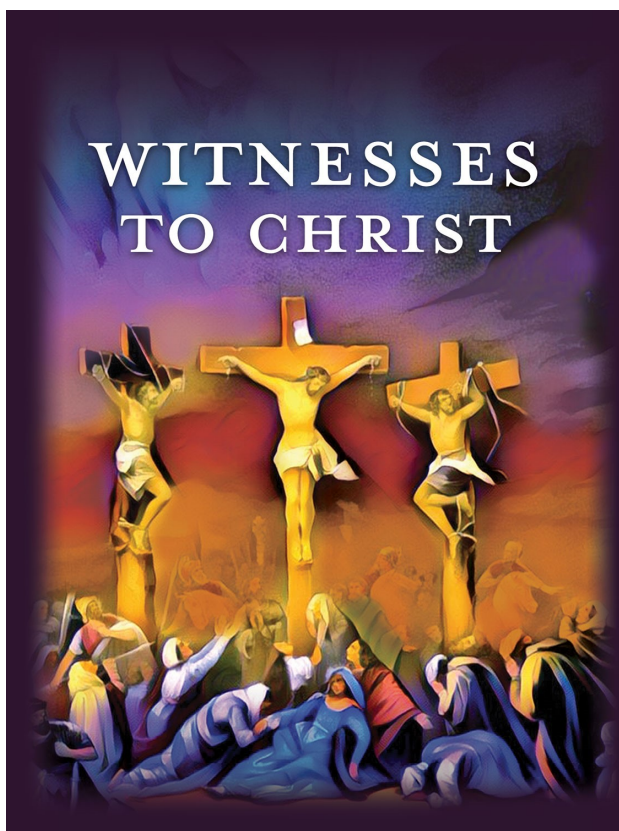


# Bethany Beacon

MARCH 2022

## Witnesses to Christ

This Lent, join us for the series “**Witnesses to Christ**” at our midweek Lenten services.



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) are available to pick up at Bethany at the Welcome Center. In addition to reading Lenten devotions, please join us for midweek services:

Ash Wednesday  
is on March 2



### Midweek Lenten Service Dates

*March 2	March 16	March 30
March 9	*March 23	April 6

### Schedule

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

*\*Services with communion*



**Bethany**  
Lutheran Church

*Living and Sharing God’s Love*

*And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life... – Luke 8:14*

Most Christians recognize that the resurrection of Jesus is the chief event, not only in the life of Christ, but also in our lives of faith. Therefore, this saving event is the focus of the church's greatest feast of the year – Easter. However, from very early on Christians recognized the value of having a solemn time of preparation before celebrating the joy of Easter. This time of preparation became known as *Lent*, from the Latin word meaning “spring”.

While definitive evidence of Lent being observed through fasting dates back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century, it is Pope Leo the Great in the 5<sup>th</sup> century, (not to be confused with indulgence granting Pope Leo X of Luther's time), who encourages increasing other spiritual disciplines during Lent as well. He wrote, “*Lent was appointed to prepare souls for a fruitful commemoration of the mystery of Easter; as a time of inner purification and sanctification, of penance of sins past, of breaking off of sinful habits, of the exercise of virtues, especially almsgiving, reconciliation and the laying aside of enmity and hatred.*”

This year, the season of Lent begins on March 2. And as Christians have done for centuries, I would like all of us to consider observing this solemn season of the church, especially today as the threat of war looms over Europe and the world is still dealing with COVID and all of the consequences this pandemic has brought about over the last two years. What I mean by this is that while Lutherans have always focused their lives and faith on the Gospel of Christ, even during the Lenten season, we have also recognized the importance of evaluating how we live as Christians and making an effort to grow in our Christian lives of *sanctification*. As many of us face challenges and hardships in our personal lives and all of us face the uncertainties and fears that grip the entire world, our comfort is only found in the Gospel of our Lord. However, not only does the world need Christians to live as Christians now more than ever, but increasing our spiritual disciplines can also be a way for God to increase our hope and peace and defend us from evil.

One area of our spiritual lives in particular where this happens is in hearing God's Word and receiving the sacraments (the Means of Grace) during our church services. Of course, the pandemic over the last two years has created unique situations where many have not been able to safely attend church services. And in fact, there was a time early on in the pandemic where Bethany cancelled several weeks of Sunday services, even on Easter! However, our understanding of COVID has evolved over the years and we are now in a different place with vaccines and treatments. And while I in no way want to minimize the suffering that has taken place and continues to take place because of COVID, nor would I ever discourage anyone from listening to their doctors and other medical professionals, I am afraid that many are cutting themselves off from the Lord by not being in God's Word and receiving the Lord's Supper. Jesus' Parable of the Sower warns that even previously healthy seed with deep roots can be lost if the cares of the world overgrow it and choke it out.

To be perfectly clear, our Lord Jesus Christ understands that there are those who are simply unable to come to church due to medical conditions and other factors. For these people our congregation will continue working to bring the Word and Sacrament to where they are. However, for those who are able, I'd like to encourage them to use this season of Lent to grow in their lives of Christian living, especially hearing the Word and receiving the Lord's Supper at church. This is one of the reasons that in addition to our normal Sunday services during Lent, we also have our midweek services on Wednesday evenings, so that we might all grow together as the body of Christ by the Means of Grace and rejoice in the hope of the resurrection in all circumstances.



✠ Pastor Erickson

**Illness, injuries, health issues:**

Linda (mother of Ryan Corey) - health issues  
 Doug Knutson - medical tests  
 Vanny (friend of Cindy Goerdts) - health issues  
 Carol Grimminger - healing  
 Wayne Schilling - hospice  
 Emily Kroemer - recovering after surgery  
 Joel Knutson - recovering after surgery  
 Donna Birkicht - recovering after surgery  
 Don Hein - recovering after surgery  
 Elaine Cook - recovering after surgery  
 Sharon Ramsey - recovering after surgery  
 Ron Prescott - back pain  
 Dave Christian - recovering at home after cardiac surgery  
 Marlys Jaspersen - recovering after surgery  
 Cindy Broadwater - recovering after surgery  
 Lee Rathje - broken wrist, recovering after fall  
 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 Jenet Volden)- health issues  
 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 & \*Smith)- U.S. Navy  
 Harrison (son of \*Siecks)- U.S. Armed Forces

**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  
 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

**Grief, family and friends of:**

Rosalie (mother of Ronda Anderson) - died 2/17  
 Harlan (brother of Joann Strang) - died 2/10  
 Scott (brother-in-law of Eliases) - died 2/6  
 Melvin (uncle of Deb Heitland) - died 2/6  
 Austin (grandson of \*Fran Struck) - died 1/21  
 Richard (relative of \*Carol Grimminger) - died 1/12  
 Gabe (relative of \*Brenda Heims) - died 1/3

**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, March 1

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

## Wednesday, March 2

6:00 am Men's Bible Study  
7:00 am Imposition of Ashes  
5:45 pm Lenten Fellowship Meal  
6:00 pm Confirmation  
6:00 pm High School Youth  
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

## Thursday, March 3

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

## Saturday, March 5

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

## Sunday, March 6

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

## Monday, March 7

6:30 am Coffee Outreach  
9:45 am Women's Group  
6:00 pm Trustees Meeting

## Tuesday, March 8

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

## Wednesday, March 9

6:00 am Men's Bible Study  
5:45 pm Lenten Fellowship Meal  
6:00 pm Confirmation  
6:00 pm High School Youth  
7:00 pm Lenten Service

## Thursday, March 10

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

## Saturday, March 12

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

## Sunday, March 13

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

## Monday, March 14

9:45 am Women's Group  
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision  
7:00 pm Elders Meeting

## Tuesday, March 15

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

## Wednesday, March 16

6:00 am Men's Bible Study  
4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotion  
6:00 pm Confirmation (2nd year only)  
6:00 pm High School Youth  
7:00 pm Lenten Service

## Thursday, March 17

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

## Saturday, March 19

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

## Sunday, March 20

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

## Monday, March 21

6:30 am Coffee Outreach  
9:45 am Women's Group  
1:30 pm LWML Board Meeting

## Tuesday, March 22

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

## Wednesday, March 23

6:00 am Men's Bible Study  
5:45 pm Lenten Fellowship Meal  
6:00 pm Confirmation  
6:00 pm High School Youth  
7:00 pm Lenten Service

## Thursday, March 24

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

## Saturday, March 26

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

## Sunday, March 27

9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks - Office  
9:45 am Project 24 Presentation  
1:00 pm Food Pantry Open  
2:00 pm LWML General Meeting

## Monday, March 28

6:30 am Coffee Outreach  
9:45 am Women's Group  
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Cont. Ed.

## Tuesday, March 29

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

## Wednesday, March 30

6:00 am Men's Bible Study  
5:45 pm Lenten Fellowship Meal  
6:00 pm Confirmation  
6:00 pm High School Youth  
7:00 pm Lenten Service

## Thursday, March 31

9:00 am Adult Bible Study



## March 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!

Last month, your challenge was to send a Valentine card to let someone know God's love for them is unconditional and has no end. **This month, your challenge is to perform a random act of kindness.** If someone asks you why you performed this kind deed, be sure to tell them it is because of what Christ has done for us!

## Youth Gathering Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who supported Bethany youth attending the LCMS Youth Gathering by purchasing sub sandwiches on Super Bowl Sunday!



The youth will continue working toward their fundraising goal by hosting a rummage sale at Bethany this spring (date soon to be determined). Please look for information to come to learn more about when youth will be accepting donations of items for the rummage sale.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

<b>3/2</b>	Darlene Eckert Pat Krekeler Lee Rathje	<b>3/14</b>	James Mosel Travis Godbey	<b>3/27</b>	Mark Gutman Lisa Freese Barb Phillips
<b>3/3</b>	Ryan Corey	<b>3/16</b>	Melissa Loney Ella Bricker	<b>3/28</b>	Mercedes Henderson
<b>3/4</b>	Brittney Stepanek Alivia Corey Sharon Easler	<b>3/18</b>	Ryan Theriault	<b>3/29</b>	Aiden Erickson Nora Crawford
<b>3/6</b>	Josh Keldgord	<b>3/20</b>	Randy Schmith	<b>3/30</b>	Mitch Myers Logan Milbach Tracy Moffett
<b>3/7</b>	Louise Holtz	<b>3/21</b>	Luke Zimmerman		Darrell Chiavetta
<b>3/8</b>	Erin Heller	<b>3/22</b>	Rick Heller Angela Keslar	<b>3/31</b>	Norma Sirotiak
<b>3/9</b>	Sophie Knudson	<b>3/23</b>	Rick Thorington		
<b>3/11</b>	Mark Elias	<b>3/26</b>	Sylvia Stepanek		

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

<b>3/3</b>	Nate & Stephanie Ackerman	<b>3/27</b>	Aaron & Tracy Moffett
<b>3/19</b>	Adam & Rachel Henderson	<b>3/27</b>	Larry & Sue Kroemer





## 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](https://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.



### Joy's Journal

Hello everyPAWdy! I had the privilege of doing some unofficial house visits - I got to meet two wise ladies - the mothers of two of my handlers, Ben and Lori! It was great practice for me to be in new spaces, meet new people, and be on my best behavior. I'm looking forward to spring and nice long walks outside with more to sniff and discover. I'm sure I'll be exPAWsted after those walks.

Mark your calendars for March 30. My handlers are hosting the Lenten meal. We'll be having "Walking (the Dog) Tacos." I may ask for your help providing some of the food... more to come later on that. Thank you in advance. I WOOF you all!





## Ash Wednesday: March 2

### 7:00 - 8:00 AM

The Imposition of Ashes will be offered at Bethany in the morning on Ash Wednesday. Pastor Erickson will be in the sanctuary 7:00-8:00 a.m. to distribute ashes.

### 7:00 PM

Service with Communion and Imposition of Ashes will be held at 7:00 p.m.

## Lenten Fellowship Meals

### 5:45 PM

On Wednesdays in Lent (March 2 - April 6), plan to join us for a fellowship meal in the Family Life Center. Each week meals are provided by various ministry groups, for a freewill offering.

These meals are an opportunity to get to know Bethany friends. After dinner, service will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.



## Prayer Partnership

During Lent, Bethany members can participate in a Prayer Partnership: a small group of people (typically 2-5) that commit to getting together on a regular basis to encourage each other and pray. Please sign up at Bethany on Sunday, February 27. If you sign up to be matched with someone, you will receive an email to know who is in your group.

## Holy Week Services

**\*Maundy Thursday:** April 14 at 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday:** April 15 at 7:00 p.m.

**\*Easter Sunday:** April 17

Services at 6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.

*\*Services with communion*





## Christ's Care FOR CHILDREN: KENYA

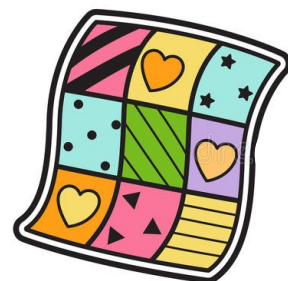


### Project 24: Christ's Care for Children in Kenya

Project 24 is a Lutheran mission located in Kenya that Bethany started supporting in May 2021. This month the evangelism board will host an event to share updates about Project 24. Please plan to attend on Sunday, March 27 to learn about what is happening at the schools, and our congregation's plan to continue support in the future. The event will take place in the Family Life Center during the Sunday education hour (9:45-10:45 a.m.)

### 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 March 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.



**Senior Worship** will not be held in March. Please join us in April!

**Thursday, April 21, 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 group meets at Bethany for study and fellowship on Mondays at 9:45 a.m. On February 21, the group started a new series on the book "Seamless" by Angie Smith.



## 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.





### Support Family Promise

Support Family Promise of Linn County by attending the “Joyful Noises” concert. The night of entertainment will take place on Saturday, March 26 at Olympic Southside Theater in Cedar Rapids. Doors open at 6:30 and the concert will start at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 when you pre-order, or \$25 at the door.

**Purchase tickets online at [www.familypromiseoflinncounty.org](http://www.familypromiseoflinncounty.org), or use the QR code above.**

### Congregation Assessment Tool: Participate in a Survey



As some of you may remember, several years ago Bethany spent a considerable amount of time and effort in clarifying the mission and vision of our congregation to help guide our congregation into the future. By God’s grace that future has, in large part, come to be a reality in our congregation. Therefore, the staff and lay leadership at Bethany feels that now is a great time to go through that process again to ensure that we keep following our Lord on the path that He gives to us.

As we have done in the past, to begin this process the Church Council has decided to conduct a congregational assessment. This assessment will provide a clear picture of who we are as a church and what directions are most important for our future. The tool we’ll use is the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) from Holy Cow, the same tool that we used in the Fall of 2014. This assessment will provide key indicators of our congregational health along with areas of challenge and potential growth. It will help us to collect and understand the range of views that exist at Bethany and the possibilities, willingness, capacity and energy for moving our ministry into the future.

If you have provided us with a current email address, within this month, you will receive a unique web link to complete the assessment online. If you would prefer to take the assessment using a paper copy, please stop by the office once the assessment has been released, and we will provide one for you along with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Please note: If there is only one email address for all members of your household, it may be tempting to have one person take the survey on behalf of the family. However, please be sure your spouse and all young adults (16 years and older) living in your home have an opportunity to complete the survey. Individual input is key to our gaining insight into overall perceptions and experiences.

When taking the survey, please set aside enough time to answer all the questions. This will take about 40 minutes. Also, please remember that all survey responses are strictly anonymous.

Thank you for your willingness to be a part of this congregational assessment and for helping to discern our Lord Jesus’ will for His people here at Bethany. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Erickson at [pastor.bethanycr@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.bethanycr@gmail.com) or 319-364-6026.



## 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.

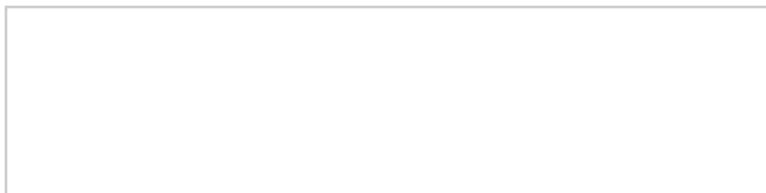
You can also continue to contribute at [www.bethanycr.org/giving](http://www.bethanycr.org/giving)



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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/bethanycr">facebook.com/bethanycr</a>