



Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

Reaching out in Worship, Fellowship, Learning, and
Love - We Are God's People.

The Chimes

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ is the mission of the church. Of course, this mission is lived out differently in different places, as we are reminded in Scripture that each is gifted differently (see Romans 12, Ephesians 4, or 1 Corinthians 12) and these gifts all work together for the glory of God. Yet we know these gifts do not all come from the same place. Sharing together in the saving work of proclaiming God's grace has been collaborative from the beginning when God's Spirit hovered over the waters, and the Word of God spoke life into being, and the dance of the Trinity created the beautifully intricate world in which we live. Just as God works collaboratively in the world today, congregations are increasingly called into new collaborations -- for the sake of the world. These collaborations are called "Area Mission Strategies" and can take on many different shapes. Whether a congregation is at its strongest ministry in years or whether a congregation has experienced the national trends of lower worship attendance and financial support, collaboration increases the church's witness, creates new opportunities, and brings new life and hope to communities of faith. The Office of the Bishop has invited Bethany Lutheran Church to a series of conversations about a potential Area Mission Strategy in your area. The hope for these conversations is to see if your congregation is willing to move toward a more intentional way of sharing in ministry with your neighbors, including but not limited to sharing pastoral and other ministry staff. If you have questions, please contact Bethany's congregational representatives, Mike Hopp, Todd Chelf, or Kimberly Engle, who are involved with this process. We invite your prayers, questions, and honesty as we discern how God is calling us into the future.

Reverend Erika Uthe

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you ... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid." ~ John 14:27

Director for Evangelical Mission

Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Vitality
Southeastern Iowa Synod

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Our Staff

Rev. Pete Hagglund, Interim Pastor
Cory Byrne, Choir Director/Organist
Kim Engle, Stephen Ministry Coordinator
Michelle Huppenbauer, Office Administrator
Pam Crable, Custodian

April 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

At LSI, we work tirelessly to provide crisis childcare, in-home visits and parenting classes to families across Iowa through our Early Childhood Services. In these services, we provide Iowa parents the support they need to provide a healthy, stable home for their children.

Through our Family Centered Services, we help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable. We also provide therapy services to adults, children and families to help build healthier, more secure homes.

You can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Thanks to the support from faith-based organizations across Iowa...

...a young mom now has the education and resources she needs to create a better life for her and her family,

...a person with a disability learned to be a little more independent,

...a former refugee found a new home in Iowa and has found new ways to successfully support their family.

All of these successes are possible with the support we receive from congregations and people like **you**! LSI is proud to provide these essential services to people all across Iowa.

Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!





Dear Friends in Christ,

It's March 21st, and my wife Betty just called to tell me she's all right after Clinton High School was "SWATted" this morning. In case you're not familiar with the term, "SWATting" is basically a prank, although I suppose it could be a tactic with a more deadly purpose--someone manages to give anonymous 911 calls to police, reporting a bomb threat or an active shooter/assailant in the school building. A SWAT team burst into the school, automatic weapons drawn, hustling everybody--including Betty--out. Some kids were visibly terrified, some were in tears. School was canceled for the remainder of the day. And as it turns out, whoever made this call to the Clinton police was able to simultaneously do the same thing with other cities and towns in eastern Iowa. In addition to the human cost in terms of terror over the possibility that Clinton High and other eastern Iowa schools were about to be the next victims of mass shootings, think of the cost involved with dispatching all those SWAT teams! Prank? Hardly--this is a criminal act, for which someone needs to do a lot of hard time! Of course, it's also true that whoever would do such a thing--or worse--has something wrong with them that can likely be traced back to some perceived injustice done to them in the past. And perhaps that perception is accurate. I say this to point out that immoral and criminal behavior can't be significantly reduced, nor can moral and upright behavior be encouraged without a healthy society to address it.

Needless to say, we don't *have* a healthy society; in fact, I would go so far as to say that *insane* and *malevolent* thought, speech, and behavior have become normalized. To be crazy or evil is just another thing we are told in some corners that we need to accept and tolerate. Some of it even dares to call itself "Christian"!

So what are faithful disciples of Jesus to do in the face of all this insanity and malevolence? Well, we need to remember that sin, death, and the devil have already been decisively beaten; they've been dealt a blow from which they'll never recover--something we'll be remembering and celebrating once again very soon. We don't have to worry about how all of this is going to turn out; the only question is how much suffering is going to be inflicted and absorbed until the risen Christ returns and God's Kingdom arrives in force.

The forces that perpetuate all this horrible behavior are the very same forces that crucified Christ. Because they couldn't hold *him* down, they won't be able to hold *us* down, either. We need to keep getting together on a regular basis to hear that message again and again, and together take in the "blessed assurance" it gives all who take it to heart. But the war obviously isn't over--the *issue* has been decided, but the *war* drags on.

We're here to assist God in bringing our world to its inevitable triumphant conclusion, which among other things means visibly and audibly standing against the insanity and evil all around us, and whenever possible, *go on the offensive* against it--letting it be known that, in the name of Christ, we won't tolerate it in our society, and certainly not *in the Church*. We need to let it be known that *God's* ways rule in the Body of Christ, and to tell and remind society in general that one of these days, God's ways are going to rule *it*, too.

A couple of months ago one of my former colleagues in the Central and Southern Illinois Synod sent me (and others) a copy of an article from Christianity Today called "People Perish For Lack of Religion". I've had it included in this newsletter because it touches on at least one of the reasons our society is the way it is, and because it provides us with a lot of truth to share with our unchurched or barely-churched family members, friends, and people in general.

Have a blessed Holy Week and a joyous Easter!
Pastor Pete

Meetings

The meetings for April, 2023 that have been scheduled as of the publishing of this newsletter are listed below. Watch your bulletins for any date and time changes, or additional meetings that may be scheduled.

Finance Committee
Thursday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.

Church Life Committee
Sunday, April 16, 10:15 a.m.

Property Committee
Monday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.

Church Outreach Committee
Tuesday, April 11 5:30 p.m.

Executive Committee
Tuesday, April 11, 6:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, April 15, 8:00 a.m.

Church Council
Wednesday, April 19, 6:30 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE

Please be sure to update your address and/or phone number with the office. A new church directory will be published soon, and we'd like to have current information.

ALSO!

Because of Federal Privacy laws, if you or a member of your family are hospitalized and would like the Pastor to visit, you must contact the church and let us know.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MARCH ATTENDANCE

March 5	55
March 12	37
March 19	60
March 26	61

MARCH GIVING

March 5	\$3,084.40
March 12	\$1,567.00
March 19	\$3,080.76
March 26	\$2,274.40
Total	\$10,006.56

March VANCO total: \$1,655.00





Oak View will be hosting a get together on Monday, April 24 at 2:00 PM. All are invited. This event is held on the last Monday of every month. This is a chance to visit with the homebound that are residents there. Pastor Pete will be attending, so plan to join him!!



The three ELCA Bishops in Iowa have decided to ride Ragbrai this year. The dates are July 22-29. It's the 50th anniversary of the event, and they've committed to riding 50+ miles together, each day, celebrating and highlighting 50+ anti-hunger ministries in our three synods, and raising \$50K plus for ELCA World Hunger. This year's route will begin in Sioux City and in Davenport. All are welcome to ride with them; but if that's not something you want or are able to do, then what you can do is pray for them that they have a safe trip, and donate to World Hunger.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- April 2, 9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday. The congregation will gather in the fellowship hall and process in with palm branches.
- April 6, 4:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday
- April 7, 7:00 p.m. Good Friday
- April 9, 9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday. Come and celebrate! He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Community Meetings this month...

Retired Nurses – Friday, April 7, 9:30 a.m.

Retired Teachers – Monday, April 10, 12:00 noon

Boy Scouts – Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

35th Annual Convention and Gathering Southeastern Iowa Women of the ELCA June 9 and 10, 2023

Convention and Gathering is always fun and exciting. We hope you have in on our calendar and plan to attend. Spread the word and bring another woman from your church or bring your mother, your sister, your daughter, a friend, or a cousin! This year's event will be held at the Stoney Creek Hotel Des Moines – Johnston.

Having an active WELCA group isn't necessary!!

For more information, please check out the flier on the bulletin board in the hallway.

LAY LEADERS

APRIL 2023

April Usher: Susan Swanson

Communion Assistants

2 - Rachel Lindeen; Mark Rosenberg
9 - Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt
16 - Julie Wischmeier; Mike Hopp
23 - Steve & Sue Rogers
30 - Jessica King; Dan Harken

Lector

2 - Jessica King
9 - Judy Craven
16 - Dan Harken
23 - Vicki Stoller
30 - Mike Hopp

Greeters

2 - Lynda Johnson
9 - Dan & Ruth Harken
16 - Vicki Stoller
23 - Sharon Martindale
30 - Mark & Bonnie Rosenberg

Altar Guild

Sharon Martindale; Carol
Dodge; Lynda Johnson;
Mitchell Huston

Missionary Support

2 - Open
9 - Tiffany & Michelle
Huppenbauer
16 - Todd & Laurie Chelf
23 - Open
30 - Lynda Johnson

Flowers

2 - Bill Mundt
9 - Easter Lilies
16 - Todd & Laurie Chelf
23 - Lynda Johnson
30 - Dan & Ruth Harken



3 - Carlene Woodside
6 - Michael Kastner; Denise
Kaup
9 - Courtney (Quam)
Quinn; Arnhild Zaiser
10 - Erica House
12 - Thomas Holtz; Jim
Morris
19 - Elliott Wallace
20 - Dee Dee McAlister
23 - Sue Hermansen; Dylon
Kuster
29 - Hunter Adam; Steven
Rogers
30 - Vivienne Mafra



18 - Todd & Laurie Chelf

April

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	3	4 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	5 9:30 a.m. Bible Study	6	7 9:30 a.m. Retired Nurses	8
		<i>Pastor Pete at Bethany Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday</i>				
9 EASTER SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	10 12:00 noon Retired Teachers 6:30 p.m. Property Committee	11 5:30 p.m. Church Outreach 6:00 p.m. Executive Committee 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	12	13 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee	14	TAX DAY 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
16 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Church Life 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	17	18 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	19 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Church Council	20	21	EARTH DAY
		<i>Pastor Pete at Bethany Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday</i>				
23 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	NATIONAL PET PARENTS DAY	25 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	26 Administrative Professional's Day	27	28	29
30 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service		REMINDER: If you have something you want included in the May Chimes, the deadline for submitting your announcement is Thursday, April 20. You're welcome to drop off a note, send an email, or call. Thank you!				<u>Paraments</u> 2 - Purple 9, 16, 23, 30 - White