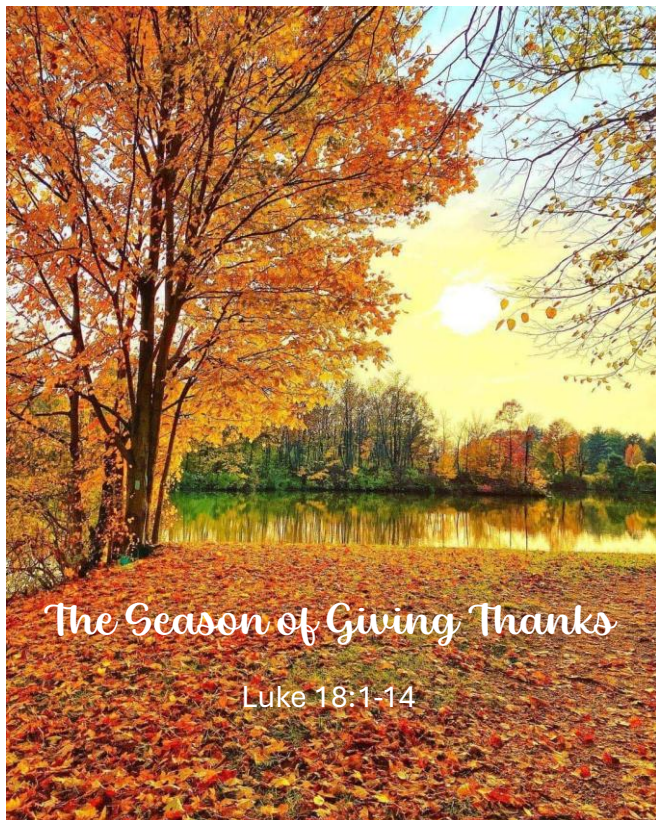




Bethania Lutheran Church

4120 Wright Avenue +Racine, WI +53405



The Season of Giving Thanks

Luke 18:1-14

Sunday, October 12, 2025

9:30 a.m.

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

~ Our mission Statement

Welcome to Bethania Lutheran Church.

Bethania is a community rooted in faith and strengthened through generations. Founded by Danish immigrants, our story begins with a resilient spirit, a deep commitment to worship, and a strong sense of fellowship.

Today, we honor that legacy by growing in faith, service and love – welcoming all who seek belonging, purpose and spiritual growth. We embrace people of every race, age, culture, socioeconomic background, sexual and romantic orientation, gender identity and expression, ability, neurotype, relationship status, citizenship or immigration status and life experience.

Are you weary from the weight of life's journey? There is a space for you here. At Bethania, you are invited to the communion table to share in the bread and wine, just as you are invited to the table for aebleskivers and lingonberry jam – a sign of our hospitality and joy. This is a place to be present in His presence. Welcome home.

Adopted 7/13/2025

TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein Lector: Anita Nielsen

Communion Assistants: Brad Larsen & Jeff Alderson

Building Host, Offering Presenter: Brad Larsen

Coffee Hour: Altar Guild

Altar Flowers: OPEN

Live Stream Tech: A Volunteer

Musician: recording

(next Sunday's worship leaders can be found on page 16)

Order of Worship for Sunday, October 12, 2025

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed. Genuine repentance and pretentious piety stand in stark contrast in the gospel and all around us. All creation stands in need of God's forgiveness. Keep the faith. God's people shall be accounted righteous for Jesus' sake. Our God is merciful to sinners. For this we worship and glorify God forever.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

GATHERING

(Please rise)

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: L: When we are lonely and feeling lost . . .

C: **Jesus calls us and brings us hope and peace.**

P: When we are angry and frustrated . . .

C: **Jesus heals our wounds and soothes our tempers.**

P: When we are sorrowful and broken . . .

C: Jesus binds up our wounds with his healing love.

P: Come, let us worship the one who cares so abundantly for us.

C: AMEN

OPENING PRAYER

P: Let us pray together,

C: For the healing love you have offered to us; for the patience you have with us; for your presence that will never fail, we give you thanks, O Lord. Bring our hearts and spirits to you so that we may grow in our faith and service to you by serving others. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN

"Ask the Complicated Questions" #1005

All Creation Sings – see separate sheet

SALUTATION

P: 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: Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

WORD

THE FIRST READING is from the Book of Genesis, Chapter 32; verses 22 through 31.

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

²² The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with

him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.


L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Please rise)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW #783)



1 Praise and thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, Son of God, to you we give,
 for you chose to serve cre - a - tion, died that sin - ers all might live.
 Dear Lord Je - sus, guide my way; faith - ful let me day by day
 fol - low where your steps are lead - ing, find ad - ven - ture, joys ex - ceed - ing!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Our GOSPEL reading is from the book of Luke chapter 18; verse 1 through 14.

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’ ” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

⁹ Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was

praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.’ ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

(Please be seated)

MESSAGE

(Please rise)

HYMN OF THE DAY

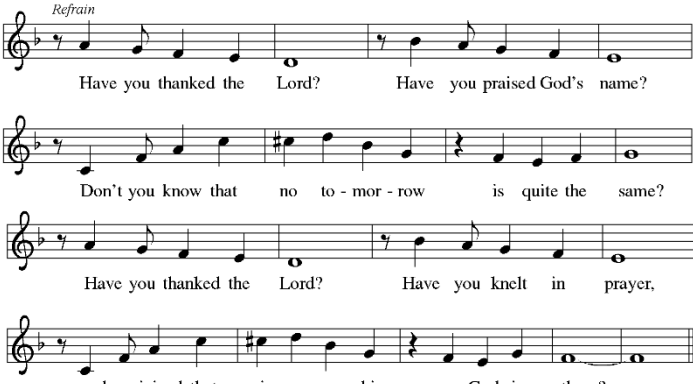
“Day by Day” #746

With One Voice – Blue Hymnal

PRAYER SONG

(ELW#829)

Refrain



Have you thanked the Lord? Have you praised God's name?

Don't you know that no to-mor-row is quite the same?

Have you thanked the Lord? Have you knelt in prayer,

and re-joiced that, rain or sun-shine, our God is there?

PRAYERS

P: Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

P: We pray for the church universal. O God, who unites the church across the globe, bring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition. Turn our hearts toward the gospel of Jesus Christ. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the entire cosmos. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all the earth. Grant our elected officials (*names of officials*) humility in their decision-making for the sake of the entire world. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer *especially* Jeff O., Bonnie, Anita, Grete L., Bettie, Tom N., Jim & Sharon L., Ingaborg, Robin B., Pat, Heather, Wesley, Debbie M., Ava, Mike I. , Cathi, Sue, Sam and all those we name. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for Bethania. O God, who guides this congregation, encourage us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Nurture our relationships with the community, that we serve and advocate for those who come to us in need. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We offer thanksgiving for the faithful departed. O God, whose promises never end, we thank you for all the saints who have shown us the way of your Son, Jesus Christ. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PRAYER SONG (repeated)

(ELW #829)

Refrain

Have you thanked the Lord? Have you praised God's name?

Don't you know that no to - mor - row is quite the same?

Have you thanked the Lord? Have you knelt in prayer,

and re-joiced that, rain or sun-shine, our God is there?

PASSING THE PEACE

P: May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: "And also with you."

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

OFFERTORY

(W & P #41)



Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,
give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,
give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAL

P: Christ be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to God.

P: Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 to 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.”

LORD’S PRAYER

P: Reaching out to one another let us join our hands and hearts together in the prayer that our Lord taught us to pray:

**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: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy. All are welcome.

(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 -

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me” # 309

Lutheran Book of Worship – Green 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

P: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✝ bless you now and forever.

C: AMEN!

SENDING HYMN -

“Rise Up, O Saints of God” #383

Lutheran Book of Worship – Green 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

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP LEADERS FOR SUNDAY 10/19:

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein Lector: Jeff Alderson

Communion Assistants: Jeff & Calaway Alderson

Building Host, Offering Presenter: Jeff Alderson

Coffee Hour: _____

Altar Flowers: Brad Larsen

Live Stream Tech: A Volunteer

Musician: William Mueller



Jeff O., Bonnie, Anita, Grete L., Bettie, Tom N., Jim & Sharon L.,
Ingaborg, Robin B., Pat, Heather, Wesley, Debbie M., Ava,
Mike I. , Cathi

Racine Collective Book Club

"No Cure for Being Human"
by Kate Bowler

Wednesdays 9/10 – 10/29/2025

1 p.m. The Inclusive Bean

6:00 p.m. United Lutheran



Please help us collect NEW socks for Thread By Thread this month.

Adult, Kids and infant sizes Needed

HOLY COMMUNION FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

side dishes (ex. Rice a Roni, Mac & Cheese, Knorr, etc.), tuna, pancake mix, syrup, and jelly. Bibles, devotional books, 2026 calendars, pens and pencils. If you have extra candy left over after Halloween we are in need of that to make goodie bags for Christmas.

NON-PROFIT LACE GRANT APPLICATIONS

Are available on the back table. Deadline for applications is November 1, 2025.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

**NOVEMBER 5 AT 4:30 p.m.
IN THE HEARTH ROOM.**

“You’ll Get Through This” by Max Lucado
is the study book we will be using.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANIA

Sunday, October 12, 2025

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour , Hearth Room

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

10:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Thread By Thread OPEN

1:00 p.m. – Book Club, The Inclusive Bean

7:00 p.m. Book Club, United Lutheran

Sunday, October 19, 2025

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Coffee hour, Hearth Room

The church office is currently closed for health reasons. The secretary can still be reached by calling the church office at 262-632-7267