# Bethany Beacon

Holy Week Services



Maundy Thursday Service

April 6 7:00 PM **Good Friday Service** 

April 7 7:00 PM







Easter Services

6:30 AM 8:30 AM 11:00 AM Easter Breakfast 9:30 - 11:00 AM



Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 AM





Bethany Living and Sharing God's Love

PASTOR'S PAGE 2

"that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time..."

- I Corinthians 15:4-6a

Listening to the very first Christians, through the witness of Holy Scripture and other writings of the era, there are two things that they all believed without a doubt. There were two things they believed that flied in the face of conventional Jewish and Gentile thinking. There were two things they believed that by themselves wouldn't have been that big of a deal but taken together revealed and completed God's plan of salvation for all people and changed the world forever. These two things are that the tomb of Jesus Christ was empty on Easter morning and that He appeared to people after it was discovered that the tomb was empty.

Just think about that for a moment. If Jesus' tomb was found to be empty but no one had ever seen Jesus again, all sorts of explanations could have been given. Given the time and the circumstances of Jesus' crucifixion and death, an empty tomb would have been a puzzle, or maybe even a tragedy, but there could have been countless explanations for the emptiness on Easter morning. Likewise, not much news would have been made if people had "seen" Jesus, but the stone had not been rolled away to reveal there was no body to be found inside. Again, in the ancient world visions and hallucinations were not uncommon, so explanations could have been given. However, take those two things and put them together and the first Christians could only come to one conclusion: Jesus Christ is the Son of God who rose from the dead, just as He had promised.

The impact this had on Peter, John, Mary and the other very first Christians cannot be overstated. Their entire first-century Jewish worldview was completely changed and their lives would be forever refocused away from themselves. Did the empty tomb and Jesus' appearances mean

that their lives would be easy? Of course not. The fact that Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record Jesus saying that anyone who follows Him must deny themselves and take up their crosses proves reminds all of Jesus' disciples of the "cost" of following Him. But just as Jesus took up the full glory of the resurrection after suffering the cross, so too may His cross-bearing followers look forward to their own share of that glory. The empty tomb and His post resurrection appearances guarantees it.

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord this month and remember His appearances to hundreds of people afterwards, I would encourage all of us to take a moment to reflect on what this means for us today. To be sure, many of us have been living as disciples of the resurrected Lord for quite some time and maybe have gotten used to it. It may be impossible to think of a time when we didn't know that "Jesus is risen". But it also seems easy to forget about this basic fact of our faith in the busy world today. With wars, disasters, sickness, and other troubles always surrounding us, it is easy to forget about our resurrection glory that we share with Jesus. Therefore, it is worth considering the hope and glory of Jesus' resurrection more than just one Sunday ever Spring. We should live every day of our lives as individuals and as a congregation knowing that He has risen indeed. Alleluia!

+ Pastor Erickson



PRAYER PAGE

#### Thanksgiving:

Dave (relative of \*Jennet Volden) - recovered after accident

#### Illness, injuries, health issues:

Mickie (visitor)- recovering after broken ankle Ezra (infant son of Ben Venteicher)- hospitalization Lysander (friend of \*Kroemers)- recovering after hospitalization Mary Jean (mother of \*Greg Dunn)- recovering after surgery Kathy (sister of \*Mark Holt) - recovering after transplant Jill (cousin of \*Karen Pfeffer) - recovering after transplant Jim (brother of \*Ed Schumacher) - recovering after surgery Don (friend of \*Mary Vezina) - recovering after surgery Ann (relative of \*Elaine Behrens) - recovering after surgery Lorena (sister of \*Brenda Heims) - recovering after surgery Marcia (relative of \*Brenda Heims) - health issues Jean (mother of \*Kristi Montague) - recovering after stroke Raymond (father of Lora Raymon) - health issues Trevor (son of \*Thomas') - recovering after hospitalization Sylvia (aunt of \*Patricia Hinrichs) - health issues Rhonda (friend of \*Larsons) - health issues Teri (relative of \*Schoens) - health issues Judy (relative of \*Brenda Heims) - health issues Tom Mark (former member) - recovering after accident 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:

Devin- (friend of \*Kroemers)- IA Army National Guard Ben - IA 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:

Clarence (brother of Luci Stoelting)- died 3/8 \*Melba Davison- died 2/28

#### **Homebound members of Bethany:**

- \*Wayne Schilling Linn Manor Care Center, Marion Candi Engel Heritage Care Center
- \*Nadine Wax at home
- \*Del Block The Gardens
- \*Tom Stock at home
- \*Larry & \*Sharon Easler Summit Pointe, Marion
- \*Darlene Eckert at home
- \*Melba Davison Terrace Glen Village, Marion
- \*Shirley Kellogg Terrace Glen Village, Marion
- \*Dorothy Freese Keystone Place

#### Cancer/Hospice:

Don (father of \*Angie Pfeil)- hospice care
Glen (brother of \*Rob Sieck)- hospice care
Angie (friend of \*Deb Heitland)- cancer
Alice (friend of \*Brenda Heims) - cancer
Chuck (father of \*Jim Novitch) - cancer
Courtney (Monday am coffee friend) - cancer treatment
Francis (friend of \*Larsons) - 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
Tony (friend of \*Mike Thomas) - cancer
David (relative of \*Hasses) - cancer immunotherapy
Julie (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 319-364-6026 or email to nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.

CALENDAR 4

6		F:1 A 1144			
Saturday, April 1		Friday, April 14	D		
	LWML Event at Our Redeemer I.C.		Rebekah Circle		
	Holy Yoga - Opening Room	Saturday, April 1			
Sunday, April 2	Food Dontay Onon		Holy Yoga - Opening Room		
•	Food Pantry Open	Sunday, April 16	Food Donton Onco		
•	Pickleball	•	Food Pantry Open		
Monday, April 3	Coffee Outreach	•	Pickleball		
		Monday, April 17	Coffee Outreach		
	Women's Small Group		Women's Small Group		
•	LWML Board Meeting Trustees Meeting	Tuesday, April 18	•		
Tuesday, April 4	Trustees Meeting		Walking Exercise		
• •	Walking Exercise		Handbells Practice		
	Evangelism Meeting	Wednesday, Apri			
· ·	Handbells Practice	• • •	Men's Bible Study		
Wednesday, Apri			Cottage Grove Devotion		
• • •	Men's Bible Study	·	Confirmation		
	Confirmation	•	High School Youth		
•	High School Youth	•	Vocal Choir		
•	Vocal Choir	Thursday, April 2			
Thursday, April 6		• • •	Adult Bible Study		
• • •	Adult Bible Study		Walking Exercise		
	Walking Exercise		Senior Worship		
	Human Care Meeting		Christian Faith Class		
•	Maundy Thursday Service	Saturday, April 2			
Friday, April 7	Madnay Marsaay Service	• • •	Serve the Lord Day		
• •	Good Friday Service		Holy Yoga - Opening Room		
Saturday, April 8	3334	Sunday, April 23			
• • •	Holy Yoga - Opening Room		Blood Pressure Checks - Office		
Sunday, April 9	men, regar e perimo neem		Food Pantry Open		
• • •	Sunrise Service	•	Pickleball		
	Easter Breakfast	Monday, April 24			
	Easter Egg Hunt	• • •	Coffee Outreach		
	Food Pantry Open	10:00 am	Women's Small Group		
Monday, April 10		Tuesday, April 25			
• • •	Coffee Outreach		Walking Exercise		
10:00 am	Women's Small Group		Handbells Practice		
	Stephen Ministry Supervision	Wednesday, Apri	I 26		
7:00 pm	Council Meeting	6:00 am	Men's Bible Study		
Tuesday, April 11		6:00 pm	Confirmation		
9:00 am		6:00 pm	High School Youth		
9:00 am	Walking Exercise	6:30 pm	Vocal Choir		
6:30 pm	Handbells Practice	Thursday, April 2	7		
Wednesday, Apri	l 12	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study		
6:00 am	Men's Bible Study	9:00 am	Walking Exercise		
5:30 pm	Family Meal	1:30 pm	Blood Drive		
6:00 pm	Family Faith Night	7:00 pm	Christian Faith Class		
Thursday, April 1	3	Saturday, April 29	9		
9:00 am	Adult Bible Study	9:00 am	Holy Yoga - Opening Room		
9:00 am	Walking Exercise	Sunday, April 30			
1:00 pm	Leah Circle	9:45 am	Confirmation Examination		
6:30 pm	Naomi Circle				
7.00	CL 1 II F 11 CL				

7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

# **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

4/1 4/4 4/6	Madison Rinderknecht Rebecca Ballstaedt Karen Schmidt	4/13 4/15 4/16	Katheryn Holtz Carol Edwards Lynn Madsen	4/24 4/25	Ray McGraw Bonnie Bubke Abby Bogner
4/8	Lorna Fischer		Evan Ranbarger	4/26	Joe Milbach
	Gabriel Fountain	4/17	Kim McGinnis	4/27	Karen Swalley
4/9	Larry Easler	4/18	Steve Hanchera		Marlys Jaspersen
	JJ Theriault	4/20	Colin Vande Weerd	4/28	Michelle Hedtke
	Daphne Dohrmann		Carol Grimminger	4/29	Charlotte Crawford
4/10	Marcus Smith		Jamie Larson	4/30	Darren Bogner
4/11	Janet Hoech	4/21	Kim Neuhaus		Sandy Thorington

# **APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

4/4	Phil & Shirley Hoppe	4/16	Prudy & Don Petersen
4/8	Craig & Renee Riffey	4/24	Phil & Michelle Hedtke



# **Good Friday Service at Trinity**

Area LCMS congregations are invited to the community Good Friday service at Trinity Lutheran School. Service will be held at noon on Friday, April 7 in the school gym (1361 7th Ave SW). Join us as we remember Jesus Christ's death on the cross as atonement for our sins. The offering collected at this service will be given to Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry.

#### **Thank You**

Thank you doesn't come close to expressing the gratitude I have for the different committees and parishioners from Bethany. The thoughtfulness and regards shows me that the ministry here is strong and prevalent toward God's intentions. Thanks to all.

-Rick Foreman





# **Bible Study Survey**

Please take a survey to help us expand the types and availability of Bible studies at Bethany.



The Bible study survey can be taken online (use QR code or visit bethanyer.org/bible-study-survey) or you can complete a print copy from the Welcome Center and turn it in to the office.

# Project 24: Christ's Care for Children in Kenya

Project 24 is a Lutheran mission in Kenya that Bethany started supporting in 2021. In May 2021 we launched a year-long goal to support Project 24 with a commitment of \$10,000 (\$2,160 to support two students for one year, plus \$7,840 for the Project 24 general fund).

In March 2022 the Board of Evangelism announced the plan to continue support of this mission, with the goal of raising an additional \$10,000 over the next year.



#### The following quarterly gifts have been sent to Project 24:

June 2021 \$2,500 (100% funded by congregational gifts)
September 2021 \$2,500 (100% funded by congregational gifts)
December 2021 \$2,500 (100% funded by congregational gifts)
March 2022 \$2,500 (100% funded by congregational gifts)

June 2022 \$2,500 (83% funded by congregational gifts & 17% funded by Evangelism budget)

September 2022 \$2,500 (100% funded by congregational gifts)
December 2022 \$2,500 (100% funded by congregational gifts)
March 2023 \$2,500 (100% funded by congregational gifts)

Over the course of two years, we have sent a total of \$20,000 to Project 24 (\$4,320 to support sponsor students Yvonne and Lorine, plus \$15,680 to support the general fund). Bethany members have gone above and beyond to give generously. After sending \$20,000 we have a surplus of \$5,379 in the fund.

Our goal for the next year (through Spring 2024) is to continue supporting Project 24 students Yvonne and Lorine, for a total of \$2,160.



# **April Evangelism Challenge**

There are ways we can all live and share God's love with those around us. In March you were challenged to perform an act of kindness.

Let's use social media to point people to Jesus! This month, your evangelism challenge is to post a positive Christian message on your social media page. Want to share a Bethany post for this challenge? Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/bethanycria or on Instagram at @bethanylutherancr.

# Senior Worship

Join us for Senior Worship on Thursday, April 20 Service at 11:00 AM | Luncheon to follow



#### **Lenten Meal Thrivent Action Team**

The Lydia Circle applied for and was accepted to receive a Thrivent Community Impact Card. We received black t-shirts for each to wear with a heart and wording on them "Live Generously" on the front. Pictured are the ladies who helped with the meal preparation, serving, and cleanup! We used the Thrivent cash card to purchase food items for the Lenten Service meal that was served by the Lydia Circle. The Rebekah and Naomi Circles provided the salads and desserts.

The remainder balance on the card was used to buy needed items for the Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry. Thanks to members' generosity, the freewill collection was \$327 and will be used for LWML mission projects in the future!



# **5-Can Casserole Project**

Bethany LWML and the Bethany Food Pantry would like to thank the congregation for their support of our 5 Can Casserole Project. We were able to assemble and distribute 58 foil pans with all the ingredients needed to make a casserole. Many of our neighbors were blessed by your generosity.





# **Food Pantry Spring Cleaning Challenge**

We are grateful to receive donations for Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry throughout the year. In April, our Spring Cleaning Challenge begins! Please participate by donating cleaning products for our neighbors who visit the pantry every Sunday afternoon. Cleaning items go fast and are greatly needed in the community. If you are able to, please bring your donations to Bethany and place them at the pantry donation table. Items needed are laundry detergent pods, small dish soap, glass cleaner, all purpose cleaner, hand soap, sanitizing wipes, paper towels, and dryer sheets. Please bring items by April 23. Thank you for your generosity!

#### **Council Connection**

Welcome to the Council Connection! The purpose of this section is to keep you updated on status, decisions, and other happenings from the Church Council. Look for the latest in each month's Beacon.

Our most recent Council meeting was on March 14. Here are the highlights:

- **Bible study survey is live** We are in the process of collecting information from congregation members on their preferences to broaden our Bible study offerings. Please take some time to fill it out (the average time so far is 2 minutes and 40 seconds!!). You can get a paper copy in the church office or get the link in Bethany emails throughout the week. Soon after, look for announcements on the results and new ways we can spend time in the Word.
- Let's all pitch in Our next "Serve the Lord Day" is approaching. On April 22, many congregation members will spend some time at the church in service to clean, fix, and update under the guidance of the trustees. Please consider spending some time in fellowship for this great cause.
- You reap what you sow A team of caring individuals from the congregation are working to put in a garden at the church! The fruits of our labor will support the food pantry. If you have a green thumb or just want to help, peas watch for details soon! Lettuce create an un-beet-able garden. Too corny?
- Put the Vision into action. The boards are focused on documenting ministries / plans that support the Vision. They are describing what we will keep doing (things that are going well), things we will sunset / discontinue (mission accomplished!), and new ideas / areas / ministries to best support the Vision. If you have ideas in these areas, please contact the board chairs listed below. The goal is to complete the creation of the plans in the next couple of months then get to work implementing!
- **Dementia care discussion** After Easter, some folks will discuss how we could offer support to our congregational members that are affected by dementia. See Nurse Ronda for details.
- LCMS National Offering The 2023-26 LCMS National Offering, under the theme "We Preach Christ Crucified for All People," will support the translation and production of meaningful Lutheran resources in languages other than English, so that all may read, hear, and speak the Good News of Christ crucified in a language easily understood. For more information or to donate, go to www.lcms.org and search for "national offering."
- Synod elections It is nearly time to make our congregation's nominations for President, First Vice-President, and Regional Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We are allowed one pastoral and one lay voter. Pastor Erickson will serve as the pastoral voter and the Council voted to have Darrell serve as the lay voter.
- Come as you are! The congregation is welcome to attend Council meetings. We meet monthly (next one is April 10 at 7:00 p.m.). During these meetings, we ask visitors to be "spectators" instead of active participants. Thank you!

#### Please pray for your Church Council!

Ronda Anderson (Parish Nurse), Darrell Chiavetta (Council Chair), Julie Elias (Council Treasurer), Pastor Erickson, Kelly Frampton (Recording Secretary), Steve Hanchera (Elders Chair), Laura Holt (Financial Secretary), Dave Johnson (Endowment Chair), Debbie Mills (Education Chair), Mary Nanke (Stewardship Chair), Lissa Novitch (Evangelism Chair), and Rita Tiedt (Human Care Chair)

February 2023 Stats	
Average Sunday Attendance	190 Souls
Total Income	\$36,483.55



# **Serve the Lord Day**

Our Trustees will host a "Serve the Lord Day" on Saturday, April 22. Please plan to come help the trustees care for the maintenance of our facilities that day at 8:00-11:00 a.m. There will be a variety of projects to work on. If you are unable to help on April 22, you may sign up for a project to work on at the Welcome Center.

# Joy's Journal

Hello Bethany FURiends! I have a SPRING in my steps these days because of the weather! That means more outside walks for me! I have had fun coming to Sunday school and being with the Bethany kiddos. I also like sitting in with the junior and senior high school classes – I am learning a lot! I will be around Sunday school most Sundays and I hope to see you all there.

I also made several visits in March, including meeting some new FURiends. My handlers, ministry partners, and I love making connections in the community and bringing JOY to others and reminding them how much God loves them.









# Women's Small Group

The Monday group will go through a five-week study April 24 - May 22: "Great Women of the Bible." Books are \$10. If you would like a copy of "Great Women of the Bible," please contact Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com by April 5. All women are welcome to join the group Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

# Men's Bible Study

Bethany men meet via Zoom on Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m. study. All men are welcome and encouraged to participate in this group for study and fellowship! If you would like the link to the Zoom meeting, please contact the church office at office.bethanycr@gmail.com.



#### **Blood Drive**

An American Red Cross blood drive will be held at Bethany on Thursday, April 27. The drive will take place 1:30-5:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Make an appointment online or by phone:

- call 1-800-REDCROSS
- bethanycr.org/blood-drive



# Get your blood pressure checked at Bethany every fourth Sunday at 9:30 AM

There are many myths surrounding hypertension (high blood pressure). Let's look at a few and BUST them with the FACTS!!

**Myth:** I don't use table salt, so I'm in control of my sodium intake and my blood pressure.



**Fact:** In some people, sodium can increase blood pressure. But controlling sodium means more than just putting down the salt shaker. It also means checking labels, because up to 75 percent of the sodium we consume is hidden in processed foods like tomato sauce, soups, condiments, canned foods and prepared mixes. When buying prepared and prepackaged foods, read the labels. Watch for the words "soda" and "sodium" and the symbol "Na" on labels. These words show that sodium compounds are present.

Myth: I use kosher or sea salt when I cook instead of regular table salt. They are low-sodium alternatives.

**Fact:** Chemically, kosher salt and sea salt are the same as table salt — 40 percent sodium— and count the same toward total sodium consumption. Table salt is a combination of the two minerals sodium (Na) and chloride (Cl).

Here's a myth related to why we check blood pressure monthly here at Bethany!!

Myth: I have high blood pressure and my doctor checks it for me. I don't need to check it at home.

**Fact:** Because blood pressure can fluctuate, home monitoring and recording of blood pressure readings can provide your health care professional with valuable information to determine whether you really have high blood pressure and, if you do, whether your treatment plan is working. It's important to take the readings at the same time each day, or as your health care professional recommends.



# **Sewing Quilts for World Relief**

On Tuesday, April 11, the Special Projects Committee will tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief in the Family Life Center at 9:00 a.m. to noon. Stop in for an hour or stay the whole time; we appreciate any time you can give! Bring a sack lunch for fellowship after quilting. Contact Betty Happel or Donna Bogner for more details.

#### **Dementia Education**

Dementia has physical, psychological, social and economic impacts, not only for people experiencing the condition, but also for caregivers, families and society at large. Zion Lutheran Church and Skoog Dementia Support LLC is hosting a series to offer education on how to understand dementia and how to work with the condition to decrease the stigma and stress. There is no fee for this series but registration is recommended. To register, please call Teri Skoog at 319-329-0857 or email skoog.dementia@gmail.com. The series will be held on Tuesdays at 1:00-2:30 p.m. for four weeks:

April 18 - Dementia 101 May 2 - Dementia Live Experience

April 25 - Dementia Friendly Initiative May 9 - Gifts in Dementia.

# **Donate Prizes for Care Center Bingo**

The Women's Guild needs stuffed animals for bingo prizes for the care center. The stuffed animals should be the size of Beanie Babies (about 8 inches). Contact Nancy Owens or Lorna Fisher



# **Trinity Lutheran School**

Trinity Lutheran School is now enrolling! Enrollment for 2023-2024 is now open for preschool through eighth grade. If you are looking for a Christ-centered education, schedule a tour or request information at www.trinitycr.org or call 319-362-6952.

### Office Staff

- Anne Railsback (officemanager.bethanycr@gmail.com) is our new Financial Manager. She handles the bookkeeping and payroll, and is in the office Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Anne was recently married to Joseph on New Years Day and will join Bethany after the new member class.
- Tina Freese (office.bethanycr@gmail.com) joined staff as the Office Administrator. She works all day Mondays and Wednesdays, and mornings on Tuesdays and Fridays. Her position entails keeping track of members and visitors, being the face of Bethany when people stop by or call, ordering supplies, and many other things that keep an office functioning. Tina is a long time Bethany member.
- Maren Elm (comm.bethanycr@gmail.com) has returned to the office from maternity leave, but now in a part-time capacity as our Communications Coordinator. She is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays and handles all things "news" related (publishing bulletins and Beacons, managing our website and social media pages, creating announcement slides, and emailing news updates).

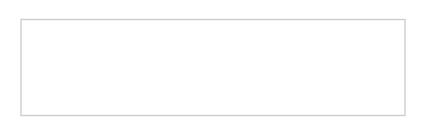


#### ት■ Announcements

Information for the May Beacon is due Thursday, April 20. To submit an announcement, please give details to Communications Coordinator Maren Elm. You may email her at comm.bethanycr@gmail.com, or complete a form at bethanycr.org/announcement-request

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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 facebook.com/bethanycria