

# The Good News Break

## Evangelical News of Bethany Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
We **INVITE** all; We **GROW** in faith; We **GO** to share God's love and grace.

Vol. 24, Issue 2

www.bethanyricelake.org 715-234-9028

February 2024



### Rev. Dr. Arthur Bergren, Lead Pastor—Lent 2024

On February 10 and 11, Bethany, with the whole Church will observe the end of the Epiphany season. The Epiphany season always concludes with the story of the Transfiguration. The Transfiguration details the mystical experience of Peter, James and John when they were perched atop a mountain. In that moment, three experiences unfolded for the three disciples. They witnessed Jesus' clothes becoming a dazzling white, Moses and Elijah tending to Christ, and God the Father blessing God the Son. Talk about a mountaintop experience! Then, Bethany Lutheran Church will move from the mountain top experience of Transfiguration into the valley of Lent. On Wednesday, February 14, Bethany will observe Ash Wednesday with worship at noon and 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday reminds us of our need of God. The cross of ash outlined upon our forehead reminds us that God enters into our sinfulness and death. Through the power of Easter, God overcomes our brokenness forevermore. In those services, we will confess our sins, receive the cross of ash and gather at God's table for Holy Communion. Lent is the 40 day season where we remember our need of God and God's gracious provision. This year we will be focusing upon the experience of change. On Ash Wednesday, we remind ourselves, the cross of Christ changes everything. It is there that Jesus takes on the dark side of humanity and overcomes it. In Christ's cross, we find the strength we need to navigate change. Over the next five Wednesdays, we will focus on an aspect of change: Change of Season, Change of Habit, Change of Circumstances, Change of Heart, and Change of Plans. Each week we will hear how Christ's cross leads us to true change. How Jesus is our continuity – Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever. Very soon once again, we will be invited by Jesus up to the mountaintop to witness the Transfiguration of our Son. Then we will be invited to head down into the valley of Lent. I encourage every last one of us to take this journey together. It's only in taking the journey can we expect to grow through all our changes.  
~ Pr. Arthur *Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 6:23*



The frigid January wind chill did little to distract Bethany Lutheran youth Henry and Jack Sommerfeld from attending church and Sunday School recently. The boys are the sons of Josh and Samantha Sommerfeld, and both attend Tainter Elementary School in Rice Lake. Henry, age 7, and Jack, age 5, are familiar faces at Bethany. Both have assisted in various worship aspects such as Greeters, Offering Collectors, and coming forward to ponder weekly Children's Sermons. In addition, they have participated in Sunday School and Youth Programs for the congregation. As the boys grow, they will be invited to attend a variety of Family and Community events, including Confirmation Classes and Outreach activities. When at home, Henry and Jack enjoy creating scenes by building with Legos. And according to Samantha, they are always excited to use new models, as well as work with Lego sets from their father, Josh's, younger years.

The Sommerfelds are the first Bethany family to be spotlighted in our monthly Newsletter. We hope to focus on various members for each publication as a way to highlight how the church impacts the community, the congregation, and the world. *Pictured: Jack, Samantha, and Henry Sommerfeld*



## Rev. Sue Eidahl, Visitation Pastor– Thank God for Saints!

*“For this reason, because I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him,” – Ephesians 1:15-17*

The last time I preached at Bethany, I told you that I had the best job in the world. Why do I say that? Because I get to listen to the stories of our Elderly Saints, our Senior Prophets. I have pondered the gift of these folks as I presided at three funerals of late. More and more I realize it is our sacred calling: to serve this generation and their needs.

Our youth-focused culture often encourages and looks for the potential in our young people. But potential does not rest on the number of years a person has yet to live. It rests where God sets it. Moses was 80 when the Lord called him to one of the most monumental tasks in Biblical history: freeing God’s people from the Egyptians. Abraham was in his senior years when he and the Lord started their great adventures. It wasn’t until he was 100 that God fulfilled the long-awaited promise to him: making him father of many nations. Noah was more than a little seasoned in years when God called on him to build the ark, at over 500 years old. Caleb was young when he answered God’s call, but aged when the Lord fulfilled it, as he was 85 when God brought him new territories to conquer. God heralded the arrival of His son Jesus through older people: Elizabeth, Anna, and Simeon, whose testimonies were crucial to the courage and faith of Mary as she mothered Jesus. Paul and John both lived to serve the New Testament church into their graying years. God used both of them to write great portions of Scripture in their older years. This list is merely a handful of the seniors God used in Scripture. I have heard from people who, for various reasons, have stopped to see some of our very precious, wise, older housebound church members and how even during this season of less mobility, God has a vital plan to use them in others’ lives. Watching those gifts and plans of God unfold is a precious treasure of encouragement and inspiration to everyone who has leaned in close enough to catch sight of God’s handiwork.

In closing, tending relationships with the senior members of our church family is designed to be a blessing for both the younger and older generations. Embrace those more advanced in years than you. You will both be blessed for it! If you need a list, see me. It’s a way to “Shine Jesus’ Light.”

## Pastoral Acts

**Funerals:** Alice Johnson, Pr. Leila “Lee” Haight, Loraine Galkins, and John Mongerson



### Sharing Jesus’ love!



Bethany Staff

Front: Angie, Pr. Arthur, Pr. Sue, Amy  
Back: Lea, Andrea, Jenny

## Get Involved/Faith Formation Opportunities

### What our Worship Volunteers have to say about helping out with Worship:

- “Being a song leader brings me joy as one way of expressing my faith along with helping others express their faith through music.”
- “Assisting in worship has kept me connected to members of Bethany and shown me the good-natured spirit throughout the church.”
- “I have been truly blessed through the sharing of the sacraments with our Senior Prophets who receive communion in their homes.”
- “I love it when people thank me for the ability to watch services by stream at home when they can’t make it to church!”
- “Being a communion assistant during worship at Bethany prompts me to imagine all of us sitting down at the Lord’s table to break bread together and share His life in a whole new way!”
- “When I do power point on Saturday evening. I find it fun to have fellowship with the other folks that worship at that time.”
- “Greeting people at the door for worship helps me connect with others and makes me thankful to be a part of this fellowship of believers.”
- “I love connecting with Bethany members in the simple act of sharing communion.”

Sometimes a simple smile as a greeter, being an usher, running a PowerPoint, leading us in song, reading the lessons, or serving communion make worship a more meaningful experience for all of us. Being an assistant also has the benefit of giving back to the volunteers in return. Thanks to all who volunteer and if you are interested in helping out call the office 715-234-9028 or [CLICK HERE](#)

[WELCA.org](http://WELCA.org) monthly topic:

*Sabbath for This Year and Beyond*  
by Dr. Crystal L. Hall

[Click here](#)

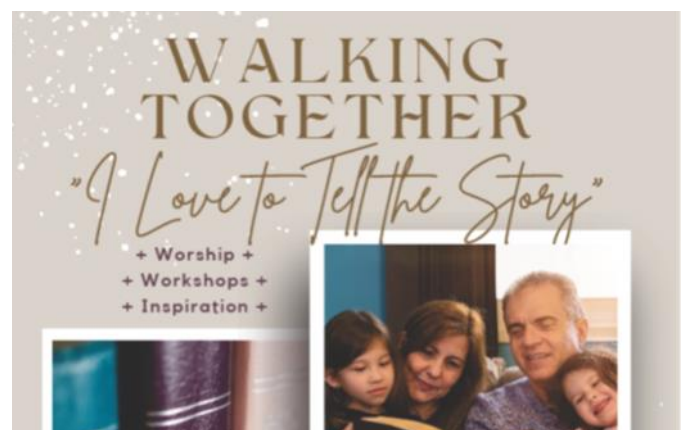


Looking for a daily on-line devotion?  
Check out Luther Seminary's



*A daily devotion brought to you by the  
alumni of Luther Seminary*

<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/>



CONGREGATION WORKSHOP DAY

February 17, 2024 9AM—4PM

Bethany Lutheran Church

Cost: \$25.00 (includes lunch)

[Click here to register online](#) or  
call the Synod Office (715)859-6810

Gather with other Christians from the NW Synod for a day of worship, faith-building & inspirational workshops and learning with this year's WALKING TOGETHER: I Love to Tell the Story

[Check out the NW Synod of WI website](#)

## Ministry Happenings



**Mission Jamaica** – a short term vacation with a purpose coordinated through St. Andrew's church in Mahtomedi, MN since 1989 – has become a tradition here at Bethany. Many members throughout the past decades have traveled to Jamaica during January for a short term mission project. This

year Bethany's group totaled 30 people which includes members and family/friends of members. Come to hear more about the service projects they participated in on **February 11 during our 10 AM service.** Two homes were built through donations – one funded by Donna Sockness in memory of Jim. Here are some highlights of the Bethany Team that worked on the Ja'Bode Project:



Let the planning begin for the 2025 Mission Jamaica Team from Bethany – contact Naomi Eastwold, 612-940-1207 or Heidi Nelson, 715-296-8022 for more information.



### Luther Park Bible Camp

Luther Park Bible Camp has events and activities for all ages throughout the year.

[Click out their website at https://lutherpark.org/](https://lutherpark.org/)

[Click here for their monthly newsletter, Luther Log](#)

*The Light Shines in the Darkness*



*Original artwork by Leni Sovacool*

### A Lent Devotional Booklet

created by Bethany members will be available by Ash Wednesday. Its theme, "The Light Still Shines in the Darkness" will contain daily entries of meditations, prayers, and words for all ages. You can pick up a copy in Bethany's Narthex or download a copy from our website  
Bethanyricelake.org  
Additional Lenten Resources are available online here:

<https://elca.org/40days>

*Thank you for sharing your church building with us so that we can share music with Northwest Wisconsin!  
Red Cedar Symphony Board of Directors*

Dear Bethany Church,  
*Thank you for the gift card. It was a welcomed surprise during my stressful finals week.*  
Thank you, Adam Roethel

Dear Bethany Church,  
*Thank you for the gift card. I really appreciate your thoughts as I go through my Sophomore year of college.* Sincerely, Jordan Roethel



Articles and information for the March Newsbreak are due by Monday, February 19

### **Pray for one another**

Our prayer list is always open  
Call Andrea in the church office to be listed in our weekly church prayers and/or prayer chain.  
715-234-9028

## Worship & Music from Amy Brekke

### Midweek Lenten Services begin Ash Wednesday, February 14

This year's Lenten series focuses on change. Services will be offered at noon (12PM) with a lunch to follow and 6:30 PM, with a meal served before at 5:15 PM. Join us during as we journey to the cross

Feb 14—Ash Wednesday

Feb 21—Change of Season

Feb 28—Change of Habit

Mar 6—Change of Circumstance

Mar 13—Change of Heart

Mar 20—Change of Plans



*be the change*



#### Bethany Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Contact Amy Brekke for information  
abrekke@bethanyricelake.org

**2024 Home-Grown Concert**  
Sat. Feb. 10 at 4:00 PM

**2024 Spring Concert**  
Sun. Mar 3 at 4:00PM

Bethany Lutheran  
Church Sanctuary



### Lent & Easter Worship Schedule

#### Ash Wednesday Worship

Feb 14 noon & 6:30PM

#### Lent Services

Wed Feb 21—Mar 20  
noon (meal at 12:30PM)  
6:30PM (meal at 5:15 PM)

#### Maundy Thursday

Mar 28 7 p.m.

#### Good Friday

Mar 29 7 p.m.

#### Easter Services

Mar 30 5:30 p.m.  
Mar 31 8 & 10 a.m.

# Youth Happenings from Angie Buchli

## HERE WE STAND

### HWS ~ Wednesdays from 6-7p.m.

- February 7 Lesson - Esther
- February 14 Ash Wednesday Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Worship Assistants: 8th grade
- February 18 (Sunday) - 6th Grade Students/Guides  
Worship Assistants
- February 21 Lenten Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Worship Assistants: 7th grade,
- February 28 Lenten Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Worship Assistants: 6th grade,



### Club 9 February 11

To strive for justice and peace in all the earth." (Movie Day)

\*Date/time may change if we go to movie theater.  
**Confirmation Journey Lesson - Service**

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Next NOLA Cinnamon Roll  
Sale February 24-25



### KWIK TRIP CARD SALES

The NOLA group will be selling Kwik Trip Cards between services on Sundays. You can also purchase them from Angie during the week.

We purchase Kwik Trip Gift cards at a 5% discount. You buy the cards at face value. The cards can be used for fuel and groceries.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE  
the table Young Adult Gathering

### 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

We are excited to announce that we have a group of 22 (18 youth and 4 adults) embarking on a journey to New Orleans, LA, July 14-21. These events are only held every three years. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our youth to come together with other ELCA youth from all over the country to build on their faith journey. We will participate in a three-day activity rotation that includes a day of service learning in the New Orleans area, a day of exploratory learning with other groups from our synod, and a day of interactive learning in the Convention Center.

THEME: "Created to Be." We have been created to be ourselves. Created by the Holy One.

Please keep this group in your prayers as we prepare for this journey and fundraiser. Thank you for all the support!

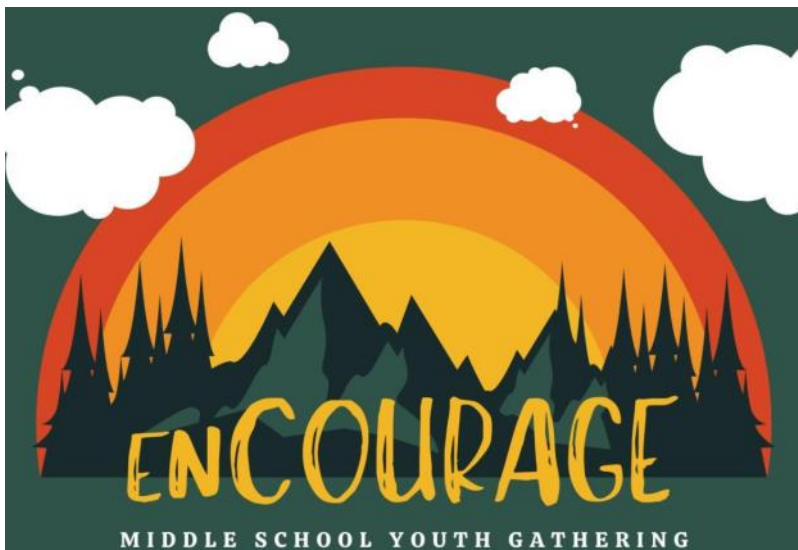
### Snow Day Reminder

If school is canceled, or there is an early dismissal, due to inclement weather, all youth activities will be cancelled that day.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERING

April 13— 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Registration forms will be emailed in February



### Mark Your Calendar!

**Palm Sunday Breakfast (9-10AM) - Sunday, March 24 (free will offering)**

**Easter Breakfast (9-10AM) - Sunday, March 31 (free will offering)**

# Gifts

## **Building Fund**

*In memory of Alice Johnson*

By: Dan & Carol Johnson

## **General Fund**

*In memory of Alice Johnson*

By: Jack & Monica Berkseth

*In memory of John Mongerson*

By: Jack & Monica Berkseth

By: John & Jean Fisher

By: Don & Mary Cuskey

By: Carolyn West

By: Joan Pajula

By: Bruce & Heidi Olson

By: Don & Connie Johnson

By: Dave & Sue Hildebrand

By: Joan Daniel

By: Jill Holtegard

By: John & JoAnn Henningsen

By: William & Nancy Warner

By: Diane LaDue

By: Mary Chido

By: Anne Gallalher

By: Bruce & Jean Anderson

By: Lind & Carol Knutson

By: G.A. & Pamela Petry

By: John & Jean Fisher

*In memory of Lorraine Calkins*

By: Dennis, Diane, Brian, Micah & families

By: David & Lois Schmidt

By: Don & Pauli Storm

By: Gary & Susan Schettle

By: Mark & Brenda Johnson

By: Ione & Bruce Gohl

By: Dave & Sue Hildebrand

By: Chuck & Theresa Stene

By: Sandra Bonneville

By: David & Lisa McCarty

By: Ken & Tara McKelvey

By: David & Lois Schmidt

By: Dennis Friese

By: Jim & Diane, Dave, & Erica King,

Michelle & Jim Swenson, Stephanie Born

## **Music Fund**

*In memory of Loraine Calkins*

By: Suzanne Arnevik

By: Gary & Susan Schettle

By: Jill Holtegard

*In memory of Alice Johnson*

By: Norm & Margaret Engstrom

By: Ray & Paula Kodesh

By: Dale & Bonnie Isenberg

By: Dale & Bonnie Isenberg

By: Dave & Sue Hildebrand

By: Dan & Elizabeth Destache

By: Gloria Gaynor

By: Jim & Carol Sevals

By: Don & Connie Johnson

By: Bun & Paulette Hanson

By: Jim & Maxine Williams

By: Jent Dow

By: Eugene & Rhonda Keller

By: Dennis & Diane Friese

By: Jay & Gayle Gilbertson

By: Kurt Jacobson

By: Mary Kay Berchild

By: Steven & Lynne Blom

By: Sue Arnevik

By: Jan Poethke

## **Radio Fund**

*In memory of Jerry Anderson*

By: the Anderson Family

*In memory of John Mongerson*

By: Duke & Marlene Thurs

By: Norma Bergum

*In memory of Alice Johnson*

By: Pat Olesczuk

By: Ione Gohl

*In memory of Pr. Leila "Lee" Haight*

By: Pat Olesczuk

## **Quilting Fund**

*In memory of Loraine Calkins*

By: Pat Olesczuk

By: Bruce Larson

By: Dorothy Herzog

By: Mark & Barb Johnson

By: Judy Dahlgren

*In memory of Alice Johnson*

By: Marlene Raether

## **Stained Glass Fund**

*In memory of Pr. Leila "Lee" Haight*

By: Joan Stolp

By: Barb Carlson

# Committees, Council & Staff

## Altar Guild

Audrey Kusilek, Chair

715-205-8843

Tammy Roberg, Carol Sevals, Julie Stephens, Candace Falk, Amy Brekke - Staff Rep.

## Caring Community

Gail Weber, Chair

715-736-0887

Pr. Sue Eidahl, Staff Rep.

## Property Management

Eric Roethel, Chair

608-475-0441

Dave Myre - Council Rep.

## Education

Angie Buchli, Acting Chair

715-205-2009

Tami Bowman, Kari Donze, Mackenzie Narins, Jennifer Nelson, Amy Pelle, Sara Scheu, Jan Wilking

Shirley Bergthold, Ric Brekke, Dave Jacobs, Joel

Kohlmeyer, Lynn Koob, Wendy Markgren, Keith Moffatt,

Russ Schnacky, Josh Weinstock

## Finance

Wendy Markgren, Chair - Treasurer

715-651-0905

Audrey Kusilek - Council Rep.

Joe Erickson, Pr. Arthur Bergren - Staff Rep.

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Mike Diercks, Vice President

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Tammy Roberg

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Ed Skaw

erskaw@gmail.com

## Mission Concerns

Amy Brekke, Acting Chair

715-651-6991

Pat McCann - Council Rep., Joan Gerland, Carol

Kohlmeyer, Shirley Peterson, Lenae Sovacool

## Personnel

Tom Lundquist, Chair

715-234-4270

Mike Diercks - Council Rep., Gary Chilson,

Bob Halverson

Pr. Arthur Bergren - Staff Rep.

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Building Custodian

Leatha Shores

715-234-9028

## Trust Fund

Roxie Olsen, Chair

715-651-7816

Jack Berkseth - Council Rep.

Chick Feather, Carol Sevals, Don Storm, Warren

Dorrance, Stefani Fiedler - Advisor

## Welcome Team

Kayelon Campbell Murphy, Chair

715-651-7843

Tammy Roberg—Council Rep.

Laurie Chada, Con Eastwold, Bea Evans, Mikey

Seymour, Lee Shores, Lynn Sulackow

Pr. Arthur Bergren - Staff Rep.

## Women of Bethany

Gail Weber, Chair

715-736-0887

Jodi Babineau—Council Rep.

Angie Buchli - Staff Rep.

## Worship & Music

Paul Hanson, Chair

715-234-6530

Bun Hanson - Council Rep.

Andy Denison, Con Eastwold, Bun Hanson, Linda Mullikin,

Please contact the church  
office if there is a committee member  
update. Thank you!