

# Bethany Beacon

SEPTEMBER 2022

## Participate in a Focus Group

Thank you to everyone who participated in the congregational survey this year. Results from the “Holy Cow!” Church Assessment Tool were presented to the congregation at a meeting on August 21. We are now continuing the work that was started with the surveys by asking members of Bethany to participate in a focus group. There will be two focus group opportunities in September:

**Saturday, September 10 at 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**

**Monday, September 12 at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

If you are able to participate in one of these focus group times, please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office at 319-364-6026 to let us know which session you will attend.

Below are some of the questions that may be discussed during the focus group. Please take some time to review and prayerfully consider how you might respond.

1. What are the key areas, ministries, or aspects of Bethany that are working well?
2. What is Bethany known for in the community?
3. If your vision for Bethany became a reality, describe what we would be like in 3-5 years.
4. What changes or improvements would you recommend to accomplish your vision?
5. What are some things we do today that aren't working? Could be in any area including worship, facilities, ministries, and more.
6. What activities or ministries would get you excited enough to get more involved in the Church than you are today?
7. How could Bethany better reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the Church?
8. Martin Luther said, “Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.” With that in mind, what ideas do you have to make our music program even better?
9. If you have attended or visited other churches, what did you like about their services, buildings, or ministries?



**Bethany**  
Lutheran Church

*Living and Sharing God's Love*

*The church is the assembly of saints in which the gospel is taught purely and the sacraments are administered rightly.*

– Article VII of the Augsburg Confession

The Lutheran reformers who wrote and subscribed to the Augsburg Confession knew what the Scriptures teach the church is and what it does. Today, the assembled saints at Bethany continue to confess that the church is where the gospel is taught purely and the sacraments are administered rightly and therefore this is what the church does. But what does that look like here and now? How do we teach the gospel today in the age of social media? How do we administer the sacraments according to the Lord's instructions in an ever-increasing pluralistic society? While we may be tempted to say that the church must not be changed by the culture around us, the fact of the matter is that the church does and must.

It is true, the essence of the church (Word and Sacrament) does not change, but those things around them do. For instance, Martin Luther wrote his German Mass and translated the Bible into German so that the average person attending church could understand what was being said and could have access to God's Word themselves. Likewise, last century our own LC-MS moved from having most of its services in German to having English services. While the Gospel was still proclaimed and the sacraments administered in all of these circumstances, the way (specifically the language used) had to change for the church to accomplish its mission.

Over the last week, I have been extremely blessed to have so many people at Bethany help me celebrate my 10-year anniversary serving as our congregation's pastor. Reflecting on those 10 years, it has been wonderful and humbling to remember the creative and various ways that the Holy Spirit has used all of us, and many who are no longer with us, to share God's love through Jesus Christ with one another, our community, and the world. But, as we continue to celebrate and give thanks to God for what He has done over the last several years, we

must recognize that our community, the world, and even ourselves have changed over the years. Therefore, we must continue examine and evaluate the things we are doing; plan for the future; and pray for God's guidance.

In order to do all of this together, Bethany's leadership is asking all of our members who were eligible to take the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) earlier this year (members who are 16 or older), to participate in one of two focus groups coming up on September 10 or 12. During these focus groups, everyone will have an opportunity to share their specific vision for Bethany and ideas on how we can effectively do Word and Sacrament ministry today. A series of questions that will be used can be found on the cover of the this month's *Beacon* to help people begin thinking about their vision for Bethany. I would ask that everyone prayerfully consider participating in a focus group, as the more people involved, the clearer we may discern God will for us.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who helped me celebrate my 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary here at Bethany. The party, cards, gifts, and prayers have been over whelming in helping me celebrate something that has truly been an honor to do with all you. But as wonderful as these last 10 years have been, I look forward to many more years of Word and Sacrament ministry among and with you all. And like you, I'm excited to see what this will look like and what God has in store as we *Live and Share* His love together.

✠ Pastor Erickson



## Thanksgiving:

Pastor Erickson— ten Year Anniversary at Bethany Lutheran  
Victoria (mother of \*Janet Hoech)- health issues improved  
Marriage of \*Michelle Wiersig and Mark Kerr on 8/13  
Derek (son of \*Hackbardts) - recovered after surgery  
LaVonne (mother of \*Dave Karsten)- recovered after fall

## Illness, injuries, health issues:

Dan (father of \*Michelle Wiersig) - 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

## Grief, family and friends of:

Lana (sister of \*Karen Hass)- died 8/17  
Tami (friend of \*Becky Thur)- died 7/12  
\*John Siebenmann— died 7/10

## 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 Village, Marion  
\*Shirley Kellogg— at home  
\*Betty Hein— at home

## Cancer/Hospice:

Maureen (aunt of \*Janet Hoech)- hospice care  
Patrick (friend of \*Mary Vezina)- cancer treatment  
John (friend of \*Dunns)- chemo treatment  
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  
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



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com).

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

### Thursday, September 1

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

### Saturday, September 3

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga

### Sunday, September 4

- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

### Monday, September 5

- Office Closed

### Tuesday, September 6

- 6:00 pm Evangelism Meeting
- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

### Wednesday, September 7

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

### Thursday, September 8

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 1:00 pm Leah Circle
- 6:00 pm Human Care Meeting
- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm Naomi Circle
- 7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

### Saturday, September 9

- 9:00 am Rebekah Circle

### Saturday, September 10

- 9:00 am Focus Group - Family Life Center
- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

### Sunday, September 11

- 9:45 am First Day of Sunday School
- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

### Monday, September 12

- 6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
- 10:00 am Women's Group - FLC
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision
- 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting
- 7:00 pm Elders Meeting
- 7:00 pm Focus Group - Family Life Center

### Tuesday, September 13

- 9:00 am Quilting for World Relief
- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Church Council

### Wednesday, September 14

- 6:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 5:30 pm Family Faith Night Meal
- 6:00 pm Family Faith Night

### Thursday, September 15

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 11:00 am Senior Worship
- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm Women's Group - Chiavettas'
- 7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

### Saturday, September 17

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

### Sunday, September 18

- 12:15 pm Board of Ed Meeting
- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open
- 1:00 pm Fellowship Bike Ride

### Monday, September 19

- 6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
- 10:00 am Women's Group - FLC
- 12:00 pm Hands Only CPR Training
- 5:30 pm Hands Only CPR Training
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Cont. Ed

### Tuesday, September 20

- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

### Wednesday, September 21

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

### Thursday, September 22

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm Women's Group - Chiavettas'

### Saturday, September 24

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

### Sunday, September 25

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

### Monday, September 26

- 6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
- 10:00 am Women's Group - FLC

### Tuesday, September 27

- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

### Wednesday, September 28

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

### Thursday, September 29

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm Women's Group - Chiavettas'



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<b>9/1</b>	Greg Dunn Becky Thur Carolyn Johnson Sydney Wilson	<b>9/9</b>	Fran Struck Kent Zenor	<b>9/20</b>	Janet Gebert
<b>9/2</b>	John Hamm Larry Thronson	<b>9/11</b>	Whitney Fountain	<b>9/21</b>	Doug Francik Macy Oja Zollie Duve Charles Clark
<b>9/3</b>	Jeannine Robinson	<b>9/13</b>	Kevin Hansen Chuck Kroemer	<b>9/23</b>	Kenneth Smith Ethan Myers
<b>9/7</b>	Bernice Stonewall Shirley McElroy Colton Keldgord	<b>9/14</b>	Keenan Diers	<b>9/24</b>	Linda Patten Natalie Prohaska
<b>9/8</b>	Trae Robinson Adam Henderson	<b>9/15</b>	Sasha Knutson Eli Henderson	<b>9/28</b>	Harold Schoen
<b>9/9</b>	Jeff Madsen	<b>9/17</b>	Maleta Montague Cherie Miller	<b>9/29</b>	Kathy Hanchera
		<b>9/18</b>	Jackson Rinderknecht Joni Schmith	<b>9/30</b>	Joel Knutson Lorelei Hackbardt
		<b>9/19</b>	Donice McDonald		

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

<b>9/6</b>	Brad & Brooke Oja	<b>9/20</b>	Rick & Sandy Thorington
<b>9/12</b>	Joel & Kristan Conrad	<b>9/21</b>	Mark & Laura Holt
<b>9/17</b>	Jerald & Karissa Scott	<b>9/23</b>	Darren & Cindy Bogner
<b>9/18</b>	Ryan & JJ Theriault	<b>9/26</b>	Darrell & Naomi Chiavetta

### Bike Ride & Ice Cream Fellowship

Plan to join your Bethany friends for a bike ride on the Cedar River Trail on Sunday September 18, followed by ice cream at Almost Famous in NewBo. Please invite any other friends to join us as well! We will meet at 2:00 p.m. at the parking lot at 2nd St SE and 11th Ave SE in NewBo, and then bike south along the Cedar River Trail for a distance before returning to NewBo. We will then head over to Almost Famous for ice cream or other treats. If you would like to start your ride sooner to bike longer or would like to skip the bike ride completely, please feel free to simply join us at Almost Famous around 3:30 p.m. Please contact Becky McCarley or the church office for more information. If you plan to attend, please sign up at the Welcome Center. Hope to see you there!





## Growing in Faith: Sunday School Starts September 11

This year's Sunday School theme is "Growing in Faith"! Sunday School is held on Sundays at 9:45-10:45 a.m. for students in preschool through high school. Please join us for the first day on September 11 in the lower level. Students in preschool through 5th grade and their parents will meet in the Opening Room to meet their teachers and participate in activities. Students in middle school and high school will meet in their respective classrooms. Please bring in your completed registration form that was mailed to your home.

## Family Faith Night

Family Faith Night is a ministry for students in preschool through high school and their parents to attend on the second Wednesday of each month! Our next Family Faith Night will be on Wednesday, September 14. A meal is served at 5:30 p.m. and the program is held 6:00-7:30 p.m. If you plan to attend Family Faith Night, RSVP at [www.bethanycr.org/children-youth](http://www.bethanycr.org/children-youth)

At the September 14 parent session, Pastor Erickson will cover chapters 1 and 2 of "Boundaries."



## Confirmation

Orientation (for confirmation students and their parents to attend together) will be held on Wednesday, August 31 at 6:00 p.m. Class will begin September 7. If you know any students in 7th or 8th grade, please contact the church office or email Pastor at [pastor.bethanycr@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.bethanycr@gmail.com) to learn more about confirmation class.

## High School Youth Group

High school youth meet on Wednesdays at 6:00-7:30 p.m. All teens welcome! For information about youth group, contact Darin Elm at [youth.bethanycr@gmail.com](mailto:youth.bethanycr@gmail.com).



## Nursery Staffed Sundays at 11:00

The nursery is staffed during 11:00 a.m. services every Sunday. Of course, little ones are always welcome to join us in 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.

## Women's Group

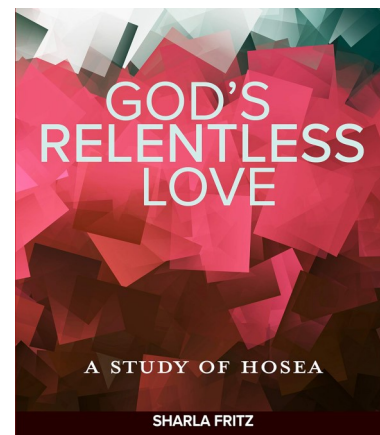
This fall, women's group will read the book "God's Relentless Love: A Study of Hosea" by Sharla Fritz. All women are welcome to participate!

**This fall there will be TWO time options for women's group:**

Mondays at 10:00-11:30 a.m. at Bethany (starts September 12)

Thursdays at 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Chiavettas' home (starts September 15)

Both groups will read the same book. If you would like to join a group, contact Ronda at [nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com](mailto:nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com) or call the church office.



## LWML Fall Zone Event

Women are invited to attend the LWML Cedar Rapids Fall Zone Event on Saturday, October 8 at Zion Lutheran Church in Hiawatha. Join your LWML sisters at 8:30 a.m. for registration and fellowship. Brunch will be served at 9:00

followed by Bible study. Then it's "all aboard" the Orphan Grain Train with our special guest speaker, Richard Hartwig. An ingathering of non-perishable foods will be held for local charity Mission of Hope. If you plan to attend, please sign up at the Welcome Center by September 23.

## LWML Sunday: October 2

On Sunday, October 2 we will join Lutheran churches around the world in celebrating LWML Sunday. The theme for LWML Sunday 2022 is "For Us and With Us." Since 1942 the Lutheran Women's Missionary League has affirmed each woman's identity as a child of God and her relationship with Jesus Christ, encouraging and equipping Christian women to live out their lives in active mission ministries, and to support missions around the world through their gifts of mites, tithes, offerings, and service. On October 2 see the LWML display in the Gathering Area to learn more about ways to be involved in the women's guild. Please bring your mites that day to support LWML district and national mission grants.



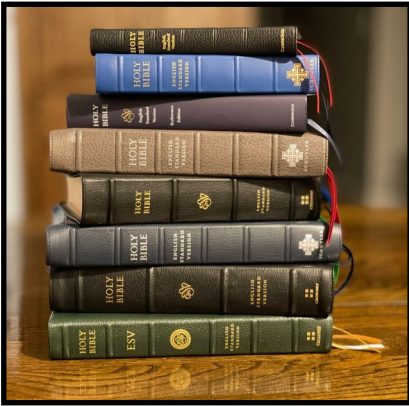
## Music Opportunities

**Vocal Choir** rehearses on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to join choir, contact RYANNE MOLINARI at [organist.bethanycr@gmail.com](mailto:organist.bethanycr@gmail.com).

**Handbell Ensemble** rehearses on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. (beginning September 6). If you would like to play handbells, contact Tom Mills.

For information about either group you may contact the church office.





## September Evangelism Challenge

There are simple ways we can all live and share God's love with those around us. Last month, your evangelism challenge was to bless a stranger with a "drive-through blessing" by paying for the person behind you.

**This month, your evangelism challenge is to donate new or gently used Bibles!** Bibles that are donated will be available in the food pantry for Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry neighbors to take home for free. Please bring your Bibles to Bethany any Sunday in September!

## Kith & Kin Visitor Ministry

Kith & Kin (which means "friends and relatives") is a new visitor ministry at Bethany to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ who are unable to attend church. If you signed up to contact one of our homebound members, please look for information coming your way about the member you will visit. Partnerships will begin after Labor Day. If you have not signed up but are still interested, please contact Naomi Chiavetta, or Nurse Ronda at 319-364-6026.



## Quilts for World Relief

Please join us on Tuesday, September 13 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.

## Senior Worship

**Thursday, September 15, 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.**



## Adult Bible Study

Pastor Erickson leads Bible study for adults on Sundays at 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the Family Life Center. On August 28, Pastor will start a new study on the books of I and II Samuel.



The 55 chapters that make up these two books (one book in the original Hebrew) show us how a group of 12 tribes under God's rule became a monarchy established and supported by God. While no great doctrinal statements are made in the two books, I and II Samuel contain some of the best known stories in the Bible that show us God is faithful even when His people are not. Join us every Sunday morning in the Family Life Center at 9:45 as we study these books of God's Word together!

## Faith Milestones

Students in 3rd and 4th grade will receive Bibles on Sunday, September 25. Parents of 3rd and 4th graders should plan to attend Faith Milestones sessions on September 18 and 25 at 9:45 a.m. Please email Karen Swalley at [milestones.bethanycr@gmail.com](mailto:milestones.bethanycr@gmail.com) to let her know you will attend the sessions.

## Joy's Journal

God's blessings to you, Bethany FURiends! I've been a busy pup with some of my regular visits. I really like Cottage Grove devotions with Pastor Doug and the people there give me such good pets! And my training continues with Laura and my people. Laura makes me do funny things like sit in a tiny laundry basket or weave through agility poles... she keeps me on my toes... I mean, paws!

And you guys, Family Faith Night was totally PAWsome when I went last month. I got to visit with a bunch of you and learn about Adam and Eve and that pesky serpent. I'm really excited to come in September and learn about Abraham. I sure hope you'll join me so we can learn together - and you can give me those pets that I love, and I can give you comfort!

 Joy



## Monday Morning Outreach

Our Monday coffee and cocoa ministry will resume on September 12. On Mondays during the school year we set up a tent out front to serve free coffee and cocoa to Washington High School students and any other neighbors who stop by. This is very well received by the community! Each Monday we need volunteers at 6:30-8:00 a.m. to help serve warm drinks and smiles. If you would like to serve in this ministry, sign up for a Monday at [www.bethanycr.org/serve](http://www.bethanycr.org/serve).



## SATURDAY FOR VETERANS

An Eagle Scout Project Benefitting Veterans

### FOOD & TOILETRY ITEM DROP OFF

Aug. 28 & Sept. 4



BREAKFAST \* CARD GAMES \* POOL TOURNAMENT \* FOOD PANTRY

## Eagle Scout Project

Noah Pelletier will complete his Eagle Scout project at an event for veterans at the Freedom Foundation on September 10. Bethany members are asked to help by bringing in donations. Noah will collect food pantry and personal care items for the Veterans event on August 28 and September 4.

To support this project, please bring donations to Bethany on those two Sundays. The collection table is located outside the sanctuary. A list of needs can be found on the bulletin board by the main entrance.

## Hands Only CPR Training

The American Heart Association will provide free Hands Only/ Bystander CPR training at Bethany. This education will not include a certification – but it can certainly save a life! More than 325,000 cardiac arrests occur outside of hospitals each year in the United States. Immediate hands only CPR can double or triple chances of survival.



**American Heart Association®**



There are four time options: Tuesday, August 30 at 12:00-12:45 p.m. or 5:30-6:15 p.m.  
Monday, September 19 at 12:00-12:45 p.m. or 5:30-6:15 p.m.

If you plan to attend this free training, please call the church office at 319-364-6026, ← or sign up online using this link.



## 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 that 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](http://runsignup.com/RaceGroups/34374) and scroll down to select the team "Bethany Lutheran Church.." →





# August Happenings at Bethany



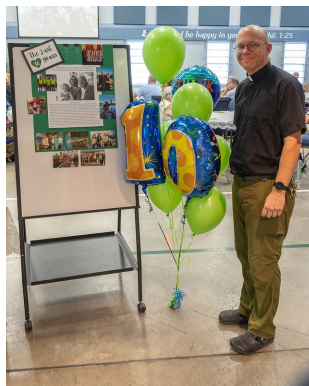
On August 10, fifteen families participated in our very first Family Faith Night.



High school students kicked off a new year of youth group with bowling on August 11.



Adult VBS participants enjoyed Bible study, fellowship, trivia, and hymn singing August 15-18.

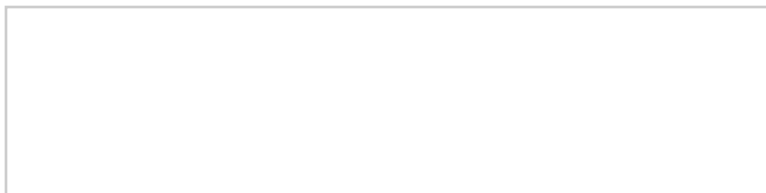


On August 21, we celebrated 10 years of Pastor Erickson at Bethany Lutheran Church.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2202 FOREST DR SE  
CEDAR RAPIDS IA 52403-1654

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED




*Living and Sharing God's Love*

**WORSHIP WITH US**

**Sunday Mornings**

8:30 am	Traditional Service
9:45 am	Education Hour
11:00 am	Contemporary Service

**CONNECT WITH US**

Website	<a href="http://www.bethanycr.org">www.bethanycr.org</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:office.bethanycr@gmail.com">office.bethanycr@gmail.com</a>
Phone	319-364-6026
	<a href="https://facebook.com/bethanycria">facebook.com/bethanycria</a>