

Bethany Beacon

JUNE 2021



Bethany Lutheran FOOD PANTRY

Psalm 145:16

Our congregation is moving forward in progress toward opening a food pantry.

The Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry will be open to the community on Sunday afternoons starting on June 13. When the pantry is up and running, there will be a need for volunteers for various tasks such as picking up food from HACAP, stocking shelves, greeting and checking in community members who visit our food pantry, and helping them shop for food. Please see more information below.



We will need five volunteers each Sunday, and the time commitment will be 12:45-3:00 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up online at www.bethanycr.org/food-pantry or call the church office at 319-364-6026. For more information about volunteering at the food pantry, contact Nurse Ronda or Pastor Erickson at the church office.



Our food pantry will get food from HACAP to distribute. If you would like to donate items, the congregation is asked to give personal care items including laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper, toothbrushes/toothpaste, hand soap, body wash, shampoo and deodorant. We are also accepting used grocery bags. Please drop off donations at Bethany.



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

[Jesus said] "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." – Matthew 5:14-16

In 590 A.D. Pope Pelagius II died. Upon his death, the people of Rome and the clergy of that city selected Gregory, the abbot of St. Andrew's Monastery, to be his successor. Perhaps surprisingly to some today, Gregory initially declined this offer. However, he was eventually convinced by his friends and colleagues to accept the position. When Gregory, who would become known as Gregory the Great, finally agreed to become the next Bishop of Rome or Pope, he wrote that he undertook the burden with "a sick heart." He said that he was "so stricken with sorrow that he could hardly speak" and that "the eyes of my soul were darkened with grief." To explain his feelings and his hesitancy to obtain such a high office he wrote a small book called *Pastoral Care*, that while dealing specifically with issues concerning Pastoral Office, addresses many topics that should be of significant interest to all Christians. One such topic is humility.

It goes without saying that Christians have always believed they are to be humble before God and one another (Ephesians 4:2; I Peter 5:5; etc...). Therefore, Gregory writes that some Christians may decline to undertake certain tasks out of humility. With this attitude they might believe they are inferior to others. They may believe that someone else is more qualified or better equipped for the task at hand, and therefore the job might not be done in the best possible way if they were to do it. Here, Gregory was specifically thinking of himself becoming the Pope, but this could also be applied to anyone who is asked to be a Sunday School teacher, sound board operator, help host at a funeral luncheon, or volunteering at the Food Pantry. Gregory has no doubt that such humility is genuine in God's eyes. However, it is a dangerous thing to refuse any undertaking that God clearly wants us to do. For true humility is when we obey God's will

even though it may be contrary to our own inclinations.

Gregory also writes about using our God-given gifts in service to Him, the Church, and others. Here he is not so much concerned with material gifts, but rather gifts like knowledge, patience, love, and justice. He says that those who desire to use those gifts for their own benefit, rather than in service to God and His people, will actually end up losing those gifts they wish to keep for themselves. Again, he was primarily thinking about himself agreeing to become the Pope, but the same could yet again be said of anyone who has been blessed by God with His gifts. If we keep what God has given us only for ourselves, we are putting our lamps under baskets and neglecting to love our neighbors and serve God. Gregory concludes this thought by asking how Christians can neglect helping others by pursuing their own interests, knowing that Christ came from Heaven to be in our midst that He might help many?

Today, we face many challenges as we live together as God's people, whether they be from the pandemic, storms, or simply living in a world ruined by sin. Yet we also face many new and unique opportunities to *Live and Share God's Love*. Therefore, I pray that as you read this month's *Beacon* you'll be encouraged to use the gifts that God has given to you to humbly meet the challenges we face and take advantage of all the opportunities we have. Doing all of this as Gregory the Great suggests, your light will shine before others, people will see your good works, and glory will be given to God!

Happy Memorial Day and the beginning of June,
✠ Pastor Erickson

Thanksgiving:

Darin Elm— installed as Youth Director 5/23
 Millie (daughter of *Drew & *Carolyn Zimmerman)- born 5/6
 Trace (grandson of *Ronda Anderson)- born 5/4
 Five students confirmed on 5/2
 Charlotte (daughter of *Brad & *Erin Crawford)- born 4/29

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Anne (relative of Patty Fitzgerald)- bike accident injuries
 Gil (relative of *Sheryl Knutson)- 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
 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

Local/National/World:

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

Homebound members of Bethany:

*Wayne Schilling— Linn Manor Care Center, Marion
 Candi Engel— at Garnett Place
 *Nadine Wax— at home
 *Del Block— Summit Pointe, Marion
 *Larry & *Sharon Easler— Summit Pointe, Marion
 *Darlene Eckert— recovering at Cottage Grove

Cancer/Hospice:

Roland (brother of *Bonnie Breiholz)- hospice care
 Darrel (father of *Janet Hoech)- 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:

*Al Bachman— died 5/23
 Rev Bill Riley (former Bethany pastor)- died 5/23
 *Blaine (husband of *Bev Munson)- died 5/15
 Amanda Lehrman— died 5/15
 Larry (grandfather of *Darin Elm)- died 5/4
 Barbara (mother of *Jim Heitland)- died 5/3

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.

Tuesday, June 1

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

Wednesday, June 2

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Thursday, June 3

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Saturday, June 5

9:00 am LWML Zone Spring Event
9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, June 6

9:45 am Milestones Class - Opening Room

Monday, June 7

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

Tuesday, June 8

9:00 am Quilting for World Relief
7:00 pm Council Meeting - Zoom

Wednesday, June 9

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Thursday, May 13

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - FLC
6:00 pm Human Care Meeting - Zoom
7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Saturday, June 12

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, June 13

9:45 am Milestones Class - Opening Room

Monday, June 14

10:00 am Women's Group - Zoom & FLC
7:00 pm Elders Meeting - FLC

Wednesday, June 16

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom
4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotion
6:00 pm High School Youth Group

Thursday, June 17

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - FLC
11:00 am Senior Worship
7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Saturday, June 19

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Monday, June 21

6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Cont. Ed. - FLC

Tuesday, June 22

5:00 pm Board of Education Mtg - Zoom

Wednesday, June 23

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom
6:00 pm High School Youth Group

Thursday, June 24

9:00 am Adult Bible Study - FLC
7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Saturday, June 26

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Wednesday, June 30

6:00 am Men's Bible Study - Zoom
6:00 pm High School Youth Group

JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

6/2 Carter Oja

6/4 Cooper Crow

6/5 Barb Deetz
Karissa Scott

6/6 Emily Loney

6/9 Lora Raymon

6/11 Velma Ziesemer

6/12 Steve Wilson

6/15 Carter Keldgord

Jurnee Carr

6/16 Taylor Donels

Kate Madsen

6/18 Miranda Schweer

6/19 Camden Brusius

Debbie Mills

Susan Schoen

6/20 Dawn Mims

6/23 Ashlyn Godbey

Bev Munson

6/26 Whitney Hinz

6/27 Dorothy Freese

Marissa Keldgord

Ben McClellan

Kiley Vande Weerd

6/28 Jeff Crow

6/1 EJ & Trisha Brink
Rick & Marvelene Foreman

6/2 Mark & Julie Elias

6/5 Matthew & Bridget Rinderknecht

6/9 Clark & Maggie Anderson

6/10 Dale & Bernice Stonewall

6/13 Jeff & Paula Bulicek
Rob & Sheila Willms
Drew & Carolyn Zimmerman

6/14 Troy & Tracy Donels

6/15 Jim & Lissa Novitch

6/26 Dathan & Patricia Hinrichs

6/28 Jeff & Donna Stranathan

Join us for *Senior Worship* at Bethany!

We will gather on the third Thursday of each month, starting in June:

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Senior Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

Fellowship Luncheon to follow

If you plan to attend, please call the church at 319-364-6026 by June 14 to help us plan accordingly for lunch.

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. Wearing a mask will be optional; please plan on follow other Covid safety precautions. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Erickson. All adults are welcome to attend.



Stephen Ministry

New Stephen Ministers have been in training this year. They will be installed during the 8:30 a.m. service on Sunday, May 30.

Our new Stephen Ministers are:

Kelly Frampton

Donice McDonald

Ed Schumacher

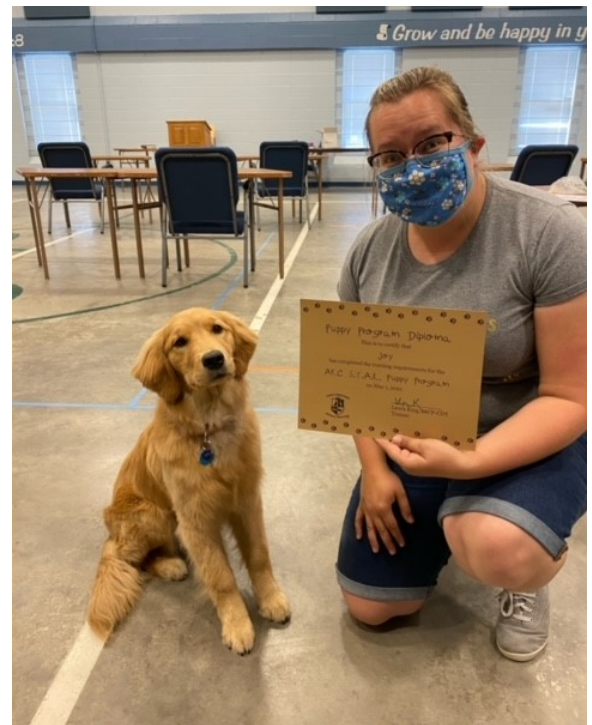
Gloria Schumacher

Angela Sturtz

Joy's Journal

God's blessings to my Bethany FURiends! I started the month of May off on the right paw and passed my American Kennel Club STAR Puppy test, which makes me one step closer to becoming Bethany's Comfort Dog! Now I am working on the Canine Good Citizen certification with my trainer Laura and my people. I am also getting out and about more . . . one of my recent training sessions was at the dog-friendly Tractor Supply Company and another was in Bever Park. My mom also takes me on a walk once or twice a day so we can work on leash training, greeting people calmly, and working through distractions. Rumor has it I may be able to meet some more of you this summer! Cross your paws and say your prayers!

Furwell for now!

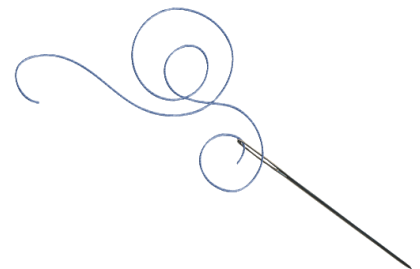


Quilts for World Relief

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.





Christ's Care FOR CHILDREN: KENYA



Evangelism Support: Project 24

Project 24 is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. Project 24 currently has 7 sites across Kenya, each located next to a Lutheran Church. Each site is a boarding school for students in 3rd-8th grade. In addition to receiving a Christian education, the students live on site and receive basic needs such as food and medical care. The sites also have gardens and livestock for students to learn agriculture.

Students at Project 24 schools grow in their faith by studying the Bible and Catechism. The children go back to their hometowns and families three times per year. During this time they have the opportunity to share what they have learned about Christ with their loved ones.

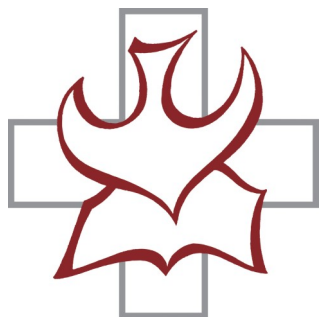
Christ's Care for Children in Kenya is the child sponsorship program for Project 24 through the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Bethany's Evangelism Committee is committed to support this mission with a contribution of \$10,000 over one year. As a congregation we will sponsor students through Christ's Care for Children in Kenya. The remaining amount will be given to the Project 24 general account to fund any on-site needs.

If you feel called to make a financial contribution to this mission project, you may:

- Use the "Missions" giving envelopes (located at the Welcome Center) to give cash or checks made to Bethany Lutheran Church, and place in the offering plate.
- Go to www.bethanycr.org/giving to give online. Under "Give Now" click "Select Fund" then select "Kenya: Project 24."

As we sponsor students, we will be able to have letter correspondence with them. Be sure to check bulletin boards to find letters from our students. Please contact the office at office.bethanycr@gmail.com or 319-364-6026 if you would like to help write letters to our students.

We will also support this mission in prayer. Please check future issues of the Beacon for specific prayer requests to keep this mission and its students in your prayers.



Confirmation Sunday

The Rite of Confirmation took place on Sunday, May 2. God's blessings to: Jase Bond, Lauren Bricker, Kaleb Diers, Blake Kroemer and Lucas Volden. Please keep each of these Bethany students in your prayers, and continue to encourage them as they grow in their Christian faith.



Vacation Bible School

August 2-6

Mark your calendar for August 2-6! God's Wonder Lab VBS will be held each evening, 6:00-8:00 p.m. 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. Registration for children and volunteers is now open at www.bethanycr.org/children-youth

YOUTH GROUP

New Youth Director

Please welcome Darin Elm as Bethany's new youth director. He was installed on Sunday, May 23. Darin will serve in this role to support our ministry to middle school and high school students.

Mark Your Calendars

Weekly youth group for high school students will take place on Wednesdays at 6:00-7:30 p.m. The first night of youth group will kick off on Wednesday, June 16. Plan to attend and bring a friend!



Congrats, Graduates!

High school seniors will be recognized on June 6 during both services. Please keep Josh Bricker, Ryne Chamberlin, Nicole Deetz, and Justin and Patrick McCarley in your prayers as they prepare for their upcoming journeys in life after graduation!

Faith Milestones

A Faith Milestones class will be held for parents of babies and toddlers. If you have a child aged three years or younger, please plan to attend both of these sessions where you will get to connect with other parents, review resources to foster your child's spiritual future, and learn how to bless your child:

The sessions will be held on **Sunday, June 6 and Sunday, June 13**, 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. in the lower level. A blessing event will take place on Sunday June 13 -- join us at either 8:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service.

If you plan to attend, please contact Nurse Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.

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



Coffee Fellowship

We are now serving coffee and cocoa in the Gathering Area between Sunday services. 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 of fellowship that is enjoyed by many!

Giving Made Easy

Make a one-time contribution or set up recurring gifts through our website's giving page or download the app on your phone.

On our website:

1. Visit our website at www.bethanycr.org
2. Click the **GIVING** tab.
3. Make a contribution!

On the app:

1. Download the free **Vanco GivePlus+** App.
2. Search for **Bethany Lutheran**.
3. Make a contribution!

It only takes a minute to set up an account or give as a guest.
We appreciate your generosity!

Updates to Covid Safety Procedures

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As our congregation continues to make its way through the pandemic, we remain committed to *Living and Sharing God's Love* through Word and Sacrament ministry and all of the activities that support and compliment this work. Therefore, the Board of Elders have continued to discuss the practice of COVID safety precautions at Bethany and, trusting in the Lord and following the recommendations of our governing authorities, have made the following decisions:

1. Beginning on June 6, wearing masks inside of the building will be optional for everyone. The *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* has stated that those who have been fully vaccinated now have very little risk from COVID, even being around those who are unvaccinated and are not wearing a mask. The congregation also respects the personal decisions of those who have chosen not to get vaccinated and/or wear a mask. However, we are unsure at this time of the number of people who may, for various reasons, be unable to receive the vaccine, despite their desire to do so. Therefore, knowing that masks not only protect oneself but also those around you, the Board of Elders would encourage those who are unvaccinated to continue to follow the CDC guidelines and wear a mask at Bethany out of love and concern for your neighbor who cannot receive the vaccine, yet still desires to come to Sunday services.
 2. As of right now, we will continue with most of our other safety precautions including sitting in every other pew, maintaining our current communion practices, and having the offering plates in the back of the sanctuary. However, at the end of the services people will now be ushered out from the front in our 8:30 am service and free to dismiss themselves as they choose after the 11:00 am service (as was done before COVID).
 3. Again, these changes will begin on June 6. However, the Board of Elders will be meeting at the beginning of June to further discuss other changes that we may want to make as the situation constantly evolves and new information become available.
 4. Finally, we understand the frustration that comes when we encourage some to continue to wear masks. We also understand the frustration of others with the thought of attending worship where unvaccinated people are not required to wear masks. At this point we are asking that everyone remember we are called to live at peace with one another and in unity around the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God willing, we will continue to make progress in this pandemic and quickly arrive to the point where we will all be eager to gather together again around God's Word and the Sacraments.
- If you have any questions or concerns about this, or any topic concerning Bethany, the Board of Elders would like you to reach out to your elder or contact me (Pastor Erickson) at your convenience.

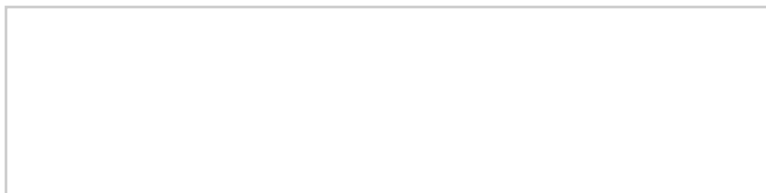


Holy Yoga meets at Bethany on Saturdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Opening Room (large room in the lower level). The suggested donation is \$5 per one hour yoga session.

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