

Bethany Beacon

MAY 2022

Rummage SALE

**Saturday,
May 14**

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Bethany youth will host a sale on Saturday, May 14, 8:00-3:00. All proceeds will help our youth get to the LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas this July.

Have some treasures to donate to the rummage sale? Please drop off items at Bethany (in the Family Life Center) during any of these collection times:

- Saturday, May 7 at 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 8 at 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Week of May 9-13 at 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Week of May 9-13 at 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

What items are accepted at the rummage sale? Use your best judgment—if you think someone would like to buy it, we'll take it. New or gently used is preferred. Items that are already clean are also appreciated!

Help spread the word!

Please invite your family and friends to shop at the rummage sale. If you use Facebook, you can invite them to the event on our page at facebook.com/bethanycria.



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice... - Zechariah 4:10a

On August 28, 587 BC, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon destroyed the city of Jerusalem. In a moment, everything that had mattered to the Jewish people – the temple, the monarchy, the priesthood, their storied history of living in the promised land – had been snatched from them. Life seemed out of control as they were now exiles living at the mercy of their Babylonian conquerors. However, God was not finished with His people. To the shock and surprise of everyone, God raised up King Cyrus of Persia, who defeated the Babylonians in a fierce battle on October 12 539 BC. Afterwards, Cyrus allowed the Jewish exiles to return to their homeland and even supported them in rebuilding the Jerusalem temple.

At first, everything seems to have gone fairly well in this reconstruction project. Ezra tells us that a new altar was built in 537 BC and the foundations of the temple were laid in 536 BC. But soon we read in Ezra (4:4-5) that other people who were living in the land began to plot and scheme against the reconstruction, so much so, that work was actually stopped for 16 years! Year after year, as people walked by unfinished building, despair and disappointment grew.

When construction finally began again, it may be surprising to note that the prophet Haggai tells us people were rather disappointed (2:3). They seemed to think that compared to the first temple built by Solomon, this temple was nothing. After all, this temple did not have all of the silver or gold or the ark of the covenant. The altar in this temple was made of stone, not bronze like the previous altar. And here in this new temple, there was only one lampstand, compared to the ten in the first. Compared to Solomon's temple, the new one looked tiny, cheap, and second-class. So much so that Zechariah says the people of Jerusalem despised, "*a day of small things*".

Dr. Reed Lessing, in his commentary on the book of Zechariah, says, "Note this well. When we despise small things, small days, small people, and small ministries, God's judgment is to make us small...Esau despised his birthright and forfeited

the patriarchal blessing. Michal despised David, and she became childless. Edom despised Judah, and Yahweh says, 'Behold, among the nations I will make you small'" (Obadiah 1-2).

But while we may despise "small things", God embraces them and can do big things with small stuff. After all, Moses did not have armies at his command, but just a staff when conquered a kingdom. Samson was victorious over a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of an ass. And a sling and stone were all that David needed to defeat the giant, Goliath. Even Jesus embraced the small things of this world - Five loaves of bread and two small fish, a mustard seed, Zacchaeus, and "the little children" who come to Him and to whom belong the kingdom of God (Matthew 19:14).

Today, we might ask, "What has been destroyed in your life? What looks hopeless, lifeless, and dead? Relationships? Your health? Your family? Your finances? Your future?" The Easter season and God's Word reminds us that there is always hope to rebuild in our lives. This might not be worthy of national news or get the attention of everyone on social media. But raising children who trust Jesus, being an honest and hardworking employee, running a business according to God's ways, studying God's Word, being a good neighbor, keeping the Sabbath day holy – all of these may appear to be small things in our eyes or in the eyes of the world - but not in the Kingdom! Our labor in the Lord is never in vain (I Corinthians 15:58).

In the ruins of the sinful world in which we live God is calling His Church, including all of us at Bethany, to start rebuilding. It takes planning, prayer, endurance, determination, and most of all, the power of the Holy Spirit to rebuild the ruins. But living in God's Easter grace, we know that the wreckage can rise again, even if all we have is "small things".



✠ Pastor Erickson

Thanksgiving:

Colton (son of *Ian and *Bailey Stevens)- born 3/31
 Cathy (sister-in-law of *Melissa Loney)- recovered after COVID
 Burt & Jan (friends of *Bonnie Bubke)- improved health
 Jan (friend of *Bonnie Bubke)- recovered after surgery
 Kenny (friend of *Bonnie Bubke)- recovered after surgery
 Jane (daughter of *Bonnie Bubke)- recovered after surgery
 Sandy (neighbor of *Bonnie Bubke)- completed cancer treatment
 Tammy (relative of *Bonnie Bubke)- completed cancer treatment

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Lorelei (Bethany visitor)- recovering after surgery
 Pastor Krueger (Zion Lutheran)- health issues
 Dawn (relative of Chuck Kroemer)- recovering after tornado
 Teri (relative of *Schoens)- health issues
 Dave (relative of *Jennet Volden)- bike accident
 Mary (relative of *Vicki Huschka)- complications due to a fall
 Judy (relative of *Brenda Himes)- health issues
 Vanny (friend of *Cindy Goerdts) - health issues
 Tom Mark (former member)- recovering after accident
 John (brother of *Pat Krekeler)- health issues
 Jill (sister of *Bridget Rinderknecht)- health issues
 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:

Shauna (niece of Schmiths)- cancer
 Jerry (brother of *Ronda Anderson)- cancer treatment
 Janet (mother of *J Shoemaker)- cancer treatment
 Karen (friend of Laura Holt)- cancer
 John (brother of *Donice McDonald)- cancer
 Ron (uncle of *Dawn Thomas)- cancer
 Rose (friend of *Kay Karsten)- cancer treatments
 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

Grief, family and friends of:

Carol (mother of Angie Pfeil)- died 4/15
 Gene (husband of Karen Schmidt)- died 3/9
 Linda (mother of Ryan Corey) - died 3/2

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.

MAY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 1

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, May 2

6:30 am Coffee Outreach

10:00 am Women's Group

1:30 pm LWML Board Meeting

6:00 pm Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, May 3

6:00 pm Evangelism Meeting

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

Wednesday, May 4

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

6:00 pm Youth Gathering Meeting

6:00 pm Human Care Meeting

Thursday, May 5

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

Saturday, May 7

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

9:00 am Rummage Sale Collections

Sunday, May 8

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

12:00 pm Rummage Sale Collections

Monday, May 9

6:30 am Coffee Outreach

10:00 am Women's Group

6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision

5:00 pm Rummage Sale Collections

7:00 pm Elders Meeting

Tuesday, May 10

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

5:00 pm Rummage Sale Collections

7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 11

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

5:00 pm Rummage Sale Collections

6:00 pm High School Youth

Thursday, May 12

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

1:00 pm Leah Circle

5:00 pm Rummage Sale Collections

6:30 pm Naomi Circle

Friday, May 13

9:30 am Rebekah Circle

5:00 pm Rummage Sale Collections

Saturday, May 14

8:00 am Rummage Sale

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, May 15

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

5:30 pm Board of Education Meeting

Monday, May 16

6:30 am Coffee Outreach

10:00 am Women's Group

Tuesday, May 17

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

Wednesday, May 18

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotion

6:00 pm High School Youth

Thursday, May 19

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

11:00 am Senior Worship Service

Saturday, May 21

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, May 22

Last Day of Sunday School

9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks - Office

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, May 23

6:30 am Coffee Outreach

6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Cont. Ed.

Tuesday, May 24

6:30 pm Handbells Practice

Wednesday, May 25

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

6:00 pm High School Youth

Thursday, May 26

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

Saturday, May 28

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, May 29

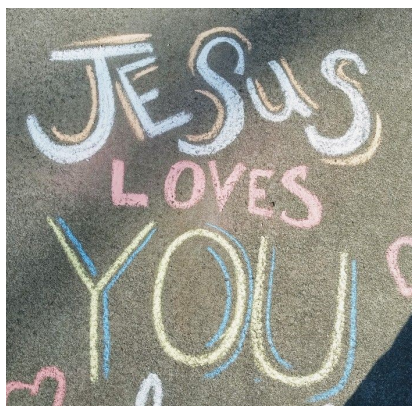
1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, May 30

Office Closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 31

6:30 pm Handbells Practice



May 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 donate items to the food pantry. **This month, your challenge is to "chalk the walk" to share God's love!** Use chalk to write a message in your driveway or on the sidewalk outside your home. You could write notes like "Jesus loves you," or share your favorite Bible verses.

Traditional Music Ministry

Bethany is pleased to welcome Ryanne Molinari as our new organist. She will lead music on Sundays for our 8:30 a.m. traditional service. Her first day at Bethany will be May 9. Please help her feel welcome!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/1	Ashley Cunningham Ally Olson	5/11	Lori Myers Brad Crawford Chris Frampton Lucas McCarley	5/25	Julie Elias
5/2	Julie Holt Scott Deetz			5/27	Anna Milbach
5/3	Annie Prohaska Patrick McCarley Justin McCarley	5/12	Mike Diers	5/28	Tom Larson Blake Kroemer
5/4	Jakob Buliceck Clara Hinz	5/13	Brianna Prohaska	5/29	Beth Bricker Jase Bond Erin Wilson
5/5	Caleb Pfeil	5/19	Lily McClellan	5/31	Sage Duve Lexi Brink Lauren Bricker Josh Dohrmann Levi Ballstaedt
5/6	Millie Zimmerman	5/20	Amy Diers Alex Theriault		
5/9	Kaleb Diers	5/21	Leonard Tiedt		
5/10	Richard Pfeil Kerry McGraw	5/22	Trisha Brink		
		5/23	Karen Swanson Lori Dohrmann		
		5/24	Serena Knudson		

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/2	Dave & Wendy Christian	5/16	Mike & Lora Raymon
5/4	Ray & Kerry McGraw	5/20	Doug & Sheryl Knutson
5/11	Scott & Kathryn Deetz	5/21	Jeff & Lynn Madsen
5/13	Michael & Annie Prohaska	5/22	Larry & Sharon Easler
5/14	Gary & Pamela Kaufman	5/23	Jake & Tami Vande Weerd



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 in Cedar Rapids. 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.

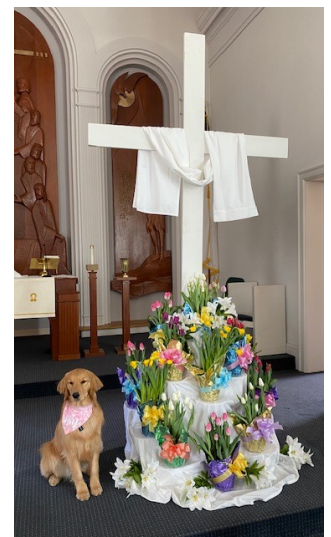
Response needed! Please let us know by the end of May if you would like to volunteer.

We need 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 the Family Promise St. Stephen's site, 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.

Joy's Journal

Hello Bethany FURiends! April sure was a busy month at church, wasn't it?! Our church is always beautiful, but oh my, on Easter Sunday it was gorgeous. I loved celebrating Jesus' resurrection and being surrounded by all those beautiful flowers when I had my picture taken. I also had the privilege of being with the conFURmands prior to their public examination. They did a PAWsome job and congratulations to all of them on their confirmation on May 1.

God's blessings to each of you!





Confirmation

Bethany confirmation students professed their faith at a public examination on Sunday, April 24. God's blessings to these confirmands who will affirm their baptismal vows in the Rite of Confirmation, which will take place on Sunday, May 1 at the 11:00 service. This year's confirmands are:

Charles Clark
Aiden Erickson
Carter Kirkpatrick
Conner Kirkpatrick

Jackson Rinderknecht
Taylor Theriault
Kellen Volden
Bryce Wilson

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. The last day of Sunday School for the school year will be on May 22.



Easter

On April 17, Sunday School hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for Bethany children and friends (pictured).

Three divine services were held on Easter Sunday as Bethany members and friends celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Food Pantry Tissue Drive

We will collect boxes of tissues to create a “tissue tower” in the Gathering Area to be donated to the pantry. This is in conjunction with a tissue tower drive at Trinity Lutheran School and Church to benefit Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry. Trinity has a goal of 250 boxes of tissues... can Bethany match that? Please bring in your donations of tissues now through May 15.

Faith Milestones

A Faith Milestones class for parents of infants and toddlers will be held at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays June 5 and June 12. If you plan to attend this class, please contact Nurse Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.



“Ask Pastor Anything” Bible Study

On Sunday, May 8 Pastor Erickson will lead an “Ask Pastor Anything” Bible Study in the Family Life Center at 9:45 a.m. To help prepare for this study, please submit questions beforehand using the forms and box in the Gathering Area. Your questions can be about anything, but those pertaining directly to our faith will take priority. If you have questions about the study itself, you may ask Pastor directly.

Senior Worship

Thursday, May 19, 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.



Family Faith Night

Bethany will launch a new ministry this year for families with school-aged children. Please plan to join us for the first Family Faith Night on **Wednesday, August 10, 6:00-7:30 p.m.** This new ministry will start at the same time that we have typically had VBS. While VBS will not be held this year, your family is sure to find value in a monthly, high-energy evening devoted to faith.

Excited to learn more about Family Faith Night? Here's the rundown:

Who is it for? Students in preschool through grade 12 AND their parents—families will attend together!

What will it be like? Families will start off all together in one large group. Each night, a Bible lesson will be presented using "The Tree of Life" lessons from Concordia Publishing House. We'll sing worship songs, and families will have discussion time. After large group time, we'll split into three separate groups:

- Adults will attend a parent fellowship and learning session
- Students in grades 7-12 will have a youth Bible study activity
- Students in preschool through grade 6 will participate in games and activities

When will it take place? Family Faith Night will be the second Wednesday of the month, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Where will it take place? Join us at Bethany!

Why should my family attend? The purpose of Family Faith Night is to help families grow together in faith. Parents will attend alongside children so that families can continue faith conversations at home. A Christian faith is the foundation of strong families—Family Faith Night is an opportunity for families to come together and encourage one another in that foundation!

How will this ministry happen? We will need several volunteers to help lead stations at Family Faith Night. If you are interested in serving in family ministry once per month, please contact the church office at 319-364-6026 or office.bethanycr@gmail.com and we will find a role for you!

Subscribe to *The Lutheran Witness*

The Lutheran Witness is a magazine of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod which offers syndical news, reports from Lutherans around the world, feature articles, columns, Q&As, a Bible study, and more. *The Lutheran Witness* is a monthly publication of 11 issues per year beginning July issue which will arrive in August.

You may subscribe to *The Lutheran Witness* as an individual or receive the magazine through the church. Those who purchase their subscription through the church pay \$15.96 instead of \$19.99 if you subscribe on your own.

It's easy to subscribe! Pick up an envelope, complete the information and return it with your payment to the church office by May 30.



Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry

With the return of pre-pandemic SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits on April 1, those in need are now receiving less financial assistance for food. Due to this change, food pantries 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.

AMERICAN RED CROSS



Blood Drive: Thank You!

Bethany hosted an American Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday, April 26. The American Red Cross said, "Thank you so much for hosting a blood drive! We appreciate all of your hard work and dedication to helping us save lives!" At the drive we had 29 presenting donors, and 28 units of blood were collected. Thank you to all the participants!

Serve the Lord Day: April 30

Please plan to help the Board of Trustees care for the maintenance of our facilities on Saturday, April 30. We will work on projects 8:00 a.m. to noon. Any amount of time you are able to serve will be appreciated! A list of projects can be found on the board in the foyer. If you would like to take on one of the tasks, please take the sticky note and write your name on the board. These tasks can be completed at your earliest convenience.



Congregation Assessment Tool



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Congregation Assessment Tool survey. 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.

Quilts for World Relief

The sewing group will not meet in May. Please join us on Tuesday, June 14 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 details.



Summer Giving Made Easy

Make a one-time contribution, set up recurring gifts through our website's donation page, or download the app on your phone. Just follow these easy steps:

ONLINE

1. Visit our website
www.bethanycr.org
2. Locate the GIVING tab.
3. Donate!

ON YOUR PHONE

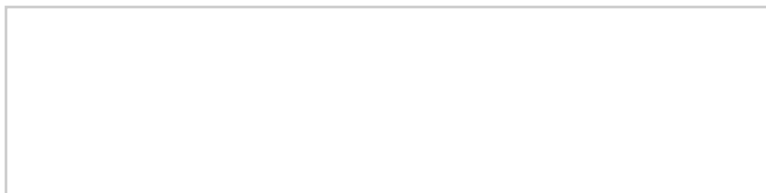
1. Download the free "Vanco Mobile" app.
2. Find our church by searching for Bethany Lutheran.
3. Donate!

It only takes a minute to set up an account or give as a guest.

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