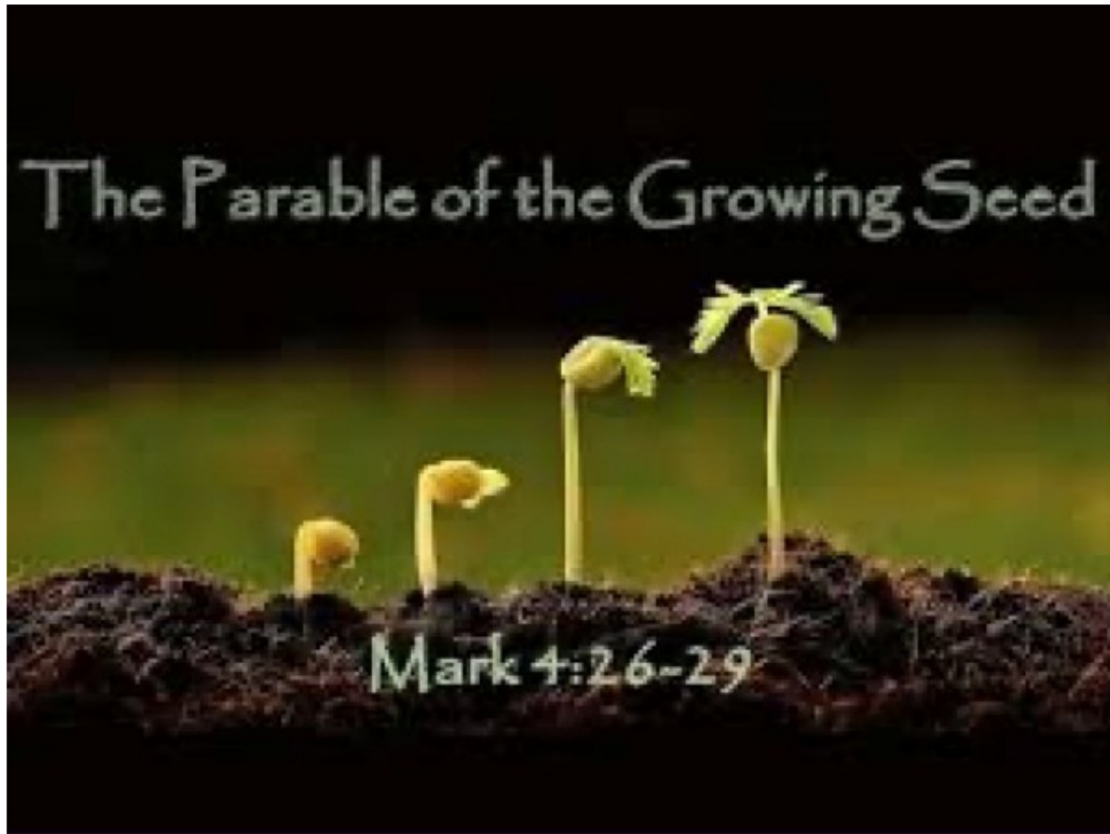




Sunday, July 12, 2026
Seventh Sunday after
Pentecost

Bethania Lutheran Church
4120 Wright Avenue
Racine, WI 53405
262-632-7267

Rev. Paul Nuechterlein, Pastor

“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

TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader: Reverend Paul
Nuechterlein

Musician: William Mueller

Lector: Jerod Alderson

Communion Assistants: Kelly Imhoff &
Jerod Alderson

Building Host, Offering Presenter: Kelly
Imhoff

Coffee Hour: OPEN

Altar Flowers: OPEN

Live Stream Tech: A Volunteer

Altar guild: Team A: Sharon Leger &
Jacque Majeed



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.



Introduction

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

Order of Worship Sunday, July 12, 2026

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

GATHERING

Please rise as you are able

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: God scatters the seeds of reconciliation and love, and waits....

C: So much of it lands on flat pathways or rocky roads and won't take root....

P: God scatters the seeds of healing and hope, and waits....

C: Shallowness and fear claim the seeds and they cannot live.

P: God scatters the seeds of redemption and peace, and waits....

C:: These are the places of deep growth where the seed will cast down strong roots.

P: Welcome this day to a seed-scattering station!

C: May our hearts be the rich soil in which God's love takes root. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

C: Lord, you know us so well. We thank you for your presence in our lives, even when we don't recognize it. This day we have gathered, coming from a week of unexpected happenings and events which have surprised us. Make us ready to become stronger witnesses for your love as we receive your word and find our spirits and lives healed. AMEN.

PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN

"Almighty God, Your World Is Cast" #234

Lutheran Book Of Worship – Green Hymnal

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: Let us pray,

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, **through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

WORD

THE FIRST LESSON is from the book of Isaiah, chapter 55 verses 10 through 13.

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

12 For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

P: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND LESSON is from the book of Romans, chapter 8 verses 1 through 11.

(Translation by Beverly Gaventa modified by Pastor Paul.)

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

1Therefore, now: no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2That is because the law under the power of the Spirit, that yields life in Christ Jesus, freed you from the law under the power of Sin and Death. 3Given that the law was powerless because it was weakened through the flesh, God, by sending his own Son in the likeness of flesh ruled by Sin and to deal with Sin, condemned Sin in the flesh 4so that the right decree of the law might be fulfilled by us, who do not live conformed to mere flesh but conformed to the Spirit.

5For those conformed to flesh side with the flesh, but those conformed to Spirit side with the Spirit. 6For the mindset of the flesh is death, but the mindset of the Spirit is life and peace. 7So then, the mindset of mere flesh is at enmity with God; it does not submit to God's law, since it is not able to do that. 8For those who live in the realm of mere flesh are not able to please God.

9But you, you do not live in mere flesh but in the Spirit, since God's own Spirit is at home in you. But if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, this one does not belong to Christ. 10And if Christ is in you, the body may be dead because of Sin, but the Spirit means life because of Christ's deliverance. 11And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead is at home in you, the One who raised Christ from the dead will also make even your mortal bodies alive through the Spirit that is at home you.

L: Words of Wisdom, Words of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Please rise as you are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(WOV # 713)

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your Word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard,
break the stone away.
When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost,
lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13th Chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 If you have ears, hear!"

18 "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. 23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

(Please be seated)

MESSAGE

Reverend Paul Nuechterlein

(Please rise as you are able)

HYMN OF THE DAY

(tune:Aurelia)

1 O God, whose word well-planted
yields fruit a hundredfold,
we praise your graces granted
to those who sowed of old,
who by their witness scattered
good seed upon the soil
where others, reaping, gathered
the harvest of their toil.

- 2 O God of seed and harvest,
of sun and soil and rain,
attend the word we sow,
lest its planting be in vain.
Send showers of your Spirit,
bright sunshine of your grace,
that multitudes who hear it
your gospel may embrace.
- 3 O God, your final harvest
of hist'ry's ancient field
will test with truth the proudest
that human work can yield.
Oppression's blight will vanish,
fair freedom's fruits increase;
and love and joy will flourish
to clothe the earth with peace.

P: Let Us join our hearts and hands in prayer.

PRAYER SONG

(ACS #942)

Everytime I feel the Spirit moving
in my heart I will pray
Everytime I feel the spirit moving
in my heart I will pray

PRAYERS

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world (. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources especially Jeff O., Bonnie, Anita, Grete L., Bettie, Tom N., Jim & Sharon L., Pat, Heather, Wesley, Jim D. Kim D, Parker, Lee, Kim and all those we name in our hearts. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

PRAYER SONG

(ACS #942)

Everytime I feel the Spirit moving
in my heart I will pray
Everytime I feel the spirit moving
in my heart I will pray

PASSING OF 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.)

(Please rise as you are able.)

OFFERTORY

Lord, You give the great comission; "Heal the sick and
preach the word" Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard, help us witness
to your purpose with renewed integrity
With the spirits gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Loving God,

We offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

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 for 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."

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

LORD'S PRAYER

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: Heaven is coming near. Come, share in the feast!
Everyone is 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

"As Grains Of Wheat" #705
With One Voice – Blue Hymnal

(Please rise as you are able.)

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: AMEN.

SENDING HYMN

(ACS # 1063)

God of the Fertile Fields



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the



earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care
toil be used, no gift of yours a - busied,
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.



that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
no hum - ble task re - fused, your love be - stows.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

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: Heaven is coming near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Jeff O., Bonnie, Anita, Grete L.,
Bettie, Tom N., Jim & Sharon L.,
Pat, Heather, Wesley, Jim D.,
Kim D. Parker, Lee, Kim

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR SUNDAY 7/26 :

Lector: Calaway Alderson

Communion Assistants: Jeff & Calaway Alderson
Building Host,

Offering Presenter: Jeff Alderson Coffee Hour:

Open

Altar Flowers: OPEN

Altar guild: Team A:

Sharon Leger & Jacque Majeed

HOLY COMMUNION FOOD PANTRY

July donation request:

canned pasta, pork & beans, tomato soup

instant potatoes, 15 oz. cans of mixed fruit

15 oz. cans of peaches



Wild Church

Sunday, July 19 at 10am
Pritchard Park - South Shelter
2800 Ohio St. Racine, WI

COMING UP THIS MONTH...

Sunday, July 12, 2026 –

9:30 a.m. - Worship /10:30 a.m. - Coffee Hour AT BETHANIA

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

7:00 pm - Council Meeting, Zoom

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

10 am to 2 pm - Thread By Thread OPEN AT BETHANIA

Sunday, July 19, 2026 –

10:00 a.m. - Worship at Pritchard Park - South Shelter

Sunday, July 26, 2026

9:30 a.m. - Worship /10:30 a.m. - Coffee Hour AT BETHANIA