BETHANY Lutheran Church

Pentecost 7 July 16, 2023

WELCOME TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you as we gather to hear God's holy Word and celebrate the meal of Holy Communion. We are blessed by your presence. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome all God's people to be together in Christ – to love, to grow, and to serve.

Should you have no church home, you are invited to consider Bethany. If you have questions for the pastor or church office, please call at 630.879.3444 or visit our website at www.bethanybatavia.org. Welcome!

Assistance in Worship

For those who find it difficult to stand or prefer to sit during any part of the service, please feel free to remain seated.

Children's Resources

Children's worship bulletins are available in the narthex and from the ushers.

Nursery

While not staffed, the nursery is open for parents who may find it helpful. The nursery is located on the sanctuary level, where you will find a changing table, rocking chair and some toys. You can still hear the worship service through a speaker in the room. Ask an usher if you need assistance.

Cell Phones and Pagers

Please silence all cell phones and pagers. Thank you.

Holy Communion

In Holy Communion the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. All are invited to the table where Christ himself is host. If you desire to be baptized, or to learn more about Holy Baptism, please speak to the pastor.

As We Gather:

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE: Two settings: Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Hal H. Hopson Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all Creation.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

- P To you, O God,
- All hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.
- P By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us new birth, and through the death and resurrection of + Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. May the God of mercy and might strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal grace.
- C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

ELW #533



- O pen now thy gates of beau-ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
- Gra cious God, I come be fore thee; come thou al so un - to me;
- Here thy praise is glad ly chant-ed, here thy seed is Thou my faith in-crease and quick-en, let me keep thy du - ly sown;
- me keep thy gift di - vine;
- Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



joy - ful du - ty waits for God who where my soul in an - swers prayer. where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be. is plant-ed, bring forth pre-cious sheaves a - lone, my soul, where it how - so-e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace! is this my heart, oh. To en - ter let be thy thou, it tem - ple now! hear may fruit - ful un - to that all SO be life me. my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife. Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy P Spirit be with you all.
- And also with you. C

HYMN OF PRAISE: Salvation Belongs to Our God



Sal- va- tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for- ev- er and ev - er.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray.
 Almighty God,
 we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word.
 By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy,
 live according to it,
 and grow in faith and hope and love,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen. We sit.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial. for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

- L Word of God, word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1–11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but

(Reading continues on the next page.)

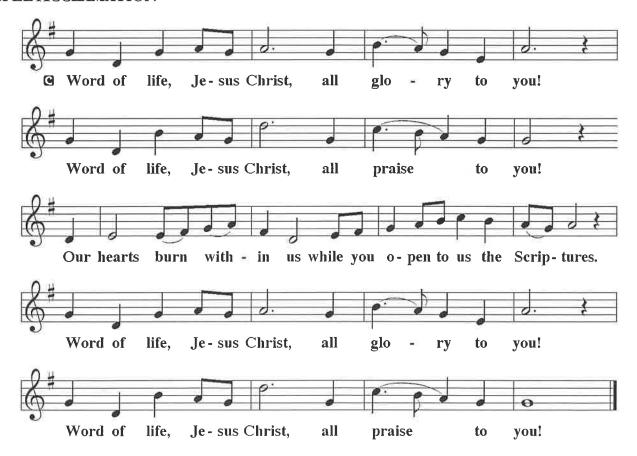
according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law — indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

- L Word of God, word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with cars listen!"

¹⁸Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

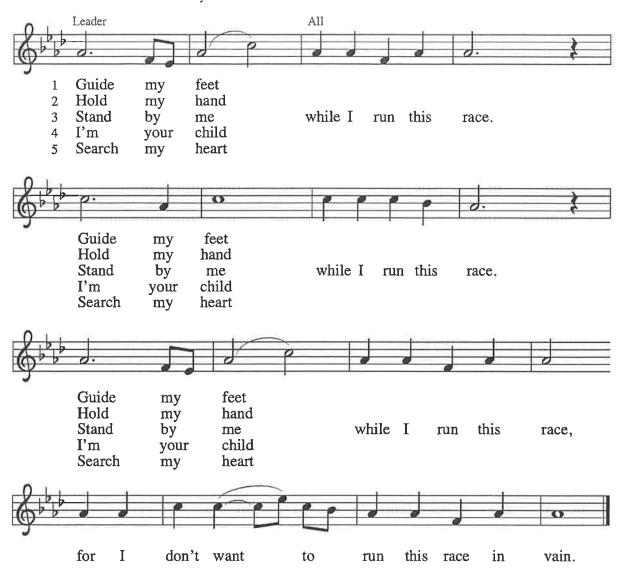
We sit.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Jeff Mikyska Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

HYMN OF THE DAY: Guide My Feet



APOSTLES' CREED

- P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

- L Guide your church, O God, to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Direct your people to proclaim your love in this congregation and throughout the world. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- L Sustain your creation, O God, by sending favorable weather, causing trees and fields to grow, protecting waterways from pollution, and instilling in all people the need to be good stewards. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- L Maintain peace among all people, O God, and raise up lawyers to work for justice in the courts, advocates to speak for the downtrodden, and politicians to work on behalf of the common good. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- L Heal those who are sick, O God. Guide health care workers to care for those who suffer, scientists to conduct lifesaving research, and counselors to care for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship, O God. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany visitors to this congregation, and nurture our faith. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- L Inspire us by the faithful departed, O God, examples of your embodied love, whose confidence in the resurrection guides us in living lives worthy of the gospel. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

+ MEAL +

PEACE OF CHRIST

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

We sit.

OFFERING VOLUNTARY: Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast Like Seed into the Ground David N. Johnson

We stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- L Let us pray. God of mercy and grace,
- C the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord, Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P .The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give God thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord.

Who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P Creating God and Loving Lord,

the heavens and the earth reflect your majesty.

The dawning of each new day brings with it the promise of new life.

Every sunrise carries the hope of grace.

Every summer rain calls forth new growth.

Every sunset beckons peace into our world.

Every night the stars and celestial bodies show off the brilliance of your artistic creativity.

And every time we gather for this meal, the human family is brought together across all times and places.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,

he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

- P These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
- C Thanks be to God.
- P All are welcome at the Lord's table. Come, for all is now ready.

We sit.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to his banquet meal.. The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper, giving us his true body and blood as food and drink. Gluten-FREE rice wafers are available upon request and for those desiring it, non-alcoholic wine cups are in the center of the truy.

MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

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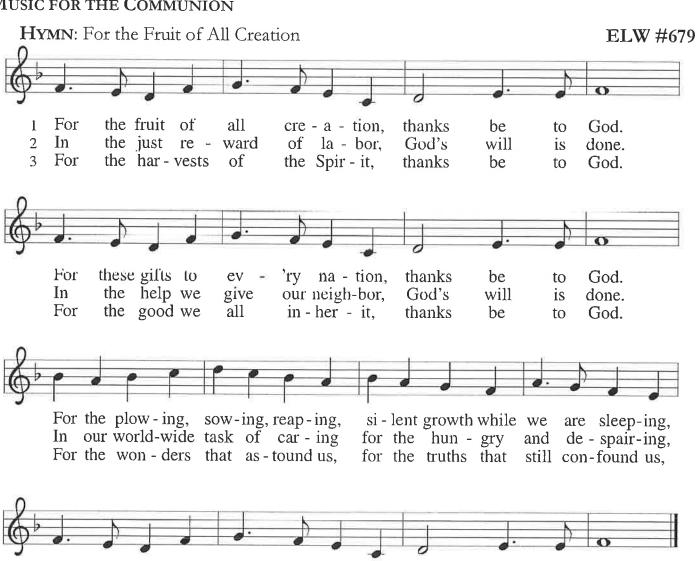
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God.



We stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

- P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.
- C Amen.
- Let us pray. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

- P The eternal Creator calls us.
 - The risen Savior sends us.
 - The dynamic Spirit empowers us.
 - Almighty God: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
- C Amen.



3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es, meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise! Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give. you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

DISMISSAL

- L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: On What Has Now Been Sown

Healey Willan



LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Jeffrey Mikyska, Presiding Minister Grace Rusev, Worship Leader Mark Waldron, Organist Dennis Schuett, Reader Todd & Ben Toles, Doug Clark, A/V Ann Holch, Julie Howard, Altar Guild Ash Herman, Michael Goro, Acolytes

Ralph Beck, Jon Habegger, Steve Deller, Ushers

Grace Rusev, Margie Schuett, Andrea Gustafson, Comm. Asst's

STAFF

Jeffrey Mikyska, Senior Pastor Mark Waldron, Director of Music Alan Spear, Organist Darlene Hutchens, Church Administrator Susan Jarocki, Administrative Assistant Emma Hess, Youth Director Ed McQuillan, Financial Secretary

YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Todd Toles, President Alan Spear, Vice President Marsha Schuster, Secretary Steve Mickelson, Treasurer Doug Bochm Karol Clark Brad Hirt Dale Howard
Billy Hutchens
Rich Kreis
Pastor Jeff Mikyska
Kathy Richmond
Mia Rusev
Lane Stahl

If you have questions or concerns for members of the Church Council you're invited to speak with them personally or via email to <u>council@bethanybatavia.org</u>.

Bethany's Vision: We are a Grace-based, people-powered, refuge for all.

Code of Conduct: At Bethany, we believe everyone should live a faithful life in service with charity, kindness and integrity, and treat others with respect and understanding, act responsibly, and serve as an example of Christian faith in action.

Liturgy Credits

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LET US PRAY...

We pray for all who are hospitalized in our greater community and for those who are serving them.

Please pray for those who are part of the life of Bethany who struggle with illness and other concerns:

Mary Bradtmueller, Diane Garland, Debbie Garrison, Shirley Grant, Deb Hruby, Anna Jackson, Karin Johnston, Luke & Diane Land, Bill Lechnick, Bob Novy, Louise Pruitt, JoAnn Sargent, George & Shirley Striedl, Pat Sullivan, Brigitte Winkler

Please pray for those who are homebound and those in a care facility:

Pat Quast Asbury Gardens

Mark Anderson Silverado Memory Care, St Charles

Lois Elfstrom Aurora, IL Dolores Hoffman Heritage Woods Bill Keele Heritage Woods Pam Klingberg Heritage Woods

Wanda Krentz Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad Mildred Miller Reserve of Geneva, Geneva

Rhonda Nelson Batavia, IL

Joan Olson Michaelsen Health Center, Holmstad

Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad Jay & Carol Wierz

Please pray for all those serving in the military, especially those who are connected to our congregation.

Owen Schuster

Please pray for our family and friends:

Maggie Prokes Friend of Bob & Sue Novy Tracy Clark Sister of Tara Shannon Joe V.

Neighbor of Bob & Kathi Gorlewski Sarah McCarthy Friend of Jan Bristow & Kathy Richmond

Sister-in-Law of Carole Benson Mary Lawrence Steven & Janice Brown & Grace Friends of Tom & Dee Schuman

Lee Peterson Friend of Dottie White Loda George Ricker Friend of Fred & Ann Holch Calvin, Diane & Family Friends of Kathy Richmond Vicki Johnson Sister-in-Law of Val Schalk

Christine Smith On the passing of her brother, Friend of Pastor Jeff & Gail Mikyska

Katie Taylor Great Niece of Ken & Judy Henschler Jane Wirth Friend of Ken & Judy Henschler

Michelle Hartzell Friend of Beth Richard

Faith Lutheran Church, Cambridge, MA (fire)

Andrea Hensley

Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry

Rick Gaston

Friend of Ann Holch Bob Gustafson

Husband of Cindy Gustafson/Father to Nate Gustafson & Janna Stahl

Colleague of Emma Hess

Jeff Hall Colleague of Emma Hess Bonnie & Jim Hines Parents of Suzanne Grashorn

Tina Motter Sister of Jackie Page Sister of Jackie Page Mary Hughs Dottie Friend of Paulette Smigo Diane Sharp Friend of Ed Schalk Lizzie Bork Friend of Julie Howard Nancy Sister of Karol Clark

Jeffrey Campbell Nephew of Nan Phillips Kate and Family Friend of John & Karol Clark Damon Schultz

Sue S. Nicole

Alice Hendrikson Maureen Scollon Pam Paszotta Chris Sidler

Lisa

Lynn Krambeer Stoddard

Heather

Gretchen VanKempema

Ryan Anderson Linda Raish Vic and Anne Lee Lynne Morrow

Kenzie

Floyd Anderson Paul Mazen Bonnie Palshis

Heather Staudacher, Dr. Mark Staudacher & family,

Phil

Kathy Dee's Family
Mary Jo Benstein's Family

Susan Sheley Bonnie Carole W. Brad Blue

Diane Ekstam Johnson Tammy English

Jerry Martin
Teri Prokes
Tony Prokes
Kelli Robertson

Wolfgang Smailus

Ed Stahl

Please pray for those who mourn the passing of:

Linda Thorson

Son-in-Law of Shyla Carbone Friend of Bob & Sue Novy Friend of Linda Sullivan

Friend of Lynn & Bill Dreymiller Friend of Lois Benson & Dottie White

Sister of Tom & Dee Schuman Friend of Luke & Diane Land

Friend of Beth Richard

Cousin of Pastor Jeff & Gail Mikyska

Friend of Schuman Family Daughter of Ann Holch Son of Aaron Anderson

Friend of Kathy Richmond & Sandy Conn

Friends of Debbie Garrison

Friend and Colleague of Pastor Jeff & Gail

Friend of Katie Robertson Beth Richard's Father

Sister-in-Law of Doug Boehm Friend/Coworker of Beth Richard

Lynn Dreymiller's brother

Teri Figura Teri Figura

Daughter of Louise Pruitt Friend of Pastor Jeff Friend of Ann & Fred Holch Friend of Lois Benson

Mother of Mary Helen Ekstam Daughter of Shirley Streidl Father of Nicki McVey Sister of Sue & Bob Novy

Brother-in-law of Bob & Sue Novy

Daughter of Diane Schalk

Brother-in-law of Marty Offutt Gruber

Father of Dan Stahl

Friend of Bob & Suc Novy

This Week at Bethany

| Sunday, July 16 | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Worship | |
| 10am | Coffee Hour | Fellowship Hall |
| | Bethany – Softball League Game | |
| Monday, July 17 | | |
| | Bethany Walking Group | Ministry Center Gym |
| | Counters | |
| | Staff Meeting | |
| | Troop 6 Leaders | |
| Tuesday, July 18 | 1 | |
| | Bethany Walking Group | Ministry Center Gym |
| | Quilters/Prayer Shawl Ministry | |
| | DV Support Group | 1 |
| | Girls BSA Troop 606 | |
| | Ghis B3/1 1100p 000 | vianni Roomi, Gym |
| Wednesday, July 19 | | |
| | Bethany Walking Group | |
| | Organ Rehearsal | |
| 7:30pm | Music/Worship Committee | . Library |
| Thursday, July 20 | | |
| | Bethany Walking Group | Ministry Center Gym |
| | Boy Scout Troop 6 | |
| | BSA – Order of the Arrow | |
| • | | |
| Friday, July 21 | Bethany Walking Group | Minister Conton Crim |
| | Demany waiking Group | Ministry Center Gyni |
| Saturday, July 22 | | |
| | Al-Anon | |
| | Al-Ateen | |
| 8pm | AA | Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday, July 23 | | |
| | Worship – Youth Sunday | Sanctuary |
| 10am | Coffee Hour | Fellowship Hall |
| | Bethany – Softball League Game | |