



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 2025

*D*ear People of Bethania,

On June 21, I attended a Town Hall meeting for our US House Representative Bryan Steil. He was issued an invitation weeks ahead of time but never responded in any way. (He did end up sending someone to issue an invitation to meet with veterans on a later date, so we at least know he received the invitation.) The organizers wanted to meet regardless, so that people could voice their concerns. The event was recorded to pass on to Rep. Steil’s office.

I was one of about 15 people to speak in the one-and-a-half hour meeting. I decided to wear my clergy collar and introduced myself as a pastor in Racine, because my question for Rep. Steil involves the morality of the “big, beautiful bill,” which Steil had already voted for and is currently up for vote in the Senate. My question is this: this bill represents the largest transfer of wealth from the poor and middle class to the wealthy in the history of our nation. How can one justify this morally and spiritually?

Over the next several months are the ideal time to raise such questions. In our serial reading of Luke's Gospel, we are entering the middle section, where there's numerous passages about the dangers of wealth. Our guide for this journey will be a new commentary on Luke by scholar/activist Ched Myers, titled *Healing Affluenza and Resisting Plutocracy: Luke's Jesus and Sabbath Economics*. (*Plutocracy*, a very poignant word for our times, simply means "rule by the rich.") He maps out six "Rich Man Sequences" in the middle section of Luke's Gospel, most of which are unique to his Gospel. Luke is by far the Gospel writer most concerned with the downfalls of being rich. Here's the 'map' for our Gospel Readings, beginning August 3:

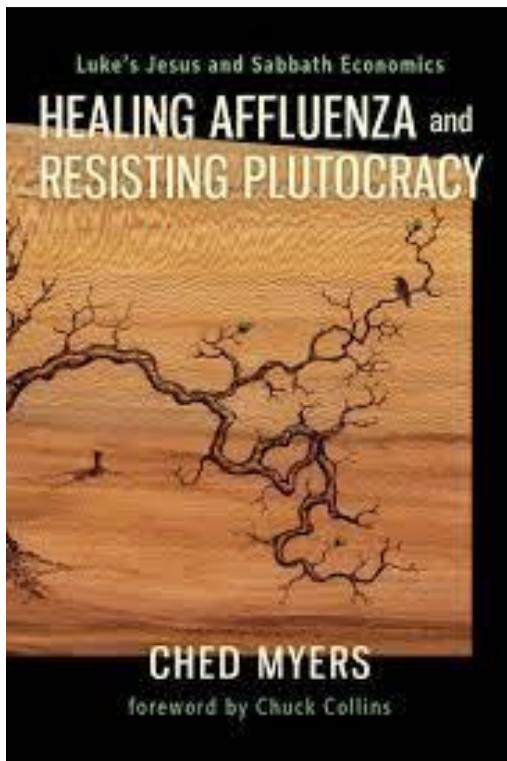
- *First Rich Man Sequence*: The Parable of the Rich Fool (12:13-21—August 3); "Where Your Treasure Is . . ." (12:34-40—August 10)
- *Second Rich Man Sequence*: Jesus Heals Woman Bent Over (13:10-17—August 24); Dining with a Rich Pharisee (14:1-14—August 31); The Cost of Discipleship (14:25-33—Sept. 7)
- *Third Rich Man Sequence*: The Parable of the Dishonest Manager (16:1-13—Sept. 21)
- *Fourth Rich Man Sequence*: The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (16:19-31—Sept. 28)
- *Fifth Rich Man Sequence*: The Parable of the Widow and Unjust Judge (18:1-8—October 19); The Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector (18:9-14—October 26)
- *Sixth Rich Man Sequence*: Jesus and Zacchaeus (19:1-10—November 2)

Why should we look forward to this section of Luke's Gospel? We are regularly told that the number one issue in elections have to do with kitchen

table – sustaining our daily lives economically. That’s what Jesus’ “Sabbath Economics” in Luke are about. How can we advocate for ourselves in light of God’s economics in Jesus? How can we resist the trend to plutocracy and promote a sustainable economy where more people have a real chance to thrive?

Join us for worship this summer and fall!

Peace, Pastor Paul





Date	Communion Assistant	Reader	Building host, offering & cross	Coffee Hour	Altar Flowers
July 6	Jeff Alderson & Brad Larsen	Anne Woodward	Jeff Alderson		
July 13	John & Robin Barnes	Robin Barnes	John Barnes	Altar Guild	
July 20	NO WORSHIP SERVICE AT BETHANIA				
July 27	Kelly Imhoff & Jerod Alderson	Kelly Imhoff	Kelly Imhoff		
August 3	Brad Larsen & Jeff Alderson	Brad Larsen	Brad Larsen		
August 10	Jeff & Calaway Alderson	Calaway Alderson	Jeff Alderson	Altar Guild	
August 17	John & Robin Barnes	John Barnes	John Barnes		Jane Spencer
August 24	Julie Hansen & Vicki Thiery	Vicki Thiery	Ed Young		
August 31	Kelly Imhoff & Jerod Alderson	Jerod Alderson	Kelly Imhoff		

July & August Scripture Readings



July

6: Isaiah 66:10-14, Galatians 6:1-16 & Luke 10: 1-11 & 16-20.

13: Deuteronomy 13:9-14, Colossians 1:1-14 & Luke 10:25-37

20: Genesis 18:1-10a, Colossians 1:15 -28 & Luke 10:38 -42.

27: Genesis 18:20-32, Colossians 2:6-19 & Luke 11:1-13

August

3: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23, Colossians 3: 1-11 & Luke 12: 13-21.

10: Genesis 15:1-6, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 & Luke 12:32-40.

17: Jeremiah 23:23-29, Hebrews 11:29-12:2 & Luke 12:49-56.

24: Isaiah 58:9b-14, Hebrews 12:18-29 & Luke 13:10-17.

31: Proverbs 25:6-7a, Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 & Luke 14: 1,7-14.



July Birthdays

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

August Birthdays

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



July Anniversaries

22 – Jeff & Dennise Munch will celebrate their 30th Anniversary

27 – Karl & Mary Ernst will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary.

August Anniversaries

4 – Dan & Kim Drasen will celebrate their 39th Anniversary

10 – Erik & Grete Hansen will celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary.



Bethania Lutheran Church

4120 Wright Avenue

Racine, WI 53405

262-632-7267

bethania@wi.twcbc.com

Reverend Paul Nuechterlein, Pastor
Cathi Webster, Administrative Assistant
William Mueller, Church Musician

Council: Jeff Alderson (President), Kelly
Imhoff (Vice President), Ed Young
(Treasurer), Cathi Webster (Secretary),
Brad Larsen (Property), Shelly Alderson,
and John Barnes

2025 Graduates



Austin Kechter, Gateway Technical College,
Automotive technician



Grace Leger, Racine Lutheran High School



Vincent Nemath, Burlington High school

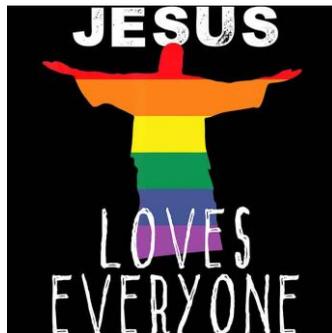


RECONCILED IN CHRIST

Just an update on what Bethania is doing as far as working on being reconciled in Christ. A committee has been formed and they are working on a welcoming statement.

This is different than our Mission statement, which can be found on the cover page.

The committee is hoping to have a welcoming statement to present at the Congregational meeting on July 13, 2025.





Jeff O., Bonnie, Anita, Grete L., Bettie, Jean D., Tom N., Cathi, Jim & Sharon L., Ingaborg, Robin B., Pat, Heather, Daniel, Joel, Angel, Este, Richard, Carol, Wesley, Kurtis, Debbie M., Melanie I., Ardith K., Deb M., Ava L., Miyah, Hendrix D.

Dear Lord, I humbly ask for
your healing hand to rest
upon my loved one.
Please grant them strength
and comfort during this
difficult time, and restore
their health swiftly. Amen.





On May 28, 2025 Ava Leger left for basic training which puts her about halfway through her basic training. Her final test will be the “battlestations” which is a Disney designed simulator that challenges their skills to make sure all sailors are fit for job. Her Pass In Review (graduation) is July 31, 2025. She will then go on to “A” school in Texas, where she will train for her medic degree/nursing. Please keep Ava in your prayers as she meets the challenges of becoming a US Navy Sailor.

You can write her at: SR Leger, Ava M.

 Ship 4, Division 934

 Recruit Training Command

 3600 Ohio Street

 Great Lakes, IL 60088



Sunday, July 20
10am
Pritchard Park
(2800 Ohio St.)
South Shelter

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

There will be NO worship service held at the Bethania building. We are all invited to worship as one with our collective churches at Pritchard Park.

CARE AND CONCERN LIST

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

JOYCE THOMSEN

2935 Old Mill Drive
Racine, WI 53405

262-632-5678

GRETE LOSCHENKOHL

Ascension Living

- St Francis Place

3200 S. 120th Street

Room 101

Milwaukee, WI 53215

MARILYN PETERSON

Pleasant Pointe
Assisted Living

8500 Corporate Dr.

#403

Racine, WI 53406

262-898-3239

TOM NIELSEN

Prospect Heights

2015 Prospect St.

Racine, WI 53404



LAWN MOWING

Volunteers are needed to help with the lawn mowing. The lawn mower and gas is provided. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the hearth room.



SIGN UP TO HOST COFFEE HOUR

Please consider signing up to host coffee hour. Treats may be home made or store bought.



Sunday, July 13, 2025
following worship

Tentative Agenda items: LACE Scholarships,
Flat Roof Repair & Welcoming Statement

Our Sympathy to Jeff & Shelly Alderson and family on the loss of Jeff's mother Beatrice Alderson on Sunday May 4, 2025. Her funeral was held on Saturday May 17 at the Yorkville United Methodist church.

Our Sympathy to Ingaborg, Chris Stauerbol and family on the loss of her son /his brother Per Stauersbol on Wednesday June 25, 2025. Private services were held.



HEALING SERVICE

SUNDAY AUGUST 24, 2025

9:30 a. m.

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10-2 TxT OPEN	3	4 Independence Day	5
6 9:30 worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:30 worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	14	15	16 10-2 TxT OPEN	17	18	19
20 9:30 worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:30 worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	28	29	30	31		

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	4	5	6 10-2 TxT OPEN	7	8	9
10 9:30 worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 9:30 worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	18	19	20 10-2 TxT OPEN	21	22	23
24 9:30	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:30 worship 10:30 Coffee Hour						

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Place stamp

