

# Bethany Beacon

JULY 2021



## Vacation Bible School

August 2-6

6:00-8:00 PM

Bever Pavilion

Join us for God's Wonder Lab Vacation Bible School!

It will be held August 2-6 (Monday - Friday) 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Bever Pavilion.

VBS is for children ages three years old through those entering sixth grade.

Get ready for a fun week of storytelling, games, music, crafts, and Bible challenges!

Registration is open at [www.bethanycr.org/children-youth](http://www.bethanycr.org/children-youth)

### VOLUNTEER AT VBS

Use the registration link above, or call 319-364-6026 to sign up to volunteer. A meeting for all volunteers will be held on Monday, July 26 at 7:00 PM.

### FRIDAY IS FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

Parents: on Friday, August 6, plan to stay and experience VBS with your child!

Dinner (on Friday) will be served at 6:00.



**Bethany**  
Lutheran Church

*Living and Sharing God's Love*

## *Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing*

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The idea of Bethany having a food pantry to serve our community first came up in January of this year. At that time, it was brought to our attention the incredible number of people who are “food insecure” in Linn County, what other churches and organizations are doing to help with this problem, and how Bethany might be able to contribute in a meaningful and unique way. Therefore, over the course of the next several months several members of the staff (especially Ronda Anderson) and laity in our congregation (too many to name, but special thanks to our Trustees) had put in enormous amounts of time and effort to make the idea of the food pantry a reality. The speed with which our congregation responded to the needs of others was truly amazing and I was excited when we first opened the doors of the pantry on June 13. However, the excitement didn’t last long.

On our first day, over the course of two hours we only had one person stop in to receive help. Now don’t get me wrong, this person was very appreciative, and I am glad that we were there to help this person for whom Christ had died. But to be perfectly honest, I was a little disappointed that after all the hard work, so few were actually helped. And so later that night at home I had a conversation in my head to try to get me out of my grumpy mood. I thought, whose ridiculous idea was it to have a food pantry open on Sunday afternoon? (It was mine). I told myself that the reason no other pantry is open on Sunday is because they all know no one will come! But then I told myself that maybe I shouldn’t be disappointed. I thought maybe it’s a good thing that only one person came by. At least we didn’t run out of food and maybe there actually was only one person who needed help in our area that day. Maybe I should be happy that food insecurity is no longer a problem!

Unfortunately, I knew that wasn’t the case. I then realized that what really bothered me was that there were people who were in need that day

and that we could have helped them. But for whatever reason, we just weren’t able to connect with each other. What a shame that there were kids going to bed hungry that night, or people not really sure that they were going to be able to have a healthy meal tomorrow, while Bethany literally had hundreds of pounds of food to distribute.

As I continued thinking about this, important questions came to mind. If I was so disappointed about not connecting with people who had a lack of food that day, should I not be even more disappointed when the Church fails to connect with people who lack faith in Christ as their Savior? Not having enough food for the night is a terrible situation, but how much worse is not having the forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation that only comes through faith in Jesus?

As I have said many times, the purpose of Bethany, and any Christian congregation for that matter, is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and administer His sacraments. Therefore, we must remember to “keep the main thing the main thing” at Bethany and continue to support and participate in the Word and Sacrament ministries that bring people to faith in Christ and strengthen their relationship with Him. Then, and only then, shall we continue as Jesus’ disciples to have a food pantry to help feed the hungry; a comfort dog to bring peace to those who are hurting; Stephen Ministers to give Christian care; Family Promise volunteers to care for the homeless; Care Warriors to help wherever there is a need; and many other programs and activities around the congregation.

Thankfully, over the last few weeks we have seen the number of people coming to the food pantry increase significantly. Let us all pray that the Holy Spirit working through our congregation may likewise increase the number of those who have faith in Christ, their Savior. Amen.

✠ Pastor Erickson

## Thanksgiving:

New Bethany members

Leonard Tiedt- served as Stephen Leader since 2003

Ruthie (daughter of \*Pat Krekeler)- recovered after COVID-19

Mariam (granddaughter of \*Sieck's)- recovered after surgery

Cindy (mother of \*Amy Diers)- recovered after surgery

Jerry (father of Missy Gingrich)- stable health

Gil (relative of \*Sheryl Knutson)- health is stable

Jim (friend of \*Sheryl Knutson)- recovered after surgery

## Illness, injuries, health issues:

Mary Jane (mother of Phil Hedtke)- recovering after hospitalization

Tina Freese- medical issues

Deputy Halverson- recovering after injury in the line of duty

Dale (brother of \*Marge Grovert)- Parkinson's disease

Anne (relative of Patty Fitzgerald)- bike accident injuries

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

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

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- Garnett Place

\*Nadine Wax- at home

\*Del Block- Summit Pointe, Marion

\*Larry & \*Sharon Easler- The Gardens

\*Darlene Eckert- Garnet Place

## Cancer/Hospice:

Shirley (sister of \*Donice McDonald)- cancer

John (brother of \*Donice McDonald)- cancer

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

Glen (brother of \*Rob Sieck)- cancer

Tony (friend of \*Mike Thomas)- cancer

David (relative of \*Hasses)- cancer immunotherapy

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:

Dennis (brother of \*Karen Pfeffer)- died 6/29

LoAnn (relative of \* Bonnie Bubke)- died 6/19

\*Al Bachman- died 5/23

Rev Bill Riley (former Bethany pastor)- died 5/23

\*Blaine (husband of \*Bev Munson)- died 5/15

## 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, July 1

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

## Sunday, July 4

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

## Monday, July 5

6:00 pm Trustees Meeting

## Tuesday, July 6

6:00 pm Evangelism Meeting

## Wednesday, July 7

6:00 pm High School Youth Group

## Thursday, July 8

9:00 am NO Adult Bible Study

## Sunday, July 11

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

## Tuesday, July 13

9:00 am Quilting for World Relief

7:00 pm Council Meeting - Zoom

## Wednesday, July 14

4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotion

6:00 pm High School Youth Group

## Thursday, July 15

9:00 am NO Adult Bible Study

11:00 am Senior Worship

## Sunday, July 18

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

## Monday, July 19

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

## Wednesday, July 21

6:00 pm High School Youth Group

## Thursday, July 22

9:00 am NO Adult Bible Study

## Sunday, July 25

9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks - Office

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

## Monday, July 26

7:00 pm VBS All Volunteer Meeting - FLC

## Wednesday, July 28

6:00 pm High School Youth Group

## Thursday, July 29

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

6:00 pm Human Care - Gathering Area

## JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

**7/1** Ben Mims

Wade Ramsey

**7/3** Rick Foreman

John Siebenmann

**7/5** Elaine Cook

Corey Stackhouse

**7/6** Arlen Breiholz

Rachel Henderson

**7/7** Barry Smith

**7/9** Landon Oja

**7/10** Phil Hedtke

**7/12** Carol McGinnis

**7/13** Myriah Blazicek

Tristan Bond

**7/14** Jeff Bulicek

**7/15** Bill Freese

Chris Knudson

Jake Sturtz

**7/16** Mindy Thies

Bryce Wilson

**7/17** Jim Heitland

**7/19** Nicole Deetz

**7/19** Mark Holt

**7/20** Christine Erickson

**7/21** Jo Godbey

**7/22** Carson Theriault

**7/23** Jodi Strait

**7/24** Isaac Corey

Lainie Olson

Renee Riffey

**7/27** Meghan Prohaska

**7/28** Ken Cook

**7/1** Nathan & Stacy Brusius

**7/2** Joe & Anna Milbach

**7/5** Josh & Haley Dohrmann

**7/7** Jeff & Melinda Crow

**7/8** Lee & Brenda Heims

**7/9** Harold & Susan Schoen

**7/11** Andy & Sarah Gates

**7/12** Richard & Angie Pfeil

**7/16** Steve & Kathy Hanchera

**7/20** Mark & Julie Gutman

**7/23** Duane & Karen Pfeffer

**7/24** Dave & Kay Karsten

**7/26** Brad & Erin Crawford

**7/27** Vern & Betty Happel

**7/28** David & Carolyn Johnson

**7/29** Ryan & Ginny Urban



## Join us for *Senior Worship* at Bethany!

Senior Worship is held at Bethany on the third Thursday of each month.

**Thursday, July 15, 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  
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. All adults are welcome to attend. Class will meet on July 1, then there will be a three-week break (no class on July 8, 15, 22), and class will resume on July 29.

### Stephen Ministry

New Stephen Ministers were installed on Sunday, May 30.

Our new Stephen Ministers are:

Kelly Frampton  
Donice McDonald  
Ed Schumacher  
Gloria Schumacher  
Angela Sturtz



## Joy's Journal

It's hot out! Does your tongue hang out as much as mine? But I am enjoying being able to be outside every day and enjoy God's beautiful creation. I've started attending Pastor's Thursday morning Bible study and have made some new FURiends there. I also recently went to school – my mom took me to a grooming class through Kirkwood Community College. I think I did better at class than my mom did! God blessings!

Furwell for now!

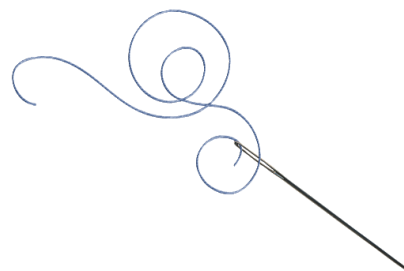


## Quilts for World Relief

On Tuesday, July 13, 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.





## New Members

We welcomed new members into our congregation on Sunday, June 27. We also welcome back Bethany member Fred Schuchmann, who has returned to Iowa.



Taylor Chittick



Josh Keldgord



Justin & Stacy Kirkpatrick, Carter & Conner



Wade & Sharon Ramsey



Ian & Bailey Stevens



Rob & Sheila Willms

# SUNDAY SCHOOL



## VOLUNTEERS

We have opportunities– you can help!

- Music station leaders
- Crafts station leaders
- Games station leaders
- Substitute teachers
- Preschool room helpers
  - Puppeteers

Most of these positions are a commitment of once a month or less.

Contact Becky Thur at  
([sundayschool.bethanycr@gmail.com](mailto:sundayschool.bethanycr@gmail.com))



## RALLY DAY

August 22 at 9:45-10:45 in the Opening Room.

Rally Day is a time to meet your teachers, update forms, play games, get your picture taken, ask questions, and have fun!



## FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

On August 29 we will resume regular  
**IN-PERSON** Sunday School!

If you are not able to make it to Rally Day, please stop in the Sunday School Office before going to your classroom.

# YOUTH GROUP

## High School Youth Group

Weekly youth group for high school students is on Wednesdays at 6:00-7:30 p.m. Plan to attend and bring a friend! Youth director Darin Elm can be reached at [youth.bethanycr@gmail.com](mailto:youth.bethanycr@gmail.com).





## Faith Milestones

Parents shared a blessing with their infants and toddlers at services on Sunday, June 13. Faith Milestones is a ministry that provides classes and resources for parents as they bring up their child in the Christian faith.

## Evangelism Support: Project 24

Project 24 is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. Project 24 currently has 7 boarding schools for students in 3rd-8th grade. Students at Project 24 schools grow in their faith by studying the Bible and Catechism. In addition to receiving a Christian education, the students live on site and receive basic needs such as food and medical care.



Christ's Care  
FOR CHILDREN:  
**KENYA**



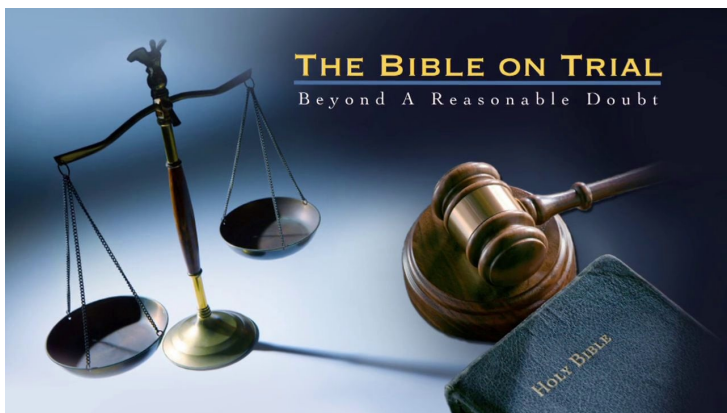
Bethany's Evangelism Committee is committed to support this mission with a contribution of \$10,000 over one year. As a congregation we will sponsor two students through Christ's Care for Children in Kenya. The remaining amount will be given to the Project 24 general account to fund any on-site needs. **So far we have raised \$4,026.80 as a congregation.**

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

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

Please keep this mission in your prayers!

# Adult Vacation Bible School



## Adult VBS: Save the Date

Vacation Bible School for adults will be held at Bethany August 16-19, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Join us for a time of lessons led by Pastor Erickson, hymn singing, Bible trivia, and fellowship with friends. This year we will go through “The Bible on Trial: Beyond Reasonable Doubt,” a study from Lutheran Hour Ministries. All adults are welcome to attend.



The pantry is open to the community every Sunday, 1:00-3:00 p.m. To volunteer on Sundays, sign up online at [www.bethanycr.org/food-pantry](http://www.bethanycr.org/food-pantry) or call the church office at 319-364-6026. If you would like to pick up and deliver food from HACAP, please contact Nurse Ronda at [nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com](mailto:nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com).

Our food pantry gets food from HACAP to distribute. If you would like to donate items, please give personal care items including laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper, toothbrushes/toothpaste, hand soap, body wash, shampoo and deodorant. Please drop off donations at Bethany.

## 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](http://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!



### Family Promise

Bethany member Brittney Stepanek is a new board member of Family Promise of Linn County.



In a recent spotlight from Family Promise, Brittney shared:

“FPLC has a very meaningful and impactful mission. My church has worked with FPLC and contributed in many wonderful ways. I felt getting involved with FPLC would also be a more active way I could get involved with my church and surrounding faith communities. I decided to get involved with FPLC to make a bigger difference as a contributing community member.

As I’ve learned more about my birth family’s journey, I become more and more thankful for the life I have been given. My birth family came to the United States as refugees and were blessed by communities who took them in and helped them get on their feet in a time of need. FPLC also supports refugee families and I hope I can pay it forward by getting involved in this area.

I hope to make a difference by growing and expanding FPLC’s presence, contributions and opportunities. Even if it is just one person, or one family who I can help – it’s worth it.”



### Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

On Sundays Pastor Erickson leads Bible study at 9:45 a.m. in the Family Life Center.

### Covid Precaution Update: Sanctuary Seating

As Sunday morning church attendance continues to increase, we realize that it is becoming harder to find seating in the sanctuary while still trying to maintain as much “social distance” as possible. Therefore, Bethany is asking Sunday worshippers to please note the following changes to our seating procedures:

- Instead of sitting in every other pew as we have been doing, we will remove the pew numbers and now use all of the pews.
- However, each pew will be alternately designated by color to have people either sit on ends of the pew or in the middle section of the pew.
- Individuals and small groups of up to 3 are encouraged to sit in the pews that are designated to have people sit on the ends.
- Larger groups of 4 or more are encouraged to sit in pews that are designated to have people sit in the middle.

Of course there will be no “Seating Police” on Sundays at Bethany, but we are asking everyone to do their best to follow these new guidelines so that everyone may come to our worship services to hear the Word and receive the Sacrament with as little worry as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Erickson.



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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CEDAR RAPIDS IA 52403-1654

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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	<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>