



Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

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

The
Chimes

WORSHIPPING IN SAFETY

Ever since March 17, 2020, the church council has paid close attention to the status of the pandemic. At their recent August 15 meeting, the decision was made to require being vaccinated to worship inside without a mask. We will continue the parking lot service and posting on Facebook. We will apply the honor system for our indoor attenders. For all those who desire greater safety, we have the balcony, cry room, and fellowship hall as locations to worship with no one around you.

Things we are still waiting on are the children's sermon and coffee and donuts. We are also holding off on Sunday School and youth events. The last thing we would want to have happen is for anyone to contract Covid related to Bethany.

It is important to remain optimistic during this time of uncertainty. As of the end of August I know of no one getting the virus at Bethany. I know people who have had the virus and recovered. By faith God will get us through this difficult time. In the meantime, may all of us think of the safety of others, along with ourselves, as God navigates us through.

**HAVE
FAITH
in
GOD**

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.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Bensin Wray Bergman

On August 8 we celebrated the baptism of Bensin Wray Bergman. Parents are Matt and Carley; grandparents are Greg and Lynda Johnson; great-grandmother is Rosemary Foster. May Bensin grow in the wisdom and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Mel and Judy Craven

On August 22 we were very blessed to receive Mel and Judy Craven as new members. They are the parents of Laurie Chelf.

Drew and Sheri McCarthy

We are pleased to welcome back to Bethany Drew and Sheri McCarthy who have been attending the Hope service for several months.

ALTAR GUILD

There is an increased work load for setting up for communion every Sunday since moving back into church. We need new volunteers. Altar guild comes under Church Life. Our next Church Life meeting is Monday, September 13, at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to learn more about serving on altar guild, please come to the meeting or call Pastor Paul.

EARL STOLLER—BELOVED SAINT OF GOD

Earl Stoller was born on November 26, 1941, and died on August 13, 2021. Earl was re-born on his baptism on October 10, 2018. Earl's baptism was a great blessing to me. Here was someone who truly reflected the love of Christ. In addition to being such a caring person to all, Earl also served on the church council and property committee. Earl was one of our faithful lawn mowers. You always felt better after spending time with Earl. We will miss him dearly but take consolation in knowing he is with Jesus and loved ones who went before him. We pray God's continued comfort and peace for Vic-ki and family and friends.

JIM MARTINDALE APPOINTED TO COUNCIL

Following a vacancy on the council, Jim Martindale accepted a five month term to help us finish 2021. We need to fill one more vacancy following the death of Councilman Earl Stoller. Please call the office if you feel called by God to help lead Bethany.



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SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

The Retired Nurses will be meeting on Friday, September 3, at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.



NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING,
JULY 24-28, 2022

Every three years Lutheran youth from throughout the United States get together for a national youth religious experience. Bethany has attended several of these. They often join other area youth for transportation. There was an event scheduled for 2021 that was moved to 2022. The event will take place on July 24-28 in Minneapolis. In the days to come we will encourage our high school youth to reserve these dates on their calendars. We will also look at fund raising activities to help with costs. Today, more than ever, our young people are bombarded with various messages of uncontrolled content. It is vital that they continue to hear the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. These national youth events are tremendous faith builders. Please pray that this exciting opportunity will be a priority for our youth.

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

BETHANY'S CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

All things being considered, Bethany has been doing well in most areas. One place where we are not trending well is in our offerings as compared to our expenses. We still have a positive balance in our general fund, but the totals have dropped between \$15,000 to \$20,000 in the last 17 months. Thank you to those who maintain their generous support. For those who feel moved to catch up on their giving or make a special gift, your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Rachel Lindeen—We extend our heartfelt thanks to Rachel for serving 18 months as Bethany's council president. Before then Rachel served a year as vice president. In Rachel's second month as president we were faced with having to adapt our worship practice because of the pandemic. Rachel showed confident leadership in directing us through this difficult time. Rachel demonstrated competence and strength during her term, which was exactly what was needed to get us through this challenging season. Again, thank you, Rachel, and blessings on your future endeavors.

Shelley Wallace—After Rachel stepped down from the office of president, Shelley, who has been president, vice president, and secretary, has accepted the responsibility of president until new officers are elected in January. Officers are elected in January following the annual meeting. The current officers have served in the same positions for two years and are ineligible to hold the same office beyond January. We thank them for their faithful ministry.

Joe Gerdes, Scott Creighton, and Mike Hopp—Bethany has amazingly gifted people who always step up in our time of need. Recently Joe installed our cameras and security system. Joe also fixed the automatic garage door opener for the parsonage. Scott installed the wiring for a light to come on at one of our entrances. Toward the end of July the air conditioning in our sanctuary began having "issues." I am told these AC units are quite old. Mike got all three working right again and the sanctuary has been comfortable ever since. Mike is also one of our video techs who put our service on Facebook.

Thank you so much for making our lives so good.



I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer with joy, thankful for our partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:3-6

SEEING THE GLASS HALF FULL

We are probably familiar with the expression, “seeing the glass half full.” We all probably know that this is an indication that we view things from a positive perspective. One of the many influences my father gave me growing up was to always strive to be positive no matter what the situation. I have valued this way of seeing life, but I have also learned that we do not always have this outlook. As they say, sometimes we see the glass “half empty.”

In late summer, 2021, it seems like we are hearing a lot of negative news. The truth is that there are negative things happening at a pretty high level. The preponderance of the negative voices can cause us to see the glass “half empty.” Throughout my years in the church I have learned from the Holy Spirit that trying to listen and respond to all the voices we hear can be draining and confusing. One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is discernment. Discernment means being able to hear the helpful voices while politely tuning out the unhelpful. When I reflect on this wisdom in viewing the health of the church, I tend to be cautious about hearing of the things the church does not have. In the past, when I hear people say we don’t have this and we don’t have that, I would find myself starting to panic and desperately try to come up with immediate solutions. Recently, however, I have felt the comforting voice of the Spirit telling me to stay calm, do not get rattled, and observe all the blessings we do have.

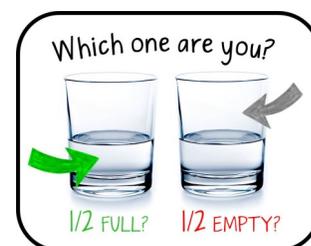
In the early churches that St. Paul started, under the power and guidance of the Spirit, we learn that all the churches were different. From the information in those letters we are made aware that St. Paul was positive about every situation. Of course, some had more issues than others, which Paul addressed, but he never left out the good that was happening.

Most scholars agree that the church Paul felt most favorable about was the church at Philippi. The Philippians were generous, welcoming, persevering, conscientious, and thoughtful toward others. It is in the letter to this congregation that Paul says, “I have learned to be content in all things.” Paul could say this because his life was centered in Christ. Having our lives focused on Christ does not mean we will not have any problems; but it does mean we have faith in God to see us through our concerns.

Right now we live in a time of uncertainty. This is not unusual. Throughout history God’s people have had good times and bad. But, when the tough times come, God’s people have turned to God for their redemption.

Bethany is a great congregation because we are led by a great God! God is continuing to do wonderful things in our midst even if we do not always see them. By the power of the Holy Spirit God wants us to “see the glass half full.” God will bring what He started to completion on the day of Jesus Christ!

In Christ,
Pastor Paul



September 2021 Lay Leaders

Head Usher: Acolytes

5—
12—
19—
26—

September Lead Usher: Steve Rogers

Ushers

5—
12—
19—
26—

Communion Assistants

5—
12—
19—
26—

Children's Sermons

5—
12—
19—
26—

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.

Lector

5—Todd Chelf
12—Bill Mundt
19—Rachel Lindeen
26—Pam Taylor

Greeters

5—
12—
19—
26—

Missionary Support

5—
12—
19—
26—

Flowers

5—Richard and Holly Williamson
12—Bill and Pam Taylor
19—Bob and Debbie Hoxie
26—Dan Wischmeier

Altar Guild

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2—Elaine Loots; Matthew Miller; Jennifer Ward
4—Tyler Burch
7—Mark Loots
10—Malissa Schoof
11—Erin Taylor
12—Myrna Zabloudil
13—Carol Gard; Austin Timberlake
14—Sara Sladky; Vicki Stoller
19—Bob Staub
22—Lynda Janssen
24—Lucas Chelf; Jessica Tharp
25—Emmerich Adam; Dan Harken; Sam Morehead; Elizabeth Roy; Susan Swanson
26—Pat Chacey; Ruth Harken
27—Julie Etchison
29—Kenneth Shepherd
30—Jeffrey McClurg



11—Gerald and Lila Janssen
14—Drew and Sheri McCarthy
19—Brian and Lori Rosenberg
26—Darrin and 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 14, 5:30 p.m.

Finance Committee
Thursday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m.

Church Life Committee
Monday, September 13, 6:30 p.m.

Property Committee
Monday, September 13, 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee
Tuesday, September 14, 6:30 p.m.

Church Council
Sunday, September 19, 10:00 a.m.

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, September 18, 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

AUGUST ATTENDANCE

August 1	50	54 FB**
August 8	54	80 FB
August 15	53	72 FB
August 22	48	67 FB
August 29	43	50 FB

AUGUST GIVING

August 1	\$ 2,520.00
August 8	2,170.40
August 15	1,754.00
August 22	1,277.00
August 29	3,426.49
VANCO Offerings	<u>1,600.00</u>
Total	\$ 12,747.89

**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 piece of mail returned for an incorrect address, we are charged 75 cents.