

Bethany Beacon

OCTOBER 2023

Stewardship: Serving the Lord with our Time, Talents, and Treasures

Looking for ways to serve and become involved in the congregation? There are opportunities for everyone to use their time and talents at Bethany! Please plan to attend a **ministry fair on Sunday, October 15 at 9:45-10:45 a.m.** Ministry leaders will be available to share information, answer questions, and help you get connected. Several ministries will be represented at the fair—be sure to sign up for something you enjoy!

MINISTRY FAIR

Sunday, October 15 | 9:45-10:45 AM | Family Life Center

October is the time of year to prayerfully consider your tithes and offerings. Please take time to discern how God is calling you to give in 2024. Stewardship packets will be available for Bethany members on Sunday, October 15.



The Bethany Stewardship Committee is starting two new programs to promote stewardship. Learn about CONNECT and GIFTS on page 10, and sign up for them at the ministry fair!



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love

Stewardship

While God's redeemed people should always be considering how to manage His earthly gifts to His glory, Stewardship often becomes a focus in Christian congregations, including Bethany, in the Fall. Perhaps we can trace the roots of this back to the Fall Harvest, but more recently it no doubt is influenced by church's creating their budget for the next year. Regardless, as we move into October, here are a few thoughts from LCMS Stewardship...

✝ Pastor Erickson

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or de-ceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Yahweh) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!

Thanksgiving:

Stephen Ministry at Bethany for 20 years
 Mickie (visitor) - recovered after broken ankle
 Gail (relative of *Faye Sieck)- recovered after surgery
 Nancy (sister of *Julie Elias)- recovered after fall
 Oliver (friend of *Rick Heller)- recovered after accident
 Jim (brother of *Ed Schumacher) - recovered after surgery
 Joe (brother of Mary Vezina)- improved health
 Don (friend of *Mary Vezina) - recovered after surgery
 Chuck (father of *Jim Novitch) - improved health
 Jean (mother of *Kristi Montague) - improved health
 Shauna (niece of *Schmiths) - improved health

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Cindy (friend of *Larsons)- hospitalization
 Ezra (infant son of Ben Venteicher) - health issues
 Luci (7 yr old relative)- seizures, drug induced coma
 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
 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:

Andrea (relative of Steggalls)- teaching in Bulgaria
 Jordan (grandson of *K Neuhaus)- Army, deployed to Poland
 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
 *Tom Stock - at home
 *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
 Joanne- 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
 Ron (brother of *Ray McGraw) - cancer 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:

Wendell (friend of *Larsons)- died 9/11
 Francis (friend of *Larsons)- died 8/18
 Priscilla (sister of Prudy Peterson)- died 8/13



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.

Sunday, October 1

LWML Sunday

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, October 2

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, October 3

9:00 am Walking Exercise

5:00 pm LWML Board Meeting

6:00 pm Evangelism Meeting

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 4

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, October 5

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

9:00 am Walking Exercise

6:00 pm Human Care Meeting

Saturday, October 7

8:00 am Pancakes and Proverbs

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, October 8

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

2:00 pm LWML General Meeting

Monday, October 9

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, October 10

9:00 am Quilting for World Relief

9:00 am Walking Exercise

5:00 pm Board of Education Meeting

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 11

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, October 12

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

9:00 am Walking Exercise

Friday, October 13

1:00 pm Blood Drive

Saturday, October 14

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, October 15

9:45 am Ministry Fair

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, October 16

6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach

10:00 am Women's Group

7:00 pm Bible Study on Parables

Tuesday, October 17

9:00 am Walking Exercise

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 18

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, October 19

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

9:00 am Walking Exercise

11:00 am Senior Worship

Saturday, October 21

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, October 22

9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks - Office

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, October 23

10:00 am Women's Group

7:00 pm Bible Study on Parables

Tuesday, October 24

9:00 am Walking Exercise

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 25

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, October 26

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

9:00 am Walking Exercise

Friday, October 27

7:00 pm Youth Lock-In

Saturday, October 28

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, October 29

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, October 30

6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach

10:00 am Women's Group

7:00 pm Bible Study on Parables

Tuesday, October 31

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1	Carter Urban	10/6	Brenna Godbey	10/18	Shirley Witte	10/25	Ron Prescott
10/2	Jennet Volden		David Behrens	10/19	Bella Novitch	10/26	Naomi Chiavetta
	Rob Willms	10/8	Joann Strang		Jeff Keslar	10/27	Emily Kroemer
10/3	Phyllis Landis	10/12	Nancylee Siebenmann	10/20	Dathan Hinrichs	10/28	Vicki Huschka
	Carmen Ranbarger		Dave Christian	10/21	Noah Pelletier		Corey Gutman
	Saul Foreman	10/13	Carolyn Zimmerman	10/22	Tom Mills		Ryan Urban
10/4	Dawn Thomas		Darin Elm	10/23	Betty Happel	10/29	Taylor Ballstaedt
		10/14	Jack Zimmerman		Annest Hoech		

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/3	Diane & Maynard Holub	10/9	Travis & Joanna Godbey	10/17	Ian & Bailey Stevens
	Whitney & Matt Hinz	10/10	Taylor & Stephanie Chittick		Randy & Joni Schmith
10/4	Rick & Erin Heller		Austin & Ashley Cunningham	10/18	Kent & Diane Zenor
10/5	Isaiah & Bree Robinson	10/12	Steve & Jill O'Hara	10/21	Chris & Leisa Knudson
	Bill & Tina Freese	10/13	Pastor & Christine Erickson	10/24	Darin & Maren Elm
10/6	Eric & Lisa Freese	10/14	Karl & Janet Hoech	10/26	Chris & Kelly Frampton
10/7	Jeff & Janet Gebert	10/16	Ken & Karen Swalley		

Music Opportunities

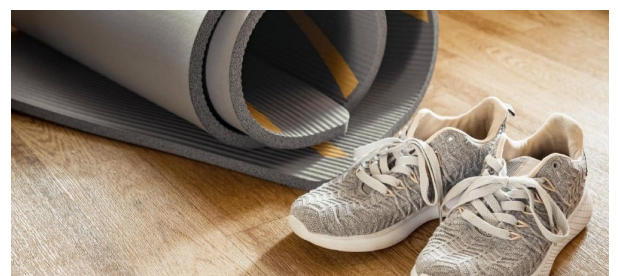
Handbell Ensemble rehearses on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and plays at 8:30 a.m. service once per month. If you are interested in joining handbells or would like more information, please contact Tom Mills or the church office.



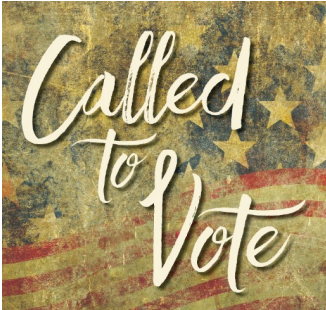
Like to sing? Make a joyful noise with us in choir! Our vocal choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 6:30-7:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining or would like more information about choir, contact Ryanne Molinari at organist.bethanycr@gmail.com.

Exercise Opportunities

- **Walking Group** (meets in the lower level at Bethany)
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 AM
- **Holy Yoga** (meets in the lower level at Bethany)
Saturdays at 9:00 AM



Weekly Bible Studies



Sunday Adult Bible Study: “Called to Vote”

Adult Bible study is held in the Family Life Center on Sundays at 9:45-10:45. Pastor Erickson started a new study on September 24: “Called to Vote.” This study doesn’t tell us which political party to vote for, but will spark thoughtful, biblical conversations about voting in a democracy and our duty to do so as Christian citizens. We go to the polls informed by God’s Word and our own best thinking. But we should never forget to distinguish between the two.

Monday Women’s Group

Women’s group meets on Mondays at 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. for study and fellowship. The group is currently reading the book “Matchless” by Angie Smith. For details about women’s group, please contact Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.



Monday Evening Bible Study

Kierra leads adult Bible study on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. On September 11 the group started a 9-week session of a study on the parables of Jesus.

Wednesday Men’s Bible Study

Men’s Bible study meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m. in the Adult Education Room at Bethany. All men are welcome at this study for fellowship and time together in God’s Word.



High School Youth Group

High school students gather for Bible study and games on Wednesdays at 6:00-7:30 p.m. Bring a friend and join us for youth group at Bethany!

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Pastor Erickson leads Bible study for adults every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. All adults are welcome to attend this study. On Thursdays, Pastor takes the class into an in-depth study of Sunday’s scripture readings.



Youth and Family Ministries

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, October 7 at 8:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center.



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 Lock-In on October 27

Youth in 6th-12th grade are invited to a lock-in! Join us for a fun night of games, activities, and Bible study. The lock-in will start at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 27. Parents, please plan to pick up your youth on Saturday, October 28 at 8:00 a.m. For details, please contact Kierra at intern.bethanycr@gmail.com or Darin at youth.bethanycr@gmail.com.



Family Faith Night on October 11

Family Faith Night is a ministry for students in preschool through 12th grade and their parents. The whole family attends together, and all families are welcome! Our theme for the 2023-24 school year is God’s Living Water: Covered in Jesus’ Grace. Each night we have a skit, games, music, and other fun activities to learn a Bible lesson together. Dinner is served at 5:30, and the program is held 6:00-7:30 p.m.



Please join us for upcoming Wednesday sessions of “God’s Living Water” at Family Faith Night:
2023: October 11 | November 8 2024: January 10 | February 7 | April 10 | May 8

Giving and Serving



Blood Drive on October 13

The American Red Cross will host a **blood drive** at Bethany on Friday, October 13 at 1:00-5:00 p.m. Help us save lives and make an appointment to donate blood at www.bethanycr.org/blood-drive or call 1-800-733-2767.

Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry

The October donation item of the month is facial tissues. Please bring boxes of facial tissues to church in October to donate to Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry!



Sewing Quilts for World Relief

On Tuesday, October 10, the women's guild 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 details.

Monday Morning Outreach

On Mondays during the school year we set up a tent out front to serve free coffee and cocoa to Washington High School students and any neighbors who stop by. This outreach is very well received by the community! We hand out about 75-100 cups each week. Each Monday we need volunteers at 6:30-8:00 a.m. to help serve warm drinks and smiles. If you would like to serve in this unique ministry, sign up for a Monday at www.bethanycr.org/serve.



Sack Lunch Outreach Ministry

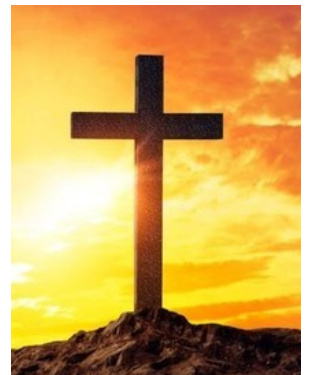
Evangelism has started a new ministry serving the Cedar Rapids homeless community. We are handing out sack lunches in Green Square Park on Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. There are two ways to serve in this ministry: by making sandwiches and putting together sack lunches on Monday afternoons, or by delivering them on Tuesday mornings. If you would like to get involved, contact the church office.

Joy's Journal: Joy's Year By the Numbers



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, please contact the church office or reach out to Pastor Erickson at pastor.bethanycr@gmail.com. A new session of "Christian Faith Class" will be held soon. Dates and times are TBD, depending on availability of those interested. This class is designed with new members in mind, but anyone is welcome to attend for a refresher on the basics.



Join us for Senior Worship

Thursday, October 19
Service at 11:00 AM | Luncheon to follow

Stewardship Programs



The CONNECT program will use hospitality talents to connect new and potential members with Bethany members to welcome and familiarize them to Bethany and its ministries. If you would like more information regarding CONNECT, please contact Joni Schmith. A designated sign up will be at the October 15 Ministry Fair as well as at the Welcome Center.

Mission: CONNECTing people at church to encourage each other, grow in faith, and bring honor to God through our hospitality, time, and talents.

Why: To welcome and inform new and potential Bethany members to the ministries Bethany has to offer.

What: Any adult church member will be partnered with potential/new members to answer questions and offer information regarding Bethany's ministries.

When: Sunday mornings and any time established between connector and new member.

Sign up and learn more at the October 15 Ministry Fair.



The GIFTS program will focus on adult mentors working together with Sunday School aged children on how to use their gifts for the betterment of the church, namely tidying the sanctuary once a month. If you would like more information regarding the GIFTS program, please contact Rachel Henderson. Sign up at the Ministry Fair!

GIFTS is:

- Glorify God
- Integrate Generations
- Faith-Building Mentorship
- Talents and Time
- Serve

Why: Children of the congregation will learn from adult members how to use their gifts to serve the Lord.

What: Any adult church member will work alongside children (ages 3 years old through 5th grade) tidying the pews in the sanctuary. Adults will help children with sharpening pencils, replacing pew cards, etc.

When: Every first Sunday of the month at 9:30-9:45 a.m. GIFTS will start in November 2023.

Thank You

Rick Foreman would like to thank the congregation for their prayers and well-wishes during his time of surgery and recovery. Thank you, all, for living and sharing God's love in this way!



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.

LWML Sunday

On October 1 we will join Lutheran churches around the world in celebrating LWML Sunday. The LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) supports missions around the globe, in our community, and here at Bethany. A mite box will be out; bring your mites to support LWML district and national mission grants.



Stephen Ministry: Celebrating 20 Years

On September 24 we celebrated 20 years of Stephen Ministry at Bethany! Stephen Ministers are Bethany members who listen, care, encourage, and provide one-on-one emotional and spiritual support to people through a crisis or a difficult time. If you would like to be connected to a Stephen Minister, please contact the church office.

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. Donations to Stuff will support youth trips. See information below to learn how to consign!



Stuff Etc. Consignment

Have any quality "stuff" around your house you would like to get rid of? Bethany has an account at Stuff Etc. at 252 Blairs Ferry Rd. NE. Bethany will receive 40% of the final sale price of items. Items in totes are accepted Tuesday through Saturday, and furniture is accepted seven days a week. When you drop off items, provide Bethany's consignor number 42223. We opened our account this summer and have received our first payout of \$25!

Church Statistics	August 2023
Average Sunday Attendance	171 Souls
Total Revenue	\$35,458.88
Total Expenses	\$42,567.30



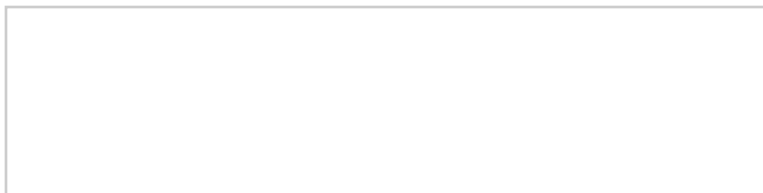
Submit Announcements for Publication

Announcements for the November Beacon are due Thursday, October 19. 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
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