



## Bethany Lutheran Church

### Mission Statement

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

The  
Chimes

#### WORSHIP IN UNPREDICATABLE TIMES

A couple months ago the prospect of returning indoors for worship seemed promising. Several churches have already done this. Some churches never stopped meeting! However, recent reports indicate a surge of new cases of the virus in our county. Our Church Life Committee is holding meetings to explore our possibilities. At the end of July a wedding took place in our sanctuary which seemed to go alright. No word has been given on anyone getting the virus. In September we will have two member weddings. I am encouraging people to practice caution to prevent the spread of the virus.

On August 16 we began putting our service live on Facebook, as well as to view later. We continue to take steps to improve the quality of our presentation. As the weather turns sometime this fall we will put in place an indoor format. An option will be to continue playing the service through the radio for those who would prefer staying outside in their vehicles.

Your continued support of Bethany is greatly appreciated! As your pastor I cannot help but have my faith challenged in terms of members maintaining their connection with Bethany, given the fact that things are not the same. You are definitely coming through!

We are very fortunate to have Rachel Lindeen as our president, the executive committee, and the council leading us in these difficult times. We are blessed that our congregation is doing well health-wise. Our church is open on Monday-Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Committees are still meeting. The Hope service has also been continuing every week since May. Eventually what we are going through will pass. God is with us. God cares. Thank you for your loyal connection with Bethany.

**We  
were made  
for  
WORSHIP!**

#### Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

2515 Madison Ave.

Burlington, Iowa

Phone: (319) 752-3621

[www.bethanyburlington.org](http://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  
and Custodian



## YOUNG HOUSE FAMILY SERVICES

Young House Family Services currently have 15 people, ranging from ages 18-23, who are “aging out” of the Childhood Welfare Program. These young people will be setting up their first homes and are in need of basic hygiene and household items. They are on their own for various reasons. The need will be ongoing. Suggested items are *body wash, bath towels and washcloths, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, hand soap, toothbrushes/toothpaste, laundry detergent and laundry baskets, and toilet paper.* It was noted that not many cook but a few kitchen items would be appreciated: *dish soap, kitchen towels and dishrags, paper towels and cleaning products.*

Walmart gift cards were also suggested. They can fill in food, clothes and other essential items. We will also, of course, accept monetary donations.

You can bring the items to Sunday worship or the office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Thank you for your support of this necessary ministry.

## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HOPE

Following our governor’s approval to reopen our churches for worship, the council approved hosting our Hope service again. We will follow all guidelines including no singing, masks, social distancing, and no interaction. “Hope” to see you there!

## SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

The Des Moines County Retired School Personnel, the Retired Nurses and Boy Scout Troop #25 will not be meeting for the foreseeable future.



In early March one of our members volunteered to call people in our congregation who are isolated during the shut down for the virus.

Those people are very grateful to know they are cared about. We have folks in our lives we can stay in touch with. If you would like to become one of our callers, please let me know.



The Cluster 8 meeting of the WELCA will be October 24, 2020, at First Lutheran Church in Keokuk. Refreshments will be served at 9:00 a.m., followed by a meeting, the speaker, and lunch. The cluster meeting will be over by 1:00 p.m.

The speaker will be Erika Wolfe. She will relate her family’s flight from Russian occupied eastern Germany. Her father, a Wehrmacht soldier who died on the Russian front in 1944, wrote many letters to her mother which have been translated and published.

There is a \$6.00 charge for lunch and an offering will be taken. RSVP to Anne Pietscher at 319 -795-9114 by October 17.

## CONFIRMATION—ON LINE—FOR EVERYONE

During the summer Pastor Ryan, Amanda, and I have been talking about how we would lead confirmation in the fall. We are meeting to put together a program that will be online and will include anyone in the congregation who would like to participate. More information will be forthcoming.



**CONFIRMATION**  
Affirmation of Baptism

## DAILY DEVOTIONALS AND LIVING LUTHERAN MAGAZINE AVAILABLE

One of the things we automatically do when coming to church on Sunday is pick up the many excellent devotionals we have on hand. Our new quarterly Lutheran devotional, *Christ in Our Home*, for July-September is available in large and regular print. July copies of our *Living Lutheran* are here as well. These, and other spiritual reading items, are waiting for you to stop by and pick up. The office is open on Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.



Zion United Church of Christ is requesting items for their food pantry. The items for September are cereal, jelly, chicken noodle soup, and boxed potatoes

Again, Bethany has such a sense of reaching beyond itself and helping those in need. These items may be brought on Sunday morning or to the office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to noon.



## YOUTH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

We are currently exploring how to do Sunday School and youth ministry during the pandemic. We will keep you posted.



8 out of 10 of the unchurched would come to church if invited.



## PARSONAGE LANDSCAPING

Bev Sherbondy and Mark Rosenberg applied for and were awarded a grant from the city to go towards improvements to the homes of our neighborhood. Carter Nursery in West Burlington completed the landscaping and planting this week and it is beautiful! Next spring and summer there will be an array of colorful blooms in the front of the parsonage. Be sure to stop by and look at the details that went into the project. You will be impressed!



## NEW PHONE LIST

We would like to print a new phone and address list for Bethany. If your phone number or address has changed since our last directory in 2017, please call or email the office. If you would like to add a cell number or email address, also provide that. The plan is to have a new list available for hand out this fall. Thank you.



All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

### WHY BIBLE STUDY?

Lutherans have a wide range of feelings about reading the Bible. Years ago I had a devoted Lutheran tell me that, when he listens to a sermon or participates in a Bible study, the #1 thing he is seeking is to hear something new. I share his sentiment. Most people like to learn things they did not know before. The Bible offers considerable information that is beneficial in many ways. In addition to knowledge, studying the Bible also provides devotion and inspiration. In America the Bible used to be taught in public schools to encourage moral and ethical conduct. The Bible teaches how to work out conflicts, discern what is right and wrong, and the importance of valuing human life and creation.

Becoming familiar with the teaching of Scripture became important to me shortly after I experienced my calling to become a pastor. At Bethany we have some who treasure coming to our Wednesday Bible study. Throughout the pandemic we continue to meet every week. We always practice social distancing. No one is ever under any pressure to be exceptionally learned of the Scriptures. No matter what the depth of our Biblical knowledge, we always learn from each other.

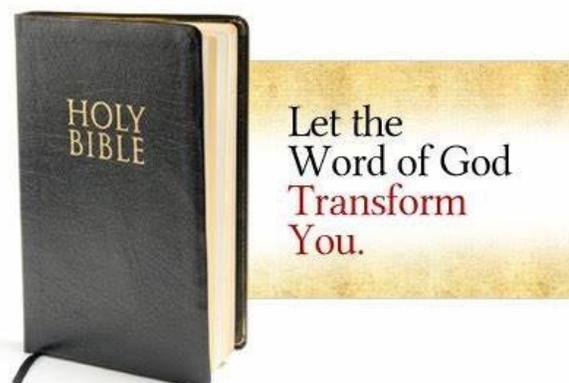
I think the greatest blessing for me in studying the Bible is that it brings me closer to God. The Bible clearly proclaims the goodness of God in His love for us in Jesus. The Bible increases our faith and opens our eyes to the presence of God in our world. We learn how to care about each other's perspectives on life. The Bible gives us hope even in the most troubling of times.

Perhaps you read the Bible on your own or in family devotions. I know of couples who read the Bible together. What the Bible has taught me again and again is that no human is able to live their life without direction from beyond. Various religions and support groups have a special book that gives them the guidance they need to live productive and constructive lives. I have never needed too many more books than what the Bible provides for me.

I cannot image my life without Bible study. It has a great influence on our life. If you would like to attend our weekly group, we would love to have you. May God bless you in your study of His Word.

In Christ,

Pastor Paul



# September 2020 Lay Leaders

## **Head Usher:**

Dan & Julia Wischmeier

## **September Lead**

**Usher:** Steve Rogers

## **Ushers**

6—  
13—  
20—  
27—

## **Communion Assistants**

6—Mike Hopp; Mark Rosenberg; Sharon Martindale  
13—Jessica King; Teresa Morehead; Amy Unglaub  
20—Julia Wischmeier; Steve & Sue Rogers  
27—Julie Chubb; Jeff & Kim Engle

## **Children's Sermons**

6—  
13—  
20—  
27—

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

## **Acolytes**

6—Benjamin Chelf  
13—Mason Fritz  
20—David King  
27—Aaron Morehead

## **Lector**

6—Pam Taylor  
13—Bill Mundt  
20—Bob Hoxie  
27—Jeff Engle

## **Greeters**

6—Mark & Bonnie Rosenberg  
13—Bill Mundt  
20—Jeff & Kim Engle  
27—Sharon Martindale

## **Missionary Support**

6—  
13—  
20—  
27—

## **Flowers**

6—Mark & Sarah Loots  
13—Bill Mundt  
20—Lynda Johnson  
27—Dan & Julia Wischmeier

## **Altar Guild**

Marlys McClurg; Mary Ann Schoof-Schleif; Debbie Hoxie; Carol Dodge

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

2—Elaine Loots  
4—Tyler Burch  
7—Mark Loots  
10—Malissa Schoof  
11—Erin Taylor  
12—Myrna Zabloudil  
13—Carol Gard; Austin Timberlake  
19—Robert Staub  
22—Lynda Johnson  
24—Lucas Chelf; Jessica Tharp  
25—Emmerich Adam, Jr.; Dan Harken; Sam Morehead; Elizabeth Roy; Susan Swanson  
26—Pat Chacey; Garret Coleman; Ruth Harken  
27—Julie Etchison  
29—Abbey Coleman; Elva Schultz; ; Ken Shepherd  
30—Marilyn Huth; Jeff McClurg



11—Gerald & Lila Janssen  
19—Brian & Lori Rosenberg  
26—Darrin & Christine Timberlake

# Meetings

The meetings for September 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, September 15, 5:30 p.m.

Finance Committee  
Wednesday, September 16, 6:30 p.m.

Church Life Committee  
Monday, September 14, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Men's Breakfast  
TBA

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### AUGUST ATTENDANCE

August 2	76
August 9	47
August 16	77
August 23	70
August 30	69

### AUGUST GIVING

August 2	\$ 2,797.00
August 9	1,784.00
August 16	2,383.00
August 23	1,565.00
August 30	3,749.00
VANCO Offerings	<u>1,095.00</u>
Total	\$ <u>13,373.00</u>

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.

### 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.

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