

patience
kindness peace
self-control goodness joy
love gentleness

faithfulness

BETHANY BULLETIN

5.20.2020

FAITHFULNESS.

This week has presented two examples of faithfulness that are encouraging and inspiring. Faithfulness is most notably a trait of God. Throughout the Psalms, David highlights the faithfulness of God, using words like enduring and steadfast. "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. *His love endures forever*" (Ps 136:1). God faithfully extends and assures us of His great love for us. 1 John 1:9 describes God as faithful in His forgiveness. While we often struggle to forgive, God faithfully forgives us as we confess that need.

Galatians 5 includes faithfulness in the fruit of the Spirit, and this week I am reminded of this trait within God's people. The Deacons have continued to meet as needed to count the offerings given. While this season in our lives has been fraught with uncertainty, the Deacons have recorded and reported that the giving remains consistent and generous. This is faithfulness. I am encouraged by the faithful giving of this body of believers, especially during a time characterized by financial and all kinds of uncertainty.

The other example of faithfulness this week is that of a specific individual. A man faithful in service to God for nearly 50 years, Ravi Zacharias was born and raised in India, encountered Christ as a confused and suicidal teen, and from that point, he never looked back. He was faithful in proclaiming the Good News of God's glory and grace until his death on Tuesday. He was 74. Ravi's intellect and God's plan paved the way for Ravi to speak before kings, in nearly every country, and on campuses the world over.

These two, you and Ravi, are examples of faithfulness and are a great source of encouragement to me! May the grace and peace of our Lord be with you.

Matt Will

Bethany Church

Reach. Serve. Love.



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 9:30AM
222 MAIN STREET N | CLARA CITY MN
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 687
320.847.3322

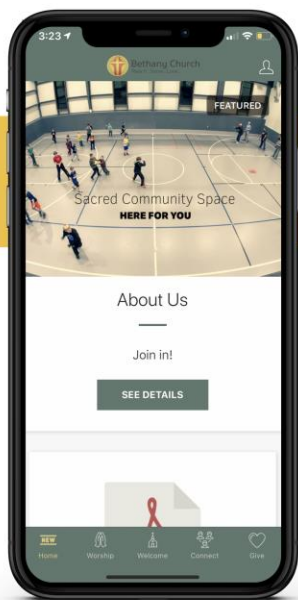
Office email : bethany@hcinet.net

Bethany Prayer Chain email : info@bethanychurch-mn.com

[Give | Bethany Church - MN](#)

Anyone who would like a DVD of the services or know of someone who would like to receive one call the church office at 847-3322 or send an email to bethany@hcinet.net.

BETHANY DIRECTORY. <https://mobiledirectory.lifetouch.com/158305/bethany-reformed-church>
Access code is BRC20. The information can also be changed. If your contact information and anything else in your listing has changed, please contact the church office at 847-3322 or email at bethany@hcinet.net



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NEWS

ADOPT A HIGHWAY

Bethany recently renewed its Adopt a Highway segment on Hwy 23 near Priam. We have two miles of road ditch that we are responsible for maintaining and the expectation is that we will do this twice a year. Adopt a Highway was shut down until May 18, but ditch picks can resume statewide now that the Stay at Home Order has expired. Participants have a brief training before, and are expected to maintain some basic guidelines during the pick. Participants must be 12 years of age or older. Minors through age 17 are required to have parental consent. Forms will be provided to those who sign up. Currently, groups of 10 or less are permitted to go out. Please email the church at info@bethanychurch-mn.com to sign up or request more information. A Saturday in June is likely to be our first scheduled outing.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE & INFORMATION

May 24	Online service: Memorial Day Weekend
May 31	Online service: Graduation Sunday / Pentecost
June 1	Church Office opens and returns to full staffing
June 7	Return to worship at Bethany: 9:30 AM

Yes, you read that right! The Leadership Committee has decided that the first Sunday in June will be our first opportunity to return to in person gatherings. This date of course is “penciled in.” If there are any new developments that would call a return gathering into question, Leadership will consider pushing the date back. By June 7, we will have had nearly three weeks to become more comfortable with easing back toward a sense of normalcy and the state will have undoubtedly continued the movement of dials toward resuming normal social interactions.

Online services, such as Facebook Livestream will continue to be available. *Those who are sick must stay home and those who remain at higher risk in any way are strongly encouraged to remain home and enjoy services online.* Attendance, as always, is optional. Commonsense social distance & interactions will be the expectation of our return. For the first few weeks, we will likely refrain from congregational singing, hand shaking, passing offering plates, communion, children gathering up front, and the like. There will be limited access to hallways, rooms, etc. and no social gathering in the Hub after the service. Sanitizer stations will be provided and for those wearing masks, please bring one with you from home. Masks are encouraged, but the church will not be providing masks. Sanitizing and cleaning of high traffic areas will be increased.

NEWS (cont.)

During the week and business hours, office staff would appreciate respectful social distancing. Please refrain from congregating in confined spaces and hovering around desks, particularly in the front office. Continue to maintain the guideline of 6 feet distancing for office interactions.

Stay tuned to future Bulletins, Facebook, website, etc. for updates.

PRAYER

- ✝ Herman Brouwer, Bruce Hinrichs, Roger Feldman, Ruth Johnson,
Deanna Meints, Lori Petersen, Cindy Plowman, Milt Wubben
- ✝ 2020 Graduates & Care Center Residents

CALENDAR

Monday, June 15

- 7:00 PM Deacons & Elders Meeting
- 8:00 PM Consistory Meeting

WORSHIP NOTES

"See, God has come to save me. I will trust in him and not be afraid. The LORD GOD is my strength and my song; He has given me victory." Isaiah 12:2

On June 7th, we are planning on our first gathering after 11 weeks of worshipping in our own small, family circles viewing our devices. While I am grateful for technology, we are not meant to do this life alone. Thank you to our Leadership Committee for taking this step. As we prepare, we plan with care, caution and a dose of JOY! I'd like to invite the volunteers back on board, whether it be sound, projector, video, instruments, or vocals. I will be working on this schedule in the next few weeks, and you are welcome to contact me if there is a Sunday where you would like to serve. Looking forward to seeing all of you again . . . soon.

YOUTH NEWS

Rocky Mountain High was postponed till July 31- August 4th, 2021. As we jump back into planning once again for Rocky Mountain High it may look a bit different. Since the Synod usually plans Rocky out 10 years in advance to get over 3,000 beds for the registrants to sleep on this next 2021 Rocky they will not be able to get that number of beds. So, as we move forward as a Synod group, they will first take registrations from the current class of Sophomores and Juniors, since the Senior class has already gone and the Freshman class will have another chance to go in 2023. While this is sad, I am happy that every class will have an opportunity to get to go to Rocky at least once in their high school career. For those of you that gave checks to the youth group for Rocky fees you will be receiving them back in the next 2 weeks through the mail.

Our last zoom youth group for the year will be May 20. On the 27th I am planning a picture scavenger hunt around Clara City. Parents, you will be getting a letter from me about this event and will need to fill out a special permission form for your student to attend this scavenger hunt. I want everyone to know that this is an optional event, I can't stress that enough. I know that we have a good size youth group and that many people have different options about their comfort level of gathering. I also know that if I left it only up to the youth they would gather, but Parents I want you to make the final call as to where your family feels comfortable at this point. If you have questions after receiving my letter in the mail please feel free to call me with any concerns 320-905-4313. If I am not able to answer you call please leave a message and I will call you back, I want to address your concerns, because I truly care about the safety and well-being of your young adult.

Baccalaureate is in process and will be recorded for viewership. While this will not be a live situation it is great that we can send our Senior's off like we have for so many classes in years past. Please check the Bethany website for information as to where it will be posted for those outside of the senior class to see, seniors you will be notified individually where it will be posted.

This Summer we will be offering again Leaders on the Horizon (LOH) or all current high school students. LOH is a fun Bible study that will have a weekly meeting for an hour where we discuss topics like: your spiritual gifts, prayer, worship, integrity, compassion and much more. When we have done LOH in years past it was highly successful and those that committed to going through it were blessed. If you would like to receive more information about LOH please let me know, there is a "application / commitment / expectations" form that you will be asked to fill out. This will be well worth your time and effort. We will be holding LOH in groups of no more than 8 so sign the earlier you contact me the better chance you have to be in a group. Time of meeting's will be decided by the group.

JUNE

Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 Paul & Angie Beck | 20 Russ & Marcia Onnen |
| 4 Joel & Deb Folkerts | 20 Paul & Krista Childers |
| 5 Harvey & LaRae Koenen | 20 Ivan & Emily Paz |
| 7 Dan & Nikki Niemeyer | 22 Justin & Kara Dirksen |
| 8 Bryan & Kristi Caspers | 22 Ernest & Mary Ellen Folkerts |
| 8 Jim & Gloria Hilbrands | 23 Allen & Deanna Stutelberg |
| 8 Jerry & Lois Kluver | 24 Leonard & Lorraine Fokken |
| 10 Roger & Susan Sweep | 25 Marlin & Dianne Ammermann |
| 12 Kurt & Maria Koenen | 25 Terry & Renae Epema |
| 15 Aaron & Shannon Ahrenholz | 28 Al & Lois Ahrenholz |
| 17 Ed & Pam Zurn | 30 Lee & Carin Hagemeyer |
| 18 John & Brenda Madsen | |
| 19 Mark & Kathy Lalim | |

Birthdays

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Dalen Caspers | 12 Shawn Koenen | 20 Nikki Niemeyer |
| 1 Rick Sommers | 12 Hudson Nord | 21 Lorraine Fokken |
| 2 Erma Andresen | 12 Amanda Pauling | 23 Janet Asche |
| 3 Dylan Dirksen | 12 Carly Hagemeyer | 25 Joel Folkerts |
| 3 Amber Wieberdink | 12 Arron Enger | 25 Whitney Nelson |
| 4 Geneva Grussing | 13 Harlis Emkes | 25 Elaine Vreeman |
| 5 Vera Rozeboom | 13 Todd Henker | 26 Dawn Johnson |
| 5 Pam Knapper | 14 Allan Meints | 28 Deb Stutelberg |
| 5 Amy Grussing | 14 Paige Schwitters | 28 Braxtin Hinrichs |
| 6 Kurt Koenen | 14 Katherine Schwitters | 29 Clarice Ammermann |
| 7 Marie Jansen | 14 Tia Schwitters | 30 Chuck DeGrote |
| 7 Kash Bourne | 14 Haley Abbas | 30 Donna Barney |
| 7 Kooper Bourne | 14 Caitlyn Buss | |
| 7 Isaac Strommer | 14 Blakely Wrede | |
| 8 Darren Melin | 15 Chuck Ammermann | |
| 8 Barry Schwitters | 15 Kathryn Klinghagen | |
| 10 Marcia Hanson | 15 Karen Bulthuis | |
| 10 Dale Petersen | 16 Julie Boonstra | |
| 11 Brad Hebrink | 16 Jack Boonstra | |
| 11 Paul Koenen | 18 Dennis Boike | |
| 12 Roger Sweep | 18 Janet Sweep | |
| 12 Ben Henker | 18 Mason Ashburn | |