



## Bethany Lutheran Church

### Mission Statement

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

The  
Chimes

#### FAREWELL SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

The conclusion of our time together is coming suddenly and unexpectedly. Most people look forward to their retirement, but because of my wonderful experience of being your pastor, I preferred putting off retiring as long as possible until things turned out differently than I planned. I also discovered that the decision to retire was a family process and not mine alone. The timing of my retirement also was not what I had hoped. I wanted at least a few months more to take care of all our responsibilities; instead of just a few weeks.

Our farewell service is on September 4. We will have a potluck brunch following the service. Our last work day is September 8 when the movers come and load up our stuff. At this time I am guessing we will have some kind of program on September 4 following the meal. It is important for us to have a time to share our goodbyes and best wishes. I will certainly grieve leaving you.

When I think about receiving my first Bethany phone call in 2015 regarding the possibility of being your next pastor, I felt total joy. That feeling continued to grow stronger with each experience I had with you. And then, on March 13, 2016, you voted to call us to be your new pastor. A few months later my wife, Sue, became Bethany's secretary.

What I will remember most is how much all of you reflect the love of God. Your friendliness, grace, compassion, thoughtfulness, reverence, and love have consistently touched my soul during every moment of our time together. I will forever cherish every sacred moment we shared in our partnership in God's Kingdom.



#### Our Staff

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

Kim Engle, Stephen Ministry Coordinator

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

Pam Crable, Custodian

#### **Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church**

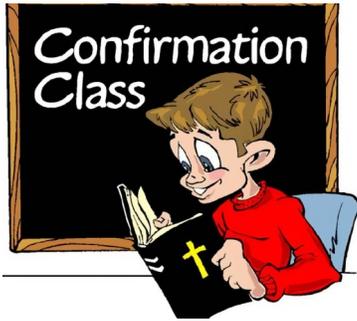
2515 Madison Ave.

Burlington, Iowa

Phone: (319) 752-3621

[www.bethanyburlington.org](http://www.bethanyburlington.org)

Pastor's Cell: (360) 623-2184



It's time to get confirmation going! The first meeting will be Wednesday, September 14, 7:00 p.m., at Faith Lutheran. This meeting is for confirmation students and their folks. At the first meeting we will

hand out the schedule go over the year, and get to know each other. Confirmation typically begins in middle school. Confirmation is for anyone who has not gone through the church's introduction program. Contact Faith if you have any questions.

### GAME DAY IS BACK AT BETHANY

When I first came to Bethany we started a day to have fun together. We are back at Bethany on Thursdays at Noon. We mostly play pinochle. Please join us.

### FAREWELL POTLUCK BRUNCH

Our last Sunday together is September 4. There will be a potluck brunch that day following worship. We have lots of ice cream left from the ice cream social. Maybe we can have root beer floats and sundaes for dessert. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the fellowship hall to indicate what you will bring. I hope we have a program of some kind to celebrate the last six+ years Christ gave us to do His ministry.



### PASTORAL EMERGENCIES

Our last day at Bethany is September 8. After we are gone, Pastor Paul Walker is available for emergencies. His phone number is 570-766-2182.

### PASTOR DAN KUCKUCK

When a pastor leaves a church by retirement or resignation, the synod becomes immediately involved. Representing the synod is Assistant to the Bishop, Dan Kuckuck. Dan was with us in December when he shared the sermon. Dan works with congregations who are between pastors. Dan will be at Bethany on September 11. He will lead the service and then meet with the congregation during coffee. Before leaving he will meet with the council to discuss what is next for Bethany. This is very important so I hope everyone will be there.

### PAINT-A-THON

Once again Mark Rosenberg is leading Bethany's house painting. The address of the house is 501 S. Swan St. Please let Mark know about your availability to help.



Gerald and Lila Janssen  
403 SE Delaware Ave., Unit 109  
Ankenny, IA 50021

Pastor Paul and Sue Hermansen  
5715 Texas Dr.  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
Paul—(360)623-2184  
Sue—(425) 301-4185

### SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

The Retired Nurses will be meeting on September 2 at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The Boy Scouts meet on Tuesday evenings.

## EARL STOLLER MEMORIAL STONE

**A beautiful memorial stone for Earl Stoller has been erected in front of the Earl Tree. The words say, "Well done good and faithful servant." Be sure to check it out.**

## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

In recent months, when I could not be present for our Wednesday bible study, Mitchell Huston facilitated the Bible study with analysis of the lessons and conversation on its application. However, Mitchell started a new job and is no longer available. Therefore, the study will be left in the hands of those who attend. The lessons and study will be provided each week.

## TRANSITION

Transitions are rarely easy to go through. Change is filled with mixed emotions. One thing that helps is being ready for the new adjustments. We have several people in place to make sure things continue to go smoothly. We have excellent speakers and worship leaders scheduled into October. Conversation is also happening regarding securing an interim pastor. Our president, Jim Martindale, will keep you posted on Bethany's ministry developments.

Not only is Pastor Paul leaving but your secretary, Sue, is also heading out west. In order to keep things running smoothly, Michelle will provide all the typing and printing of communications, as well as her duties as financial administrator. One of our early morning volunteers to answer the phone and greet people in the office is Bev Sherbondy. We could use other volunteers as well. If you would help, please call the office.



**Sue and I wish for everyone to know that our time with you blessed us beyond words. We truly felt the love of Christ in everyone. May your next pastor and family be showered with the same kindness, grace, and goodness that you gave to us.**



# FROM THE PASTOR

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me."

John 14:6

## CHRIST WILL ALWAYS BE THE CENTER OF BETHANY

Recently I was reading the obituary section of the *August Living Lutheran* magazine. I saw the names of two pastors I knew from years ago. These guys were among the best pastors I have ever known. Bethany Lutheran has been around for 134 years. During that time the congregation has had some highly gifted leaders, both pastors as well as lay people. Bethany even had someone become the President of the whole LCA.

I believe that most of us feel that what we do is important. People talk about leaving a "legacy." The pastor who I hear mentioned most often is Pastor Engstrom and his wife. Both of them gave their all in the years they served Bethany. There has also been a name or two of pastors who perhaps had a misconnect at Bethany. And there is always a mixture of good and not so good. Pastors certainly are important. But Christ is the most important of all. Pastors, as well as members, come and go. Some may leave an indelible footprint, while others may cast a faint shadow.

I have countless memories of experiences in all my churches. Thankfully, as time goes by, our painful times fade away while the joyful moments keep glowing more brightly. In those grateful memories lives Christ.

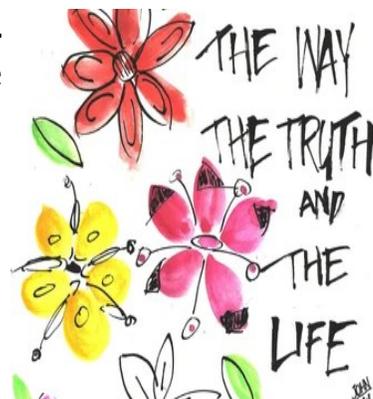
The Bible talks about Christ being all-in-all. The Bible says that Christ holds all things together. Christ is the center of the church. When I think about my wonderful time at Bethany I realize I am just one among dozens of pastors. I will remember countless blessings that Bethany was to my wife and me. Bethany came into my life when the experience of church was a struggle for me. As I look back on our more than six years together I realize that, in bringing us to Bethany, God was looking out for us. This is What Christ does: Christ looks out for us.

The fact that Christ looks out for us is vital to our consciousness as we look to our future. As I file for retirement, fill out documents to buy a house, and make arrangements for our move, I realize that we have a ton of stuff that has to come together. Christ is also looking out for Bethany's future. A church that has been around a long time has gone through prosperity as well as uncertainty. I have made arrangements for pastors to cover the next several Sundays, as well as emergencies. Over the next several years Bethany may need to make challenging choices. You may be having discussions with neighboring congregations about sharing a pastor or having a part-time pastor. The decisions that will be made may not please everyone, but never forget that Christ is always looking out for us.

I am grateful to Christ for being your pastor. I will remember you in my prayers daily long after we are gone. I know your future will be bright because Christ is looking out for you!

In Christ,

Pastor Paul



# September 2022 Lay Leaders

**September Usher:**  
**Susan Swanson**

## Communion Assistants

4—Mark Rosenberg; Todd Chelf

11—Scott & Jan Creighton

18—Steve & Sue Rogers

25—Shelley Wallace; Bill Mundt

## Lector

4—Ron Kastner

11—Carlene Woodside

18—Pam Taylor

25—Todd Chelf

## Greeters

4—Marlys McClurg; Vanette Wooldridge

11—Mel & Judy Craven

18—Bill Mundt

25—Sharon Martindale

## Missionary Support

4—

11—

18—

25—

## Flowers

4—Bill Mundt

11—Holly Williamson

18—Dan Wischmeier

25—Susan Swanson

## Altar Guild

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

**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; Victoria Stoller

19—Robert Staub

22—Lynda Johnson

24—Lucas Chelf; Jessica Tharp

25—Emmerich Adam; Dan Harken; Samuel Morehead; Elizabeth

Roy; Susan Swanson

26—Patricia Chacey; Ruth Harken

27—Julie Etchison

29—Ken 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.

Church Life Committee  
Sunday, September 11, 10:15 a.m.

Property Committee  
Monday, September 12, 6:30 p.m.

Outreach Committee  
Tuesday, September 13, 5:30 p.m.

Executive Committee  
Tuesday, September 13, 6:00 p.m.

Finance Committee  
Thursday, September 15, 6:30 p.m.

Church Council  
Sunday, September 18, 10:15 a.m.

Men's Breakfast  
Saturday, September 17, 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 7	32	39 FB**
August 14	57	96 FB
August 21	58	42 FB
August 28	70	41 FB

### AUGUST GIVING

August 7	\$ 2,068.70
August 14	1,909.45
August 21	2,241.06
August 28	3,477.77
VANCO Offerings	<u>1,425.00</u>
Total	\$ 11,121.98

\*\*Service watched on Facebook

**Your generosity and faithful trust in God**

**assures us that He provides our needs!**

**God believes in you and has a great fu-**

**ture 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.