

A note from Pastor Laurie...

August has a way of reminding us that every season is a gift from God.

The excitement of summer begins to blend with the anticipation of a new school year. Parents shop for backpacks and school supplies. Teachers prepare classrooms. Students wonder what the year ahead will bring. Farmers continue watching the fields, thankful for sunshine, timely rains, and the promise of another harvest. Every day offers new reasons to pause and give thanks.

Sometimes we think of gratitude as something reserved for Thanksgiving, but scripture reminds us to "give thanks in all circumstances." We thank God for the big moments in life, but also for the simple blessings we can easily overlook...a beautiful sunrise, a cool summer breeze, rain that nourishes the crops, laughter shared with friends, the opportunity to learn something new, and the countless ways God provides for us each day. As the familiar hymn reminds us, *"All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above."*

One of the ways Bethany will celebrate God's gifts is during worship on Sunday, August 9, as we hold our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. We invite students of every age, from preschool through college, as well as teachers, school staff, and anyone beginning a new season of learning to bring their backpacks or book bags to worship. Together we will ask God's blessing upon another school year, praying for safety, wisdom, curiosity, and hearts ready to grow.

Our gratitude also moves us to generosity. Once again this fall, Bethany will partner with Lutheran World Relief by assembling School Kits that will bless children around the world with the supplies they need to learn. This year we are inviting members to sponsor a completed School Kit for \$5.00. Our goal is to assemble 200 school kits, and we will gather to pack them together on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, September 13. What a wonderful way to turn our thankfulness into action, helping children we may never meet experience the opportunity of an education.

As we reflect on God's many blessings, we also give thanks for the ways God has guided Bethany's ministry this summer. Our Summer Food Bag Project has provided food for students in the AlWood School District, reminding us that caring for our neighbors is one of the ways we live out our faith. We are grateful for every volunteer who has helped make this ministry possible.

As summer slowly gives way to autumn, may we continue to notice God's blessings all around us. May our hearts overflow with gratitude, our hands be eager to serve, and our lives reflect the generosity of the One from whom every good and perfect gift comes.

Please share what is happening at Bethany with your friends and family...and invite them to come worship with us!

We are the body of Christ... We are the Church... We are the Bethany Family! ❤️
Pastor Laurie

BETHANY BLESSINGS AUGUST 26

Church Phone: 309-334-2144

Email: bethanylc@divcominc.net

Pastor Laurie Cell: 618-980-9804

Pastor Laurie Email:

pastorbethanywoodhull@gmail.com OR

vicarbethanylutheran@gmail.com

Christena's Office Hours

Friday: 9:00-12:00PM

Other Office hours as needed.

Pastor Laurie's Office Hours

Tuesday: 11:00-2:00PM

Friday: 9:00-12:00PM

Please feel free to call or text me anytime at
(618) 980-9804

Please note – If you would like an announcement in the Sunday bulletin Pastor Laurie and/or the Communication & Outreach Coordinator must know **by Tuesday**, and you may contact them by phone or email. Due to new office hours and video work for each worship service we are printing the bulletin earlier than in the past. Thanks for your help as we are making these necessary changes. Newsletter additions must be into the Communication & Outreach Coordinator **by the 15th of each month**.

Tithe.ly – An Easy way for God's Offering

Bethany has partnered with Tithe.ly as an electronic giving platform. Gifts can be made from your bank account, debit card, or even Apple/Android pay. Please use the following links to set up your electronic giving profile:

Tithe.ly – www.tithe.ly/give and look up Bethany Lutheran Church, Woodhull or enter <https://tithe.ly/give?c=4352752>

Or Scan the QR code:



AUGUST PEOPLE POWER

8-2-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

9am Service

Makenna Walker & Carol Eiker
Pam Eiker
John & Jerri Page
Kiersten Hancock
Ryan Colburn
Ruth Laabs

8-9-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

9am Service - Blessing of the Backpacks

Greg & Rhonda Miller
Keegan Taylor
Dennis & Patty Colburn
Easton Colburn
Gene Colburn
Needed

8-16-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

9am Service

Harriet Peterson & Dot Creek
Kathy Shemwell
Ryan & Easton Colburn
Logan Brinson
Megan Hancock
Needed

8-23-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

9am Service (no communion)

Logan & Mary Stiers
Ellen Dalton
Gene & Barb Colburn
Colin Anderson
Jillian Rodseth
Needed

8-30-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

9am Service

Rich & Janice Maher
Logan Brinson
Bob Eiker & Carol Eiker
Zack Hancock
Kiersten Hancock
Needed

9-6-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

9am Service

Jim & Kelly Luallen
Dave Crippen
Greg & Rhonda Miller
Emerson Frakes
Marty Stachniw
Elizabeth Ostrander's 100th Birthday!



Meals on Wheels is a not-for-profit organization. Listed below are the **Bethany Meals on Wheels menus** for upcoming weeks. **If you can help with any of the slots, please sign up in the church fellowship hall or contact Barb Elliott, Pam Eiker, or Nancy Swanson.**

August 12, 2026- Bethany

Meal: Stuffed Peppers, Corn (possibly on the cob), Roll
Salad: Mixed Fresh Fruit
Dessert: Bar Cookie
Cooks: **Needed**
Salad: St John's
Dessert: **Needed**
Delivery #1: Dale Sundberg & Gary Johnson
Delivery #2: Bo Elliott & Bob Eiker

August 26, 2026- Bethany

Meal: Pork Chops & Dressing, Veg of Choice, Roll
Salad: Deviled Eggs
Dessert: Peach Cobbler
Cooks: **Needed**
Salad: St John's
Dessert: **Needed**
Delivery #1: Dale Sundberg & Gary Johnson
Delivery #2: **Needed**

September 9, 2026- Bethany

Meal: Chicken/Biscuits or Chicken/Noodles, Vegetable
Salad: Three Bean Salad
Dessert: Strawberry Pretzel Dessert
Cooks: **Needed**
Salad: St John's
Dessert: **Needed**
Delivery #1: Dale Sundberg & Gary Johnson
Delivery #2: **Needed**

September 23, 2026- Bethany

Meal: Meatloaf, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll
Salad: Cottage Cheese w/ Fruit
Dessert: Apple Pie
Cooks: **Needed**
Salad: St John's
Dessert: **Needed**
Delivery #1: Dale Sundberg & Gary Johnson
Delivery #2: **Needed**



ALWOOD FOOD PANTRY

The AlWood Food Pantry will open August 4th, from 9:30-11:00am.

On the evening of August 3rd, there will be distribution available by appointment only. Please contact Claudia Sage at 309-236-3650.

The Food Pantry is in the Oxford Township Hall in Alpha next to the Oxford Township Fire Department. Bethany contacts are:

Jim Luallen 309-629-8103

Ruth Laabs-Wilcox 563-940-7714

The AlWood Food Pantry is requesting coffee, filters, hamburgers and hot dog buns.

Hope Unit

Hope Unit will meet at the Clover Library on August 20th, at 9am. Jean Rehn will be hosting.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The **price** of Altar Flowers is **\$60 for 2 vases**. Checks will now need to be made out to Bethany Lutheran Church and in the memo please reference altar flowers. These can be placed in the offering plate.

We do receive free delivery.

Thank you so much for adding beautiful flowers to our Sunday morning worship and supporting a small, local business.

Altar Guild Schedule

<u>Aug.</u>	Patty Colburn & Chris Peterson
<u>Sept.</u>	Marty Johnson & Donita Creek
<u>Oct.</u>	Lisa Nelson & Rhonda Miller
<u>Nov.</u>	Jeana Fors

Funeral Committee

Kelly Luallen	629-8103
Rhonda Miller	629-9535
Peggy Nordquist	334-2264

IN OUR PRAYERS

For all those who serve our nation in this time of peril, for our President and our national leaders, and those who serve in the Armed Forces.

Those with continuing health concerns:

Lucy Newman	Gary Nelson	Jami Maher
Allen Nordquist	Barb McNeil	Bob Eiker
Elizabeth Ostrander	Dave Crippen	Kathy Anderson
Joanne Carlson	Doug Peterson	Wendy Johnson
Patsy Crippen	Lois Peterson	Marty Stachniw
Dick Larson	Reva Stachniw	Carol Eiker
Ruth Laabs-Wilcox	Lucille Bergstrom	Doug Peterson
Marty Johnson	Ann Watters	

TIME & TALENT FORMS

We ARE the church! And it takes a lot of people power to do God's ministry as the church. If you have not yet completed a Time & Talent form for yourself or your family.... **PLEASE** complete one.

NOISY OFFERING!!!!

The Noisy Offering will take place on August 16th and the 30th during the 9am service.



August ANNIVERSARIES

8-05-94	Kevin & Kim Colburn
8-11-84	Dennis & Patty Colburn
8-12-11	Andrew & Stephanie Gelaude
8-14-76	Doug & Nancy Swanson
8-14-99	Kurt & Denise Barman
8-20-77	Doug & Darla Peterson
8-25-72	Marvin & Ann Watters
8-26-06	Jamie & Andrea Bolduc
8-27-16	Ryan & Alyssa Colburn
8-27-66	Randy & Jan Larson
8-28-82	Greg & Lori Nimrick



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Cain	1-Aug
Rhonda Miller	2-Aug
Joanne Carlson	3-Aug
James Luallen	4-Aug
Kimberly Elliott	7-Aug
Willis Kirkland	8-Aug
Brad Litton	12-Aug
Leeann Crouse	14-Aug
Katie Luallen Mason	15-Aug
Patrice Wirt	15-Aug
Holly Fairbrother	16-Aug
Barbara Elliott	17-Aug
Joshtin Maher	17-Aug
Sheldon McMeekan	17-Aug
Jean Rehn	17-Aug
Kenneth Becraft	18-Aug
James Brown	19-Aug
Gary Nelson	19-Aug
Jonah Linquist	20-Aug
Marvin Watters	20-Aug
Matt Fairbrother	21-Aug
Sylvia Petrovich	21-Aug
Kyle Barman	22-Aug
Becky McNeil	22-Aug
Chloe Stanfield	22-Aug
Rodney Engstrom	23-Aug
Leigh Brinson	24-Aug
Scott McDowell	25-Aug
Chris Gainey	26-Aug
Philip Wirt	27-Aug
Tyler Peterson	28-Aug
Makenna Walker	28-Aug
Joann Bengston	28-Aug
Jake Anderson	29-Aug
Conner Brinson	29-Aug
Cole Colburn	30-Aug
Dorothy Peterson	31-Aug
Cecily Anderson	31-Aug

ADVENT CANVAS

The Advent Canvases are ready to be taken home. Be sure to pick up your canvases in the Fellowship Hall. They will make a great addition to your Christmas decorations!



CHOIR **Schedule**



**BELLS AND CHOIR WILL BEGIN AGAIN IN
SEPTEMBER!**

STAY TUNED* FOR MORE DETAILS

***SEE WHAT DENISE DID THERE?! STAY TUNED! HA, HA!!**

Bethany Youth Sponsorship

Sponsorships in the amount of up to \$300 per calendar year are available to Bethany baptized children ages birth to 18 years. Sponsorship applications are accepted for any learning activity, camp, or class available to Bethany children and approved by the sponsorship committee.

Terms of payment: The sponsorship will pay half of the class, activity, or camp at the time of approval and registration, with parent and/or guardian paying the other half. Upon completion of the requirements listed below, the parent/guardian will be reimbursed for the portion paid by them up to 100% of the cost of the learning activity not to exceed \$300.

*Upon completion of the class/activity/camp, the child will be required to complete the following (parent/guardian may assist depending on age of child):

1. Write a thank you for the sponsorship that will appear in the newsletter and bulletin. Give a brief explanation of what was experienced/learned from the class, activity, or camp to the congregation during worship announcements.
2. Complete the service activities. (2 activities for each \$50 awarded, for example: 4 activities = \$100 sponsorship)

God's work. Our hands.



God's Work. Our Hands

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday is September 13th. Please let Christena know if you would like a t-shirt to wear that Sunday.

The cost of the t-shirt is \$15.00.

THANK YOU

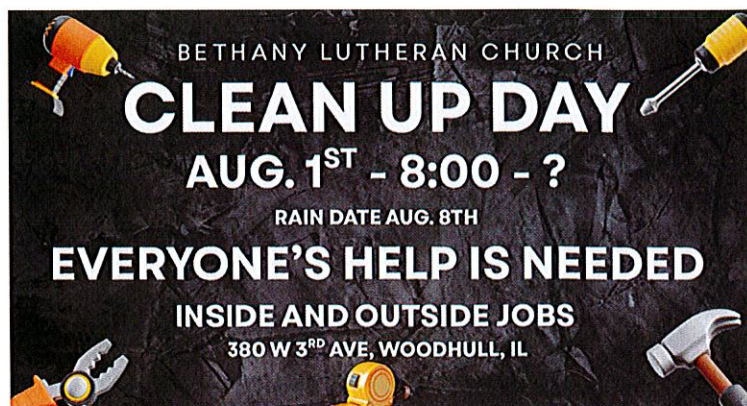
Thank you for the wonderful welcome home celebration! Thank you for the beautiful flowers, delicious cake, amazing quilt, and most of all, the love you have shown to me.

-Reva Stachniw

100th Birthday!

Elizabeth Ostrand4er is turning 100 years old on September 4th! Let's celebrate her by sending cards to her at:

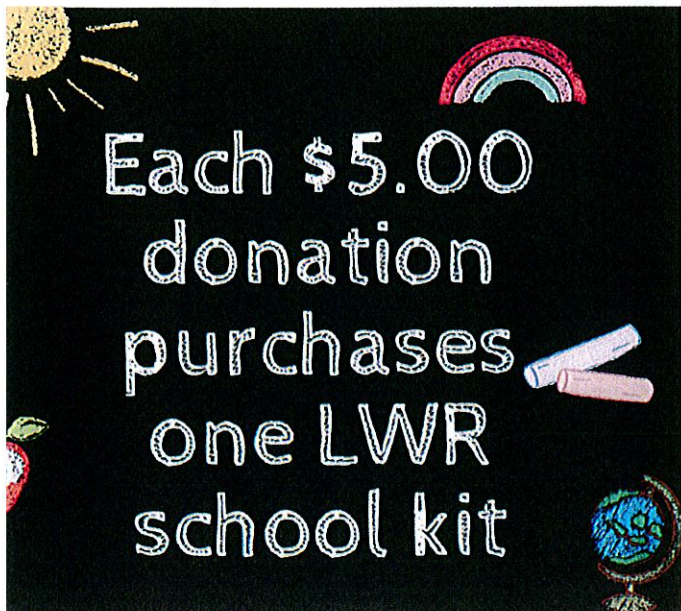
Elizabeth Ostrander
1900 10th St. Apt. 242
Silvis, IL 61282



Lutheran World Relief Supply Items

For God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, we will be assembling both school bags and personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Our goals are for 200 school kits and 20 personal care kits.

School Kit Information



The Lutheran World Relief School Kit campaign has begun! We are going to bring back the \$5.00 donation, which means no worrying about finding the right supplies and hauling them in! Each \$5.00 donation will purchase a complete school kit. There will be a volunteer collecting donations in the Narthex before service. We will be assembling the school bags on September 13th.

Personal Care Kit Information

Donations are now being accepted for the World Relief Personal Care Kit Project. We ask that you bring in items from the accepted Personal Care Kit List. Only items that have been approved by Lutheran World Relief are able to be shipped. Donations may be dropped off in the marked basket located in the Narthex.

✦ Personal Care Kits Include: ✦

- ☐ 1 light-weight bath size towel, dark color preferred, 20"x40" or 52"x27" in size.
- ☐ 2 or 3 bath-size (4-5 oz.) bars of soap (equaling 8oz to 9oz), any brand in original wrapping.
- ☐ 1 adult size toothbrush in original wrapping.
- ☐ 1 sturdy comb, remove packaging.
- ☐ 1 metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

Vacation Bible School 2026

Rainforest Falls

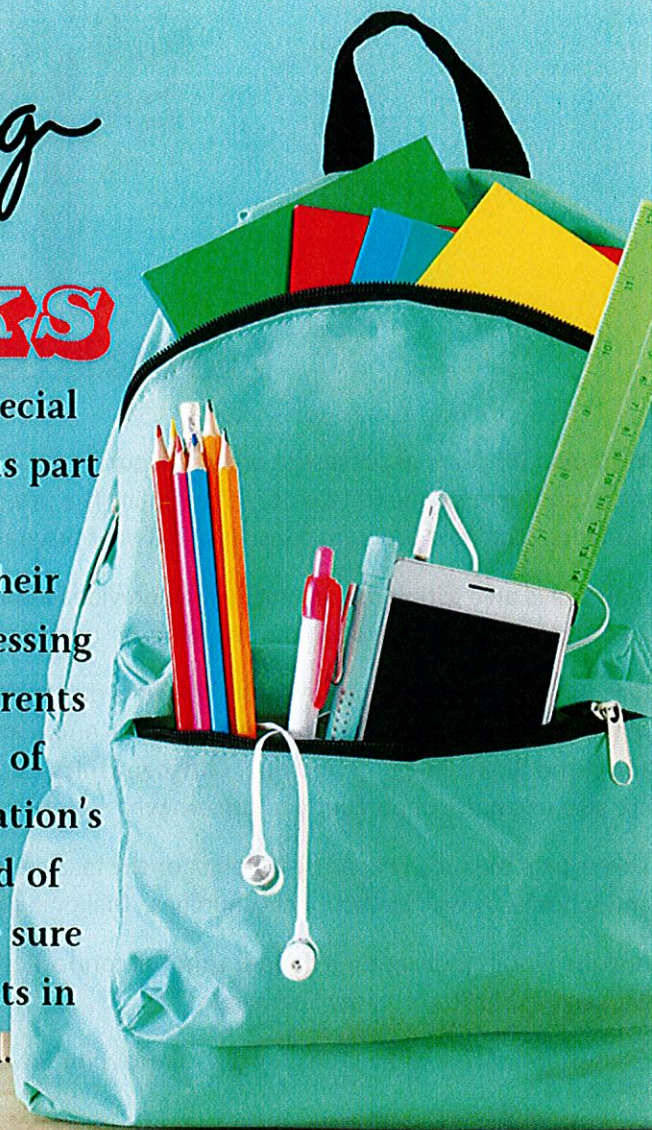




Blessing of the **BACKPACKS**

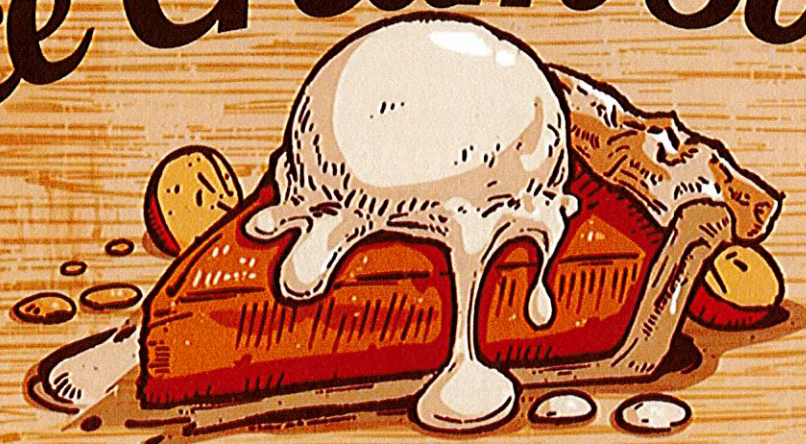
On Sunday, August 9th, there will be a special blessing for all students and their parents as part of our regular worship service.

Students of all ages should bring along their school backpack for a special Backpack Blessing Event. During the service, students and parents will come forward for a special moment of prayer and blessing. Let's send our congregation's students into the new school year assured of God's promises and our loving support! Be sure to join us and to include all of our students in your prayers as they go back to school.



Ice Cream Social

Donations
to benefit
youth
attending
the 2027
Youth
Gathering



Everyone is Welcome!
Bethany Lutheran Church
380 W 3rd Ave. Woodhull, IL

Aug. 30th,

**5pm -
7pm!**

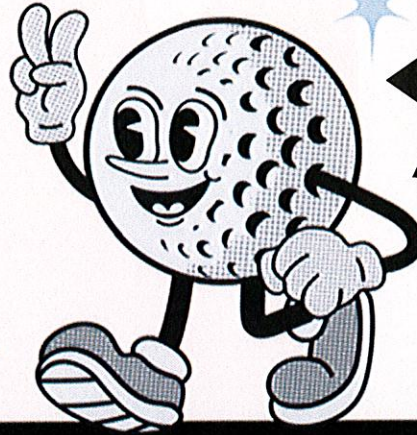
**Homemade
with Love**



TIME 4 TEENS **MINI** **GOLF**

AUG. 2ND

5:30 PM



STARTS
AUG.
2ND

IT'S TIME TO SHOW OFF YOUR
INCREDIBLE GOLF SKILLS.

MEET AT BETHANY LUTHERAN
CHURCH @ 5:30 PM
380 W 3RD AVE, WOODHULL, IL

FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR
FRIENDS!

BACK TO SCHOOL

ALWOOD	8/12
GALESBURG	8/13
GENESEO	8/12

TIME 4 TEENS
IS
BACK!

TIME 4 ***TEENS***

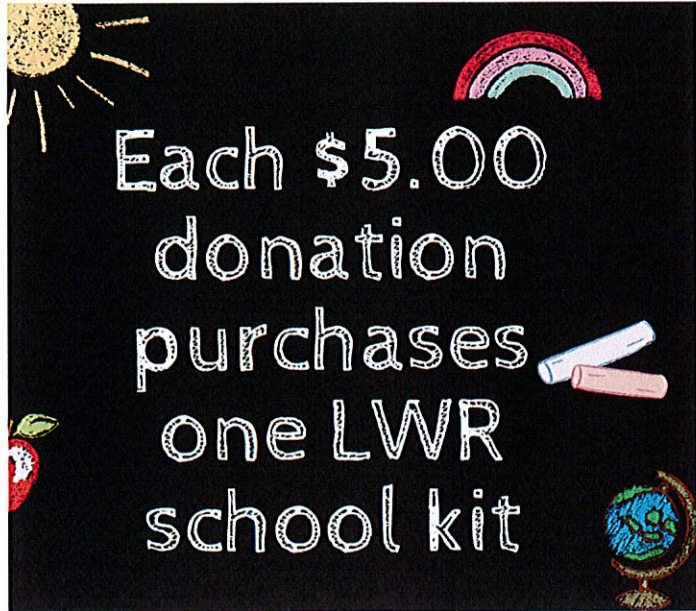


Get ready for GaGa Ball!
We'll meet at Bethany Lutheran Church at 5:30pm
on August 16th. Bring your friends!

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- ☐ 1 adult size toothbrush in original wrapping.
- ☐ 1 sturdy comb, remove packaging.
- ☐ 1 metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging



Growing in Faith: The Diakonia Program

After over 40 years of success in providing quality lay education in 11 synods across the ELCA, the national board has taken on the monumental task of re-designing the program to meet the needs of our 21st century churches and students. The new program consists of a 2-year program with flexibility to suit the interests and needs our students.

Diakonia is an exciting opportunity which provides a spiritual journey to lay individuals who wish to become more involved in their church or who want to better understand their faith.

Diakonia meets once each week for two years during the school year (September through April or early May). Individuals are joined by other students and teaching pastors from around the Northern Illinois Synod to talk about the Bible, Christian Doctrine, Christian Ethics, Lutheran Faith in the American Context, and other topics. Students are also given the opportunity to discern what spiritual gifts they might have to use in service to God's people.

This course of study prepares students for the task of showing God's love in their workplaces, neighborhoods, families, and schools, as well as their local churches. Diakonia graduates are called to share the light of Christ in the world.

Anyone who is looking for a deeper spiritual connection with Christ is encouraged to try diakonia. Please feel free to talk with Dave Crippen or Kathy Shemwell

Classes are once a week (Tuesday or Thursday) for 5 weeks and the cost is \$65.00 per course.

Via de Cristo (WAY OF CHRIST)



JOIN US FOR THE NEXT VIA DE CRISTO

SPIRITUAL RETREAT #69

Oct. 15th – Oct. 18th - Camp Meno Haven

WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST.... CHRIST IS COUNTING ON US TO WALK IN THE WAY OF CHRIST; TO BE A DISCIPLE FOR CHRIST IN TODAY'S WORLD.

Via de Cristo gives those attending a new awareness of living in God's grace. Participants will enjoy music and singing, food and fellowship, a time for laughter and for prayer and reflection. Join us for an incredible weekend of spiritual renewal and FUN!

Applications are available on the Fellowship Hall table or ask Pastor Laurie (618)-980-9804. Bethany has a scholarship available for those attending.

AUGUST 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Clean Up Day 8:00am
2 9am Service Time 4 Teens Mini Golf @ Bethany @ 5:30	3 AlWood Food Pantry by Reservation	4 9-12 Quilting AlWood Food Pantry Open 9:30 - 11:00AM	5 MOW United	6	7	8
9 9am Service Blessing of the Backpacks	10	11 9-12 Quilting	12 MOW Bethany Back to School!	13	14	15
16 9am Service Noisy Offering Time 4 Teens GaGa Ball @ Bethany @ 5:30	17	18 9-12 Quilting	19 MOW United	20 Hope Unit 9:00AM @ Clover Library	21	22
23 9am Service (no communion)	24	25 9-12 Quilting	26 MOW Bethany	27	28	29
30 9am Service Noisy Offering Ice Cream Social 5:00pm	31					

Bethany Lutheran Church
PO Box 459
380 W. 3rd Ave
Woodhull, IL 61490

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Return Service Request

AUGUST 2026

