

Bethany Beacon

NOVEMBER 2022

So much to be

thankful for...



Special Event on November 3 | *Details on page 7*

All Saints' Sunday on November 6 | *Details on page 5*



Voters' Meeting on November 13 | *Details on page 6*

Thanksgiving Eve on November 23 | *Details on page 6*



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

Psalm 9:1

One Sunday I was talking to some of our friends and neighbors who were waiting in line for our food pantry. Everyone was very appreciative of the work and generosity of our congregation to make this happen every week. I heard that with inflation on the rise this service to our community is needed now, more than ever, and the people of Bethany and others who support the food pantry have repeatedly answered that call. (In fact, we have distributed more than \$80,000 of food alone in just the last 12 months.)

However, the one conversation that I particularly remember that day was with one lady who started by saying how much she loves coming to Bethany's food pantry. When I asked her why, she said it was because everyone working at Bethany treated her with respect. I hope that none of you will be surprised to hear that this led me to share with her why we as Christians have a food pantry at Bethany or do any other good works. I told her that we all know that we are sinners, but also know that God sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross to pay the price for our sin. Out of appreciation for what God has done for us through Jesus Christ, we follow His commands to love Him and love one another as we would want people to love us. Simply put, the Christians at Bethany do good works out of thanksgiving for the wonderful deeds that God has done.

This year, the month of November brings with it many events and activities to Bethany. There is All Saints' Day, the visit of Archbishop Omolo from Kenya, the beginning of Advent, and of course, the Day of Thanksgiving. In our secular society today, Thanksgiving can mean a lot of different things to people. For many it is time to gather with family and friends around a more elaborate meal than usual. For the fortunate, it is a day or two off of their normal work or school schedule. For others it is a wonderful holiday of sports – with football on television most of the day. And finally, for some it is the eve of the biggest shopping day of the year. But sadly, it seems that in the midst of

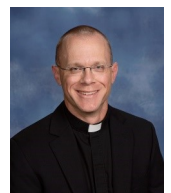
the parades, the turkey, the sports, and the shopping, the nature of the day has gotten lost.

It is a national day of Thanksgiving – a day to give thanks for whatever blessings in life we have as a society or as individuals. Perhaps there are some who still look at Thanksgiving this way. They do take the time to acknowledge the good things in our country and in their lives. But I always wonder, whom do people actually thank on Thanksgiving? Is this a day for just a vague inner feeling of thankfulness, or is the gratitude directed toward someone or something?

There was no question for King David as to whom or what he should thank! He writes in Psalm 9 that he will give thanks to the Lord. He will thank the Lord with his whole heart and tell everyone all that God has done for him. David the shepherd, the musician, the warrior, and the king surely had much to be thankful for in life and how easy it would have been for him to think that he himself had accomplished so many great deeds. But David was also an adulterer and a murderer, who needed to rely solely on God's mercy for life itself. David knew that without God, who is always quick to forgive and abounds in steadfast love, he would have and be nothing.

This is an attitude every Christian should have, not just in November, but every day of our lives. Like David, we are great and terrible sinners. But like David we have also been forgiven of all our sin through the promised Messiah – Jesus Christ. His blood has washed away our sin and turned God's anger from us, so that His blessings might continue to come. Somewhere between all of the things the world celebrates on Thanksgiving, I pray we all will take time to recount the wonderful deeds the Lord has done and keep being motivated to do good works in His name.

✠ Pastor Erickson



Thanksgiving:

Joy the Comfort Dog was commissioned on 10/9
Beckham (infant of Tyler & Kaylee Hedtke)- baptized 10/2
Arrival of DCE intern, Kierra, in January 2023

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Marian (friend of Hein's)- end of life
Trevor (son of *Thomas')- recovering after hospitalization
Chuck (father of J Novitch) - recovering after hospitalization
Sylvia (aunt of Patricia Hinrichs) - health issues
Rhonda (friend of Larsons) - 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, deployed to Poland

Local/National/World:

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

Grief, family and friends of:

Keith (relative of *Kristi Montague)- died 10/12
Kitty (relative of *Doug Knutson)- died 10/2

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
*Dorothy Freese- Keystone Place

Cancer/Hospice:

Sam (friend of *Carol Grimminger)- cancer treatment
Fran (friend of *Larsons) - cancer treatment
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
Chad (son of *Vicki Huschka)- leukemia



Prayer Chain

Are you a prayer warrior? If you would like to receive periodic prayer requests from the congregation via email, 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.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 1

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

Wednesday, November 2

- 6:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Confirmation
- 6:00 pm High School Youth
- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 3

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Human Care Meeting
- 6:30 pm Women's Group
- 6:00 pm Meal
- 7:00 pm Event with Archbishop Omolo

Saturday, November 5

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga

Sunday, November 6

- 12:15 pm Board of Ed Meeting
- 12:15 pm Game Day Fellowship Event
- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, November 7

- 10:00 am Women's Group
- 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, November 8

(Election Day, Bethany polling place)

- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 9

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

Thursday, November 10

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

Saturday, November 12

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga Open House

Sunday, November 13

- 12:15 pm Voters' Meeting
- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, November 14

- 10:00 am Women's Group
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision
- 7:00 pm Elders' Meeting

Tuesday, November 15

- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 16

- 6:30 am Men's Bible Study
- 4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotion
- 6:00 pm Confirmation
- 6:00 pm High School Youth
- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 17

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 11:00 am Senior Worship
- 6:30 pm Women's Group

Friday, November 18

- 2:00 pm Joy's Training

Saturday, November 19

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga

Sunday, November 20

- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, November 21

- 10:00 am Women's Group

Tuesday, November 22

- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 23

- 6:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Confirmation Class
- 6:00 pm High School Youth
- 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service

Thursday, November 24

- 9:00 am Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed

Saturday, November 26

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga

Sunday, November 27

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

Monday, November 28

- 10:00 am Women's Group
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed.

Tuesday, November 29

- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 30

- 6:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Confirmation Class
- 6:00 pm High School Youth
- 6:00 pm Advent Meal
- 7:00 pm Advent Service

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/2 Sheryl Knutson	11/14 Karl Hoech	11/24 Don Hein
11/3 Aaron Foreman	Donna Thronson	Brooke Oja
11/4 Jacey Carr	11/16 Verlyn LeFevere	11/25 Bonnie Breiholz
11/5 Sam Strait	11/17 Brynleigh Hedtke	Ava Ballstaedt
Dave Dohrmann	11/18 Aaron Moffett	Carter Kirkpatrick
11/6 Donna Bogner	11/20 Harper Freese	Conner Kirkpatrick
11/7 Becky Johnson	11/21 Brooklyn Hedtke	11/26 Abi Clark
Shay Gutman	11/22 Wayne Schilling	11/27 Earlene Francik
Ian Stevens	Haley Dohrmann	Nathan Brusius
11/8 Ginny Urban	Noelle Madden	11/29 Doug Knutson
11/11 Mike Goerd	Sheila Willms	Noah Russman
Natalie Heller	11/23 Kay Karsten	11/30 Kristi Montague
11/12 Kris Dunn	Taylor Theriault	Barb Rocarek
11/13 Jerald Scott	11/24 Steven Burns	Nolan Russman

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/1 Ed & Gloria Schumacher	11/26 Dan & Kristi Montague
11/10 Dustin & Beth Bricker	11/27 Richard & Karen Hass
11/15 Chuck & Emily Kroemer	James & Joan Mosel
11/21 Jeff & Angela Keslar	Doug & Earlene Francik

Daylight Saving

Daylight saving ends on Sunday, November 6. Please remember to set your clocks back one hour!

All Saints' Sunday 2022

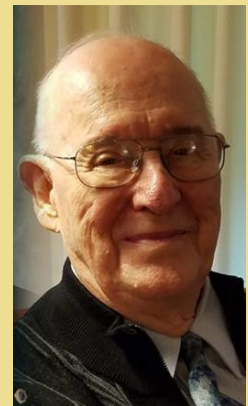
On Sunday, November 6, we pause to commemorate the faithful departed called to their heavenly home since last All Saints' Day. Join us at either service that morning (8:30 or 11:00) as we remember Bethany members who have passed away within the last year.

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?"

- John 14:1-2



Fred Schuchmann

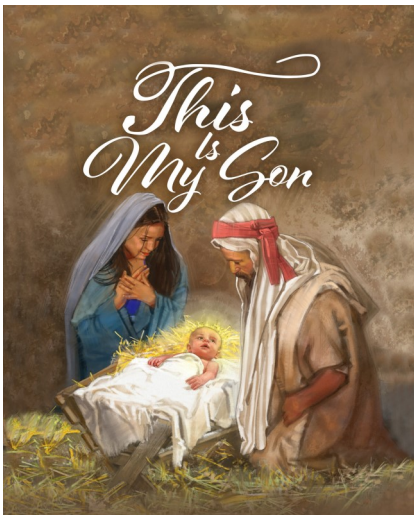


John Siebenmann

Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday, November 23 | Service with Communion at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for worship as we gather in thankfulness to give praise to our God.



Advent: This Is My Son

During the Advent season, we prepare our hearts to focus on Jesus being born as a humble human baby. He is both son of Mary and Son of God, the ultimate son of Adam who fulfilled the Law and Prophets. Through Him, we take on our identity as children of God, heirs to heaven and made new in baptism. Explore the theme of sonhood through Jesus, biblical sons, and our identity as children of the heavenly Father.

Advent Midweek:

Fellowship Meals at 6:00 p.m. | Services at 7:00 p.m.
November 30 | December 7 | December 14

VOTERS' MEETING

Voters' Meeting

A congregational voters' meeting will be held after services on Sunday, November 13. Please join us in the Family Life Center at 12:30 p.m. An agenda for the meeting will be posted on the bulletin board.



Special Event on November 3

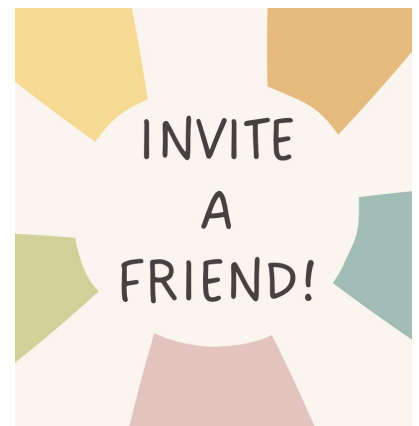
The Archbishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) will be here at Bethany on Thursday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to attend this event featuring Rev. Dr. Joseph Ochola Omolo, as this is an opportunity to learn about the ways the Lord is at work in the church all around the world!

A meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend the meal.

November Evangelism Challenge

There are ways we can all live and share God's love with those around us. Last month your evangelism challenge was to write a note to our sponsor students, Yvonne and Lorine, through Project 24 in Kenya.

In November, your evangelism challenge is to invite a friend to Bethany! What can you invite them to? There will be a fun game event on November 6 (see below) with food and fellowship. Another great way to invite friends is to bring them to church with you on Sundays — guests are always welcome at services, Sunday School, and Bible study!



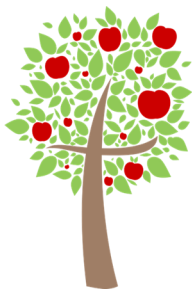
Game Fellowship: Invite a Friend!

Plan to join your Bethany family for a game day after second service on Sunday November 6, and please invite a friend to join us! Games for this fun fellowship event will include cards, board games for all ages, cornhole... and whatever favorite games that you wish to bring and share. Pizza will be provided for lunch for anyone who is interested. You are welcome to bring a salad, snack, or dessert, if you wish (but certainly not required!). Please sign up at the welcome center or contact Becky McCarley so that we have an idea of who and how many to expect. Hope to see you there!

Stephen Ministry

Rev. Kris Kincaid, pastor at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Dubuque was the guest presenter for the area-wide continuing education event for Stephen Ministry congregations. Rev. Kincaid is author of the book "Living with Grief, Bound by Sorrow, Wrapped in Comfort." At the October 17 event he shared his personal journey of pain and sorrow. The message shared was that: Jesus lives, death has died, and you are not alone.





Growing in Faith Sunday School

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 each Sunday in the lower level. If it is your child's first time attending Sunday School, please accompany them downstairs and bring them to the Sunday School office, and someone will be happy to show you to their classroom! Not sure where to go while your child is in Sunday School? All parents are invited to Pastor Erickson's Bible study for adults in the Family Life Center.

Family Faith Night: Wednesday, November 9

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, November 9. 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.

Our lesson on November 9 is "Slaying the Giant." We will look at the familiar story of the shepherd boy David fighting against the Philistine giant, Goliath. David's seemingly impossible victory shines a new light on Good Friday and the seeming impossibility of Jesus defeating our greatest enemies, armed with nothing but a cross made of wood.

Parents will cover chapters 5 & 6 of "Boundaries" during the adult session.



Senior Worship

Thursday, November 17, 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.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship packets were sent to Bethany members in October. Prayerfully consider your tithes and offerings and discern how God is calling you to give in 2023. Please return your pledge card to the church office.



Angel Tree

Bethany will participate in the Angel Tree program again this year. The tree will be up in the Gathering Area by Thanksgiving Eve. If you would like to buy a Christmas gift for a child on behalf of their incarcerated parent, please take an angel from the tree and bring your gift to Bethany by December 11.

Christmas Collection

The Women's Guild will collect money for Hy-Vee gift cards for Bethany members in need. Please consider contributing to your fellow members at Christmas by placing your donation in the offering plate starting November 20. Please put donations in an envelope marked "Christmas Giving" and place in the offering plate or turn into the church office.

Quilts for World Relief

The sewing group will not meet in November or December but will start again in January 2023.

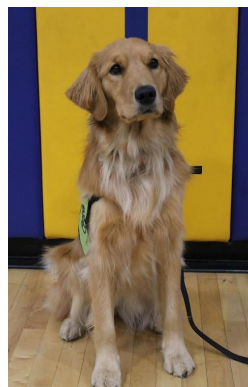
We are always in need of bed sheets you are no longer using, which are used for quilt insides. We can also use cotton fabric and yarn.



Joy's Journal

Hello, Bethany FURiends! Gosh, the Lord has provided me with the best job! I love meeting all of you, getting your pets, and hopefully giving you some comfort and JOY! But nothing compares to the comfort God gives us. He even tells us about comfort in Isaiah 40:1 when he says, "Comfort, comfort, ye my people." What a blessing to know that God comforts us when we need it.

As you know, last month was special when my people and I were commissioned to go out and bring God's word to people. I also got to meet Miss Bonnie and I started going to Trinity Lutheran School every Thursday morning. What a fun way to start the day!





Dear Bethany Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We want to thank everyone for the prayers, thoughts, kind words, meals, and financial support provided during our family's time of need. We truly believe we witnessed a miracle as our prayers were answered for our son and family. Trevor walked out of the hospital on October 7th and has returned home. Trevor and his family continue to need Bethany's prayers for the foreseeable future. The first surgery on his left hand is scheduled for November 14th. His right hand will need multiple surgeries over the next few months. Trevor's goal is to return to work in January, 2023. We continue to be humbled by God's grace and unending love.

"Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind." ~ Psalms 107:19-21

- Mike and Dawn Thomas

Serve the Lord Day

Thank you to everyone who helped our trustees care for the maintenance of our facilities! Bethany friends gathered on October 22 to work on various projects inside and outside the church building.



Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated blood on October 25! The American Red Cross collected 23 units of blood at our drive. Please look for another blood drive to come at Bethany this spring.

Especially For You Race Against Breast Cancer

Bethany had a team of 12 in this year's 32nd annual race. Over 16,000 were registered for the event! The Especially for You fund provides coverage for breast, ovarian, uterine, and more cancer screenings and diagnostic testing. The funds cover doctor office visits, diagnostic exams, PET scans, occupational therapy visits and more. It also supports individuals in need who may be without health insurance underserved or underinsured, have high deductibles and unable to afford co-payments.





Bethany Lutheran FOOD PANTRY

How much food has been going through the pantry?

Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry has received 44,874 pounds of food from HACAP in the last 12 months (since October 2021). The total value of this food was \$80,835, and Bethany paid only \$2,754. Since we receive food at a discounted cost, we ask for donations of household cleaning and personal care items.

I'd love to get involved! What can I do?

Each Sunday we need six volunteers to staff the food pantry at 12:30-3:00 p.m. To volunteer, please sign up online at www.bethanycr.org/food-pantry. If you would like to know more about the pantry, Nurse Ronda would be glad to talk about any part of the pantry and/or give you a tour.

Monday Morning Outreach

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 neighbors who stop by. This outreach 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 unique ministry, sign up for a Monday at www.bethanycr.org/serve.



Holy Yoga Open House

Holy Yoga class is held every Saturday at 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Opening Room (use the back entrance to access the lower level).

Please join us for an **open house** yoga and brunch on Saturday, November 12 at 9:00-10:30 a.m. Please register for the open house by contacting Julie Rosenberg, or contact the church office at 319-364-6026.

Staffing Update

On September 30 we wished Godspeed to Missy Gingrich as she retired from her role as office manager at Bethany. We give thanks to Missy for her years of service to God and His people here at Bethany.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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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	www.bethanycr.org
Email	office.bethanycr@gmail.com
Phone	319-364-6026
	facebook.com/bethanycr