



Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

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

The
Chimes

COMING ALIVE BY GIVING OURSELVES

At the end of September our SE Iowa Synod holds an inspiring conference every year. This year's program was very relevant for Bethany and me. For ten years I have been hearing how the church needs to be more intentional in reaching out to our neighbors. For a long time the church has seen itself as a building that people come to. What the "experts" are now saying is that the church is a people who go out to the world.

In several ongoing studies it is being determined that churches who go out to their neighbors are flourishing; those who do not are dying. In one memorable example we learned about a church that was declining. That congregation had an endowment fund and was debt free. But they saw themselves as inevitably becoming an empty building. So the congregation decided to give itself away by reaching into their community, doing things for others and spending down their endowment fund until it was gone. Then they would close their doors for good. Guess what happened? By giving themselves away the congregation had a dramatic increase in new people, enthusiasm, and energy. They rose back up an entirely new entity. No one saw that they would come alive by giving themselves away.

This is how God works. God gave himself away in His Son, Jesus. When Jesus was killed even His closest followers thought it was all over. But then Jesus rose from the dead and came alive again. Jesus came alive by giving Himself away.

Over six months ago the ministry of LSI needed a new home. Bethany said "yes" immediately. This is an excellent example of Bethany giving itself away. LSI provides help for countless people who need their ministry and cannot afford it. Bethany opened its doors and heart. This is but one example of how we can give ourselves away. As a pastor I am but one person who can come up with ideas to give ourselves away. We also need your suggestions for giving ourselves away to experience new life. I look forward to hearing your suggestions of giving ourselves away to have a better today and a brighter tomorrow!

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Burlington, Iowa

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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

Scott Teater, Custodian



On Sunday, October 27, Bethany is teaming up with First Christian Church and Burlington Care Center to put on a "Trunk and Treat" from

3-4:30 p.m., at Burlington Care Center. Local kids, *superheroes, princesses, and monsters*, will make the rounds of the various cars and trucks in the parking lot. Anyone interested in decorating their car trunk or tailgate, handing out candy, making a donation, or just joining the fun, is welcome to join us. We need you to buy bags of candy. We hope to encourage young families to visit Bethany through this important outreach.

STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATE

I recently received the good news that Kim Engle, after prayers and reflection, has accepted God's call to experience training to become our Stephen Ministry leader. In the meantime Kim shared information about another orientation event scheduled for October 26 that she plans to attend and would love to have anyone else interested to go with her. The actual training that Kim and Pastor will participate in is scheduled for late April of next year.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

As we continue our search for a new youth director we are, nevertheless, moving forward with Sunday School. Carlene Woodside is coordinating this ministry. Teaching our children about Jesus is one of the most important functions of a church. We are always looking for more people to serve in this way. If you feel God's calling on your heart to serve, please call the office or contact Carlene directly. Don't forget to include our Sunday school in your prayers.

HOPE TECHNICIANS IN OCTOBER

October 5 - Joe Gerdes
 October 13 - Kim Engle
 October 20 - Mike Hopp



CROP WALK - OCTOBER 13

This year's CROP Walk is on October 13. We meet at First Christian Church, 1221 Park Ave., at 1:00 p.m. to register. The walk starts at 1:30.

Walkers/runners will have options of 1, 3, or 6 mile (10 k) routes. Each walker should bring a non-perishable meat/main dish item that can be given to the Neighborhood Center Food Pantry the day of the walk.

FOUR MINISTRIES: WHICH ONE(S) IS/ARE FOR YOU?

Bethany's four main ministries have been identified and assigned to council leaders: Finance-Dan Harken; Church Life-Bill Mundt; Outreach-Kim Engle; and Property-Joe Gerdes. All of these committees need your participation. Let the leaders know which ones you are willing to participate in.



A CHRISTMAS TREE IN OCTOBER?

Have you noticed the Christmas tree set up in our entry way? I have heard several comments and questions as to why that tree is up now. The answer is that it is our hat and mitten tree. We determined to start collecting hats and mittens early because cold weather is right around the corner. You may place your donations on the tree or in the big blue tub outside the sanctuary. Thank you.

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

The Retired Nurses are meeting on Friday, October 4, at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

The Des Moines County Retired School Personnel will be meeting on October 7 at 12:00 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop #25 has its regular weekly meetings on Tuesdays.

FROM THE PASTOR

The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

THE REFORMATION: YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

As a pastor, when I think about October, I always recall an event from 500 years ago that started the Lutheran church. I am speaking of Martin Luther and the Reformation. The Reformation was the result of a church that had lost its way. Love of power, control, and money had corrupted the leaders of the church. That needed to be reformed.

One of the characteristics of humanity that Luther called out is the fact that we are both sinner and saint. We are capable of good and bad. One of the trends that is taking place in Europe today is the fact that very few people go to church anymore. This societal change in Europe began after World War II. Why? One of the reasons is because of the church in Europe. In the 1930s, when Hitler and the Nazis began their rise to total control, the majority of churches either stayed silent or embraced this maniacal leader. As we look back on this malignant social development, we cannot believe that the church could have been compliant with Hitler's demonic activity. Maybe at the time the church could claim it did not fully realize how evil this man was. After Germany fell many people in Europe became cynical of the church because of the stance it took with the Nazis. This has led to churches in Europe being empty today. Ironically, in America, the end of World War II brought meteoric church growth. Never in American history has the church experienced people flocking to its doors as it did following the war's end.

In America today a similar trend to the one in Europe may be happening again. Today in America a particular group of the church is enthusiastically embracing policies which disenfranchise the non-white, the non-heterosexual, and the non-English speaking non-white immigrants. They are also embracing removing protective measures that safeguard our environment. In doing so they are coming up with religious rationalizations that defend their perspectives.

Is it time for another Reformation? Without a doubt! Will there be long term repercussions because of what is happening right now? That goes without saying. The toll for the church supporting such actions will be immeasurable. Like in Europe, the church itself may suffer a downward trend in future involvement. In years to come people may look back on the times we are living in and ask, "Did the church really support this behavior? Didn't the church see that these positions went against Jesus and the Bible?" It is time for Reformation. I hope we are not too late!

In Christ,

Pastor Paul



October 2019 Lay Leaders

Head Ushers:

Dan & Julie Wischmeier

October Lead

Usher: Dan & Julie Wischmeier

Ushers

6 - Dan & Julie Wischmeier
13 - Dan & Julie Wischmeier
20 - Dan & Julie Wischmeier
27 - Dan & Julie Wischmeier

Communion Assistants

6 - Todd Chelf; Steve & Sue Rogers
13 - Amy Unglaub; Teresa Morehead; Julie Chubb
20 - Sue Hermansen; Dan Harken; Mike Hopp
27 - Jim Martindale; Jeff & Kim Engle

Children's Sermons

6 - Amy Unglaub
13 - Amy Unglaub
20 - Jessica King
27 - Melissa Hopp

Acolytes

6 - Benjamin Chelf
13 - David King
20 - Mason Fritz; Eli Wallace
27 - Aaron Morehead

Lector

6 - Dan Harken
13 - Bob Hoxie
20 - Kim Engle
27 - Carlene Woodside

Greeters

6 - Bob Sogard; Arnhild Zaiser
13 - Gerald & Lila Janssen
20 - Dan & Julie Wischmeier
27 - Scott & Jan Creighton

Missionary Support

6 - Pastor Paul & Sue
13 - Dan & Ruth Harken
20 - Pastor Paul & Sue
27 -

Flowers

6 -
13 - Ginny Mesecher
20 - Vanette Wooldridge; Marlys McClurg
27 - Lynda Johnson

Altar Guild

Sharon Martindale; Pat & Kelli Reichelt; Pam Taylor; Julie Wischmeier

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 - Joe Gerdes
2 - Sidney Boyer; Kim Engle
5 - Graham Oetken
7 - Bradley Howell; Shelley Wallace
8 - Teresa Morehead
11 - Sharyn Miller
12 - Joshua Bloomer; Ellen Shepherd
14 - Todd Chelf; Beverly Sherbondy
15 - Jeffrey Woodside
17 - Jamie Adam
18 - Marlys McClurg
19 - Pat Humiston
21 - Eleonore Benninghoven; Teresa Staub
22 - Kelli Reichelt
24 - Bob Sogard
26 - Evynne Bonar; Gerald Janssen
27 - Rosemary Foster
29 - Pat Reichelt
30 - Shannon Oetken



3 - Jeff & Kim Engle
6 - Dylon & Brett Kuster

Meetings

The meetings for October 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, October 8, 5:30 p.m.

Finance Committee
Thursday, October 17, 6:30 p.m.

Church Life Committee
Tuesday, October 14, 5:30 p.m.

Property Committee
Monday, October 14, 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee
Tuesday, October 15, 6:30 p.m.

Church Council
Sunday, October 20, 10:15 a.m.

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, October 19, 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

SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE

| | |
|--------------|----|
| September 1 | 63 |
| September 8 | 77 |
| September 15 | 63 |
| September 22 | 88 |

SEPTEMBER GIVING

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| September 1 | \$ 1,603.90 |
| September 8 | 2,286.00 |
| September 15 | 1,667.00 |
| September 22 | <u>2,154.40</u> |
| Total | \$ 7,711.30 |



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