



**Bethany**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*North American Lutheran Church*



The BANNER

MAY 2019

Dear Disciples,

There come times in this pastoral ministry when I am at wits end, even after much prayer and reflection about where to go with a sermon. But God is gracious and gives you what you need and when you need it. God's timing is perfect! God gives you the sermon that needs to be preached.

One of these occasions came during the Easter of 2009. It had been an extremely busy Lenten season. We even had a funeral for one of our saints during the week of Lent five. After the service was over the family had left a potted purple blooming flower plant in the sanctuary. I had known that the wife had desired to take that particular plant home so that she could replant it in her flower bed. I had moved it to the hallway of the church before Palm Sunday and there it sat. It stayed there all through Holy Week in that darkened hallway and I bet you imagine what happened to it. When I saw it on the Saturday morning before Easter, the blooms had dried up, and the leaves were withering. It was not the pretty potted plant it had been 11 days earlier. I felt pretty bad about it.

Luckily our altar guild people had come to prepare the altar and chancel area for Easter. I showed one of the ladies the plant and she said, "If you just water it and put it out in the sun it should perk up." I followed her instructions and by the middle of the afternoon the plant was completely revived. Since I was also struggling with an Easter sermon, God had given it to me in the plant. Can't you just see death and resurrection and new life in the story of this flowering plant?

In our baptism into "Christ we were baptized into His death. We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of Life." Romans 6:3,4

Through Christ's resurrection at Easter we have hope in eternal life. Christ's resurrection also has significance on our lives as disciples today and while we are still on our earthly journey. Let this plant that died and came back to life be a metaphor for us in our faith walk. Unless we are regularly fed by God's Word, unless we draw close to God in prayer, unless we gather with the community of faith for worship weekly, we begin to take on a rather unhealthy demeanor.

People who engage in these disciplines are truly blessed, even in the midst of hardships. Churches made up with people who do this are blessed with peace, harmony and unity in God's mission. Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are branches. The one who remains in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

I personally hope that you can do great things in Christ, and Bethany Lutheran is able to do great things in Christ. It will happen if we abide in Christ.

And yes, the wife of the man who the funeral was for was in worship on Easter morning at the 10:30 service and she received her planted totally revived and she was thankful.

Joyfully Abiding with Christ,

Pastor David

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Laurens Community Youth Group Board Meeting

The meeting opened with prayer and six members present: Angie Christensen, Angie Sobotka, Tammy Oxenreider, Pastor Dave Klappenbach, Thaine Hopkins and Linda Bieri

The previous minutes were approved.

The financial report was approved. The three member churches have paid their \$300 bi annual donation. The beef burger meal netted \$1425. Our check book balance is \$9315. Financially, we are ok.

Fundraising will continue with the Easter Sunrise breakfast and Laurens Fun Days in July.

The Haiti trip will be June 10-16.

A local mission trip may be planned for summer.

Attendance remains around 30 faithful kids between the high school and junior high students.

May 5<sup>th</sup> is the last scheduled youth group night for this school year.

Our next meeting will be August 18<sup>th</sup> @ 5 p.m. UMC.

Christian Ed meeting April 9, 2019 5 p.m.

Present: Tammy, Becky, Linda G., Pastor Dave, Linda B.

Palm Sunday rehearsal will be at 9 a.m. April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Our final Sunday school program will be on Graduation Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>. We will also have a potluck.

Adult Sunday school will be April 28<sup>th</sup>, May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>. In August there will be a Pastor's Study one night during the week and in the fall adult Sunday school will begin Sept 9<sup>th</sup>.

The general meeting for the Bethany Woman's group will be April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 11:30. There is a signup sheet for food on the bulletin board.

Community News:

Kid's Club final meeting is April 11 with a pizza party. We are very pleased to have sixteen kids who have attended.

Community Youth Group report: Lutherans will provide food April 28<sup>th</sup> at UMC, and provide food and sponsors for May 5<sup>th</sup> at Bethany. This will be their final meeting until fall.

The Youth Group Board will meet April 14<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. at UMC.

Community Vacation Bible school will be June 3 to 7. Registration forms will be put in the bulletins and Banner.

Our next meeting will be August 12<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.



**Request to Provide Altar Flowers for 2018**

If you wish to provide altar flowers for church during 2018, please complete this form. Please place it in the offering plate or mail it to: Bertha Olson, 521 E. Main St. #108, 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 Bertha Olson, 841-4394, if you have any questions.

## Coffee Fellowship & Potluck

### May 5

1. Don & Shirley Kruse (CP)
2. Dorothy Sandvig
3. Doug & Becky Baker

### May 12

1. John & Marcy Runneberg (CP)
2. Eloise & Dean Armstrong
3. Doug & Becky Baker

### May 19

1. John & Marcy Runneberg (CP)
2. Eloise & Dean Armstrong
3. Doug & Becky Baker

### May 26

1. John & Marcy Runneberg (CP)
2. Shirley Mc Kiernan
3. Doug & Becky Baker

CP = Chairpersons

**May Alter Guild-Shirley Kruse & Eloise Armstrong**

Happy Spring from the Laurens Area Food Pantry Crew! Although winter was long and cold, we have been busy shelving donations from our community! Positech employees, Jack Links employees, Bieri & Christiansen Dental Office, local churches and school, Boy

Scouts, and many individuals have left donations in the cart. If your business or group donates to us, please let me know so we can thank you. We have received monetary donations from Pro Coop, Land o' Lakes, a Bridge Group, and many individuals. We are truly blessed!

We continue to serve an average of 25 families per month with approximately 75 actual persons. Some families use our help for a few rough months, some families use our help when first getting settled, some families need us when extra expenses pop up, and other families need our help each month to make ends meet. We are always asked what is needed and this is our list of most needed goods:

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS: laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper, bar soap, body wash, toothpaste

CANNED GOODS: tomato, vegetable, chicken noodle, cream of mushroom/chicken soups, pork & beans, Mandarin oranges, pineapple, carrots, green beans, corn, canned chicken and canned tuna.

STAPLES: sugar & flour(5 lbs or less size), pancake mix, syrup

We purchase much of our food from THE FOOD BANK OF IOWA in bulk, but these items either are not available at all or not always available to us when our order date comes up. We use our monetary donation for these purchases and local purchases.

We are concerned that our seniors may not be aware of our service. A single person or family of 2 can use our pantry monthly or as needed. Our mission is help our clients STRETCH their food dollars. Clients are limited to 1 visit per month.

I want to say a BIG thank you to our volunteers also! They came out on those cold, snowy days to open the pantry and unload the truck! You guys are great!

Wendy Hopkins, Coordinator

There will be a Bridal Card shower honoring Naree Whang, Bride-to-be of James Alstott. Cards may be sent to the First Christian Church, 324 W. Section Line Road, Laurens, IA or given to Carolyn Alstott at HyVee Drug Store in Laurens by May 19<sup>th</sup>

## Bethany Women's NALC General Meeting April 27, 2019 Minutes

Thirteen members met Saturday at 9 for brunch. Pastor Dave led devotions based on Acts 9:36 about works of mercy and love through Dorcas and now through us.

We thank all who provided the food for our bodies, the planning for the meeting and the meditation for our souls.

Becky led the meeting, Linda summarized the previous minutes, and Shirley Kruse reported \$431.15 in the treasury balance.

Becky read an invitation for May 1<sup>st</sup> to the women's meeting in Gilmore City and invited anyone who could go to ride with her next Wednesday.

May 10<sup>th</sup> we will host the Laurens Women's Club brunch. Shirley K. asked for volunteers to help.

Discussion was held on the card ministry. We will have the first monthly card making class Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6 p.m. We will co-ordinate with Dorothy Smith for card recipients.

Most of our time was spent planning the fall Women's Regional Retreat salad luncheon. The date was set for September 21<sup>st</sup>. A committee signup sheet was passed around. We will have a planning meeting in August for this event. The money will go 1/3 to the NACL mission fund, 1/3 to our women's general fund, and 1/3 to missions in this area.

We still need to set up a day to clean the kitchen. Becky asked if anyone had extra baking sheets, we need some in the kitchen as we have none. We will continue to have our monthly general planning meetings in the spring and fall.

We solicited help and food for the Laurens area Youth Groups final two meetings.

May 16<sup>th</sup> the Women's Bible Study groups will meet and continue the third Thursday of the month. Sola Publishing study material sources are listed in the NALC Women's newsletter, copies available in the fellowship hall.

Becky will check into the lap robe ministry for the veterans at Knoxville or Marshalltown. We are interested in croqueting or knitting lap robes.

We will need to consider who can replace Dorothy Sandvig for Meals on Wheels committee chair for Bethany, as Dorothy will be retiring from that position after multiple years of serving as coordinator.

We appreciate all who attended on this snowy Saturday in April. We will continue to pray for God's guidance as we as Women of the NALC live our lives of faithful disciples.

**HAVE A SAFE**

**MEMORIAL DAY**

**WEEKEND**

## GROWTH & SHARING COMMITTEE

### THANK YOU...THANK YOU

Thank you Bethany members for your generous support at our BBQ Fundraiser held on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, with your time, labor, food & donations. You provided families with hope for the future! Our attendance was 53 people and donations equaled \$696.21. Including Thrivent Funds, a total of \$829 will be sent by Bethany's check to LWR!! WOW!! The decision by the committee was made to use these funds for a "Herd of 13 animals; 2 smokeless cookstoves; a "lasting source of milk & eggs (goats, hens, chicks)"; plus \$9 shipping fees. (Please see photos on bulletin board.) God Blessed our endeavor with many willing workers, their time, & their energy. THANK YOU to each of you who in anyway made this fundraiser a successful labor of love! A special THANK YOU to John & Marci Runneberg for being the chef and donating the meat! DELICIOUS! Each & everyone of you is appreciated!


*Thanks again & God's Blessings, the Growth & Sharing Committee*

Linda Galbraith, Liz Klappenbach, & Shirley Pedersen met Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

We welcomed Liz to our committee with new ideas & thoughts for our committee. Our main focus was the expenditure of the \$829 received April 28<sup>th</sup>. See that decision above. First, we packed 102 bars of soap (plus 8 bars in kits). We weighed the 5 boxes, which will be delivered to Spencer on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. These boxes contain 8 school bags, 2 baby kits, & the soap. In August/September, we plan to collect school supplies for Laurens-Marathon School. November/December will be the Adopt-a-Family UDMO Program. Perhaps, a mitten/hat tree. Later this year, will be discussions on 2020 projects.



MAY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>Bethany Lutheran Church Fellowship/Coffee- 9:30 Adult SS- 9:15 Youth SS- 9:30 Worship-10:30</p>		1	2	3	4 9:30-11:30 Bridal shower for Samantha Davies
<p>5 New Member Sunday 5:00-VBS Mtg @UMC 6:00-Youth Group (JH &amp; HS) @ BLC</p>	<p>6 4:00 Worship &amp; Music Mtg 7:00-Handbell Rehearsal</p>	<p>7 7:30-Prayer Group</p>	<p>8 7:00-Council Mtg</p>	9	10	11
12	13	<p>14 7:30-Prayer Group</p>	15	16	17	18
<p>19 10:30-Worship, w/communion, SS final program, honor Graduated 11:30- Potluck</p>	<p>20 7:00-Handbell Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 7:30-Prayer Group</p>	22	23	24	25
<p>26 Worship begins @ 9:00AM</p>	<p>27 Memorial Day Program @ Cemetary</p> <p><b>MEMORIAL DAY</b></p>	<p>28 7:30-Prayer Group</p>	29	30	31	