

Bethany Beacon

MAY 2023



Confirmation 2023

Bethany confirmation students will profess their faith at public examination on Sunday, April 30 at 9:45 a.m. All are welcome to attend in the Family Life Center.

God's blessings to these confirmands who will affirm their baptismal vows in the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, May 7 at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Please pray for these students as they continue to grow in their faith as confirmed members of Bethany!

2023 Confirmands

Tristan Bond
Ella Bricker
Camden Brusius
Natalie Heller
Landon Oja
Evan Ranbarger
Madison Rinderknecht
Alex Theriault



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” – Acts 2:4

On Sunday, May 28, Bethany will be celebrating the day of Pentecost. This festival remembering the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' disciples in Acts 2, gives us a picture of how the Holy Spirit continues to work in the hearts of everyone who follows Jesus today. For, from the moment the disciples in Acts 2 were filled with the Holy Spirit, they talked nothing about their own works, be they good or evil. Instead, it was only God's great works that became important and comforting to them.

Today, the Holy Spirit does not give a person great thoughts about him or herself – thoughts about their holiness, their merits that make them better than everyone else, or their worth above others. In fact, it seems to be just the opposite! As soon as the Spirit enters into the heart of an individual, they become small and more modest. Not only do they stop despairing over their sin, but they also know there is nothing about themselves in which they can boast. They are insignificant in their own eyes, but understand the greatness of God's love for them and all people. And therefore, they are unable to hide from those around them the joy they now have. With the Psalmist they declare, “Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul” (Psalm 66:16). The person without the Holy Spirit goes on and on talking about what they have done and the “glorious” things of this world. But the person with the Spirit, speaks of what God has done for sinners, including themselves.

When this happened to the disciples in Acts 2, their message produced two effects on their hearers. Some were amazed and perplexed, recognizing that the apostles were speaking in their

own language. But others mocked them, saying that they were filled with new wine. The last 2000 years has shown that this is always the case of those filled with the Spirit. When Christians hear about God's great deeds, they immediately recognize this as being in their own language and know of the same types of experiences and work. Regardless of where they are from, they become one body with Christ as its head. But when unbelievers hear a Christian speaking about the great deeds of God, without the Holy Spirit working upon their heart, they respond that the Christian is drunk, a fanatic, or mentally unstable.

Christians need to remember these things at all times, but especially as we approach Pentecost this year. Do we spend our time lifting up ourselves and our own works, so that we may be praised by the world around us? Or have our hearts and tongues been proclaiming the great things God has done in our lives and for our world? Have we then heard God's people say, “Yes and Amen” to our witness while the children of the world mock us and call us all sorts of names? As we celebrate Pentecost and move through the “long green season” that follows, may we remember God giving us His Spirit so that we may not focus on ourselves, but on the great things that God has done through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



✝ Pastor Erickson

Thanksgiving:

Raymond (father of *Lora Raymon) - improved health

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Merlin (grandfather of *Dathan Hinrichs)- health issues
 Oliver (friend of *Rick Heller)- recovering after accident
 Gloria (granddaughter of *Kim Neuhaus)- personal 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
 Trevor (son of *Thomases) - 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 (son of *Kroemers)- 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:

Aiden (relative of *Kierra Penney)- died 4/16
 Michele (sister of *Melissa Loney)- died 4/10
 Pastor Loesch (father of *Angie Pfeil)- died 4/8

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
 *Verlyn & *Paul LeFevere- at home

Cancer/Hospice:

Joanne- cancer
 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.

Monday, May 1

- 6:30 am Coffee Outreach
- 10:00 am Women's Small Group
- 1:30 pm LWML Board Meeting
- 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting
- 6:00 pm Stewardship Meeting

Tuesday, May 2

- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 6:00 pm Evangelism Meeting
- 6:30 pm Handbells Practice

Wednesday, May 3

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

Thursday, May 4

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 6:00 pm Human Care Meeting
- 7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Saturday, May 6

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, May 7

- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open
- 4:00 pm Pickleball

Monday, May 8

- 6:30 am Coffee Outreach
- 10:00 am Women's Small Group
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision
- 7:00 pm Elders Meeting

Tuesday, May 9

- 9:00 am Quilting
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 6:30 pm Handbells Practice
- 7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 10

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

Thursday, May 11

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 1:00 pm Leah Circle
- 6:30 pm Naomi Circle
- 7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Friday, May 12

- 9:00 am Rebekah Circle

Saturday, May 13

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, May 14

- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open
- 4:00 pm Pickleball

Monday, May 15

- 6:30 am Coffee Outreach
- 10:00 am Women's Small Group

Tuesday, May 16

- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 1:00 pm Dementia Class
- 6:30 pm Handbells Practice

Wednesday, May 17

- 6:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotion
- 6:00 pm Youth Group at Speedeezz
- 6:30 pm Vocal Choir

Thursday, May 18

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 11:00 am Senior Worship
- 7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Saturday, May 20

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, May 21

- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open
- 4:00 pm Pickleball

Monday, May 22

- 6:30 am Coffee Outreach
- 10:00 am Women's Small Group
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed.

Tuesday, May 23

- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 1:00 pm Dementia Class
- 6:30 pm Handbells Practice

Wednesday, May 24

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

Thursday, May 25

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Saturday, May 27

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, May 28

- 9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks - Office
- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open
- 4:00 pm Pickleball

Monday, May 29

Tuesday, May 30

- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 1:00 pm Dementia Class
- 6:30 pm Handbells Practice

Wednesday, May 31

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

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

Family FAITH NIGHT

Family Faith Night

Our next Family Faith Nights will be on Wednesdays, May 10 and June 14. All students in preschool through 12th grade AND their parents are encouraged to attend! A meal is served at 5:30, and the program takes place at 6:00-7:30. For more information and to sign up, please visit www.bethanycr.org/children-youth



Coffee Makers Needed

Enjoy having a cup of coffee on Sunday mornings? We could use some more volunteers to help make coffee! If you are interested in serving on Sundays, please contact the church office, or sign up for a date at the coffee counter. If this is your first time serving, you will be trained!



Adult Bible Study

Pastor Erickson is currently leading a Bible study examining “A Chaste and Decent Life: An Update to ‘Human Sexuality’ 1981.” This document has been published by our synod this year as an update of its first writing on human sexuality in 1981. While perceptions of human sexuality may change, God’s design for it does not. This document and our study will equip Christians to speak of Christ into the darkness of today’s culture where so many are falling into confusion and hopelessness. Join this study on **Sundays at 9:45-10:45 a.m.**

Youth Go-Karting

Youth in 7th-12th grade: join us for a fun night of go-karting on Wednesday, May 17! Please meet at 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Speedeez Indoor Karting, located at 1120 33rd Ave. SW. For details, please contact Darin at youth.bethanycr@gmail.com.



Thank You

To those of you who prayed for my healing, who sent a card, gave me a hug, delivered a meal, walked my dog, gave me a ride, called to say “hi” or “how are ya,” ran an errand or watched a movie with me: Please know that you are a total blessing! My son told me, “Mom, your church friends are Awesome Friends!” Being a part of Bethany is God’s community saying “You are loved by many and are never alone.” Having a Bethany friend is having Jesus as your friend. May God bless you and keep you. May His face shine upon you. With Love, Donna Birkicht

Senior Worship

Join us for Senior Worship on Thursday, May 18
Service at 11:00 AM | Luncheon to follow

Project 24: Christ's Care for Children in Kenya



Yvonne



Lorine

Project 24 is a Lutheran mission in Kenya. 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. Bethany sponsors two of these students, Yvonne and Lorine, through Christ's Care for Children in Kenya.

As sponsors, we have the privilege of writing quarterly letters to these students. **If you would like to write a note to Yvonne and Lorine for this quarter, please submit it by May 9.** You may turn in a handwritten note to the church office, or email your note to office.bethanycr@gmail.com.

If you would like to support Project 24 financially, contributions can be made at bethanycr.org/giving or by using one of the "Missions" giving envelopes found at the missions table outside the sanctuary.

May Evangelism Challenge

There are ways we can all live and share God's love with those around us. In April you were challenged to share a positive Christian message on your social media page.

This month, your evangelism challenge is to participate in "Paper-palooza" by donating paper products to Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry.



"Paper-Palooza" for Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone who participated in the April "Spring Cleaning Challenge" by donating cleaning products for Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry. The challenge continues this month with a twist: The Food Pantry Challenge in May is a "Paper-Palooza" drive. Help fill the pantry shelves with paper products! Please donate paper goods by May 28:

Paper Towels
Toilet Paper

Facial Tissues
13-gallon Trash Bags

Garden: Coming Soon!

A team of caring individuals from the congregation is working to put in a vegetable garden at the church! Take a peek around and you will see the tilling and planting beginning. The garden will be located next to the playground area. The harvest of vegetables will be provided to our food pantry neighbors.

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 April 10. Here are the highlights:

- **Bible study survey is complete** - We received 81 responses from congregation members on their preferences to broaden our Bible study offerings. We are now reviewing the information to determine the best path forward. Look for announcements on the results and new ways we can spend time in the Word.
- **Vegetables coming** - A team of caring individuals from the congregation is working to put in a garden at the church! Take a peek around and you will see the tilling and planting beginning this month! The harvest will be provided to our food pantry neighbors.
- **Put the vision into action** - Teams are coming up with ideas on how to bring our new vision to life. Using our survey and focus groups, the council is establishing short- and long-term plans. If you have ideas, please contact the board chairs listed below. The goal is to complete the creation of plans in the next couple of months then get to work implementing!
- **Watch for healthy foods** - The fifth Sunday in each month the church is offering healthy food alternatives to the congregation between services. Take a break from doughnut holes and enjoy!
- **Be a Care Warrior** - We have a team of "Care Warriors" who are on call to help members of the congregation and the community with a variety of projects. These ongoing opportunities to serve others have included helping people move, mowing people's grass, derecho clean-up, and more. To get your name on the list to be informed of opportunities, contact the office or Becky Johnson.
- **Helping Trinity renovate** - We recently offered to donate \$2,500 to Trinity to help their fund to develop a plan to renovate and expand the school.
- **Interested in going on a mission trip?** We are selecting potential trips for Bethany members to join. If you feel called to spread the Word in that manner, please contact Kierra Penney 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."

The congregation is welcome to attend council meetings. We meet monthly (next one is May 9 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)

March 2023 Stats	
Average Sunday Attendance	152 Souls
Contribution Revenue	\$50,174
Total Expenses	\$43,291



Serve the Lord Day

Thank you to everyone who came to help the trustees care for the maintenance of our facilities at a church clean-up day on April 22!



Joy's Journal

I hope you are having a JOYous spring! It is the time of year for all things new. I have met some new FURiends recently -- like Paul, students at the University of Iowa's Cru organization, and the nice lady from Cottage Grove with the beautiful top that has dogs all over it. Sharing about God's unconditional love for them is such a JOY! My job as Bethany's comfort dog is the best!

Blessings!





Blood Drive

An American Red Cross blood drive was held at Bethany on Thursday, April 27. Thank you to those who donated blood!

Blood Pressure Screening

Blood pressure screenings are available at Bethany every fourth Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m. All are encouraged to take advantage of these screenings, which take place in Nurse Ronda Anderson's office.



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.:

May 2 - Dementia Live Experience

May 9 - Gifts in Dementia.



Sewing Quilts for World Relief

On Tuesday, May 9, 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.



Graduation Open House

Abi Clark is graduating from Marion High School. The congregation is invited to her open house on Sunday, May 28, 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the Gathering Area at Bethany.

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca: Counselors Needed!

Looking for a summer job? Get that and more with a summer camp experience at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in Solon, IA is hiring for male and female camp counselors for this summer. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to spend your summer serving as a Christian role model for youth from Eastern Iowa and beyond! Employment begins May 30 and ends August 4. All summer staff go through training in early June to be fully trained in camp activities and safety, including CPR, AED, and first aid training. Candidates should be at least 18 years old. To get started, complete a summer service profile at www.nloma.org. For details, contact Alec at 319-848-4187, programdirector@iodiseca.org, or visit campiodiseca.org.



Trinity Lutheran School

Trinity Lutheran School is working with an architectural firm to form a master plan as to where and how Trinity can add needed space to their current school building. Trinity has been experiencing a steady increase in enrollment. In the last decade they have added staff, new technology, and have gotten very creative with their limited space. They are now exploring adding space by working on an expansion plan to meet the school's growing demands. Bethany's evangelism committee made a financial gift to help cover the fees for the master plan work, and received this note of thanks:

"We are partners in our service of sharing Christ with not only the families and children of our respective churches, but also the community at large. This makes your very generous gift even more meaningful to us. Thank you!"

Vanco Mobile App

Online contributions can be made using the Vanco mobile app. Download the free Vanco mobile app at your Google or Apple Store. Find our church on the app by searching for Bethany Lutheran.

You can also continue to contribute at www.bethanycr.org/giving. Please use the same user ID and password on the app as you use on the website.



Announcements

Information for the June Beacon is due Thursday, May 18. 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

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit #118
CEDAR RAPIDS IA, 52403

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