# Bethany Beacon

# Holy Week



Palm Sunday: April 10

Service at 8:30 a.m. Service at 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday: April 14

Service with Communion at 7:00 p.m.

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



**Easter Sunday: April 17** 

Service with Communion at 6:30 a.m. Service with Communion at 8:30 a.m. Service with Communion at 11:00 a.m.



PASTOR'S PAGE 2

If the last two years have taught me anything, it is that the world can be a "not very nice place". Of course, the wonders of God's creation are always there and I always try to appreciate them. But for two years now the world, and all of us, have been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic in one way or another. And if that global pandemic wasn't enough to remind us that we live in a fallen world, Russia went ahead and decided to invade Ukraine a few weeks ago. At first this war may have seemed to be of little concern to most of us in the United States. (How many of us would have been able to locate Ukraine on a map or name its capital three months ago?) But very quickly we began to see the impacts of this invasion here at home at places like the gas pump. And even more troublesome, we began to hear the first serious talk of nuclear war in almost 60 years! That certainly got my attention and reminded me of how sin has just ruined this world. Which is why Easter can't get here fast enough this year.

Almost everyone knows that Easter is a joyous time of year. However, it seems that few people know the real reason behind that joy. Now we might think that this type of ignorance applies only to those whose shadow has never darkened a church pew on Easter morning. But the fact of the matter is that those who attend the services of God's house and are acquainted with His Word often know the joy of Christmas, but fail to see the joy of our Lord's resurrection.

More than just an end to the season of Lent or Winter; more than the arrival of Spring and warmer weather; Easter shows us that Christ's state of humiliation and suffering is over, the truth of His Word is confirmed, and because He has risen our bodies will rise from the grave as well. But while all of that is certainly true, none of it is the real source of Easter joy. For Christ could have easily been glorified in another way. And Christ's Word was shown to be true by His miracles. And the resurrection of the dead was shown to be true with the Widow of Nain, Jairus' daughter, and Lazarus. And we must not forget that some, those who have rejected Christ, will be raised as well, but

raised to eternal death.

So, the true joy of Easter is something completely different and gives great comfort in difficult times. The apostle Paul says in I Corinthians 15:17-20: And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. Because Christ has risen from the grave we and the rest of the world who trust in Him are no longer in our sin. We have been saved from sin and death! C.F.W. Walther says Christ's resurrection is not only a stone in the building of our salvation, but the keystone of it. Jesus rising from the grave is not a jewel in the crown of our redemption, but the crown itself.

If Christ had not been raised from the dead, Paul tells us that Christians would be pitied more than any other group of people. But the fact of the matter is, Christ is risen! Therefore, regardless of what troubles we face, regardless of the manifestations of sin that we see in the world or even in our own lives, regardless of how close we come to standing at the graves of loved ones or even in our own—we have hope and peace. Because Easter is like turning to the last few pages in the story of our lives and seeing how they end. And Paul tells us that because Jesus lives, we will live as well. Not a miserable existence in a sinful world. But because of the resurrection, Christ's victory over sin and the grave will be our own as we'll live with Him in the blessed eternity of His redeemed creation.

May your Easter celebrations here at Bethany, or wherever God brings you, give you this Easter peace and joy this year and forever.



+ Pastor Erickson

PRAYER PAGE

#### Thanksgiving:

Charlotte (mother of \*Chris Frampton)- recovered after surgery Charlotte (granddaughter of \*Karen Swalley)- improved health Mary Jane (mother of \*Phil Hedtke)- recovery after health issues Marcia (mother of \*M. Rinderknecht & \*E Heller)- health issues Dave (father of \*Jennet Volden)- improved health Ron (father of \*Jo Godbey & \*Justin Kirkpatrick)- recovered

#### Illness, injuries, health issues:

Mary (relative of \*Vicki Huschka)- complications due to a fall Judy (relative of \*Brenda Himes)- health issues Vanny (friend of \*Cindy Goerdt) - health issues Tom Mark (former member)- recovering after accident Carl (relative of \*Bonnie Bubke)- health issues Burt & Jan (friends of \*Bonnie Bubke)- health issues John (brother of \*Pat Krekeler)- health issues Jan (friend of \*Bonnie Bubke)- recovering after surgery Cathy (sister-in-law of \*Melissa Loney)- recovering after COVID 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

#### Local/National/World:

Local, state, and national leaders Victims of floods, hurricanes, fires and disasters

#### Homebound members of Bethany:

\*Wayne Schilling – Linn Manor Care Center, Marion Candi Engel – Garnett Place

\*Nadine Wax- at home

\*Del Block-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

\*Betty Hein- at home

#### Cancer/Hospice:

Jerry (brother of \*Ronda Anderson)- cancer treatment 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

#### Grief, family and friends of:

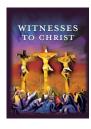
Gene (husband of Karen Schmidt)- died 3/9 Linda (mother of Ryan Corey) - died 3/2 Rosalie (mother of Ronda Anderson) - died 2/17 Harlan (brother of Joann Strang) - died 2/10

#### **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.

CALENDAR 4

Saturday, April 2		Friday, April 15			
9:00 am	Holy Yoga - Opening Room	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service		
Sunday, April 3		Saturday, April 1	6		
12:00 pm	Milestones Event - FLC	9:00 am	Holy Yoga - Opening Room		
1:00 pm	Food Pantry Open	Sunday, April 17			
Monday, April 4		6:30 am	Easter Sunrise Service		
6:30 am	Coffee Outreach	8:30 am	Easter Traditional Service		
9:45 am	Women's Group	11:00 am	Easter Contemporary Service		
Tuesday, April 5		1:00 pm	Food Pantry Open		
5:30 pm	Board of Education Meeting	Monday, April 18	8		
6:00 pm	Evangelism Meeting		Easter Monday - Office Closed		
6:30 pm	Handbells Practice	Tuesday, April 19	9		
Wednesday, April 6		6:30 pm Handbells Practice			
6:00 am	Men's Bible Study	Wednesday, Apr	il 20		
5:45 pm	Lenten Fellowship Meal	6:00 am	Men's Bible Study		
6:00 pm	Confirmation	4:00 pm	Cottage Grove Devotion		
6:00 pm	High School Youth	6:00 pm	Confirmation		
7:00 pm	Lenten Service	6:00 pm	High School Youth		
Thursday, April 7		Thursday, April 21			
9:00 am	Adult Bible Study	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study		
6:00 pm	Human Care Meeting	11:00 am	Senior Worship Service		
Friday, April 8	· ·	Friday, April 22	·		
9:30 am	Rebekah Circle	• • •	Joy's Training - FLC		
10:30 am	Joy's Training - FLC	Saturday, April 2	· -		
Saturday, April 9		9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room			
9:00 am	Holy Yoga - Opening Room	Sunday, April 24			
9:00 am	LWML Spring Event - Trinity	9:30 am	Blood Pressure Checks - Office		
9:00 am	LLL Convention - Io-Dis-E-Ca	9:45 am	Confirmation Public Examination		
Sunday, April 10		1:00 pm	Food Pantry Open		
1:00 pm Food Pantry Open		Monday, April 25			
Monday, April 1		6:30 am	Coffee Outreach		
6:30 am	Coffee Outreach	6:00 pm	Stephen Ministry Supervision		
9:45 am	Women's Group	Tuesday, April 20	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
6:00 pm	Trustees Meeting	1:00 pm	Blood Drive - FLC		
7:00 pm	Elders Meeting	6:30 pm	Handbells Practice		
Tuesday, April 12		Wednesday, April 27			
9:00 am	Quilting for World Relief - FLC	6:00 am	Men's Bible Study		
6:30 pm	Handbells Practice	6:00 pm	Confirmation		
7:00 pm	Council Meeting	6:00 pm	High School Youth		
Wednesday, April 13		Thursday, April 28			
6:00 am Men's Bible Study		9:00 am Adult Bible Study			
Thursday, April 14		Saturday, April 3	•		
• •	Maundy Thursday Service	9:00 am	Holy Yoga - Opening Room		
p		3:00 pm	Joy's Training - FLC		
		3.00 pm	33, 3		



#### **Witnesses to Christ**

Join us for the final 2022 midweek Lenten service in the "Witnesses to Christ" series. Service will be held on Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. A fellowship meal will be served before the service at 5:45 p.m. The Board of Trustees will serve hamburgers for dinner.



#### **April 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 perform a random act of kindness. This month, your challenge is to donate personal care items to the Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry. If your cashier asks you why you are buying so much toilet paper and laundry detergent, be sure to tell them you are donating it because of what Christ has done for us!

#### Women's Monday Group

The women's group will finish their study of "Seamless" on April 18. They will start a new study for Monday mornings April 25-May 23 (finishing before Memorial Day). If you would like to join for these sessions, please contact Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.

#### Men's Wednesday Bible Study

4/8

Craig & Renee Riffey

Men meet for Bible study on Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m. On April 6, the group will start an 8-session series on "The Odyssey of Paul." This video series and discussion will take place virtually, via Zoom. If you would like the Zoom link to attend this study, contact the church office at office.bethanycr@gmail.com.

#### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

4/1 4/4 4/6 4/8 4/9	Madison Rinderknecht Rebecca Ballstaedt John Ackerman Karen Schmidt Lorna Fischer Gabriel Fountain Larry Easler JJ Theriault Daphne Dohrmann Marcus Smith	4/13 4/15 4/16 4/17 4/18 4/20	Kathryn Holtz Carol Edwards Lynn Madsen Evan Ranbarger Kim McGinnis Steve Hanchera Colin Vande Weerd Carol Grimminger Jamie Larson Kim Neuhaus	4/25 4/26 4/27 4/28 4/29 4/30	Bonnie Bubke Abby Bogner Joe Milbach Stephanie Ackerman Karen Swalley Marlys Jaspersen Michelle Hedtke Charlotte Crawford Darren Bogner Sandy Thorington
4/11	Janet Hoech	4/24	Ray McGraw		
4/4	Phil & Shirley Hoppe		4/13	John & Na	ancylee Siebenmann

4/24

Phil & Michelle Hedtke

#### **Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry**

Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry has been open for 42 weeks. To date, 287 households have been served. With the return of pre-pandemic SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits on April 1, we anticipate seeing an increase in the number of neighbors seeking help.



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** 

Bethany volunteers are also needed to pick up food from HACAP, deliver to Bethany, and stock the shelves every Friday. Contact Nurse Ronda if you would like to help with this.

Want to donate? Items always needed at the pantry are general household and personal care items such as toilet paper, paper towels, liquid hand soap, laundry detergent, shampoo, and tissues.

#### **Greeting Ministry**

When the pandemic started, Bethany stopped having greeters welcoming church attendees on Sundays. In April, greeting ministry will resume! If you would like to volunteer to welcome people as they come into church, contact Kay Karsten or contact the church office at 319-364-6026.

#### Joy's Journal

Happy Spring, Bethany FURiends! I am paws-itive that the weather will get nice soon — which is good so I can go on more training walks with my people. I am working hard on training — this last month I have been practicing meeting and greeting strangers, going to new places, and strengthening my basic commands like COME and PLACE. Which reminds me... I have trainings on April 8 and April 22, both at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center. We are looking for some "friendly strangers" that I could practice greeting. If you would be willing to come to either or both of those trainings, please contact me through cigoerdt@aol.com. My dog mom could give you some more details. Hope to see some of you there! P.S. Thanks everyPAWdy for your support of my people and me at the Lenten meal on March 30. Walking (the Dog) Tacos are pretty yummy, aren't they?





P Joy



#### **Youth Gathering Fundraiser: May 14**

Mark your calendars! Bethany youth will host a rummage sale on Saturday, May 14 in the Family Life Center. If you are doing any spring cleaning, please consider setting aside a pile of household items you would like to donate to the rummage sale. All proceeds will help our youth get to the LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston this July. Look for information to come about item collection times and opportunities to volunteer.

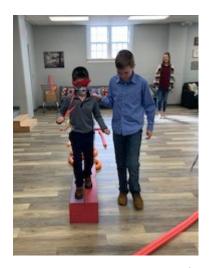
#### **DCE Intern Update**

At our January voters meeting, the congregation voted to apply for a DCE intern (Director of Christian Education intern) through Concordia University Nebraska. We submitted our application and Concordia conducted a site visit at Bethany in February. In March we learned that our congregation was not selected to be an intern placement for this spring. However, more interns will be available in January 2023, and our application will be considered again at that time.

#### **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.









On March 20, Sunday School students engaged in a lesson in the Opening Room.

# 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. On March 27 the Board of Evangelism hosted an event to share updates about Project 24 and to announce our plan to continue support of this mission. Last spring we set the goal to raise \$10,000 in one year. Our church went above and beyond and has raised \$10,787 to date. With a \$797 kickstart, our new goal is to raise an additional \$10,000 this year!

The children in the Project 24 program receive a Christian education in a safe environment while living in the boarding facilities. In additional to their physical, medical, and spiritual needs being met, students learn essential life skills that prepare them for life beyond Project 24.

#### **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 April 12 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

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.

#### Thank You for Living and Sharing God's Love

My family and I would like to thank our Bethany family for the prayers, cards, and meals following my surgery. All of them were a tremendous blessing. We felt so loved and cared for.

- Emily Kroemer

Thank you to my friends from Bethany for the calls, cards, and prayers upon the loss of my husband. God bless you all.

- Karen Schmidt

Thank you for the calls, emails, and prayers as I was recovering after surgery!

- Donna Birkicht





#### **Decorating for Holy Week and Easter**

We will decorate the sanctuary for Good Friday after the 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday service. We will decorate the sanctuary for Easter after the 7:00 PM Good Friday service. If you would like to help out, please contact Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com

#### **LWML Cedar Rapids Zone Spring Event**

Join us for the LWML Cedar Rapids Zone spring event at Trinity Lutheran on Saturday, April 9. All ladies are encouraged to attend. Registration begins at 8:30 followed by brunch and the program. The in-gathering will be for Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center and Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center. Please sign up by April 5.

"The Salvation We Share" is God's gift of forgiveness and eternal life for all who believe in Christ. People in Liberia are hearing this good news of salvation thanks to LCMS pastors, including the speaker for this event, Rev. Gary Sears.





#### **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.



#### **Family Promise**

In 2018, Bethany became a host congregation for Family Promise of Linn County, an organization that provides shelter, meals, and support services to families that are homeless. Family Promise partners with local faith communities to make these services possible. When the program started, congregations would take turns signing up for weeks to host families within their facilities. During the weeks that Bethany hosted families, Bethany members volunteered to provide food, host meal times, and stay overnight with the families at Bethany. When the pandemic started, Family Promise staff continued to work on homelessness prevention, but the hosting program was put on hold.

This spring, Family Promise of Linn County will resume hosting families with the help of congregations. However, the format will look a little different. Family Promise is transitioning from a **rotational** model (where the family would move to a different church each week) to a **static model** (families stay in the same place, and congregations sign up for weeks to take turns volunteering at that site).

Family Promise of Linn County is now permanently stationed at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church on 31st Street SE. The facility is set up with an office space, family rooms, a kitchen, and—with the help of Bethany Lutheran Church—a shower and laundry area. As a host congregation, when it is our week to serve, instead of hosting at Bethany, our volunteers would do the same thing we were doing before, but at the St. Stephen's location.

We are hoping to have enough willing volunteers to serve in this way so we can once again be a host congregation. If you are interested in cooking and hosting meals, or staying overnight with families at Family Promise at St. Stephen's, please contact Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com or 319-364-6026. When we know we have enough willing volunteers, we will be able to sign up for a week to serve.

#### **Stephen Ministry**



People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it as that Stephen Ministers are the "After People." They are there...

- ...after the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ...after the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ...after the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ...after the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing mor ewe can do."
- ...after the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- ...after the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ...after the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ...after the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ...after you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ...after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long as "after" is needed. If you would like to be connected with a Stephen Minister at Bethany, please contact Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.

## Congregation Assessment Tool: Participate in a Survey



A link to the Congregation Assessment Tool was sent to Bethany members via email on March 20, and again on March 28. The Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) from *HolyCow! Consulting* 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 already taken the survey: thank you! If you have not yet had the chance, all members aged 16 and older are asked to complete the survey by Sunday, April 10.

If there is only one email address for 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. All survey responses are strictly anonymous.

Please set aside enough time (about 30-60 minutes) to answer all the questions, as the online assessment must be completed in one sitting. The program will not allow you to stop and return to finish later. If you cannot complete the survey online, please contact the church office for a paper copy.

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 or 319-364-6026.



#### **Blood Drive: April 26**

An American Red Cross blood drive will be held at Bethany on Tuesday, April 26. The drive will take place 1:00-5:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-REDCROSS or go to redcrossblood.org and enter ZIP 52403 in the "Find a Blood Drive" box.

#### **Traditional Music Ministry**

Bethany is sad to announce that after a meeting on March 22 with Pastor Erickson and Steve Hanchera (Chairman of the Board of Elders), Carolyn Sternowski resigned from her position as Bethany's organist and traditional music leader. We're thankful for Carolyn's years of service to God's people in our congregation and pray for God's blessings to be with her and her family. If you have any questions or concerns as Bethany moves forward with our traditional music ministry please feel free to contact any one of our elders or Pastor Erickson at your convenience.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED





### Living and Sharing God's Love

#### **WORSHIP WITH US**

#### **Sunday Mornings**

8:30 am Traditional Service9:45 am Education Hour11:00 am Contemporary Service

#### **CONNECT WITH US**

Website | www.bethanycr.org
Email office.bethanycr@gmail.com
Phone 319-364-6026
facebook facebook.com/bethanycria