Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The Bethany Herald
October 2021

Inviting People to Experience the Grace of God through Jesus Christ & Be Transformed

Volume 09-21

Handy 'clip & save' box with contact data and other useful information.

Bethany Lutheran Church - ELCA
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Phone: (712) 262-2327
www.bethluthspencer.com

FACEBOOK SITES:
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Spencer Bethany-Youth
BLC Spencer Music Ministry
BLC Spencer Sunday School

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pastorjeff@bethluthspencer.com

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Lynn@bethluthspencer.com

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bethany@bethluthspencer.com

Custodian: Lois Becker
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CHURCH COUNCIL:
Randy Riecks, President
Matt Kuehler, Vice-President
Sue Boblit, Secretary
Sandi Schmidt, Treasurer
Council members at large:
Jim Rusk, Jamie Rusk-Blume, Paul Wick, Justin Falline, Mallory Graves, Zoey Metcalf

Psalm 4 - Confident Plea for Deliverance from Enemies

Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.
How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.
When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent. Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.
There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!" You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.
I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

I have found myself reading, praying, and using the Psalms in my daily devotions lately. Many of the Psalms are attributed to David, but we do not know if they were actually written by him. It is thought that they were written by many different authors, and some Psalms or some of the authors have connections to David in some way. In any event, the Psalms often show us how people can be honest with God. We read as people cry out to God for help in times of trouble, praise God during good times, express their anger or distress with God, and how they find peace and feel close to God. I think that all the emotions that can be expressed are expressed in the Psalms.

One particular Psalm that stood out to me recently is Psalm 4. It is printed above. Although the subtitle reads "Confident Plea for Deliverance from Enemies", it seemed to suit how many are feeling these days. I want God to answer when I call. People continue to get sick, sometimes I feel surrounded by bad news and I want God to act. I want God to "Answer me when I call!"

The Psalm makes a turn toward hope though, and I find myself encouraged by it. We are called to ponder, be silent, and to put our trust in God. God helps us to "lie down in safety". There are still signs that God is working in the world. During the fair, people were helping to clean out barns, pick up trash, helping in Grandpa's Barn, and other ways big and small. I have heard positive comments from people who saw us in our yellow shirts helping out, and thanking us for our service to the community. Even small things like picking up a stray napkin or sweeping a floor can make a big difference. It helped me to feel encouraged and hopeful.

I would encourage you to read and pray some of the Psalms. They can help us and encourage us to be honest with God. They can also help us to see that God does help us to rest and trust in God. There is still good happening in the world. God is still at work!

PR. JEFF GEIGER

PRAYER CONCERNS

Listed below are current prayer concerns along with those from over the past month. Prayers have been lifted up for these individuals at Bethany and beyond. If you have a prayer request, please contact the church to let us know of your need.

Health Concerns:

Nancy Anderson, Jed Cameron, Gerald Koester,
Gary Lundquist, Kim McCune, Marv & Ethel Schmidt
Ed Duffney *(Lloyd Duffney's son)*
Lawrence Johnson *(Susan Rohan's father)*
Jack Lyster *(Jill Meyer's brother)*
Greg & Nancy Schroeder *(Pastor Jeff's cousins)*
Michelle Summers *(Joan Wimmers' daughter)*

Those who mourn (the families of):

Joshua Curry
LaVonne Kramer

Thanksgiving:

Angie Kabrick & Lyle Youngdahl married on Sept. 18

A HARVEST OF THANKS!!!

Loads of thanks to Doug Marske and Francis Hiemstra for recently sharing their time and talent to give a fresh coat of paint to the Narthex! It looks great!!

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Abundant thanks to these ladies who helped provide items for the St. Luke September Birthday Party: Sue Boblit, Lois Becker and Denise Kramer-Tolzmann!!

‡ ‡ ‡ ‡ ‡ ‡ ‡ ‡ ‡ ‡ ‡

Bushels of thanks to Sandi Witt, Onalee Wright, Sue Boblit, Randy Riecks and Sandi Schmidt for volunteering in the church office recently while I used some vacation time and while attending the recent Administrative Assistant conference. I appreciate your help in making this possible. *Mary Ann Quail*

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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AT BETHANY

Our new Church Management software allows us list birthdays by month. If you prefer that we do not share your birthdate in this way, please call the church office. On the other hand, if you do not see your birthday on the list where it should appear, it could mean that your birthdate is missing in our database. Please let us know!

October 1	Mark Lundquist
	Hunter Salton
October 2	Cassandra (Soni) Finkbeiner
October 4	Jeffrey Geiger
October 5	Louise Johnson
October 6	Colleen Lundquist
October 8	Hannah Groshens
	Alec Roskens
October 9	Amy McLaury
October 10	Laurie Conlon
	Katie Hare
October 11	Lori Jensen
October 12	Holly Fogarty
	Logan Huber
October 13	Sue Anderson
	Scott Merchant
	Chad Sorenson
October 15	Carolyn Anderson
	Dan Frink
October 16	Heather Kahley
October 17	Jody Kleve
October 18	Bruce Klenken
	Derrick Huber
	Brandt Roskens
October 22	Quinn Barrick
October 24	Bruce Iverson
	Mike Hoy
October 25	Jim Keck
	Saddie Kahley
	Ella Blume
October 26	Jennifer Henry
	Natasha Rutter
	Hunter Wasson
	Avery McEntee
October 28	Judy Sorenson
	Darrell Dutler
	LuAnn Thomsen
	Christopher Miller
	Scott Hoy
October 30	Kari Roskens
October 31	Gale Igou

Happy Birthday Brothers & Sisters in Christ!!

OCTOBER WORSHIP READINGS & VOLUNTEERS

Worship services continue on Sunday mornings at 9am. Come to the Sanctuary *(masks strongly recommended)* or tune in to our livestream on You Tube. One way or another, please join us!

OCTOBER 3 – PENTECOST 19

Scripture: Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8;
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16
Greet: Jill Meyer; Read: Judy Hiemstra
Communion: Twila Henning, Francis Hiemstra
Usher: Jill Meyer, Judy Hiemstra

OCTOBER 10 – PENTECOST 20

Scripture: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17;
Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31;
Greet: Sue Andersen; Read: Don Moore
Communion: Sue Boblit, Jody Vollmer
Ushers: Kirk & Sue Andersen

OCTOBER 17 – PENTECOST 21

Scripture: Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91:9-16;
Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45
Greet: Twila Henning; Read: Judy Hiemstra
Communion: Janet Keck, Mary Hugen
Usher: Francis & Judy Hiemstra

OCTOBER 24 – PENTECOST 22

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126;
Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52;
Greet: Susan Rohan; Read: Kirby Schmidt
Communion: Randy & Sue Riecks
Usher: Kirby Schmidt, Susan Rohan

OCTOBER 31 – REFORMATION SUNDAY
MILESTONE SUNDAY: CONFIRMATION

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46;
Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36;
Greet: Mary Marske; Read: Jaci Schrier
Communion: Valorie Van Ampting, Pixie Jensen
Usher: Doug & Mary Marske

And, look for us on TV! Catch Bethany's worship services on SMU channel 2. It airs Tuesday evenings from 5-6pm and Wednesday morning from 10-11am.

Once again we are reading reports that cases of the coronavirus are surging. We are concerned that we will once again be fearful to go out in public, visit our friends, or eat in restaurants. I invite you to turn to Psalm 91 as I have for the comfort of God's word:

> Psalm 91:5 "You will not fear the terror of night …
> 6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
> nor the plague that destroys at midday."

For me, one of the hardest parts of the pandemic was not being able to gather together in this sanctuary. I fear that once again we may have to worship remotely.

As far as stewardship is concerned, at this time our expenses exceed our income by about $13,000 so I plan to increase my giving and invite you to do the same if you are able. The mission of Bethany Lutheran Church goes on whether or not we are physically present in the sanctuary.

I know that many may be suffering loss of income due to the pandemic but remember that we are asked to **give out of what we have, not what we don't have.** I urge every member to consider the many blessings God has provided them and how they can give a thank-offering to carry out God's mission through Bethany.

I personally find it helpful to give automatically through a bank debit. If you go to the Bethany website on your computer you will see **GIVE** near the top of the page. If you click on that button it will instruct you how to give a one-time gift or schedule recurring giving using the link below. If you don't have a computer or have questions, don't hesitate to call the church office for assistance. You can also mail your offering in the offering envelopes you received.

Again, thank you for making the mission of Bethany possible.

Mary Marske,
Stewardship Ministry Team

Bethany Lutheran Church
Short Report as of August 31, 2021

Year-to-Date Revenues ----------	$186,575.58
Year-to-Date Expenses ----------	$199,464.17
Year-to-Date Net Gain (Loss)	$ (12,888.59)

MANY THANKS TO THE HELPING HANDS!

A **HUGE** thank-you to everyone who participated in God's Work Our Hands service day(s) at the Clay County Fair this year! Here is how Bethany Lutheran Church served the community:

- Volunteering in the 4H Building monitoring the Lego Pit and running a Discovery Days table making UV Bracelets with kids.
- Clerking in the Floriculture Center
- Pre and post work in photography
- Picking up trash around the fair grounds
- Handing out blessings to fair-goers
- Cleaning out the horse barn stalls
- Volunteering in Grandpa's Barn
- Fair Chaplain

Thank you for being a part of God's work and serving your neighbor in the spirit of Christ's love!

Deacon Lynn Egesdal
Jamie Rusk-Blume, Faith-in-Action Chairperson

Christmas at Bethany...
Yesterday & Today

Saturday, December 11, 2021
11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Make plans now to be a part of this biennial tradition at Bethany! To find out how you can help, come to our next planning meeting on Thursday, October 15 at 6pm in the church parlor or talk to Sue Boblit (262-8244) or email: sdboblit@gmai.com. We hope you will join us!!

A MESSAGE FROM LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA "LEAVING A LEGACY"

LSI
LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA
people focused • results driven

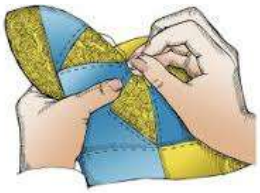
Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) has responded to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service for more than 150 years. We have created a legacy of lifting up and empowering thousands of our Iowa neighbors, thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

Through LSI, Iowans also have the opportunity to leave a legacy of their own. When you include LSI in your will or estate planning, you are making a lasting impact for years to come. By including LSI in your will or living trust, you are ensuring that we can continue our mission and ministry well into the future.

If you would like more information on how to include LSI in your estate planning, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563.676.2065.

WOMEN OF BETHANY

FUN & FELLOWSHIP MISSIONS WORK DAY



Quilts for
Lutheran World Relief

Women of Bethany will meet for Fun & Fellowship on Thursday, October 14 in the dining room downstairs at 9am. We will be working on mission quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you'd like to help, come as you are able!

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OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE ON ST. LUKE AUXILIARY

Names are needed to be placed on the St. Luke Auxiliary Ballot to serve as president or secretary. The St. Luke Auxiliary meets once a month. One of the tasks of the Auxiliary is to organize fundraisers which helps to purchase items needed by the residents at St. Luke Lutheran Home. If you would like to serve in either of these capacities please contact Alice Roghair at 712-933-2465 (home) or 712-363-3957 (cell) or email at aliceroghair@gmail.com by October 15 so your name may be placed on the ballet. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY Ministries

LYNN EGESDAL, DEACON
Coordinator of Children, Youth & Family Ministries
lynn@bethluthspencer.com 712-262-2327
Contact Lynn if you have questions or would like to help!

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BIBLE ADVENTURE CLASS FOR THIRD GRADE

Attention Grade 3 Parents!!! Our Bible Adventures milestone class for those who received their bible will take place on **Sunday, October 10th from 3–5 pm** at the church. This will be a time of learning about the bible through activities, games, and digging into their new bible!!!

GIFT TIME – WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS

Growing in Faith Together - Come and join us on Wednesday evenings for learning, food, fellowship and worship. If Sundays don't work in your schedule, join us on Wednesday evenings. This is our new spin on "Sunday School".

4:00–5:30: WOW time for ages 4 thru Grade 6
5:30–6:00: Light supper for individuals & families
6:00–6:30: Informal Worship Service
6:30–7:30: Confirmation Class (Grades 7-8)
7:30–8:30: BYG–Bethany Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

A great opportunity to come to worship, be centered and reenergized as you go through your busy week!

We hope to see many of our families here and as always….all are welcome!!!

CAMP HAPPENINGS FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Outreach Night at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp!
Sunday, October 3 from 5-8 pm; $4 per person
Block Party/Kickball Tournament
Grades 6 – 12

Lutheran Lakeside Camp
Who: 6th-8th graders
What: Confirmation Retreat
When: Friday-Saturday, Oct. 1st-2nd
Where: Lakeside Camp
Worship, activities, rock wall, archery, teambuilding, etc.; Register online at https://www.ultracamp.com/clientlogin.aspx?idCamp=729&campCode=cea or talk to Lynn

Confirmation

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM ON OCTOBER 31

Come to celebrate and worship with us on Reformation Sunday, October 31 as four of our young people will be confirmed. Gift bags for cards and presents will be available on a table in the narthex that Sunday. Those who will be affirming their baptism are:

Hannah Blume
daughter of Jamie and Dustin Blume

Zia Fiedler
daughter of Mary and Steve Fiedler

Hannah Geiger
daughter of Susan and Pastor Jeff Geiger

Lily Rohan
daughter of Susan and Kevin Rohan

Dinner and rehearsal will take place on Saturday evening, October 30 at 6 pm.

Please remember these Bethany youth in your prayers as they prepare to affirm their baptism.

BETHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA
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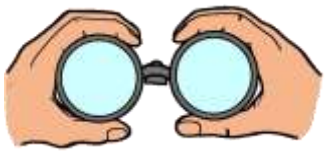
ADVENT CANTATA

We're looking forward to a great start for the Season of Advent with a cantata planned for the choirs at Bethany and First Congregational Church! *"The Road to Bethlehem–A Journey to the New Born King"* will be performed on the First Sunday of Advent, Sunday, November 28. If you would like to participate, please tell our Director of Music, Elina Leander Ozolins at 712-662-1326. The music books will be available soon and rehearsal times will be announced.

LOOKING AHEAD



Make plans to join us on Sunday, November 7, for **All Saints Sunday**! A group of people have been working really hard on a wonderful surprise that will grace the sanctuary that day as we remember all of the saints that have gone before us this past year. You won't want to miss it!!! You never know what's going to happen at Bethany Lutheran Church!!!

THE BETHANY SWEET STOP

Bethany will be hosting the **"SWEET STOP"** again this year on Halloween night, Sunday, Oct. 31, from 5-7pm. This is a great outreach event and opportunity to shine the Light and Love of Jesus in our community. Join the FUN and sign up to run a treat Station or booth – inside the church or outside from the trunk of your car! Costumes are encouraged! Be creative, be fun, be silly! Let us know if you want to help – sign up at the church or on FaceBook. If you have ideas or would like to help plan the Sweet Stop, please contact Deacon Lynn at the church. If you are unable to be here, but would like to help, consider donating candy. Candy for the treat stations must be purchased, individually wrapped items. There is a collection basket in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Blume at 262-6630 or email jruskblume@yahoo.com. Thanks!

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