



Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

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

The
Chimes

WORSHIP SINGING HONORS GOD!

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.

Psalm 30:4

As we continue to adapt to our more familiar way of worshipping in the sanctuary, I am happy to announce that on May 2nd everyone may sing again. We still need to social distance and wear masks. We will also have a non-singing section where you will not have people near you who are singing.

Not being able to sing has been a big disappointment for many. However, the main reason we have singing in worship is to give glory to God rather than promote our own personal enjoyment. I enjoy singing as much as anyone. We like singing our favorite hymns most of all. The music that is chosen for worship can often cause people to leave if it is not their preference. What we forget is that our singing is intended to honor God. In fact, the whole purpose of worship is for God to be praised and thanked for all He has done for us. We need to be reminded of this again and again. Our singing gives thanks to the Lord and praises His holy name.

In the first five weeks of being back inside I anticipated that we would be at around 50% of our normal attendance. This is pretty much what the numbers have been. I am very thankful to all who have braved returning. I am also hopeful that, with the resuming of everyone singing, we will see our attendance grow. I am sure God will be happy to hear all our voices again.



Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

2515 Madison Ave.

Burlington, Iowa

Phone: (319) 752-3621

www.bethanyburlington.org

Pastor's Cell: (360) 623-2184

Our Staff

Rev. Paul Hermansen, Pastor Cory Byrne, Choir Director/Organist

Sue Hermansen, Admin. Asst. Michelle Huppenbauer, Financial Sec'y

Pam Crable, Custodian

BIRTHDAY BANK, WORLD HUNGER, AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT OFFERINGS

Now that we are inside again for worship, we would like to remind you of our special offerings. The little box is our birthday bank. The money you put in the birthday bank helps to fund our human concerns ministry. The offering plate next to it is for world hunger. Because of the pandemic, both of these sources of offerings have been depleted. There is also a sign-up sheet in the hallway to support our missionary Brian Palmer. There is a bulletin board by the Boy Scout table with his newsletters.



VBS, JUNE 14-18

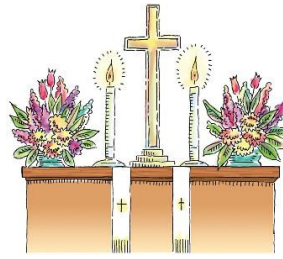
VBS will be held June 14-18, 9:00 a.m. to Noon, at Messiah Lutheran Church. Registration forms are available in the church office.

Below is a list of supplies that Bethany is responsible for:

- 5 boxes powdered laundry soap**
- 50 medium rocks for painting**
- 10 packages white socks (adult)**
- 10 packages paint markers**
- 100 paper plates**
- 5 large bags M&Ms**
- 10 large bags pretzels**
- 2 large bottles of brown/tan acrylic paint**
- 2 large bottles of red acrylic paint**
- 2 large bottles of orange acrylic paint**
- 2 large bottles of yellow acrylic paint**
- 2 large bottles of purple acrylic paint**
- 2 large bottles of pink acrylic paint**
- 2 large bottles of black acrylic paint**
- 2 large bottles of white acrylic paint**

There will be a large tub in the fellowship hall for your donations. All supplies need to be brought to Messiah by June 7.

Any questions, call Carlene Woodside at 319-753-6856



ALTAR FLOWERS

With return to indoor worship, there are opportunities to sign up for your favorite dates for altar flowers. The sign-up chart is in the hallway. The cost for each Sunday is \$21.40. Thank you for supporting this vital part of the worship service.

GAME DAY NOW IN MEDIAPOLIS

Shortly after Sue and I came to Bethany, I started an activity called Game Day. I have since learned that you had a similar program years ago. Like a lot of things, interest in activities comes and goes. We still have game day, but the people who participate live in Mediapolis. This is where game day is happening now. It has also become a bridge with our sister church members at Immanuel. If you would like to learn more, please call me.



ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

One of the things the pandemic has done to churches is challenge us to still have ministry without meeting in person. Thanks to the creative gift of Pam Taylor we have a Wednesday night Bible study at 7:00 p.m. which you can access through your computer. Every week you will receive an email giving you the link to our Zoom meeting. We are currently studying the Gospel of Mark.

MAY ACTIVITIES

The Retired Nurses are back! They will be meeting on Friday, May 7, at 9:30 a.m., in the fellowship hall.

SHARING OUR STIMULUS WITH GOD

Recently a member of Bethany made a commitment to pay for altar flowers for several Sundays. When I thanked him for his generosity, he answered that he wanted to put his stimulus money to good use. "What a great idea," I told him. As I thought about his decision to help Bethany, I realized our money is actually God's money that He lets us have to see what we will do with it. There are some among us who enjoy being generous with God. The idea of the stimulus is to get us to spend it to stimulate our American economy. The same applies with the money God gives us. How much are we willing to give for the work of the Kingdom? If you still have your stimulus money, would you be willing to help Bethany fulfill our ministry?

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Once again this year our Synod Assembly will be on Zoom on May 21 and 22. The delegates from Bethany are Todd Chelf and Pastor Paul and Sue. If you are interested, you can watch it online. One of the themes that I believe will be addressed is racism in America. Please call the office if you want more information.



During the pandemic the duties of the altar guild were much lighter than usual. Now that we are back inside there is an increased workload for setting up for every Sunday. We have had six on our team resign. We need new volunteers. Altar guild comes under Church Life. Our next Church Life meeting is Monday, May 3. If you would like to learn more about serving on altar guild, please come to the meeting or call Pastor Paul.



MOWERS WANTED

Men and Women are wanted for mowing our lawns to keep our property looking good. If you are interested, please call Joe Gerdes at 319-759-5622. Thank you for considering this ministry.



ANSWER THE CALL TO BE A STEPHEN MINISTER

All roads lead to . . .

Have you ever driven in a subdivision where all the roads seemed to lead back to the main entrance? It is a careful design to keep us from getting hopelessly lost. When God wants us to do something, sometimes it seems as if all roads lead to that very activity. Is God calling you to a new ministry in our congregation?

Spiritual gifts are gifts to give away. God gives them to us and we use them to serve others. God has given us the greatest gift of all—eternal life and unconditional love in Jesus Christ. How can you say thanks? One way is to share the love you have received with others who may feel unloved and alone in their troubles. Stephen Ministers say thanks to God by caring for others. If your spiritual gifts include one or more of the following—faith, mercy, teaching the faith, encouragement, or knowing, are you looking for a new way to use them? If so, please consider Stephen Ministry, our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry. This may be just what you have been looking for!

Learn how you can join this grateful, graceful group and thank you to those who have answered the call. Stay tuned. We are almost ready.

Contact Kim Engle at (319-372-1887 or keengle@protonmail.com or Pastor Paul at 319-752-3621.



. . . The Lord is faithful; he will
strengthen you and guard you from evil.

2 Thessalonians 3:3

GOD IS CONSISTENTLY FAITHFUL

One of the things in life that is pretty important to us is predictability. Politicians like to predict who will win elections. Health experts are now predicting how long our vaccinations will be effective. Meteorologists predict the weather. The list goes on and on. I think all of us want to know how long the pandemic will affect our lives! Speaking of the pandemic, I believe it has had an adverse effect on some people's dispositions. I have noticed in some instances that people who are usually pleasant are now unpredictable in the way they react to you.

There are many things about God that are a total blessing. One of them is consistency. God is always faithful. That does not mean that God gives us what we ask for every time. But God is always faithful.

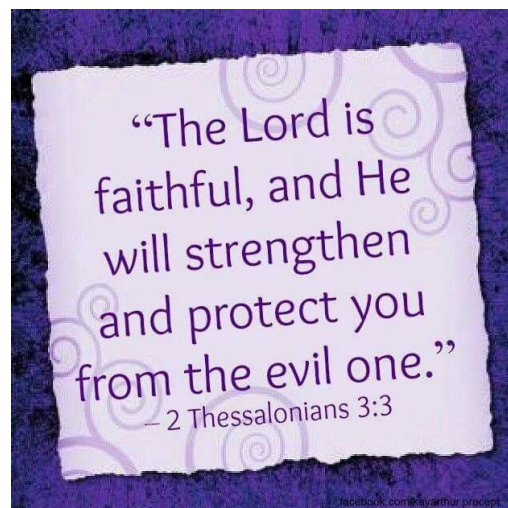
The experts who predict the future of the church are less optimistic because of the pandemic. But they have come up with excellent ideas on re-energizing congregations. Members who are participating in their congregations are now encouraged to reach out more than ever to invite people to their church as well as reach out to those no longer attending. The first word in the name of our national church is "Evangelical." To be evangelical means consistently reaching out to others with the love of Christ.

Back in 1998 I had a conversation with a pastor who worked in the department of evangelism of the ELCA. He said that in 50 years there would no longer be an ELCA. Of course, I did not believe his prediction. However, he did not pull that number out of nowhere. Today we are 27 years from 2048. The prediction of the church coming to an end is totally unacceptable to me. I love the church. Congregations like Bethany mean the world to me. God also loves the church. God does not want our ELCA to close its doors.

God is and always will be faithful in reaching out to us in His love. He is calling us to be faithful in kind by reaching out to others. If you know of someone who may not be going to church, please pray and then reach out to them. In the unpredictable times that we live in we all need predictability. God is consistently and predictably faithful. We all need God. The more we share Him the better we know Him!

In Christ,

Pastor Paul



MAY 2021 Lay Leaders

Head Usher:

Dan & Julia Wischmeier

March Lead

Usher:

Ushers

2—
9—
16—
23—
30—

Communion Assistants

2—
9—
16—
23—
30—

Children's Sermons

2—
9—
16—
23—
30—

THIS SCHEDULE OF LAY LEADERS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE VIRUS. PLEASE CHECK BETH-ANY'S FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES OR CALL THE OFFICE.

Acolytes

2—
9—
16—
23—
30—

Lector

2—Jessica King
9—Bob Hoxie
16—Pam Taylor
23—Carlene Woodside
30—Sue Hermansen

Greeters

2—
7—
16—
23—
30—

Missionary Support

2—
9—
16—
23—
30—

Flowers

2—Richard & Holly Williamson
9—Arnhild Zaiser
16—
23—Bill Mundt
30—

Altar Guild

Kim Engle; Debbie Hoxie;
Mitchell Huston



1—David King; Samuel Quam; Zoey Rogers
2—Kara Roberts
5—Brianna Hopp
7—Beth McCarthy
8—Susan Rogers
9—William Ward
10—Todd Sladky
11—Howard Burgus; Brett Kuster
13—Dalton McClurg
14—Emily Bloomer
16—Colten Boyer; Donna Edgington; Janice Peterson
18—Drew McCarthy; Nancy Pilcher; Edward Roberts
20—Bonnie Darrah
22—Jacob Smith
26—Elisabeth Chelf; Jordan Roy; Michelle Schoof
28—Mathew Hogaboom; Jacob Roy; Joshua Roy
30—Sharon Martindale; Lisa Murphy
31—Shirley Henson



1—Cleo and Jackie Marion
18—Scott and Jan Creighton
21—Bill and Conni Boyer
23—Michael and Savanna Jackson
29—Mark and Sarah Loots; David and Jessica Tharp

Meetings

The meetings for May that have been scheduled as of the publishing of this newsletter are listed below. Watch the bulletins for any date and time changes or additional meetings scheduled.

WELCA
TBA

Outreach Committee
Tuesday, May 11, 5:30 p.m.

Finance Committee
Wednesday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.

Church Life Committee
Monday, May 3, 6:30 p.m.

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

Executive Committee
Tuesday, May 18, 6:30 p.m.

Church Council
Sunday, June 20, 10:00 a.m.

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

PLEASE NOTE

The deadline to submit information for the monthly Chimes is the 25th of the month. You're welcome to email your submissions, leave a note on the desk in the office, or call the church office.

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

APRIL ATTENDANCE

April 2 (Good Friday)	31	37 FB**
April 4	74	79 FB
April 11	49	37 FB
April 18	58	54 FB
April 25	54	54 FB

APRIL GIVING

April 4	\$ 4,384.60
April 11	1,698.00
April 18	1,786.00
April 25	2,976.35
VANCO Offerings	<u>1,630.00</u>
Total	\$ 12,474.95

**Service watched on Facebook

**Thank you for your generosity and
faithful trust in God to provide your
needs! God believes in you and has a
great future planned for Bethany.**

If you change your mailing address, please let the office know ASAP. For every returned piece of mail returned for an incorrect address, we