

Welcome to Bethania Lutheran Kirke



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 2024

9:30 a.m.

BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

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

Order of Worship for Sunday, February 4, 2024

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

GATHERING

(Please rise)

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Welcome! Open your hearts to God's love this day!

C: Praise be to God who has called us here!

P: Let the words wash over you and offer you healing and hope.

C: Praise be to God who continually blesses us!

P: Place your hope and trust in God!

C: With joyful hearts, we come to worship and praise God who continually blesses and provides for us. **AMEN.**

PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN

"God, Whose Almighty Word " #400

Lutheran Book of Worship, Green Hymnal

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Let us Pray,

C: How can we look at this world and not sing of your praises, O God? The beauty and majesty of the world is overpowering! Yet we have a tendency to take all that you do for us for granted. We treat the world with callous indifference, using its resources carelessly and with little regard to the future. We insist on war as solutions for problems rather than peaceful striving. We turn our backs on people in need, the weak and downtrodden go unnoticed in our midst. We always believe that someone else will care for those in need. How foolish we are, O God! How ignorant we have become! You have given to us all that we need. You have blessed us with the witness of Jesus Christ who came so that we might learn how you would have us live, in honor and peace. Forgive us. Heal our hearts and spirits. Make us fully aware of all our blessings and our responsibilities. Give us again a spirit of joy in serving you. Help us be agents of peace and hope to others. For we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. **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,

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

(Please be seated)

WORD

OUR FIRST LESSON is from the book of Isaiah, chapter 40, verses 21 through 31.

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY - PSALM 147, verses 1 through 11 and 20c

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

³The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

⁴**The LORD counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.**

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

⁸**who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

⁹God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens ¹when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD, in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20C}Hallelujah!

OUR SECOND LESSON is from the book of First Corinthians; chapter 9, verses 16 through 23.

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessing
L: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Please rise)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(TFF #132)

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1st chapter.

C: **Glory to you O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

MESSAGE

(Please rise)

HYMN OF THE DAY -

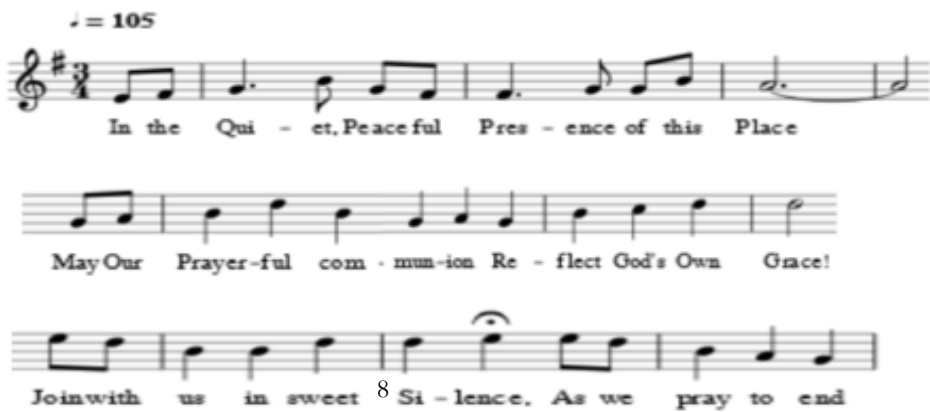
“Precious Lord, Take My Hand ” #731
With One Voice, Blue Hymnal

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

P: Let us Pray,
Jesus has come to heal our spirits and our souls. The demons of arrogance, indifference and apathy are being cast out. New life is offered to you in Jesus Christ. Rejoice! Be Glad! For God’s love is poured out to you this day.
C: Amen.

PRAYER SONG (written by William Mueller)

♩ = 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 8 Si - lence, As we pray to end



PRAYERS

P: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P: Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need *especially* Jeff & Sue O., Anita, Grete, Heather, Bonnie, Bettie, Mike, Danielle, Sharon, Kim D, and all those we name in our hearts. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised salvation. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

PRAYER SONG (repeated)

$\text{♩} = 105$

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!

SHARING OF THE PEACE (Mark 1)

P: In meeting Christ, we become new creations. As we share the peace of Christ with each other, we share the newness of life he brings. Come, enter into new life in Christ!

(Shaking of hands and sharing the peace with others around you.)

OFFERTORY

(LBW #40)

So bring him incense Gold and myrrh;
Come peasant king to own him,
The King of Kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, Joy, Christ is Born,
The babe the son of Mary.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,
Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.

C: Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING (Mark 1, Psalm 111)

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.

P: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You have created the earth and sky,
the sea and stars,
and all the living creatures therein.
Your works are the essence of majesty and honor.
Your righteousness lives forever.
You demonstrate your power
in strange and unexpected ways:
from the birth of your Son in a manger,
to the gentle nudging of the Holy Spirit
calling us to love one another.
The works of your hands are faithful and just,
and your mercy endures forever.
And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name
and join their unending hymn.

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**P: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ
who came to cleanse us from our sins,
and to bring us newness of life.
In the power of the Holy Spirit, he healed people,
and taught as one who had authority.
He brought a new teaching—
a teaching of love, forgiveness, and the power of God for justice and
mercy.**

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

P: Come, the table is set. Let us eat the food that God has prepared for us. Let us drink the wine of the new covenant. Come, the table is set. All are welcome. Come.

(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 -

"You Who Dwell In The Shelter of The Lord " #779

With One Voice—Blue 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,

Giver of every gift,

Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.

Raise us to life by your power

for the benefit of all and to your glory,

now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: We are being sent into a world in need of healing. We have been given all that we need to be God's messengers of peace. Go now into the world, rejoicing in God's presence with you. Bring the news of peace and hope to all you meet.

C: AMEN.

SENDING HYMN -

"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"

#673

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. You are God's beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Anne Woodward

Communion Assistants: John & Robin Barnes

Acolyte & Offering Presenter: John Barnes

Coffee Hour: Altar Guild Altar Flowers: John & Robin Barnes

Building Host: John Barnes

WORSHIP LEADERS NEXT WEEK (Sunday 2/11/24):

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Julie Hansen

Communion Assistants: Julie Hansen & Vicki Thiery

Acolyte & Offering Presenter: Ed Young

Coffee Hour: Aebleskivers Altar Flowers: (Open)

Building Host: Ed Young



THE ALTAR FLOWERS TODAY ARE TO THE
GLORY OF GOD AND IN REMEMBRANCE OF
WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN MY PARENTS,
PETE & PAT NELSON'S 70TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY BY ROBIN & JOHN BARNES

FAT SUNDAY AEBLSKIVER BUNCH

Sunday, February 11, 2023

Following worship

~Free will Offering~

Aebleskivers, Medisterpølse fruit coffee Juice &
Milk

Bring your favorite Jam or Jelly



ASH WEDNESDAY

BEGINS THE SEASON OF LENT

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2024

7:00 p.m.

*Bethania Lutheran Church
4120 Wright Avenue Racine*



This year we will be participating in Joint Wednesday Lenten services. There will be 2 opportunities each Wednesday in which to worship. In the afternoon we will gather together at 12:30 p.m. for bread & soup and then join in Worship at 1:00 p.m.. In the evening we will gather together at 5:30 p.m. for bread & soup and then join in Worship at 6:00 p.m.

Please note: there will be NO 12:30 p.m. Worship on Wednesday, March 20.

There will still be bread & soup at 5:30 p.m. and a speaker at 6:00 p.m. instead of worship.

DATE	PLACE	ADDRESS	PASTOR
February 21	REDEEMER	2417 Drexel	Rev. Matt James
February 28	Journey In Faith	6767 Hwy 38	Rev. Allison Johnson
March 6	Living Faith	2915 Wright Avenue	Rev, Justin Kierzek
March 13	United Lutheran	3825 Erie Street	Rev. John Bishoff
March 20	BETHANIA	2915 Wright	

SECRET PRAYER PARTNERS

CURRENTLY THERE IS ONLY 1 NAME IN THE BOX SO WE WILL EXTEND THE DEADLINE ONE MORE WEEK - TO SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2024.

Your Secret Prayer Partner Leader

ALTAR FLOWERS

There are plenty of Sundays available to sign up for Altar flowers. They cost \$25 and the sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the Pastors office.



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: bethaniaprayer-chain@wi.twcbc.com**

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

Please consider hosting coffee hour. The coffee will be started by the building opener. Treats maybe store bought or homemade.

Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside Pastor's office.

EMPTIES FOR CASH

"one persons junk is another persons treasure"

- ★ Bring in your empty inkjet cartridges—black or color.
- ★ Do not put any tape on the cartridge.
- ★ Place your empty cartridge in a zip type plastic bag. (ex: zip lock)

Bethania will receive \$2 per cartridge.

NO Toners please.

Cans FOR K-9's



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

TRIVIA NIGHT!

Proceeds benefit Senior Companion Program, Inc.

Friday, Feb. 9, 2024!

Enhancing the lives of the elderly in our community through socialization and information at no cost since 1978!



\$10.00 per player.
Payment can be made
at the door—
we accept cash,
check and credit cards!

*Join us in any number and make new friends
by combining to form a team of up to 8,
or bring your own team of up to 8 people!*

Doors open at 6:30 pm—trivia starts at 7pm!

Bring your own snacks and beverages!

Handicap Accessible

St. Richard Catholic Church

1503 Grand Ave.
Racine, WI 53403



www.seniorcompanionprogram.org
262-898-1941

Special thanks to the St. Richard Parish Human Concerns Committee

Help Us Decorate For Easter

Help us celebrate our risen Christ with beautiful Easter Flowers as well as decorate our sanctuary. Easter flowers can be purchased In loving memory or In Honor of your friends and loved ones. You may pay by cash or check, just please make your check payable to “Bethania Lutheran Church”. **Deadline to Order is February 18, 2024.**

____ Easter Lily ____ x \$14. 00 = _____

____ Regal Geranium (purple) ____ x \$14.00 = _____

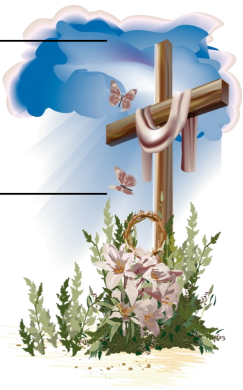
TOTAL:

_____In Loving Memory of: (deceased)

_____In Honor of: (alive)

Name:

Phone#:



THIS WEEK AT BETHANIA....

Sunday, February 4, 2024- -

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

10:30 a.m. –Coffee Hour

Monday, February 5, 2024-

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Tuesday, February 6, 2024-

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. –Council Meeting, Hearth rm.

Wednesday, February 7, 2024-

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m.—Thread By Thread OPEN

Thursday, February 8, 2024-

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Friday, February 9, 2024-

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.—RUSD Lower level

Sunday, February 11, 2024-

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

10:30 a.m. –Aebleskiver Brunch