

Jesus declares, *"My kingdom is not of this world… I was born and came into this world to bear witness to the truth."* Highlighting His spiritual, heavenly kingship.

John 18:36–37

ATTENTION: check out website ww.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 and coffee fellowship at around 10:30. 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: Matthew 25:31-46! Don't be of little faith and don't doubt Jesus!** He IS the Son of the Living God. **FALL** 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!**



Tuesday: November 17, 2026
9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany
Wednesday: November 18, 2026
5:30-7:00PM ~ Youth Group at UMC
Thursday: November 19, 2026
2:00PM ~ Circle Group
7:00PM ~ Confirmation
SATURDAY: November 21, 2026
Christ the King Sunday
Last Sunday after Pentecost
11:00 AM ~ Worship w/Communion
12:00 PM ~ Potluck
1:00 PM ~ Congregational Workshop w/Pastor Matthew Bahnfleth
Sunday: November 22, 2026
Last Sunday after Pentecost
3:00PM ~ Laurens Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Laurens Care Center
Monday: November 23, 2026
7:00 PM ~ Hand Bell Rehearsal
Tuesday: November 24, 2026
9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany
Thursday: November 26, 2026
HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY
SUNDAY: November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent
9:15 AM ~ Youth SS
9:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship
10:30 AM ~ Worship w/Advent Reading
11:30 AM ~ Bethany Prayer Group

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 **Andrew Loomis** at 712-298-6587 (cell) or aloomis68@gmail.com (email), 712-841-2181 (church).

FALL TIME 10:30 AM Worship services at Bethany

****

HAPPENINGS IN NOVEMBER

*November 22 ~ *10:00AM Decorate the tree*
3:00PM Laurens Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service @ LCC

*November 23~ *7:00PM Hand Bell Rehearsal*

*November 24 ~ *9:30AM Tuesday coffee at BLC*

*November 26~ *HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY*

*November 29 ~ ***First Sunday of Advent***
9:15AM Youth Sunday School 9:30AM Coffee Fellowship
10:30AM Worship w/Advent Reading
Special Congregational Mtg. following worship

*November 30~ *7:00PM Hand Bell Rehearsal*

*December 1 ~ *9:30AM Tuesday coffee at BLC*

*December 2~ *8:30AM Matins and A Meal*
5:30PM Hand Bells perform at UMC

*December 3 ~ *7:00PM Confirmation*

****
****

NOVEMBER: **Altar Guild** = Rich & Marilyn Ehlers
Fellowship = November 29 – Julie Dawson
Ushers = November 29 – Kelly & Dawn Gordon

DECEMBER: **Altar Guild** = Worship & Music Committee
Fellowship = December 6 – Kathy Sorensen, Vicki Fontenot
= December 13 – Linda Galbraith
= December 20 – Shirley McKiernen, Tom & Rhonda Shewell
= December 27 – Julie Dawson, Tom & Rhonda Shewell
Ushers = December 6 – Volunteers
= December 13 – Rich & Marilyn Ehlers
= December 20 – Julian Johnsen Family

= December 24 & 27 - Volunteers

****

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

****

Prayer Concerns: Prayer concerns may be given to a member of Bethany 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 we 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, Sharon Egertsen-Kasada, Dave Alstott, Lucas Sorensen, Myles & Shirley Pedersen, Ireneo Zarzoso, Elaine Anderson, Roger Schulz, Shannon Hersom, Ken & Pat Boughey, Marie Rogers, Jeanette Jardee, Mary Roat, Jerry Runneberg, Pastor John Mayer, Monica Isom, Dorothy Sandvig, Gloria Bell, Helen Dodge, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries.

Weekly Budget & Worship info:

Faith Promise $ 565.00	Worship 33
Sunday School $ 9.00	SS 10
Thanksgiving $310.00	NOISY Offering $95.46

Birthdays:
Anniversary:

Thanksgiving Offering & Stewardship/Commitment Cards

Please reflect on the blessings you have received this past year and consider a special Thanksgiving gift in response to those blessings by using your Thanksgiving Offering envelope. Also remember your Stewardship commitment card and envelope to place in the Joash Chest any Sunday in November & December. *Bethany Lutheran Church Council*

*** NOISY OFFERING ~ *$95.46* ***was collected for the Laurens Congregate Meals. Keep collecting those coins.***

****

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026 ~ 3:00 PM

At Laurens Care Center

Offering will go towards the Laurens Ministerial Emergency Fund.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Laurens Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

@ Laurens Care Center ~

Sunday, Nov. 22 ~ 3:00PM

Every member is asked to write a note of Thanksgiving to be read at the service. There are note cards or paper available on the back table to use. Please drop your notes in the basket.

Thank you

****

November 11, 2026
To all members of Bethany Lutheran Church:

A special congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, November 29, 2026, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss this item of business:

The use of the Edmonds special project funds to pay for the new dishwasher in the kitchen. The cost for the dishwasher and installation is $3948.19.

We would like your presence there to be a part of this decision, so please make plans to attend if at all possible.

Bethany Lutheran Church Council
Rich Ehlers, President

****

****

Poinsettias for Advent change: The Worship & Music Committee is doing the poinsettias the same as last year. Our committee will not be purchasing any but letting individuals donate their own. In other words, you may purchase a poinsettia from where-ever you would like and bring to the church by November 29th or December 6th to share for the Advent/Christmas season.

If you would like your poinsettia to be in memory or in honor of someone, please let Dean Armstrong know. We would appreciate all poinsettias to be taken home after the Christmas Eve service. *Thank you*

****

Festival of Trees: Set up times are: Sunday, Nov. 29 from 3-6:00 PM, Monday, Nov. 30 & Tuesday, Dec. 1 from noon-6:00 PM.

Festival of Trees Committee

****

Laurens Chamber & Community Boosters ~ Annual Soup Supper

Wednesday, December 2 ~ 4:30-7:00 PM ~ United Methodist Church

Santa visits from 5:30-6:30 PM / Laurens Bell Ringers perform at 6:30 PM

****

LM School Clothing Tree here at Bethany:

NEEDS this year in these sizes starting at Toddler 4 & up to size 14:

*Boys & Girls jogging pants

*Socks & underwear for both boys & girls

*Insulated gloves for both boys & girls size XS, S, M and L

*Snow pants are always needed

We appreciate all donations for keeping the LM students warm.

We will have a tree at the back of the church to put these items on or around soon.

Thank you

****

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.

****

****

CARDS ~ If you would like to send a card to Lucas Sorensen, his address is below:

Lucas Sorensen
c/o Cori Sorensen
510 2nd Ave. NW
Pocahontas, IA 50574

****

Words can't express how grateful we are for your generosity and all your prayers. Thank you for the financial gift that you donated to help with Luke's cancer treatments. You are truly a blessing to Luke and please keep praying for his fight against leukemia. Your kindness and prayers shows us God's love each and everyday. With love and deepest thanks.

The Sorensen family

****

****

STEWARDSHIP 2026

August giving: $3,898.00
Year-to-date giving: $66,286.54
$13,000.00 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.

****

****

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

Address for Ken Boughey:
Accura HealthCare
1912 Zenith Avenue
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

****

****

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"

****

****

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.**

****

Call Committee update*: Our Call Committee consists of 7 members who have met 3 times. We had our initial orientation and training with the NALC Call Process Coordinator, Pastor Shelly Schultz, as a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, September 29, 2026. She explained her role in guiding us through this call process, the spiritual basis of the process, and the importance of prayer and communication. We have completed the Bible Study that is included in the Call Process Manual. Our next steps will be to have a Congregational Workshop with Pastor Matthew Bahnfleth and finish the Congregational Vacancy Profile.*

Laurens Community Food Pantry

**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, Deodorant (men & women), Tampons

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*

****