

Bethany Beacon

NOVEMBER 2023

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thankful Hearts

**A worship concert benefiting the
Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry**

NOVEMBER 19

7:00 PM

Thankful Hearts

Join us for Thankful Hearts, a worship concert at Bethany to benefit Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry. The concert will be held on Sunday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m. We will gather for an evening music, praise, and gratitude to God, thanking Him for the blessings He freely gives to us! A freewill offering will be collected at the concert, with all proceeds benefitting Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry.



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

On October 7th, terrorists attacked the nation of Israel, killing over a thousand men, women, and children and taking hostage hundreds more. In the days following, the details of this attack have come to light and the world has watched Israel respond by declaring war on the terrorist organization that committed these crimes. All of this has brought many ideas and opinions concerning Israel and the Middle East out into the light, and questions about war and violence to arise in the church. The following are a few observations to address some of those opinions and questions.

First, among Martin Luther's 28 theses during the Heidelberg Disputation was this: "*A theology of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theology of the cross calls the thing what it actually is.*" While primarily concerned with the work of Christ for our salvation, this thesis can be applied to life in general, including what happened to Israel. It seems that because so many people today have been taught that "acceptance" is the most important virtue to be practiced, people have lost the ability or will to call evil what it is – evil. If we believe that everyone's choices and behaviors as equally acceptable as any other, then we are left with people celebrating, defending, and making excuses for the massacre of innocent people at a music festival today and only who knows what tomorrow.

Second, it should be noted that the present-day nation state of Israel, is not same as Israel in the Old Testament. In an excellent article titled *Whose Land Is It* that can be found in the November 2006 edition of the Lutheran Witness (contact me for a copy or the link) Dr. Reed Lessing notes, "When the New Testament is allowed to interpret the Old Testament, it follows that the 1948 state of Israel is not a prophetic realization of the Messianic kingdom of Jesus Christ. His Kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36)". Therefore, God's covenant to Abraham was not an "everlasting land grant to the Jews". Rather the true children of Abraham are baptized Christians (Romans 9:6-8),

and the promises made to Abraham were realized through Christ (Galatians 3:16). And Christians are not to put their hope in a strip of land, but in Christ alone.

Which leads to my third and final point. Jesus tells us in John 16:33b, "...*In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*" As terrible as the recent events in Israel and Gaza have been, we all know that this type of war and death is nothing new. Whether it be terrorist attacks in Israel or New York City, violence between Jews and Palestinians or Cain and Abel; sin has been manifesting itself through violence and death for generations and will continue to do so. But Christians find hope in the midst of this tribulation, not in the strength of a military force or in a one or a two-state solution, but in the strength and love of our Lord and Savior. To be sure, God has given us governments and militaries to bless and protect people of every time and place. But the only solution for sin and death is the saving work of Jesus Christ.

And so, as rockets continue to be launched and bombs continue to fall in Israel and Gaza, let us make sure that our own lives are in order. We may not have any control over the relationship between Israel and Palestine, but you certainly have control over your relationships with your neighbors, be them Jews, Arabs, or any other ethnicity. If you deplore the treatment of one group by another, then make sure no one is able to deplore your treatment of anyone. But also, let us pray to God for peace. Let us pray that the innocent may be saved, that evil be brought to justice, and all sides may be brought to repentance and faith. Because God's Word is clear that we are all sinners living in a troubled world, but Jesus Christ has overcome this world and gives those who trust in Him salvation and hope for tomorrow.

✝ Pastor Erickson



Thanksgiving:

Liam (grandson of *Freesees)- born 9/29
Trevor (son of *Thomases)- improved health

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Ezra (infant son of Ben Venteicher) - health issues
Chuck (friend of *Linda Patten)- health issues
Margaret (relative of *Karl Hoech)- recovering after fall
Merlin (grandfather of *Dathan Hinrichs)- health issues
Gloria (granddaughter of *Kim Neuhaus)- personal issues
Kathy (sister of *Mark Holt) - recovering after transplant
Jill (cousin of *Karen Pfeffer) - recovering after transplant
Ann (relative of *Elaine Behrens) - recovering after surgery
Lorena (sister of *Brenda Heims) - recovering after surgery
Marcia (relative of *Brenda Heims) - health issues
Sylvia (aunt of *Patricia Hinrichs) - 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:

Andrea (relative of Steggalls)- teaching in Bulgaria
Jordan (grandson of *K Neuhaus)- Army
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, stationed in TX

Homebound members of Bethany:

Candi Engel - Heritage Care Center
*Nadine Wax - at home
*Del Block - The Gardens
*Shirley Kellogg - Terrace Glen Village, Marion
*Dorothy Freese - Keystone Place
*Verlyn & *Paul LeFevere- at home
*Chuck Stoelting- Garnet Place

Cancer/Hospice:

David (friend of Angela Yuza)- cancer
Rachel (Bethany neighbor)- cancer
Tom (friend of *Dave Johnson)- cancer
Natalia (friend of *Karstens)- cancer
Angie (friend of *Deb Heitland)- cancer
Alice (friend of *Brenda Heims) - cancer
Courtney (Monday am coffee friend) - cancer treatment
John (friend of *Dunns) - chemo treatment
Tony (friend of *Mike Thomas) - cancer
David (relative of *Hasses) - cancer immunotherapy
Julie (friend of *Brenda Heims) - cancer
Chad (son of *Vicki Huschka) - leukemia

Grief, family and friends of:

Ron (brother of *Ray McGraw)- died 10/13
Tom Stock (brother of M Nanke & S Easler)- died 10/12
Chad (friend of *Stepaneks)- died 10/3
Wendell (friend of *Larsons)- died 9/11



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.

Wednesday, November 1

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

Thursday, November 2

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

Saturday, November 4

- 8:00 am Pancakes and Proverbs
- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, November 5

- 12:15 pm Board of Education Meeting
- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open
- 4:00 pm Pickleball

Monday, November 6

- 6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
- 10:00 am Women's Group
- 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting
- 6:00 pm Stewardship Meeting
- 7:00 pm Bible Study on Parables

Tuesday, November 7

- 8:00 am Greene Square Outreach Ministry
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 5:00 pm LWML Board Meeting
- 6:00 pm Evangelism Meeting
- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 8

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

Thursday, November 9

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

Friday, November 10

- 9:00 am Rebekah Circle

Saturday, November 11

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, November 12

- 12:30 pm Voters' Meeting
- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open
- 4:00 pm Pickleball

Monday, November 13

- 6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
- 10:00 am Women's Group
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision
- 7:00 pm Elders Meeting
- 7:00 pm Bible Study on Parables

Tuesday, November 14

- 8:00 am Greene Square Outreach Ministry
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 15

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

Thursday, November 16

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

Saturday, November 18

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, November 19

- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open
- 4:00 pm Pickleball
- 6:00 pm Thankful Hearts Concert

Monday, November 20

- 6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach

Tuesday, November 21

- 8:00 am Greene Square Outreach Ministry
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 22

- 6:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Confirmation Class
- 6:00 pm High School Youth
- 6:30 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service

Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed

Saturday, November 25

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, November 26

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

Monday, November 27

- 6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed.

Tuesday, November 28

- 8:00 am Greene Square Outreach Ministry
- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 29

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

Thursday, November 30

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

Daylight saving ends on Sunday, November 5.
Please remember to set your clocks back one hour!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 11/1 Ed & Gloria Schumacher | 11/21 Jeff & Angela Keslar | 11/27 Richard & Karen Hass |
| 11/10 Dustin & Beth Bricker | 11/24 Tim & Sarah Potter | James & Joan Mosel |
| 11/15 Chuck & Emily Kroemer | 11/26 Dan & Kristi Montague | Doug & Earlene Francik |

Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday, November 22 | Service with Communion at 7:00 p.m.

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

Congregational VOTERS' MEETING

Sunday, November 12
12:30 PM

Congregational Voters' Meeting

A congregational voters' meeting will take place on Sunday, November 12 at 12:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

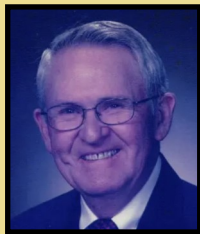
A meeting agenda will be posted on the bulletin board.

All Saints' Sunday 2023

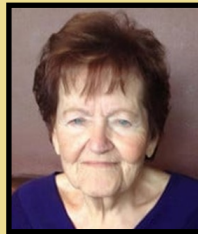
On Sunday, November 5, we will pause to commemorate the faithful departed called to their heavenly home since last All Saints' Day. Join us at either service that morning (8:30 or 11:00 a.m.) as we remember Bethany members who have passed away within the last year.



Melba Davison



Larry Easler



Joyce Fritz



Valerie Koelper



Betty Hein*

**Commemorated
in Nov. 2022*

*Not pictured:
Alta Dort*



Norm Rutz



Karen Schaub



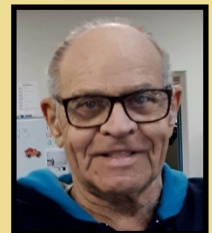
Wayne Schilling



Norma Sirotiak



Stephen Stepanek



Tom Stock



Evangelism Challenge

The November evangelism challenge is to perform an act of kindness! Pass along the love of Jesus to a friend or neighbor, and tell us what you did. Find the post in our Facebook group and share your act of kindness in the comments!

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 19. Please put donations in an envelope marked "Christmas Giving" and place it in the offering plate or turn in to the church office.



Sewing Quilts for World Relief

The women's guild will not meet to quilt in November or December. We will resume in January. Plan to join us on Tuesday, January 9 at 9:00 a.m. to noon. Please continue to save your used sheets which are used for quilt insides as well as cotton fabric and yarn.

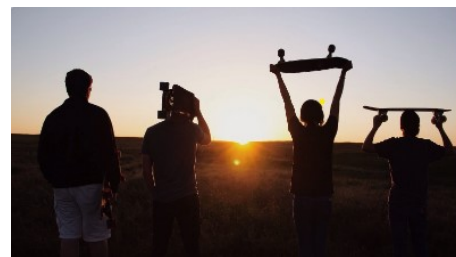


Sunday School

Sunday School is for all students in preschool through high school and meets in the lower level on Sundays at 9:45-10:45 a.m. All are welcome! Please join us for “Growing in Christ” Sunday School for the 2023-2024 school year. If you are attending Sunday School for the first time, please stop by the Sunday School office before taking your child to their classroom. For information about Sunday School, please contact Kierra at intern.bethanycr@gmail.com.

Youth Mission Trip

Bethany youth will embark on a mission trip to Denver, Colorado the week of July 21, 2024. To start supporting this mission trip today, you may give online (select “Youth Trips” at www.bethanycr.org/giving) or donate items to Stuff Etc. When you drop off items at Stuff Etc., provide Bethany’s consignor number 42223 to support youth trips.



Family Faith Night

Family Faith Night is a ministry for students in pre-school through 12th grade and their parents.

In October, families played a game to learn this month’s memory verse: Exodus 3:12, “But I will be with you.” Children wore blindfolds and listened for their parent’s or grandparent’s voice to help them find the hidden treasure: a cross! In this life we will have troubles, but God will be with us and we can always listen for His voice and He is there!

Come to Family Faith Night on November 8 and be ready with the memory verse memorized! “But I will be with you.” Exodus 3:12

Please join us for these upcoming sessions of Family Faith Night, Wednesdays at 5:30-7:30 PM

2023: November 8 **2024:** January 10 | February 7 | April 10 | May 8

Pancakes and Proverbs

Fathers, father-figures, and their children are invited to join us for Pancakes and Proverbs, a ministry at Bethany on the first Saturday of the month. We have breakfast, a devotion, and an activity for fathers and their children to participate in together. Plan to attend the next session on Saturday, November 4 at 8:00 a.m. at Bethany.



Updates from Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry

GRANT FOR A FREEZER

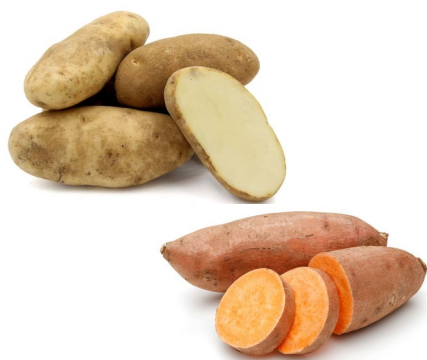
We are excited to share that Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry was awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Transamerica Foundation to purchase a second freezer for the pantry. It will arrive November 2 and will be placed in the room next to the pantry. Having this freezer will allow us to secure a greater volume of frozen food from HACAP (Hawkeye Area Community Action Program) to share with pantry neighbors!

PARTNERSHIPS

- **HACAP Food Reservoir** shared our annual distribution summary. Because of our partnership with HACAP this past year we were able to pick up 64,651 pounds of food at the cost of \$6,254. The total value of food that we got from HACAP equaled \$113,116. This is a cost savings of \$106,862! Twice a week, Pete Larson and his platoon of volunteers pick up an average of 1,278 pounds of food for our pantry. We pay an average of \$122.60 each week for that food.
- Our partnership with **Feed Iowa First** has provided an abundance of fresh vegetables for our pantry neighbors. We have wonderful volunteers who help weekly in Bethany's own garden.
- Our partnership with **Farmer's Hen House** in Kalona provides 270 dozen eggs each month, and Bethany volunteers pick up eggs in Kalona bimonthly.
- **Days for Girls** provides washable, reusable feminine hygiene kits for our neighbors.
- **Mt. Mercy University senior nursing students** have volunteered their hours in the pantry to complete their capstone project.

FUN FACTS

- As of the end of October 2023, the pantry has been open 124 weeks.
- Each week we have at least ten new households that come to the pantry.
- English is not the primary language for many of our food pantry neighbors.
- Thrivent Action Team dollars can provide needed items for the pantry at no cost to the member. (See Linda Patten or Lissa Novitch for details about Thrivent Action Teams).



HOW CAN I HELP?

- **Donate! Potatoes** (of any kind -- sweet, russet, canned or mashed, you name it!) are the food pantry item of the month for November.
- Household and personal care items that are needed include: toilet paper, tissues, laundry pods, laundry dryer sheets, small dish detergent, deodorant, shampoo, bar soap, and 13-gallon trash bags.
- **Volunteer!** Each Sunday we need six volunteers from 12:30 to 3:00 to have the pantry run smoothly. Sign up to volunteer at bethanycr.org/food-pantry

Thrivent Action Teams

Have you ever wanted to help Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry but aren't sure what the pantry needs? If you are a member of Thrivent Financial you can make a huge difference and it won't cost you a dime. Thrivent Financial offers an application on their website for grants up to \$250.00. Just go to www.thrivent.com and it will walk you through the process. If you are not sure what the pantry needs, just give your Thrivent cash card that will be sent to you to the church office, and we will shop for you. Thrivent allows you to apply for two grants per year. What a blessing this is to our pantry neighbors!



Greene Square Outreach Ministry

On Tuesday mornings, Bethany volunteers hand out free sack lunches in Greene Square Park to serve the Cedar Rapids homeless community. Where do these sack lunches come from? On Sundays our Sunday School students decorate paper bags with Christian messages, and on Mondays we have volunteers who put the lunches together. Please contact the church office at 319-364-6026 if you would like to serve in this ministry by making lunches on Mondays or by delivering them on Tuesdays.

Christian Faith Class

Are you interested in becoming a Bethany member? Do you want to learn more about the Christian faith? If you (or someone else you know!) answered “yes” to either of these questions, plan to attend Christian Faith Class. A new session starts Thursday, October 26, and classes are held Thursdays at 7:00-8:30 p.m. This class is designed with new members in mind, but everyone (whether you are new to the faith, or a lifelong Christian) is welcome and encouraged to join us. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or contact the office if you plan to attend.

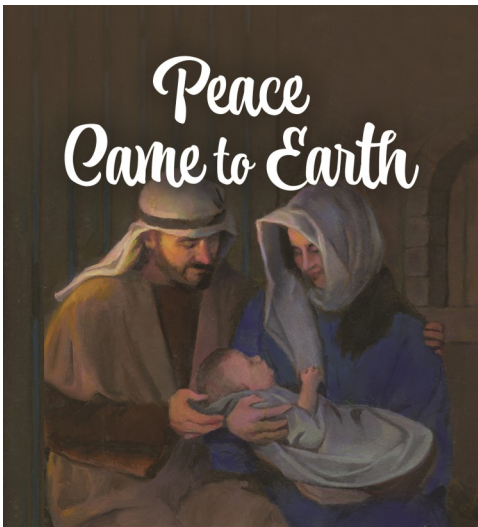


Joy's Journal

As Thanksgiving approaches, it gives me a chance to tell you all the things I am thankful for. God has blessed my ministry with so many supportive people. I am thankful for all the places and people I get to visit each month! This month I added some new places to my schedule – I went out of town – to North Liberty and Grinnell. And I got to read to children at Kenwood Leadership Academy and I have also started going to St. Luke's regularly. God has provided so many opportunities to share His love with others through me, a dog! I am SO THANKFUL!

FURwell for now!





Advent 2023: Peace Came to Earth

Seeking peace by our own efforts is an endless pursuit, but God instructs us with a peace that surpasses understanding. He gives us peace in five separate ways that meet our needs, perhaps before we even know them. This peace comes through the birth of Jesus. Join us for Advent services at Bethany this year to learn the five ways Jesus brings us peace from God as the Prince of Peace.

Advent Midweek Services:

Fellowship Meals at 6:00 p.m. | Services at 7:00 p.m.
December 6 | December 13 | December 20

Angel Tree



What is special about Angel Tree Christmas?

Angel Tree gives incarcerated parents a way to provide a Christmas gift and a personal message, delivered by caring, local volunteers, as a tangible representation of their love. Angel Tree children feel remembered by their loved one because of this simple act. When you provide a gift for a child, you not only bless that child; you also bless the parent behind bars. He or she has the opportunity to feel that they have provided something special for their child. Through the personal message, their own words of love can reach the child they miss so much. Your service nurtures this connection and spreads hope to incarcerated parents.

How do I participate in Angel Tree at Bethany?

Bethany's Angel Tree will be up by November 22. Bethany members can take an angel and are asked to sign the sign-out sheet so we know which angel you have. Please purchase a gift (valued at approximately \$25) for the child, wrap it, attach the angel sticker, and return it to Bethany by Sunday, December 10.

Christmas Bake Sale

Let the Women's Guild handle your Christmas baking this year! Baked goods will be for sale before and after both services on December 17. Stock up on a variety of goodies for your family and friends (and yourself!). Proceeds from the bake sale will be used for mission donations in the upcoming year.



Children's Christmas Program

Christmas is right around the corner, so it's time to start planning for our children's Christmas program! We will have our program on Sunday, December 17 at 4:30 p.m. We are looking to get a head count of kids who will be participating. Parents, please let Kierra know if your child will be in the Christmas program! Contact Kierra at intern.bethanycr@gmail.com.



Especially For You Race

A record-setting 16,546 people registered for the 33rd annual Especially for You® Race Against Breast Cancer, which took place on October 1 at Mercy Medical Center. This year's race exceeded the previous record of 15,800 participants in 2022. Bethany had a team of 12 this year.

Proceeds from race registrations benefit the Especially for You fund. This year, more than \$531,147 in registrations was raised for the fund, which provides financial assistance for breast and gynecological cancer screenings and services for area individuals in need. Since its inception, the EFY fund has helped more than 13,300 individuals with 35,600 services right here in Linn County.

Blood Drive: Thank You!

The American Red Cross held a blood drive at Bethany on October 13. Thank you to everyone who helped save lives by donating blood! We collected 25 units of blood at this drive. Another drive will be held in April.



Join us for Senior Worship

Thursday, November 16
Service at 11:00 AM | Luncheon to follow

CHURCH STATISTICS September 2023

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Average Sunday Attendance | 174 Souls |
| Total Revenue | \$32,999.48 |
| Total Expenses | \$36,020.29 |



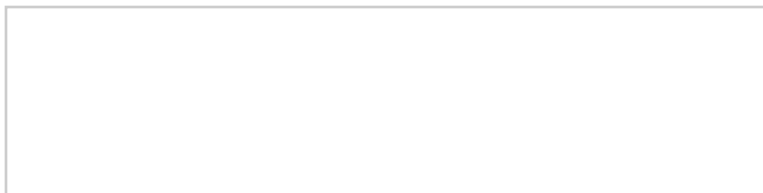
Submit Announcements for Publication

Announcements for the December Beacon are due Monday, November 27. To submit, 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
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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 |
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| Phone | 319-364-6026 |
|  | facebook.com/bethanycria |