

Advent 2024:
His Name Shall Be Called

Wonderful Counselor. Mighty God. Everlasting Father. Prince of Peace. These titles from Isaiah 9 describe the Savior who is to come, Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God in human flesh. Join us this year at Bethany for the midweek Advent series “His Name Shall Be Called.”

Advent devotional booklets are available to pick up at the Welcome Center. Be sure to bring one home!

Please join us for Advent services at Bethany:

December 4

Meal at 6:00 p.m. (Lasagna) | Service at 7:00 p.m.

December 11

Meal at 6:00 p.m. (Sloppy Joes) | Service at 7:00 p.m.

December 18

Meal at 6:00 p.m. (Pulled Pork) | Service at 7:00 p.m.

2024 Christmas Services

CHRISTMAS EVE | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Service of Lessons and Carols @ 4:30 PM

Christmas Eve Service @ 11:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Service with Communion @ 10:00 AM



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love



Pastor's Page

Many of you are aware that this edition of The Beacon is the first to cover two months of news and events at Bethany. Previously, each issue of our congregation's newsletter would inform us of the happenings of just the month in which it was sent out. But following the best practices of current church communications and to serve the members of our congregation in the best possible way, this Beacon and those that follow will now cover two months of Living and Sharing God's Love at Bethany.

As you can imagine, this new schedule requires some of us at Bethany to plan a little farther into the future than what we have done in the past. For instance, if I want an announcement in our newsletter about something happening in March of next year, I will have to make sure all the information is submitted by the end of January. This isn't bad, but it is a bit different as it makes us plan two months ahead for the Beacon, instead of just one.

Of course, most of you have at least some idea of what it is like to plan ahead. If you have ever hosted Thanksgiving dinner or any other large meal you know that you have to plan ahead for your guests to enjoy their time together. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Day plans are being made at church, in our families, and among our friends. And in fact, in almost every aspect of our lives it seems as if planning ahead is essential to simply function in the many roles that we have.

But when it comes to planning ahead, no one can compete with God Almighty. After all, His Holy Word tells us in Genesis 3 that immediately after the fall into sin God told Adam and Eve that He had already had a plan to redeem the world back to Himself. And Galatians 4:4 says, "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law..." At just the right time, God sent Jesus to be born of Mary, according to His plan. The reason Jesus was born, taking on our human nature, was so that He might be placed under the Law. As God Himself, He was above the Law. But by becoming

one of us, He became subject to the Law, having to keep its commands and demands like we all do. However, unlike us, Jesus perfectly kept the Law. Therefore, when He died, He died a sinless death and was able to pay the price for the sins of the world to be forgiven.

What a plan! While we may have a hard time making the simplest of plans for the next month or two, God had a plan to save us since the very beginning of time. And not only that, but that plan of salvation has included people from every nation throughout time. Knowing that the coming of Christ is God's plan of salvation for us, is it any wonder that the themes of Advent are Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love?

It is the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation in the coming of Christ into the world as our human brother that we celebrate during these great seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. And as we now make plans to celebrate, we remember that our celebrations need to include more than just eating, exchanging presents, or even gathering with those whom we love. Dare I say that our celebrations should even include more than worship and praise in the church? In Mark 13 Jesus reminds His followers that when the master of the house goes away on a journey, the servants are left with jobs to do. Likewise, after Christ's ascension, He has left His Church with jobs to do that are more than just celebrating what He has already done.

I pray that as we all go about making our plans for Advent and Christmas this year that we are truly thankful and find a deep joy in our lives in God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. But I also pray that those plans we make will include the tasks that Christ has given His Church to do while we wait for Him to come again. And while all of us are in different places in our lives, we can say with certainty that the tasks He would have us all do is to care for and love one another and to share the Good News of our salvation in Christ.

God bless you this Advent, Christmas & Epiphany!

✝ Pastor Erickson



Prayer Page

Thanksgiving:

Scott (relative of *Schumachers)- recovered after fall

Illness, injuries, health issues:

David (brother of *Karen Pfeffer)- health issues

Dixie (mother of *Jeff Madsen)- health issues

Linda (relative of *Elaine Behrens)- recovering after surgery

Margaret (relative of *Hedtkes/Chitticks)- health issues

Stephanie & Mateo (friends of *Zimmermans)- healing

Wilson (son of Luke Viertel)- recovering after surgery

Joshua (friend of *Chuck Kroemer)- family issues

Bennet (friend of *Charles Kroemer)- leg injury

Arlene (relative of *Sheryl Knutson)- healing

Greg (relative of *Pat Krekeler)- recovering after a stroke

LaVonne (mother of *Steve Hanchera)- heart issues

Catherine (relative of *Janet Hoech)- 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

Joseph (relative of *Angie Yuza)- recovering after surgery

Kathy (sister of *Mark Holt) - health issues

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:

Kelli (friend of *Madsens)- cancer surgery and tx

Kim (relative of *Shirley Witte)- cancer

Doni (relative of *Sheryl Knutson)- cancer treatment

Charlotte (relative of *Emily Kroemer)- hospice care

Ellie (relative of *Lynn Madsen)- cancer treatment

David (friend of *Angela Yuza)- cancer

Rachel (Bethany neighbor)- 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:

Ken (brother of *Karen Schmidt)- died 11/19

Sandra (sister of *Karen Hass)- died 11/17

Norman (father of *Ken Zenor)- died 11/15

Jack (5 year old friend of *Zimmermans)- died 10/29

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

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, December 1

- 1:00 p.m. Food Pantry Open
- 5:00 p.m. Young Adults Group - Kierra's Home

Monday, December 2

- 6:30 a.m. Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
- 6:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, December 3

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer in the Square
- 9:00 a.m. Walking Exercise
- 1:30 p.m. Prayer Group
- 5:00 p.m. LWML Board Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Handbells
- 6:00 p.m. Evangelism Meeting

Wednesday, December 4

- 6:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth
- 6:00 p.m. Human Care Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Advent Meal
- 7:00 p.m. Advent Service
- 7:50 p.m. Vocal Choir

Thursday, December 5

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:00 a.m. Walking Exercise

Saturday, December 7

- 9:00 a.m. Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, December 8

- 12:15 p.m. Board of Education Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Food Pantry Open
- 2:00 p.m. LWML General Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. High School Christmas Party

Monday, December 9

- 6:30 a.m. Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
- 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision
- 7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, December 10

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer in the Square
- 9:00 a.m. Walking Exercise
- 1:30 p.m. Prayer Group
- 6:00 p.m. Handbells
- 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 11

- 6:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 5:30 p.m. Family Faith Night
- 6:00 p.m. Advent Meal
- 7:00 p.m. Advent Service
- 7:50 p.m. Vocal Choir

Thursday, December 12

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:00 a.m. Walking Exercise

Saturday, December 14

- 9:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Practice
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, December 15

- 1:00 p.m. Food Pantry Open
- 4:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Service

Monday, December 16

- 6:30 a.m. Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
- 5:15 p.m. Caroling at Cottage Grove
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, December 17

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer in the Square
- 9:00 a.m. Walking Exercise
- 1:30 p.m. Prayer Group
- 6:00 p.m. Handbells

Wednesday, December 18

- 6:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 4:00 p.m. Cottage Grove Devotion
- 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth
- 6:00 p.m. Advent Meal
- 7:00 p.m. Advent Service
- 7:50 p.m. Vocal Choir

Thursday, December 19

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:00 a.m. Walking Exercise

Saturday, December 20

- 9:00 a.m. Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, December 22

- 9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
- 1:00 p.m. Food Pantry Open

Tuesday, December 24

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer in the Square
- 4:30 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols
- 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25

- 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 29

- No Sunday School
- 1:00 p.m. Food Pantry Open

Tuesday, December 31

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer in the Square

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.



Calendar

Wednesday, January 1

Office Closed

Thursday, January 2

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:00 a.m. Walking Exercise
6:00 p.m. Human Care Meeting

Saturday, January 4

9:00 a.m. Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, January 5

1:00 p.m. Food Pantry Open
3:45 p.m. Joy's Recognition @ Rough Riders

Monday, January 6

6:30 a.m. Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting
6:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting

Tuesday, January 7

8:00 a.m. Prayer in the Square
9:00 a.m. Walking Exercise
1:30 p.m. Prayer Group
5:00 p.m. LWML Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. Evangelism Meeting
6:00 p.m. Handbells

Wednesday, January 8

6:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Family Faith Night Meal
6:00 p.m. Family Faith Night
6:30 p.m. Vocal Choir

Thursday, January 9

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:00 a.m. Walking Exercise
1:00 p.m. Leah Circle
6:00 p.m. Naomi Circle

Friday, January 10

9:00 a.m. Rebekah Circle

Saturday, January 11

9:00 a.m. Cornhole Tournament
9:00 a.m. Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, January 12

12:15 p.m. Board of Education Meeting
1:00 p.m. Food Pantry Open

Monday, January 13

6:30 a.m. Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision
7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting

Tuesday, January 14

8:00 a.m. Prayer in the Square
9:00 a.m. Walking Exercise
9:00 a.m. Quilting for Lutheran World Relief
1:30 p.m. Prayer Group
6:00 p.m. Handbells
7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 15

6:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
4:00 p.m. Cottage Grove Devotion
6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:00 p.m. High School Youth
6:30 p.m. Vocal Choir

Thursday, January 16

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:00 a.m. Walking Exercise
11:00 a.m. Senior Worship

Saturday, January 18

9:00 a.m. Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, January 19

12:30 p.m. Annual Meeting
1:00 p.m. Food Pantry Open

Tuesday, January 21

8:00 a.m. Prayer in the Square
9:00 a.m. Walking Exercise
1:30 p.m. Prayer Group
6:00 p.m. Handbells

Wednesday, January 22

6:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:00 p.m. High School Youth
6:30 p.m. Vocal Choir

Thursday, January 23

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:00 a.m. Walking Exercise

Saturday, January 25

9:00 a.m. Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, January 26

9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
1:00 p.m. Food Pantry Open

Monday, January 27

6:30 a.m. Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed.

Tuesday, January 7

8:00 a.m. Prayer in the Square
9:00 a.m. Walking Exercise
1:30 p.m. Prayer Group
6:00 p.m. Handbells

Wednesday, January 29

6:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:00 p.m. High School Youth
6:30 p.m. Vocal Choir

Thursday, January 30

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:00 a.m. Walking Exercise



Announcements



Children's Christmas Service

Our children's Christmas service will be held on Sunday, December 15 at 4:30 p.m. Please join us at Bethany as our Sunday School students share the good news of Jesus' birth with us! Then, our traditional "Birthday Party for Jesus" will be held right after the service. All are invited to join us in the Family Life Center for cake and spaghetti!

Caroling, Chili and Cookies!

Please plan to join us for caroling, chili, and cookies on the evening of Monday, December 16. We'll meet at church at 5:15 and walk over together to Cottage Grove for caroling from 5:30-6:30.

Then, we'll return to church for chili and fellowship in the Family Life Center. Interested in chili, but not caroling? Plan to attend! Interested in caroling, but not chili? Plan to attend! Please sign up at the Welcome Center so we can plan accordingly, as well as for any food that you might bring, if you are willing.



Joy's Recognition at a Rough Riders Game

Joy the Comfort Dog (and her people!) will be honored as the recipient of the Corda Heart of the Community Award in recognition of our comfort dog ministry's incredible work. Joy will be recognized right before the Rough Riders hockey game on Sunday, January 5. Let's go to the game for fellowship and to support our comfort dog ministry! The game starts at 4:05 p.m. but plan to be there by 3:30 for the award presentation. Tickets for Bethany members are \$15 per adult and \$5 per kid under 18. Please sign up at the Welcome Center by December 15. Money for tickets will be collected starting December 1 and tickets will be distributed starting December 18.



Joy's Journal

Hello FURiends!

I wanted to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas.

I also have some exciting news to share with you. I have been selected as the recipient of the Heart of the Community Award presented by Corda Credit Union. To God be the glory! I am receiving my award prior to a Rough Riders game on January 5. I need to learn to walk on ice! I would love to see you all there since it's because of you I am Bethany's Comfort Dog. Details about the event are listed above. See you all there!

Blessings!





Announcements



Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry: December/January Donation Items

Monthly “items of the month” donors help keep our personal care and food shelves stocked. In December and January, the requested donation items are spaghetti and spaghetti sauce. Please bring in pasta supplies and place them on the donation table outside the sanctuary.



Angel Tree



What is special about Angel Tree Christmas?

Angel Tree gives incarcerated parents a way to provide a Christmas gift and a personal message, delivered by caring, local volunteers, as a tangible representation of their love. Angel Tree children feel remembered by their loved one because of this simple act. When you provide a gift for a child, you not only bless that child; you also bless the parent behind bars. He or she has the opportunity to feel that they have provided something special for their child. Through the personal message, their own words of love can reach the child they miss so much. Your service nurtures this connection and spreads hope to incarcerated parents.

How do I participate in Angel Tree at Bethany?

Bethany’s Angel Tree is up in the Gathering Area. Bethany members can take an angel and are asked to sign the sign-out sheet so we know which angel you have. Please purchase a gift (valued at approximately \$25) for the child, wrap it, attach the angel sticker, and return it to Bethany by Sunday, December 8.



Baby Bottle Boomerang

Bethany will participate in the “Baby Bottle Boomerang” for Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center! To participate, please pick up a bottle from Bethany January 19 - February 2, use the bottle as a reminder to pray for Bridgehaven, fill the bottle with cash or checks, and return the bottle to Bethany by February 9.

Bridgehaven’s mission is to empower choices for life through Christ-centered education and support. They walk alongside individuals before, during, and after pregnancy, and all services are offered at no cost to the client. Services include sexual and relational health education, pregnancy testing and ultrasounds for those facing a pregnancy decision, life skills classes and material assistance to those who are pregnant or parenting, pregnancy and infant loss support, and abortion support. The “Baby Bottle Boomerang” supports the mission of Bridgehaven by growing awareness, and raising support for these services.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

12/1 Gloria Schumacher Gordon Doehrmann	12/4 Ava Henderson	12/15 Henry Smith	12/25 Becky McCarley
12/2 Cindy Goerd Brian Holt Keziah Elm	12/7 Nadine Wax	12/16 Patricia Hinrichs	12/26 Diane Holub Maren Elm
12/3 Marvelene Foreman Tracy Donels Paula Bulicek	12/10 Mike Thomas Mary Vezina	12/17 Anna Hass Garcia Stacy Brusius	12/28 Ella Smith
12/4 Ronda Anderson Jim Novitch Donna Stranathan	12/11 Tracy Bond	12/18 Addy Stackhouse Oliver Knutson Bailey Stevens	12/29 Jaden Harris Sue Kroemer
	12/13 Karen Hass Dave Johnson	12/19 Bree Robinson	12/30 Shari Mehlhoff Malcolm Scott
	12/14 Bridget Rinderknecht Kiaya Fortner Alan Echtenkamp	12/21 Hogan Myers Angela Yuza	12/31 Colby Schmitt
	12/15 Diane Zenor	12/24 Jeff Stranathan	
1/1 Julie Gutman	1/10 Sebastian Foreman	1/17 Diana Long	1/26 Candi Engel
1/2 Sarah Potter	1/11 Kellen Volden	1/18 Tami Vande Weerd	Tina Freese
1/4 Janelle Dunbar Darren Scott	Everly Zimmerman	1/19 Caleb Strait Pastor Erickson	Nora Steggall Ella Potter
1/5 Nate Smith	1/13 Mary Nanke	1/20 Jake Vande Weerd	1/27 Amy Smith
1/8 Hudson Freese Doug Demlow	1/15 Kathryn Deetz	1/21 Sarah Kaufman	1/28 Elianna Novitch
1/9 Phil Hoppe	1/16 Shirley Hoppe Duane Pfeffer	1/22 Kris Larson	1/29 Laurie Jasper
1/10 Lissa Novitch	Stephanie Macke	1/23 Stephanie Chittick Tyler Gates	1/30 Lynn Kellogg Laura Holt
12/28 Caleb & Mandy Pfeil	1/3 Pete & Kris Larson	1/6 Pat & Mindy Thies	
1/1 Joseph & Annie Railsback Alan & Kathy Echtenkamp	1/4 Ken & Elaine Cook		



Announcements

Congregational Voters' Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended the congregational voters' meeting on Sunday, November 17. At the meeting, the voters approved the 2025 church budget, approved a new ministry sabbatical policy, approved to continue seminary support, and elected 2025 church officers: Chuck Kroemer (vice chairman), Julie Elias (treasurer), Kristi Montague and Mary Vezina (auditors), Rita Tiedt (Board of Human Care chair), Mark Elias, Karl Hoech, and Mark Holt (elders), and Greg Dunn, Richard Hass, Dathan Hinrichs, Ray McGraw, Aaron Moffett, and Mitch Myers (trustees).

ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Annual Meeting

Our congregation's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19. Please plan to attend this meeting at 12:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The church leadership will review the accomplishments of 2024 and look forward to plans for 2025. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting! Annual reports will be available in January.



Announcements

LCMS Youth Gathering

July 19-23, 2025, twelve Bethany youth and three adult chaperones will travel to New Orleans for the LCMS Youth Gathering. Please support our youth at these three fundraisers:



Cornhole Tournament

Bethany youth are hosting a cornhole tournament on Saturday, January 11. All ages welcome! Registration starts at 9:00, and the tournament starts at 10:00 a.m.

The cost is \$5/person, and all proceeds will be used to support youth attending the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering. Registration fees will be collected the day of the tournament.

Pre-registration is requested, but not required. Walk-in registrations will be welcome on the day of the tournament! If your team is formed and ready, go ahead and register at bethanycr.org/cornhole. Don't have a partner yet? No worries! Just come on January 11 and we'll find you a partner. See you there!

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 the LCMS Youth Gathering. Students will be taking orders at Bethany on January 26 and February 2. Subs will then be distributed on Super Bowl Sunday, February 9.



Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser

The youth are putting together a Valentine's dinner on February 15 as a fundraiser for the LCMS Youth Gathering. Dinner seatings will be from 5:00-6:45, and reservations are being taken at Bethany on January 26, February 2 and 9. This Italian meal will be prepared and served by our youth. New this year: childcare will also be provided!



High School Youth Christmas Party

High school youth are invited to a Christmas party! Join us for merriment and games as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We'll gather on Sunday, December 8 at 5:00 p.m. at Kierra's home. Dinner will be provided. Please contact the church office or reach out to Kierra at dce.bethanycr@gmail.com for her address.



Announcements



Evangelism Challenge

The December evangelism challenge is to write Christmas cards to send to Harmony Cedar Rapids residents! Cards will be available at Bethany in December. Please stop by the table to fill out a card to bless and live and share God's love with a local nursing home resident!

Christmas Collection

The LWML (Women's Guild) is collecting money for Hy-Vee gift cards for Bethany members in need. Please consider contributing to your fellow members at Christmas. Donations will be collected in a basket at the back of the sanctuary through December 15.



Poinsettias

Help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas with poinsettias! Plants cost \$10 each and may be given in memory of loved ones. Please place your order at the Welcome Center by December 15, and plan to take your plant home with you after December 25.

Family Faith Night

Family Faith Night is a ministry for students in preschool through 12th grade AND their parents. It's an opportunity to connect with your own family, as well as other families in our church community! See you at our next sessions:

Wednesday, December 11 (Advent Schedule)

Meal 5:30-6:00 | Program 6:00-6:50

Wednesday, January 8 (Typical Schedule)

Meal 5:30-6:00 | Program 6:00-7:30



Internet Safety Reminder

As we live in a world filled with technology, it has become increasingly easy for people to be deceptive online. Scammers have been known to pretend to be pastors and send calls or text messages to church members, asking for money, gift cards, or personal information.

Please be aware that Pastor Erickson (or any other church staff) will never ask for money or information in this way. If a message sounds suspicious, please do not reply and do not give them anything, as it is most likely a scam. If you are concerned, you can always call the church office directly at 319-364-6026.



Announcements



Join us for Senior Worship

Thursday, January 16

(No Senior Worship in December)

Service at 11:00 AM | Luncheon to follow



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..



Norma Fillmore thanks her Bethany church family for prayers of healing, cards, and meals. Norma said, "People have gone out of their way and I can't thank them enough!"

Linda Patten says "thank you" to the congregation for all the prayers and support she received. She is grateful for a successful surgery, and caring church friends!

CHURCH STATISTICS October 2024

Average Sunday Attendance	183 Souls
October Income	\$49,525
October Expenses	\$47,156



Submit an Announcement



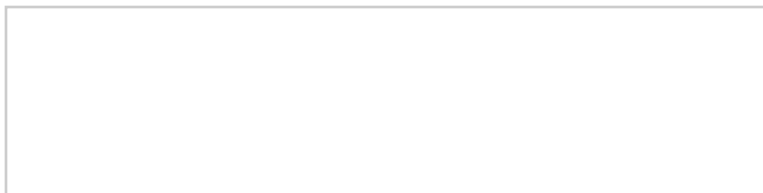
Submit Announcements for Publication

Announcements for the February/March Beacon are due Thursday, January 23. Please submit announcements at bethanycr.org/announcement-request (QR code) or use a paper form, which is available in the church office.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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CEDAR RAPIDS IA 52403-1654

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



THANKFUL HEARTS

Thank you to everyone who joined us at Thankful Hearts on November 24! The worship concert featured the Bethany praise band and raised \$2,271.60 for Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry. Praise God!

