



<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Isaiah 40:3-5

ATTENTION: check out website [www.bethanylutheranlaurens.org](http://www.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 fall worship is at 10:30 with Adult Sunday and Youth Sunday school starting at 9:15 and coffee fellowship at around 9:30 began.** Check our website this week ([bethanylutheran-laurens.org](http://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 3:1-12!** 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: December 16, 2025**

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

**Wednesday: December 17, 2025**

7:00 PM ~ Confirmation class

**Thursday: December 18, 2025**

2:00 PM ~ Circle Group

**Sunday: December 21, 2025**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:15 AM ~ Adult SS

9:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM ~ Worship w/Communion

11:30 AM ~ Potluck

Bethany Prayer Group after Potluck

**Tuesday: December 23, 2025**

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

**Wednesday: December 24, 2025**

**5:30 PM ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/Communion**

**Thursday: December 25, 2025**

**Christmas Day / Nativity of Our Lord**

*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).

## FALL TIME 10:30 AM Worship services at Bethany

\*\*\*\*\*

## HAPPENINGS IN DECEMBER

\*December 14 ~ 10:30AM Worship / *Third Sunday of Advent* /  
**NOISY Offering** ~ Sunday School Christmas Program during worship  
Bethany Prayer Group after worship  
4:00PM Laurens Care Center Service

\*December 16,23,30 ~ 8:30AM Prayer Group  
9:30AM Tuesday coffee at BLC

\*December 17 ~ 7:00PM Confirmation

\*December 18 ~ 2:00PM Circle Group

\*December 21 ~ NO Youth Sunday School  
10:30AM Worship w/Communion / *Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
11:30AM Potluck ~ Bethany Prayer Group after Potluck

\*December 24 ~ **5:30PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** w/Comm.

\*December 25 ~ **Have a Blessed Christmas Day!!!**

\*December 28 ~ NO Adult & Youth Sunday School  
10:30AM Worship ~ Bethany Prayer Group after worship

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

**DECEMBER:**     **Altar Guild = W/M Committee**

**Fellowship** = December 21 – Myles & Shirley Pedersen, Jean Swanson

= December 28 – Julie Dawson, Myles & Shirley Pedersen

**Ushers** = December 21 – Julian Johnsen Family

= December 24 – Christmas Eve - Volunteers

= December 28 – Volunteers

\*\*\*\*\*

**Communion:** Served on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, Tom Shewell, 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: \$2817.00**

Faith Promise \$1050.00     Worship 27     Youth SS 8     Adult SS 4

Sunday School \$ 6.75

**Birthdays: December 17 – Case Bieri, Kenny Pedersen**

**Anniversary:**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*NOISY OFFERING ~ *Keep collecting those coins as our next one will be December 14<sup>th</sup> for families in need locally!!*

\*\*\*\*\*

## UDMO **Adopt-a-Family Christmas Project**

Gifts have been donated/delivered. Thank you ALL for the generous response for these families.

**Bethany's Sunday School Christmas Program**

**Sunday, December 14, 2025 ~ 10:30 AM**

*Everyone is welcome to attend.*

## **Growth & Sharing Committee**

- The Christmas hat, mitten, socks, scarves Tree will be up December 1-31. (for the LM School children)

## **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*

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 30<sup>th</sup> 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:*** *The 2025 Festival of Trees at the United Methodist Church will be open Noon to 6:00 PM each Saturday & Sunday from December 6<sup>th</sup> through December 28<sup>th</sup>. Bring your families & friends to enjoy the Festival of Trees! Will close if bad weather.*

### **Festival of Trees LM School Community Tree**

NEEDS this year are:

- \*Boys & Girls jogging or yoga pants (sizes 6-8, 8-10, 10-12, & 12-14)
- \*Socks & underwear for both boys & girls
- \*Insulated gloves for both boys & girls size XS, S, M and L
- \*Winter boots and snow pants are always needed

We appreciate all donations for keeping the LM students warm.

Just bring these items to the Festival of Trees and hang on the Community Tree. *Thank you, Festival of Trees Committee*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/Communion**

**Wednesday, December 24, 2025 ~ 5:30 PM**

**Everyone is welcome to attend.**

**Festival of Trees Tear Down:** December 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

*Please vacuum the area around your tree after your tree is down. Festival of Trees Committee will not be responsible for any damage or loss.*

---

**FINANCIAL BOOKS:** Please note that the financial books of Bethany will close on **Monday, December 29, 2025**. If you want an offering to be recorded on your 2025 financial statement, please submit to Bethany Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 151, Laurens, IA 50554 or Shirley Pedersen, 525 Allen Street, Laurens, IA 50554 before the above date. *Thank you for your cooperation.*

**ANNUAL REPORT:** Please have your reports, typed and ready to the church office by **January 6, 2026** so that we can prepare and send and/or hand out the 2025 Annual Report a few days before the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 25, 2026.

*Thank you, Bethany Lutheran Church Council*

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

*Bethany Lutheran Church's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following our worship service on Sunday, January 25, 2026*



\*\*\*\*\*

Laurens Congregate Meals: 272 N 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **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.***

\*\*\*\*\*

### **STEWARDSHIP 2025**

November giving goal: \$14,750.00

November giving: \$6,958.30

Year-to-date goal: \$141,600.00

Year-to-date giving: \$108,941.91

**SHORT: -\$32,658.09**

\$29,000.00 Funds taken from Farm Acct/Edmonds Fund 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Laurens Food Pantry donations needed:**



\*Baking Mix (pancake and/or bisquick)

\*Juice, Jelly, Cereal

\*Mixed Fruit, Applesauce, Pears

\*Corn, Diced Tomatoes

\*Spaghetti Noodles, Elbow Macaroni

\*Taco Shells (Hard & Soft) & Taco Seasoning

\*Cream of Mushroom Soup

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

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

\*Our number of families using the pantry continues to grow.



\*Donations may be placed in the shopping cart downstairs in the United Methodist Educational Unit or at the Bethany Lutheran Church in Laurens or in the shopping cart at the Laurens HyVee Pharmacy.

\*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*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

[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”](#)**

\*\*\*\*\*