



Cedar Rapids Zone Spring Event **Saturday, April 13**

The LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) Cedar Rapids Zone Spring Event will be hosted here at Bethany! Join us on April 13 for a morning of learning and fellowship. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and the event will begin at 9:00 a.m. Brunch will be served.



Our theme this year is "Sharing the Joy of God's Love," and Joy the Comfort Dog will be presented. Come meet Joy and learn about Bethany's comfort dog ministry!

An ingathering will be collected for Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry. Items requested are canned meats such as canned chicken, tuna, Spam etc.

All ladies are invited to the spring event. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend!

"Your love has given me great joy and encouragement..." Philemon 1:7



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love



Pastor's Page

*So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—
nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.*

— F.D.R. Inaugural Address, March 4, 1933

On March 7, President Biden gave his State of the Union address to Congress and the American public. This year the response to President Biden's State of the Union address was given by Sen. Katie Britt of Alabama. And it should come as no surprise that Sen. Britt, a Republican, was quite critical of the President and the message that he gave concerning the state of our country.

For instance, concerning the situation at the nation's southern border, Sen. Britt said that when she first took office, she traveled to the Del Rio sector of Texas and spoke to a woman who had been kidnapped when 12 years old and subjected to terrible abuse by drug cartels. She then said, "We wouldn't be OK with this happening in a third-world country. This is the United States of America, and it's past time we start acting like it. President Biden's border crisis is a disgrace. It's despicable. And it's almost entirely preventable."

This story was shocking to many people, including myself. While almost everyone agrees the situation at our nation's southern border needs to be addressed, after hearing this story I began to wonder if our President's current policy is a "disgrace" and "despicable." I wondered, how could something like this happen in our country, the greatest on earth? And then, as they say, I heard the "rest of the story."

Sen. Britt had indeed spoken to a woman in Texas who had survived everything she had mentioned in her speech. However, it soon came out that the events she had referenced happened 20 years ago when George W. Bush was president. Also, the events did not happen in Texas, or anywhere else in the United States, but rather in Mexico. This being the case, it is hard to see how this could be an example of President Biden's "disgraceful border crisis," or how he could have prevented it. When asked about all this, Sen. Britt correctly pointed out that she never said when or where the events happened and therefore had done nothing wrong. However, the context and Sen.

Britt's carefully chosen words strongly suggest that she knew she was being misleading. Which led me to ask, "Why?"

Unfortunately, I believe we see the reason "why" all over the place today and it is fear. People have known for a long time that fear can be a powerful motivating factor for both good and bad. And political leaders take advantage of this, using fear to advance their own agendas. In an effort to score political points, I believe that this is what Sen. Britt was doing. And I'm afraid that we will only see more of this in the future, despite President Roosevelt's warning in his Inaugural Address about fear paralyzing progress in our country and in our lives.

But what if there was something to counter the fear of today, regardless of where it comes from? Regardless of whether it is justified or irrational? Based on facts or upon lies? What if there was something that could make us unafraid of whatever is in our future?

In Matthew 28:5-6a we read, "But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen...'" The Gospels tell us fear was all over the place after Jesus was crucified. But fear was driven out of the lives of everyone who knew Christ had been raised! Knowing Jesus' tomb was empty, no longer did they fear the governing authorities (Acts 5:29), hardships in life (Acts 5:41), and even death itself (I Cor. 15:55).

As all of us face real fears in life and as people will continue to use fear to manipulate others, I pray that our faith in the Risen Lord will drive out that fear today. For Christ has conquered the grave! His victory belongs to us! We need to be faithful and wise as we live our lives today, but we also need not fear fear, nor let it determine how we live. Have a happy, blessed, and a fearless Easter!

✝ Pastor Erickson



Prayer Page

Illness, injuries, health issues:

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)- health issues
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
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
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 Zieseemer) - 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
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

Thanksgiving:

Baptism of Noreen (infant of *Caleb & *Mandy Pfeil)-
3/24
Hayden (infant of *Taylor & *Steph Chittick)- born 3/17
Lucy (relative of *Schmiths)- recovered after
hospitalization

Homebound members of Bethany:

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

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:

Ruth (relative of *Karl Hoech)- died 2/25
Jim (relative of *Brit Stepanek)- died 2/20
Rodney (relative of *Betty Happel)- died 2/23
Luke (nephew of *Knutsons)- died 2/15
Alice Hoffmeier (Bethany friend)- died 2/4

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

Monday, April 1

(Office Closed for Easter Monday)

- 6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
- 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting
- 6:00 pm Stewardship Meeting

Tuesday, April 2

- 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, April 3

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

Thursday, April 4

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 1:00 pm Leah Circle
- 6:00 pm Human Care Meeting

Saturday, April 6

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

Sunday, April 7

- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, April 8

- 6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
- 10:00 am Women's Group
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision
- 7:00 pm Bible Study
- 7:00 pm Elders Meeting

Tuesday, April 9

- 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, April 10

- 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, April 11

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

Friday, April 12

- 9:00 am Rebekah Circle

Saturday, April 13

- 8:30 am LWML Spring Event at Bethany
- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, April 14

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

Monday, April 15

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

Tuesday, April 16

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

Wednesday, April 17

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

Thursday, April 18

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

Friday, April 19

- 7:00 pm Youth Lock-In

Saturday, April 20

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, April 21

- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, April 22

- 10:00 am Women's Group
- 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Area Wide - St. Paul
- 7:00 pm Bible Study

Tuesday, April 23

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

Wednesday, April 24

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

Thursday, April 25

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 6:00 pm Missionary Presentation

Saturday, April 27

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, April 28

- 9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks
- 12:00 pm Tacos & Games Fellowship
- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, April 29

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

Tuesday, April 30

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



Birthdays and Anniversaries

4/1 Madison Rinderknecht	4/9 JJ Theriault Daphne Dohrmann	4/17 Kim McGinnis	4/25 Bonnie Bubke
4/4 Rebecca Ballstaedt	4/10 Marcus Smith	4/18 Steve Hanchera	Abby Bogner
4/6 Karen Schmidt	4/11 Janet Hoech	4/20 Colin Vande Weerd	4/27 Karen Swalley
4/7 Nile Kroemer	4/13 Katheryn Holtz	Carol Grimminger	Marlys Jaspersen
Wynne Kroemer	4/15 Carol Edwards	Jamie Larson	4/28 Michelle Hedtke
4/8 Lorna Fischer	4/16 Lynn Madsen	4/21 Kim Neuhaus	4/29 Charlotte Crawford
Gabriel Fountain	Evan Ranbarger	4/24 Ray McGraw	4/30 Darren Bogner
			Sandy Thorington
4/4 Phil & Shirley Hoppe	4/16 Prudy & Don Petersen		
4/8 Craig & Renee Riffey	4/24 Phil & Michelle Hedtke		



Prayer Ministry

Bethany will be expanding our prayer ministry. In the upcoming months, please look for more information to come to learn about opportunities to get involved in prayer at Bethany! A new prayer group will be starting soon.



Thursday, March 28

*Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 PM

Friday, March 29

Good Friday Service at 7:00 PM

*Service with Communion

Sunday, March 31

*Sunrise Service at 6:30 AM

*Traditional Service at 8:30 AM

*Contemporary Service at 11:00 AM

*Service with Communion



Easter Breakfast

Bethany youth will serve breakfast on Easter morning at 9:45-10:45 a.m. A freewill offering will be collected to fund their mission trip to Denver.

Easter Egg Hunt

Children are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt on March 31 at 9:45 a.m.!

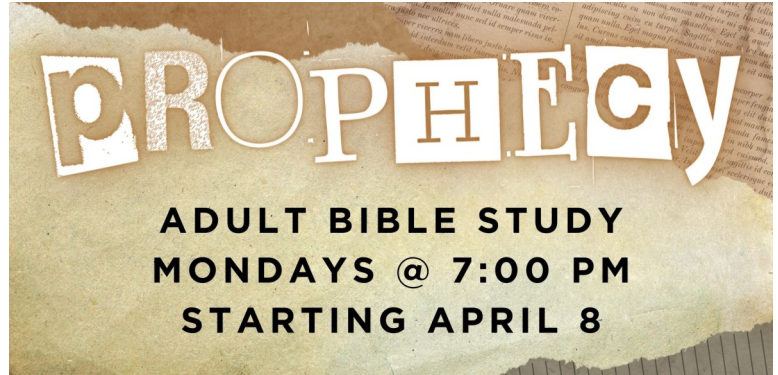




Announcements

Adult Bible Study: Prophecy

A new session of Monday night Bible study will start on April 8. Kierra will lead a study on the topic of prophecy. All adults are welcome to join this group! We meet on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. Sign up at the Welcome Center if you would like to participate in this study, and contact Kierra at dce.bethanycr@gmail.com for more information.



Fellowship Event: Tacos and Games!

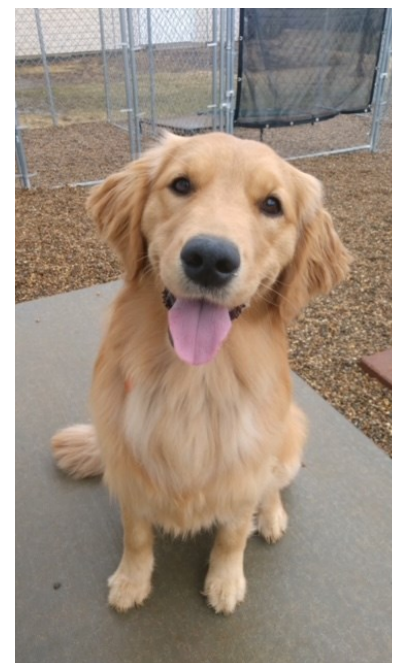
Join us for walking tacos and games on Sunday, April 28 at 12:15. We'll meet in the Family Life Center for a taco lunch, bunco, and other games for all ages! Sign up to attend, and for any taco-related food that you might bring. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite games, and the gym will be open for kids to play. Contact Becky McCarley with any questions. See you there!

Joy's Journal

Happy Spring! I hope you all had a blessed Easter. Our church is always beautiful, but I think it always looks extra beautiful at Easter.

Later this month the Bethany LWML Women's Guild is hosting a spring event and their guest speaker is . . . ME! Well, with help from my people. We will be talking about Bethany's Comfort Dog Ministry -- how it started, how it's going, and everything in between. I am told I will need to be on my BEST behavior that day.

Blessings!





Announcements

Hosanna!

We celebrated Palm Sunday at Bethany on Sunday, March 24.



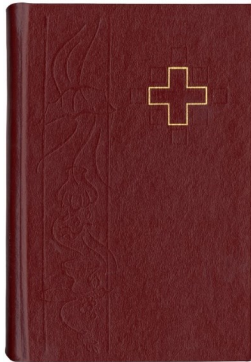
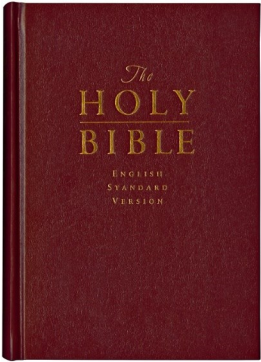
Blood Drive: May 2

Donate blood, donate life! The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at Bethany on Thursday, May 2 at 1:30-5:30 p.m.

Please schedule an appointment online at redcrossblood.org or call the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767.



Announcements



Bibles and Hymnals

We are purchasing new ESV Bibles and additional LSB hymnals for the Bethany sanctuary. Bethany members may donate Bibles and hymnals in honor or in memory of loved ones. If you would like to purchase Bibles or hymnals, sign up at the Welcome Center **by March 31**. Bibles are \$12 each and hymnals are \$30 each. Payments may be made online at bethanycr.org/giving or by using a designated envelope from the Welcome Center.



Bethany Lutheran FOOD PANTRY

Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry Garden

We are getting ready for another season of growing produce in the garden! The food we grow will be available to neighbors who come to Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry. This year we will need help weeding, watering, and harvesting in the garden. Like to get your hands dirty? If you have a green thumb, please consider helping out! If interested, please contact Sheryl Knutson or call the church office at 319-364-6026.



April Pantry Donation Item

The April donation item of the month is canned meat. Please bring in canned meats such as chicken, tuna, Spam, etc. this month.

Serve at Bethany Lutheran Food 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 serving, please call Ronda at 364-6026.





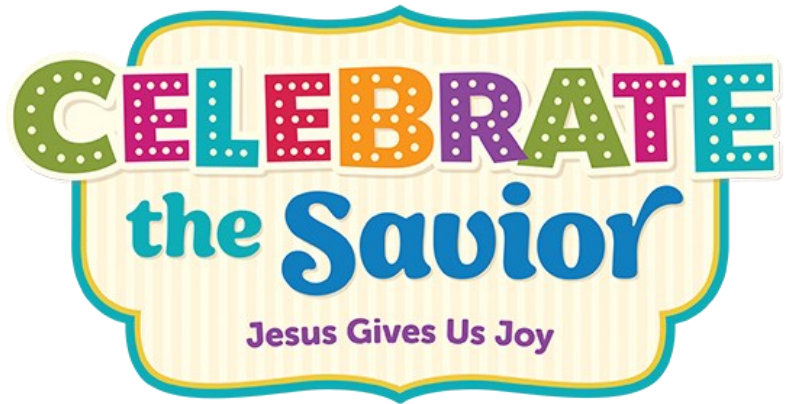
Youth and Family Ministry

VBS is Back at Bethany!

“Celebrate the Savior” Vacation Bible School will be held here at Bethany in 2024! Mark your calendar for the week of June 24-27.

Each evening, a meal will be served at 5:15, and VBS will be held from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

VBS is for students in preschool - 5th grade. Invite your friends to VBS!



Registration is now open! Please sign up your student at bethanycr.org/vbs. Or, use the QR code to be taken directly to the VBS registration page.

Contact DCE Kierra at dce.bethanycr@gmail.com for information about VBS.



Youth Lock-In: April 19

The evening of Friday, April 19, we will have a lock-in for students in 6th-12th grade! Youth should arrive at Bethany at 7:00 p.m. Parents, plan to pick up your child from Bethany on Saturday, April 20 at 8:00 a.m. Join us for a night of fun! If you plan to attend, please sign up online using the link that was emailed to youth families, or contact Kierra at dce.bethanycr@gmail.com.

Pancakes and Proverbs

Fathers, father-figures, and their children are invited to join us for Pancakes and Proverbs! 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, April 6 at 8:00 a.m. at Bethany.



Family Faith Night

The next Family Faith Night will be on Wednesday, April 10. Join us for an evening of connecting with families, learning a Bible lesson together, and participating in fun activities! A meal is served at 5:30, and the program is 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Be sure to work on the memory verse for April 10!

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him.”

- 2 Corinthians 1:20



Announcements

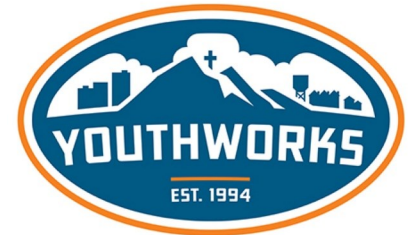
Sunday School

On February 25, the Sunday school kids participated in a station about the lesson of Moses building the Lord's tabernacle, with instructions for creation of the Ark of the Covenant. The glory of the Lord descends on the tabernacle in the form of a cloud, and people remained in that place. Students traveled and reset up the Ark of the Covenant from the Opening Room to the hallway, and to the preschool room to reenact this lesson.



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).



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.



Lutheran Bible Translators

Mission Presentation

Want to learn more about global missions and Bible translation? Missionaries from Lutheran Bible Translators will give a presentation at Bethany on Thursday, April 25. All are welcome to attend! Please plan to join us for a meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by the presentation.

Concert at Trinity Lutheran School

Martin Luther High School's Troubadours Concert Choir from Greendale, WI will visit Trinity Lutheran School as part of their spring tour! Join us for their performance on Wednesday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m.



Announcements

Sewing Quilts for World Relief

On Tuesday, April 9 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.



Join us for Senior Worship

Thursday, April 18
Service at 11:00 AM | Luncheon to follow

Benefit for Bridgehaven

This year's spring fundraiser for Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center will be a concert event featuring singer, songwriter, and award-winning artist Mark Schultz. Join us for A Night with Bridgehaven on Friday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Radiant Church in Cedar Rapids. Use the QR code for the link to register for this event.



CHURCH STATISTICS February 2024

Average Sunday Attendance	195 Souls
February Income	\$36,744
February Expenses	\$47,238



Submit an Announcement



Submit Announcements for Publication

Announcements for the May Beacon are due Thursday, April 18. 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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