

Connections

September
2021

A monthly publication of Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church - Axtell



903 25 Road - Axtell, NE 68924

308-743-2597

bethanyaxtell@gmail.com

www.bethanyaxtell.org

Bethany 
Lutheran Church
Love God. Love People. Axtell

Worship with Holy Communion
Sundays at 9:00 am

Pastor Marcia Dorn
c) 308-380-4256

Fall Kick Off for Faith Formation



Faith Formation is a gift of the Holy Spirit that continues throughout life. It is also part of our baptismal covenant to grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God, as we also love our neighbor and seek justice in the world.

Fall Faith Formation Kick Off includes Sunday School, Confirmation, BYG and Journey of Faith.



All children age 3 years through High School are invited after Worship on September 26th to our Rally Day Celebration of a new Sunday School year!

After grabbing a bite to eat we will gather in the Fellowship Hall to learn, play and study God's message for us!

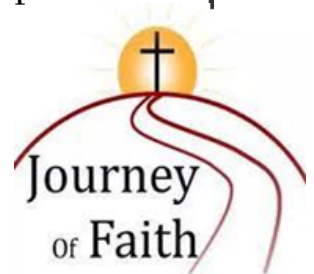
Each Week Sunday School will meet after Worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Confirmation

Confirmation studies will begin on Wednesday September 15th. Each week Students will meet from 4:15 - 5:30 pm in preparation of their Affirmation of Baptism in fulfilling the promises made for them in each of their baptisms!

Faith Formation for Adults will begin on Wednesday, September 15th at 6:30 pm. This will be an introductory meeting for anyone interested in studying God's Word. Together we will decide what, how and when we will meet in the future.

This will be a "light" Bible study that will encourage and welcome any and all people regardless of Bible background. If you are unable to meet this night, please let Pastor Marcia know you are interested.



BYG

**BETHANY YOUTH
GROUP**

**WATCH FOR UPCOMING INFORMATION
ON FUTURE BYG MEETING TIMES!**



God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday is September 12th

On Sunday, September 12, ELCA congregations will observe "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday. Our church and our world continue to live through the COVID-19 pandemic. Physical distancing has changed the way we worship and serve. But the need is great, and God's church is at work. We are guided by our life in Christ to share the love of Jesus and serve our neighbors.



Bethany's Action Plan for God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday

In observance of "God's. Work. Our Hands." Sunday, we ask each member to pray for your neighbors; more information will be provided on an insert in the September 12th bulletin. The Bethany Outreach Committee invites everyone to join an "Axtell Community Clean Up" on Sunday, September 12th. Breakfast pizza will be served immediately after worship; all are invited to eat. After nourishment, volunteers will head in to Axtell to pick up litter around the Mosaic pond, local parks and roadsides as needed. Please wear your purple Bethany t-shirt, if you have one, for "God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday."



*Together in Jesus Christ we are freed
by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly
and serve joyfully.*

#GodsWorkOurHands



LaVon Abrahamson
Joyce Almquist
Marilyn Anderbery
Ron Bergstrom

Leon Bertrand
Beverly Carlson
Cheryl Coyle
Marilyn Danielson

Harriette Ericson
John Exstrom
Bob Freeland
Eunice Hansen
Leroy Lammers
Roberta Lammers
Randy Lemmon
Larry Lorentzen

Diana Moore
Marge Nelson
Marshall Poole
Dennis Wiese

Residents & Staff at
*Mosaic ~ Axtell and
Bethany Home*

We also pray for:

Your continued presence to all those with health challenges or loss of loved ones from coronavirus throughout the world. Bring them healing and peace.

Peace and comfort for workers who continue to feel anxious about their jobs or workplaces.

All people, that they feel calm and hopeful amid financial uncertainties.

Faith to go into the world with good courage, not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us.



Altar flowers for
September are provided by
Kathy & Jon Abrahamson



Bethany 
Prayer Team

Wednesday mornings at 8:00 am

Prayer Team uses a Zoom meeting online.

Let Pastor Marcia know of your
interest to join the Prayer Team.

*Would you like to be involved
with an in-person
Prayer Team at Bethany?*

If so, please let Pastor Marcia know of
your interest. We would like to plan
meeting times that work best for those
who are interested in participating.



Love God.



Love People.



Bethany Circle

Wednesday, September 8th
6:30pm ~ Bethany Fellowship Hall

We would like to welcome everyone back and/or welcome you for the first time to our Women's Circle. We will enjoy a salad supper for this month's meeting.

Contact Amy Nelson at 402-224-0065
for additional information.

Prayer Requests

Please contact Pastor Marcia to have your prayer request added to the list.

Prayer requests can be added to the public prayer list or shared only with the Bethany Prayer Team.

JESUS REPLIED: "LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. THIS IS THE FIRST AND GREATEST COMMANDMENT. AND THE SECOND IS LIKE IT: 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'" MATTHEW 22:37.

A Time of Fellowship and Coffee (along with some goodies)
Will Follow Worship Each Sunday!

Please, consider taking a Sunday
to host this special time.

A sign-up sheet is available to choose
a Sunday that will work for you!

COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP



Thank you to the Outreach Team for overseeing this.



Safety Measures Continue at Bethany

Love

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, the Bethany Church Council discussed the following topics at the August Council Meeting, held on August 18, 2021.

God.

Masks: The use of masks will remain optional and encouraged. Pastor Marcia and Communion Assistants will use hand sanitizer prior to Communion and wear masks during station communion as a precautionary measure.



Individual Communion Element Sets: "Fellowship Cups" will be available at the rear counter in the sanctuary for anyone who wishes to partake in Communion at their seat. Please obtain a "Fellowship Cup" as you enter the sanctuary so that the Communion elements available to you during worship.

Love

Passing of the Peace: Pastor Marcia will instruct the congregation to share the Peace in the manner most comfortable to you. For some, the Peace may be shared with handshakes or hugs; for others this may be an open-faced palm or an elbow bump. Please be aware others may have a different comfort level than you; please respect the differences among us.

People.

Should you have concerns about coronavirus precautionary measures at Bethany, please speak with a Council Member or Pastor Marcia.

Be Sure to Stop and Say "Thanks!"

Our friends at Tractor Supply were kind enough to think of Bethany when disposing of some discontinued product at their store. If you are in need of small bottles of hand sanitizer or a table-top size pump bottle of hand sanitizer, please take some from the table in the narthex. When you are at TSC, be sure to tell Niki "Hi and thanks for the hand sanitizer!"



Do you want to become a member at Bethany and forgot to let Pastor Marcia know? You still have time to get in contact with Pastor Marcia and let her know of your interest. Also, if you have been a member elsewhere, we can help you transfer your membership.

Membership allows us to keep your church record dates in one place. These dates might include Baptism, Affirmation of Baptism, Marriage, etc.





Help Bethany Reach Out to People Around the World less fortunate than ourselves by collecting items for School Kits. These items will be assembled and sent through the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) organization in November.



Items needed to complete the kit:

- 4 - 70 sheet notebooks, approximately 8x10.5", wide or college ruled (no loose leaf paper)
- 1 - 30cm ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- 1 - pencil sharpener
- 1 - blunt scissors
- 5 - black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- 1 - box crayons, 16 or 24 count

Items can be placed on the table in the narthex labeled "Donations for School Kits"

Thank you for helping us help spread God's love with all people!

Bring your Food Pantry Donations to Bethany

Bethany is a drop-off location for food pantry donations to The Closet Food Pantry in Minden or The Wilcox Pantry. Feel free to bring your non-perishable items to worship so that together we can assist people who are experiencing food insecurity.



In demand items:

- * Canned vegetables, beans and fruits; Canned meat: Tuna, Chicken, Ham, etc
- * Household items: Paper products, personal hygiene, cleaning supplies, laundry supplies
- * Cereal and breakfast foods
- * Peanut Butter
- * Boxed and canned meals: Soup, Spaghetti O's, Mac & Cheese, Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, etc
- * Powdered, canned or shelf-stable milk
- * Juice: shelf-stable plastic bottles or juice boxes
 - *please donate items with appropriate use by/best by dates*

Should you wish to donate financially, please mail your gift to:

The Closet & Food Pantry of Minden
341 East 4th Street
Minden NE 68959



From the desk of Pastor Marcia ...

I love to have visitors. My newest, most consistent visitor has been this special neighbor, Walter. Several mornings a week I am blessed to find him in my special outdoor space as I savor my coffee and devotions. It is truly a treat to be greeted by Walter in the morning as I begin my day. While our conversations are somewhat one sided, I enjoy his company and presence immensely.

Our neighbors are meant for us to share our lives with. This fall we once again begin our educational programming, our faith formation offerings. Faith formation is just that, the forming, growing in our faith. Sunday School, Confirmation, youth gatherings and Bible study for adults are among the opportunities for all ages at Bethany. We often think of “faith formation” or Sunday school for young people, but actually our whole lives are meant to learn new things. In worship, belonging to a team or Women’s Circle or fellowship with others we are constantly learning and growing.

This year we are centering our faith formation on “Neighbor.” Our Sunday school will use the first four weeks to learn and grow in talking about just who our neighbors are and what this means in our lives. On September 12th, “God’s Work, Our Hands” day we will talk about ways we can pray for our neighbors and do a service project for our neighbors. Our neighbors of course are more than the people we may physically live near, but include all God’s children throughout the world.

As we are blessed to gather in person this year, please consider how you choose to continue your faith journey in the offerings of faith formation opportunities. Come and join your “neighbors” in growing and learning and sharing life!

Your neighbor in Christ, Pastor Marcia



Matthew 22:36-39 [KJV]

“Master,
which is the great commandment in the law?
Jesus said unto him,
Thou **shalt love the Lord thy God**
with all thy heart,
and with all thy soul,
and with all thy mind.
This is the first and great commandment.
And the second is like unto it,
Thou **shalt love thy neighbor** as thyself.”



The ELCA has a vision for lifelong faith formation that is grounded in biblical stories, where four central faith formation components are emphasized.

Guided Learning happens when we visit and revisit Biblical stories, or hear and share each other's faith stories, with a sense of wonder and discovery. Guided learning is not simply about garnering knowledge, but also about wrestling with how to live faithfully each day reflecting God's love for us in our love of others. Includes: Worship, Bible Study, Book Clubs or Fellowship.

Spiritual Practices are activities that help us feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. Taking time in our lives to be intentionally aware of how God is always active and present in our lives. These activities are often used repeatedly to foster a habit of taking time with God. Includes: Reading scripture in various ways, Centering prayer, meditation, breathing techniques or practicing silence among others.

Faith-filled Service recognizes the need to act on behalf of one's beliefs, the very beliefs we profess. Missional service that aids others reflecting our call to serve our neighbor. Showing love for God and neighbor in our actions. Includes: This list is endless in ways we can respond to God's love for us in showing or love for others!

Respectful Relationships can be formed with family, friends, church staff, lay mentors, spiritual directors, and coaches. Healthy relationships always include trust, listening, challenge, compassion, and commitment to one another. Relationships with others are guided by the awareness of each individual's faith journey. By practicing the other components listed here, relationships are allowed to grow and become healthy and respectful. Includes: Sharing time with others in Worship, Bible Study, Fellowship opportunities and faith filled service activities.

*Beloved, I pray that
all may go well with
you and that you may be
in good health, just as it is
well with your soul.*

3 John 1:2



Connections...

share your good news with Bethany!

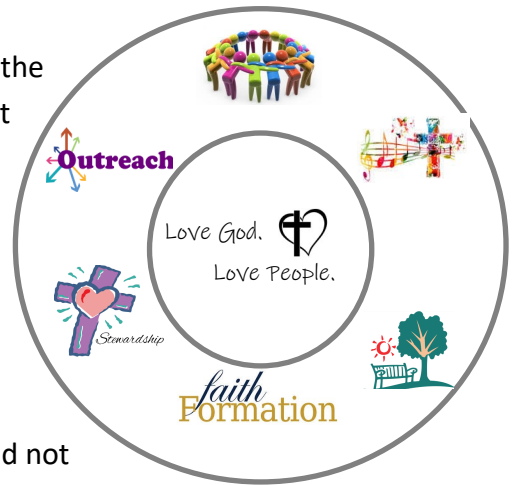
Items for the September newsletter are due to the church office by Monday, September 20, 2021.

Please email an announcement to bethanyxtell@gmail.com or provide a hard copy of your announcement to the church office. Submissions may be edited due to space available.

Did we miss your exciting news? If so, please allow us to publish your account in the October issue of Connections. We are only able to publish items of which we have been made aware.

Connections Cover Update

Did you notice the cover of this newsletter changed this month? Truly, the cover changes every month, but you might not notice it, should you not be looking. The center of the circle always remained the same, the Bethany mission statement: *Love God. Love People.* with the heart and cross together. In the circle surrounding this were the Bethany teams: Worship & Music, Property, Faith Formation, Stewardship, and Outreach. On the exterior of the final circle were the icons of the activities listed within the newsletter, a preview, if you will, of the items contained within the covers. Unfortunately, this graphic did not seem complete. Something was missing.



Now the cover has a new look. In the center, a Bethany sketch and our mission statement: *Love God. Love People.* Nothing new there; our focus continues. The integration of the building sketch is only to indicate this is the *Bethany* philosophy, our way of looking at all of our efforts, ensuring they all show *Love God. Love People.*

The Bethany Teams are all present in the next ring, just as before. All activities at Bethany should fall under one of the team's umbrellas. Youth Group = Faith Formation Snow Removal = Property Song Leader = Worship & Music Using your gifts = Stewardship Creating a project to do in the community = Outreach In thinking about the "From the desk of Pastor Marcia" note in the August 2021 *Connections* (the excerpt can be found on the bottom of the facing page), we are missing the people who may not feel called to be a part of these teams. Welcome the "Bethany Family" icon, shown on the right, below.

Who are the "people" that make up this tree? The person making up the trunk of this tree is Jesus Christ. Just as in John 15:5, we hear, "I am the vine and you are the branches..." Jesus is the stronghold of this tree to the roots and we at Bethany are the branches. Regardless of where you feel you are called to serve and minister, you are an essential part of Bethany. If you did not read Pastor Marcia's note in its entirety last month, I invite you to find it and look it over, perhaps even review it again if you did read it. Should you need a copy printed, please let me know. I will continue to use the cover format you see this month for a while. Should you have any suggestions, please feel free to bring them my way.



Amy Behrhorst
Church Coordinator
c) 402-660-0774
BethanyAxtell@gmail.com



Connections - September 2021

150th Anniversary of the Nebraska Synod

It was in September, 1871 that a small group of pastors from a handful of young Lutheran congregations gathered to create a fellowship, a structure that would



connect them to one another. The new entity was called the Nebraska Synod. Affiliated with the national General Synod, the original Nebraska Synod was one of several church bodies that emerged and then merged through the next 116 years to become the Nebraska Synod ELCA.

The 150th anniversary of that event will be commemorated in a variety of ways throughout the coming months, culminating in a birthday party of sorts at the 2022 Synod Assembly.

Sunday, August 29th Bethany will join other congregations of the Nebraska Synod in kicking off this celebration.


Connections Cover Update - excerpt of "From the desk of Pastor Marcia" - August 2021

"... I look forward to planning and living new ventures once again. As exciting as this is, the reality is that all ministries need people to commit to leading and being a part of. Each and everyone of us is called to be a part of our ministry in one way or another. I was reminded of this last week that being a part of a church, a church family is much more than merely a name on a membership roster.

VBS is a great example of so many working together for a common cause. Perhaps, leading isn't what you feel you have a gift for, but baking cookies is. Participating in worship or even being in worship is being an active member sharing God's love. Leading a session of Sunday School, joining a Bible Study, sharing God's love through our cradle roll or attending Circle are just a few of the opportunities we are blessed to offer. These, along with many others, are ways to contribute to our ministry, our mission to Love God, Love People.

There is a place for everyone and God is calling you to step up and share your gifts in whatever way possible. Please, prayerfully consider how you may share in the ministry of Bethany not seeing the obstacles but the opportunities!

Faithfully Courageous,
Pastor Marcia"

*I am the vine: you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you
you will bear much fruit.* 
John 15:5



September 2021 Bible Reading Plan

Loving Your Neighbor

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Day 1 | Romans 13:8 | Day 16 | 1 Thessalonians 4:9 |
| Day 2 | Matthew 5:43-48 | Day 17 | James 1:27 |
| Day 3 | John 13:34-35 | Day 18 | Luke 6:27-28 |
| Day 4 | 1 Peter 4:8 | Day 19 | Galatians 5:14 |
| Day 5 | Romans 12:10 | Day 20 | John 15:9 |
| Day 6 | Leviticus 19:18 | Day 21 | 1 Corinthians 13:1-2 |
| Day 7 | Proverbs 17:17 | Day 22 | Ephesians 5:2 |
| Day 8 | 1 Corinthians 16:14 | Day 23 | Galatians 6:2 |
| Day 9 | 1 John 4:18-19 | Day 24 | Luke 3:11 |
| Day 10 | Luke 6:25 | Day 25 | John 15:13 |
| Day 11 | Proverbs 10:12 | Day 26 | Hebrews 13:1-2 |
| Day 12 | Ephesians 4:32 | Day 27 | Deuteronomy 15:11 |
| Day 13 | 1 John 4:7-11 | Day 28 | Ruth 1:16-17 |
| Day 14 | Colossians 3:14 | Day 29 | Romans 12:9-16 |
| Day 15 | Mark 12:31 | Day 30 | Luke 6:32 |



Hayrack Ride, Meal and Bonfire

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 17th for a time of fellowship involving a hayrack ride, cream can supper, bonfire and s'mores. All are invited. More details to come. Youth are encouraged to invite friends.

Bethany T-Shirts

Are you new to Bethany? Has your shirt size changed since 2019? Is your Bethany t-shirt just plain worn out? If there is enough interest, we will place an order for Bethany t-shirts. People who have not yet received a Bethany t-shirt, will get their shirt at no cost. Anyone who has already received a Bethany t-shirt will be able to purchase a shirt. The more shirts we order, the better the pricing we can obtain, so we will not know price until we know how many shirts we will order.

If you would like a Bethany t-shirt, please contact Amy Behrhorst before September 15th. Thank you!



Serving God with Financial Faithfulness at Bethany

Bethany Lutheran Church – Axtell is a strong community. We know that financially supporting Bethany is important to you and we appreciate your giving. Bethany will continue to do our part in carrying out God's mission utilizing your generosity. The following are ways in which you can give your offerings.



Use **giving envelopes**



You can donate your IRA
Required Minimum Distribution*



Directly donate the
sale of grain*



Use **online bill pay** through
your bank to send tithes
and offerings to Bethany



Should you own an
investment portfolio,
you are able to
donate stock*



Collection Point Drop Off:
Farmers & Merchants
Bank in Axtell

GIVE PLUS⁺

Give through an app:
Download the *Give Plus* App
to manage your giving



Mail in your offerings

Bethany Evangelical
Lutheran Church
903 25 Road
Axtell, Nebraska 68924
📍 Map • 🗺️ Directions
📞 Phone (308)743-2597
✉️ Email

[Give Online](#)

Give Online : A button
is on our website at
BethanyAxtell.org

* Contact your tax/financial advisor or grain dealer for information specific to your situation,
as some of these options may provide you a tax advantage.

If you need additional information about non-traditional options for giving , please contact Amy Behrhorst,
Church Coordinator, at Bethany at 308-743-2597 or BethanyAxtell@gmail.com



Interested in Receiving Communion?

If you are unable to attend worship in person,
please let Pastor Marcia know of your
desire to receive Communion.

*Arrangements specific to your situation
can be made for you to receive this Sacrament.*

**Would you like to see
Connections in **COLOR**?**

Visit: bethanyaxtell.org

To arrange for notification of the
online *Connections* newsletter,
Please contact the office at BethanyAxtell@gmail.com
or Amy at 402-660-0774.



The S.A.F.E. Center's mission is to
*provide free and confidential services
for individuals and families affected
by domestic and sexual violence while
bringing awareness and prevention
efforts to communities across
South Central Nebraska.*

safecenter.org

Crisis Line: 877-237-2513

Linea de Crisis: 877-215-0167

In the alley behind the Village Office
and the Presbyterian Church in Axtell.



Love God.



Everything you need
in one place at



BethanyAxtell.org

Recorded Worship
Online Giving
Bethany's Calendar
Announcements

Love People.

Bethany Contact Information

Pastor Marcia Dorn
308-380-4256
Church Coordinator
Amy Behrhorst
402-660-0774

Bethany Church Office
308-743-2597
Bethany Email
BethanyAxtell@gmail.com



Congregational Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 6:30pm

This meeting was rescheduled from Monday, August 16, 2021.

Attended by

Kathy Abrahamson Jennifer Soderquist
Jackie Gregory Matt Strolberg
Scott Nelson Pastor Marcia Dorn

Absent Members

Kendra Brown
Blaine Jelden
Larry Landstrom

Others present

Amy Behrhorst,
Church Coordinator

- Pastor Marcia opened with a devotion.
- July 2021 Meeting Minutes were approved.
- Financial Reports for July 2021 were approved.
 - * General Fund & Multipurpose Funds
- Worship time was discussed. Council will re-visit worship time again toward the end of the calendar year.
- Coronavirus protocols discussed. Communion distributors will wear masks, individual Communion elements will be available at the rear of sanctuary, sharing of the Peace will be completed at the discretion of each congregant.
- The last outdoor worship will be on Sunday. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Beverages discussed. Sides to be brought by attendees.
- Bethany t-shirt interest will be explored.
- Semi-annual financial reports for the General and Multipurpose Funds were provided by Amy Behrhorst.

Team Reports

Faith Formation

- ♦ Met on August 13: Discussed Sunday School beginning in September. Fall Kick Off Sunday will be on September 19. Details to be determined at the next meeting on Wednesday, August 25 at 6:30pm.

Outreach

- ♦ God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday is September 12. Team will meet to decide on a project. Coffee Fellowship plans to be discussed as well.

Stewardship

- ♦ Team will meet on August 22 at 4pm.

Property

- ♦ Working with insurance company re: hail damage on roof. Accepted bid from Gary Braun to upgrade light fixtures in narthex and kitchen to LED.

Worship & Music

- ♦ Final outdoor worship for 2021 will be held on Sunday, August 22 at 9am.

Congregational Council Members

Kathy Abrahamson

(308) 999-8136
jonandkathy@gtmc.net

Kendra Brown

(308) 830-3291
kbrown@kchs.org

Jackie Gregory

(308) 631-1779
j.gregory6@hotmail.com

Blaine Jelden

(308) 830-2465
bjjelden1961@gmail.com

Larry Landstrom

(308) 830-0220
llandstrom@gtmc.net

Scott Nelson

(308) 991-7101
scottn@gtmc.net

Jennifer Soderquist

308-830-9439
jlmachi65@gmail.com

Matt Strolberg

(308) 238-4675
m.strolberg@gmail.com

Bethany Church Council will meet in the fellowship hall at 6:30pm on Monday, September 20, 2021.

All are invited to attend and hear current church business.





FALL KICK OFF FOR FAITH FORMATION!

Sunday School - September 26th Following Worship

All children age 3 years through High School are invited to our Rally Day Celebration of a new Sunday School year!

After grabbing a bite to eat we will gather in the Fellowship Hall to learn, play and study God's message for us!

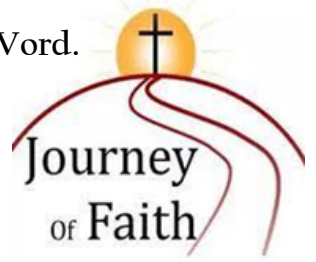
Faith Formation for Adults Wednesday, September 15th at 6:30 pm

This is an introductory meeting for anyone interested in studying God's Word.

This will be a "light" Bible study that will encourage and welcome any and all people regardless of Bible

background. Together we will decide

what, how and when we will meet in the future. If you are unable to meet this night, please let Pastor Marcia know you are interested.



Confirmation

Wednesday, September 15th 4:15 – 5:30 pm

Students will prepare for their Affirmation of Baptism, fulfilling the promises made for them in each of their baptisms!

BYG
BETHANY YOUTH
GROUP

WATCH FOR UPCOMING INFORMATION
ON FUTURE BYG MEETING TIMES!

Bethany 
Lutheran Church
Axtell
Love God. Love People.

903 25 Road
Axtell, NE 68924
308-743-2597

bethanyaxtell@gmail.com
www.bethanyaxtell.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit Number 1
Axtell, NE 68924

Address Service Requested