Bethany Beacon



A Ministry for Fathers and Father-Figures

Fathers, father-figures, and their children are invited to join us for Pancakes and Proverbs, a new ministry at Bethany that will be held on the first Saturday of the month.

We will have breakfast, a devotion, and a fun activity for fathers and their children to participate in.

Please plan to attend our very first Pancakes and Proverbs event on Saturday, July 1 at 8:00 a.m.



Bethany Living and Sharing God's Love

PASTOR'S PAGE 2

This month I'd like to share this note from LCMS Stewardship. + Pastor Erickson

"For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you"
- John 13:15

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you" (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job's already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus' generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: "The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity" (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So. when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each "as he has decided in his heart," as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love "in deed" (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord's work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.



 LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship PRAYER PAGE

Thanksgiving:

*Elizabeth (infant daughter of *Framptons)- baptized 5/21 Raymond (father of *Lora Raymon) - improved health Lysander (friend of *Kroemers) - recovered after hospitalization Illness, injuries, health issues:

Nancy (sister of *Julie Elias)- hospitalization after fall Mark (brother of *Anne Railsback)- tumor Chuck (friend of *Linda Patten)- health issues Margaret (relative of *Karl Hoech)- recovering after fall 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) - recovering 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

Grief, family and friends of:

*Stephen Stepanek- died 5/20
*Wayne Schilling - died 5/19
Larry (relative of Karstens and Sturtz)- died 5/3

Marj (sister of Luci Stoelting)- died 5/1

Homebound members of Bethany:

Candi Engel - Heritage Care Center

- *Nadine Wax at home
- *Del Block The Gardens
- *Tom Stock at home
- *Larry Easler- Hiawatha Care Center
- *Sharon Easler Summit Pointe, Marion
- *Shirley Kellogg Terrace Glen Village, Marion
- *Dorothy Freese Keystone Place
- *Verlyn & *Paul LeFevere- at home
- *Chuck Stoelting- Garnet Place

Cancer/Hospice:

Joanne— cancer
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

Thursday, June 1		Thursday, June 1	5	
9:00 am	Adult Bible Study	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study	
9:00 am	Walking Exercise	9:00 am	Walking Exercise	
6:00 pm	Human Care Meeting	11:00 am	Senior Worship	
7:00 pm	Christian Faith Class	Saturday, June 17		
Saturday, June 3		9:00 am	Dementia Workshop	
9:00 am	Holy Yoga - Opening Room	9:00 am	Holy Yoga - Opening Room	
Sunday, June 4		Sunday, June 18		
1:00 pm	Food Pantry Open	1:00 pm	Food Pantry Open	
Monday, June 5		5:00 pm	Emerging Adults	
6:30 am	Coffee Outreach	Monday, June 19		
1:30 pm	LWML Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Bible Study on Vocation	
6:00 pm	Trustees Meeting	Tuesday, June 20		
6:00 pm	Stewardship Meeting	9:00 am	Walking Exercise	
Tuesday, June 6		Wednesday, June	21	
9:00 am	Walking Exercise	6:00 am	Men's Bible Study	
6:00 pm	Evangelism Meeting	4:00 pm	Cottage Grove Devotion	
Wednesday, June	e 7	6:00 pm	High School Youth	
6:00 am	Men's Bible Study	6:30 pm	Vocal Choir	
6:00 pm	High School Youth	Thursday, June 2	2	
6:30 pm	Vocal Choir	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study	
Thursday, June 8		9:00 am	Walking Exercise	
9:00 am	Adult Bible Study	Saturday, June 24	4	
9:00 am	Walking Exercise	9:00 am	Holy Yoga - Opening Room	
6:00 pm	LWML Salad Supper	Sunday, June 25		
Saturday, June 1	0	9:30 am	Blood Pressure Checks - Office	
9:00 am	Holy Yoga - Opening Room	1:00 pm	Food Pantry Open	
Sunday, June 11		1:05 pm	Kernels Game Fellowship	
12:15 pm	Board of Education Meeting	5:00 pm	Emerging Adults	
1:00 pm	Food Pantry Open	Monday, June 26		
5:00 pm	Emerging Adults	6:00 pm	Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed.	
Monday, June 12	!	7:00 pm	Bible Study on Vocation	
6:00 pm	Stephen Ministry Supervision	Tuesday, June 27		
7:00 pm	Elders Meeting	9:00 am	Walking Exercise	
7:00 pm	Bible Study on Vocation	Wednesday, June	e 28	
Tuesday, June 13	;	6:00 am	Men's Bible Study	
9:00 am	Quilting	6:00 pm	High School Youth	
9:00 am	Walking Exercise	6:30 pm	Vocal Choir	
7:00 pm	Council Meeting	Thursday, June 2	9	
Wednesday, June	e 14	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study	
6:00 am	Men's Bible Study	9:00 am	Walking Exercise	
5:30 pm	Family Meal			
6:00 pm	Family Faith Night			
6:30 pm	Vocal Choir			

Senior Worship

Join us for Senior Worship on Thursday, June 15 Service at 11:00 AM | Luncheon to follow

JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

6/2	Carter Oja	6/12	Steve Wilson	6/23	Bev Munson
6/5	Barb Deetz	6/15	Jurnee Carr		Ashlyn Godbey
	Karissa Scott		Carter Keldgord	6/26	Whitney Hinz
6/6	Emily Loney	6/16	Taylor Donels	6/27	Dorothy Freese
	Beckham Hedtke	6/19	Debbie Mills		Marissa Keldgord
6/8	Nicholas Williams		Camden Brusius		Ben McClellan
6/9	Lora Raymon		Susan Schoen	6/30	Tyler Steggall
6/10	Luci Stoelting	6/20	Dawn Mims		
6/11	Velma Ziesemer		James Ball		

6/1	Rick & Marvelene Foreman	6/13	Rob & Sheila Willms
	E.J. & Trisha Brink		Drew & Carolyn Zimmerman
6/2	Mark & Julie Elias	6/14	Troy & Tracy Donels
6/5	Matt & Bridget Rinderknecht	6/15	Jim & Lissa Novitch
6/8	John & Karen Schaub	6/23	Gordon & Ethel Doehrmann
6/10	Dale & Bernice Stonewall	6/26	Dathan & Patricia Hinrichs
6/12	David & Elaine Behrens	6/28	Jeff & Donna Stranathan



New Adult Bible Study

A new adult Bible study will start Monday, June 12 at 7:00 p.m. This will be a six-week study on Monday evenings that dives into the topic of vocation. We will look at what vocation is and what that looks like in your everyday life. All adults are welcome to attend! For details, contact Kierra at intern.bethanycr@gmail.com.

Senior Recognition

Bethany will recognize graduating high school seniors on Sunday, June 11. God's blessings to Abi Clark, Jaden Harris, David Jasper, and Trae Robinson.

Please keep these students in your prayers as they follow God's calling into their next stage of life!





Family Faith Night

Our next Family Faith Night is on Wednesday, June 14. 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. Please visit bethanycr.org/children-youth to sign up.



Confirmation 2023

Bethany confirmation students professed their faith at public examination on April 30, and affirmed their baptismal vows in the Rite of Confirmation on May 7. God's blessings to these confirmands. Please pray for these students as they continue to grow in their faith as confirmed members of Bethany!

Pictured Front, L-R: Landon Oja, Evan Ranbarger, Tristan Bond, Ella Bricker

Pictured Back, L-R: Camden Brusius, Alex Theriault, Natalie Heller, Madison Rinderknecht



Fellowship Event: Baseball Game

Join Bethany friends on Sunday, June 25 at 1:05 p.m. to see the Cedar Rapids Kernels take on the Beloit Sky Carp. Special ticket pricing for Bethany members is \$10 for adults and kids under 18 are free! Kids 12 and under also get a free hot dog, popcorn, and drink courtesy of the Kernels.

Please sign up for tickets at the Welcome Center by Sunday, June 4.

Youth Go-Karting

Bethany youth enjoyed a night of gokarting at Speedeezz in Cedar Rapids on Wednesday, May 17.







Service Opportunity at His Hands Clinic

Bethany has set up a service project with His Hands Clinic for Saturday, June 24, at 10:00 a.m. The clinic is looking for volunteers to help clean, and to keep everything looking nice and sanitized for our neighbors who visit them for care. Please mark your calendar and look for details to come about this opportunity.





Care Warriors

Care Warriors is a ministry to help meet needs of Bethany members and offer opportunities to serve. Care Warriors serve in four main ways:

- **Meals** (birth of a baby, hospitalization, surgery, death in the family)
- Wheels (transportation to appointments, grocery shopping, ride to church)
- **Labor** (yardwork, cleaning, helping with a move, painting)
- **Time** (visiting members who are homebound, hospitalized, or in nursing facilities; emergency childcare

Are you in need of a Care Warrior, or would you like to be a Care Warrior? If so, please email Nurse Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com, call the church office at 319-364-6026, or contact Care Warrior coordinator Becky Johnson. Do not hesitate to reach out. We will be happy to get you connected!

June Evangelism Challenge: Chalk the Walk!

There are ways we can all live and share God's love with those around us. Thank you to everyone who participated in our May "Paper-palooza" evangelism challenge by donating paper products to Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry.

This month, your evangelism challenge is to chalk the walk! We will have a "Chalk the Walk" event on Saturday, June 10. Mark your calendar and look for more information to come.





Thank You

Thank You for remembering our family during our time of sorrow at the death of Dad, Rev. Don Loesch. We appreciate the many cards, kind words, and sweet memories that were shared. It's obvious that Dad touched a lot of lives as he preached the Good News (even at Bethany). We are especially grateful for your prayers of God's comfort. Your prayers and loving kindness have been a blessing to us.

- Angie Pfeil and Family

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. - 1 Thessalonians 4:14 NIV

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 May 9. Here are the highlights:

- New Bible study topics on the way Thank you to all who participated in the recent Bible study survey. We learned much from it to tailor our future offerings. The two topics that received the most interest were: Living out my Christian faith every day and Biblical perspectives on contemporary issues. We are diving deeper into each of these to determine the best studies that will come from them. Look for announcements on the results and new ways we can spend time in the Word.
- Vision action plans nearly complete At our June meeting, each Board will present its final action plan in support of our Vision. The results of these will be available at the church and in the Beacon. We look forward to your participation in opportunities to put our faith into action!
- **Get your Pickleball paddle ready** We will be organizing a Pickleball tournament this summer for the area LCMS churches. Whether you wish to participate or spectate, it will be an awesome day of fellowship. Watch the Beacon for further details.
- Time and Talents Have you filled out our Time and Talents survey? Practicing Christian stewardship includes using your God-given gifts and talents to serve. The survey allows church leadership to best match opportunities with congregational talents. Please take a few minutes to fill it out on our website at www.bethanycr.org and click on "Serve"
- Watch the mail for your Elder introduction The Elders will soon send out introductory letters to each family in the congregation. Elders are responsible for working with Pastor in all matters pertaining to public worship, Christian life, and the spiritual life of the congregation. Elders care for the spiritual and emotional welfare of each soul in the congregation. We are also planning a "Meet the Elder" event so you can spend some time with your family's Elder.
- **Be a 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, please contact the Bethany office or Becky Johnson.
- Taking the Word on the road 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 further information.

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)

April 2023 Stats	
Average Sunday Attendance	206 Souls
Contribution Revenue	\$42,166
Total Expenses	\$36,747



Emerging Adults

On June 11 we will start a new ministry for emerging adults: those aged 18-26 years old. All emerging adults are encouraged to join us for Bible study on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. Our study will focus on different topics and issues we face at this age, and look at them with a Christian lens. Do you know any 18-26 year olds? Please invite them; we would love to have them! For details, contact Kierra at intern.bethanycr@gmail.com.

Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry

May 14 was our 100th week of operation as the Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry! We have distributed well over 34 ton of food to more than 600 different family units since July 2022.

An on-campus garden is currently in the works for Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry. The produce we grow—cabbage and peppers—will be distributed to our food pantry neighbors. The garden (pictured, right) is located next to our playground.

The pantry will also be getting other fresh locallygrown produce from Feed Iowa First mid-June through the end of October.



Joy's Journal

Hello Bethany friends! Your comfort dog (me!) has been a busy pup lately. Some highlights from last month were visiting with University of Iowa students during their finals week, wishing Trinity FURiends a happy summer as they wrap up their school year, and enjoying the company of new FURiends at Options of Linn County. I've made about 65 visits so far in 2023.

I'm so blessed to have a job I love! Wishing you all a happy and safe summer. I hope to see you soon!







S Joy



New Member Welcome

We will celebrate new members joining our congregation on Sunday, June 4. Please be sure to give our new members a warm welcome, and introduce yourself if you have not yet done so!

Sewing Quilts for World Relief

On Tuesday, June 13, 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.





LWML Salad Supper

LWML will host a salad supper for ladies on Thursday, June 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

VBS Opportunities at Area LCMS Churches

King of Kings: June 12-16 @ 9:00 a.m. - noon

Trinity: June 12-15 @ 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Zion, Hiawatha: July 16-20 @ 6:15-8:00 p.m.

St. Paul, Marion: July 23-27 @ 5:45-7:30 p.m.

Baby Bottle Boomerang for Bridgehaven

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Baby Bottle Boomerang for Bridgehaven! A total of \$3,548.20 was given by Bethany Lutheran Church. Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center provides a safe place for women and men facing unplanned pregnancies where they are able to experience God's love and receive hope. Our support will help Bridgehaven empower choices for life through Christ-centered education and support.



Want to support Bridgehaven more? Check out information below about their upcoming bags tournament!



Register here!

Bags Tournament for Bridgehaven

Bridgehaven's first bags tournament will take place 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on June 24 at their center (4250 Glass Road NE). The cost of registration is \$25 per team of two. Friends and family are welcome to come watch the tournament, hang out, and cheer on their favorite team. Hy-Vee will be on-site with barbeque items for sale. There will also be a live and silent auction, and a bouncy castle for the kids. This is an opportunity to gather with families to celebrate Bridgehaven's 40th anniversary!

Blood Pressure Checks

A normal blood pressure reading is below 120/80.

What can I do about High Blood Pressure?

- Don't smoke.
- Reach and maintain a healthy weight.
- Eat a healthy diet that is low in saturated and trans fats and rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy products. Aim to consume less than 1,500 mg/day of sodium (salt). Even reducing your daily intake by 1,000 mg can help.
- Limit alcohol to no more than one drink per day if you're a woman or two drinks a day if you're a man.
- Be more physically active. Aim for 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity or at least 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity per week, or a combination of both, spread throughout the week.
- Take medicine the way your health care professional tells you.
- Have your blood pressure checked regularly.

Your parish nurse or Emily will be available the 4th Sunday of each month between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. to check your blood pressure in the parish nurse office.

Blood Drive: Thank You!

An American Red Cross blood drive was held at Bethany on Thursday, April 27. Thank you to those who donated blood! This drive produced 20 units of blood.

Alzheimer's Association Event: Joyful Living on the Dementia Journey

Skoog Dementia Support LLC and Bethany will host a fun and educational workshop offering practical tools to support individuals, families and neighbors experiencing Alzheimer's and other dementias. The time to learn about joyfully living with dementia is before crisis happens. Even if you aren't yet affected by the challenges of dementia, this workshop is for you.

Please attend this workshop on Saturday, June 17 at 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Bethany.

We will cover topics empowering the community to view Alzheimer's and other dementias in a new light, promoting supportive engagement with a dementia friendly approach:

- Embrace Healthy Living for the Brain and Body
- Recognize the Gifts in Dementia®
- Improve Empathy with the Dementia Live® Experience
- Identify ways to bring Sensory Experience into Joyful Visits and Engagement
- Become an official Iowa Dementia Friend®

This workshop is free of charge. Lunch will be provided by Feedwell Kitchen and Bakery. Please register by June 13 to guarantee lunch selection.

Register online at: skoogdementiasupport.com/events

Sponsors: Thrivent; Bickford Home Care Speaker participants: Teri Skoog; Cedar Rapids Public Library; Elite Fitness; Sam McCord



H■ Announcements

Information for the July Beacon is due Thursday, June 22. 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 Service9:45 am Education Hour11:00 am Contemporary Service

CONNECT WITH US

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