

Bethany Beacon

JANUARY 2022

Bethany Lutheran Church Annual Meeting: January 23

Our congregation's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 23. Please plan to attend this meeting at 12:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The church leadership will review the accomplishments of 2021 and plans for 2022. Also, a second vote will take place to approve the use of congregational funds for church projects presented by the trustees at the voter's meeting on November 17, 2021.

Bethany Lutheran Church 2021 Annual Report



2021



Project List

- Sanctuary projector replacement
- Sanctuary sound board replacement.
- Fire protection panel replacement
- Sanctuary cove lighting

**Bethany members:
please plan to attend this
congregational meeting!**



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.
- Luke 9:51

For many people, the end of one year and the beginning of another is often a time of reflection and planning. And along with the many lists that will rank the “best of” whatever for the past year comes the inevitable New Years Resolution. These resolutions are made by countless people each year, usually in an effort to better themselves in some way. Maybe people resolve to exercise more, eat healthier, give up bad habits, or take up good ones. Such goals are certainly worthwhile and in many cases even laudable. Surprisingly however, research consistently shows that less than 8% of people actually keep their New Year resolutions.

While never having made a New Years resolution (at least to my knowledge), our Lord Jesus Christ nevertheless showed incredible resolve in accomplishing His main goal of our salvation. When St. Luke writes that He “*set his face to go to Jerusalem*” we reach a turning point in Luke’s Gospel where Jesus will now be laser focused on going to the place where He will suffer, die, and rise again. There will be nothing, (not misunderstanding disciples, corrupt government or hypocritical religious officials, not even Satan), that will be able to keep Jesus from doing the very thing that He came into this world to do – save a fallen humanity from their sin. Jerusalem was the place where this had to happen, and Jesus did everything He could to make sure He got there.

I believe it is worth noting that this work of Jesus was not done out of love for Himself, but His desire to do His heavenly Father’s will and His love for each of us. Throughout the centuries this has brought incredible comfort and peace to Christians in the best and the worst of times. But in addition to that, I think it may also provide insight.

So often our goals and resolutions are about ourselves. But like Jesus, perhaps we should also consider what our heavenly Father’s will is for us. And if we do that, He will certainly want us to be good stewards of the things He has given us (our bodies, our time, etc...) but I also know that He will want us to love those around us, much like

Christ has loved us.

I have been so grateful that I have seen this idea at work at Bethany over the years. It seems to be that the best things we have done are when God’s people in our congregation focus less on themselves and more on God and others. Just think of our food pantry. So many people have volunteered their time and given to the pantry with no expectation of reward for themselves. And now it is literally helping hundreds of people each week. Or think of our Monday morning coffee outreach. I can see of no personal advantage for anyone to be outside in the cold at 7:00 a.m. handing out cups of cocoa or rice crispy treats. Yet even cars driving by have felt God’s love as members of Bethany are out there every week doing just that. I could go on and on. Our members who serve in the kitchen making meals surely have meals to make for themselves, but they give up their time for others and we all are blessed because of it. Our trustees certainly have projects at their own homes, but just recently they spent hours fixing up the youth group room, not for their own children, but for the youth of Bethany. I could go on and on including Stephen Ministers and ladies who tie quilts and those who teach the faith – all for the sake of others.

I certainly don’t want to discourage anyone from trying to better themselves in the upcoming year. But I am also thankful for how the Lord has blessed us this past year through the faithful service of so many at Bethany and encourage us to keep *Living and Sharing God’s Love* by focusing on His will and how we can love one another in His name. God willing, these will be resolutions we can all keep!

God Bless and Happy New Year
✠ Pastor Erickson



Thanksgiving:

Christmas Season & the New Year

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Carl (relative of *Bonnie Bubke)- health issues
 Janet (mother of *J Shoemaker)- recovering after surgery
 Burt & Jan (friends of *Bonnie Bubke)- health issues
 Charlotte (granddaughter of *Karen Swalley)- health issues
 John (brother of Pat Krekeler)- hospitalization
 Roxanne (former office assistant)- recovering after COVID
 Jan (friend of Bonnie Bubke)- recovering after surgery
 Marcia (mother of M. Rinderknecht & E Heller)- health issues
 Mary Jane (mother of Phil Hedtke)- health issues
 Charlotte (mother of Chris Frampton)- recovering after surgery
 Cathy (sister-in-law of Melissa Loney)- recovering after COVID
 Ron (father of Jo Godbey & Justin Kirkpatrick) - recovering after hospitalization
 Dave (father of Jenet Volden)- health issues
 Crysten (wife of Daniel Sanchez, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca) - 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
 Hayden (relative of *Bonnie Bubke)- brain disorder
 Gwendolyn- (friend of *Karen Swanson)- terminal illness
 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:

Don (brother of *Joann Strang)- died 12/21
 Roger (uncle of *Kris Dunn)- died 12/17
 Randy (friend of *John Hamm)- died 12/12
 *Fred Schuchmann— died 12/11
 Dana (brother of Melissa Loney) - died 11/25

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
 Ron (uncle of *Dawn Thomas)- cancer
 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.

Sunday, January 2

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, January 3

6:30 am Coffee Outreach

6:00 pm Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, January 4

6:00 pm Evangelism Meeting

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

Wednesday, January 5

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

6:00 pm Confirmation

6:00 pm High School Youth

Thursday, January 6

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

6:00 pm Human Care Meeting

Saturday, January 8

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, January 9

9:45 am Milestones Class

12:15 pm Board of Education Meeting

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, January 10

6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision

7:00 pm Elders Meeting

Tuesday, January 11

9:00 am Quilting for World Relief - FLC

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 12

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

6:00 pm Confirmation

6:00 pm High School Youth

Thursday, January 13

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

Saturday, January 15

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, January 16

9:45 am Milestones Class

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Tuesday, January 18

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

Wednesday, January 19

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotion

6:00 pm Confirmation

6:00 pm High School Youth

Thursday, January 20

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

11:00 am Senior Worship

Saturday, January 22

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, January 23

9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks - Office

12:30 pm Annual Meeting - FLC

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, January 24

6:30 am Coffee Outreach

6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Cont. Ed.

Tuesday, January 25

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

Wednesday, January 26

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

6:00 pm Confirmation

6:00 pm High School Youth

Thursday, January 27

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

Saturday, January 29

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, January 30

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, January 31

6:30 am Coffee Outreach



Prayer Partnership

Thank you to everyone who participated in the prayer partnership program! There were eleven groups (totaling 40 people) that gathered to pray during the season of Advent. An evaluation will be emailed to participants. Please reply so we can learn about how the experience went for you.



Children's Program

Bethany children shared the story of Jesus's birth at the Christmas program on December 19.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/1 Julie Gutman
1/4 Janelle Dunbar
 Darren Scott
1/5 Nate Smith
1/8 Hudson Freese
1/9 Phil Hoppe
 Archer Milbach
1/10 Sebastian Foreman
 Jeffrey Jasper
 Lissa Novitch
1/11 Kellen Volden
 Everly Zimmerman

1/13 Mary Nanke
 Tom Stock
1/15 Kathryn Deetz
1/16 Shirley Hoppe
 Stephanie Macke
 Duane Pfeffer
1/17 Kelly Johnson
 Diana Long
1/18 Tami Vande Weerd
1/19 Pastor Erickson
 Caleb Strait
1/20 Jake Vande Weerd
1/21 Sarah Kaufman

1/22 Tyler Hedtke
 Kris Larson
1/23 Stephanie Chittick
 Elizabeth Corey
 Tyler Gates
1/26 Candi Engel
 Tina Freese
1/27 Amy Smith
1/28 Elianna Novitch
1/29 Laurie Jasper
1/30 Clark Anderson
 Laura Holt
 Lynn Kellogg

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1/3 Pete & Kris Larson
1/4 Ken & Elaine Cook

1/5 Mark & Kim Neuhaus
1/6 Pat & Mindy Thies

Sunday School

Children in preschool through grade 12 gather for Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. in the lower level. All children are welcome. If your child is attending for the first time, please stop by the Sunday School office in the lower level before taking your child to their classroom.



Sunday School Mission: Food Pantry

God's Service Agents have been busy! The mission for Sunday Schools students was to bring in personal supplies for Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry through Thanksgiving. Thrivent Action Team funds helped double the supplies to help fill some shelves. Thank you all for supporting this mission for our community.

Middle School Retreat & SNOWLYMPICS

The 2022 Middle School Retreat and Snowlympics at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is for youth in grades 5-8. The retreat begins at camp at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 28 and ends at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 29.

Pastor Caleb Weight from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bettendorf will be presenting on the topic, "Who Am I? A Focus on Baptismal Identity and Vocation." During this retreat we will be looking at who we are based on Scripture, we are not only going to answer the question "Who am I?," but also "Who are we?" as Christians living in a world searching for identity and purpose. God has the answer to this question, and how we answer this question has implications for how we live our everyday lives.

But wait, there's more! The Snowlympics will be happening at the tail end of the retreat. Youth groups attending will compete in a series of snow-based competitions, so campers will need to bring snow gear. Come find out if your youth group will take home 1st place in this year's Snowlympics! We'll also go out and play some broomball throughout the weekend, so be ready for a lot of fun on top of some solid Christian learning.

Families, look for more information to come from Bethany about registration.



Baby Bottle Boomerang for Bridgehaven

How can you show your support for life? By filling a bottle, you are recognizing the beautiful lives that have been touched and saved through the ministry of Bridgehaven. Money raised in a baby bottle campaign supports the life-changing work of meeting the physical and spiritual needs of men and women who find themselves facing an unplanned pregnancy.

You are helping to reach thousands of students through our education programs; making abortion recovery counseling available to all; providing pregnancy testing and ultrasounds to our clients; and making it possible for mothers, fathers, and children to get material support and education through Bridgehaven's "Earn While You Learn" program.

**1**

Pick up a bottle from Bethany on January 16.

2

**Use the bottle as a reminder to pray for Bridgehaven.
Fill the bottle with change, bills, or a check.**

3

Return the bottle to Bethany by January 30.

Quilts for World Relief

In 2021, the Bethany sewing group completed 110 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to all who helped with this endeavor! These quilts will be delivered to the World Relief warehouse in Minnesota and later shipped around the world to those in need. A total of 4100 quilts were delivered to Trinity Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids from all area Lutheran churches.



Our sewing group meets the second Tuesday of the month, and anyone is welcome to join us for tying quilts and, of course, socializing. Please join us on January 11 in the Family Life Center. We will tie quilts from 9:00 a.m. to noon; any amount of time you can give is appreciated. If you plan to stay through the noon hour, feel free to bring a sack lunch. Contact Betty Happel or Donna Bogner for more information. If you would like to donate materials, the group is always in need of used sheets, fabric and yarn.



Nursery

A staffed nursery for infants and toddlers will be returning soon at Bethany, to be offered during the 11:00 a.m. Sunday service. It would be helpful to have a few more volunteers in order to get the nursery back up and running. If you are interested in serving in the nursery, please contact Ronda Anderson at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.

In the meantime, families are certainly welcome to utilize the nursery room during services. Please be sure to supervise your children when using the nursery, as it is not yet staffed.

Faith Milestones



Faith Milestones classes teach families to help their children know God and grow spiritually. Classes for parents of 1st and 2nd graders will be held at 9:45 a.m. on January 9 and 16.

Session one (January 9) is for parents only, and session two (January 16) is for parents and children. A blessing event will take place on January 23 during Sunday services. If you have a student in 1st or 2nd grade and plan to participate, please contact the church office or email milestones.bethanycr@gmail.com.



Angel Tree

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Angel Tree program in December! Christmas gifts were picked up and delivered the week of December 12 and were a blessing to children in our community who have an incarcerated parent.

Please join us for Senior Worship:

Thursday, January 20, 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.**

Christ's Care FOR CHILDREN: KENYA



Project 24

Letters

Great news - we have new letters from our sponsor students Yvonne and Lorine! Please pick up a copy from the mission display table located outside the sanctuary.

Fundraising

Our congregation has raised **\$9,808 of our \$10,000 commitment** to Project 24. So far we have sent three quarterly gifts (\$7,500 in total). We will need to raise just \$192 more to send our fourth quarterly gift. If you feel called to make a financial contribution to this mission that shares Christ's love with children in Kenya, 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.

Giving Envelopes

The 2022 giving envelopes have been delayed due to supply chain issues, and should arrive in a few weeks. In the meantime, you may either: use leftover envelopes from 2021 and write in "2022," or, use blank envelopes that will be available in the sanctuary. Thank you for your patience as we wait for the new envelopes to arrive. The 2021 Giving Statements will be out by the end of January.



Joy's Journal

Whew, December was a busy month, wasn't it? I had a lot of fun celebrating Jesus's birth. I even got to greet some people after the Blue Christmas service and make an in-dog call on one of our Bethany members. What a blessing! I hope your PAWli-days were good as well.

I am now looking forward to 2022 and wondering how God will lead our Comfort Dog Ministry. I know I'm going to work hard with my training and I hope to earn my Canine Good Citizen certificate sometime this year. And, of course, increase my visits with anyone that would like some comfort.

God's blessings to you in the New Year!



Psalm 145:16

The pantry is open every Sunday, 1:00-3:00 p.m. In the month of December, an average of 50 neighbors visited the food pantry each Sunday. When counting the number of people they took food home to, we served an average of 216 household members.

One of the neighbors who visited said she was so thankful for our food pantry, because without it she would not have any food.

Items that are always needed at the pantry are personal care items such as toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, laundry detergent, dish soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, etc. If you would like to serve by picking up food from HACAP, contact Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.

Living Donor Opportunity

Retired LCMS Pastor Jerry Doellinger (who has served at Concordia, Cedar Rapids and St. Paul's, Marion) is searching for a living donor for a kidney transplant. If donating a kidney is something you would like to consider, you may contact the Bethany church office at 319-364-6026 for more information.



LWML Christmas Giving

Thank you to everyone who contributed to LWML Christmas giving. Your generous donations of over \$1,500 were distributed to bless 17 Bethany families with Hy-Vee gift cards. God's blessings to all of you!



Volunteer at His Hands

His Hands Free Clinic currently has three volunteer needs: greeters, nurses, and prayer support.

Greeters welcome patients at the clinic. They ask visitors how they can help, then direct people accordingly.

Nurses serve alongside other medical staff and volunteers to provide medical services during clinic times.

Prayer support volunteers provide patients an opportunity for someone to pray with them and provide a Bible or other spiritual resources.

For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Kim at kim@hishandsclinic.org or 319-862-2636.



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