriage of *Bev Linman & Blake Munson– 4/22
 Andrew (grandson of *Schumacher)- Recovered after surgery
 Carolyn (mother of Mary Vezina)- Recovered from shingles
 Donald (brother of *Carol Edwards)- moved to Lutheran Home
 Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders (IDE President)– health issues
 Jennifer (daughter of *Pat Krekeler)- Improved
 Dan (relative of *Bonnie Bubke)- recovered after shoulder injury

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Ruthie (daughter of *Pat Krekeler)- COVID-19
 Mariam (granddaughter of *Siecks)- recovering after surgery
 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
 Jane (daughter of *Bonnie Bubke)- Recovering after surgery
 Wilson (infant son of Luke Viertel)- health issues
 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
 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:

Taylor & 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– recovering after broken leg

Cancer/Hospice:

Darrel (father of *Janet Hoech)- hospice care
 Barbara (mother of *Jim Heitland)- hospice care
 Ron (uncle of *Dawn Thomas)- cancer diagnoses
 Rose (friend of *Kay Karsten)- cancer treatments
 Tammy (relative of *Bonnie Bubke)- cancer treatment
 Karen (mother of Bethany friend)- cancer
 Karen (relative of *Carol Grimminger)- 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

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.

Saturday, May 1

4:30 pm Joy's Training

Sunday, May 2

8:30 am Rite of Confirmation

1:00 pm Communion

Monday, May 3

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

6:00 pm Trustees Meeting - Zoom

Tuesday, May 4

6:00 pm Evangelism Committee - Zoom

6:30 pm Handbell Practice

Wednesday, May 5

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Thursday, May 6

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

6:00 pm Human Care Meeting

7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Monday, May 10

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

Tuesday, May 11

6:30 pm Handbell Practice

7:00 pm Council Meeting - Zoom

Wednesday, May 12

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Thursday, May 13

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - FLC

7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Monday, May 17

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

Wednesday, May 19

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotion

Thursday, May 20

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - FLC

7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Sunday, May 23

9:45 am Kenya Mission Kickoff Event

Monday, May 24

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

Tuesday, May 25

6:30 pm Handbell Practice

Wednesday, May 26

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Thursday, May 27

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - FLC

7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Monday, May 31

Memorial Day (Office Closed)

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

5/1 Ashley Freese
Ally Olson

5/2 Scott Deetz
Julie Holt

5/3 Justin McCarley
Patrick McCarley
Annie Prohaska

5/4 Jakob Bulicek
Clara Hinz

5/9 Kaleb Diers

5/10 Kerry McGraw
Richard Pfeil

5/11 Brad Crawford
Chris Frampton
Lucas McCarley
Lori Myers

5/12 Mike Diers
5/13 Brianna Prohaska
5/19 Lily McClellan

5/20 Amy Diers
Alex Theriault

5/21 Leonard Tiedt

5/22 Trisha Brink
5/23 Lori Dohrmann
Karen Swanson

5/24 Serena Knudson

5/25 Julie Elias

5/27 Anna Milbach

5/28 Blake Kroemer
Tom Larson

5/29 Jase Bond
Beth Bricker
Erin Wilson

5/31 Levi Ballstaedt
Lauren Bricker
Lexi Brink
Josh Dohrmann
Sage Duve

5/4 Ray & Kerry McGraw
5/11 Scott & Kathryn Deetz
5/13 Michael & Annie Prohaska
5/14 Gary & Pam Kaufman
5/16 Mike & Lora Raymon

5/21 Jeff & Lynn Madsen
5/22 Larry & Sharon Easler
5/23 Jake & Tami Vande Weerd
5/25 Doris Baker
5/29 Mark & Anna Ranbarger

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 started a new **Christian Faith Class** on April 29. Class meets on Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Content will 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 is also encouraged for members who like to learn more about our Faith. If you are interested in joining this class, please speak to Pastor Erickson.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursday morning Bible study meets in the Family Life Center at 9:00 a.m. The class is currently studying the book of Revelation. Using CPH's video-based Faith Course program, we'll discuss how this last book of the Bible "reveals" Jesus as the victor over evil through His death and resurrection and encourages all Christians, but especially those under persecution. Plan on following all of Bethany's normal COVID safety precautions, including wearing a mask. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Erickson. All adults are welcome to attend.



Holy Yoga

Holy Yoga will resume at Bethany on May 1. Join us on Saturdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Opening Room (large room in the lower level). The suggested donation is \$5 per one hour session.

Joy's Journal

Hi Bethany FURends! I have been so blessed these past few months to get to meet some of you! I'm only allowed to meet small groups of people . . . apparently it's not good if I get overwhelmed (whatever that is)! But hopefully little by little I will get acquainted with more of you, and before you know it, with God's help and blessing, I'll be able to become Bethany's comfort dog and can live and share God's love every day. In the meantime, I will practice my sitting, staying, and being calm (that's a hard one)! God bless you!

Your FURend,

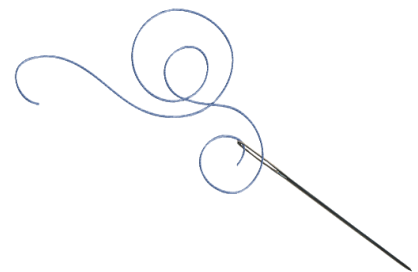


Quilts for World Relief

On Tuesday, June 8, the LWML special projects committee will tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief in the Family Life Center. We will start at 9:00 a.m. and end around noon. Any amount of time you can give is appreciated. If you plan to stay through the noon hour, bring a sack lunch. For more information, please contact Betty Happel (393-9497) or Donna Bogner (777-9053).

Donate materials for quilts

Please don't discard your used bed sheets. Bring them into Bethany, and they can be used for insides for quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief. We are always in need of yarn and fabric as well. Your donated materials can be dropped off at the church office.





Food Pantry

Our congregation has submitted an application to HACAP to have a food pantry at Bethany. The goal is to open the Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry this summer.

The current plan is for the Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry to be open to the community on Sunday afternoons. When the pantry is up and running, there will be a need for volunteers for various tasks such as picking up pallets of food from HACAP, cleaning and stocking shelves, and checking in and serving community members who visit our food pantry.

Please look for information to come to learn more about what a food pantry will look like at Bethany and prayerfully consider how you can be involved in this ministry.



Christ's Care FOR CHILDREN: KENYA



Kenyan Mission Kickoff

The Board of Evangelism has committed to support the mission project Christ's Care for Children in Kenya. This mission of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is a group of boarding schools in Kenya that not only provide basic needs for the children, but also an essential Christian education. When the students return home to their families, they are equipped to share the Word of God.

To learn more, please plan to join us for a kick-off event on Pentecost Sunday (May 23) at 9:45 in the Family Life Center. The Board of Evangelism will present information about the mission and will share ways that you can be involved.

Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt

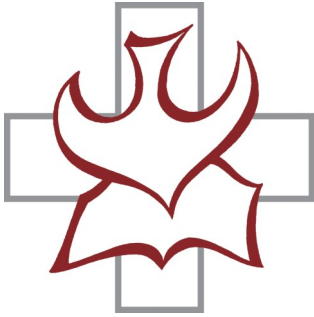
Bethany children and friends enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt between services on April 4.



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 if you are interested in volunteering. Registration will be online. Please look for information to come.



Confirmation Sunday

The Rite of Confirmation will take place at the 8:30 service on Sunday, May 2. God's blessings to our confirmands: Jase Bond, Lauren Bricker, Kaleb Diers, Blake Kroemer and Lucas Volden.

Faith Milestones

On April 11, the confirmation and high school students were invited along with their families to a Milestones session. The families enjoyed a presentation of videos and conversation on the following topics:

Life - How to make today a great day, ways to reach out to help others, and 'What's God's plan for me?'

School - 'Do you ever feel you don't fit in?' and handling peer pressure

Health - Spiritual, physical, and emotional health, and 'What stresses you out?'

Faith - When things don't go as planned, and 'Why do bad things happen?'

The following families attended this Milestones event: Keenan, Kaleb, Amy and Mike Diers; Jackson and Matt Rinderknecht; Justin, Lucas, Patrick and Becky McCarley; Jake, Angela and Mark Sturtz; Aiden and Michael Erickson; Bryce and Erin Wilson.

Tree Planting

Thank you to everyone who helped plant trees in Cedar Rapids on April 22!





Communion Schedule

Communion is 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, you may sign up to receive communion in the afternoon on the first Sunday of the month.

Time slots are limited to one family group at a time. To sign up for a 15-minute slot on May 2, call the 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. 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

Meeting ID: 857 1656 9719

Passcode: 660091

May 2, 9, 16 & 30 Bible Study
May 23 Kenya Mission Kickoff Event



Severe Weather Safety Plan

If severe weather is to occur during a service, please follow these directions to proceed to the basement:

If you are seated on the left side, please exit to the rear and go to the basement.

If you are seated on the right, please exit to the front through the door to the right of the chancel and go to the basement.

Thank You

Thank you for all the prayers, texts, visits and food that was provided to me as I recovered from my hip replacement surgery. Your prayers meant so much to me and I'm feeling so much better! God bless you all!!

- Linda Patten



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, 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. 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). 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 (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.

As more ministries and programs start back up, 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.

✝ Pastor Erickson



Coffee Fellowship

We will start serving coffee and cocoa between Sunday services on May 9. If you would like to help with set-up and clean-up of Sunday coffee and cocoa fellowship, please sign up for a Sunday at the Welcome Center. Help and training will be available if this is your first time serving. Thank you to those who will help with this time that is enjoyed by many!

Lutheran Witness Magazine

The Lutheran Witness is a magazine of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod which offers synodical news, reports from Lutherans around the world, feature articles, columns, Q&As, a Bible study, and more. *The Lutheran Witness* is a monthly publication (11 issues per year).

You may subscribe to *The Lutheran Witness* as an individual or receive the magazine through the church. Those who purchase their subscription through the church pay less (currently \$15.96 instead of \$24 for July-June). To subscribe, please pick up an envelope and return it to the church office by May 30.

Doris Williams Trust

At the Congregational meeting in January, it was discussed that the Doris Williams Trust would convert to resources for the Church Organ and maintenance on May 11, 2021. Further review and examination of the gift instructions from the Trust references that the funds go to the Organ after the completion of 10 years and not on the 10th anniversary of the gift. Completion of the 10th year will be May 11, 2022.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED




Living and Sharing God's Love

WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday Mornings

8:30 am	Traditional Service
9:45 am	Education Hour
11:00 am	Contemporary Service

CONNECT WITH US

Website	www.bethanycr.org
Email	office.bethanycr@gmail.com
Phone	319-364-6026
	facebook.com/bethanycria