



Vacation Bible School June 24-27

**Students in preschool - 5th grade:
Join us for "Celebrate the Savior" VBS!**

Meals at 5:15 p.m. | VBS from 6:00-8:00 p.m.



**Registration is now open!
Please sign up your student
at bethanycr.org/vbs.**



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love



Pastor's Page

To say that Caitlin Clark had a successful collegiate basketball career would be the understatement of the year. Amongst other accomplishments, Clark led the University of Iowa's Women's Basketball Team through successful NCAA Tournament appearances and in doing so became the National Player of the Year twice, set the NCAA Division I scoring record, and was the first pick in the WNBA draft. However, as successful as she was in college, her professional career has gotten off to somewhat of a slow start. While she has had some individual success, her new team, the Indiana Fever, are currently sitting in second to last place, having only won one game out of eight at the time of this writing. Clark is, of course, only a few games into what will hopefully be a long and successful professional career. But so far, I think it is safe to say that this season is not working out the way that she and many others had hoped and planned.

All of us can relate to this. We spend time making plans and working to make our "dreams come true." And then life happens. For one reason or another, our plans do not come to fruition and our dreams do not come true. At best, maybe they get put on the back burner for a bit, at worst our dreams become nightmares. This is what happens to God's people in Old Testament times. For the most part, God's people in Israel and Judah were no doubt going about their lives much the same way we do today, chasing after all of their hopes and dreams. But in 722 B.C. and then 587 B.C. the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah fall respectively. Instead of living in the land that flows with milk and honey that was promised by God to their ancestors, the people were now led away to exile in Assyria and Babylon.

It is there in Babylon that the prophet Ezekiel has his ministry. In chapter 37 of the book

that bears his name, Ezekiel is shown a valley filled with dried up bones. He is told the bones that he sees are the house of Israel. And in verse 11 Israel says, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off." The people of Israel have lost hope. Things are not working out the way that they had planned. All of their dreams they were working towards back in the Promised Land have now become a nightmare as they live in exile in Babylon.

But where our plans often fail us; when our dreams often become nightmares; God has a way of turning our nightmares into dreams! This is what God tells Ezekiel in 37:12: "Therefore prophesy, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel.'" In the midst of their despair, God comes to the exiles with hope, and a hope that was beyond what anyone could have imagined! For not only does God promise to return the exiles to their land, He does even more, promising to open their graves and bring His people out of them.

Only time will tell whether or not Caitlin Clark's rough beginning to this season will turn into a successful professional career. But God's Word promises that just as He had done for the exiles in Babylon, so too will He do for us. When things are not working out the way that we want or when life seems like a nightmare, He is with us and is always willing to do more than we can imagine. This does not mean that all of our problems will just disappear or that life will be filled with happiness all of the time. Instead, God does more. Through His Son Jesus, He forgives our sins and gives us eternal life. With faith in Christ, our graves will be opened and we will be taken to the promised land of Heaven!

✝ Pastor Erickson





Prayer Page

Illness, injuries, health issues:

JB (friend of Cynthia Broadwater)- recovering after surgery
Don (friend of *Mary Vezina)- recovering after surgery
Debbie (sister of Phil Hedtke) - recovering after surgery
David (father of Chris Frampton) - health issues
Lisa (daughter of *Cheri Miller)- health issues
Joseph (relative of *Angie Yuza)- upcoming surgery 6/14
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
Mary (mother of *Ken Zenor)- hospitalization
Sandy (relative of *Emily Kroemer)- health issues
Derek (son of *Hackbardts)- recovering after hospitalization
Diane (relative of *Brenda Heims)- health issues
Jacquiline (daughter of *C Kroemer)- health issues
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
Gloria (granddaughter of *Kim Neuhaus)- personal issues
Lorena (sister of *Brenda Heims) - recovering after surgery
Marcia (relative of *Brenda Heims) - health issues
Sylvia (aunt of *Patricia Hinrichs) - 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:

Amber (daughter of *A Balvanz)- U.S. Army, stationed in RI
Andrea (relative of *Steggalls)- teaching in Bulgaria
Jordan (grandson of *K Neuhaus)- IA Army National Guard
Devin- (friend of *Kroemers)- IA Army National Guard

Thanksgiving

Hayden (infant daughter of Chitticks, granddaughter of Hedtkes)- baptized 5/12

Homebound members of Bethany:

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

Cancer/Hospice:

Charlotte (relative of *Emily Kroemer)- cancer
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:

Jena (friend of Ann Balvanz) - died 5/16
Nick (relative of Goerds/Frampton)- died 4/29
Vic (friend of Ken Armbrecht) - died 4/19
Jeffrey Jasper - died 4/13
Rev. Paul Scheidt (Asst. Pastor at Bethany 2000-2010) - died 4/5

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

Saturday, June 1

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, June 2

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, June 3

6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach

6:00 pm Trustees Meeting

6:00 pm Stewardship Meeting

7:00 pm Bible Study

Tuesday, June 4

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

Wednesday, June 5

7:00 pm Biblical Interpretations Study

Thursday, June 6

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

9:00 am Walking Exercise

6:00 pm Human Care Meeting

7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Saturday, June 8

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, June 9

12:15 pm Board of Education Meeting

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, June 10

6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach

6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision

7:00 pm Bible Study

7:00 pm Elders Meeting

Tuesday, June 11

8:00 am Prayer in the Square

9:00 am Quilting for World Relief

9:00 am Walking Exercise

1:30 pm Prayer Group

7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 12

7:00 pm Biblical Interpretations Study

Thursday, June 13

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

9:00 am Walking Exercise

7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Saturday, June 15

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, June 16

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, June 17

6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed.

7:00 pm Bible Study

Tuesday, June 18

8:00 am Prayer in the Square

9:00 am Walking Exercise

1:30 pm Prayer Group

Wednesday, June 19

4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotion

7:00 pm Biblical Interpretations Study

Thursday, June 20

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

9:00 am Walking Exercise

11:00 am Senior Worship

7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Saturday, June 22

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, June 23

9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

1:05 pm Kernels Game Fellowship

Monday, June 24

5:15 pm VBS Meal

6:00 pm VBS

7:00 pm Bible Study

Tuesday, June 25

8:00 am Prayer in the Square

9:00 am Walking Exercise

1:30 pm Prayer Group

5:15 pm VBS Meal

6:00 pm VBS

Wednesday, June 26

5:15 pm VBS Meal

6:00 pm VBS

Thursday, June 27

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

9:00 am Walking Exercise

5:15 pm VBS Meal

6:00 pm VBS

7:00 pm Christian Faith Class

Saturday, June 29

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

9:00 am Cornhole Tournament

5:30 pm Pool Party - Bever Pool

Sunday, June 30

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

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.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

6/2	Carter Oja	6/11	Velma Ziesemer	6/20	James Ball	6/27	Ben McClellan
6/5	Barb Deetz	6/12	Steve Wilson		Dawn Mims		Kiley Vande Weerd
	Karissa Scott	6/15	Jurnee Carr	6/23	Ashlyn Godbey	6/29	Natalie Steggall
6/6	Beckham Hedtke		Carter Keldgord		Beverly Munson	6/30	Tyler Steggall
	Emily Loney	6/16	Taylor Donels	6/25	Fred Hinkelmann		Josh Dohrmann
6/8	Nicholas Williams	6/19	Camden Brusius	6/26	Whitney Hinz		Levi Ballstaedt
6/9	Lora Raymon		Debbie Mills	6/27	Dorothy Freese		
6/10	Luci Stoelting		Susan Schoen		Melissa Keldgord		
6/1	EJ & Trisha Brink	6/13	Dave & Elaine Behrens	6/15	Jim & Lissa Novitch		
	Rick & Marvelene Foreman		Jeff & Paula Bulicek	6/20	Fred & Raylene Henkelmann		
6/2	Mark & Julie Elias		Rob & Sheila Willms	6/23	Gordon & Ethel Doebrmann		
6/5	Matt & Bridget Rinderknecht		Drew & Carolyn Zimmerman	6/26	Dathan & Patty Hinrichs		
6/10	Dale & Bernice Stonewall	6/14	Troy & Tracy Donels	6/28	Jeff & Donna Stranthan		



See You at the Ballpark!

Join Bethany friends at the ballpark on Sunday, June 23 to see the Cedar Rapids Kernels take on the Peoria Chiefs at 1:05! Special ticket pricing for Bethany members is \$10 each for adults, and kids under 18 are free! Kids 12 and under also get a free hot dog, popcorn, and drink courtesy of the Kernels. Please sign up at the Welcome Center by June 2. Becky McCarley will collect money and distribute tickets starting Sunday, June 9.

POOL PARTY

Help us make a splash at the end of VBS week! All are invited (not just VBS families) to join us for a fun night of fellowship and swimming.

Saturday, June 29  5:30-7:30 PM

Bever Pool  2700 Bever Ave SE



Announcements



Sunday Adult Bible Study: Ruth

On May 12 Pastor Erickson started a new Bible study on the book of Ruth. This Old Testament book operates on religious, legal, familial, national, moral and even romantic levels, using narrative to convey deep and profound spiritual truths concerning faithfulness and redemption. Sunday Adult Bible Study is held at 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the Family Life Center. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Prayer Ministry

A new weekly prayer group started April 30, and you are invited to join! The group will meet at Bethany every Tuesday at 1:30-2:30 p.m. to lift up our prayers of thanksgiving, cares and concerns.

The group uses the Bethany prayer lists, and also prays for any prayer concerns that come up within our Bethany ministries such as the food pantry, Monday morning coffee, Joy the Comfort Dog ministry, Tuesday Prayer in the Square, etc. In addition, all are welcome to bring prayer requests to this group.

Please join us Tuesdays at 1:30. If you would be interested in an evening time, contact the church office.



Joy's Journal

Hello Bethany FURiends! I have been busy this past month visiting students at Trinity Lutheran School and at the University of Iowa as they finish their school year. Students give me the best pets. Do you think that you can pet a dog too much? I sure hope not! I am looking forward to VBS in June and seeing all of my Bethany friends there! I pray you have a safe and happy summer.



Sewing Quilts for World Relief

On Tuesday, June 11 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.





Announcements



Thank You for Donating Life!

The American Red Cross blood drive at Bethany produced 37 units. Thank you to the many people who donated blood! Bethany will host another blood drive in October.



"Shoes for Good" Fundraiser for His Hands Free Clinic

His Hands Free Clinic is collecting gently used shoes & sandals of all kinds and all sizes to break the Guinness Book of World Records for most pairs of shoes collected in a week. Their goal is 250,000 pairs over one week! Yep, you read that right!

Why is His Hands having this shoe collection?

- To help provide funds for people without insurance in our community
- To help cobblers in other countries to make a living
- To keep shoes out of the landfill

This is a fundraiser for His Hands. The clinic will receive \$1,000 for every 2,500 pairs. Shoes collected will go to microenterprises across the world.

How do I participate?

1. Donate shoes!

- Drop-off location: Westminster Presbyterian Church (1285 3rd Ave SE, Cedar Rapids)
- Drop off dates and times: June 17 – 21, from 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. each day **(this week only!)**
- Please do not donate shoes with holes, rips or single shoes.
- Shoes, boots, crocs, sandals and flipflops are acceptable.
- We cannot accept Wheelies, ice skates or rollerblades.
- If possible, please rubber band pairs together.
- There will be PRIZES for the individual and organization that collect the most shoes.

2. Volunteer! To volunteer there are 2- or 3-hour shifts a day. You will be asked to do the following:

- Track donations
- Bundle shoes
- Store the shoes

Please visit bethanycr.org/his-hands to sign up for a volunteer shift!



Youth and Family Ministry



Children's Sunday School

Sunday School at Bethany is held for our students in preschool through 12th grade on Sundays at 9:45-10:45. The last day of Sunday School for the academic year will be June 2.

Summer Sunday School will start on June 9! Students in preschool through 8th grade are all together for Summer Sunday School.

We will need teachers and helpers to volunteer for Summer Sunday School! Please sign up at the Welcome Center to volunteer for one, or many Sundays! For info, contact Kierra at dce.bethanycr@gmail.com.



Congratulations to Annest Hoech, who had perfect Sunday School attendance for the 2023-24 year! Also congratulations to these students who had excellent attendance: Camden Brusius, Claire Brusius, Aiden Erickson, Harper Freese, Hudson Freese, Ella Smith, Henry Smith, Addy Childs, Nora Steggall, and Jordan Throgmartin.

Youth Group

Bethany youth celebrated the end of the youth group year with a make your own pizza night!

Regular Wednesday night youth group will resume in the fall. Youth families: Be sure to look for information to come about fun youth activities we'll have throughout the summer!



Congrats, Graduates!

On Sunday, June 9 we will recognize graduating high school seniors during services. We will also have cake and punch between services. Please come greet our graduates, and keep them in your prayers!

Youth Mission Trip

Bethany youth will embark on a mission trip to Denver, Colorado the week of July 21, 2024. To support this mission trip today, you may give online (select "Youth Trips" at www.bethanycr.org/giving).



Doing any spring cleaning? You can 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.



Cornhole Tournament

Bethany youth will host a cornhole tournament on Saturday, June 29. All ages are welcome! Registration is \$10 per person, and all proceeds will benefit the youth mission trip to Denver this July. Registration will be the day of the event starting at 9:00, and the tournament starts at 10:00 a.m.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Saturday, June 29

**Registration at 9:00 AM
Tournament at 10:00 AM**

**Bethany Lutheran Church
Family Life Center**

**Registration \$10/person
Tournament is for all ages!**

Proceeds will benefit a youth mission
trip to Denver, CO in July 2024.

Visit bethanycr.org/cornhole for details





Announcements



Join us for Senior Worship

Thursday, June 20
Service at 11:00 AM | Luncheon to follow

Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry

Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry is serving our neighbors! Each Sunday we need seven volunteers to serve at the pantry. There are a variety of tasks such as checking neighbors in, and helping neighbors shop. If you are interested in assisting in the pantry please contact Nurse Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com and visit bethanycr.org/food-pantry to sign up.

Pantry Garden

The garden pantry is underway! Bethany gardeners worked with Feed Iowa First to start planting the 2024 garden. We could use helping hands for weeding, watering, and harvesting throughout the season. Gardening experience is not necessary! If interested, contact Sheryl Knutson or the church office.



June Pantry Donation Item

The June donation item of the month is laundry detergent pods. Any brand and any amount is appreciated! Please place donations at the collection table outside the sanctuary.

Why pods? Laundry pods are easier to distribute and easier for our neighbors to get home than bottles of liquid laundry detergent. Thank you for your donations!





Announcements

Volunteer with Crossroads Prison Ministries

Bethany members Randy and Joni Schmith are involved with Crossroads Prison Ministries, and invite other Bethany friends to join the 5,000 mentors who reach over 30,000 students in jails and prisons!

Randy shared, "You will have a big impact on the students you mentor, and they will impact you also. We have seen the many ways God has changed lives, prisons, and churches by simply writing letters and studying His Word together. We are only known by our first name and we can bring hope, light, and love into prisoners' lives. Mentors' letters and Bible studies have been used by the Holy Spirit to change people's future. Joni and I have enjoyed mentoring for two years and we'd love to help you get started."

If you're interested in this ministry, contact the church office to get connected with Randy and Joni, or call 1-800-668-2450 to sign up for Crossroads Prison Ministries.

Fellowship for LCMS Singles

Singles of all ages are invited to join Zion's singles group for their next event on Saturday, June 8 at 11:30 a.m. to attend the Freedom Festival's Cardboard Boat Regatta at Robbins Lake (a race of boats made out of cardboard). We will meet at Zion and carpool. Please bring a chair and your sun protection. Food vendors are available onsite. If you plan to attend, please call Zion Lutheran Church at 319-393-2013.

Confirmation

When is the Rite of Confirmation? This spring there is no Rite of Confirmation at Bethany because we moved last year's first year class up to the second year class for logistical reasons. This created a gap, with us having a first year class, but no second year class in '23-24. Next year however, we'll be back to our normal schedule and look forward to our young members confirming their baptismal faith.

CHURCH STATISTICS June 2024

Average Sunday Attendance	185 Souls
April Income	\$47,153
April Expenses	\$44,030



Submit an Announcement



Submit Announcements for Publication

Announcements for the July Beacon are due Thursday, June 20. To submit announcements, 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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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



BETHANY SNAPSHOT: MONDAY WOMEN'S GROUP



*Bethany women wrapped up their session on the study of "Faith that Shines in the Culture."
Thank you, ladies, for the time of fellowship and study! The Monday women's group will take a
break for a bit this summer. Look for information to come about the next session of women's group!*