

Sunday Adult Bible Study: Ruth

On May 12 Pastor Erickson will begin 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!



Children's Sunday School

Sunday School is held for 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 to volunteer for Summer Sunday School! For details about teaching, contact Kierra at dce.bethanycr@gmail.com.



Bethany
Lutheran Church

Living and Sharing God's Love



Pastor's Page

This article appeared in the Stewardship section on the LCMS website this month. As I read it, I appreciated the article highlighting the idea that the commandments do more than just prohibit bad behavior, but also encourage good works – something that I'm proud to see many people at Bethany doing in response to God's love for us through Christ. At the end of the article I also thought of a recent discussion we had in Bible study of how we relate to others with whom we may have conflict or disagreements. When this happens, as the article points out, it is often helpful to remember that God's love isn't just for me/us, but for all people – even for the people in our lives that we find it difficult to speak kindly of. Hope you enjoy!

✝ Pastor Erickson

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without technically lying. You tell just enough of the truth to skate on by. We often play the game of seeing how close we can get to sinning without technically going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts, we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.



Prayer Page

Illness, injuries, health issues:

Debbie (sister of Phil Hedtke) - health issues
David (father of Chris Frampton) - health issues
Lisa (daughter of *Cheri Miller)- health issues
Joseph (relative of *Angie Yuza)- hospitalization
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
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 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
Ben (son of *Kroemers)- IA National Guard

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:

Jena (friend of Ann Balvanz) - hospice care
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:

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
Ruth (relative of *Karl Hoech)- died 2/25
Jim (relative of *Brit Stepanek)- died 2/20

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

Wednesday, May 1

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

Thursday, May 2

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise
- 1:30 pm Blood Drive
- 6:00 pm Human Care Meeting

Saturday, May 4

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

Sunday, May 5

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

Monday, May 6

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

Tuesday, May 7

- 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
- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 8

- 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, May 9

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

Friday, May 10

- 9:00 am Rebekah Circle

Saturday, May 11

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, May 12

- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, May 13

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

Tuesday, May 14

- 8:00 am Prayer in the Square
- 9:00 am Quilting for World Relief
- 9:00 am Walking Exercise

Tuesday, May 14 (continued)

- 1:30 pm Prayer Group
- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 15

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

Thursday, May 16

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

Saturday, May 18

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, May 19

- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, May 20

- 6:30 am Coffee & Cocoa Outreach
- 10:00 am Women's Group
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed.
- 7:00 pm Bible Study

Tuesday, May 21

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

Wednesday, May 22

- 6:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 6:00 pm High School Youth
- 6:30 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Biblical Interpretations Study

Thursday, May 23

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

Saturday, May 25

- 9:00 am Holy Yoga - Opening Room

Sunday, May 26

- 9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks
- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Monday, May 27

- All Day Office Closed - Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 28

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

Wednesday, May 29

- 6:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 6:00 pm High School Youth
- 7:00 pm Biblical Interpretations Study

Thursday, May 30

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



Birthdays and Anniversaries

5/1	Ashley Cunningham	5/9	Kaleb Diers	Prudy Peterson	5/25	Julie Elias	
	Ally Olson	5/10	Richard Pfeil	Elaine Behrens		Ethel Doehrmann	
5/2	Julie Holt		Kerry McGraw	5/19	Lily McClellan	5/28	Tom Larson
	Scott Deetz		Jan Demlow		Tim Potter		Blake Kroemer
5/3	Annie Prohaska	5/11	Lori Myers	5/20	Amy Diers	5/29	Beth Bricker
	Patrick McCarley		Brad Crawford		Alexander Theriault		Jase Bond
	Justin McCarley		Chris Frampton	5/21	Leonard Tiedt	5/31	Sage Duve
5/4	Jakob Bulicek		Lucas McCarley	5/22	Trisha Brink		Lexi Brink
	Clara Hinz	5/12	Mike Diers	5/23	Karen Swanson		Lauren Bricker
5/5	Caleb Pfeil		Kathy Echtenkamp		Lori Dohrmann		Josh Dohrmann
5/6	Millie Zimmerman	5/13	Brianna Prohaska	5/24	Serena Knudson		Levi Ballstaedt
5/2	Dave & Wendy Christian	5/11	Tyler & Natalie Steggall	5/16	Mike & Lora Raymon		
	Philip & Lorelei Hackbardt		Scott & Kathryn Deetz	5/20	Doug & Sheryl Knutson		
5/4	Ray & Kerry McGraw	5/13	Michael & Annie Prohaska	5/21	Jeff & Lynn Madsen		
		5/14	Gary & Pamela Kaufman	5/23	Jake & Tami Vande Weerd		

Coming up this weekend at Bethany...



Serve the Lord Day

The Bethany trustees will host a Serve the Lord Day on Saturday, April 27. Plan to help care for the maintenance of our facilities at 8:00-11:00. Coffee and donuts will be served! There will be a variety of cleaning and maintenance projects to work on. If you are not available on April 27, you can sign up for a project to complete on your own time on the board by the Welcome Center.



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!

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.



Announcements



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.

Prayer Ministry

A new weekly prayer group will start 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 will use the Bethany prayer lists, and will also pray 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! Your comfort dog has been a busy pup so far this spring! Besides my "regular" visits, in April I got to meet over 60 preschoolers from Zion Lutheran in Hiawatha. My people also spoke at two LWML events (I was calm and quiet while I listened) and I went to Coe College to help students de-stress during their final exam week. I get to do that again in May at the University of Iowa. I'm just amazed how the Lord continues to provide opportunities to share His love with others!

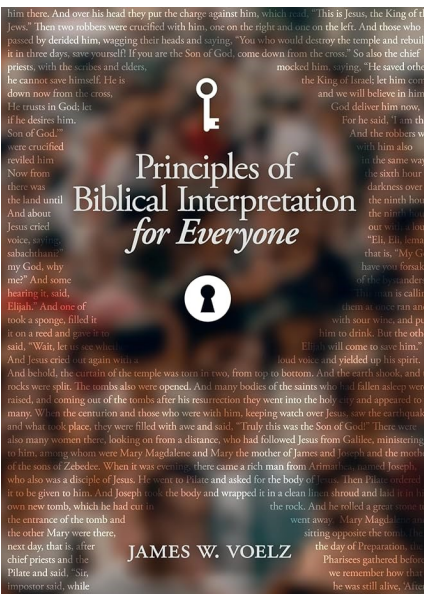
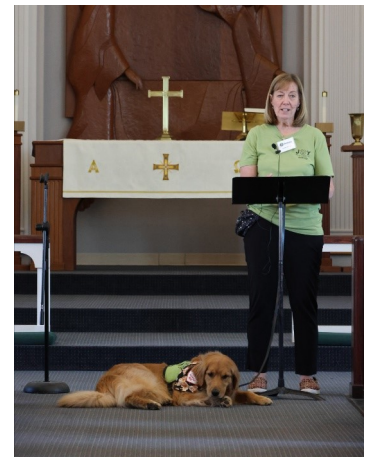




Announcements

LWML Spring Zone Event

Thank you to all you helped with the LWML Spring Zone Event at Bethany. It took many hands to plan, set up, serve and clean up the event. Our Lord was glorified as we welcomed guests from churches in the Cedar Rapids Zone and even the smallest task is appreciated.



Principles of Biblical Interpretation for Everyone

Pastor Erickson will lead a new study on the book “Principles of Biblical Interpretation for Everyone” by Dr. James Voelz.

“[This book is] for laypeople who are intensely interested in doing in-depth interpretation of the Sacred Scriptures. [Voelz] looks at what readers encounter in English Bible translations and discusses everything from the manuscripts that stand behind those translations, to issues of language and meaning...”

This study will meet Wednesday evenings at 7:00-8:00 p.m. starting on May 22. Those interested are asked to sign up at the Welcome Center by May 5 and pay \$10 to help offset the cost of the book (Bethany will be paying the majority of the cost). If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor Erickson.



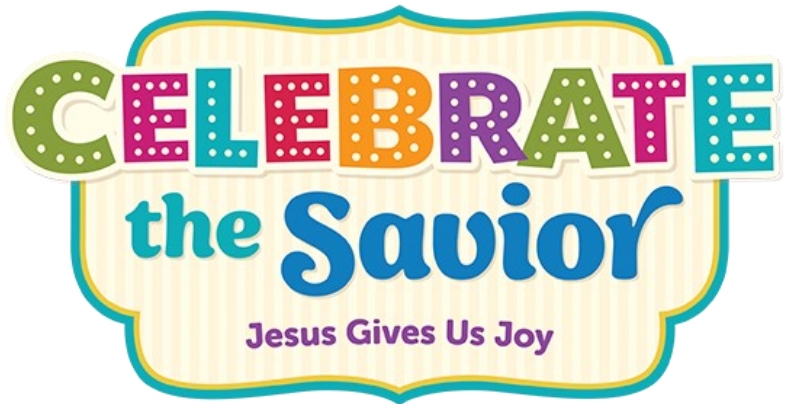
Youth and Family Ministry

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.



Easter Egg Hunt

Children enjoyed an Easter egg hunt at Bethany on March 31.

They gathered to hear the Easter message from Kierra, then went out to hunt for some sweet treats!

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.

SAVE THE DATE: A cornhole tournament will be held at Bethany on Saturday, June 29. Proceeds from this fundraiser will support Bethany youth going on the Denver mission trip this summer.



Youth and Family Ministry



Family Faith Night

At the April Family Faith Night, kids and parents played a game of freeze tag to learn the memory verse. When players were tagged by a “sin contaminator,” they froze! But they could run free again when they were tagged with the verse “love covers a multitude of sins.” Through this game families learned we don’t have to be stuck in our sin. God’s love and grace abounds, and covers a multitude of sins! When we go to God, we are freed from our sins.



The next Family Faith Night will be on Wednesday, May 8. 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. The program is designed for children and parents, and all are welcome!

Be sure to work on the memory verse for May 8!

“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.” - 1 Peter 4:8.

Youth Lock-In

Bethany middle school and high school students had a lock-in on April 19. A few highlights of the evening included devotions, pizza, Lutheran Jeopardy, acolyte relays, and an escape room!





Announcements



Join us for Senior Worship

Thursday, May 16
Service at 11:00 AM | Luncheon to follow

Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry

Bethany's food pantry is serving our neighbors! On Sunday, April 21 we had a record 112 neighbors that came to the pantry. Those neighbors took food home to 400 people in their households. Each person had the opportunity to take a dozen eggs, milk, potatoes, onions, fresh grapefruit and a huge variety of other food and personal care items. It takes a small army of volunteers to get 112 through the pantry in just a couple hours! If you are interested in assisting in the pantry please contact Nurse Ronda at nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com and visit bethanycr.org/food-pantry.

We are so thankful for ongoing contributions and partnerships:

- In March the Evangelism board assembled M&Ms with an Easter message.
- The LWML ladies assembled 100 take and bake casseroles for the neighbors.
- During the zone rally the LWML collected canned meat for the pantry.
- Many of you financially support the pantry or purchase items that are needed. Thank you!
- Behind the scenes, under the direction of Pete Larson and Jeff Stranathan, a platoon of Bethany friends pick up and stock pantry shelves during the week.

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. Gardening experience is not necessary, just a willingness to help! If interested, contact Sheryl Knutson or call the church office at 364-6026.



May Pantry Donation Item

The May donation item of the month is small bottles of liquid dish detergent. Please bring in dish soap during the month of May! Donations may be placed on the collection table outside the sanctuary. While our pantry is called a “food” pantry, our neighbors benefit greatly from essential items like personal care items and household cleaning supplies.



Announcements

Sewing Quilts for World Relief

On Tuesday, May 14 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.



Trinity Lutheran School Updates

Now enrolling! Trinity Lutheran School has limited spaces available in our Kindergarten-Eighth grades. Schedule a tour and learn more about TLS' Christ-centered community and meet our classroom teachers. Tours provided Mondays-Fridays, call the school office at 319-362-6952 or register on the website. The State of Iowa is continuing the Educational Savings Accounts scholarship program. \$7,826 will be given to all new and qualifying families attending a non-public school in the State of Iowa for 2024-2025. Learn more at: <https://educate.iowa.gov/pk-12/educational-choice/education-savings-accounts>.

Thank you for your Hy-Vee receipts! On Friday, April 12 Trinity School turned in three boxes with \$778,495.94 worth of receipts. Wow! That's a tremendous amount of adding up of receipts by our volunteers. Thank you to everyone who helped with that task. The school will receive \$3,892.48 from Hy-Vee for our participation in the Cash for Students receipt program. Keep saving your receipts dated April 1, 2024-March 31, 2025! Drop them off at the Bethany Welcome Center or in the blue bin located outside the front doors at TLS at any time! We are already adding them up for next year's Cash for Students.

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 March 2024

Average Sunday Attendance	206 Souls
March Income	\$37,764
March Expenses	\$39,178



Submit an Announcement



Submit Announcements for Publication

Announcements for the June Beacon are due Thursday, May 23. To submit, 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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NATHAN & SARAH FEDERWITZ

GO.LBT.ORG/NSFEDERWITZ



MISSION PRESENTATION: Thursday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m. at Bethany

Nathan and Sarah Federwitz, missionaries from Lutheran Bible Translators, will give a presentation at Bethany on Thursday, April 25. Please plan to join us for a meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by the presentation.

For more details about this event, please visit www.bethanycr.org/LBT.

www.bethanycr.org | 319-364-6026 | office.bethanycr@gmail.com | facebook.com/bethanycr