



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.”

January—February 2025

Dear People of Bethania,

Last year the Epiphany Season began with Mark’s Jesus proclaiming the Good News, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news” (Mark 1:15). In short, the Gospel is all about the coming of God’s kingdom into the world through Jesus. There’s no way around it. The Gospel is about God’s politics coming into the world as a distinct alternative to typical human politics. All year round we characterized typical human politics as “nationalism,” the belief that your group is right, and that god has put you in charge. It is the way of all human empires and nations in justifying use of violence against enemies. It is a way where just a few leaders are installed at the top to rule *over* the others, not with and for the others.

Jesus comes with something distinctly different. He is a “lord” who serves and calls his followers into mutual service. God’s reign believes in the power of love, even love of enemies, such that it suffers violence rather than inflicting it. God’s reign that Jesus brings into the world as the “Son of Man,” a new generation of being human, is structured on true equality and equity. ‘All people are created equal.’ Every human being is a child of God deserving of God’s unconditional love, God’s loving desire for all lives to flourish.

As we begin Epiphany 2025 with Luke’s Gospel, we will find his version of Jesus’ Good News no different than Mark’s. We have already been prepared by his infancy narratives, the Advent-

Christmas stories, which Mark's Gospel doesn't include. Mary herself proclaims the leveling out that occurs in preparing the way of the Lord, "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly" (Luke 1:52).

If anything, Luke takes the Good News of God's kingdom even further. He won't open with Mark's version 'the kingdom of God has come near.' He'll use it later as Jesus sends out 'the seventy' on a Gospel message, repeating the line twice to make sure they get the point (Luke 10:9, 11). For good measure, Luke's Jesus even tweaks the line for greater clarity as he launches into a mysterious prophecy about the coming of the 'son of man': "The kingdom of God is in your midst" (Luke 17:21).

Luke's launching of Jesus' Gospel mission, which we will read on the Third and Fourth Sundays after Epiphany (January 26 and February 2), occurs in the synagogue of Nazareth on the Sabbath. Jesus reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ~ Luke 4:18-19

Then Jesus rolls up the scroll and says, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Wow! Talk about telling things straight! Jesus tells his hometown folks that he is the fulfillment of the coming of God's reign into the world. And he characterizes it in terms of the Jubilee, the year when God will equalize things by making central those most on the margins.

In the weeks and months ahead, will we see efforts to put "Project 2025" into place in our nation? Efforts to launch a movement of "Christian Nationalism"? Which, if we read and

interpret Jesus faithfully, is the polar opposite of what it means to be “Christian”? I believe that 2025 will provide an even more urgent need to revitalize our Gospel message for mission. Let us pray that we answer the call to shine the light of Jesus in what may become a growing darkness. Let us pray that the darkness may become an occasion for another Epiphany.

Peace,

Pastor Paul



Date	Giving	In Person	Facebook
Nov 3, 2024	\$1686.00	20	Not posted
Nov 10, 2024	\$1645.00	20	Not posted
Nov 17, 2024	\$1064.67	20	111
Nov 24, 2024	\$ 585.00	15	Not posted
Dec 1, 2024	\$1164.00	19	Not posted
Dec 8, 2024	\$2094.33	18	113
Dec 15, 2024	\$1099.00	26	69
Dec 22, 2024	\$ 930.23	20	92
Dec 24, 2024 3pm	\$ 410.00	32	91
Dec 24, 2024 7 pm	\$ 145.00	13	108
Dec 29, 2024	\$ 365.00	14	No Stream

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

FAT SUNDAY AEBLESKIVER BRUNCH will be held on **Sunday March 2, 2025** following



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 2024


Following Worship in the Hearth Room

Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, January 12, 2025 on the table at the back of the church.

2025 Giving Envelopes are available on the table at the back of the church.

Christ In Our Home: January to March 2025 Devotional books are available on the table at the back of the church.

2024 Giving Statements will be available on Sunday January 26, 2025 on the table at the back of the church.



*Happy
January Birthday*

Happy Birthday to the person who makes January brighter!
May your day be filled with sweet moments and delightful surprises!

1/5 Richard McGaughey
1/7 - Jacob Hansen
1/14 Olivia Weaseman
1/21 Jim Leger
1/27—Jakob Jensen
1/31 Kim Drasen



February Birthday

For those celebrating a birthday this month, here's wishing you abundant blessings of love, peace, grace, hope and favor. May your day be as special as you are! God Bless

Happy Birthday

2/1—Bettie Liston
2/3—Jacque Majeed
2/5—Thomas Thiery
2/18—Melanie Brabbit
2/23—Lauryn Berger
2/26—Krista Berger



2/22—Kyle & Melanie Webster

Thank You

“THERE'S MORE *Joy*
IN *giving*
THAN IN RECEIVING.”

Thank you to everyone who donated Hygiene items for the food pantry. They are greatly appreciated.

A Special Thank you to Mike Imhoff for the endless hours getting the education wing boiler working.

Also, thank you to Steve from Keystone who helped him.

Thank you to Brad Larsen for picking up the Poinsettias for Christmas Eve and for helping with the printing of the bulletins almost every week.

Thank you to Ed Young for fixing the office computer when it died.



Jeff & Sue O., Bonnie, Anita, Grete L, Bettie, Sherry,
Jean D., Brad L. , Tom N., Sean D. Cathi, Ingaborg.
Jim & Sharon L.,



If you have anyone you would like to have added to the prayer chain **please contact Kelly Imhoff at 262-554-1558, the church office 262-632-7267 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 may be store bought or homemade.

Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside Pastors office.

Cans FOR K-9's



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

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: ziplock)

Bethania will receive \$2 per cartridge.

NO Toners please.



We follow Jesus, form communities, love all.

The Greater Milwaukee Synod

Reconciling in Christ (RIC), established in 1983, is a program through which Lutheran faith communities can publicly commit to welcoming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions and to working for racial equity.

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) is the designation that Lutheran churches might seek to help communicate their desire to welcome and fully include the LGBTQ+ community in their Christian community.

The Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program is for congregations, synods, colleges, seminaries, and other Lutheran organizations. Lutheran communities that publicly welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people are accepted onto the Reconciling in Christ Roster which now exceeds 813 Lutheran Institutions

The three stages for reconciliation are: replacing fear by non-violent coexistence; building confidence and trust; and developing empathy. Coexistence, trust and empathy develop between individuals who are connected as victims, beneficiaries and perpetrators.

The purpose of the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work and support the national program.



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.

Tom Nielsen

Prospect Heights
2015 Prospect Street
Racine, WI 53404

Marilyn Petersen

Pleasant Point Senior
Living
8500 Corporate Drive
Racine, WI 53406

Grete Loschenkohl

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

Joyce Thomsen

2935 Old Mill Drive
Racine, WI 53405

Bethania Lutheran Church

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

Church Email: Bethania@wi.twcbc.com

Pastor's Email: paulnue56@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.bethanialutheran.org

Office Hours:

Emergencies: Call Cathi (262) 909-5369

Or Pastor Paul (269) 290-4533

**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
John Barnes
Brad Larsen, Property**

The Poinsettias that decorated the chancel this Christmas were Given in.....

In Memory of:

Jim & Shirley Woodward by Anne Woodward

Our grandparents Alan & Irma Andersen by Erick & Annika Nielsen

Family Members by Greta & Erik Hansen

Loved ones in Denmark by Anita Nielsen

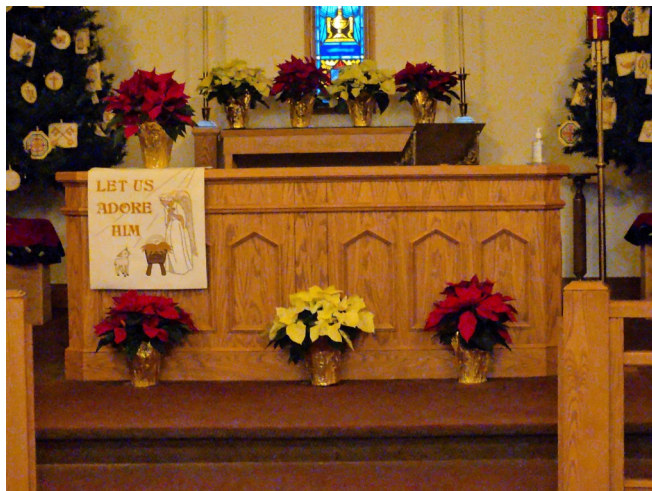
Family by Brad Larsen

Family members by Cathi Webster

In Honor of:

Our Bethania musician by Anonymous

Our Council President who has served many years faithfully by the Bethania Church council.





Our deepest Sympathy to Jacci & Ed Young, Mark & Edith Thornton and their families on the loss of their brother Jim Thornton. Jim passed away on Sunday December 1st, 2024. His funeral was held at Bethania on Saturday December 21, 2024. Pastor Paul Nuechterlein officiated.

Our deepest Sympathy to Brad Larsen and family on the loss of his brother in law Bernard Kupper Jr.. Bernie passed away on Friday December 6th, 2024. His funeral was held on Tuesday, December 17th, 2024 at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection.

MEMORIALS

Given in Memory of James Thornton by:

Robin & John Barnes

Anne Woodward

Barb Nelson

Anita Nielsen

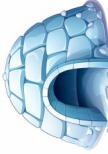
Tom Friedel

Anonymous



January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 RUSD Class 8Class 8—2	4
5:30 Worship 10:15 Coffee Hour	6 <i>Epiphany</i>	7	8	9	10 RUSD Class 8Class 8—2	11
9:30 Worship 10:15 Coffee Hour	13	14	15 Thread by Thread Open	16	17 RUSD Class 8Class 8—2	18
19:30 Worship 10:15 Coffee	20	21	22	23	24 RUSD Class 8Class 8—2	25
26:30 Worship 10:15 Coffee Hour/Cong.	27	28	29	30	31 RUSD Class 8Class 8—2	

February 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 Worship 10:15 Coffee Hour	3	4	5 Thread by Thread Open	6	7 RUSD Class 8Class 8—2	8
9 9:30 Worship 10:15 Coffee Hour	10	11	12	13	14 <i>Valentines Day</i> RUSD Class 8Class 8—2	15
16 9:30 Worship 10:15 Coffee Hour	17	18	19 Thread by Thread Open	20	21 RUSD Class 8Class 8—2	22
23 9:30 Worship 10:15 Coffee Hour	24	25	26	27	28 RUSD Class 8Class 8—2	

Bethania Lutheran Church
4120 Wright Avenue
Racine, WI 53405

Postage stamps