

Bethany Beacon

NOVEMBER 2021



Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday, November 24 | Service with Communion at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for worship as we gather in thankfulness to give praise to our God.



Advent Answers TO Hard Questions

Advent begins on Sunday, November 28. Join us for Advent Midweek services the first three Wednesdays in December. Fellowship meals will be served at 5:45, followed by service at 7:00 p.m.

Advent Answers to Hard Questions

December 1: The Birth of God: How and Why?

December 8: Did the Child Know He Was God?

(Communion on December 8)

December 15: Why Would Jesus Cry? *(Blue Christmas)*

Midweek Advent Service Schedule

5:45 - 6:45 PM: Fellowship Meal

7:00 PM: Service



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

As we turn our calendars to the eleventh month of the year many of us begin to think of the upcoming holidays. This of course includes Advent and Christmas, but even before those is our national day of thanks, Thanksgiving. While thanksgiving celebrations go back hundreds of years and its celebrations taking many different forms, the fourth Thursday of November was set as the official day of Thanksgiving for the entire nation in 1863 by Abraham Lincoln. At the time, Lincoln was hoping that Americans would take this time to be thankful for the ongoing blessings our country enjoyed, even in the midst of the Civil War. And while being thankful for the good things in life should be an important part of our celebrations of thanks today, we also should not forget to be thankful even when things are not going as we would want or hope.

Most of us know that when the harvest is plentiful, when our jobs are secure, when our paychecks cover our needs as well as our wants, when we are healthy and enjoy the company of family and friends it is easy to be thankful. During these times it seems we can feel God's love and favor coming down upon us. Therefore, not only is it easy to be thankful, but it is also easy to believe that Christ died for our sins and eternal life is given to us by His grace alone. ("God helped me get the promotion and brought my grandkids to visit! Of course, He would die for my sin!") But what happens when things are not going well? What happens when our health leaves us? When droughts or floods or storms ruin our pleasant existence in this creation? What happens when we find ourselves in need of food, clothing, shelter, or the love of friends or family? Do we still feel God's love during times like these? If not, do we still believe in the Gospel promise of salvation through faith by grace?

When we find ourselves sick, lonely, or in times of need it is hard to "feel" God's love. And if our faith is based only on what we feel, then during these times of want we run the risk of not just

being unthankful, but also of losing our faith in Christ as our Savior. Therefore, we must make the foundation of our faith, not what we feel, but God's unchangeable Word. There, in the Scriptures, we find that God not only loves us when things are going well, but also, and perhaps especially, when they are not! When you are poor in spirit, when you mourn, when you are reviled or people are uttering all kinds of evil things against you, you may not feel God's love or feel like giving thanks, but that is exactly when Jesus says that you are blessed (Matthew 5 – The Beatitudes)! So, let us be thankful at all times and in all situations. Not just because we feel like it, but because God's Word tells us of His love.

Here at Bethany there are many things to be thankful for that make it easy to feel God's love among us. The Gospel is proclaimed in music and in song, as well as from the pulpit, in Sunday School classrooms, and countless conversations. The choir balcony is once again almost full with banners celebrating the baptisms of God's children. By God's grace and the hard work of many, we are helping those in need in many and various ways, while at the same time caring for and encouraging one another. I'm pleased (and thankful) that people in and outside of the congregation are noticing these things and are glorifying God with their own thankfulness and even more good works.

But as we give thanks this year, let us remember that true faith has to do with the things that are unseen and is a living confidence in God's Word and promise. Therefore when a person is lonely, true faith allows them to believe that God is near. When a person feels God's wrath, faith allows them to remember their baptismal grace. When a person is in the jaws of death, true faith comforts with the promise of eternal life. And with these blessings we can always give thanks in whatever situation we find ourselves.

✠ Pastor Erickson

Thanksgiving:

Holden Caldwell (grandson of *Shirley McElroy)- baptized 10/17

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Charlotte (mother of Chris Frampton) - recovering after surgery
Dana (brother of Melissa Loney) - hospitalized with COVID
Cathy (sister-in-law of Melissa Loney) - recovering after COVID
Ron (father of Jo Godbey & Justin Kirkpatrick) - recovering after hospitalization

Don (brother of Joann Strang) - health issues

Tim & Nancy (parents of Christine Erickson) - health issues

Dipak (friend of Greg Dunn)- hospitalization

Dave (father of Jennet Volden)- health issues

Crysten (wife of Daniel Sanchez, Camp IODISECA) - recovering after accident

Deputy Halverson- recovering after injury in the line of duty

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

Jill (sister of *Bridget Rinderknecht)- health issues

Kenny (friend of *Bonnie Bubke)- recovering after surgery

Jane (daughter of *Bonnie Bubke)- recovering after surgery

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:

Ben— serving in the Iowa National Guard

Mitchell & Benjamin (relatives of *Schoens & Amy Smith)- serving in the Navy

Tailor & Charlie (grandsons of *Kim Neuhaus)- Deployed

Harrison (son of *Siecks)- serving in the military

Grief, family and friends of:

Brenda (sister-in-law of *Happels)- died 10/8

Mildred (grandmother of Carolyn Zimmerman)- died 9/30

Ray (father of *Deb Mills)- died 9/4

Homebound members of Bethany:

*Wayne Schilling— Linn Manor Care Center, Marion

Candi Engel— Garnett Place

*Nadine Wax— at home

*Del Block— The Gardens

*Larry & *Sharon Easler— Summit Pointe, Marion

*Darlene Eckert— at home

*Valerie Koelper— Grand Living on Indian Creek

*Melba Davison— Terrace Glen, Marion

*Shirley Kellogg— at home

Cancer/Hospice:

Richard (relative of *Carol Grimminger)- cancer

Austin (grandson of *Fran Struck)- terminal cancer

Sandy (neighbor of *Bonnie Bubke)- cancer treatment

Shirley (sister of *Donice McDonald)- cancer

John (brother of *Donice McDonald)- cancer

Roland (brother of *Bonnie Breiholz)- 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 treatment

Karen (relative of *Carol Grimminger)- hospice care

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

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, November 1

10:00 am Women's Group - Mr. Beans
4:00 pm LWML Board Meeting
6:00 pm Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, November 2

6:30 pm Handbells Practice
7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 3

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

Thursday, November 4

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
6:00 pm Human Care

Saturday, November 6

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, November 7

9:45 am Milestones Class
9:45 am Joy's Birthday "Pawty"
12:30 pm Voters' Meeting
1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, November 8

10:00 am Women's Group - Mr. Beans

Tuesday, November 9

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

Wednesday, November 10

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

Thursday, November 11

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

Saturday, November 13

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, November 14

12:15 pm Board of Education Meeting
1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, November 15

10:00 am Women's Group - Mr. Beans
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Cont. Ed.
7:00 pm Elders Meeting

Tuesday, November 16

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

Wednesday, November 17

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

Thursday, November 18

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
11:00 am Senior Worship

Saturday, November 20

9:00 am Holy Yoga

Sunday, November 21

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, November 22

10:00 am Women's Group - Mr. Beans

Tuesday, November 23

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

Wednesday, November 24

6:00 am Men's Bible Study
6:00 pm Confirmation
6:00 pm High School Youth Group
7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service

Thursday, November 25

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

Saturday, November 27

9:00 am Holy Yoga

Sunday, November 28

9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks - Office
1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, November 29

10:00 am Women's Group - Mr. Beans

Tuesday, November 30

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

VOTERS' MEETING

NOVEMBER 7
12:30 PM

Voters' Meeting

A voters' meeting will take place on Sunday, November 7 at 12:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. All members are encouraged to attend. Information from the nominating committee is posted on the bulletin board. At the meeting we will vote on the budget and endowment expenditures, and elect officers.

*Al Bachman**Dee Block**Ann Meyer**Blaine Munson**Bernie Rehnstrom**Dee Rose*

All Saints' Sunday 2021

On Sunday, November 7, we will pause to commemorate the faithful departed called to their heavenly home since last All Saints Day. Join us at either service that morning (8:30 or 11:00) as we remember Bethany members who have passed away within the last year.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

11/2 Doris Baker	11/13 Jerald Scott	11/24 Erica Rutz
Sheryl Knutson	11/14 Karl Hoech	11/25 Ava Ballstaedt
11/3 Aaron Foreman	Donna Thronson	Bonnie Breiholz
11/4 Jacey Carr	11/16 Verlyn LeFevere	Carter Kirkpatrick
11/5 Dave Dohrmann	11/18 Aaron Moffett	Conner Kirkpatrick
Samuel Strait	11/20 Harper Freese	11/26 Abi Clark
11/6 Donna Bogner	11/21 Brooklyn Hedtke	11/27 Benjamin Ackerman
11/7 Shay Gutman	11/22 Haley Dohrmann	Nathan Brusius
Becky Johnson	Noelle Madden	Earlene Francik
Ian Stevens	Wayne Schilling	11/29 Doug Knutson
11/8 Ginny Urban	Sheila Willms	Noah Russman
11/11 Mike Goerd	11/23 Kay Karsten	11/30 Kristi Montague
Natalie Heller	Taylor Theriault	Barbara Rocarek
11/12 Kris Dunn	11/24 Don Hein	Nolan Russman
Jayden Loesch	Brooke Oja	
11/1 Ed & Gloria Schumacher	11/26 Dan & Kristi Montague	
11/10 Dustin & Beth Bricker	11/27 Richard & Karen Hass	
11/15 Chuck & Emily Kroemer	11/27 Doug & Earlene Francik	
11/21 Jeff & Angela Keslar	11/27 James & Joan Mosel	



Sunday School

Bethany families gathered for Sunday School "recruitment day" on August 22. This year's Sunday School theme is Mission: Possible. Children gather for Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. in the lower level.



Thank you, Trinity Lutheran School!

At the Annual Walk-A-Thon, Trinity Lutheran School students raised \$23,000 to support: technology, playground equipment, school improvement fund, outdoor education, PR, and the TLS endowment fund. This fundraiser also provided \$2,000 to the Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry. Pastor Erickson and Nurse Ronda received a check for the food pantry at Trinity on October 18. God is good! Thank you to everyone who supported the Trinity Walk-A-Thon.





Serve the Lord Day

Thank you to everyone who helped the Board of Trustees care for the maintenance of our facilities at Serve the Lord Day on October 16! Your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

Sunday Adult Bible Study

The Center for Care of Creation at Concordia Seminary was created to promote a deep appreciation for creation among Christian congregations by bringing the biblical theology to bear on cultural issues related to our life in care for creation so that congregations can better engage their communities for the sake of the Gospel and for the new creation.

The CCC has developed resources to help churches reflect on their relationship with creation, to embrace life within creation, and to empower them to become involved in caring for God's creation. On Sundays at 9:45 a.m. Pastor Erickson is leading a Bible Study from the Center for Care of Creation. Join us in the Family Life Center for this study, which will go through November 7.

On November 14, Pastor Erickson will start a new study on the topic of prayer.



Thursday Morning Bible Study

Pastor Erickson leads Bible study on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. All adults are welcome to attend this class, held at Bethany in the Family Life Center.

Women's Small Group

Women's Small Group meets on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. at Mr. Beans in Marion. The group is currently discussing the book "Family Trees and Olive Branches: Creating a Culture of Grace in Your Family" by Christina Hergenrader. Contact Nurse Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com for more information.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m. at Bethany. On November 7 the group will start a study on the gospels of Luke and John from the Lutheran Hour Ministries series, "Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School." All men are welcome; contact the church office for more information.



Bethany friends gathered for a church picnic on Sunday, October 10 at Wanatee Park in Marion. Those who attended enjoyed time in fellowship, picnic lunches, and a fun game of Kan Jam.



Serve at Senior Worship Meals

Help is needed to serve meals at Senior Worship. Senior Worship is held every third Thursday of the month at 11:00, followed by a fellowship luncheon.

Volunteers are asked to arrive at 10:00 a.m. to prepare, serve, and clean up after the meal. Please contact the church office if you are interested in this opportunity.

Join us for *Senior Worship* at Bethany!

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

Thursday, November 18, 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.



Holy Yoga

Holy Yoga is held at Bethany on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. in the lower level. Bring a mat if you have one. Suggested donation for Holy Yoga is \$5 per session.

Christ's Care FOR CHILDREN: KENYA



Project 24

Our congregation has raised **\$5,727.42 of our \$10,000 contribution** to Project 24 in Kenya. At this point we have sent \$5,000 of our gift. We plan to send \$2,500 more in December, and the final \$2,500 in March 2022. Please prayerfully consider supporting this mission that shares Christ's love with children in Kenya. 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 to give online. Find the giving tile for "Christ's Care for Children: Kenya" and click the green "Give" button.



Monday Coffee and Cocoa

The Board of Evangelism connects with neighbors and Washington High School students by serving free coffee and cocoa on Monday mornings. New volunteers are welcome! Even if you are not an "early morning" person, you'll find that serving is fun as you share joy and encouragement with those we serve. To volunteer, please sign up for a date at www.bethanycr.org/serve.

High School Youth Retreat

A retreat for youth in grades 9-12 will be held at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca November 19-20. The retreat will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and go through 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

This year's theme is "Proclaiming the Gospel in a Secular Age." As God's children in Jesus Christ we are called to proclaim the Gospel in both word and deed. In some places the proclamation of the Gospel will be met with hostility and anger. At this retreat, we will consider how the early Church proclaimed the Gospel in a secular and hostile culture, and how we might utilize their approach today.

Visit www.lcmside.org/srhighretreat for more information. If you are interested in attending the retreat, please contact Darin Elm at youth.bethanycr@gmail.com.

Joy's Journal

Hello Bethany FURends! I have some exciting news – I'm turning ONE in November!! Bethany is throwing me a little PAWty on November 7 between services in the Gathering Area and I am going to try to be on my best behavior so I can meet some of you. But my PAWrents say that if my behavior is not calm, I may have to go sit in the car, just so you're aware. I've heard there will be PUPcorn and PUPPYchow for humans to eat, plus pictures of me from the last year. And if you'd like to bring me a gift, please bring some toothpaste, tissues, and paper towels for the Bethany Food Pantry – my community friends need things more than I do! And there might even be a tiny gift for you folks because you've been so supportive of Bethany's comfort dog ministry! Let's PAWty!



Angel Tree

Bethany will participate in the Angel Tree program again this year. The tree will be up in the Gathering Area by Thanksgiving Eve. If you would like to buy a Christmas gift for a child on behalf of their incarcerated parent, please take an angel from the tree and bring your gift to Bethany by December 12.

Blood Drive

An American Red Cross Blood Drive took place at Bethany on October 25. Thank you to everyone who participated. There were 29 presenting donors, and 27 units of blood were collected. The American Red Cross says: "Thank you so much for hosting the blood drive! We appreciate all your hard work and dedication from everyone involved."



Open House

Doug and Earlene Francik invite you to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. An open house will be held in the Bethany Family Life Center on November 27, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Doug and Earlene request no gifts; only your presence.



Bethany Lutheran FOOD PANTRY

Psalm 145:16

The pantry is open every Sunday, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
To volunteer, sign up at bethany.org/food-pantry
or call the church office at 319-364-6026.



Especially For You

Bethany members and friends participated in the Especially For You Race Against Breast Cancer on October 3.

Time and Talents

Have you completed a time and talent survey? Print copies of the survey are available to pick up at the Bethany Welcome Center. Or, you may fill out a survey online at www.bethanycr.org/serve.



START USING THE NEW VANCO MOBILE APP!

The Vanco GIVE+ App will be replaced with the Vanco Mobile App. If you have been using the GIVE+ app, please replace it with the "Vanco Mobile App." Get it at your Google or Apple Store. Use your same user ID and password to sign in to the new app.



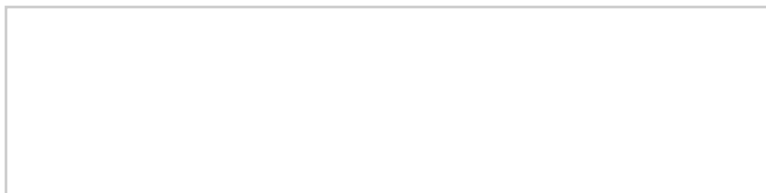
1. Download the free Vanco Mobile App.
2. Find our church by searching for Bethany Lutheran.
3. Give an offering.

You can also continue to contribute at www.bethanycr.org/giving

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