



¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." ¹³And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." Hebrews 2:10-13

ATTENTION: check out website 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) There are new pictures and postings on our Facebook page as well, check it out. The sheep cartoon for this week's Gospel: **Matthew 2:13-23!** 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 30, 2025

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

Thursday: January 1, 2026

Happy New Year

Saturday: January 3, 2026

8:00 AM ~ Men's Group

Sunday: January 4, 2026

Second Sunday after Christmas

9:15 AM Adult SS & Youth SS

9:30 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM ~ Worship w/Communion

Bethany Prayer Group after Worship

Decorations down after worship

Monday: December 5, 2026

4:00 PM ~ W/M Mtg.

Tuesday: December 6, 2026

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group

9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

Wednesday: January 7, 2026

7:00 PM ~ Confirmation

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 & JANUARY

*December 26-January 2 ~ *Pastor & family gone on vacation*

*December 28 ~ *NO Adult & Youth Sunday School*

10:30AM Worship

Bethany Prayer Group after worship

*December 30 ~ *8:30AM Prayer Group*

9:30AM Tuesday coffee at BLC

*January 1 ~ *Happy New Year!!!*

*January 3 ~ *8:00AM Men's Group*

*January 4 ~ *9:15AM Adult SS & Youth SS*

10:30AM Worship / Bethany Prayer Group after worship

Decorations down after worship

*January 5 ~ *4:00PM W/M Mtg.*

JANUARY: **Altar Guild** = Jean Swanson & Tammy Oxenreider

Fellowship = January 4 – Julie Dawson, Kelly & Dawn Gordon

= January 11 – Jim & Denise Hodgell, Myles & Shirley Pedersen

= January 18 – Jan Hersom, Myles & Shirley Pedersen

= January 25 – Pat Boughey, Rich & Marilyn Ehlers

Ushers = January 4 – Myles & Shirley Pedersen

- = January 11 – Rich & Marilyn Ehlers
- = January 18 – Tom & Elaine Anderson
- = January 25 – Myra Reese & Michelle Gordon

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, Pat Boughey, 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 \$ Worship Youth SS 0 Adult SS 0
Sunday School \$

Birthdays: December 29 – John Hersom; 30 – Julie Dawson; 31 – Curtis Hudson, Ashley Akridge; January 1 – Camille Roberts

Anniversary:

***NOISY OFFERING ~ \$123.71 was collected 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.

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

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 6th through December 28th. 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*

Festival of Trees Tear Down: *December 30th & 31st 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 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.

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.

[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”](#)

Address for Pat Boughey:

Yunker Rehabilitation Center
Iowa Lutheran Hospital
700 E University Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50316
Attn: Pat Boughey ~ Room 405

Address for Ken Boughey:

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

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*
