



The Life of Jesus

BIBLE READING PLAN
LENT 2024

In January we read 10 passages in the Bible reading plan “Understanding God’s Plan of Salvation.”

Starting on Ash Wednesday (February 14) we will start our new reading plan for Lent: “The Life of Jesus.”

The 45-reading plan will take us through Easter with a reading every day. Please pick up a calendar from the Welcome Center for a full list of all the readings!

The reading plans are used by permission from CPH from *The Lutheran Reader’s Bible*. “The Life of Jesus” is found on page 1850. Though not necessary to participate in this reading plan, *The Lutheran Reader’s Bible* is available to purchase at www.cph.org/the-lutheran-readers-bible for those interested.



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God’s Love



Pastor's Page

At least once a year my wife, son, and I will travel to Michigan to visit our family. Being that these trips require a long drive in the car (often in winter weather), and that we like to maximize our enjoyment with family while we are there, traveling to Michigan involves a bit of preparation on our part. First, we have to pick dates to travel to make sure that everyone will be there when we arrive. Then, we have to figure out what we are going to do when we're in Michigan and plan accordingly. A day at the beach on Lake Michigan will require a different set of clothes than a day cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. And then finally, I have to make sure we're ready for the drive. Has the oil in the car been recently changed? Are the tires in good shape and properly inflated? Do I have the appropriate play-list downloaded to my phone so I can annoy my son while I sing along to classic hits from my youth?

Of course, traveling to Michigan, or traveling in general, is not the only thing in our lives that requires a bit of preparation. The Christian Church has long believed that it is beneficial to prepare for our celebrations of major festivals during the year, such as Christmas and Easter. During these times of preparation (Advent and Lent respectively), Christians are encouraged to deepen their reflection upon their lives of faith and, in many cases, increase their piety and lives of sanctification. As we grow closer to acknowledging Jesus' betrayal and death on the cross, the season of Lent also takes on the added characteristic of reflecting upon one's own sin and repentance. The idea here is that not only does Advent and Lent set convenient times for busy Christians to grow in their faith, but that they also help us to appreciate their festival day when it finally arrives. To help accomplish these things, churches such as Bethany will often have Midweek services during the Advent and Lenten seasons, in addition to providing other opportunities for their members and friends to grow.

This year, Easter is on March 31st. This means that the forty-day (not including Sundays) season of Lent will begin on February 14th – on Ash Wednesday. As mentioned above, to assist in

everyone's Lenten preparations, Bethany will be holding services on Wednesday evenings throughout the season, and I would encourage everyone to plan on attending. But this year, we are also encouraging everyone to participate in a Scriptural reading plan that will coincide with our Midweek services. Similar to the devotion books that we have purchased and handed out in the past, this reading plan is intended to increase our engagement with God's Word. This plan is focused on the life of our Savior and in addition to being read for our personal devotions, it will also be used as our Scripture readings during our Midweek services. This plan and more information concerning it can be found in this issue of The Beacon.

Of course, while studying God's Word and attending services in the Lord's house are great ways to increase our spiritual discipline, they are not the only ways that we can prepare to celebrate our Lord's resurrection on Easter this Lenten season. In addition to growing in our knowledge of the Scriptures, we are also called to serve one another in the name of our Lord. And like the reading plan that I had mentioned earlier, or a calendar of services at Bethany, in this issue of the Beacon you'll also find many ways that you can serve our Lord and one another. While many of these opportunities to serve are available at other times of the year, Lent may be a good time for those who haven't been involved in many of Bethany's activities to consider becoming so.

As good preparation is essential to accomplish everything from safe and enjoyable family vacations to celebrating festival days in the Church, I pray that this month's Beacon will help inform you of all the opportunities to attend services, grow in God's Word, and serve one another with Christ's love here at Bethany as we begin the season of Lent and look forward to our Easter celebrations.

✝ Pastor Erickson





Prayer Page

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Charlie (relative of *Barb Deetz)- health issues
Loren (relative of *Barb Deetz)- health issues
Lucy (relative of *Schmiths)- recovering after hospitalization
Luke (relative of *Knutsons)- hospitalization
Mary (mother of *Ken Zenor)- hospitalization
Sandy (relative of *Emily Kroemer)- health issues
Jenn (relative of *Mary Nanke)- recovering after surgery
Derek (son of *Hackbardts)- recovering after hospitalization
Kathy (sister of *Mark Holt) - health issues
Diane (relative of *Brenda Heims)- health issues
Jacquiline (daughter of *C Kroemer)- health issues
Don (friend of *Mary Vezina)- recovering after surgery
Skip (brother of *Faye Sieck) - grief issues
Sarah (daughter of *Henkelmanns) - 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
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
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)- IA Army National Guard
Devin- (friend of *Kroemers)- IA Army National Guard
Ben (son of *Kroemers)- IA National Guard

Thanksgiving:

Maya (granddaughter of *Mims)- born 1/20
Installation of DCE, Kierra Penney- 1/14
David (father of *E. Heller & *M. Rinderknecht) - recovered

Homebound members of Bethany:

Cindy Broadwater- at home
Candi Engel - Heritage Care Center
*Nadine Wax - at home
*Dorothy Freese - Keystone Place
*Verlyn & *Paul LeFevere- at home
*Chuck Stoelting- Garnet Place

Cancer/Hospice:

Charlotte (relative of *Emily Kroemer)- cancer
Rodney (relative of Betty Happel)- cancer
Ruth (relative of *Karl Hoech)- 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
Alice (friend of *Brenda Heims) - 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:

Adam (friend of *Cindy Goerdts)- died 1/20
Todd (friend of *Rick Foreman)- died 12/23
*Del Block - died 12/21
*Lee Rathje- died 12/19
*Shirley Kellogg- died 12/17
Loretta (relative of *B Rocarek & *T Steggall)- died 12/4
Denny (relative of *Brenda Heims)- died 12/3

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, February 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, February 3

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

Sunday, February 4

- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, February 5

- 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting
- 6:00 pm Stewardship Meeting
- 7:00 pm Bible Study

Tuesday, February 6

- 8:00 am Prayer in the Square
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 5:00 pm LWML Board Meeting
- 6:00 pm Evangelism Meeting
- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 7

- 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, February 8

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

Friday, February 9

- 9:00 am Rebekah Circle

Saturday, February 10

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, February 11

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

Monday, February 12

- 6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
- 7:00 pm Elders Meeting
- 7:00 pm Bible Study

Tuesday, February 13

- 8:00 am Prayer in the Square
- 9:00 am Quilting for World Relief
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 14

- 6:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Lenten Meal
- 6:15 pm Confirmation Class

Wednesday, February 14 (cont.)

- 6:30 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 15

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 11:00 am Senior Worship

Saturday, February 17

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room
- 5:00 pm Youth Valentine's Fundraiser

Sunday, February 18

- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, February 19

- 6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
- 10:00 am Women's Group
- 7:00 pm Bible Study

Tuesday, February 20

- 8:00 am Prayer in the Square
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 21

- 6:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotion
- 6:00 pm Lenten Meal
- 6:15 pm Confirmation Class
- 6:30 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Lenten Service

Thursday, February 22

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

Saturday, February 24

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, February 25

- 9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks
- 2:00 pm Super Bowling - May City
- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, February 26

- 10:00 am Women's Group
- 7:00 pm Bible Study

Tuesday, February 27

- 8:00 am Prayer in the Square
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 28

- 6:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Lenten Meal
- 6:15 pm Confirmation Class
- 6:30 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Lenten Service

Thursday, February 29

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study



Birthdays and Anniversaries

2/1	Joel Conrad David Jasper	2/12	Erin Crawford Jordan Throgmartin	2/16	Jada McGinnis Holden Caldwell	2/25	Andrea Russman Sawyer Stepanek
2/5	Noah Dohrmann Anne Railsback	2/13	Larry Kroemer Andy Gates	2/18	Robby Russman	2/26	Kierra Penney
2/6	Elizabeth Frampton	2/14	Sarah Gates Rita Tiedt	2/20	Jeff Gebert Mark Ranbarger	2/27	Kyle Gates
2/7	Porter Brink		Lucas Volden	2/21	Mike Prohaska	2/28	Dave Karsten
2/10	Joan Mosel Nancy Owens		Madi Lahmon Ann Balvanz	2/23	Mike Raymon		
				2/24	Kelly Frampton		

2/21 Arlen & Bonnie Breiholz

2/23 Wade & Sharon Ramsey

2/24 Gene & Nancy Owens

Annual Reports

Our congregation's annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 21. If you missed the meeting, please pick up a copy of Bethany's 2023 Annual Report at the Welcome Center.



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is on February 14, 2024. The Imposition of Ashes will be offered on the 14th at 7:00-8:00 AM at Bethany.

This is not a service, but individuals are invited to enter the sanctuary to receive ashes and for a personal devotion.

Lenten Services

Join us for Lenten services this season at Bethany.

Fellowship meals will be served at 6:00 PM before each midweek Lenten service.

Midweek Lenten Services

*February 14 at 7:00 PM

February 21 at 7:00 PM

February 28 at 7:00 PM

March 6 at 7:00 PM

*March 13 at 7:00 PM

March 20 at 7:00 PM

Maundy Thursday Service

*March 28 at 7:00 PM

Good Friday Service

March 29 at 7:00 PM

**Service with Communion*

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, February 3 at 8:00 a.m. at Bethany.





Announcements



LWML Casserole Project

The Bethany LWML is planning another casserole project to benefit Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry! The congregation is asked to donate 10.5 oz. cans of chicken noodle soup starting February 4 through March 10.

The LWML plans to make 90 casserole kits, which will be assembled at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 10 at the LWML general meeting. Everyone is invited to attend! The casserole kits will be distributed to our food pantry neighbors on Sunday, March 17.

Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry Updates

February Pantry Donation Item

The February donation item of the month is chicken noodle soup! Please bring in 10.5 oz. cans to support the LWML casserole project.

Bethany Garden

The Bethany garden group is gearing up for season two! Produce from our garden is given to our neighbors at Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry. If you are interested in helping with the Bethany garden in 2024, please contact Sheryl Knutson or Nurse Ronda.

Serve in the Pantry

Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry is open Sundays from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Every Sunday we need six volunteers to serve 12:30-3:00 p.m. If you would like to serve, please sign up at bethanycr.org/food-pantry. If this is your first time, please call Ronda at 364-6026.



Sewing Quilts for World Relief

On Tuesday, February 13 the LWML 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.

Donate Prizes for Care Center Bingo

Once a month, members of Bethany's LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) host Bingo for the residents at Winslow House care center. They are in need of stuffed animals for Bingo prizes. Do you have any small stuffed animals (about the size of Beanie Babies) looking for a new home? If so, please bring them to church for care center residents.. Contact Nancy Owens or Lorna Fischer for details about Bingo.



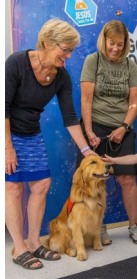


Announcements



Happy Anniversary, Nurse Ronda!

On January 10, Nurse Ronda Anderson celebrated 25 years as our Parish Nurse at Bethany. We thank God for her faithful and dedicated service! Ronda's care for our congregation and the community is evident as she lovingly lives and shares God's love with our members, food pantry neighbors, and many others who receive her care in the area. Please be sure to share your gratitude and congratulations when you see Ronda!



Family Faith Night

Family Faith Night is a ministry for students in pre-school through 12th grade and their parents. Plan to join us on February 7 for an evening of connecting with other families, learning a Bible lesson together, and participating in fun activities! Dinner is served at 5:30 and the program takes place 6:00-7:30.

Be sure to arrive with this memory verse memorized on February 7: "And now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your words are true." 2 Samuel 7:28

Joy's Journal

Hello Bethany FURiends!

Whew, the weather last month was something else, wasn't it. I do love the snow, but that bitter cold is tough for everyone, including comfort dogs.

In January I added a new spot to visit twice each month – Linn County Mental Health Access Center. The clients and staff there are very nice and really seem to enjoy my visits. In February I will hand out some Valentines with a Bible verse on them to the people I meet. It is a fun way to remind them of God's love.

I hope you stay warm the rest of the winter!



Blessings,





Announcements



Care Warriors

Care Warriors is a ministry to help meet needs of Bethany members and offer opportunities to serve. Care Warriors serve in four main ways:

- **Meals** (*birth of a baby, hospitalization, surgery, death in the family*)
- **Wheels** (*transportation to appointments, grocery shopping, ride to church*)
- **Labor** (*yardwork, cleaning, helping with a move, painting*)
- **Time** (*visiting members who are homebound, hospitalized, or in nursing facilities; emergency childcare*)

Would you like to be a Care Warrior? If so, please email Nurse Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com or contact Care Warrior coordinator Becky Johnson. You can select any or all of the four ways to serve, and you will be added to an email list for that area. For example, if you sign up to help with labor and meals, you will be emailed each time labor and meal opportunities arise.

Do you need a Care Warrior? If you could benefit from any of these four areas, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Bethany family! Please email Nurse Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com or call the church office at 319-364-6026. Care Warriors will be happy to serve you!

Prayer in the Square

Since June, members of our congregation have been providing food and drink, as well as conversation and prayer to those in need. We allow God to guide us in providing for the immediate needs (sandwich, snack, Gatorade, coffee, hot cocoa, fellowship) and the long-lasting needs (by sharing the Gospel through prayer). Each Tuesday morning at 8:00, we bring friendship, love, and a passion for Jesus to new friends:

- While accepting a Gatorade, one man told us about his upcoming job interview. Together, we prayed with him that he would find employment.
- A mother and daughter described the harsh conditions of street life. We prayed together with them to be reunited with their family and to find housing.
- In the bitter cold, one young man talked about his home state while showing its outline with ungloved hands. One of our volunteers gave him their gloves to help ease the chill.



The people we meet are respectful and thankful. Several have commented on how blessed they feel. Some are uncomfortable with prayer, but allow us to pray for them.

Our Greene Square neighbors are in great need this time of year. Each of you have something to offer. It might be handing out the food, praying with a neighbor, engaging new friends in conversation, providing a friendly greeting, or just pulling the food wagon! We also have volunteers who put together the sack lunches on Mondays. Please prayerfully consider joining us. Contact Naomi Chiavetta or the church office for details and to learn how to get involved.



Announcements

Baby Bottle Boomerang

Grab a baby bottle!

Fill it with change, bills, and checks!

Return by collection day!

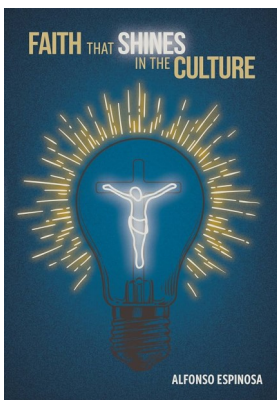
Baby Bottle Boomerang

Bethany will participate in the “Baby Bottle Boomerang” for Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center in February. How does it work? Follow these easy steps:

- Pick up a bottle from Bethany on February 11
- Use the bottle as a reminder to pray for Bridgehaven
- Fill the bottle with change, bills, or a check
- Return the bottle to Bethany by February 25



Bridgehaven is a ministry in Cedar Rapids that supports life. By filling a bottle, you are recognizing the beautiful lives that have been touched and saved through the ministry of Bridgehaven. You are helping to reach thousands of students through our education programs; making abortion recovery counseling available to all; providing pregnancy testing and ultrasounds to our clients; and making it possible for mothers, fathers, and children to get material support and education through Bridgehaven’s “Earn While You Learn” program.



Women’s Group

Women’s small group will resume for a new session at Bethany on February 19.

This will be a 14-week session on the book “Faith That Shines in the Culture” by Alfonso Espinosa. Ladies meet at Bethany on Mondays at 10:00-11:30 a.m., and all women are welcome to join!

The books cost \$17. If you plan to participate in this session, please contact Nurse Ronda (nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com) by January 28 so she can order you a book.



Announcements

Support the July 2024 Youth Mission Trip to Denver, Colorado!

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).



You can also support the youth mission trip by donating items to Stuff Etc. When you drop off items at Stuff Etc., provide Bethany's consignor number 42223 to support youth trips. Stuff Etc. is not accepting items January 1-15, but will accept Easter, Valentine's, St. Patrick's Day and spring apparel January 16-26 and January 29-February 29. So far we have raised \$350 through Stuff Etc. Thank you for contributing!



Super Bowl Subs Fundraiser

Who is looking forward to the Super Bowl? Don't worry; we have a great meal for you! Bethany youth are selling Super Bowl subs to fundraise for their upcoming mission trip to Denver. Students will be taking orders at Bethany on January 28 and February 4. Subs will then be distributed on Superbowl Sunday, February 11.



Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser

Looking for a great Italian meal? The youth are putting together a Valentine's dinner on February 17 as a fundraiser for their upcoming mission trip. We will serve a three-course meal from 5:00-7:00, and reservations are being taken at Bethany on January 28 and February 4. Meals will be prepared and served by our youth.

Join Friends for a February Fellowship Event!



Super Bowling

While football may be over, join your Bethany friends for Super Bowling on Sunday, February 25 at May City Bowl (1648 Trent St SW).

We will meet at 2:00 and plan to bowl two games, with prizes to be awarded in various categories. Please feel free to invite a friend to join us for a fun afternoon!

The cost will be \$6 per person, which includes two games and shoe rental. Please sign up at the Welcome Center so that we can ensure that we have enough lanes reserved.



Thank You for Sharing God's Love

The Bethany family lives and shares God's love with fellow members by praying, sending cards, making meals, visiting and providing comfort and friendship. Here are notes of thanks from Bethany members who have recently felt the love of their church family...

Special thank you to Pastor Erickson for the visit before my recent surgery. Thank you to my Bethany family for cards, well-wishes, and food. Randy and I feel very blessed to be a part of Bethany. Thank you.
- **Joni Schmith**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to 2023 Christmas giving. We were able to distribute \$100 Hy-Vee gift cards to 22 Bethany families. - **Bethany LWML**

Blankets and Towels for Willis Dady

Willis Dady Homeless Services is an emergency shelter providing shelter, case management, homeless prevention, and veteran support for Cedar Rapids and the surrounding area. In January we collected blankets and towels for Willis Dady. Thank you to everyone who donated!



Join us for Senior Worship

Thursday, February 15
Service at 11:00 AM | Luncheon to follow

CHURCH STATISTICS December 2023

Average Sunday Attendance	# Souls
Total Revenue	\$50,219
Total Expenses	\$36,587



Submit an Announcement



Submit Announcements for Publication

Announcements for the March Beacon are due Thursday, February 22. 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.

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