

What has grace accomplished in me?

⁹For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. 1 Corinthians 15

The apostle Paul was overwhelmed by the grace of God. The sense of being overwhelmed seems to be greater when the sin we are delivered from is greater. Paul's sin was great, and so that accomplishment of grace felt, and was huge for Paul. So much so that he even got a name change! From Saul to Paul.

Matthew, the disciple who wrote the Gospel of Matthew, no doubt felt something very similar. He wrote about himself and his story in Matthew 9. He was a tax collector. Along with that job title he adds the synonym "sinner." Tax collectors were considered lowly thieving beasts. When he heard Jesus speak those two words "follow me," Matthew must have felt the incredibly glorious and feather weight of grace. So much so that it lifted him to his feet in response, and he never looked back.

Matthew and Paul were really bad guys. Most likely, none of us have stooped down quite as low as either of them. Nevertheless, after having recently been walked through the Ten Commandments, we have all been reminded of our need for grace. Our need for forgiveness. And Christmas reminds us anew of that purpose in the arrival of Jesus, to save us from our sins. Aka, to lavish glorious grace upon us.

What has grace accomplished in you? What we notice in both of these New Testament examples is that grace transforms, it changes the people who receive it—who receive Jesus. Paul and Matthew, their lives changed. Even their occupations changed.

What has grace accomplished in you? This is where I could write out some things that changed in the lives of Paul and Matthew, and we could then compare *those* things with *our* things and see how we fare. I don't know about you, but I would probably feel inferior in that comparison. So, I won't list things that changed for them, I will simply end with the question and invite us to ponder, and answer it for ourselves. I will also invite you to listen in this coming Sunday, as we look deeper into how we answer—what has grace accomplished in me?

Matt Will

Bethany Church

Reach. Serve. Love.



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 9:00AM - masks required

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 10:30AM - masks optional

- **10-10:30 AM Sunday School**
- **7 PM Wednesday Night Classes**
- **Jr & Sr High Youth Group check the website**

Every other pew will be roped off to help maintain proper distancing.

Sanctuary and communal spaces will be sanitized between services.

Disposable masks are available at the welcome center desk.

Facebook livestream times may vary. Notices will be sent out with livestream information.

222 MAIN STREET N | CLARA CITY MN

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 687

320.847.3322

Bethany Doors will be open: Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

SUNDAY GATHERINGS

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

Directives

Bethany will have disposable masks available.

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

Gym space will currently not be used for group functions.

Directives for General Building Use

Please note that throughout the church building, rooms contain a spray bottle with a cleansing solution in it and a clean rag. Anyone using rooms during the week are asked to spray and wipe the areas used. Any questions can be directed to staff.

Stay Safe Guidance for Places of Worship

- Stay home when sick.
- Stay at least 6 feet apart from other people.
- Wear face coverings.
- Wash your hands often.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.

NEWS

Winter Weather Notifications. In the event of Sunday morning winter storms, closure announcements will be posted on the Bethany Facebook Page, the Bethany website, sent out via Prayer Chain, KDMA Radio in Montevideo or KWLM - Willmar and website: willmarradio.com

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR CHURCH MAILBOXES!!

The 2021 Women's books are in your mailboxes. The book has a few changes this year, but remains mostly the same due to the fact that we have not used it during 2020.

2021 Offering Envelopes are on the table by the mailboxes. If you would like offering envelopes and didn't receive them please call Ivy at the church office 847-3322.

Bethany delivers MEALS ON WHEELS in January— if you are interested in volunteering the signup sheet is by the church office bulletin board.

- THE LAST WEEK OF JANUARY IS STILL AVAILABLE!!

Card Shower for **Millie Tebben** on her 90th birthday next Friday, January 22nd. Cards can be mailed to her at the address listed below. Thanks for making this a special day!

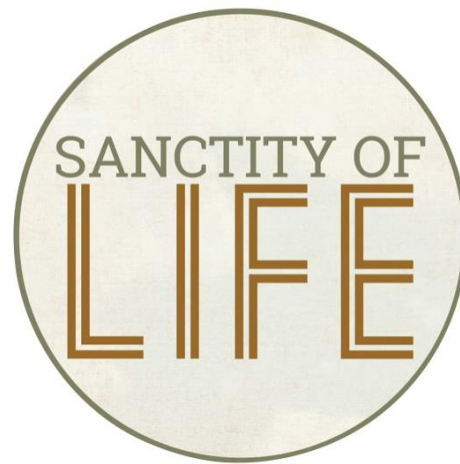
Millie Tebben
Copperleaf Senior Living Community
1550 1st N - Room #212
Willmar, MN 56201



Dear Bethany Reformed Church,

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, I would like to thank Bethany Reformed Church for their generous donation. The Alzheimer's Association utilizes donations such as this to provide education (online during COVID) and to search for a cure. Your generous gift will be a blessing to the many individuals & families affected by this disease. Thank you for supporting me as I participate in the 2021 West Central Walk to End Alzheimer's event to help raise awareness and funds for vital Alzheimer's care, support & research. -Lori Petersen

CALENDAR



Wednesday, January 13

- 7:00 pm Grades 1-6 Class
- 7:00 pm Grade 9 Class
- 7:00 pm Grades 10-11 Mentoring
- 7:00 pm Jr High Youth (YA)
- 8:00 pm Sr High Youth (AFC)

Sunday, January 17

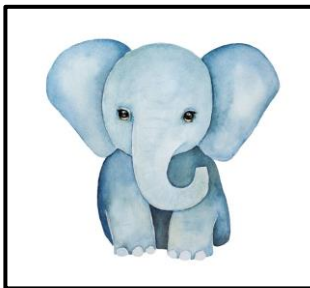
- 10 – 10:30 am K-6 Sunday School (GYM) / 7-12 Sunday School (Youth Room)
- 10:30 am Baptism of Lennyn Faith, daughter of Brian & Whitney Nelson
- 4:30 pm The Truth Project (Sanctuary)

Monday, January 18

- 7:00 pm Deacon's Meeting
- 7:00 pm Elder's Meeting
- 8:20 pm Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, January 20 & 27

- 7:00 pm Grades 1-6 Class
- 7:00 pm Grade 9 Class
- 7:00 pm Jr High Youth (YA)
- 8:00 pm Sr High Youth (AFC)



Baby Shower honoring Kailee & Justin Koenen
BEEP, HONK, SHOUT, & WAVE.
IT'S A DRIVE-BY BABY SHOWER FOR BABY BOY KOENEN!
Saturday, January 16 from 9:30 – 11:30 am
Since we cannot be together to celebrate this day, let's celebrate in a different way!
Drive-by to show your love and support, and enjoy curbside treats and favors!
Jeff & Darla Koenen's driveway
422 4th Ave NE Clara City
Registered at: Target & Amazon

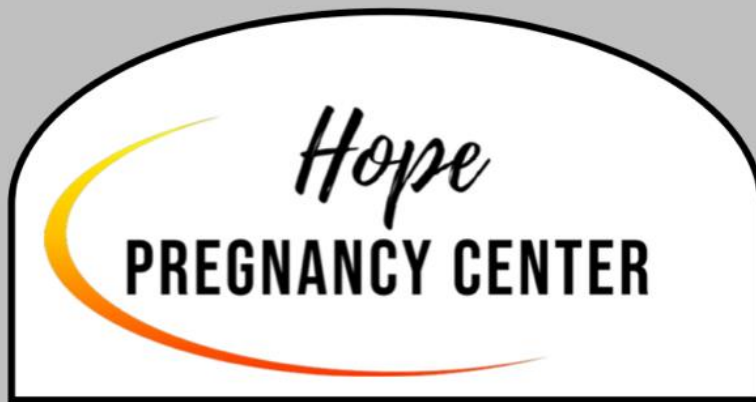
OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER & GROW



Sundays @ 4:30 PM
in the Sanctuary



Starting January 24
3:00 PM Sanctuary



Mission Statement

Hope Pregnancy Center
is a Christ-Centered organization that
empowers women and men to make
life-affirming and healthy decisions
about sex, pregnancy and relationships.

*Our ministry is based on the principle
that God is the Creator and Sustainer of
life and that life begins at conception.*

1520 Mavis Lane
Willmar, MN 56201
(320)235-7619
www.findhopepc.com

**OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY
11AM-5PM**

PRAYER

PRAYERS for STRENGTH & HEALING

- ✝ Emma Koenen continues in therapy for a broken ankle at Luther Haven, Montevideo.
- ✝ Kenneth & Emma Koenen reside in Room 102 at the Clara City Assisted Living.
- ✝ Kathryn Klinghagen is in her home at the Assisted Living recovering from a fall.
- ✝ Muriel Vestal had successful heart valve replacement surgery.
- ✝ Millie Tebben is doing well and continues to live at Copperleaf in Willmar, room 212.
- ✝ Paul Childer's dad, Randy, is in home Hospice care.
- ✝ Bruce Hinrichs
- ✝ Ruth Johnson
- ✝ Deanna Meints
- ✝ Milt Wubben
- ✝ Vivian Reiners
- ✝ Care Center & Assisted Living Residents.

YOUTH NEWS

YA youth can sign up for Power Connection starting on the 4th of January. Power connection is a great youth gathering of about 1000 RCA youth at Bethel University in the twin cities. I highly recommend you signing up if you are in Jr High youth group. We will also be in need of at least 1 female sponsor / driver for this trip, talk to Todd if you are interested in going along with Todd and the youth for this trip.

If anyone is looking for gym time please contact Ivy at the church office to setup a time. Groups are limited to 6 or less people. Thanks!!

WORSHIP NOTES

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen!

Jude 24 & 25

SOUND

January 3 Jerry Schwitters
January 10 Garrett Struxness
January 17 Scott Tomes/Benny Miller
January 24 Austin Sweep
January 31 Landin Ahrenholz

PROJECTOR

Brenda Schwitters
Megan Struxness
Carter Tomes/Logan Dirksen
Nikki Niemeyer
Renaë Epema

😊 Appreciating all of these amazing volunteers!

- † Thank you, also to our vocalists who have carried us these past weeks:
Matt Miller, Lee, Carin & Connor Hagemeyer.
- † And, for our instrumentalists who have shared their talents these past weeks,
we are grateful: Vicky, Matt, Ella, Joyce, John & Susan.

If you have a desire to share your talents in the areas above, please contact Pam and know you are welcome.

Consistory Positions & Committees 2021

President

Pastor Matthew Miller

Vice President

Dan Wrede

Clerk

Chip Goeman

Chairman of the Deacons

Keith Klinghagen

General Fund Treasurer

Mark Hilbrands

Mission Fund Treasurer

Keith Klinghagen

Building Fund Treasurer

David Hinrichs

Cemetery Fund Treasurer

Wade Buss

Worship Committee

*Chip Goeman

Cory Sietsema

Kim Sandry

Pam Knapper

Leadership Committee

*Dan Wrede

Chuck DeGrote

Keith Klinghagen

Brad Hebrink

Pastor Matt Miller

Education & Youth Committee

*Mark Hilbrands

Riley Aeikens

Wade Buss

Todd Henker

Mission/Outreach Committee

*Keith Klinghagen

Calvin Harms

Scott Ruiter

Fellowship/Congregational Care

*Dan Niemeyer

Roger Knapper

Ron Thomton

Property Committee

*Chuck Ammermann

David Hinrichs

John Hagemeyer

JANUARY

Anniversaries

- 6 Roger & Leann Knapper
- 23 Daniel & Kelli Rath

Birthdays

- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Larry Hinrichs | 13 | Cindy Klinghagen | 26 | Harvey Koenen |
| 3 | Jonathan Grussing | 13 | Lane Schwitters | 27 | Laurie Vreeman |
| 3 | Matthew Koenen | 13 | Grady Pauling | 28 | Aaden Strommer |
| 3 | Rhys Schwitters | 14 | Virgil Hoekstra | 28 | Toby Miller |
| 4 | Tomka Johnson | 15 | Blaine Westerman | 29 | Connie Knapper |
| 6 | Janice Caspers | 16 | Madison Asche | 29 | Madisyn Niemeyer |
| 6 | Gabe Henker | 18 | Everett Buss | 30 | Mark Hilbrands |
| 6 | Ron Wiebold | 18 | Tiffany Mogard | 30 | Keith Loe |
| 7 | Pat Seeman | 19 | Brooks Asche | 30 | Lori Petersen |
| 8 | Mark Lalim | 21 | Sharon Wieberdink | 31 | Megan Struxness |
| 10 | Cheri Melin | 21 | Nathan Hebrink | 31 | Velma Feldman |
| 10 | Ashley Palmer | 22 | Millie Tebben | 31 | Ruth Johnson |
| 11 | Jackson Carpenter | 22 | Craig Groen | 31 | Elizabeth Koenen |
| 12 | Sharon Doesken | 24 | Deb Wubben | 31 | Matt Tebben |
| 12 | Sandi Koenen | 24 | Emeric Koenen | | |