

**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).

**STEWARDSHIP 2024**

March giving goal: \$14,085.00

March giving: \$6,814.30

Year-to-date goal: \$36,621.00

Year-to-date giving: \$27,974.56

**SHORT: -\$8,646.64**

\$3,000.00 Funds taken from Farm Account for general expenses

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

**Fellowship = May 12 – Myles & Shirley Pedersen, Doug & Becky Baker**

= May 19 – Julie Dawson, Doug & Becky Baker

= May 26 – Rich & Marilyn Ehlers, Shirley McKiernan

**Growth & Sharing Committee**

\*Met April 28 at 11:45 PM ~ 6 present with visitors, Rebecca & Viola

\*Discussed these 2024 projects:

- o Plans continue for the float “Prayer Table” and perhaps an ice cream stand
- o Fundraiser ~ discussed several ideas for local & NALC Disaster Fund – need more info

\*Had excellent meeting with many good ideas

\*Next meeting ~ Tuesday, May 21 @ 6:00 PM

**CLOTHES CLOSET at First Christian Church**

**Free Clothing**

**Open 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays ~ 2:00 - 5:00PM**

**Open 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays ~ 10:00AM – 1:00PM**

**324 W Section Line Road**

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

North American Lutheran Church

**Worship, Love, Accept – Together in Christ’s Name**

213 S. Harrison, PO Box 151

Laurens, IA 50554

Pastor David Klappenbach

[www.bethanylutheran-laurens.org](http://www.bethanylutheran-laurens.org)

Ph. 712-841-2181

Shirley McKiernan, Organist

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**May 5, 2024**

*To our visitors! Welcome to our Communion Sunday Service. All are welcome to receive the Lord’s Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. We are happy to have you sharing in our worship service and ask for the opportunity to meet you. We invite you to complete the Communion/Visitor card in front of you. Please come again!*

*An asterisk (\*) indicates when to stand (for those who are able).*

**ORDER OF THE SERVICE**

PRELUDE / RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL / WELCOME

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SPRING PROGRAM 2024**

***The Inexplicable Plaidman ~ God’s Word Will Work for Anyone***

*Julian Johnsen & Linda Bieri*

**WORSHIP OF PRAYER & MEDITATION**

\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Pastor* P.56

\*OPENING HYMN: **“This Is the Day”** CH 209

**This is the day, this is the day, That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.**

**We will rejoice, we will rejoice, And be glad in it, and be glad in it.**

**This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.**

\*GREETING / KYRIE *Pastor* P.57

\*HYMN OF PRAISE: **“He Is Lord”** (sing thru twice) CH 34

**He is Lord, He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and He is Lord!**

**Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY (in unison) *Pastor*

**O God, from whom all good things come: Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to think those things which are right, and by your goodness helps us to do them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **MEDITATION ON GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-48 Raelyn Johnsen**

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup> for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup> "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup> So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

**PSALM: 98 Julian Johnsen**

<sup>1</sup> O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

**<sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup> He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**SPRING TIME ~ 10:30 AM Worship services at Bethany**

**Communion:** Served on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of every month

### **THIS WEEK AT BETHANY**

**Today: May 5<sup>th</sup>**

***Sixth Sunday of Easter***

9:15 – Adult SS

9:30 – Youth SS & Coffee Fellowship

10:30 – Worship w/Communion,

Sunday School Program

Honor graduates

**Monday: May 6<sup>th</sup>**

4:00 – W/M Mtg.

**Tuesday: May 7<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 – Prayer Group

9:30 – Tuesday Coffee @ BLC

**Wednesday: May 8<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 – Council Mtg.

**Sunday: May 12<sup>th</sup>**

***Seventh Sunday of Easter***

9:15 – Adult SS

NO Youth SS

9:30 – Coffee Fellowship

10:30 – Worship

**WORSHIP TIME CHANGE FOR SUMMER**

*Starts Sunday, May 26*

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

**Prayer Concerns:** Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, Iowa storm victims, those battling COVID-19, Velma Woodke, Gina Ehlers, Pete Runneberg, Myra Walstead, Elizabeth Dunbar, Bob Winkelmann, Linda Booth, Monica Isom, Don Ehlers, Lisa Anderson, Ely Kleszczelski, Bill Alexander, Eli Honer, Dorothy Sandvig, Helen Dodge, Pastor James Puotyual, Carol Schmidt, Gloria Bell, Cenon Zarzoso, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries. The Family of Daryl Long.

**Lectors:** Raelyn, Isabella & Julian Johnsen

**Ushers:** May 5 – Dean & Eloise Armstrong

May 12 – Kelly & Dawn Gordon

May 19 – Rich & Marilyn Ehlers

May 26 – Michelle Gordon & Shirley Kruse

**Acolytes:** Bethany Youth

**Weekly Budget Needs: \$2817.00**

Faith Promise \$ 941.00      Worship 33

Sunday School \$ 9.00      Adult SS 4      Youth SS 11

***Birthday: May 7 – Lacey Anderson; 8 – Isabella Johnsen, Lorie Hudson; 10 – Carmen Shimon; 11 – Sami Fiddelke; 12 – Lucas Sorensen***

**\*\*\*Please note that the blue CH (Celebration Hymnal) is located under the pew in front of you.**

**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 2023/2024. 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 are Jean Swanson, Tammy Oxenreider, Liz Klappenbach, Julie Dawson and Linda Galbraith for the smaller children. The older children are taught by Rich Ehlers, and our adult Sunday school is lead by Pastor Klappenbach. Our students are Raelynn (8th year pin), Isabella (7th year pin), Jens (5th year pin), Niels (3rd year pin), and Addy & Lucas, Paeten, and Elli. 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*

***We honor and congratulate our graduates today:***

*HS graduate: Kaydee Fansega*

*College graduate: Shawn Oxenreider*

*We wish God's blessing on each of you as you enter the world of college and/or the business world.*



**Laurens Food Pantry donations needed:**

\*Creamed Soups (chicken or mushroom)

\*Pancake Mix

\*Syrup

\*Protein or Breakfast Bars

**WORSHIP TIME CHANGE FOR SUMMER**

*Starts Sunday, May 26*

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

**<sup>4</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

**<sup>8</sup> Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy**

<sup>9</sup> at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

**SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-8 Isabella Johnsen**

**<sup>5</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ<sup>[a]</sup> has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup> For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**

<sup>6</sup> This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup> There are three that testify:<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>8</sup> the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree.

**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:9-17 Pastor**

<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants<sup>[a]</sup> any longer, because the servant<sup>[b]</sup> does

not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

\*GOSPEL RESPONSE: **L:** The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**  
*SS sing "The Butterfly Song" & "The Holy Spirit's Livin' Inside of Me"*

SERMON SKIT BY CHILDREN **The Squeaks: Putting the Word First**

Leader ~ Marilyn Ehlers

*Squeaks ~ Paeten Christensen, Raelyn Johnsen, Isabella Johnsen, Jens Johnsen, Niels Johnsen, Addy Sorensen, Lucas Sorensen, Elli Cazares*

*SS sing "Seek Ye First"*

**Pin Recognition ~ Linda Bieri**

**Graduation Blessing ~ Pastor**

**SS & Congregation sing "Jesus Loves Me"**

**CH 185**

\*NICENE CREED

P. 64

\*THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**Leader:** "...Lord, in your mercy," **Response:** "hear our prayer."

\*THE PEACE

**OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD**

OFFERING / **"God Please Bless Our Offering"**

**God, please bless our offering,  
Help them spread your care.  
And our Savior's story  
Here and everywhere.**

HYMN: **"You Are My All in All"**

**CH 583**

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. 67

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. 68

\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P. 69

\*THE LORD'S PRAYER

P. 71

\*LAMB OF GOD

P. 72

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

\*BLESSING

P. 72

\*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

P. 72

**OUR SENDING**

\*BENEDICTION

P. 74

\*HYMN **"Father, I Adore You"**

**CH 191**

**Father, I adore you; Lay my life before you. How I love you!  
Jesus, I adore you; Lay my life before you. How I love you!  
Spirit, I adore you; Lay my life before you. How I love you!**

\*DISMISSAL

**Thank you for joining us this morning for worship.**

**May you have a blessed day and week ahead.**

**We invite you to come again and worship with us.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS & STAFF ~ May 5, 2024**

**Nursery-Seventh Grade:** Lucas & Addy Sorensen, Elli Cazares, Niels, Jens, Isabella & Raelyn Johnsen, Paeten Christensen

**Teachers for Nursery-Seventh Grade:** Linda Bieri, Tammy Oxenreider, Jean Swanson, Liz Klappenbach, Julie Dawson, Linda Galbraith, Rich Ehlers

**High School:** Michelle Gordon

**Music:** Marilyn Ehlers & Shirley McKiernan

**Sunday School Leader:** Linda Bieri

**As we close the Sunday school year, we recognize the following students for attendance pins:**

Raelyn Johnsen: 8 year pin

Isabella Johnsen: 7 year pin

Jens Johnsen: 5 year pin

Niels Johnsen: 3 year pin

\*\*\*This means the student missed three or less Sundays this school year!!!

Congratulations to these dedicated students and their parents!

**A special participation attendance pin** to Lucas & Addy Sorensen, Elli Cazares & Paeten Christensen for joining our Sunday School this year.