

Bethany Beacon

SEPTEMBER 2023



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“Issues As We Age” Workshop

Lutherans for Life will host “Issues As We Age” at Bethany on Saturday, September 16. We are all aging, but if you feel you have more years behind you than ahead of you, this event is for you. “Issues As We Age” will be a workshop giving information on coping with the spiritual, physical, medical, legal, and ethical aspects of the latter years of life.

The event begins at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude around 1:00 p.m. Brunch will be served at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Andrew Noble, Pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran in Marion and Rev. Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life are the featured speakers. All are welcome to attend (not just Lutherans)! We are all united in facing the same issues in our twilight years.



Please register for this community workshop by September 7.

Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center at Bethany, or print a form online at www.bethanycr.org/lutherans-for-life.



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God’s Love

...but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. – James 3:8

When the Civil War general and president of the United States Ulysses S. Grant was eight years old he wanted to buy a horse that he saw in town. So, he asked his father for the twenty-five dollars the current owner of the horse, Mr. Ralston, was asking. The problem was that Grant's father believed the horse was only worth twenty dollars. But knowing how much his son wanted this particular horse, Grant's father gave him the whole twenty-five dollars, but on one condition. He told his young son that he was to first offer to buy the horse for twenty dollars. His father told him that if Mr. Ralston wouldn't accept that offer, then Grant was to offer him twenty-two dollars and fifty cents. If the Mr. Ralston still refused, then Grant's father said to offer the man the whole twenty-five dollars. And so with those instructions (and the twenty-five dollars) the eight year-old Grant ran into town.

Upon arriving at Mr. Ralston's house, Grant excitedly told the man that he wanted to buy the horse. But being so anxious about the deal, he told Mr. Ralston that he had strict instructions from his father. He said he could only offer him twenty dollars. But Grant said that if he refused, he could offer twenty-two and a half. And if that was refused, Grant told Mr. Ralston he could then offer him the whole twenty-five dollars. As Grant wrote in his memoirs, "It would not require a Connecticut man to guess the price finally agreed upon."

Of course, the young Grant was excited to have his new horse. But as he continued to write in his memoirs, "This transaction caused me great heart-burning." It seems that word soon got out to the people, and particularly the boys, of the village about the "deal" Grant had made and they teased him mercilessly because of it. As Grant wrote, "Boys enjoy the misery of their companions...and in later life I have found that all adults are not free from this peculiarity."

What I have found so interesting about this story is that while Grant says he eventually got over the embarrassment of buying his horse in the manner in which he did, he mentions the incident several times in his memoirs. Even after U.S.

Grant had become one of the greatest generals our country has ever had, leading hundreds of thousands of men into battle to save our country; and even after he had become president of the United States, Grant still seems to remember this incident when he was a young boy with embarrassment – no doubt because of the way he was teased about it by his peers at the time.

In the book of the Bible that bears his name, St. James seems to understand with U.S. Grant the "heart-burning" that words can bring about. In James, chapter 3, he writes that the tongue is like a small fire that can set an entire forest ablaze. He continues to say that the untamed tongue can be full of deadly poison, bringing untold harm into people's lives, even great general's and a president's. Grant seems to have understood this and perhaps you do as well. Maybe you have had moments in your life where people's words have caused you great pain and heartache. Or maybe there have been times when you have been like the boys of the village or the adults Grant knew later in life who seemed to have enjoyed the misery your words inflicted upon others.

Regardless, God's Word gives us a stern warning to think about how our words might impact others. Instead of using them to tear people down by teasing or gossiping, we should use our words to praise our God and lift people up. Martin Luther explains that we do this by speaking well of our neighbor, defending their reputation, and explaining all things in the kindest of ways. (If only Grant's childhood friends would have known this!)

Of course, none of us do this perfectly. And so we need to confess our sin when necessary and seek forgiveness through the One whose Words are life and salvation. And we can find comfort knowing that God will always forgive all our sin through Jesus Christ. But this doesn't give us permission to keep sinning. Rather God's love through Jesus Christ is the motivation to use our words to praise Him and lift up all those around us.

Thanksgiving:

Mary Jean (mother of *Greg Dunn)- improved health

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Cindy (friend of *Larsons)- hospitalization
 Wendell (friend of *Larsons)- health issues
 Ezra (infant son of Ben Venteicher) - health issues
 Luci (7 yr old relative)- seizures, drug induced coma
 Gail (relative of *Faye Sieck)- recovering after surgery
 Nancy (sister of *Julie Elias)- recovering after fall
 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
 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:

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:

Tom (friend of *Dave Johnson)- cancer
 Natalia (friend of *Karstens)- cancer
 Joe (brother of Mary Vezina)-cancer
 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
 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

Grief, family and friends of:

Francis (friend of *Larsons)- died 8/18
 Priscilla (sister of Prudy Peterson)- died 8/13
 Alta Dort (former member)- died 7/14
 Raymond (father of *Lora Raymon)- died 7/11
 Obie (brother of *Ben Mims)- died 7/4



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.

Saturday, September 2

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, September 3

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

5:00 pm Emerging Adults

Monday, September 4

Labor Day Office Closed

Tuesday, September 5

9:00 am Walking Exercise

6:00 pm Evangelism Meeting

Wednesday, September 6

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, September 7

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

9:00 am Walking Exercise

6:00 pm Human Care Meeting

7:00 pm Council Meeting

Friday, September 8

9:00 am Rebekah Circle

Saturday, September 9

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, September 10

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

5:00 pm Emerging Adults

Monday, September 11

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, September 12

9:00 am Quilting

9:00 am Walking Exercise

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 13

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, September 14

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

9:00 am Walking Exercise

1:00 pm Leah Circle

6:00 pm Naomi Circle

Saturday, September 16

8:30 am Lutherans For Life Event

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, September 17

9:45 am Project 24 Presentation

12:15 pm Board of Education Meeting

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

5:00 pm Emerging Adults

Monday, September 18

6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach

10:00 am Women's Group

7:00 pm Bible Study on Parables

Tuesday, September 19

9:00 am Walking Exercise

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 20

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

3:30 pm Cottage Grove Devotion

6:00 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm High School Youth

6:30 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 21

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

9:00 am Walking Exercise

11:00 am Senior Worship

Saturday, September 23

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, September 24

9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks - Office

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

5:00 pm Emerging Adults

Monday, September 25

6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach

10:00 am Women's Group

6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Cont. Ed.

7:00 pm Bible Study on Parables

Tuesday, September 26

9:00 am Walking Exercise

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 27

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, September 28

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

Saturday, September 30

8:00 am CPR/First Aid Training

9:00 am LWML Zone Event - Marion

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/1	Greg Dunn Becky Thur Carolyn Johnson Sydney Wilson	9/8	Trae Robinson Adam Henderson	9/15	Sasha Knutson Eli Henderson	9/21	Zollie Duve Charles Clark
9/2	John Hamm Larry Thronson	9/9	Jeff Madsen Fran Struck Kent Zenor	9/17	Maleta Montague Cherie Miller	9/23	Ethan Myers
9/3	Jeannine Robinson	9/11	Whitney Fountain	9/18	Jackson Rinderknecht Joni Schmith	9/24	Linda Patten Natalie Prohaska
9/7	Bernice Stonewall Shirley McElroy Colton Keldgord	9/13	Kevin Hansen Chuck Kroemer	9/19	Donice McDonald	9/28	Harold Schoen
		9/14	Keenan Diers	9/20	Janet Gebert	9/29	Kathy Hanchera
				9/21	Doug Francik Macy Oja	9/30	Joel Knutson Lorelei Hackbardt

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/6	Brad & Brooke Oja	9/18	Ryan & JJ Theriault	9/23	Darren & Cindy Bogner
9/12	Joel & Kristan Conrad	9/20	Rick & Sandy Thorington	9/26	Karen & Eugene Schmidt
9/17	Jerald & Karissa Scott	9/21	Mark & Laura Holt		Darrell & Naomi Chiavetta

Bethany Gear

Bethany shirts and sweatshirts are available for purchase! To place an order, please sign up at the Welcome Center by September 17. Payments may be made in cash, or online at bethanycr.org/giving.



T-shirts: \$18 | Crewneck Sweatshirt: \$20 | Hooded Sweatshirt: \$25

Music Opportunities

Handbell Ensemble will start back up on September 12. The group 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.



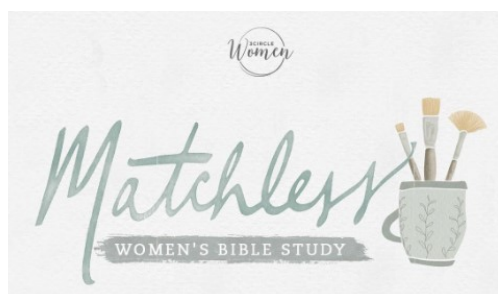
Emerging Adults

Bethany has a 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 more information, contact Kierra at intern.bethanycr@gmail.com.



New Bible Study: Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

We are back with our Monday night Bible study resuming on September 11. The 9-week session will be an in-depth Bible study on the parables of Jesus, to read and discuss a different parable each week. All are welcome to attend this study on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. If you plan to participate, please sign up for this study at the Welcome Center or contact Kierra at intern.bethanycr@gmail.com by September 6.



Women's Group

Women's group will resume at Bethany on Monday, September 11. All women are welcome to join us Mondays at 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. for fellowship and study! We will cover ten sessions on the book "Matchless" by Angie Smith. For details about women's group, please contact Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com.

Confirmation

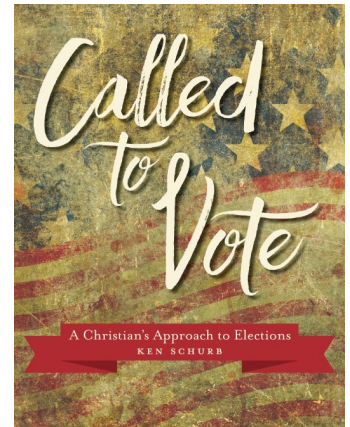
Confirmation class starts on September 6 and meets every Wednesday at 6:00-7:30 p.m. Confirmation is for students in 7th and 8th grade. If you have a child in this age group, please speak with Pastor Erickson or contact the church office to get them enrolled.



Sunday Adult Bible Study: “Called to Vote”

Beginning September 24, Pastor Erickson will lead our Sunday adult Bible study in a new study, “Called to Vote.” This study DOES NOT 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. It reminds us that “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.” Topics will include:

- Distinguishing between God’s Word and our own human judgments
- Distinguishing, but not separating, God’s two modes of ruling
- Distinguishing oneself as ruled from oneself as “ruler”
- Repentance and involvement in politics



This timely study will take place each week until we are finished. All adults are welcome to attend in the Family Life Center on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor Erickson.



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.



Family Faith Night

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 will be 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 seven Wednesday sessions of “God’s Living Water” at Family Faith Night.

2023: September 13 | October 11 | November 8 **2024:** January 10 | February 7 | April 10 | May 8

Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry

Our garden is growing! Check it out at the back doors by the playground. The produce will be shared with food pantry neighbors. We appreciate the partnership with Feed Iowa First in helping us establish the garden and delivering fresh, locally-produced vegetables to Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry. Here's a picture of a recent cabbage harvest!



PANTRY DONATION OF THE MONTH

The September donation item of the month is toilet paper. The food pantry is running low on stock. Please donate rolls of toilet paper and bring them to Bethany in September!

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 50-75 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.

Project 24 Presentation

Plan to attend a special presentation on Project 24 between services on Sunday, September 17. Pastor Dennis McManus will lead the presentation and will also preach at both services. Please plan to join us at 9:45 a.m. on September 17 in the Family Life Center for this presentation about the Project 24 mission in Kenya.

PROJECT
24
KENYA

Joy's Journal

Hello Bethany FURiends! Wow, school is starting already - even a Comfort Dog can attend school! In August I went to Adult Vacation Bible School at Bethany. I learned a lot from Pastor and Kierra and was able to greet all the participants between lessons. It was good practice for me to remain calm and avoid distractions. Also in August I went to the University of Iowa twice in one week! One time to visit a sorority and another visit to U of I REACH students (students with intellectual disabilities). I was able to offer them comfort and support before classes kicked off (plus I got to wear my Hawkeye scarf!)

Once schools started in town, I began my regular Thursday morning visits at Trinity Lutheran School – I love those students and their teachers! Finally, at the end of August I went back to the University of Iowa to visit students at the College of Law – they are very knowledgeable! I am looking forward to attending Bethany Sunday School starting in September – see you then!



Stephen Ministry Sunday: September 24

We are celebrating 20 years of Stephen Ministry at Bethany! Plan to join us for a special celebration on Sunday, September 24.



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. Hear testimonies and learn more about Stephen Ministry on September 24. If you would like to be connected to a Stephen Minister, please contact the church office.



Join us for Senior Worship

Thursday, September 21
Service at 11:00 AM | Luncheon to follow

First Aid/CPR/AED Training at Bethany

First Aid/CPR/AED training will be held at Bethany on Saturday, September 30 at 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The cost of training for Bethany members is \$10 (a \$45 value, Bethany Human Care covers the gap).

If you would like to participate in training, register with Nurse Ronda before Friday, September 15. Call the office at 364-6026 or email nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com

Why learn CPR? You will learn skills including how to...

- Save a life
- Identify and respond to the signs of a cardiac arrest
- Understand how to use an AED
- Help someone who is choking
- Help someone who is drowning
- Assist with an accident
- Serve in a natural disaster
- Learn basic anatomy
- Practice crisis management skills



Especially For You

Join the Bethany Lutheran Church team! The “Especially For You” Race Against Breast Cancer will be held on Sunday, October 1. The race starts at 8:00 a.m. at Mercy Hospital. There is the option to do a family 1-mile walk, a 5K walk, or a 5K run. Register for \$39.40 by September 4.

Why support the cause? The Especially for You® Fund may be lifesaving if the inability to pay prevents you or someone you know from seeking breast-care and gynecological services. Since October 1991, as a result of the annual Especially for You Race Against Breast Cancer, free mammograms and other breast-care and gynecological services have been provided to area individuals in need.



Join our team!
www.bethanycr.org/efy



Stuff Etc.

Have any quality “stuff” around your house you would like to get rid of? Bethany now has an account at Stuff Etc., the consignment store located 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 (only one tote at a time, please) and furniture is accepted seven days a week. When you drop off items, please provide Bethany’s consignor number which is 42223.

LWML Cedar Rapids Zone Event

Join us for a zone event on Saturday, September 30 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (located at 915 27th St. in Marion). Registration is at 8:30 and the event begins at 9:00 a.m.



Guest speaker Anna Noble will share a presentation on short term mission trips to Guatemala at the event. The ingathering will be household goods for Central Furniture Rescue such as bake ware and utensils, cookie sheets, storage containers, kitchen towels, pot holders, measuring cups, mixing bowls, etc.

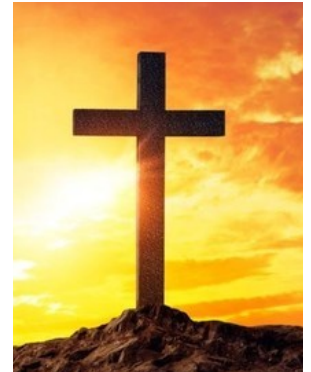


Sewing Quilts for World Relief

On Tuesday, September 12, 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.

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 starting at the end of September. 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.



Church Statistics	July 2023
Average Sunday Attendance	170 Souls
Total Revenue	\$55,348.56
Total Expenses	\$37,133.53



Submit Announcements for Publication

Announcements for the October Beacon are due Thursday, September 21. 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