

# The Bethania Blade

"As a called people of God and as members of Bethania,  
we will grow in our faith and share it with others"

March /April 2023

Dear People of Bethania,

We live in extraordinary times – that sometimes feel perilous. My passion as a preacher is that I believe we have a **gospel, good news, that's up to the challenge of the times.** But only if we unlearn some of the things we may have been taught and relearn them with the guidance of gifted scholars and writers.

The past several weeks have brought a goldmine for me with new books from **three of my favorite teachers.** I'd like to tell you about the one I received and read in Arizona this week, while on vacation. It's by a **New Testament seminary professor** and one of his students – Douglas Campbell and Jon DePue, respectively.

Before telling you a bit more about the book, though, let me say something **about one of the things I've found I need to unlearn and relearn.** Growing up Lutheran I was taught about sin in a way that might block our having good news which can meet the challenge of our times. When we face times that are perilous because of human sin, what I learned about sin seemed to limit our **options to make things better.** I wasn't taught to believe that Jesus can actu-

ally help us become better human beings and then invite others to join with us in trying to tackle the problems of sin.

**It's a bit like Alcoholics Anonymous and the Twelve Step program to recovery.** It begins with Step 1: admitting that you **don't have the power to beat alcohol on your own.** But if there was no belief that one could make progress toward a life of sobriety with *the help of the A.A. community and one's "Higher Power,"* then there would be no point to the program. Over the past 100 years of A. A., there certainly has been a point to it, as millions of lives have been changed for the better. You might even say saved.

Growing up Lutheran it seemed that our theology of Justification by grace through faith gives us the promise of forgiveness of our sins and a changed life in heaven after we die. But it often seemed that the hope of making true progress against sin, and then experiencing significantly improved lives, came with significant limits while on this earth and in these bodies. This has seemed especially true of our corporate lives. Can we ever stop



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE January 28, 2024 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

† We had a quorum of 26 voting members.

† Jeff opened the meeting at 10:46 a.m. with a prayer.

† The 2023 Annual reports were read. Jeff presented the Property Report noting we were having problems with the education wing boiler. Mike is getting quotes on a new boiler as well as checking on having it cleaned. Also mentioned was that we received some fire code violations. A motion was made to accept the reports by Brad Larsen. Seconded by Kelly Imhoff. 100% agreed.

† Ed presented the 2024 Budget. He noted that there is a \$45,720 deficit. He has the pastors benefits figured in. Also the insurance went up in 2023 . How we will cover the deficit will be covered later in the meeting. A Motion made by Julie Hansen to accept the budget as presented. Seconded by Anne Woodward. The motion passed with 100% agreed.

† Jeff asked for nominations from the floor for Council members, LACE Members, Memorial members and Synod Assembly representatives. No one stepped forward for council, Mike, Brad and Julie stepped forward for LACE, No members were needed or stepped

forward for Memorial and Brad and Jeff stepped forward to be representatives at Synod Assembly. A motion was made to accept these nominees as presented. It was seconded. The motion passed with 100% agreed.

† Old Business: None.

† New Business:

Pastoral Pact (Contract) - We are not calling a Pastor but we are making a PACT (Contract) with Pastor Paul Nuechterlein. We negotiated a 25% time. He will give us 3 Sundays a month, assist in worship planning, will do marriages and funerals, Pastoral care, council meetings, bible studies, etc. He will assist the cares and concerns team and will have a planned out calendar. He will not oversee staff or meet with the Synod. He comes with 38 years of experience and has lowered his salary to meet our needs. A motion was made by Kelly Imhoff and seconded by Erik Hansen The motion passed with 100% agreed.

LACE Outlays: Since we knew we had a deficit budget we were proactive in talking to the LACE committee and the Council.

We are seeking approval from the congregation for an outlay of \$32,936.00 to cover the Pastoral Benefits. There was a bit of discussion.

A motion was made by Julie Hansen and seconded by Anne Woodward. The motion passed with 100% agreed.

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We are seeking approval from the congregation for an outlay of \$13,500.00 to cover the Insurance. There was a bit of discussion.

A motion was made by Anne Woodward with the stipulation of only if needed. and seconded by Kelly Imhoff. The motion passed with 100% agreed.

† A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 a.m. by Kelly Imhoff and Seconded by Erik Hansen. The motion at passed with 100% agreed.

† Jeff closed the meeting with a prayer.



For pastoral care, or if you need to reach Pastor Paul, his phone number is 269-290-4533.

fighting wars? Can we solve problems like racism? Can we take care of the earth in sustainable ways that won't drastically change our environment for the worse? And here's the bottom-line question for our historical moment: if we cannot be human in better ways to seriously address these problems, what chance do we have? Can the Good News from Jesus make a meaningful difference to our world? Or only to us as individuals when we die?

Campbell's and DePue's new book, *Beyond Justification: Liberating Paul's Gospel*, argues that if we unlearn St. Paul's Gospel in the Lutheran/Protestant terms of Justification, we can learn that Paul's Gospel is about truly being able, with God's help, to become human in better ways that can make a difference in the world. St. Paul's Good News is about God sending Jesus to show us how to be human in a new way, and then with the help of the Holy Spirit we can ourselves begin to participate in Christ's new way of being human. This includes the corporate ways of being human. I really look forward to learning together this better way of understanding Paul's Gospel – hopefully, just in time to help our neighbors and fellow citizens in learning how we might better meet the challenge of these times.

Peace,

*Pastor Paul*

# EASTER FLOWERS

The Flowers on Easter are Given to the Glory of God and In Honor of  
my two (2) Wonderful children, Kim & Tom by their mom, Anita Nielsen.

The Flowers on Easter are Given to the Glory of God and In Memory of  
My mom, dad and Baby Helen by Brad  
Family Members by Erik & Grete Hansen  
Loved ones by Shelly & Jeff Alderson  
Our grandparents, Alan and Irma Anderson by Annika and Erick Nielsen  
My son Jaime who passed away last year on Easter Monday (4/11) by Bonnie Jensen  
My grandma, Peg Mickelsen by Willy Mueller  
Our Parents, Scott & Pam Kechter by Vicki Thiery  
My parents, Jim & Shirley Woodward by Anne Woodward  
My parents, Curt & Barb Holding by Cathi Webster  
My husband Keith by Cathi Webster  
My Grandchildren Grace Nemath and Clarence Webster by Cathi Webster  
Loved ones by Jacque Majeed



# Aebleskivers

Thank you to everyone who helped with the  
Council hosted Aebleskiver Brunch.



Shopping—Jeff Alderson & Ed Young

Saturday—Jeff Alderson, Shelly Alderson, John, Jacci Young and Ed Young.

Sunday—Jeff Alderson, Caitlin Webster, Kurtis Webster, Will Thomas & Jacque Majeed.

Clean up— Jeff Alderson, Ed Young & Jacci Young

*My apologies if I missed anyone.*







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.*

DATE	PLACE	ADDRESS	PASTOR
March 6	Living Faith	2915 Wright Avenue	Rev, Justin Kierzek
March 13	United Lutheran	3825 Erie Street	Rev. John Bishoff
March 20	BETHANIA	4120 Wright	



### **PALM SUNDAY—**

March 24 at 9:30 a.m.

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY -**

March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

### **GOOD FRIDAY -**

March 29 at 7:00 p.m.

### **EASTER SUNDAY—**

March 31 at 9:30 a.m.

**JESUS IS RISEN!**

# OUR MEMBERS



Tatiana Krause and Brian Starbuck on their wedding day. 10/2023



Eric & Kari McGaughey spending the weekend some where warm in the beginning of February 2024. (And kid free?)



Congratulations to Caleb Webster (right side), son of Kyle & Melanie Webster & grandson of Cathi Webster, who won 4th place in Wrestling.



Congratulations to Ryan Hagerman who became a licensed driver on February 13, 2024.

# Cares & Concerns



## Care and Concern List:

Please consider sending a note of encouragement to someone on this list. These are people who are dealing with challenges of health, mobility, or other things in their lives.

**Carolyn Luetzgen**

5321 Douglas Avenue  
Apt. 1164  
Racine, WI 53402

**Grete Loschenkohl**

819 Indiana Street  
Racine, WI 53405  
Phone - 262-633-6095

**Joyce Thomsen**

2935 Old Mill Drive  
Racine, WI 53405

**Bettie Liston**

3120 Wood Road,  
Unit 15  
Mt Pleasant WI

**Marilyn Peterson**

Pleasant Point Senior  
Living  
8500 Corporate Drive  
Apt. #403  
Racine, WI 53406



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](mailto:bethaniaprayerchain@wi.twcbc.com)

## *Prayer List*



Pat Nelson,  
Jeff & Sue O.,  
Anita Nielsen,  
Tom Nielsen  
Bettie Liston  
Brad Larsen  
Bonnie Jensen  
Heather Joshi  
Kim Drasen  
Danielle



# Church Business

Date	In Person	Facebook	Giving
January 7	16	35	\$1307.00
January 14	14	32	\$ 521.00
January 21	16	44	\$ 740.00
January 28	27	20	\$1,602.00
February 4	21	26	\$1,345.00
February 12	30	25	\$ 760.52
February 19	27	18	\$1,149.20
February 26	17	10	\$ 896.00



BETHANIA HOSTS COMMUNITY MEAL SUNDAY  
MARCH 3, 2024

- Prepackaged fruit cups/applesauce or dessert

If you can help please see Jeff or Shelly Alderson.

# THIS & THAT

## 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.**



### Join Us for "Gospel

**Talk":** Sundays, after the Coffee Hour, between 11:00 and 11:15 am, ending around noon. Pastor Paul is hosting "Gospel Talk". The first goal of "Gospel Talk" is to offer conversation about the day's sermon – any questions, clarification, or feedback. We will then move to learning in small pieces about the Christian understanding of being human that's behind Pastor Paul's preaching. We will use the book *The Ideas of René Girard: An Anthropology of Violence and Religion*, by David Cayley (cost \$10), based on a radio show which we will also listen to in snippets.



## EMPTYES 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.



# Church Contacts

## Bethania Lutheran Church

4120 Wright Avenue  
Racine, WI 53405  
262-632-7267



Church Email: [Bethania@wi.twcbc.com](mailto:Bethania@wi.twcbc.com)

Pastor's Email: [Bethaniapastor@wi.twcbc.com](mailto:Bethaniapastor@wi.twcbc.com)

Website: [www.bethanialutheran.org](http://www.bethanialutheran.org)



Office Hours: Monday through Friday 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Emergencies: Call (262) 632-7267 and leave a voicemail. Pastor or I will return your call right away.

*(Please note: There may not be a car in the parking lot but the office is open.)*



Reverend Paul Nuechterlein, Pastor

Cathi Webster, Administrative Assistant

Willy Mueller, Church Musician

Mike Imhoff, Maintenance

### COUNCIL

Jeff Alderson, President

Kelly Imhoff, Vice President

Cathi Webster, Secretary

Ed Young, Treasurer

Shelly Alderson

Brad Larsen, Property

John Barnes



# CELEBRATIONS

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 2 -Vicki McGaughey  
March 5 -Caitlin Webster  
March 6 - Etta McGaughey  
March 8 –Austin Kechter  
March 15 - Vicki Thiery  
March 17—Jordan Kechter  
March 20 –Connie Thorn  
March 21 –Jacob Imhoff  
March 21 - Marion Jensen  
March 21 –Evelyn Munch  
March 22 - Tyler Rybarik  
March 25 –Alyssa Munch



*(Please let us know if there are any changes or missed birthdays or anniversaries. Thank You!)*

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1 –Tom Nielsen  
April 4 –Lily Weaseman  
April 6—Luke Hagerman  
April 7 –Gilbert Jensen  
April 12—Aaron Kechter  
April 18 –Jeanne Kutka  
April 21—Dominic Shawhan  
April 30—Tyrion Dittmer

# WORSHIP LEADERS

Date	Worship Leader	Communion Assistant	Reader	Acolyte & Offering Presenter	Building Host	Coffee Hour	Altar Flowers
March 3	Pastor Paul Nuechterlein	Jeff Alderson Calaway Alderson	Ann Woodward	Jeff Alderson	Jeff Alderson		
March 10	Pastor Paul Nuechterlein	John Barnes Robin Barnes	Robin Barnes	John Barnes	John Barnes	Altar Guild	
March 17	Pastor Paul Nuechterlein	Julie Hansen Vicki Thiery	Vicki Thiery	Ed Young	Ed Young	Youngs	
March 24 Palm Sun- day	Pastor Paul Nuechterlein	Kelly I mhoff Jerod Alderson	Jerod Alderson	Kelly I mhoff	Kelly I mhoff		
March 31 EASTER SUNDAY	Pastor Paul Nuechterlein	Brad Larsen Anita Nielsen	Brad Larsen	Brad Larsen	Brad Larsen		EASTER FLOWERS
April 7	Pastor Paul Nuechterlein	Jeff Alderson Calaway Alderson	Ann Woodward	Jeff Alderson	Jeff Alderson		
April 14	Pastor Paul Nuechterlein	John Barnes Robin Barnes	John Barnes	John Barnes	John Barnes	Altar Guild	
April 21	Pastor Paul Nuechterlein	Julie Hansen Vicki Thiery	Julie Hansen	Ed Young	Ed Young		
April 28	Pastor Paul Nuechterlein	Kelly I mhoff Jerod Alderson	Kelly I mhoff	Kelly I mhoff	Kelly I mhoff		



# WAYS TO HELP



Thread By Thread Changeover  
April 21, 2024  
Following worship

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP OUR COMMUNITY:

BRING NON PERISHABLE FOOD (Food Pantry)

BRING EMPTY ALUMINUM CANS (Cans for K-9s)

BRING GENTLY USED CLOTHES OR PAPER BAGS (TxT)

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP BETHANIA:

MOW THE LAWN

JOIN THE CARE & CONCERN TEAM (Visit our Members)

REMEMBER YOUR OFFERING (Pays the Bills)



# WAYS TO HELP

## LAWN MOWING AND YARD WORK

YAY! For spring warm weather, birds, flowers, sunshine, and of course green grass and weeds.

There is a sign up sheet outside the hearth room if you would like to volunteer to help spend sometime outside in the yard mowing, weeding, edging, etc.

Any questions contact Brad, church property.



## 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 or call the church office.

Remember the food pantry. Suggested items: Canned dinners, Peanut butter, toilet paper, hygiene items, soup, and pastas.



# March 2024

## C A L E N D A R

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office OPEN –7:30 to 9:30 a.m.  RUSD 8-3 LL	2
3 <b>LENT 3</b> 9:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE  10:30 coffee Hour  11:15 a.m. Gospel Talk with Pastor Paul	4  Office CLOSED	5  Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	6 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. <b>Thread by Thread</b> <b>OPEN 10 –2</b> 12:30 Soup 1 p.m. Worship Living Faith 5:30 p.m. soup /6:30 Worship Living Faith	7  Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	8  Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.  RUSD 8-3 LL	9
10 <b>LENT 4</b> 9:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE  10:30 coffee Hour  11:15 a.m. Gospel Talk with Pastor Paul	11  Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	12  Office OPEN –7:30 to 9:30 a.m.  7:00 p. council meeting	13 <b>Office OPEN CLOSED</b> 12:30 Soup 1 p.m. Wor- ship, United Lutheran 5:30 p.m. soup / 6:30 Worship United Luther- an	14  <b>Office CLOSED</b>	15  <b>Office CLOSED.</b>  RUSD 8-3 LL	16
17 <b>LENT 5</b> 9:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE  10:30 coffee Hour  11:15 a.m. Gospel Talk with Pastor Paul	18  Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	19  Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	20 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.  <b>Thread by Thread</b> <b>OPEN 10 –2</b> 5:30 Soup /6:30 Interfaith Speaker Bethania Lutheran	21  Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	22  Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.  RUSD 8-3 LL	23
24 <b>LENT 6</b> 9:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE  10:30 coffee Hour  11:15 a.m. Gospel Talk with Pastor Paul	25  Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m	26  Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	27  Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	28 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> Office OPEN –7:30 to 9:30 a.m.  <i>Maundy Thursday</i> Worship 7 p.m., Sanctuary	29 <i>Good Friday</i> Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.  <i>Good Friday</i> Worship 7 p.m., Sanctuary	30
31 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 9:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE  10:30 coffee Hour  NO Gospel Talk with Pastor Paul						

# April 2024

## C A L E N D A R

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <i>Easter Monday</i> Office OPEN –7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	<b>2</b> Office OPEN –7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	<b>3</b> Office OPEN –7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thread by Thread OPEN 10 –2	<b>4</b> Office OPEN –7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	<b>5</b> Office OPEN –7:30 to 9:30 a.m. 8 -3RUSD, LL	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE 10:30 coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Gospel Talk with Pastor Paul	<b>8</b> Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	<b>9</b> Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	<b>10</b> Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	<b>11</b> Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	<b>12</b> Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. 8 -3RUSD, LL	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE 10:30 coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Gospel Talk with Pastor Paul	<b>15</b> Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	<b>16</b> Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	<b>17</b> Office OPEN –7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thread by Thread OPEN 10 –2	<b>18</b> Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	<b>19</b> Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. 8 -3RUSD, LL	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE 10:30 coffee Hour / Thread By Thread Change over 11:15 a.m. Gospel Talk with Pastor Paul	<b>22</b> Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	<b>23</b> Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	<b>24</b> Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	<b>25</b> Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	<b>26</b> Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. 8 -3RUSD, LL	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE 10:30 coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Gospel Talk with Pastor Paul	<b>29</b> Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	<b>30</b> Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.				



**Bethania Lutheran Church**  
**4120 Wright Avenue**  
**Racine, WI 53405**



*Place Stamps*

*here*

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