

Prayer Page

Thanksgiving

- Karl Hoech - recovered after surgery

Entrusting into God's Care

- Persecuted Christians and refugees
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

Healing

- Kim Neuhaus - recovering after surgery
- Derek (son of Hackbards) hospitalization
- Ruth (relative of Karl Hoech)- hospice care
- Martin (friend of Hedtkes)- health issues
- Lora Raymon - recovering after surgery
- Carolyn Johnson - recovering after surgery
- Cindy Broadwater - recovering after hospitalization
- Lee Heims - recovering after surgery
- Kelly Johnson - healing
- Philip Hackbardt - recovering after surgery
- Ron Prescott - recovering after surgery
- Ethel Doehrmann - immunotherapy treatment
- Doug Knutson - immunotherapy treatment
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Abi Clark - health issues

Homebound

- Nadine Wax - at home

Mourning, friends and family of

- Todd (friend of Rick Foreman) - died 12/23
- Del Block - died 12/21
- Lee Rathje - died 12/19
- Shirley Kellogg (mother of Lynn Kellogg) - died 12/17
- Loretta (relative of Barb Rocarek & Tyler Steggall) - died 12/4
- Denny (relative of Brenda Heims) - died 12/3

Serving Our Country

- Ben (son of Kroemers) - IA National Guard
- Devin (friend of Kroemers) - IA Army National Guard
- Mitchell & Benjamin (relatives of Schoens & Smiths) - US Navy
- Harrison (son of Siecks) - US Army, stationed in TX
- Jordan (grandson of Kim Neuhaus) - IA National Guard

Servants of Worship

	Sunday, December 31	Sunday, January 7
Elder	Karl Hoech	Phil Hedtke
Usher (8:30)	Dave Karsten	Wade Ramsey, Ed Schumacher
Usher (11)	Dick & Karen Hass	Ben Mims, Steve Hanchera
Greeter (8:30)	Joy the Comfort Dog	Wade & Sharon Ramsey
Greeter (11)	Joy the Comfort Dog	Rita Tiedt & Karen Schmidt
Lector (8:30)	Rick Foreman	Rick Thorington
Lector (11)	Emily Kroemer	Sheryl Knutson
Video (8:30)		
Video (11)		
Sound (8:30)	Ken Cook	Tyler Steggall
Sound (11)	Phil Hedtke	Ken Cook
Acolyte (8:30)	Carolina Rinderknecht	Ella Potter
Acolyte (11)	Sasha Knutson	Wynne Kroemer
Nursery (11)	Brooke Oja & Carolyn Zimmerman	Amy Smith & Susan Schoen
Coffee	Freeses	Mission Trip Youth

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Michael Erickson	pastor.bethanycr@gmail.com
Parish Nurse: Ronda Anderson	nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com
DCE Intern: Kierra Penney	intern.bethanycr@gmail.com
Communications: Maren Elm	comm.bethanycr@gmail.com
Office Administrator: Tina Freese	office.bethanycr@gmail.com
Financial Manager: Anne Railsback	officemanager.bethanycr@gmail.com
Youth Director: Darin Elm	youth.bethanycr@gmail.com
8:30 Music: Rianne Molinari	organist.bethanycr@gmail.com
11:00 Music: Luke Viertel	music.bethanycr@gmail.com



2202 Forest Dr. SE • Cedar Rapids, IA

319-364-6026 • www.bethanycr.org

**"...for my eyes have seen
your salvation that you
have prepared in the
presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to
the Gentiles, and for glory
to your people Israel."**

LUKE 2:30-32

December 31, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas

8:30 a.m. Service

Living and Sharing God's Love

Order of Service

Divine Service I

Call to Worship and Announcements		
Opening Hymn		
<i>O Sing of Christ</i>		LSB #362
Confession and Absolution		LSB pg. 151
Introit	Isaiah 52 & Psalm 98	
Kyrie		LSB pg. 152
Hymn of Praise		LSB pg. 154
Salutation and Collect of the Day		LSB pg. 156
Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	
Epistle Reading	Galatians 4:4-7	
Alleluia and Verse		LSB pg. 156
Holy Gospel	Luke 2:22-40	
Hymn of the Day		
<i>Gentle May Laid Her Child</i>		LSB #374
Sermon		
Offertory		LSB pg. 192
Apostles’ Creed		
Prayers of the Church		
Lord’s Prayer		
Luther’s Morning Prayer		
Benediction		LSB pg. 166
Closing Hymn		
<i>Let All Together Praise Our God</i>		LSB #389

Notes and Announcements

Contribution envelopes for 2024 are now available. Please pick up your box from the table outside the sanctuary.

In 2024 we will **read through selected Bible passages** together as a congregation. These reading plans are used by permission from CPH from *The Lutheran Reader’s Bible*. In January we will read ten passages of “Understanding God’s Plan of Salvation.” During Lent we will read 45 passages on “The Life of Jesus.” Please pick up a copy of the January reading plan from the Welcome Center!

We are excited to announce the commissioning and installation of **Kierra Penney as Director of Christian Education** at Bethany on Sunday, January 14 during both services. A potluck will follow the second service in celebration of this special day. Please bring a side dish to share. Arby's roast beef, drinks, and cake will be provided. A card basket will be available at the potluck. Cards may also be mailed to church. We thank God for you, Kierra!

Pancakes and Proverbs is a ministry for fathers or father-figures and their children. Join us this Saturday at Bethany at 8:00 a.m. for a delicious breakfast and some father-child activities!

Family Faith Night will meet on Wednesday, January 10. Dinner is served at 5:30, and the program is 6:00-7:30 p.m. All families are invited to join us for games and a Bible lesson! Be sure to arrive on January 10 with our Bible verse memorized: “And now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your words are true” - 2 Samuel 7:28.

All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend the **annual meeting** on Sunday, January 21 at 12:30 p.m.

Willis Dady Homeless Services is an emergency shelter in Cedar Rapids. Willis Dady currently has a great need for blankets (not sheets) and towels of any size. Bethany will collect these items through January 14. Please place new or gently used blankets and towels in the collection area located just outside the sanctuary.

The January donation item of the month is **13-gallon trash bags**. Please donate trash bags for Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry. To volunteer in the pantry, sign up at **bethanycr.org/food-pantry**.

The LWML will **tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief** next Tuesday, January 9 at 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Our Calendar This Week

Today	8:30 am	Divine Service (Traditional)
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Divine Service (Contemporary)
	1:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Monday	Office Closed - New Year’s Day	
Tuesday	8:00 am	Greene Square Neighbor Ministry
	5:00 pm	LWML Board Meeting
	6:00 pm	Evangelism Meeting
Wednesday	9:00 am	Men’s Bible Study
	6:00 pm	Confirmation Class
	6:00 pm	High School Youth
	6:30 pm	Vocal Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study
	6:00 pm	Human Care Meeting
	7:00 pm	Christian Faith Class
Saturday	8:00 am	Pancakes and Proverbs
	9:00 am	Holy Yoga
Next Sunday	8:30 am	Divine Service (Traditional) w/ Comm
	9:45 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Divine Service (Contemporary) w/ Comm
	1:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Next Mon.	6:30 am	Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
	6:00 pm	Stewardship Meeting
	7:00 pm	Elders Meeting

Stewardship Note: Luke 2:39 – “*And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned ... to their own town of Nazareth.*” The Law of God is good. Of course, it always shows us our sins, but that is good, too! We need to be driven back to the forgiveness of Christ. And the Law also shows us the truly blessed way to live. As Mary and Joseph found their joy in a godly life, so should we see the Law as a guide for Christian living and as the roadmap for saying thank you to the Lord for all His grace and mercy to us.

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.