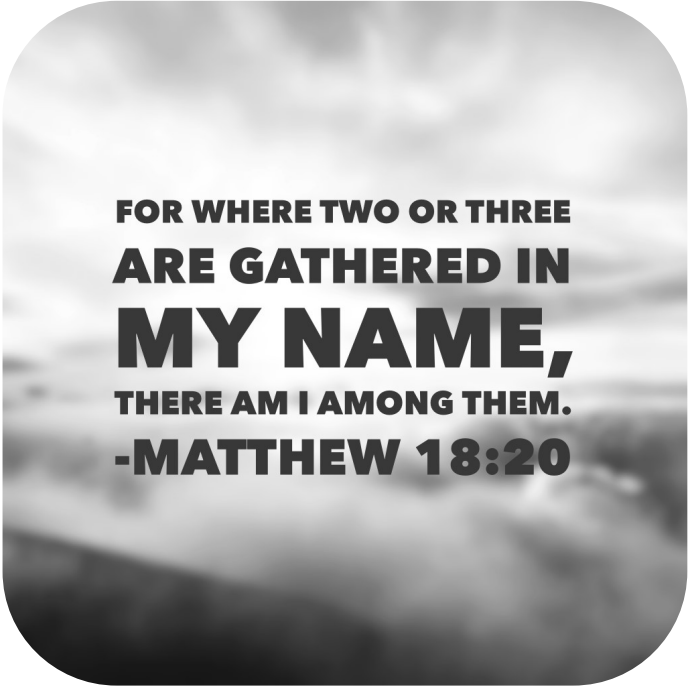


Welcome to Bethania Lutheran Kirke



**FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE
ARE GATHERED IN
MY NAME,
THERE AM I AMONG THEM.
-MATTHEW 18:20**

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 10, 2023

9:30 a.m.

BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

<http://www.bethanialutheran.org/bulletins/>

Order of Worship for Sunday, September 10, 2023

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

GATHERING

(Please rise)

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Shout praise to God!

C: Let us praise God with music and great joy!

L: God looks upon us with favor.

C: God rejoices in our loving compassion for others.

L: Thanks be to God who offers to us new life.

C: Praise be to Jesus Christ who taught us how to live.

AMEN

PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN

“Seek Ye First ” #783

With One Voice—Blue Hymnal

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

L: Blessed be God,

the one who forms us,

✙ Jesus who bears the cross,

the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C: Amen.

L: Let us bow before God in humility,

confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Steadfast and faithful God,

**C: you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.**

**We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.**

**We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

Amen.

L: Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In ✝ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C: Amen.

SALUTATION

L : The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

WORD

OUR FIRST LESSON is from the book of Ezekiel, chapter 33, verses 7 through 11.

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked,

“O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand.
⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY - PSALM 119, verses 33 through 40.

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.**

OUR SECOND LESSON is from the book of Romans; chapter 13, verses 8 through 14.

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

C: Thanks be to God!

Refrain
Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

(Please rise)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW#513)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one

or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

(Please be seated)

MESSAGE "Reconciliation Day." Rev. Grant Quever

(Please rise)

HYMN OF THE DAY -

"Earth & All Stars " #558

Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

UNISON PRAYER

L: Let us Prayer the Unison Prayer

C: Lord, we are just beginning to get back into the “church year,” a time when our lives settle down into a somewhat predictable pattern. Children are back to school, college students to their studies, people to their work. And life goes on. But have we overlooked how we are living that life? Have we forgotten the many ways in which we have not been faithful to you? You judge us and love us. You look at what we say and what we have done and ask us to live lives of mercy and peace. As you have forgiven us, help us be forgiving to others. Let us bring peace and hope, keeping doors open for healing and redemption. Walk with us, Lord, this day and all our days. AMEN.

PRAYER SONG

$\text{♩} = 105$

In the Qui - et, Peace ful Pres - ence of this Place

May Our Prayer-ful com - mun-ion Re - flect God's Own Grace!

Join with us in sweet Si - lence, As we pray to end

12 Vio - lence. See Him Shine through us

All of our Days!

PRAYERS

P: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

P: Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick especially Dan , Ann Marie, Pat & Pete , Jeff & Sue O., Austin , Kevin, Ryan, Anita, Grete, Glenn, Bonnie, Heather, Brad, Missy, Illiana, Junior, Jeff L., Kim, Jackie, Kevin & Shelly, and all those we name in our hearts. Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith. May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

PRAYER SONG (repeated)

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C'. The music concludes with a double bar line on the fifth staff.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.
(Shaking of hands and sharing the peace with others around you.)

OFFERTORY

$\text{♩} = 105$

In the Qui - et, Peaceful Pres - ence of this Place

May Our Prayer - ful com - mun-ion Re - flect God's Own Grace!

Join with us in sweet Si - lence, As we pray to end

¹² Vio - lence. See Him Shine through us

All of our Days!

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,
God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen

INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAL

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 him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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 in remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
And gave it for all to drink , saying;
This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you
And for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in remembrance of me.

P: Let us join together in the prayer that our Lord taught us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

(Please be seated)

SHARING THE MEAL

For in person, come up the center aisle, receive your communion wafer, carefully dip your wafer into the wine. If grape juice/ covid safe is preferred let the assistant know.

For at home using plain bread/crackers and wine/grape juice.

COMMUNION HYMN - "Joyful, Joyful"

#551

Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

(Please rise)

COMMUNION BLESSING

L: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Let us Pray,

Blessed be your name, O God,

for we have feasted on your Word,

Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.

Strengthened by this food,

send us to gather the world to your banquet,

where none are left out and all are satisfied.

In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

L: The God of glory,

✙ Jesus Christ, name above all names,

and the Spirit who lives in you,

bless you now and forever.

C: AMEN!

SENDING HYMN -

"Go My Children With My Blessing"

#721

With One Voice—Blue Hymnal

RECESSIONAL

A: We follow the cross of Christ into the world.

(Congregation turns as the cross passes them—so they are facing the back of the church)

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



The Altar Flowers TODAY are given to the Glory of God and In Memory of my husband Byrl on his 95th birthday by Bettie Liston

TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader: Rev. Grant Quever Lector: John Barnes

Communion Assistants: John & Robin Barnes

Acolyte: Eli Imhoff Offering Presenter: John Barnes

Coffee Hour: Altar Guild Altar Flowers: Bettie Liston

Building Host: John Barnes

WORSHIP LEADERS NEXT WEEK (Sunday 9/17):

Worship Leader: Pastor Kelly Taylor Schaus

Lector: Vicki Thiery

Communion Assistants: Julie Hansen and Vicki Thiery

Acolyte: Brooke McIntosh Offering Presenter: Ed Young

Coffee Hour: CHURCH PICNIC

Altar Flowers: Jacque MaJeed

Building Host: Ed Young

**CHRIST IN OUR
HOME
DEVOTIONALS**

(for October –December)

are available on
the table just
inside the
sanctuary doors.

Cans FOR K-9's



We are still collecting
aluminum cans to help
support the Racine
County K-9 program.

**BETHANIA HOSTS COMMUNITY MEAL
TODAY**



If you can help please see Jeff or
Shelly Alderson. Thank you



Bethania Lutheran

CHURCH PICNIC

*Sunday, September 17th
following worship*

4120 Wright Avenue, Racine 53405

*Sandwiches and drinks provided
Please bring a side dish or a dessert.*



**Confirmation class begins on
September 17, 2023**—after worship In
the Pastors office with Pastor Kelly
Taylor-Schaus.

Please join us on Sunday, September 24th after worship for our clothing changeover from summer to fall. It's been a beautiful summer, we hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy some warmth and sunshine. Our families that visit us for their clothing needs will soon need warmer clothing items so this is the time when we ask for your assistance. We will once again have pizza and great conversation following, so please consider heading up to the second floor after service to unpack boxes and totes. Pick up some coffee in the Hearth Room and join us. The sign up is on the board outside the Hearth Room.

Thank you,
Jacci Young





If you have anyone you would like to have added to the prayer chain **please contact Kelly Imhoff at 262-554-1558 or by email:**

bethaniaprayerchain@wi.twcbc.com Or you can call the church office 262-632-7267 and leave a voicemail if no one is there.

(Don't worry it cant be heard by anyone but Cathi)



NOW AVAILABLE:

NON- PROFIT GRANT
APPLICATIONS

Deadline is: **OCTOBER 2, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.**

THIS WEEK AT BETHANIA....

Sunday, September 10, 2023 -

9:30 a.m. – Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

10:30 a.m. -COFFEE HOUR

Monday, September 11, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

7:00 p.m. - Church Council Meeting, Hearth room

Wednesday, September 13 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

4:30 to 6:00 p.m.—Bible Study

Thursday, September 14, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Friday, September 15, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.—RUSD Class, fh

Sunday, September 17, 2023

9:30 a.m. – Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

10:30 a.m. –Confirmation Meeting

11:00 a.m.—Church picnic