

Adult Vacation Bible School: Biblical Charity

Mark your calendar! Adult Vacation Bible School will be held at Bethany August 12-15 at 9:00-11:00 a.m. Adult VBS is a Bethany tradition for adults to gather for a week of Bible study, fellowship, hymn singing, Bible trivia, and more! All adults are welcome.

This year's theme is "Biblical Charity." Topics to be covered include:

- An Old Testament Foundation
- How Does Charity Relate to the Gospel
- Charity in the Early Church
- Educating the Church for Charity
- Charity and the Liturgical Life of the Church

**Sign up at the Welcome Center if
you plan to attend Adult VBS!**



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love



Pastor's Page

The following is an article from LCMS.org titled "Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity." While reading it, I couldn't help but to think of Bethany's recent unanimous decision at our Voters' Assembly to replace our parking lot. The decision to move forward with this project was made possible not only through the hard work of Mitch Myers and the rest of our trustees; Julie Elias, our treasurer; and Darrell Chiavetta our congregation's chairman; but also the incredible generosity of Bethany's members and friends over the years. I believe and pray that this generosity is, as the article states, a response to the generosity, mercy and grace that our Heavenly Father has shown to each of us through Jesus Christ.

✝ Pastor Erickson



"Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift" (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul's exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church's response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God's mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul's call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians' joy filled Jerusalem's need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God's generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord's. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives. It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn't. Stewardship is easy because it is God's work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that

what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It's a place where God's mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salvation in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God's mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor's need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!



Prayer Page

Thanksgiving

Mary (mother of *Ken Zenor)- improved health
Skip (brother of *Faye Sieck) - improved
Diane (relative of *Brenda Heims)- improved health
Lorena (sister of *Brenda Heims) - recovered after surgery
Andrew (relative of *B Heims) - recovered after surgery

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Derek (son of *Hackbardts)- surgery on 7/29
Tim (friend of Pete Larson)- health issues
Sandy (relative of *Emily Kroemer)- skilled care required
JB (friend of *Cynthia Broadwater)- recovering after surgery
Don (friend of *Mary Vezina)- recovering after surgery
David (father of *Chris Frampton) - health issues
Lisa (daughter of *Cheri Miller)- health issues
Joseph (relative of *Angie Yuza)- recovering after surgery
Kathy (sister of *Mark Holt) - health issues
Scott (relative of *Schumachers)- injuries after fall
Keith (relative of *M Nanke)- recovering after hospitalization
Charlie (relative of *Barb Deetz)- recovering after surgery
Loren (relative of *Barb Deetz)- health issues
Jacquiline (daughter of *C Kroemer)- health issues
Sarah (daughter of *Henkelmanns) - health issues
Chuck (friend of *Linda Patten)- health issues
Margaret (relative of *Karl Hoech)- recovering after fall
Gloria (granddaughter of *Kim Neuhaus)- personal issues
Sylvia (aunt of *Patricia Hinrichs) - health issues
Judy (relative of *Brenda Heims) - health issues
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

Homebound members of Bethany:

*Cindy Broadwater- at home
Candi Engel - Heritage Care Center
*Carol Grimminger- Cottage Grove
*Nadine Wax - Hallmar
*Dorothy Freese - Keystone Place
*Verlyn & *Paul LeFevere- at home

Cancer/Hospice:

Charlotte (relative of *Emily Kroemer)- hospice care
Ellie (relative of *Lynn Madsen)- cancer treatment
Jim (friend of *Dave Johnson)- cancer treatment
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
John (friend of *Dunns) - chemo treatment
Tony (friend of *Mike Thomas) - cancer
Julie (friend of *Brenda Heims) - cancer
Chad (son of *Vicki Huschka) - leukemia

Grief, family and friends of:

Don (friend of *Don Hein)- died 7/16

Safety:

Devon (friend of *Hedtke & *Chittick)- deployed to Korea
Mallory (friend of *Abi Clark)- IA National Guard
Amber (daughter of *A Balvanz)- U.S. Army, stationed in RI
Jordan (g son of *K Neuhaus)- IA Army National Guard
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
Andrea (relative of *Steggalls)- teaching in Bulgaria

Bethany Prayer Ministry

Are you a prayer warrior? If you would like to receive prayer requests from the congregation via email, contact the church at office.bethanycr@gmail.com to be added to the prayer chain list.

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

Thursday, August 1

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

Saturday, August 3

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, August 4

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, August 5

6:00 pm Stewardship Meeting
6:00 pm Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, August 6

6:30 am Orphan Grain Train Trip
8:00 am Prayer in the Square
9:00 am Walking Exercise
1:30 pm Prayer Group
5:00 pm LWML Board Meeting
6:00 pm Evangelism Meeting

Thursday, August 8

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

Saturday, August 10

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, August 11

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

Monday, August 12

9:00 am Adult VBS
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision
7:00 pm Elders Meeting

Tuesday, August 13

8:00 am Prayer in the Square
9:00 am Adult VBS
9:00 am Walking Exercise
1:30 pm Prayer Group
7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 14

9:00 am Adult VBS

Thursday, August 15

9:00 am Adult VBS
9:00 am Walking Exercise
11:00 am Senior Worship

Saturday, August 17

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, August 18

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Tuesday, August 20

8:00 am Prayer in the Square
9:00 am Walking Exercise
1:30 pm Prayer Group

Wednesday, August 21

4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotion

Thursday, August 22

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
9:00 am Walking Exercise

Saturday, August 24

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, August 25

9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks
1:00 pm Food Pantry Open
2:00 pm Bike Ride Fellowship

Monday, August 26

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

Tuesday, August 27

6:30 am Orphan Grain Train Trip
8:00 am Prayer in the Square
9:00 am Walking Exercise
1:30 pm Prayer Group

Wednesday, August 28

6:00 pm Confirmation Orientation

Thursday, August 29

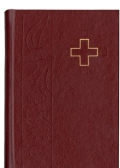
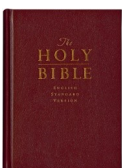
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
9:00 am Walking Exercise

Saturday, August 31

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

SUNDAYS | 8:30 AM Traditional Service | 9:45 AM Education Hour | 11:00 AM Contemporary Service

Holy Communion is celebrated at both services on the first and third Sunday of each month.



Bible and Hymnal Dedication

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the purchase of new Bibles and hymnals for our sanctuary! We will have a special dedication of the Bibles and hymnals during services on Sunday, July 28.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

8/1	Eric Freese Marge Grovert Kora Urban	8/9	Deb Heitland Leisa Knudson	8/16	Mya Chamberlin Claire Brusius	8/23	Donna Birkicht Talan Robinson
8/2	Dustin Bricker John Hutcheson	8/10	Vern Happel Brenda Heims Pam Kaufman Sharon Ramsey	8/17	Ryne Chamberlin Carolina Rinderknecht	8/25	Karen Pfeffer Dale Stonewall
8/3	Brad Easler	8/11	Ellen Holt	8/19	Elaine Willett Josh Bricker	8/26	Matt Rinderknecht Michelle Zerr
8/4	Gary Kaufman Spencer Kress	8/12	Josie Hester	8/20	Paul LeFevere Nevaeh Duve Leo Hinz	8/27	Janine Schmitt Wesley Potter
8/6	Angie Pfeil Patty Fratzke	8/13	Doreta Bogner Craig Riffey	8/22	EJ Brink Nikki Stackhouse Adalyn Gates	8/28	Nylotis Moeller Drew Zimmerman
8/7	Dick Hass Ed Schumacher	8/15	Lucas Heller			8/30	Pete Larson
8/1	Mike & Cindy Goerdt Robby & Andrea Russman	8/6	David & Lori Dohrmann	8/14	Ben & Dawn Mims		
8/2	Corey & Nikki Stackhouse	8/8	Jim & Deb Heitland	8/15	Tom & Debbie Mills Tyler & Kaylee Hedtke		
8/3	Greg & Kris Dunn	8/11	Cleo & Josie Hester Cody & Rebecca Ballstaedt	8/16	Joel & Katia Knutson		
8/4	Mike & Amy Diers	8/13	Mark & Michelle Zerr	8/29	Josh & Marissa Keldgord		

Orphan Grain Train

Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that ships donated food, clothing, medical and other items to people in need. Bethany members have the opportunity to serve for a day at their facility in Clemons, Iowa! Volunteers will pack and sort boxes of donation items. A group will carpool from Bethany on Tuesdays August 6 and August 27. We'll leave at 6:30 a.m., serve from 8:00 a.m. to noon, and return to Bethany around 2:00 or 3:00.



Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you would like to serve August 6 or August 27.



Parking Lot Resurfacing

This month, the Bethany Voters' Assembly approved the resurfacing of the front and back church parking lots. After years of deterioration, the Church Council recommended that it was time to allocate our financial resources toward its re-surfacing. Due to years of faith and generosity of the congregation, we are able to fund this action without taking out a loan. A hearty thank you to the congregation for making this possible!

The trustees are finalizing the details with contractors to ensure we get what we need. The desire is for the parking lot to be resurfaced this fall. Watch the Beacon for further details.



Announcements



Kith & Kin Card Ministry

The mission of Kith and Kin Card Ministry is to support and encourage homebound members by sharing the love of Christ with them through the mail. Kith and Kin started at Bethany in 2022. We are continuing this ministry and are now asking for new people to sign up!

Our congregation has members who are unable to regularly attend church. "Kith & Kin" (which means "friends and relatives") is a card ministry at Bethany to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ and to grow in fellowship as a church and community. We are asking for you to participate by writing and sending a card to your assigned Bethany member once a month, for a commitment of one year.

Please prayerfully consider being part of this ministry to uplift and encourage fellow church members. Participants are asked to attend an introductory meeting on Sunday, September 8 at 12:15 p.m. to learn about expectations. Please feel free to bring a sack lunch to the September 8 kick-off meeting.

If you are interested, please sign up at the Welcome Center August 18 - September 1.



August Evangelism Challenge

This month, the Board of Evangelism challenges the congregation to donate items for our neighbors across the street at Washington High School. There is always a need for school supplies. They also stock a "Warrior Closet" year-round with personal items, available for any students who have the need.

Needed school supplies for students include:

- Notebooks (one subject 9x11, wide ruled)
- Folders

Needed items for the "Warrior Closet" include:

- Men's and women's deodorant
- Quick snack items like granola bars.
- Target or Walmart gift cards for needs that the closet doesn't have

Please add these items to your shopping list in August and place your donations in the marked collection container at Bethany (please leave gift cards in the office). Thank you for caring and sharing!



Announcements



Bike Ride and Ice Cream

Join your Bethany friends for a bike ride on the Cedar River Trail on Sunday August 25, followed by ice cream at Almost Famous in NewBo!

We will meet at 2:00 p.m. at the parking lot at 2nd St SE and 11th Ave SE in NewBo, and then bike south along the Cedar River Trail for a distance before returning to NewBo. We will then head over to Almost Famous around 3:30 for ice cream or other treats (bring some money for your favs!). If you would like to start your ride sooner to bike longer or would like to skip the bike ride completely, please feel free to simply join us at Almost Famous around 3:30. Please feel free to invite a friend to join us, if you wish! Please sign up at the Welcome Center so that we have an idea of how many to expect. See you there!

Pickleball Tournament

Save the date! Bethany will host a fellowship pickleball tournament on Saturday, September 28 at Jones Park Pickleball Courts. The courts are located at 2819 Fruitland Blvd. SW in Cedar Rapids. This event will be open to other churches in the community, so be sure to invite your friends! Please look for more details to come about the 2024 pickleball tournament.



Joy's Journal

Happy August EveryPAWdy! I hope your summer is going well. This month I am going to tell you about my visits to Vinton Lutheran Home. The kind folks there were the FIRST ones to invite me into their facility as a comfort dog. I wasn't quite two years old when I started going the second Wednesday of every month. I travel from room to room to the residents that are dog lovers . . . boy, are they! I usually visit 25-30 residents each time I'm there. I get a lot of attention and love when I visit. I hope they feel the love of the Lord (and me) when I visit.

Blessings!

 Joy



Youth and Family Ministry



Children's Sunday School

Sunday School at Bethany is held Sundays at 9:45-10:45 for all students in preschool through 12th grade.

Summer Sunday School is in session through August 11. Join us for Sunday School Rally Day on August 25 at 9:45 a.m. in the Opening Room. Students AND parents kick off the year by meeting teachers, playing fun games, and turning in registration forms. Please look for forms in the mail and bring them with you on August 25!

The 2024-2025 Sunday School year starts with regular class on September 1. The year starts with lessons focusing on prophets like Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Isaiah and more. Sunday School offerings will go towards Prayer in the Square, with the goal of reaching \$300 again this year.

Sundays through August 11 is Summer Sunday School

Students in preschool and elementary:

Meet in the Opening Room

Students in middle school and high school:

Meet in the high school room

August 25 is Sunday School Rally Day!

Students in preschool and elementary:

Meet in the Opening Room (with your parents, please!)

Students in middle school:

Meet in the middle school room

Students in high school:

Meet in the high school room

September 1 is the first day of regular class

All students:

Meet in your respective classrooms



Want to serve at Sunday School?

Roles to be filled include preschool crowd control helpers, substitute teachers, and elementary station leaders (for games, crafts, and music). If you are willing to volunteer, please stop by the Sunday School office or contact Kierra at dce.bethanycr@gmail.com.



LCMS Youth Gathering

The LCMS Youth Gathering is held every three years, and the next gathering will be in New Orleans July 19-23, 2025. All students entering 8th-12th grade in 2024 are eligible to attend! All interested youth and their parents are asked to attend an informational meeting at Bethany on August 4 at 12:30 p.m. to learn about the gathering.



Youth and Family Ministry

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! Once a month, families gather to learn a Bible lesson and participate in fun activities together. This ministry is an opportunity to connect with your own family, as well as other families in our church community! Dinner is served at 5:30, and the program is held 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Family FAITH NIGHT

Plan to join us for the first three sessions this fall: September 11 | October 9 | November 13

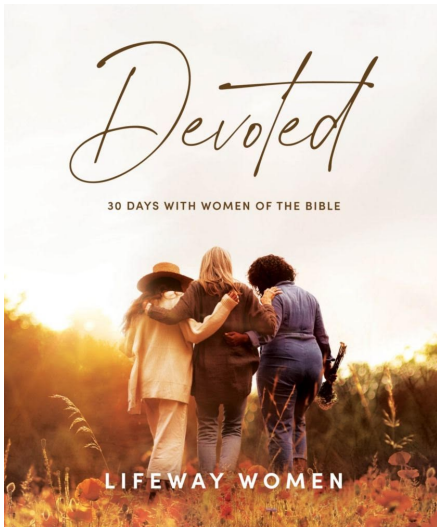
Youth Mission Trip

Bethany youth are mission bound! Five youth and two adult leaders departed for Denver, CO on July 20 to serve on a YouthWorks mission trip. Please keep DCE Kierra Penney and Mark Holt, and the youth Camden, Carter, Conner, Charles, and Natalie in your prayers as they live and share God's love with the people they encounter. So far they have served at Samaritan House by painting a fence and helping with food preparation. Youth have also packaged rice and stocked shelves at a couple food banks.





Announcements



Women's Small Group Study: Fall 2024

Bethany women gather for study and fellowship on Mondays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at Bethany. The group took a break this summer and will start back up in September. Our next session of women's group will run September 23 through November 25. The study we will read together this session is "Devoted," a Bible study from Lifeway Women.

All women are welcome to join us for these ten Mondays! Participants are asked to read and prepare for each session, and should expect to spend about 90 minutes of reading per week. Books for this study cost \$17 each, which can be paid when you pick up your book. If you would like to attend the fall session, please sign up at the Welcome Center or let Nurse Ronda know by Sunday, September 1.

Please sign up for at the Welcome Center by September 1 for this session of women's group.

Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry

How can I serve in the pantry?

Each Sunday we need seven volunteers to serve at the pantry from 12:30-3:00 p.m. There are a variety of tasks such as checking neighbors in, and helping neighbors shop. If you are interested in assisting in the pantry, contact Nurse Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com and visit bethanycr.org/food-pantry to sign up. Each week Pete Larson oversees the volunteers that pick up food at HACAP in Hiawatha and stock our shelves. Contact Nurse Ronda if you would like to join the Friday pickup and stocking team!

Thank you for donating in July!

In July, we set a goal to collect 400 rolls of toilet paper for the pantry. As of July 23, we have collected 1299 rolls of toilet paper. WOW! Thank you, everyone, for your generosity!

What can I donate in August?

The August donation item of the month is 13-gallon tall trash bags with drawstrings. Thank you for donating trash bags!

Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry is also in need of adult-sized t-shirts to make reusable grocery bags for our pantry neighbors. We are hoping to collect close to 100 t-shirts. Please bring in gently used t-shirts and place them on the food pantry collection table.



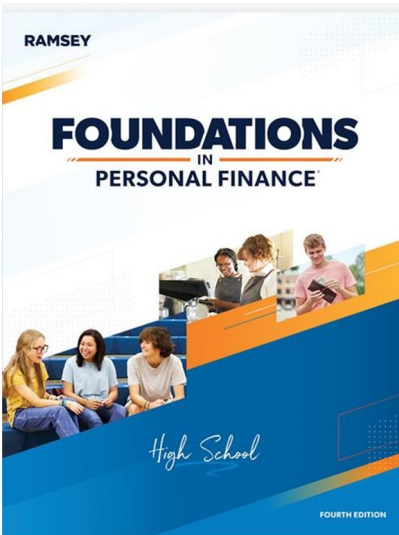
Join us for Senior Worship

Thursday, August 15

Service at 11:00 AM | Luncheon to follow



Announcements



Foundations in Personal Finance

A personal finance class for young adults (high school and college age) will be offered at Bethany this fall. “Foundations in Personal Finance” is designed to teach young adults money skills to use now and the rest of their lives. This course is part of Dave Ramsey’s very successful program.

Classes are to be held at Bethany on Wednesdays at 6:00-7:30 p.m. This is during typical youth group time and will be held in place of high school youth group for the duration of the class. The 6-week session will begin in September. If your student is interested in this class, please contact the church office to help us plan on the number of students to expect. Look for more details coming soon, or speak with a member of the stewardship board to learn more information about Foundations in Personal Finance.



Especially For You Race Against Breast Cancer

A Bethany team has been created for the Especially For You Race Against Breast Cancer! The 2024 event will be held on Sunday, October 6 at 8:00 a.m. The cost for adults is \$32, and youth is \$22 until September 1, (then the price increases to \$37).

CHURCH STATISTICS June 2024

Average Sunday Attendance	191 Souls
June Income	\$33,341
June Expenses	\$36,850



Submit an Announcement



Submit Announcements for Publication

Announcements for the September Beacon are due Thursday, August 22. To submit, please fill out an announcement request form at www.bethanycr.org/announcement-request or contact Communications Coordinator Maren Elm at comm.bethanycr@gmail.com.

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Thursday Morning Bible Study

Pastor Erickson teaches Bible study on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. at Bethany. All adults are welcome and encouraged to attend this weekday study for a time of discussion and diving deeper into God's Word.