



THE BANNER

June 2021

Praying in Weakness

"Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought; but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8:26-27

You wake up in the middle of the night. You have many concerns and worries going through your mind. You lay awake in the darkness and cannot go back to sleep. You try to pray. But it seems you cannot come up with any words. You do not know what to say. You do not know how to pray as you ought.

You are with a very close friend who has been going through all kinds of difficulties in life. She has shared these concerns and struggles with you and you want to be supportive. Then a thought comes to you. Let us pray about this. But then you do not seem to have the words. You are quiet for a minute or so. Then your friend asks, "Aren't you going to say something?" You find out that you cannot pray as you ought.

You are part of a large gathering. Perhaps it is a fellowship event at church. The pastor asks you to offer the opening prayer. You freeze. All kinds of questions and thoughts immediately rush through your mind. What do I say? What words do I use? I have never prayed in public. Will the words be the right words? I cannot pray like the pastor. What will the others think of me? I do not want to embarrass myself. You cannot pray as you ought.

If this has happened, you are not alone. It seems that St. Paul experienced some of the same experiences when it came to prayer. He did not always have the right words when prayer was called for. The good news is we have a God who loves us and knows our thoughts, our desires, and the intentions of our hearts. That may scare you if you think about it. But it also means we do not need to try to hide anything for God. You can be honest and confess your weakness before the Lord. When prayer is called for and you begin to open your mouth to pray and nothing comes out, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs

too deep for words. The Spirit takes our jumbled thoughts and concerns and orders them and in some mysterious way makes them right before our Father in heaven.

If you find it difficult to pray do not get discouraged. Each presents a new opportunity to begin anew. Be intentional about setting aside some time each day for conversation with God. That is what prayer is in its simplest form, conversation with God. The morning works best for me before I begin my daily duty. If I put prayer time off it seems I will never get to pray because I get too busy. When you pray, pray what is on your heart and mind. Give thanks for all the blessings you have received from the Lord, confess your sin and weakness, and bring the concerns of other to God.

In entering to prayer each day, the disciple will have their relationship with Christ growing and deepening. The disciple will become more convicted about the truth of the gospel of God's love shown in Jesus Christ. The disciple will learn and become more obedient to God's will for their life. The disciple will find more peace in their life. And just maybe you will find yourself more confident to pray when it is called for in circumstances you encounter. Yes, there may be those times when you may feel weak, and the words are not there or come out the way you would like. Fear not. For the Spirit helps us in our weakness. When we "do not know how to pray as we ought; the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words."

Blessing in your Prayer life,

Pastor David

Bible Reading Plan for the Disciples of Bethany

...standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel... Philippians 1:27b

Tuesday, June 1	Ruth 1:1-2:13
Wednesday, June 2	Ruth 2:14-23
Thursday, June 3	Ruth 3:1-18
Friday, June 4	Ruth 4:1-22
Saturday, June 5	Deuteronomy 1:1-18
Sunday, June 6	Matthew 12:33-45
Monday, June 7	2 Corinthians 1:1-11
Tuesday, June 8	2 Corinthians 1:12-22
Wednesday, June 9	2 Corinthians 1:23-2:17
Thursday, June 10	2 Corinthians 3:1-18
Friday, June 11	2 Corinthians 4:1-12
Saturday, June 12	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:10
Sunday, June 13	Matthew 13:44-58
Monday, June 14	2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2
Tuesday, June 15	2 Corinthians 6:3-7:1
Wednesday, June 16	2 Corinthians 7:2-16
Thursday, June 17	2 Corinthians 8:1-16
Friday, June 18	2 Corinthians 8:16-24
Saturday, June 19	2 Corinthians 9:1-15
Sunday, June 20	Matthew 15:29-39

Monday, June 21	2 Corinthians 10:1-18
Tuesday, June 22	2 Corinthians 11:1-21a
Wednesday, June 23	2 Corinthians 8:11-21b
Thursday, June 24	Luke 1:57-80
Friday, June 25	2 Corinthians 12:1-21
Saturday, June 26	2 Corinthians 13:1-14
Sunday, June 27	Matthew 18:1-14
Monday, June 28	1 Samuel 1:1-1:11
Tuesday, June 29	1 Corinthians 3:16-23
Wednesday, June 30	1 Samuel 2:1-21

Minutes for the Community Youth Group Board May 9th, 2021

Today, Angie and Linda met before youth group at the Methodist Church.

This is the final meeting for the kids until fall, so a fun night was planned with hot dogs and basketball.

Members Thaine, Kelly and Tammy were contacted via phone. The treasury is in fine shape and all three churches have paid. Kelly will be the president/secretary now as Linda will be moving to the lake.

The summer fund raiser will be during the summer celebration July 9th where they will be serving ice cream sundaes in the park.

The Haiti trip will be August 1st to the 8th with six students and two advisors going.

Our next board meeting will be August 15th, 2021 at 4 p.m. at UMC.

Linda Bieri

Minutes from Christian Ed Committee May 10th, 2021

Our final Sunday school program was May 2nd and our final day for Sunday school was May 9th.

Community Vacation Bible school will be June 7-11. All classes will be at the UMC.

The Youth Group board meeting was held May 9th. They will have an ice cream sundae fund raiser July 9th during the Laurens celebration. The Haiti trip will be August 1st — 8th with six students and two adults going. Our next board meeting will be August 15th at 4 p.m. at UMC. Kelly Tate will be the president/secretary.

We plan to begin our Sunday school in the fall with a rotation of leaders and the material from Sola, which we have.

Our next meeting will be August 15th after church.

Request to Provide Altar Flowers for 2021



If you wish to provide altar flowers for church during 2021, please complete this form. Please place it the offering plate or mail it to: Shirley McKiernan, 313 2nd St., Laurens, IA 50554 *Thank you.*

Name of person providing flowers: _____

Date desired: _____

Do you want to provide flowers on this same date from year to year? yes no

Information needed for Sunday bulletin:

Altar Flowers in Loving Memory of: _____

From: _____

Or Altar Flowers

From: _____

Please contact Shirley McKiernan, 841-2637, if you have any questions.



In case of emergency contact
Pastor David Klappenbach
712-841-2181 (Office)
712-841-2532 Home)
419-603-8350 (Cell)

Services are currently being live streamed on Facebook

Visit us @ <https://www.bethanylutheran-laurens.org>

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Name	Marriage	June
Bieri Sheldon & Linda	6-03	
Anderson, Noah		6-04
George, Homer		6-06
Ehlers, Rich & Marilyn	6-07	
Rasmussen, Marcy & Adam	6-09	
Seward, Cindy		6-09
Alexander, Bill		6-10
Gordon, Dawn & Kelly	6-14	
Hawley, Jon		6-15
Hersom, Seth		6-16
Johnsen, Diana		6-17
Hudson, Craig		6-18
Akridge, Jed & Ashley	6-18	
Pohlman, Marilyn		6-20
Baumeister, Jessica & Jason	6-21	
Hersom, Liz		6-22
Hodgell, James L.		6-24
Jamison, John & Dawn	6-24	
Klappenbach, Elizabeth		6-27
Van Sickle Jim & Kelly	6-27	
Johnsen, Jorge		6-30

**Alter Guild for June
Rich & Marilyn Ehlers**

USHERS:

June 6-Tom Anderson

June 20-Jim Hodgell

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Members Thaine, Kelly, and Tammy were contacted via phone. The treasury is in fine shape and all three churches have paid. Kelly will be the president/secretary now as Linda will be moving to the lake.

The summer fund raiser will be during the summer celebration July 9th where they will be serving ice cream sundaes in the park.

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Linda Bieri

JUNE 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion	7 4:00 W/M Mtg <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center; color: red;">Pastor @ STS</div>	8 8:30AM Prayer Group-9:30AM Coffee @ BLC	9 7:00 Council Meeting	10 	11 12 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center; color: red;">Pastor and family on vacation until June 23rd</div>	
13 9:00 Worship	14	15 8:30AM Prayer Group 9:30AM Coffee @ BLC	16 17 18 19 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center; color: red;">Pastor Klappenbach and Family will be on vacation from June 10 until June 23</div>			
20 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion	21	22 8:30AM Prayer Group 9:30AM Coffee @ BLC	23 	24	25	26
27 9:00-Worship	28	29 8:30AM Prayer Group 9:30AM Coffee @ BLC	30	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;">Bethany Lutheran Church Adult SS- 9:15 Youth SS- 9:30 Worship-1030</div>		

Council Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church
April 14, 2021
7:00 PM

Present:
Dean Armstrong
Rich Ehlers
Jim Hodgell
Pastor Klappenbach
Myles Pedersen
Julie Dawson
Jean Swanson
Linda Galbraith

Absent:
Mark Raasch
John Runneberg

Rich Ehlers noted that we had a quorum and called the meeting to order.

Pastor Klappenbach provided an opening prayer.

After a review of the minutes, Jim Hodgell moved to approve the minutes and Linda Galbraith provided the second. Motion carried.

Shirley Pedersen stated that in April Bethany:

1. Received \$100.00 in Memorial money from the family of Bill Edmonds.
2. \$201.00 from Lenten soup suppers, which the council need to determine how to use.
3. There was an \$8500.00 faith promise that need to be used monthly.

Marilyn Ehlers reported that the bank balance at the end of March was (-892.98).

Jim Hodgell moved that we accept the financial reports and Dean Armstrong made a second for the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor Klappenbach reported he led 8 services (4 Sunday services, 4 Wednesday Lenten service, made 22 visits, 4 community visits, attended 7 meetings, had 1 counseling, and 5 classes. Sermon text is posted on the Bethany website.

Michelle G. is progressing on her Catechism and is planning on confirmation on May 23, 2021 the Day of Epiphany.

The pastor's class on Discipleship is now underway with 12 in attendance. Pastor will be attending the STS in Schuyler, NE. on June 7th and 8th. He also stated that the STS dues are now due and asked that we pay this from the Pastors continuing Education account.

Pastor also noted that church services will begin soon at the Laurens Care Center.

He also drove 172 miles.

Jim Hodgell moved that we accept the Pastors report and that Bethany pay the Pastors dues. Julie Dawson made a second to the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Dean Armstrong spoke with Garthlene Bell about having a refresher CPR/AED class. We decided to give her 3 dates for possible classes, they are 20, 27 April & 4 May at 6:30PM.

New Business:

1. Hahn Financial will be forwarding information to Bethany about setting up larger sum endowments for memorials.
2. Jean Swanson brought up that Bethany screen was not on Channel 3 on Local access channel. Marilyn Ehlers said she would include that in her weekly email from the school.
3. Shirley McKiernan has use of the Fellowship Hall and has it reserved for May 15, 2021.
4. Jim Hodgell moved that the money from the Lenten Soup supper be used to buy whatever is required to extend the WIFI from the office to the library. Myles made a second to the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Ed- No Report

Growth and Sharing -We have a meeting set for April 22nd@7:15.

In expression of Bethany's continued support thru the 2020 pandemic, Lutheran World Relief shipped Bethany a 120z package of Farmers Market Carmel flavored coffee as a "Thank You" watch for this coffee to be served @ Sunday fellowship. LWR purchased this coffee directly from the producers.

Tech-No Report

Stewardship-No Report

Property and Farm-Parsonage walk thru was good, we need a 3 inch or taller doorstep.

Worship & Music reviewed thru June. May 16th will be graduate recognition.

Memorial- purchased new TV to replace the one that was stolen from the Library.

Next Meeting is May 12, 2021

Jim Hodgell moved to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer. Dean Armstrong Made a second to the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor Klappenbach provided a brief prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Dean Armstrong

Recording Secretary