

Bethany Beacon

JULY 2022



LCMS Youth Gathering

On July 8, fourteen Bethany members will get on a bus headed to Houston, Texas for the LCMS Youth Gathering. The gathering, which happens once every three years, is an incredible opportunity for teenage Lutherans to gather with thousands of other young believers for a time of worship, learning, and fun. The 2022 theme is "In All Things," based on Colossians 1:15-20.

Bethany participants would like to extend a THANK YOU to the congregation for all the prayers and financial support to help them get to Houston. After an Advent dinner, Super Bowl subs, a rummage sale, a pancake breakfast, and several pre-gathering Bible studies and preparation meetings, the youth and their chaperones are ready to experience Christ *in all things*.

On Sunday, July 3, Youth Gathering participants will be commissioned during both the 8:30 and 11:00 services. Please join us in blessing them before their departure.

Please keep these eleven students and three chaperones in your prayers as they attend the gathering:

Students

Mya Chamberlin

Abi Clark

Charles Clark

Aiden Erickson

Carter Kirkpatrick

Conner Kirkpatrick

Lucas McCarley

Natalie Prohaska

Kellen Volden

Lucas Volden

Bryce Wilson

Chaperones

Darin Elm

Pastor Erickson

Kelly Frampton



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Bethany,

Over the last few weeks, I have had the joy to participate in two significant events that will impact, to varying degrees, our congregation for years to come. These two events were the District Convention of Iowa District East (the district of the Missouri Synod to which Bethany belongs) and the interpretation of the Church Assessment Tool that many of you took earlier this spring. What follows now is a brief summary of some of the more important details from both of these occasions.

First, our District Convention was held here in Cedar Rapids on June 24 & 25. A special thanks should be given by all to Ed Schumacher, who served as Bethany's lay delegate for these two days. While many officers were elected during the convention, two worth noting are: Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders was re-elected to serve as our district president. And Rev. Dr. Mitch Otto was re-installed as our circuit visitor. Without going into too much detail, these two men will serve Bethany as our representatives to Synod, and Synod's representatives to us.

Also at the convention, two theological items were discussed and voted on. Again, without going into too much detail, a resolution was passed to discourage the practice of "online communion". While only a small number of congregations in the entire Synod (single digits) seem to be engaging in this practice now, our district wanted to make clear that we believe this practice is not in accordance with the Lord's institution. Lastly, given the increase in frequency of the practice, a study on cremation from the Lutheran Church – Canada, was recommended to all of our district's congregations for study and discussion. Being that many of you have cremated loved ones or may be considering this option yourself, I think you all will be happy to know that Bethany has been practicing everything in accordance to the Word of God.

Before all of this happened at the convention however, the Church Council and myself held a Zoom meeting with a representative from Holy Cow!, the company that administered the Church

Assessment Tool (CAT) that Bethany took this spring. During this meeting we went through dozens of pages of data that all came from the answers of those who took the CAT. Overall, Bethany has much to be thankful for and celebrate as the results show both high levels of satisfaction and energy in the congregation. When compared to the CAT results from 2014, we also see a significant increase in both of these categories as well. While not totally unique among other congregations that have taken the CAT recently, having such results coming through the COVID pandemic of the last two years is a tribute to God's graciousness and the faithful service of many staff members, lay leaders, and other volunteers at Bethany.

Some of the factors that our members look at to determine their level of satisfaction are: representative leadership; tolerance of differing opinions; the quality and spiritual content of worship; high quality education; and people wanting to get involved. The areas that members focused on to determine the "energy" of the congregation were: the worship services; opportunities to engage in ministry; understanding our calling into ministries; preparing members to use their gifts; and the pastor bringing out the best in our members. We were told that all of this shows that we have a very focused congregation.

All of this is not to say however, that we have nothing that we can improve or work on. As we look to the future, the top four expressed goals were: attracting families with children; reaching new people; more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation; and strengthening the process which members are called and equipped into ministry. While meeting these goals may be challenging, we remember our God is faithful and, building upon His past blessings, look forward to meeting them together as we *Live and Share God's Love*.

✠ Pastor Erickson



Thanksgiving:

Beckham (son of Tyler & Kaylee Hedtke)- born 6/6
Pastor Krueger (Zion Lutheran)- health issues

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Victoria (mother of *Janet Hoech)- health issues
LaVonne (mother of *Dave Karsten)- recovering after fall
Dan (father of *Michelle Wiersig) - recovering after surgery
Lorelei (Bethany visitor)- recovering after surgery
Teri (relative of *Schoens)- health issues
Dave (relative of *Jennet Volden)- bike accident
Judy (relative of *Brenda Heims)- health issues
Tom Mark (former member)- recovering after accident
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. Army

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
*Tom Stock- at home
*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:

Ron (brother of *Ray McGraw)- cancer treatment
Shauna (niece of *Schmiths)- cancer
Jerry (brother of *Ronda Anderson)- cancer treatment
Karen (friend of *Laura Holt)- cancer
John (brother of *Donice McDonald)- cancer
Rick & 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
Tony (friend of *Mike Thomas)- cancer
David (relative of *Hasses)- cancer immunotherapy
Julie (friend of *Brenda Heims)- cancer
Janet (friend of *Brenda Heims)-cancer
Chad (son of *Vicki Huschka)- leukemia

Grief, family and friends of:

LaBelle (mother of *Rick Foreman)- died 6/22
Mechele (friend of *Linda Patten) - died 5/14



Prayer Chain

Are you a prayer warrior? If you would like to receive periodic prayer requests from the congregation via email, please contact the church office at office.bethanycr@gmail.com to be added to the prayer chain email list.

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.

JULY CALENDAR

Saturday, July 2

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, July 3

12:30 pm Youth Gathering Meeting

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, July 4

Office Closed

Wednesday, July 6

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

6:00 pm High School Youth

Thursday, July 7

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

5:00 pm Hands Only CPR Training

7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Friday, July 8

2:00 pm Joy's Training - FLC

Saturday, July 9

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, July 10

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, July 11

10:00 pm Women's Fellowship - Mr. Beans

6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision

Tuesday, July 12

9:00 am Quilting for World Relief

Wednesday, July 13

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

Thursday, July 14

7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Saturday, July 16

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, July 17

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Wednesday, July 20

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotion

6:00 pm High School Youth

Thursday, July 21

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

11:00 am Senior Worship Service

5:30 pm Board of Education Meeting

7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Saturday, July 23

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

2:00 pm Joy's Training - FLC

Sunday, July 24

9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks - Office

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, July 25

6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Cont. Ed.

Wednesday, July 27

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

6:00 pm High School Youth

Thursday, July 28

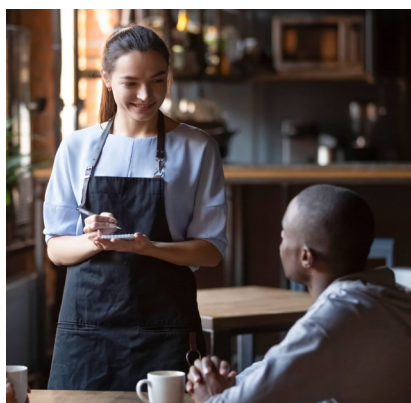
9:00 am Adult Bible Study

Saturday, July 30

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, July 31

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open



July Evangelism Challenge

There are simple ways we can all live and share God's love with those around us. Last month, your challenge was to share a message on social media or email Bethany's worship resources to a friend.

This month, your challenge is to pray for your server! If you go out to eat at a restaurant, let them know you will be praying before your meal, and ask them if they would like you to pray for them.

Project 24: Christ's Care for Children in Kenya



Lorine



Yvonne

Project 24 is a Lutheran mission in Kenya that Bethany started supporting in May 2021. Students in the program receive a Christian education in a safe environment while living in the one of the eight boarding facilities where their physical, medical, and spiritual needs are met.

A portion of our contribution supports two sponsor students, Yvonne and Lorine, and the rest supports the Project 24 general fund. Please find their letters at the missions table located outside the sanctuary.

Project 24 contributions can be made online at bethanycr.org/giving or by using one of the "Missions" giving envelopes found at the missions table outside the sanctuary.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/1	Ben Mims Wade Ramsey	7/12	Carol McGinnis	7/19	Mark Holt Nicole Deetz
7/3	Rick Foreman John Siebenmann	7/13	Tristan Bond Owen Carr	7/20	Christine Erickson
7/5	Elaine Cook Corey Stackhouse	7/14	Jeff Bulicek	7/21	Joanna Godbey
7/6	Arlen Breiholz Rachel Henderson	7/15	Bill Freese Chris Knudson	7/22	Carson Theriault
7/7	Barry Smith	7/16	Jake Sturtz	7/23	Jodi Strait
7/9	Landon Oja	7/17	Mindy Thies Bryce Wilson	7/24	Renee Riffey Lainie Olson
7/10	Phil Hedtke		Jim Heitland	7/27	Isaac Corey Meghan Prohaska
				7/28	Ken Cook

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/1	Nathan & Stacy Brusius	7/20	Mark & Julie Gutman
7/2	Joe & Anna Milbach	7/23	Duane & Karen Pfeffer
7/5	Josh & Haley Dohrmann	7/24	Dave & Kay Karsten
7/8	Lee & Brenda Heims	7/26	Brad & Erin Crawford
7/9	Harold & Susan Schoen	7/27	Vern & Betty Happel
7/11	Andy & Sarah Gates	7/28	Dave & Carolyn Johnson
7/12	Richard & Angie Pfeil	7/29	Ryan & Ginny Urban
7/16	Steve & Kathy Hanchera		

Sunday School

Students participated in an Amazing G'race' on the last day of Sunday School.

We look forward to seeing all students in preschool through high school when Sunday School starts back up this fall!



Nursery to be Staffed

The Bethany nursery will be staffed during Sunday 11:00 a.m. services starting July 3. Of course, little ones are always welcome to join us in the sanctuary during service, but families are invited to utilize the nursery whenever needed! Families do not need to sign up to use the nursery. Please bring your child to the nursery at any point during the 11:00 service, and check them in on the sign-in sheet.

Each Sunday, two volunteers are needed to staff the nursery. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up at www.bethanycr.org/serve. If this is your first time serving, please contact Nurse Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com so you can complete Child Abuse Prevention training.

Use your phone camera to access the link to the online signup





Vocal Choir

Choir will start back up at Bethany early this fall! We would love to know who is interested in enriching the traditional service through singing. If you have questions about choir or are interested in joining, please contact Ryanne Molinari at organist.bethanycr@gmail.com. Please look for more information to come about choir.

Women's Fellowship

In Christian friendship, let's gather for coffee at Mr. Beans in Marion to get together and reconnect. Women are invited to join us on Monday, July 11 at 10:00 a.m. We won't have a study on this day - women's study group will resume this fall. It will be fun to enjoy each other's company. Mr. Beans is located at 1080 East Post Road in Marion.



Joy's Journal

Hi, Bethany FURiends! The Lord has blessed me with the best job! I'm getting lots of pets these days by making visits! The people that attend devotions at Cottage Grove Place are so nice and give me lots of attention. I also supervised Bingo playing with the LWML ladies at Winslow House. And two of my five handlers certified with me as a therapy dog through Alliance of Therapy Dogs. June was a busy month!

In other news, my people are going to bring me to church on the fifth Sunday of the month... so that means I may get to see more of you at the end of July!





Kith & Kin Visitor Ministry

Our congregation has members that, due to health issues, are unable to attend church. “Kith & Kin” (which means “friends and relatives”) is a new visitor ministry at Bethany to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ and to grow in fellowship as a church and community. We are asking for your help by contacting one of our homebound members once a month, for one year. It can be by email, phone, snail-mail, or better yet, in person!

If you are interested in uplifting and encouraging members who can't join us on Sundays, please **sign up at the Welcome Center**. You will be able to indicate your communication preferences so that you may be paired with someone who would like to be contacted in that way. For more information, please call the church office at 319-364-6026.

Adult Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendar: Adult VBS will be held August 15-18 at Bethany. All adults are welcome to join us 9:00-11:00 each day for study, fellowship, Bible trivia, hymn singing and refreshments.

Beyond God's promise of a Savior just after the fall in Genesis 3:15, do we really see much of Christ in the Old Testament? Well, if we take His New Testament words to heart, we must! Jesus says, “You search the Scriptures...and it is they that bear witness to me!” (John 5:39). So this year in Adult VBS, Pastor Erickson will lead the class in a discussion on “The Messiah: Revealing Jesus in the Old Testament,” a new study from Concordia Publishing House.

Senior Worship

Thursday, July 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.



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.** A meal will be served before the program at 5:30 p.m.

Your family is sure to find value in this monthly, high-energy evening devoted to faith!

Who is it for? Students in preschool through 12th grade AND 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.

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. Family Faith Night is an opportunity for families to come together and encourage one another in faith.

How will this ministry happen? We still need a few more volunteers to make this ministry possible. If you are interested in serving meals, leading a station, acting in skits, or supervising children, please contact the church office at 319-364-6026 or office.bethanycr@gmail.com and we will find a role for you!

Plan to attend? Please let us know you will be here so we can plan accordingly.

The link to sign up can be found at www.bethanycr.org/children-youth

Use your phone camera to access the link to the online signup →



Faith Milestones

A Faith Milestones class for parents of infants and toddlers was held on June 5 and 12. Families participated in a blessing event during services on June 12.



Hands Only CPR

The American Heart Association will provide free Hands Only/Bystander CPR training at Bethany on Thursday, July 7. You can learn the core skills of Hands Only CPR in less than 30 minutes (plan to attend training at 5:00-5:30 or 5:30-6:00 p.m.). This education will not include a certification – but it can certainly save a life!



**American
Heart
Association®**

More than 325,000 cardiac arrests occur outside of hospitals each year in the United States. In the new study that included 30,445 people who had a cardiac arrest outside a hospital, 40% received no bystander CPR. Immediate hands only CPR can double or triple chances of survival.



Come learn and practice Hands Only CPR at Bethany from local experts at either 5:00-5:30 or 5:30-6:00 p.m. on July 7. If you plan to attend this free training, please call the church office at 319-364-6026, or sign up online at www.bethanycr.org/events/cpr.

Use your phone camera to access the link to the online signup



Especially for You Race Against Breast Cancer

The Especially for You Race Against Breast Cancer will be held on Sunday, October 9 at 8:00 a.m. This is the 32nd annual race raises money for area women to have access to life-saving screenings.

Join Bethany's team for the 1-mile family walk, 5K walk, or 5K run. Bethany team members must be signed up by September 11. Registration is \$32, and will increase to \$37 after September 1. Please sign up online at runsignup.com/RaceGroups/34374 and scroll down to select the team "Bethany Lutheran Church.."

Use your phone camera to access the link to the online signup



Wanted: Coffee Makers!

Enjoy having coffee on Sunday mornings? We could use a few more volunteers to make coffee. New volunteers will be trained. If you are interested in serving in this way, please **sign up at the coffee counter**, or call the church office for information.



Quilts for World Relief

Please join us on Tuesday, July 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 details.



Church Assessment Tool



Thank you to everyone who participated in the congregational survey this year. We have received results from “Holy Cow!” consulting. If you are interested in learning about results from the Church Assessment Tool, please plan to attend a presentation on Sunday, July 17 at 9:45 a.m. in the Family Life Center.

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

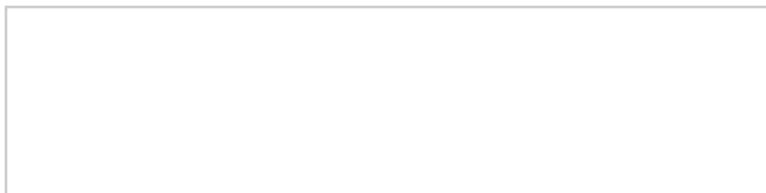
1. Download the free “Vanco Mobile” app.
2. Find our church by searching for Bethany Lutheran.
3. Donate!

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

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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