



²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
Matthew 11:25-30

ATTENTION: check out website bethanylutheranlaurens.org!

Here is the weekly email with the activities happening at Bethany for next 8+ days. This is a great resource to check the times of activities, especially worship time if changes have been made. **Our Summer worship is at 9:30 with Adult Sunday and Youth Sunday school starting at 9:15 and coffee fellowship at around 10:30 began.** Check our website this week (bethanylutheran-laurens.org) There are new pictures and postings on our Facebook page as well, check it out. The sheep cartoon for this week's Gospel: **John 17:1-11!** Don't be of little faith and don't doubt Jesus! He IS the Son of the Living God. **Spring** is the perfect time to develop new habits; coming to worship and attending more church activities are great ways to celebrate God's gift of salvation to all of us. Everything is still here at Bethany, pretty much the way you left it. Come and see, YOU are missed! We are less without you!

"THAT THEY MAY BE
ONE, AS WE ARE ONE."
YEAH...
NO PRESSURE.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

NO TED, JESUS PRAYS
THIS *FOR US*. IT'S WHAT
THE FATHER *DOES*
AND WILL DO!



OH *SURE*.
AND I'M SUPPOSED TO
JUST TAKE THAT *ON*
FAITH?



JOHN 17:1-11



© WETZSTEIN 20.05.20

Tuesday: May 19, 2026

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

Thursday: May 21, 2026

2:00PM ~ Circle Group

Sunday: May 24, 2026 **START SUMMER TIME CHANGE**

Day of Pentecost ~ Rite of Confirmation

8:30 AM ~ Adult SS

9:30 AM ~ Worship w/Communion, Rite of Confirmation

10:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship / Confirmation Reception

6:00PM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

Monday: May 25, 2026 **Memorial Day**

7:00PM ~ Hand Bell Rehearsal

Tuesday: May 26, 2026

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

Worship, Love, Accept~Together in Christ's Name

Emergency contact information:

In the case of an emergency or are in need of a visit/call, please contact Pastor David Klappenbach at 419-603-8350 (cell), 712-841-2181 (church), 712-841-2532 (parsonage).

SPRING TIME 10:30 AM Worship services at Bethany

HAPPENINGS IN MAY

***May 17 ~ Seventh Sunday of Easter**

10:30AM Worship w/Communion

11:30AM Potluck 6:00PM Bethany Prayer Group

***May 19 ~ 8:30AM Prayer Group**

9:30AM Tuesday coffee at BLC

***May 21 ~ 2:00PM Circle Group**

***May 24 ~ Day of Pentecost ~ Rite of Confirmation**

SUMMER TIME CHANGE

8:30AM Adult SS

9:30AM Worship w/Communion, Rite of Confirmation

10:30AM Confirmation Reception

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7:00PM Hand Bell Rehearsal

***May 26 ~ 8:30AM Prayer Group**

9:30AM Tuesday coffee at BLC

MAY: **Altar Guild** = Shirley Kruse & Eloise Armstrong

Fellowship = May 24 – Shirley McKiernan, W/M Committee

= May 31 – Julie Dawson, Tom & Rhonda Shewell

Ushers = May 24 – Michelle Gordon & Shirley Kruse

= May 31 – Rich & Marilyn Ehlers

Communion: Served on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of every month.

Prayer Concerns: Prayer concerns may be given to Pastor Klappenbach or the office at any time. We just ask that you let us know who is making the prayer request by signing your name. This is important so that Pastor can follow up on the continual need for prayer.

Prayer Concerns: Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, storm/flood/fire victims, those suffering any illness, Elaine Anderson, Rita Schmidt, Roger Schulz, Linda Galbraith, Shannon Hersom, Ken & Pat Boughey, Marie Rogers, Jeanette Jardee, Mary Roat, Todd & Elizabeth Wood, Jerry Runneberg, Myles Pedersen, Pastor John Mayer, Monica Isom, Eli Honer, Dorothy Sandvig, Gloria Bell, Helen Dodge, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries.

Weekly Budget Needs: \$2950.00

Faith Promise \$1137.00 Worship 43 Youth SS 12 Adult SS 4
Sunday School \$10.00

Birthdays: May 17 – Cara Shimon; 19 – Shawn Oxenreider; 22 – Heidi Baker

Anniversary:

*****NOISY OFFERING ~ ~ Keep collecting those coins as our next one will be June 21. Our offering will go towards the Laurens Food Pantry.**

Laurens Community Blood Drive ~ Thursday, May 21, 2026

1:00 to 6:00 PM @ Laurens United Methodist Church

Appointments are ENCOURAGED ~ Text: LIFESERVE to 515-815-7242

Visit: www.lifeservebloodcenter.org or call 1-800-287-4903

Please bring a valid form of identification, such as your donor ID card or driver's license.

Blood drives will occur twice a year unless we can maintain 15-20 donors each blood drive.

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE FOR SUMMER

Starts Sunday, May 24

9:30 AM Worship & 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship

Please join Bethany as we celebrate the Rite of Confirmation for

Raelyn Johnsen on Sunday, May 24, 2026

9:30 AM Worship w/Communion & Rite of Confirmation

10:30 AM Confirmation Reception

A Special Invitation

You are invited to a Community Open House
Honoring Pastor David Klappenbach and Family
on his retirement

When: June 27, 2026 from 1:30 to 4:00 PM

Where: Bethany Luthern Church Fellowship Hall

NEW Address for Pat Boughey:

Wel-Life at Spirit Lake
1819 23rd Street Apt. #240
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
Attn: Pat Boughey

Address for Ken Boughey:

Accura HealthCare
1912 Zenith Avenue Room 124B
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS & STAFF ~ May 10, 2026

First-Eighth Grade: Lucas & Addy Sorensen, Elli Cazares, Niels, Jens, Isabella & Raelyn Johnsen

Teachers for Nursery-Eighth Grade: Kathy Sorensen, Rich Ehlers, Tammy Oxenreider
Subs: Julian & MacKenzie Johnsen, Rhonda Shewell

High School:

Music: Marilyn Ehlers & Shirley McKiernan

Sunday School Leader: Linda Bieri

As we
close
the

Sunday school year, we recognize the following student with an attendance pin:

Raelyn Johnsen: 10 year pin

***This means this student missed three or less Sundays this school year!!!
Congratulations to this dedicated student and her parents!

The geraniums on the altar are given for the glory of the Lord to honor our dedicated Sunday school teachers and students for their hard work 2025/2026. They will continue to be enjoyed all summer as they adorn our outside entrance. Thank God for his blessings and the freedom to worship together.

Thank you to Marilyn Ehlers, Shirley McKiernan as our music worship leaders. Our teachers & subs are Kathy Sorensen, Tammy Oxenreider, Julian & MacKenzie Johnsen, Rhonda Shewell for the smaller children. The older children are taught by Rich Ehlers, and our adult Sunday school is lead by Pastor Klappenbach. We appreciate everyone's faithful dedication to teaching and to learning God's everlasting words.

Luke 4:21: He began to say to them, "Today scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."
Linda Bieri

Laurens Community Vacation Bible School ~ June 1-5, 2026
9:00-11:00AM ~ Laurens United Methodist Church
Upcoming Preschool age through Grade 4
VBS Program June 5 at 11:15AM
Registration forms on back table of sanctuary.
Registration Price: \$10 per child suggested donation
Snack: Please donate either \$2 for snack or provide items.

STEWARDSHIP 2026

April giving: \$15,562.00

Year-to-date giving: \$42,792.07

\$5,000.00 Funds taken from Farm Acct. for general expenses

eGiving: **eGiving** is an automated giving program from Vanco Payment Solutions that Bethany is already a part of. It's designed to help you conveniently, consistently, and joyfully give financial gifts to our congregation's ministry. By participating in **eGiving**, you can use electronic funds transfer to give your weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly offering to our congregation. To learn how you can participate in **eGiving**, contact: Rich Ehlers - 712-358-1928. Let **eGiving** help you build better stewardship by turning a simple choice into a generous response.

Thrivent Choice Dollars: The Thrivent Choice program is a charitable grant program and a benefit of membership that encourages members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to help direct a portion of Thrivent Financial's charitable funding to causes important to them. The funds that Bethany receives from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans this year are called Thrivent Choice Dollars. The amount Bethany receives is determined by individual members of Thrivent who direct the dollars credited to them to Bethany. These funds were formerly called the supplemental funds.

Women of Bethany ~ If you need a crocheted cross for someone, they are ready. You will find them in the Narthex in the Registry Stand.

Address for Sandy George:

Sandy George
4877 Bradford Lane
Sioux City, IA 51106

Address for Dorothy Smith:

Dorothy Smith
220 S. Maple Apt. 204
Watertown, SD 57201

“Like Bethany Lutheran Church-Laurens on Facebook”

FREE MEALS FOR CHILDREN (age 0-18) THIS SUMMER

➤ **May 23 to August 15 = Caring Lunches on Saturdays**

11:00AM-12:30PM @ Laurens Public Library

CLOTHES CLOSET at First Christian Church
Free Clothes to all who need them!
Open every Thursday ~ 2:00 - 5:00PM
Open last Saturday of each month 10:00AM – 1:00PM
324 W Section Line Road ~ *Please use the east door.*

Laurens Congregate Meals: 272 N 3rd St., Laurens, IA
712-841-2577 for pricing, hours, & orders ~ Monday-Friday
Provides a communal dining experience for individuals seeking nutritious and affordable meals with a focus on social interactions.

BINGO 2026 ~ Community Event:

Bingo nights for the Pocahontas County Fair

~ Dates: June 18, July 14 ~ Location: Pocahontas Expo Center

~ Times: Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with bingo running from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

~ Cost: \$1.00 per card, per game for regular bingo; the last game will be blackout and the cost to play is \$2.00 per card

~ Refreshments available to purchase.

June 24 to July 29 = Summer Reading Program

“PLANT A SEED, READ”

~ Laurens Public Library ~ Wednesdays at 11:00AM

Join the library while we learn about pollinators, cows, birds, and so much more! You'll have a fun steam activity on July 1st at 11:00AM! Conductor Jack will be closing out the summer reading program on July 29th at 11:00AM!

Spring Update at the Laurens Community Food Pantry

**We have had such generous support from our community for the Food Pantry during this past winter. We thank you so much! We want to let you know the items that we are in need of and are hard for us to get through the Food Bank of Iowa at this time.

**The Food Bank is beginning to carry personal care items. Our families are pleased with receiving the help in acquiring them. We are adding a few to our donation suggestions.

See our list below:

Foods: Taco Shells (Hard & Softshells) Applesauce

Canned Corn Fruit Cocktail Peaches

Personal Care Items: Soap Body Wash Shampoo Toothpaste

And any other donations of your choice!

****Donations** may be placed in the shopping cart downstairs in the **United Methodist Educational Unit** or in the basket in the narthex at the **Bethany Lutheran Church** in Laurens or in the shopping cart at the **Laurens HyVee Pharmacy**. Anyone wishing to make monetary donations can do so by submitting those to the **United Methodist Church Office**.



****PLEASE REMEMBER** ~ The food pantry can not take any expired items, so please check all dates on the products before you graciously give.

Laurens Community Food Pantry Hours:

***Thursdays 4:00-6:00 PM Last Monday of each month 11:00AM – 1:00PM**

Thank you for all you do for the Food Pantry, we are pleased that you are a part of this mission!!! *Thank you for Caring and Your Support
