



Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

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

The Chimes



April Happenings!



The Property Committee will be conducting maintenance on the parking lot April 5th & 6th. Volunteers are needed, the more, the merrier! Please contact Joe Gerdes or a member of the Property Committee for more information.

Church Outreach will be taking a different donation every month to help the homeless and disadvantaged. The month of April will be jams & jellies.

Mark your calendars for a Pancake Breakfast! Aaron Morehead will be hosting the pancake breakfast at Bethany, after worship on Sunday, April 14, 2024! Thank you for supporting Aaron as he ventures to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer!

Call Committee Update!

The Bethany Call Committee has met several times in the last month in conjunction with the Messiah Call Committee and with the SE Iowa Synod. We are making progress in identifying a permanent pastor. We expect to have more news in the coming weeks.



Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

2515 Madison Ave.
Burlington, Iowa
Phone: (319) 752-3621
www.bethanyburlington.org

Our Staff

Rev. Pete Hagglund, Interim Pastor
Cory Byrne, Choir Director/Organist
Kim Engle, Stephen Ministry Coordinator
Wendy Bell, Office Administrator
Michelle Huppenbauer, Temporary Financial Secretary
Pam Crable, Custodian

April 2024, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

April 2024 – From Sheep to Shepherd: An LSI Early Childhood Services Story

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a mother, recently released from treatment, found herself in her new empty apartment with her son. She felt lost and needed a shepherd to guide her. So, Hali contacted LSI's Early Childhood Services, and Gretchen O'Brien, a Family Support Worker, answered the call. Gretchen began virtual home visits using the Healthy Family America home-visiting model.

For the next three years, Gretchen connected Hali and her son to community resources, served as a support system and a shoulder to cry on, and celebrated Hali's sobriety milestones with her. Even when Hali doubted herself, Gretchen guided and believed in her.

"I just remember sitting in that empty apartment crying, but I had Gretchen on the phone. You guys believed in me when nobody else did," shared Hali.

Today, Hali serves on the Healthy Family America (HFA) National Parent Advisory Committee, the first of its kind. The group is composed of 10-12 parents from around the country who have graduated from their local HFA program, each participant with their own story to share.

Hali needed a shepherd in her time of trouble and self-doubt, and Gretchen answered that call. Now, Hali serves as a shepherd to thousands of parents through the National Parent Advisory Committee. The LSI Early Childhood team couldn't be more proud of Hali and Gretchen.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.





Dear Friends in Christ,

Back in the first decade of this century, after thinking and praying a lot about the previous 20 years or so of church life (and being a parish pastor in it), I decided to write up a workshop called "Dealing With The Dreaded Survival Mentality". Up until that point in time I had been seeing, hearing, and reading so much that told me how much people all over were worrying about the future of their various congregations--"all over", but *especially* in rural and small-town areas, where the decline in worship attendance and membership was typically more keenly felt than in larger-church settings.

In 2009 I was asked to do that workshop at the Rural Ministry Conference, an annual event sponsored by Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque. I was to give it twice, and in preparation I printed 75 copies of the study guide. As it turned out, I needed at least *15 more!* Not that I had much doubt about it before the Dubuque event, but that experience let me know with absolute certainty that I had tapped into something that was weighing significantly on the hearts and minds of a lot of good, dedicated church people. (Incidentally, I still possess copies of the study guide for that workshop; if you'd like to have one, let me know, and I'll see that you get one.)

Unfortunately, the need to be wary of the "dreaded survival mentality" (doing whatever it takes to "keep the doors open") is at least as necessary now as it was then. In a nutshell, the workshop is about recognizing the survival mentality when we see it and hear it in our churches, why that mentality is deadly to congregational vitality, and how to fight it successfully and faithfully. It's based on something Jesus said plainly and often: "*the more you try to save your life the more certain you are to lose it; but, the more you're willing to lose your life for Jesus' sake, the surer you are to save it*". In so many words, in that workshop I'm both assuring and challenging my "students" to really, really *believe* that, and run our churches accordingly--so that what we're doing together is done for the sake of *living for* and *with* our Lord, and not for grimly trying to *survive* for our own sakes *without* our Lord.

We've recently come through another season of Lent in which we often heard in our scripture readings this most basic of Jesus' teachings--that in so many words, for life to spring forth, something first has to die. But now we're in Easter, so *now* we get to focus on the assurance more than on the challenge.

The whole point of Jesus' teaching is to get his disciples (including you and me) to get over whatever fear of death and dying we might have, or to get over it well enough to not let that fear have its way with us to the point of interfering

with the quality of the life we have with God and with each other. Because, when we're not afraid of "dying"--literally or figuratively--there's only one thing that remains, and that's *life*! Put a little differently, we're talking about the confidence which comes from truly believing, as our Lord promised, that for us who live and die "in the Lord", for every "death" there will always be a *resurrection*.

Our two congregations are dealing with different things as we prepare to "go on from here", but there's some similarity, too. We all know that for all the changes we've been making, there are more--and probably *bigger*--changes to come. But, as I've often said publicly and in more personal conversations, "this ain't all bad". That's because our circumstances provide an opportunity to develop a razor-edged focus on what the Church is and is *not* supposed to be; an opportunity to get closer to God and to get *much more* familiar with God's *Word* than we've typically been in the past. Or, if I may put it this way, an opportunity to become less "typically-American", and more "Christlike"--to be the salt and the "light on a hill" that Jesus told us he wants his followers to be.

In praise of our risen Lord,
Pastor Pete

Meetings

The meetings for April, 2024 that have been scheduled as of the publishing of this newsletter are listed below. Watch your bulletins for any date and time changes, or additional meetings that may be scheduled.

Finance Committee
Thursday, April 18 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Life Committee
Sunday, April 14 @ 10:15 a.m.

Property Committee
Monday, April 8 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Council
Wednesday, April 24 @ 6:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, April 20 @ 8:00 a.m.

Church Outreach
Sunday, April 7 @ 10:15 a.m.

Executive Committee
Tuesday, April 16 @ 6:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

March ATTENDANCE

March 3	53
March 10	49
March 17	69
March 24	63

March GIVING

March 3	\$2,320.40
March 10	\$1,392.40
March 17	\$1,707.40
March 24	\$2,778.54
Total	\$8,198.74

February VANCO total: \$1,730.00

**March 31st attendance and giving are not included for this month due to time constraints. They will be included in next month's newsletter.*



PLEASE NOTE

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.

LAY LEADERS

April 2024

April Usher: Susan Swanson

Communion Assistants

7 - Jessica King; Dan Harken
14 - Jim & Sharon Martindale
21 - Mark Rosenberg; Rachel Lindeen
28 - Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt

Lector

7 - Vicki Stoller
14 - Mike Hopp
21 - Dan Harken
28 - Rachel Lindeen



Greeters

7 - Mark & Bonnie Rosenberg
14 - Bill Mundt
21 - Dan & Julie Wischmeier
28 - Carol Dodge

Flowers

7 - Ginny Mesecher
14 - Marlys & Vanette
21 - Lynda Johnson
28 - Open

Missionary Support

7 - open
14 - open
21 - Lynda Johnson
28 - open

Altar Guild

Kim Engle
Sharon Martindale
Carol Dodge

Announcements



Outreach donations for April will be jams and jellies. Please, place your items in the cart in the church foyer. Your donations are greatly appreciated and help those who are less fortunate.

A Pancake Breakfast, hosted by Aaron Morehead, will be taking place on Sunday, April 14th after worship at Bethany! This is a thank you for supporting him in his exciting adventure this summer! Congratulations, Aaron! Have a great time!

Please make sure to sign up to help with coffee and donuts on Sunday mornings! We need at least 2 volunteers every Sunday! Sign up board is on the counter in the Fellowship Hall, between the kitchen “windows”.

Parking lot maintenance will be conducted by the property committee on April 5th and 6th. Volunteers are needed for this, if you have not yet volunteered for this and would like to, please contact Joe Gerdes or any property committee member. The more volunteers, the merrier!

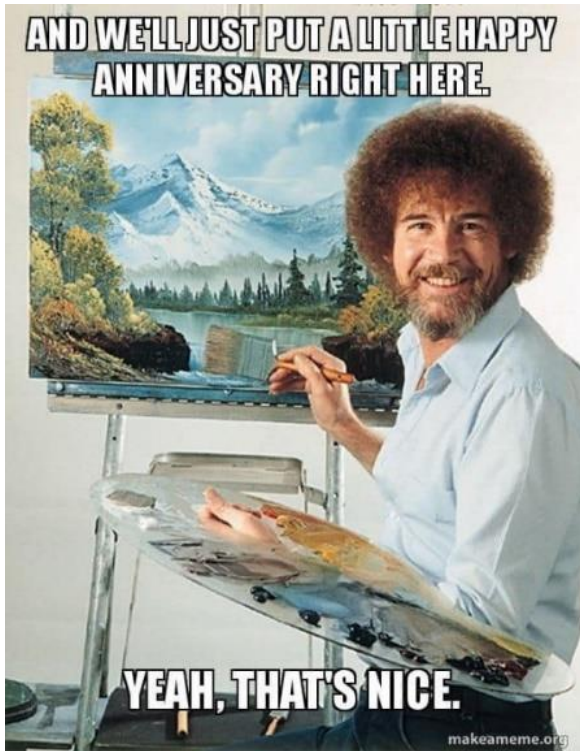
The office will be updating the Church Directory soon for 2024. If you have a different phone number, new address, new email or would like to add your email, please contact the office! You may call the office at 319-752-3621, leave a note on the office desk, or email your updated information to bethanyburlington@msn.com. We like to try to update our directory every so often to try and stay current.

The Silver Singers would like to pass on an invitation to anyone that might be interested in joining! The only requirement to join is that singers must be at least 55 or “silver haired” and love to join the fun! Randy Lee Webster is the music director and rehearsals are on Wednesday afternoons at 3pm in the choir room, located on the lower level of First Methodist Church(421 Washington St), access is from the parking lot south of the building off of N. 5th St. in Burlington.



April BIRTHDAYS


- 3 - Carlene Woodside
- 6 - Michael Kastner; Denise Kaup
- 9 - Arnhild Zaiser
- 10 - Erica House
- 12 - Thomas Holtz; Jim Morris
- 19 - Elliot Wallace
- 20 - Dee Dee McAlister
- 29 - Hunter Adam; Steven Rogers
- 30 - Vivienne Mafra





April 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Paraments: White: 7, 14, 21, 28	1 Office Closed In observance of Easter Retired School Personnel Luncheon Mtg	2	3 	4	5 Nurses Mtg @ 9:30 a.m. Parking Lot Maintenance	6 Parking Lot Maintenance
7 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Church Outreach 10:55 am Hope Service	8 Property Mtg @ 6:30pm	9 	10 9:30a.m. Bible Study	11	12	13
 <i>Pastor Pete returns to the area</i>						
14 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Church Life 10:55 am Hope Service Pancake Breakfast <i>will be held following</i> <i>worship</i>	15	16 Exec. Committee @ 6:00pm	17	18 Finance Mtg @ 6:30 pm	19 	20 8am Men's Breakfast
21 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship 10:55 am Hope Service	22	23	24 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Council Mtg.	25	26 	27
 <i>Pastor Pete returns to the area</i>						
28 5th Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship 10:55 am Hope Service	29 	30				