

# Bethany Beacon

FEBRUARY 2022

## Christ's Care FOR CHILDREN: KENYA



**Project 24** is a mission of Lutheran schools in Kenya. In May 2021 we kicked off a year-long goal to support Project 24 with a commitment of \$10,000 (\$2,160 to support two students for one year, plus \$7,840 for the general fund). To date, our congregation has raised **\$10,447.44!** Thank you to everyone for contributing to help us not only reach, but go above and beyond our goal!

There are currently eight Project 24 schools in Kenya, and to help achieve their original goal to have 24 schools, our Evangelism Committee will continue to collect gifts for Project 24. We are also committing to continue sponsoring two students, Yvonne and Lorine, for at least another year.

If you feel called to make a contribution to this mission that shares Christ's love with children, 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. Find the tile for "Christ's Care for Children: Kenya" and click the green "Give" button.

### Letters

Would you like to write to Lorine or Yvonne? Pick up a letter from the mission display outside the sanctuary to see what Lorine and Yvonne have written to us, then write a short note back! Suggested topics to write about are your family, work, church activities, where you live, and prayer requests.

Please submit notes by Monday, February 14.

There are two ways to submit your note:

- Email it to [office.bethanycr@gmail.com](mailto:office.bethanycr@gmail.com)
- Fill out a notecard at the mission display table and put it in the collection box



*Living and Sharing God's Love*

*It's easy to get lost in the land of abundance. – Jens Voigt*

Just before Thanksgiving our gas oven broke. Every time Christine or I would turn it on, there would be a loud “boom” as the gas would ignite. At first, this was just a somewhat surprising inconvenience. But after a while, when I would turn the oven on I would have to yell, “Fire in the hole!” as the “boom” would cause the door of the oven to actually blow slightly open. It was at that point that I finally broke down and called the repair person.

When the repair man came, he told us that we needed a part, a new regulator for the oven, and that he would order it and let us know when it came in. After a week or two I called him to ask if there were any updates. He told me that due to the supply chain disruptions caused by the COVID pandemic, the regulator could be in tomorrow or sometime next year. So, not knowing how long this would take, Christine and I decided that we would update our kitchen a bit and simply buy a whole new oven. Of course, many of you won't be surprised to hear that we couldn't buy an oven and take it home that day. Instead, we had to order one and wait for it to arrive from the factory. That was in December and today we're still waiting.

This experience is becoming more and more common. When my son was looking to buy a new bicycle last month, the bike shops had some bicycles in stock. But he was told by at least four stores throughout the Midwest that if he wanted to order a bike from the manufacturer, it could take up to two years to get it in! The same problem is being encountered by many who are trying to build or renovate homes or buy a car. It seems that the COVID pandemic is disrupting supply chains around the globe, making us deal with economic situations that were previously unheard of – at least for some of us.

Jens Voigt is a former professional cyclist who grew up in East Germany, behind what used to be known as the Iron Curtain. In his autobiography, “Shut Up Legs!”, named after his trademark quote, he describes what life was like growing up in a communist country in the 1980's. He writes that

in many ways it was a happy childhood with not much to worry about, as the government provided for most of what people needed. But one thing he mentioned that he didn't like was getting an automobile. He writes that when a child was born in East Germany, the parents would immediately apply on the child's behalf to buy a car. This was because it would usually take 15 or 16 years for the application to be approved! So, if “you” applied when you were born, by the time you could drive, a car might be available. And if it was, Voigt said you would have your choice of two – the big one or the little one!

As I continue to deal without having an oven, Voigt reminds me that my family is not the first one that must wait for something because of economic factors outside of our control. I suppose that with my Amazon Prime subscription I had just gotten used to the idea that if I saw something online and had the money to buy it, it would show up at my door two days later...with free shipping! I believe that Voigt might say that this attitude is typical of someone living in a land of abundance. And as a result, I believe we often take for granted the things that we have; get unreasonably frustrated when we don't or can't get what we want; and perhaps worst of all, forget about our utter dependence upon God for every good thing that we have in life.

As we enter into another year of this global pandemic and deal with all of the fallout from it in its' various forms, remember that St. Paul writes, “...godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world” (I Timothy 6:6-7). And most importantly, may we always remember that there is never a shortage or disruption of God's love and mercy for all us through Jesus Christ.



✠ Pastor Erickson

## Thanksgiving:

Installation of church officers

Milestones blessing event

Tailor (grandson of \*Kim Neuhaus)- Returned from tour of duty

Crysten (wife of Daniel Sanchez, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca) - recovering

## Illness, injuries, health issues:

Melvin (uncle of \*Deb Heitland)- hospitalization

Tom Mark (former member)- recovering after accident

Carl (relative of \*Bonnie Bubke)- health issues

Burt & Jan (friends of \*Bonnie Bubke)- health issues

Charlotte (granddaughter of \*Karen Swalley)- health issues

John (brother of Pat Krekeler)- hospitalization

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 Jennet Volden)- health issues

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

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

## Grief, family and friends of:

Austin (grandson of \*Fran Struck)- died 1/21

Richard (relative of \*Carol Grimminger)- died 1/12

Gabe (relative of \*Brenda Heims)- died 1/3

## 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:

Janet (mother of \*J Shoemaker)- cancer treatment

Karen (friend of Laura Holt)- 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.

## Tuesday, February 1

6:00 pm Evangelism Meeting  
6:30 pm Handbells Practice

## Wednesday, February 2

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

## Thursday, February 3

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

## Saturday, February 5

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

## Sunday, February 6

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

## Monday, February 7

6:30 am Coffee Outreach  
6:00 pm Trustees Meeting  
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision

## Tuesday, February 8

9:00 am Quilting for World Relief - FLC  
6:30 pm Handbells Practice  
7:00 pm Council Meeting

## Wednesday, February 9

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

## Thursday, February 10

9:00 am Adult Bible Study  
1:00 pm Leah Circle  
6:30 pm Naomi Circle

## Friday, February 11

9:30 am Rebekah Circle

## Saturday, February 12

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

## Sunday, February 13

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

## Monday, February 14

6:30 am Coffee Outreach  
7:00 pm Elders Meeting

## Tuesday, February 15

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

## Wednesday, February 16

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

## Thursday, February 17

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

## Saturday, February 19

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

## Sunday, February 20

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

## Monday, February 21

6:30 am Coffee Outreach  
9:45 am Women's Group

## Tuesday, February 22

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

## Wednesday, February 23

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

## Thursday, February 24

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

## Saturday, February 26

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

## Sunday, February 27

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

## Monday, February 28

6:30 am Coffee Outreach  
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Cont. Ed.

## February Evangelism Challenge

There are simple ways we can all live and share God's love with those around us. This year the Board of Evangelism will present a monthly "Evangelism Challenge" to the congregation!

This month, your challenge is this: February is National Heart Month. Share your "heart for Jesus" with family and friends! Tell them God's love for them is unconditional and has no end. One way to accomplish this challenge could be by sending a Valentine note to neighbors and friends, reminding them that Jesus gives unconditional love.





# ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 23, 2022

## Annual Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting was held on Sunday, January 23. At the meeting, leaders presented information from the 2021 annual report. In addition, Arlen Breiholz shared updates about anticipated expenditures for organ repairs.

Two votes took place, and both motions were passed by the voters:

- A motion was made and approved by the Council recommending \$50,000 be allocated from the Congregational Fund for the following projects: new sound board, fire system panel replacement, sanctuary projectors and sanctuary cove lighting. First vote approval took place during the November 7, 2021 Voters' Meeting.
- A motion was made and approved by the Council recommending to voters that Bethany apply for a DCE Intern and that Bethany fund \$15,000 for fiscal year 2022.

Copies of the annual report are available to pick up at the Welcome Center.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

<b>2/1</b>	Joel Conrad David Jasper	<b>2/13</b>	Andy Gates	<b>2/20</b>	Jeff Gebert
<b>2/2</b>	Mason Corey	<b>2/14</b>	Sarah Gates		Ellie Smith
<b>2/4</b>	Melinda Crow		Rita Tiedt		Mark Ranbarger
<b>2/5</b>	Noah Dohrmann		Lucas Volden	<b>2/21</b>	Mike Prohaska
<b>2/7</b>	Porter Brink		Madi Clark	<b>2/23</b>	Mike Raymon
<b>2/10</b>	Joan Mosel	<b>2/16</b>	Jada McGinnis	<b>2/24</b>	Kelly Frampton
	Nancy Owens		Holden Caldwell	<b>2/25</b>	Andrea Russman
<b>2/12</b>	Erin Crawford	<b>2/17</b>	Betty Hein		Sawyer Stepanek
	Jordan Throgmartin	<b>2/18</b>	Robby Russman	<b>2/27</b>	Kyle Gates
	Larry Kroemer	<b>2/19</b>	Aaron Elias	<b>2/28</b>	Dave Karsten

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

**2/21** Arlen & Bonnie Breiholz      **2/23** Wade & Sharon Ramsey      **2/24** Gene & Nancy Owens



## SUPER BOWL SUBS

### Youth Gathering Fundraiser

This July, eleven Bethany students will travel to Houston, Texas for the LCMS Youth Gathering. How can you help them get there? Support our youth attending the gathering by purchasing sub sandwiches for Super Bowl Sunday!

#### What can I order?

Sandwiches with your choice of meat and toppings can be pre-ordered for \$8.

Meals (sandwich plus a soda, chips, and cookie) can be pre-ordered for \$12.

#### How do I place my order?

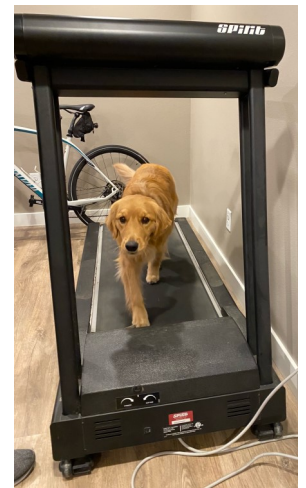
Students will collect orders and payments before and after Sunday services on January 30 and February 6.

#### When can I pick up my order?

Sandwiches and meals will be available to pick up after services and after Sunday School on February 13.

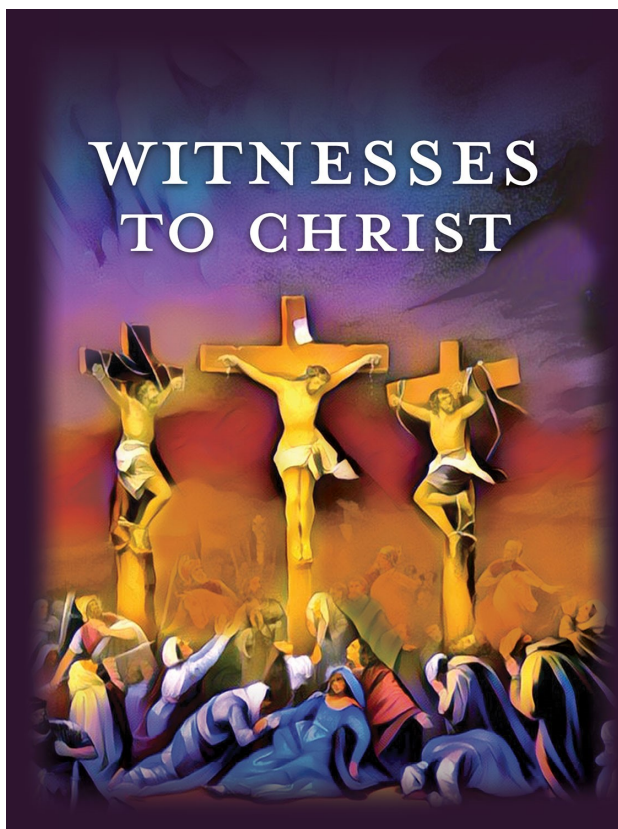
### Joy's Journal

Woof to you, Bethany FURiends! I'm a busy dog these days. Even though it's been too cold to exercise outside most of the time, I'm blessed to be able to come and use the Family Life Center for my trainings and some exercise. My favorite thing is when someone will throw a tennis ball and I run fast (and sometimes slide) to retrieve it. I'm very good at retrieving; I just don't like dropping the ball when I bring it back. Surprisingly, I also like to exercise on my PAWrents' treadmill. It probably helps that they feed me treats every 20 seconds or so to keep me walking. What do you do to stay active in the winter? God bless you! I hope to see you soon.



## Lenten Midweek Services

This Lent, join us for the series “Witnesses to Christ” at our midweek Lenten services. Read about the series here:



John tells us why he wrote his Gospel: “Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:30–31). Life! When we believe that Jesus is the Christ, God gives us life—abundant life, forgiven life, and eternal life.

Historically, the Fourth Gospel is likened to an eagle—an image that suggests John soars to heights of glory and grandeur. That’s because the evangelist paints a stunning portrait of Jesus, who is the bread of life, the resurrection and the life, and the way, the truth, and the life. Life in Jesus. That’s God’s gift to you!

This Lent, our life in Christ will be strengthened as we hear the witness of those in John’s Gospel who journeyed to the cross. Along the way, we’ll meet villains, such as Barabbas and Pontius Pilate, as well as sinners, such as Peter (who denied Jesus *three* times), Mary Magdalene (who was possessed by *seven* demons), and Judas Iscariot (who betrayed Jesus for *thirty* pieces of silver).

“Witnesses to Christ” devotionals (booklets with daily readings) will be available to pick up at Bethany. In addition to reading devotions, please join us for evening services on Wednesdays in Lent:

Ash Wednesday  
is on March 2



### Midweek Lenten Service Dates

March 2  
March 9

March 16  
March 23

March 30  
April 6

### Schedule

5:45 PM: Fellowship Meal  
7:00 PM: Divine Service



**Bethany  
Lutheran  
FOOD PANTRY**

Psalm 145:16

Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry is open to anyone in need, every Sunday 1:00-3:00 p.m. Each Sunday we need six people to greet and assist our neighbors who visit the pantry. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up for a Sunday by calling the church office, or online at [bethanycr.org/food-pantry](http://bethanycr.org/food-pantry)

**Want to donate?** Items 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.





### 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.

**If you took home a bottle, please bring it back to Bethany on Sunday, January 30.**



### Quilts for World Relief

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 February 8 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.



Please join us for Senior Worship:

**Thursday, February 17, 2022**

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.**

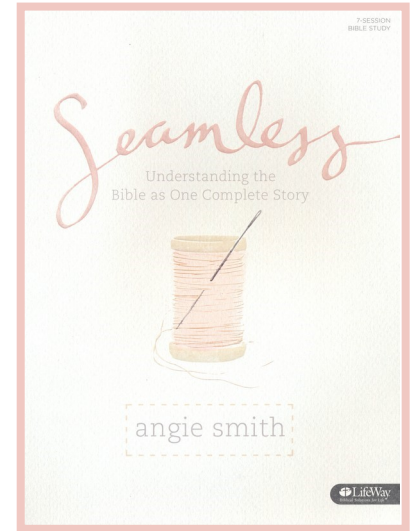


## Women's Group

Women's Small Group will resume on Monday, February 21. The group will meet each Monday through April 11 for 8 sessions. We will gather at Bethany (not Mr. Beans) 9:45 - 11:30 a.m.

Together we will go through the study "Seamless, Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story" by Angie Smith. There is a video we will watch each week.

The books cost \$16. **If you would like Nurse Ronda to order your book, please contact her at [nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com](mailto:nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com) by Thursday, February 3.**



## Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m. The group is currently meeting online via Zoom. We are discussing 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; please contact the church office for the Zoom link.



## Adult Bible Study Opportunities

All adults are welcome to attend class on **Sundays at 9:45 a.m.** in the Family Life Center between services. Pastor Erickson is currently leading a study on the Epistle lessons on Sundays.

Pastor also leads Bible study on **Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.** at Bethany in the Family Life Center and is currently covering the Gospel lessons.

## 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.



## Updated Service Procedures

It has been almost two years since the COVID-19 pandemic began affecting all of our lives, and as we have been since the beginning, the leadership at Bethany continues to seek God's guidance on how to *Live and Share God's Love* in safe and effective ways. Therefore, please note the following reminders and updates concerning Bethany's COVID Safety Procedures:

- As always, if you are not feeling well, it is most likely in everyone's best interest to stay home. As a pastor, I never get too worried if someone is not in church for a brief time, I get worried when they don't want to be in church. I believe God will understand if we miss a Sunday or a meeting because we are ill.
- While at Bethany, we are continuing to ask that everyone practice social distancing, especially during our worship services by sitting in the designated areas for each service. And while wearing masks are no longer required, they are by no means prohibited. Please feel free to wear a mask or not wear a mask as you feel comfortable.
- During non-communion services we will once again be having Children's Messages. This will be an opportunity for our children to hear the Gospel lesson taught in a meaningful way to them. As always, I will do my best to have the children behave themselves while in the Chancel, but will now also try to have them spread out a bit. But please understand that this may not always be possible. Therefore, I encourage parents to use their best discretion in deciding if and when to have their children come up for the Children's Message.
- During Holy Communion we will no longer be using the white plates to distribute the Host. Communicants will come to the altar rail, be greeted ("Welcome to the table of our Lord."), and may choose to kneel or stand. I will then distribute the Host by placing it in each communicant's hand. An elder will follow with the tray of wine, hand each communicant the individual cups, and dismiss that table.

These new procedures are being done with what I feel is the best interest of Bethany's members and guests in mind. I am well aware that not everyone may agree with them, or other decisions that people make regarding the pandemic. But I would ask that we continue to deal with one another with compassion, understanding, and the best examples of Christian love. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. And remember that together, guided by our Lord, we will continue to receive His blessings through the Word and Sacraments and continue to Live and Share God's Love.

## 2021 Giving Statements

The 2021 giving statements were sent in the mail. Contact the church office if you did not receive yours.

## 2022 Giving Envelopes

The 2022 giving envelopes are available to pick up. Please find your box at Bethany outside the sanctuary to take home with you.





## Bethany on Facebook

Did you know Bethany has both a public page and a private group on Facebook? If you use Facebook, you are welcome to engage in both! Here's information about the difference between the two, and how you can access them.

### Public Page

#### Who can see posts on this page?

- Anyone who is on Facebook.

#### Who can publish posts on this page?

- Bethany office staff.

#### What will I see on this page?

- Bethany information that is relevant to the general public such as sermon videos, information about Bethany events and ministries, and updates on church happenings.

#### How can I access this page?

- Find this page at [www.facebook.com/bethanycr](http://www.facebook.com/bethanycr)

### Private Group

#### Who can see posts in this group?

- Only people who are added to the group can see posts. In order to maintain a safe and positive online environment, this group is intended for Bethany members only. This group is private, so you will need to request to be added.

#### Who can publish posts in this group?

- Everyone who is in the group can make posts! Feel free to use this platform to connect with other Bethany members.

#### What can I post in this group?

- This is YOUR group to connect with Bethany friends! It's a great place to share posts like prayer requests, volunteer opportunities, community events, useful resources, your favorite Christian meme, an encouraging devotion, etc.

#### How can I join this group?

Email [office.bethanycr@gmail.com](mailto:office.bethanycr@gmail.com) to request to be added.



## 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.



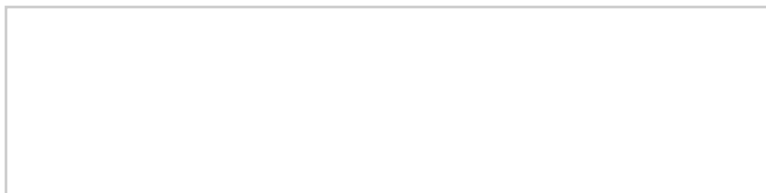
1. Download the free Vanco Mobile App.
2. Find our church by searching for Bethany Lutheran.
3. Give an offering.

You can also continue to contribute at [www.bethanycr.org/giving](http://www.bethanycr.org/giving)

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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CEDAR RAPIDS IA 52403-1654

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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	<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>