



JANUARY 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

Council Retreat

at the

Nature Center

January 8th, 2023

2pm - 6pm

Planning the Future

of

Bethany Lutheran

Church

PAGE #

- 1. FRONT PAGE**
- 2. PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE, THANK YOU**
- 3. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, THANK YOU**
- 4. CHRISTMAS CAROLING, YOUTH VOLUNTEER TRAINING**
- 5. THE EPIPHANY SEASON, JESUS, LORD AND KING, OF BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES, JESUS' DIVINITY, JESUS REVEALING GOD' POWER THROUGH LOVE FOR THE WORLD, ELCA GOOD GIFTS ADVENT TREE**
- 6. NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**
- 7. A TIME OF GIVING**
- 8. BETHANY HAPPENINGS & REMEMBER IN PRAYER**
- 9. REMEMBER THE BETHANY FAMILIES WITH PRAYER**
- 10. BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**
- 11. CALENDAR**
- 12. DAILY BIBLE READINGS**
- 13. OUR PURPOSE AT BETHANY & GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Iowa Falls received snow and the Howard driveway did not get shoveled prior to my heading to church. When I came home for lunch the snow started to melt and I began shoveling. I got almost to the apron of the driveway when I heard a voice, "Hey lady, get out of the way". A man in a pickup truck, with a blade attached to the front, was motioning me to move. He told me that he'd never hear the end of it if his mother found out he passed me by without offering assistance. I stepped out of the way; he quickly removed the streaks of snow I had left with my shovel and finished the driveway. I was extremely grateful (as I was shoveling, I twisted the knee I'm having surgery on, and I was in pain ~ I have a torn ACL and cartilage in my left knee. I'm receiving a cadaver's ACL on January 12th. I'll be home for two weeks with a six-week recovery) and saw this man's timing as Divine intervention. I offered him the only money I had in my wallet; \$20. He refused my money and told me to pay it forward. He also told me that he, or one of his men, would come and plow us out when it snowed. He drove off without us exchanging names or any information. One night, while eating supper, Mike and I noticed headlights driving into our driveway. A pickup was removing snow from another snowfall. During the blizzard, Mike noticed that our driveway was cleared; we never saw nor heard anything.

This mystery man is not only generous and thoughtful, but he is also true to his word. He is, and continues to be, Christ to the Howard's. Outside of the quiet voice of his mother whispering into his ear, I don't know the motive of this man's actions. I don't know if he is actively serving his neighbor because he is a Christian and living out his faith. I do know that Christ is using him to minister to us through snow removal.

The season of Epiphany is quickly approaching where we celebrate the light of Christ continuing to shine into the darkness. This mystery man is shining the light of Christ through his normal daily schedule. How are we shining the light of Christ? As the mystic Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) reminds us in the benediction I use, we are the body of Christ, His eyes, His feet, His hands. How do others see Christ through us? To repay the mystery man's kindness, I have been asked to "pay it forward". I pray that my words lift people up, my actions are compassionate, and my life shines the light of Christ. Imagine how wonderful this world would be if we all acted like this mystery man?

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Maureen

THANK YOU to Pat Waege and Pat Krieger for the use of your nativity scenes. The stable and figurines were perfect for the children to use during the children's sermons. The youth were excited to slowly add pieces as we journeyed through Advent. The climax piece was placing baby Jesus into the manger on Christmas Eve. Your generosity brought excitement and joy to the youth of Bethany.

THANK YOU to Brenda Kinney for shining your delightful personality in the church office. It is with great skill and ease you managed the various liturgical bulletins/PowerPoints throughout the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons. Grateful for your leadership and ministry in the office.

THANK YOU, CAROLERS: Bethany Carolers, "thank you" for the special music at our front door. That was a special treat and we really enjoyed you. Gerry & Cheryl

THANK YOU, Bethany Family: For Rhett's blanket and bible. He will continue to carry them through his journey in faith. Mariah, Rhett & Rhyker

THANK YOU, Bethany Lutheran members: Thank you so much for welcoming us into your church for the baptisms of our two children, Archer & Dottie. We thoroughly enjoyed the service that Pastor Maureen did (so did the entire family) and look forward to attending future services when we are in town. Thank you also for the extremely generous gifts. We are so excited to share the bible teachings with the kids. Love, Cade, Eden Archer & Dottie

THANK YOU, Pastor Maureen & Bethany: For baptizing our sweet Layton and for providing us with his first bible and the cozy blanket. We are so blessed to be part of such a wonderful congregation and are looking forward to raising Layton to be a devoted follower of God and member of the Church. Love Alicia, Logan, & Layton Janes

THANK YOU to everyone involved in the children's production of "The Search for the Meaning of Christmas". The writing, directing, acting, musical performances, assistance with worship, the breakfast afterwards were all fabulous. Through your actions God was given glory and the congregation was blessed. We know in a fresh new way that the meaning of Christmas is the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. What a gift! Photos by Lisa Dewey.



THANK YOU to Mike Moehlman, Acolytes, Lectors, Ushers, Choir, Communion Assistants, and Sound/Video techs for your willingness to use your talents to make the Christmas Eve services shine the light of Christ. On a cold, winter's night the love of Christ warmly echoed throughout Bethany. Like the multitude of the heavenly host, through your ministry God was given praise and honor for the birth of Jesus the Savior of the world.

THANK YOU for the Christmas cards and gifts! It is an honor and humbling to be your pastor and partner in proclaiming the life we have through our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. My prayer for 2023 is that we serve Jesus through Bethany Lutheran in areas which give us life and enjoyment. ~ Pastor Howard

Christmas Caroling Good for All

On Sunday, December 11th, 11 carolers bundled up and traveled throughout the dark Iowa Falls night singing Christmas carols to our Bethany family. We visited 12 households (8 answered their doors) and we delighted everyone as we sang various carols always ending with, *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. We returned to the church and enjoyed delicious treats and a variety of flavored hot chocolates. It was a great evening proclaiming the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, through caroling to our Bethany Lutheran family.



Youth Volunteer Training

The Education Ministry Team has developed a Children/Youth/Minors Abuse Prevention Policy, approved by Council, to provide a safe and secure environment for children/youth/minors, volunteers, visitors, and paid staff of Bethany Lutheran Church. A volunteer training class for **all individuals who interact with children/youth/minors** (includes driving youth to/from events) here at Bethany will be held **Tuesday, January 10th, 6-8 p.m.** The successful completion of this training is **MANDATORY** for individuals to continue to interact with children/youth/minors here at Bethany Lutheran. A background check will be conducted on every attendee of the class. If you are unable to participate in this training, other training sessions will be offered. Policies are located on the table in the narthex for you to take and begin reading. Thank you for your desire to keep the children/youth/minors of Bethany safe while under the supervision of Bethany Lutheran's staff and volunteers.

The Epiphany Season

January brings us out of the Christmas season and into the season of Epiphany. “Epiphany” means “to show” or “to make known” or “to reveal”. During the 2nd century “Epiphany” was used, by the church, to express the manifestations of the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. During the Epiphany Season, manifestations of God incarnate are commemorated:

Jesus, Lord and King, of both Jews and Gentiles –



when the Wise Men visited child Jesus in Bethlehem/Nazareth(?). The Wise Men were the first to reveal Jesus, to the world, as the incarnate Christ. This is called the Epiphany of Our Lord and is always celebrated on January 6th. The color of the paraments for Epiphany is white: purity, holiness, and joy. Bethany will celebrate Epiphany on the weekend of January 7th/8th. The twelve days of Christmas concludes the day before Epiphany.

Jesus’ Divinity – Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist, with the speaking of God the Father and the appearance of God the Holy Spirit revealed Jesus to be God’s Son. The color of the paraments is also white.

Jesus revealing God’s power through love for the world – made known through Jesus’ ministry of preaching, miracles, and healings. The color of the paraments is green: representing the new life that Jesus gives us and our spiritual growth.

The Epiphany season concludes with the Transfiguration of our Lord, which will be celebrated on Saturday/Sunday, February 18th/19th. The church year moves from the season of Epiphany into the season of Lent beginning, Ash Wednesday, February 22nd.

ELCA Good Gifts Advent Tree

Advent Tree Ornaments were available for you to purchase during Advent and Christmas Eve. These ornaments (honeybees, chicks, goats, vaccinations, microloans for women...) will make a positive impact in peoples’ lives. Through your generosity, Bethany purchased your chosen gifts worth **\$934.00**. Thank you for purchasing gifts that are a blessing to those who are in need. The gifts will be purchased through the ELCA’s Good Gifts ministry.



Council Meeting Minutes
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
Sunday, November 13, 2022 11:15 a.m.

Members Present:

Robin Sampson, Wanda Koehrsen, Kaitlyn Hoversten, Carol Polzin, Ashley Kuker, Holly Carlberg, Jayne Becker, Brian Sauerbrei, Pat Kreiger, Pastor Maureen Howard, Paul Hoversten (treasurer)

Robin called the meeting to order.

Reports:

Treasurer's report was given. Eric Brunson will do an audit of the financial books. Paul will follow-up with him.

October Financial Reports stand for audit.

Secretary's report.

Kaitlyn moved and Carol second to approve the meetings from the October meetings.

Motion Carried

Committee Reports:

- See written reports for details.

Business

- Discussion was held on the change in functioning of counsel and communities along with ideas of how to identify people within the congregation who are passionate about those areas.
 - A survey of "Passions for Ministry" will be put together and will consider having a passion fair after the first of the year.
- By constitution there are four (4) standing committees: Christian Education, Finance, Property along with Worship & Music. Of the other current existing committees, the following was decided:
 - Youth will move to join with Christian Education
 - Fellowship is opportunities to be together
 - Evangelism is how to equip ourselves and others to talk about faith.
 - Stewardship is more than just giving of finances, but how do we live life as God's stewards?
 - Marketing and Tech, is just that including keeping the website updated.
- Wednesday night supper and service continue to go well. Will try and have an activity each week as attendance is better when there is one.
- The Child Safety Policy was reviewed. There will be training on January 10 from 6 – 8 p.m.
- Council members were asked to consider the length of term they are willing to serve. This will be finalized at a later date.
- A council retreat was set for January 8, 2023 with times and location to be determined.
- See the attached list for devotions for the following year.

Pat moved and Kaitlyn second to adjourn.

Motion Carried

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

The next regular meeting will be Sunday December 11, 2022 at 4:30.

A TIME OF GIVING

As you all know, the ministries here at Bethany would not be possible without you and your financial support. Your continued support has allowed us to close the door on 2022 without having to stray from doing God's work through our ministries. We ask that you continue to prayerfully consider what you can give so that we can carry on with our ministries into the new year and beyond. Thank you.

Financial Report

Month	Income	Expenses	Net Income (Loss)
October	\$13,211.38	\$16,107.94	(\$2,896.56)
November	\$14,184.78	\$20,414.17	(\$6,229.39)
2 Months Total	\$27,396.16	\$36,522.11	(\$9,125.95)

AUTHORIZATION FORM

The Simply Giving® Program
endorsed by

Name of the organization: BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		ENVELOPE/DONOR #		DATE	
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____					
Type of authorization:		<input type="checkbox"/> New authorization	<input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount	<input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information	<input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation		
Last Name			First Name		
Address					
City				State	Zip
Email Address					
DATE OF FIRST DONATION:		FREQUENCY OF DONATION:		FUNDS:	
____/____/____		<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – Mondays		<input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st		<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th			
				AMOUNTS:	
				\$ _____	
				\$ _____	
				Total \$ _____	
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit my donation from my (check one):			Routing Number: _____	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #)			Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)			Account Number: _____	
				<p> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 * 0 0 0 1 Routing Number Account Number Check Number </p>	
I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.					
Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____					

If using a checking account, please attach a voided check at the bottom of this page.

BETHANY HAPPENINGS

Live Stream Sunday services will continue at 9:00 am on Sunday.

Each Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. on KIFG will play our sermon.

LECTORS*GREETERS *USHERS*COFFEE HOUR and *COMMUNION NEEDED: Bethany needs volunteers if interested please sign up at the Narthex Desk, Call, or email Brenda at the Church office 641-648-3555. Thank You!

REBEKAH CIRCLE: There will be no meetings in January, February & March.

RUTH CIRCLE: Meets on the second Wednesday of each month next meeting is December 7th at 7:00pm.

HARDIN COUNTY EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY: Please remember to continue donating to the Food Pantry. The next few months will be cold and difficult. The box for items is in the Fellowship Hall. Thank You.

FAITH FORMATION: 2022/2023 Sunday school for ages pre-k through 6th grade from 10:15-11:00.

3,4,5,6 CLUB: Every second Wednesday of the month Youth Group for 3-4-5-6 graders after the Wednesday meal and worship. Fun activities and service projects planned January 11th.

ACOLYTE NEEDED: For Sundays in January - March. If interested, please Call Brenda at the Bethany office at 641-648-3555 or Look it up online. Thank you!

FELLOWSHIP FUN NIGHT: We invite you to our monthly Fellowship Fun Night. This will follow our weekly worship service with a meal starting at 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Fun Night will be a time fellowship with our Bethany family, a planned activity with a message, and a whole lot of fun for all ages. We will plan on doing Fellowship Fun Night on the 4th Wednesday of the month on January 25th.

MEALS ON WHEELS: Bethany Has Meals On Wheels Delivery For The Month of January. Two Volunteers Each day during the week is Needed. Please get a hold of Rhonda Picht or sign up at the Narthex desk. Thank you!

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2023: It's that time of year to think of Loved ones with Altar Flowers, In Memory of or In Honor of a Birthday, Anniversary, Family, Friends or To Have A Blessed Day. If you have a special day you would like to Share the sign-up sheet is on the Narthex desk or call the church office. Thank You!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We need help at the Thrift Shop on Friday, January 27th, sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Audrey Knott, Doris Harman, Connie Surls, Wilma Krabbe, Steve Trusty, Sandi Butt, Patty Andriakos - Celene Andersen's sister; **Karen Rew** - Friend of Kathy Dagit. **Nathan Noriega** - Brother of Tuyet Noriega & Uncle of Annaleah and Clarissa Cook. **Frank Curtis** - Brother-in-law of Diane Hansen & Sonja Bauer. **Madison Craighton** - daughter of a co-worker of Kathy Dagit. **Bentley Anderson** - grandson of Mike & Celene Anderson. **Rick Meyer**, Family of Mary Jones. **Merle Reingardt** - Friend of Randy & Darla Hansen.

REMEMBER THE BETHANY FAMILIES WITH PRAYER

This month, ask God to protect, direct, and show favor to these members. Give thanks for their presence in this community.

Week of January 1	Matthew & Jayne, Lily, Lydia Becker Virginia Beckman Marileigh Behrends and Lynn Ben & Joyce Bicknese
Week of January 8	Todd & Jennifer, Ashley, Addalee, Andrew Bicknese James Braga Cody & Codi, Ruby Buscher Mike & Peg Bushore
Week of January 15	Ken & Sandra Butt Kevin & Honoria Butt Dennis & Holly, Alexis Carlberg Katie and Lila, Axl Carpenter
Week of January 22	Stan & Gail Cavner Danielle and Zyrianna, Rylan, Ariza Cerna Koehrsen Keith & Cathy Conover Briana and Karly Cook
Week of January 29	Tom & Kathy Dagit Judy Davenport Mary & David Deike Erico & Shar Denholm



01/02	Ariza Cerna-Koehrsen	01/17	Joseph Kramer
01/02	Laura Ziesman	01/17	Calli Murray
01/03	Lance Sharar	01/17	Abigail Weidemann
01/05	Gary Albrecht	01/17	Blair Weidemann
01/05	Joyce Bicknese	01/17	Maggie Weidemann
01/05	Kari Janes	01/19	Archer Hoversten
01/06	Jessica Loewen	01/20	Darwin Hamilton
01/07	Lathan Olson	01/21	Craig Wills
01/07	Laura Ziesman - Henze	01/23	Stan Cavner
01/08	Dennis Carlberg	01/23	Patricia Krieger
01/08	Diana Stevenson	01/23	Roberta Meyer
01/09	Keith Robison	01/25	Clarissa Cook
01/10	Jenenne White	01/26	Leah Hanson
01/11	Ryan Elerding	01/26	Sierra Heitland
01/11	Cade Hoversten	01/26	Dave McDaniel
01/12	Carol Kruse	01/28	Barb Muilenburg
01/13	Jordan Picht	01/29	Donald Jones
01/15	Kyle Dillon	01/30	Rachel Lewey
01/15	Lexa Janes	01/30	Harold Muller
01/15	Doug Keninger	01/31	Kirby Koch
01/17	Jason Heitland	01/31	Carol Polzin



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 Worship Service	2 OFFICE CLOSED 	3 Pastor Sabbath	4 Free Meal at UMC Prep. No Choir Practice 6:00p Meal 6:15 Worship 7-8:15 Confirmation 8pm KIFG- Bethany Sunday Sermon	5 1:00 Quilting	6	7 5:30 pm Worship Service
8 9:00 Worship Service/No Choir 11:15 Church Council Meeting	9 Pastor Sabbath	10	11 No Choir Practice 6:00p Meal 6:15 Worship 7p Activities/3,4,5,6 Club 7-8:15 Confirmation 8pm KIFG- Bethany Sunday Sermon	12 1:00 Quilting Pastor Gone	13 Pastor Gone	14 5:30 pm Worship Service Pastor Gone
15 9:00 Worship Service/Choir Sings Pastor Gone	16 Pastor Gone	17 Pastor Gone	18 No Choir Practice 6:00p Meal 6:15 Worship 7-8:15 Confirmation 8pm KIFG- Bethany Sunday Sermon Pastor Gone	19 1:00 Quilting Pastor Gone	20 Pastor Gone	21 5:30 pm Worship Service Pastor Gone
22 9:00 Live Stream Worship Service 9:00 Worship Service/No Choir Pastor Gone	23 Pastor Sabbath	24	25 6:00p 6:15p 7p Choir Practice 7p Activities/ Fellowship Family Fun 8pm KIFG- Bethany Sunday Sermon	26 1:00 Quilting	27	28 5:30 pm Worship Service
29 9:00 Worship Service/Choir Sings	30 Pastor Sabbath	31				



Daily Bible Reading

JAN.	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW ESTAMENT	PSALMS	PROVERBS
1	Daniel 7:1-28	1 John 1:1-10	119:153-176	28:23-24
2	Daniel 8:1-7	1 John 2:1-17	120:1-7	28:25-26
3	Daniel 9:1-10:21	1 John 2:18-3:9	121:1-8	28:27-28
4	Daniel 11:1-39	1 John 3:10-24	122:1-9	29:1
5	Daniel 11:40-12:13	1 John 4:1-21	123:1-4	29:2-4
6	Hosea 1:1-3:5	1 John 5:1-21	124:1-8	29:5-8
7	Hosea 4:1-5:15	2 John 1-13	125:1-5	29:9-11
8	Hosea 6:1-9:17	3 John 1-14	126:1-6	29:12-14
9	Hosea 10:1-14:9	Jude 1-25	127:1-5	29:15-17
10	Joel 1:1-3:21	Rev 1:1-20	128:1-6	29:18
11	Amos 1:1-3:15	Rev 2:1-17	129:1-8	29:19-20
12	Amos 4:1-6:14	Rev 2:18:3:6	130:1-8	29:21-22
13	Amos 7:1-9:15	Rev 3:7-22	131:1-3	29:23
14	Obadiah 1-21	Rev 4:1-11	132:1-18	29:24-25
15	Jonah 1:1-4:11	Rev 5:1-14	133:1-3	29:26-27
16	Micah 1:1-4:13	Rev 6:1-17	134:1-3	30:1-4
17	Micah 5:1-7:20	Rev 7:1-17	135:1-21	30:5-6
18	Nahum 1:1-3:19	Rev 8:1-13	136:1-26	30:7-9
19	Habakkuk 1:1-3:19	Rev 9:1-21	137:1-9	30:10
20	Zeph. 1:1-3:20	Rev 10:1-11	138:1-8	30:11-14
21	Haggai 1:1-2:23	Rev 11:1-19	139:1-24	30:15-16
22	Zech:1:1-21	Rev 12:1-17	140:1-13	30:17
23	Zech 2:1-3:10	Rev 13:1-18	141:1-10	30:18-20
24	Zech 4:1-5:11	Rev 14:1-20	142:1-7	30:21-23
25	Zech 6:1-7:14	Rev 15:1-8	143:1-12	30:24-28
26	Zech 8:1-23	Rev 16:1-21	144:1-15	30:29-31
27	Zech 9:1-17	Rev 17:1-18	145:1-21	30:32
28	Zech 10:1-11:17	Rev 18:1-24	146:1-10	30:33
29	Zech 12:1-13:9	Rev 19:1-21	147:1-20	31:1-7
30	Zech 14:1-21	Rev 20:1-15	148:1-14	31:8-9
31	Malachi 1:1-2:17	Rev 21:1-27	149:1-9	31:10-24

Our Purpose at Bethany Lutheran is to reach out to others and spread God's Word.

**Our Vision at Bethany Lutheran is to
Know Christ and to make Christ known by
Welcoming! Growing! Serving!**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1. Jesus is Lord and Savior.**
- 2. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.**
- 3. All are welcome.**
- 4. Our foundation is in scripture.**
- 5. As a family of faith, we serve others and one another in Christ's love.**
- 6. Through prayer we go where the Holy Spirit leads to proclaim Christ.**



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Robin Sampson – President, Kaitlyn Hoversten - Vice-President,

Wanda Koehrsen– Secretary

Paul Hoversten – Treasurer, Pastor Maureen Howard

Jayne Becker, Holly Carlberg, Pat Krieger, Ashley Kuker,

Carol Polzin, Brian Sauerbrei

Church Phone: 641-648-3555

Pastor Maureen Howard

Web Site: www.bethanyiowafalls.net

email: bethanyiowafalls@gmail.com

email: revbethanyif@gmail.com

Office Hours 8:30-2:30