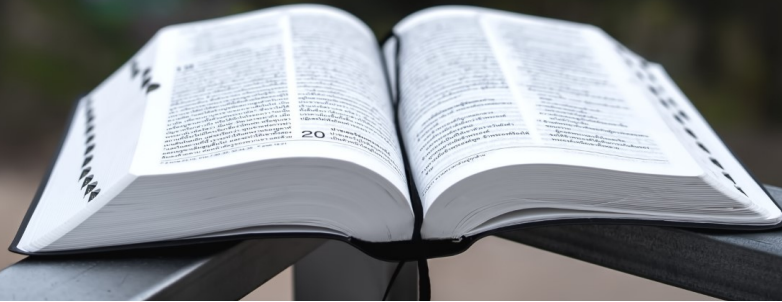


Get into God's Word

FALL BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AT BETHANY



New opportunities for everyone to learn and grow in God's Word are starting up this fall at Bethany!

- **Sunday School** - Sundays at 9:45-10:45 a.m. for all students in preschool-12th grade
- **Confirmation** - Wednesdays at 6:00-7:30 p.m. for students in 7th-8th grade (starts August 28)
- **Youth Group** - Wednesdays at 6:00-7:30 p.m. for students in 9th-12th grade (starts September 4)
- **Men's Bible Study** - Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m. for adult men (starts September 4)
- **Women's Small Group** - Mondays at 10:00-11:30 a.m. for adult women (starts September 23)
- **Monday Night Bible Study** - Mondays at 7:00-8:00 p.m. for all adults (starts September 30)

Year-round adult education classes are also ongoing and open to all adults!

- **Sunday Adult Bible Class** - Sundays at 9:45-10:45 a.m.
- **Thursday Adult Bible Class** - Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.

For details about these studies, please read this issue of the Beacon or contact the office at 319-364-6026.



Pastor's Page

Late this summer I rediscovered my love of mountain biking—that is, riding my bike off the roads and paved trails and on dirt or gravel paths through the woods. However, with summer coming to a close and the amount of daylight getting shorter and shorter, I realized that the time I have to ride each day is also getting shorter. So, after reading several articles online about how much fun it is to mountain bike at night, I decided to purchase a headlight for my bike. My thinking was that if I can't go out riding the trails when the sun is up, I'd buy a light that would allow me to ride whenever I want, greatly increasing the amount of time I have each day to enjoy riding.

Getting my new light I charged up the battery, mounted it (on my helmet actually), and waited for the first day when I couldn't go out riding during the daylight hours. When that day came, I rode out to the trailhead, turned the light on, and had a great time pedaling through the woods. Much to my delight the new light was nice and bright. It let me easily see where the trail was and where it was going. Any obstacles like tree roots or rocks were easily seen so I could zip around or even over them. Even the parts of the trail that were a bit sandy were easily discernable so I would know to slow down or take it easy around the corner.

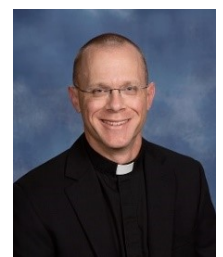
Riding along in the dark like this, I couldn't help but to think of Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." It is no surprise to any of us that the world can often seem like a dark place. The evil and sin that surround us can easily hide the path God desires us to travel in life. And even when we know that path, such as God's Ten Commandments, there are countless obstacles that seemingly come out of nowhere that tempt us to stumble and fall. But the Holy Spirit uses God's Word as a bright light to break the darkness in which we live. Not only do the Scriptures show us the path God would have us travel in life, it points out the difficulties in staying on that path and stumbling blocks that may cause us to trip and fall. And of course, best of all, unlike my bike light that can't help me much if I do go off the trail and crash, God's Word shows us our Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave His life to forgive all of our sin, so we may have life should we stumble and fall.

As I reached the end of the trail during my ride and pedaled back to our house, I was somewhat surprised to find that I didn't enjoy the ride as much as I thought I would. My light worked out fine, better than expected actually, and it felt good to get some

exercise on a day when I otherwise would not have. But the problem I discovered was that even with my light showing me the way to go, it was still kind of scary riding out in the woods in the dark. Yes, the light showed me where the trail was, but it also showed me several sets of eyes along the side of the trail that were glowing back at me. (Were those raccoons, or something more dangerous?) And while I could see the rocks and tree roots on the trail, I couldn't see what that noise was over off to my side. I think it was a deer, but do they have mountain lions in Iowa? And was that heat lightning or is a storm coming in? Or what if I get a flat tire or the battery dies in my new light?!?! I couldn't help but to think of all these things as I rode along and that made the ride not as much fun as normal. But, if I had another rider along with me, I think I would have enjoyed riding in the dark much, much more. An extra set of eyes looking out for apex predators (or bunny rabbits) would be comforting. If the battery on my light died out, we could follow another's. And just having someone else along is helpful should anything go wrong.

I think the same can be said for reading and studying God's Word. Yes, in the dark and evil world in which we live, we all can and should spend time reading the Bible alone and in doing so the Spirit blesses us with all of the gifts God promises. But sometimes, for various reasons, it's nice to have someone else along as the light of God's Word lightens our path. This is why we are blessed to have so many opportunities to study the Holy Scriptures together at Bethany. From Sunday School to Confirmation and Youth Group; from the Men's and Women's Bible Studies to Monday Evening and Thursday Morning Bible Studies and others, there are plenty of opportunities for us to grow together in the Word. As you read this month's Beacon, I pray that you'll learn more about these opportunities and consider taking advantage of them if you aren't already. Because God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our paths, but I believe it's often nice to go down those paths together!

✝ Pastor Erickson





Prayer Page

Thanksgiving

Adult Vacation Bible School- Biblical Charity

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Greg (relative of Pat Krekeler)- recovering after a stroke
LaVonne (mother of Steve Hanchera)- heart issues
Arlene (relative of Sheryl Knutson)- recovering after fall
Catherine (relative of Janet Hoech)- recovering after surgery
Derek (son of *Hackbardts)- recovering after surgery
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:

Kim (relative of Shirley Witte)- cancer
Doni (relative of *Sheryl Knutson)- cancer
Charlotte (relative of *Emily Kroemer)- hospice care
Ellie (relative of *Lynn Madsen)- 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:

Linda (relative of *Bev Hoover)- died 8/11
Jim (friend of *Dave Johnson)- died 8/8

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 Germany
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

Sunday, September 1

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, September 2

Office Closed

Tuesday, September 3

8:00 am Prayer in the Square
9:00 am Quilting for Lutheran World Relief
9:00 am Walking Exercise
1:30 pm Prayer Group
5:00 pm LWML Board Meeting
6:00 pm Evangelism Meeting

Wednesday, September 4

6:00 am Men's Bible Study
6:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm High School Youth
6:30 pm Vocal Choir

Thursday, September 5

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
9:00 am Walking Exercise
6:00 pm Human Care Meeting

Saturday, September 7

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, September 8

12:15 pm Kith & Kin Kick-off Meeting
12:15 pm Board of Education Meeting
1:00 pm Food Pantry Open
4:00 pm Pickleball Fellowship - Noelridge

Monday, September 9

6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision
6:00 pm Trustees Meeting
7:00 pm Elders Meeting

Tuesday, September 10

8:00 am Prayer in the Square
9:00 am Walking Exercise
1:30 pm Prayer Group
6:30 pm Handbells
7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 11

6:00 am Men's Bible Study
5:30 pm Family Faith Night Meal
6:00 pm Family Faith Night
6:30 pm Vocal Choir

Thursday, September 12

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

Friday, September 13

9:00 am Rebekah Circle

Saturday, September 14

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, September 15

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open
4:00 pm Pickleball Fellowship - Noelridge

Monday, September 16

6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach

Tuesday, September 17

8:00 am Prayer in the Square
9:00 am Walking Exercise
1:30 pm Prayer Group
6:30 pm Handbells

Wednesday, September 18

6:00 am Men's Bible Study
4:00 pm Cottage Grove Devotion
6:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm High School Youth
6:30 pm Vocal Choir

Thursday, September 19

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

Saturday, September 21

9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, September 22

9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks
1:00 pm Food Pantry Open
4:00 pm Pickleball Fellowship - Noelridge

Monday, September 23

6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
10:00 am Women's Small Group
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed.

Tuesday, September 24

8:00 am Prayer in the Square
9:00 am Walking Exercise
1:30 pm Prayer Group
6:30 pm Handbells

Wednesday, September 25

6:00 am Men's Bible Study
6:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm High School Youth - Bowling Outing
6:30 pm Vocal Choir

Thursday, September 26

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

Saturday, September 28

9:00 am Pickleball Tournament - Jones Park
9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, September 29

1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, September 30

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

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

9/1	Greg Dunn Becky Thur Carolyn Johnson Sydney Wilson	9/7	Bernice Stonewall 9/8 Traejan Robinson Adam Henderson	9/15	Sasha Knutson Eli Henderson	9/21	Charles Clark
9/2	John Hamm Larry Thronson	9/9	Jeff Madsen Fran Struck Kent Zenor	9/17	Cherie Miller	9/23	Ethan Myers
9/3	Jeannine Robinson Beverly Hoover	9/11	Whitney Fountain	9/18	Joni Schmith Jackson Rinderknecht	9/24	Linda Patten Natalie Prohaska
9/7	Shirley McElroy Colton Keldgord	9/13	Kevin Hansen Chuck Kroemer	9/19	Donice McDonald	9/25	Ken Armbrecht
		9/14	Keenan Diers	9/20	Janet Gebert	9/28	Harold Schoen
				9/21	Doug Francik Macy Oja Zollie Duve	9/29	Kathy Hanchera
						9/30	Joel Knutson Lorelei Hackbardt
		9/6	Brad & Brooke Oja	9/20	Rick & Sandy Thorington		
		9/12	Joel & Kristan Conrad	9/21	Mark & Laura Holt		
		9/17	Jerald & Karissa Scott	9/23	Darren & Cindy Bogner		
		9/18	Ryan & JJ Theriault	9/26	Darrell & Naomi Chiavetta		



Tuesday Prayer Group

Each Tuesday, Bethany members gather for a time of prayer in the Bethany library. All are welcome, and there is always room for more! Please join us on Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. as we lift up our community in prayer. It's okay if you can't make it every week!

Sewing Quilts for Lutheran World Relief

On Tuesday, September 3, 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.



Handbells

Handbells is starting back up for the season! This ensemble plays once per month at the 8:30 a.m. service. Practices are held every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. starting on September 10. If you are interested in joining handbells, reach out to the director Tom Mills, or contact the church office to get connected.

Vocal Choir

Our vocal choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the choir loft. This choir is for adults and teenagers, and the only requirements to join are a love for worship, and the basic ability to read music and carry a tune. If you would like to join, reach out to Rynne Molinari at organist.bethanycr@gmail.com and join us for our first rehearsal on August 28 at 6:30.





Youth and Family Ministry



Children's Ministry

The Sunday School and Family Faith Night theme for the 2024-2025 year is "Cruise through the Bible!"

Families: cruise through the Bible with us at these two ministries for all students in preschool-12th grade!

Children's Sunday School

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

The 2024-2025 Sunday School year kicked off with Rally Day on August 25, and regular classes start 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 this year.

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.



Plan to join us on the second Wednesday of each month for Family Faith Night:

Fall/Winter 2024: September 11 | October 9 | November 13 | December 11

Winter/Spring 2025: January 8 | February 12 | March 12 | April 9



Wednesday Night Youth Programming

Bethany youth: join us on Wednesday nights at Bethany!

Confirmation - for students in 7th-8th grade.

Join us Wednesdays at 6:00-7:30 p.m. starting August 28

Youth Group - for students in 9th-12th grade.

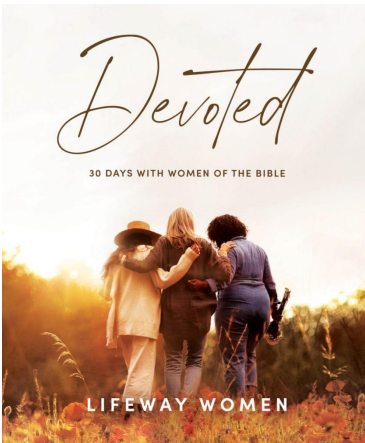
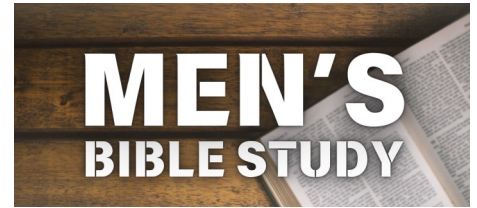
Join us Wednesdays at 6:00-7:30 p.m. starting September 4



Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study

Men gather at Bethany for Bible study on Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m. The group will start back up on September 4, and will do a study on Martin Luther. All men are welcome to join this time of study!



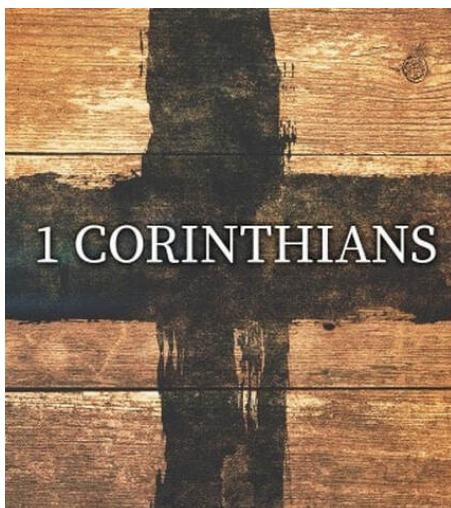
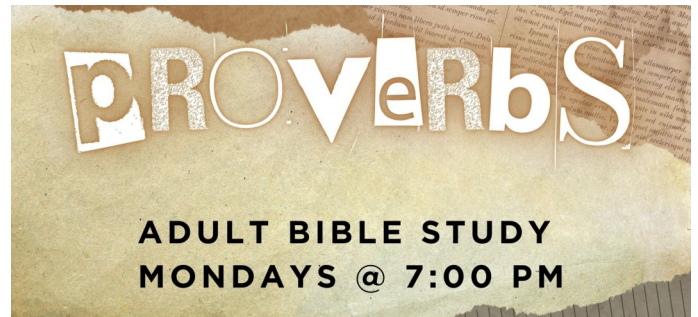
Women's Small Group Study

Bethany women gather for study and fellowship at Bethany on Mondays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. 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 by Sunday, September 1.

Monday Night Bible Study

Monday adult Bible study will resume on September 30. Join Kierra on Mondays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Gathering Area! Our next session will be held September 30-December 2 and we will do a Lifelight study on the book of Proverbs. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend this study.



Sunday Adult Bible Study

All adults are welcome to Bible study on Sundays at 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the Family Life Center. On September 8, Pastor Erickson will start a new study on 1 Corinthians.

The Christians in Corinth faced many of the conflicts that Christians today encounter as they seek to live their faith in a culture that contradicts Christian beliefs and principles. God speaks to us today through 1 Corinthians concerning:

- the Gospel and the unity of the church;
- Christian freedom;
- the victory of Christ's redemptive death and resurrection;
- the power of the Holy Spirit, which is ours through that victory.



Announcements



Kith & Kin

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 Card Ministry started at Bethany in 2022. We are continuing this ministry and are now asking for new people to sign up for a new year!

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 would like to send cards, please sign up at the Welcome Center by September 1.

Joy's Journal

Woof from your favorite Comfort Dog Joy! This month I'd like to tell you more about my monthly visits to Cottage Grove Place. Did you know that Pastor Doug Francik gives a monthly devotion there (really a church service) the third Wednesday of every month. When I had enough training to be a comfort dog, this was one of the first places I started attending. There are usually about 20-25 residents that attend the service and I get the chance to greet them when they come, get a lot of pets, and put a smile on people's faces. They are really nice and seem to like me a lot! I'm happy to make them happy! This is a wonderful ministry and I'm blessed to be a part of it!

Blessings!

 Joy

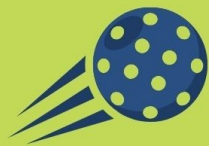




Announcements

Pickleball Tournament

Bethany is hosting a fellowship pickleball tournament! Join us on Saturday, September 28 at Jones Park Pickleball Courts. The courts are located at 2819 Fruitland Blvd. SW in Cedar Rapids. This event is free and open to all ages and skill levels. It is also open to other churches in the community, so be sure to invite your friends! Registration is now open. **For details and to register, visit bethanycr.org/pickleball.**



PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 | 9:00 AM

JONES PARK | 2819 FRUITLAND BLVD. SW



REGISTER: www.bethanycr.org/pickleball

Bethany Fellowship

Thanks to the crew who joined us for a fellowship bike ride on August 25! Mark your calendar for the next fellowship event on Sunday, October 13. We'll have a fall potluck picnic and family fun day at Wanatee Park (2001 Big Bluestem Cir, Marion). Plan to meet us at 12:15 at the Meadowlark Shelter. Watch for details to come and sign up at the Welcome Center!



LWML

The LWML (Women's Guild) starts its new year in the fall, so there are lots of things to look forward to in the coming months. We will celebrate LWML Sunday on October 6, host an Election Day bake sale in November (we will ask for food donations from our good Bethany cooks), and continue our regular monthly events of meeting together for a bible study, tying quilts (usually the second Tuesday of each month), and playing bingo with Winslow House residents the third Tuesday of each month. If you would like to participate in any or all of these activities, we would LOVE to have you. Just leave your name in the church office and you will be contacted soon thereafter. The LWML Cedar Rapids Zone Fall Event will be held at King of Kings on Saturday, October 5.



Announcements

Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry

Garden Update

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Feed Iowa First garden at Bethany. Over 300 pounds of garden produce has been harvested for 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!

What can I donate in September?

The September donation item of the month is tissues and paper towels



September Evangelism Challenge

The September evangelism challenge is to donate items for the Cedar Valley Humane Society. Donations can be brought into Bethany throughout September. Items needed for their furry tenants include:

- bleach (any brand)
- non-clumping cat litter (any brand)
- cat toys (any kind)
- paper towels (any brand)
- Hill's Science Diet food (adult, kitten, and puppy).

The humane society will also accept any brand of food as long as it's not expired or recalled for their no-cost pet food program, as well. They have also have wish list links for Amazon, Chewy, and Walmart pinned to the top of their Facebook page at facebook.com/cvhumanesociety



August Evangelism Challenge

The August evangelism challenge was to donate school supplies and personal items for the Warrior Closet at Washington High School. We collected 125 notebooks, 72 folders, 13 binders, 10 gift cards, and many good snacks. Thank you to everyone who contributed! The items were greatly appreciated.

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! Each Monday we need volunteers from 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.





Announcements



Join us for Senior Worship

Thursday, September 19
Service at 11:00 AM | Luncheon to follow

Blood Drive

Save the date: the American Red Cross will host a blood drive at Bethany on Thursday, October 3.



Especially For You Race Against Breast Cancer

Join the Bethany team 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 the race is \$37. Please use the QR code for the link and sign up for the Bethany team by September 10!

CHURCH STATISTICS July 2024

Average Sunday Attendance	180 Souls
July Income	\$54,314
July Expenses	\$43,111



Submit an Announcement



Submit Announcements for Publication

Announcements for the October Beacon are due Thursday, August 19. To submit, please fill out an announcement request form at www.bethanycr.org/announcement-request.

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Bethany friends gathered for a week in August to study “Biblical Charity” at Adult Vacation Bible School.
Photo by Arlen Breiholz.