

## LET'S PRAY

For the last several weeks the focus of our Sunday morning messages have been on prayer. Ephesians 3, right in the middle, Paul says a prayer. We are now at the end, chapter 6, and the famous armor of God. Well, again, Paul's culminating words are about prayer. He starts multiple sentences with the nudge to "Pray..."

Prayer is the most basic practice of the Christian life, and yet, it is often neglected. A man once interviewed many pastors. What he found was that prayer was far too often, their most neglected task. For some reason, prayer gets bumped down on the list of priorities when life gets busy. But not for the apostle Paul. He knew it was central, and as he wraps up his picture of the armor God, he presents prayer as the most powerful weapon in our cosmic battle.

He says at least three things about prayer in these final words. [1] Pray all the time. "Pray in the Spirit with all kinds of prayers and requests." I think this one gets us. It often gets me. Our tendency is to pray most in times of crises and trouble. But if we are to find daily strength, we can't leave prayer for just the tough times. Paul says pray all the time. This is communing with God and walking in God's sustaining life during trouble, during joy and during the mundane. [2] Prayer really needs to be serious. In verse 18 there, Paul says to "be alert." In Ephesians 3:14 Paul says he kneels before the Father. Prayer is serious because prayer is communing in conversation with God. That is not lightly done, it is heavy. And the spiritual battle that rages demands heavy, intense petition. [3] Prayer connects the body of Christ, the Church. Paul's third note on prayer is that the prayers of the church would not simply be inward, individual prayers, but that we would be praying for each other, all the saints. We can easily default to an inward prayer life, "Lord, help me." Over and over. Me. Me. We need that, but we also need each other. Paul asks the church to pray for all the saints.



May we act on Paul's words about prayer and pray on all occasions, pray with alertness and intensity, and pray for each other. We need each other and we all need the presence, peace and power of God's Spirit abiding in us.

Let's pray.

*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](mailto:bethany@hcinet.net)

Bethany Prayer Chain email : [info@bethanychurch-mn.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bethany@hcinet.net)

WELCOME  
HOME

Text "**BRC APP**" to 77977  
to download our app



# SUNDAY GATHERINGS

*“Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing...” Heb 10:25*

## Directives

***Due to the recent statewide mandate on masks, Bethany will have disposable masks available, but will not be regulating or managing their use.***

Hand sanitizer is provided.

NO nursery or Children’s Church.

NO gathering in The Hub after the service.

Offering plates are set out at the back of the sanctuary.

Please exit the sanctuary after the service and visit outside.

Maintain proper distances while entering & exiting the sanctuary.

Please be seated in family groups and social distanced from others.

Remain in primary gathering spaces; sanctuary, entrance and bathrooms.

Singing is great! But not required.

If you are feeling sick or are anxious about returning, please remain at home and join in on our FACEBOOK PAGE LIVESTREAM

## Directives for Gym Use

Please follow the 3 S’s for GYM USE: SCHEDULE / SUPERVISE / SANITIZE

— Please call the church office, or stop in to schedule a time so there are no conflicts

— Staff or an adult supervisor must be present

— Sanitize equipment used

See our website for more info? <https://www.bethanychurch-mn.com/gym-use-questions>

# NEWS

Bethany delivers **MEALS ON WHEELS** in September--- if you are interested in volunteering the signup sheet is by the church office bulletin board. Open days....14-18, 21-25, and 28-30.

**Looking for teachers for Wednesday night church!** This year both boys and girls will come together to create a combined class for each grade 1<sup>st</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup>. We have had some volunteers but are still in need of more. If you don't feel you want to commit to teaching, but would like to be a substitute, we are looking for some of those too! If interested please contact Jaclyn Sunderland via phone or text at 507-829-9619.

**Join us Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am – 1:30 pm at Almich's Market.**  
**TAKE OUT Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips & water. Free will donations for the Clara City Lions Community Projects.**

## **Raymond United Methodist Fall Fundraiser**

This year, due to the pandemic, we won't be holding our normal Fall Bazaar. Instead, we are taking orders for Lefse and Broccoli Cheese Soup. Orders may be placed by calling Kim at 320-295-6510; Char at 320-967-4184 or 320-444-4915 and Kay at 320-894-3664 before October 1. Lefse is \$5/package of three; Broccoli Cheese Soup is \$3/16-ounce container. Orders ready to pick up Nov. 7 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

# C ALENDAR

## Profession of Faith.

Thank you to the students who shared faith statements at the last Elders meeting. You were a blessing to all us. For those who have completed their Profession of Faith statement and met with the Elders, **Sunday, September 13** will be the service of Profession during our 9:30 AM morning service. Please bring your written profession, and be prepared to share briefly.

This year's class includes:

- ✝ Hailey Ann Berghuis
- ✝ Morgan Jo Blascziek
- ✝ Eli Garret DuHoux
- ✝ Tommy Jay Hoekstra
- ✝ Alison Elaine Koenen
- ✝ Ashley Marie Levitz
- ✝ Carter Lee Tomes
- ✝ Carter Daniel Wrede

**Third Graders will receive their Bibles Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**BETHANY REFORMED CHURCH** will be having our *Annual Fall Benefit Supper* on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 7 pm.

**Take-Out Turkey Dinner**...drive thru the alley to pick up your meals.

All proceeds will go towards the Clara City Ambulance,  
Clara City Fire Department & Clara City Aquatic Center.

***Come & pick up a good meal!***

# PRAYER

## PRAYERS for STRENGTH & HEALING

- † Students, Teachers and Administrators back to school
- † Care Center & Assisted Living Residents
- † Job Seekers during this time of uncertainty & heightened layoffs
- † Our national anxiety and unrest to coronavirus & race relations
- † Bruce Hinrichs
- † Ruth Johnson
- † Deanna Meints
- † Cindy Plowman
- † Milt Wubben
- † Ardis Gerdes is doing well after double knee surgery and is now home & recovering.
- † LaRae Koenen is recovering well after surgery last week.
- † Arvid Wieberdink is recovering from hip surgery at the Rice Therapy Suites.
- † Craig & Ardis Dirksen invite prayers for healing and strength, they have been fighting the coronavirus the last couple weeks.
- † Rose Epema has returned home from the Montevideo Hospital and along with Merle and the whole family, they extend gratitude to all who have faithfully prayed for help and healing.

# WORSHIP NOTES

*"I only ask one thing from the LORD. This is what I want: Let me live in the LORD's house all my life."*

Psalm 27:4

THANK you to all those who have managed the sound and projector throughout the month of August! We appreciate you . . . and loved your willing, servant hearts!

**Sound:** Lee Hagemeyer, Jerry Schwitters, Scott Tomes and our new young aspiring sound techs: Landin Ahrenholz, Benny Miller, and Garrett Struxness

**Projector:** Nikki Niemeyer, Brenda Schwitters, Megan Struxness, and new to the task - Willie Miller

Opportunities to serve in **September** . . . Know you are welcome! Contact Pam if you are interested in the either of the above areas or are interested in singing.

**Have a favorite song? Text Pam at 320.841.0136**

# YOUTH NEWS

**Leadership Bible Study** will meet on August 30<sup>th</sup>. We will be off on September 6<sup>th</sup> and resume again on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth Group** will start on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August. We will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August, but take the 9<sup>th</sup> off because of the Bethany Benefit, this year we will not need youth helpers, because of how the meals will be pre-boxed and served out of the alley way. Youth make sure you remember to bring your own lawn chair with pads on all 4 corners to the gym when we meet (remember we are meeting in the gym not youth room). If you have questions please feel free to call Todd at 320-905-4313. All 7<sup>th</sup> graders should have received a letter in the mail, if you did not please make sure you contact Todd.

**Small groups:** we will be starting up small groups again this fall. Our first small group will be on the 16<sup>th</sup> so look for information from your small group leader as to where you will be meeting this year. 7<sup>th</sup> graders we will discuss this a bit more at your first meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday school will start on the September 13<sup>th</sup>!!**

**Wednesday night programs (other than youth group) will start on September 16<sup>th</sup>!!**

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK FORM

Our goal is to provide a safe environment for our members & students, and to advance the safety of our local community. This document provides information we ask you to acknowledge and understand regarding the COVID-19 virus.

The COVID-19 virus is a serious and highly contagious disease. The World Health Organization has classified it as a pandemic. You could contract COVID-19 from a variety of sources.

The COVID-19 virus has a long incubation period. You may have the virus and not show symptoms and yet still be highly contagious. Determining who is infected by COVID-19 is challenging and complicated due to limited availability of virus testing.

Due to the number of people, and the characteristics of the virus, there is a risk of you contracting the virus simply by being in a public place.

***Please stay home if:***

***Do you have a fever or above normal temperature?***

***Have you experienced shortness of breath or had trouble breathing?***

***Do you have a dry cough?***

***Do you have a runny nose?***

***Have you recently lost or had a reduction in your sense of smell?***

***Do you have a sore throat?***

***Have you been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?***

***Have you tested positive for COVID-19?***

***Have you been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting results?***

***Have you traveled outside the United States by air or cruise ship in the past 14 days?***

***Have you traveled within the United States by air, bus or train within the past 14 days?***

***Have you or a family member been sent home from school/work or did not attend in the past 14 days?***

I confirm that I have read the Notice above and understand and accept that there is an increased risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus at church. I understand and acknowledge that I could also contract COVID-19 virus outside of this church in circumstances unrelated to my visit here.

I have read and understand the information stated above:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# SEPTEMBER

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## Anniversaries

- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Mark & Cindy Plowman       | 9 Keith & JoHannah Klinghagen |
| 2 Kevin & LeAnn Groen        | 10 Terry & Laurie Vreeman     |
| 3 Dale & Janet Asche         | 11 Shawn & Naomi Koenen       |
| 3 Ken & Emma Koenen          | 12 Troy & Janet Sweep         |
| 5 Gary & Cheri Aeikens       | 12 Jonathan & Amy Grussing    |
| 5 Leonard & Sharon Hilbrands | 12 Harlan & Diane Ruiters     |
| 5 Steve & Jana Slagter       | 18 Greg & Kristie Rhode       |
| 6 Stan & Faye Harms          | 23 Nate & Tara Hebrink        |
| 7 Jeff & Darla Koenen        | 27 Kyle & Daniela Goeman      |

## Birthdays

- |                     |                     |                      |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Angie Zimmer      | 14 Shane Nord       | 25 Eunice Hinrichs   |
| 2 Vern Seeman       | 16 Talen Niemeyer   | 25 Kyle Poppen       |
| 3 Sadie Koenen      | 16 Kim Boike        | 26 Paulene Ammermann |
| 4 Ernest Folkerts   | 17 Verna Janssen    | 26 Nate Bourne       |
| 5 Noah Johnson      | 18 Diann Dirksen    | 27 Steven Andresen   |
| 7 Tim Sandry        | 20 Levi Koenen      | 27 Ashley Dirksen    |
| 10 Rhett Pauling    | 21 Dennis Erickson  | 28 Braden Hoekstra   |
| 10 Stephanie Miller | 22 Jim Hilbrands    | 28 Tara Hebrink      |
| 11 John DuHoux      | 22 Allen Stutelberg | 30 Mark Satre        |
| 12 Sharon Hilbrands | 23 John Arends      | 30 Olivia Ruiters    |
| 14 Al Ahrenholz     | 23 Angie Beck       | 30 LeAnn Nord        |