



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"

July August 2024

Dear People of Bethania,

Why am I talking so much about Christian Nationalism in sermons? The short answer: I love our country. And, as we celebrate the 248th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, I feel that the grand experiment with democracy, begun on that 4th of July 1776, is under threat to authoritarian forces. Those who seemingly choose the authoritarian path are doing so because they value something more: the power to be in control and have their vision for the country forced on others. Their stated reason for making such a choice is, "We are a Christian nation." But what they truly want to force on everyone is *their version* of a "Christian nation" – something our founding fathers were weary, and wary of when they instituted a separation of church and state in the Constitution.

Which brings me to a second, more important reason why I'm talking about Christian Nationalism in my sermons: I love the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus even chose the word "Gospel" to make it clear that what he was doing was bringing a distinct alternative to the usual human politics of authoritarian imperialism. "Gospel" was a term used by Caesar to proclaim the "Good News" of his militaristic rule. Jesus co-opted the word "Gospel" to proclaim the coming of God's reign on earth, a reign with a decidedly different politics. If we are to properly proclaim the Gospel in our time and place, then we need to know what God's politics are. And how they are different from the typical human politics of authoritarian, militaristic rule.

This is where my love of country and love of the Gospel come together. I truly believe that the first major step away from the typical human politics, which have such a heavy death toll, is the American experiment with democracy. This is the first time in the history of so-called human "civilization" that a nation has chosen to move away from authoritarianism with such a long-term commitment to the ideal – not yet attained – of a nation who treats *all* people as created equal. From my perspective, we've made significant progress toward that ideal over the last 50 years, beginning with the Civil Rights and Women's Movements. But those who would vote for a return to authoritarianism in November are, in my opinion, choosing to give up on that experiment altogether.

This week, someone posted on the Synod e-mail stream a sermon against Christian Nationalism by a young preacher in Texas, James Talarico. Here's how he sums up what I'm saying here in this column:

Jesus could have started a Christian theocracy, but love would never do that. The closest thing we have to the kingdom of heaven is a multi-racial, multi-cultural democracy, where power is truly shared among all people — something that's yet to exist in human history. Christian Nationalism is not only a threat to the American experiment in democracy, it's also a threat to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I would like to leave copies of this sermon on the table in the back of the sanctuary, as another discussion-starter for the kind of conversation we need to continue having over the coming months – perhaps the most important time in our nation's history, as we face the possible end of the democratic experiment. To me, it also helps bring clarity to the Gospel itself. To understanding the very different politics of God's reign that we pray for every time we pray the Lord's Prayer: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Pray for peace!

Pastor Paul





Congratulations

2024 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Olivia Imhoff,



Ava Leger



Dakota Kechter



No image available

Natalie Shawhan,



No image available

Tommy Thiery



What the
church gave
the
graduates

<---MEN

WOMEN-->



WELCOME AVA!

On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024 Ava Madolyn Leger was confirmed by Pastor Paul Nuechterlein at the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Ava was presented by tour Council President and a member of her family placed her stole on her. Ava is the granddaughter of Jim & Sharon Leger. Please be sure to welcome Ava to the Bethania Family.

(pictures below)



WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!

6:00 p.m.

In the Hearth Room

The study is "The Essentials of
Effective Prayer"

Do you sometimes wonder if God hears –let alone answers–your prayers? Do you ask yourself, *What's the point of praying? Do you long to experience the power of prayer in your daily life? Find the keys to an effective prayer life in this compelling study that explores both God's expectations of you and His promises to you when it comes to prayer. Through a detailed examination of the Lord's Prayer and other examples of prayer throughout the Bible, you'll discover a model for talking with God. You'll also learn key principles of prayer and gain a deeper understanding of how prayer can draw you closer to His heart*

SUNDAY MORNING JOYS AND CONCERNS IS CHANGING

Beginning July 7, there will be index cards and a basket in the back on the table by the bulletins. We are asking that you fill out a prayer card before service and leave it in the basket.

Jeff will pick up the basket and take it to the lectern with him so he can read the congregation the prayers of the congregation. This will help with those who are to shy to talk in a group and it will also help with everyone being able to hear what /who it is we are praying for. The cards will then go to the church office for Cathi (and Pastor) to add to the prayers.



Happy 95th Birthday Anita! - Anita celebrating her birthday with her dear friends Ingaborg and Grete.

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Our Beautiful Danish ladies celebrating their friend Anne's 90th birthday in style.





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 Luetgen
5321 Douglas Avenue
Racine, WI 53402

Tom Nielsen
Racine, WI 53405

Joyce Thomsen
2935 Old Mill Drive
Racine, WI 53405

Heather Joshi
c/o Bonnie Jensen
1513 Russet Street
Racine, WI 53405

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



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

Prayer List



Jeff & Sue O.,
Bonnie, Anita, Grete,
Bettie, Sherry,
Charlotte, Scott,
Kayla, Fran, Heidi,
Samantha, Wendy S.,
Kim N., Julie N.,
Tammy L., Jean D.,
Brad L., Tom N.,
Tom C., Justin E.,

W O R S H I P

WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAYS!

9:30 a.m. - In Person or on FACEBOOK LIVE.

(OR ANYTIME) on our Facebook page.

NOW with closed captioning.

Bulletins are available by email or on our website:
<http://www.bethanialutheran.org/bulletins>

WHAT JESUS WOULD WANT IS TO DO:

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:

SERVE AS A WORSHIP LEADER

MOW THE LAWN

JOIN THE CARE & CONCERN TEAM (Send cards to our Members)

REMEMBER YOUR OFFERING (Pays the Bills)

INVITE OTHERS TO WORSHIP

Church Business

Worship Date	Offering	In person	Facebook.
May 05, 2024	1425.00	20	82
May 12, 2024	1160.00	20	45
May 19, 2024	1132.00	37	67
May 26, 2024	1275.00	21	65
June 02, 2024	1156.00	20	61
June 9, 2024	1533.00	25	81
June 16, 2024	269.00	20	55
June 23, 2024	583.60	23	110
June 30, 2024	1045.00	25	45





Bethania Lutheran Church

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

Church Email: Bethania@wi.twcbc.com

Pastor's Email: Pastor@wi.twcbc.com

Website: www.bethanialutheran.org

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

Emergencies: Call (262) 909-5369

*(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

C e l e b r a t i o n s

7/1—Rachel Rybarik
7/6—Jeff Munch
7/9—Karl Ernst
7/10 -Lisa Rybarik
7/12—Peter Monefeldt
7/13—Joyce Thomsen
7/14—Ed Young
7/17 - Kelly Imhoff
7/17—Dennis Dragan
7/20—Jackson Barnes
7/21—Jeff Alderson
7/22—Ava Leger



On July 22, Jeff & Dennise Munch will celebrate their 29th wedding anniversary.

Only July 27th Karl & Mary Ernst will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

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



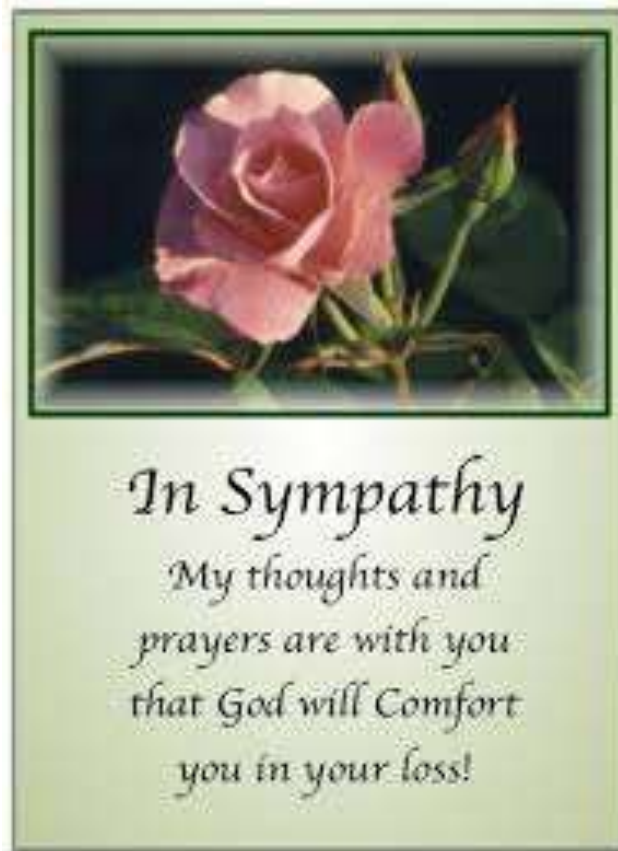
8/14—Camden Barnes
8/16—Etta McGaughey
8/19 —John Barnes
8/19 - Cameron Kechter
8/23—Brooke McIntosh
8/29 -Mary Ernst
8/30 —Liz Krause

On August 4, Dan & Kim Drasen will celebrate their 38th wedding anniversary.

Only August 10th, Erik & Grete Hansen will celebrate their 56th Wedding Anniversary!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Date	Worship Leader	Communion Assistant	Reader	Acolyte & Offering Present-	Building Host	Coffee Hour	Altar Flowers
July 7		Kelly I mhoff Jerod Alderson	Ann Woodward	Kelly I mhoff	Kelly I mhoff		
July 14		Brad Larsen	Anita Nielsen	Brad Larsen	Brad Larsen	Altar Guild	
July 21		Jeff Alderson Calaway Alderson	Calaway Alderson	Jeff Alderson	Jeff Alderson		
July 28		John Barnes Robin Barnes	Robin Barnes	John Barnes	John Barnes		
August 4		Julie Hansen Vicki Thiery	Ann Woodward	Ed Young	Ed Young		
August 11	Pastor Brad Brown	Kelly I mhoff Jerod Alderson	Jerod Alderson	Kelly I mhoff	Kelly I mhoff	Altar Guild	
August 18		Brad Larsen	Brad Larsen	Brad Larsen	Brad Larsen		
August 25		Jeff Alderson Calaway Alderson	Jeff Alderson	Jeff Alderson	Jeff Alderson		



Our Sympathy to Ed & Jacci Young and family on the passing of Ed's sister Delores Koehler. Dolores passed away peacefully on May 28, 2024, at the age of 80. The visitation and funeral were held at Krause Funeral Home, on Monday, June 10, 2024 in Milwaukee.

Our Sympathy to Ed & Jacci Young and family on the passing of Ed's great niece Kayla McClenithan. Kayla passed away on May 19, 2024, at the age of 21 from an automobile accident.

Our Sympathy to Anita Nielsen and family on the passing of her cousin Judy. Judy passed away on June 21, 2024.

Our Sympathy to Mike and Kelly Imhoff and family on the passing of his brother in law Scott Mead. Scott passed away on June 23, 2024.

July 2024

CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	2 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m. Council Mtg. - tentative	3 Office OPEN –7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thread by Thread OPEN 10–2	4 Independence Day Office CLOSED.	5 Office CLOSED.	6
7 9:30 coffee Hour 10:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE	8 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	9 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	10 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	11 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	12 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	13
14 9:30 coffee Hour 10:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE	15 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	16 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	17 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thread by Thread OPEN 10–2	18 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	19 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	20
21 9:30 coffee Hour 10:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE 12:30 –2:30 pm Confir- mation Class @ Living Faith	22 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	23 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	24 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	25 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	26 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	27
28 9:30 coffee Hour 10:30 Worship In person & ONLINE	29 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	30 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	31			

August 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.	2 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	3
4 9:30	5 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	6 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	7 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thread by Thread OPEN 10 –2	8 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	9 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	10
11 9:30 coffee Hour 10:30 a.	12 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	13 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	14 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m	15 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	16 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	17
18 9:30	19 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m	20 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	21 Office OPEN –7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thread by Thread OPEN 10 –2	22 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	23 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	24
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Bethania Lutheran Church
4120 Wright Avenue
Racine, WI 53405



Place Stamps

here

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