

The Good News Break

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 5

www.bethanyricelake.org 715-234-9028

May 2024

Bethany Member Spot Light - *Eva Sevals & Pr. Chaplain Peter Muschinske*



Eva Sevals

“Jesus makes a difference in my life,” wrote Eva Jamez Sevals in her 2023 Faith Statement as she prepared to be confirmed at Bethany Lutheran Church. “I think that my faith helps me make everyday choices and decisions...when I sing songs, it brings me closer to God and I love singing for other people because maybe it brings them closer to God.” Eva is presently a sophomore at Cameron High School. She loves playing volleyball where she is a member of the high school volleyball team. She also plays Club Volleyball and is teaching herself to play guitar. “I will commit myself to follow Jesus throughout my high school years,” Eva said. “I am going to continue singing in church and school and I’m also going to continue letting Jesus influence my life and the choices I make.”

Eva was born on June 4, 2008, and was baptized on December 23 of that same year. She has four sisters and one brother. Her hobbies include fishing, playing with her pets, and being with friends. Eva enjoys working with Bethany staff member Amy Brekke, who has encouraged her to sing during worship. “I enjoy listening to many musical groups and artists,” Eva said. “I like country music, contemporary Christian music and show tunes. When I listen to music, I like it when two people sing together so I can hear their voices harmonizing.” For her confirmation verse, she chose Psalm 28:7... *“The Lord is my strength and my heart trusts in him. He helps me and my heart leaps for joy. With my song, I praise Him.”* “This verse speaks to me because God is my strength,” Eva said. “I trust Him and He helps me. The part of the psalm that talks about how ‘my heart leaps for joy and with my song I praise Him,’ relates to me because when I praise the Lord in song, it fills me with joy.” Eva said it makes her smile when something she has said or done helps others smile, too. She believes that her faith helps her to grow stronger with each passing day.

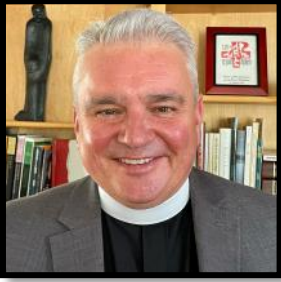
“Following Christ impacts my life by influencing the decisions I make and guiding me through the hard times.” In addition to singing solos at Bethany, Eva recently read for one of the Palm Sunday actress roles as well.

Just over a year ago President Joe Biden nominated Peter Muschinske for appointment to the grade of Rear Admiral. His ceremony took place on Dec. 15 at the Pentagon Memorial Chapel as his wife, Katie, pinned on the star as part of a traditional promotion ceremony. This opportunity, as the first ELCA pastor to be Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Reserve Matters-Total Force, is an unexpected three year assignment to conclude this particular form of service across his career as a Navy Chaplain. Muschinske, a son of the Bethany Lutheran Church congregation, served twice as interim pastor, in both instances, supported as a Reserve Chaplain. He was mobilized in 2006 and deployed to Iraq with the Seabees. Following the deployment he had active duty to the Navy Recruiting Command where he recruited chaplains and chaplain candidates from various faith traditions. On April 20 and 21, 2024 Rear Admiral Muschinske preached at all three Bethany services with a special reception on Sunday in the Gathering Room. The youngest of five in his family, Muschinske moved to Rice Lake from Sun Prairie at age 7 when his father, the late Rev. George (and Mae) Muschinske served as pastor from 1972 - 80. His father and brother Keith were both Air Force Chaplains, and his brother, Kent served as an Air Force pilot. His sisters, Debbie and Andrea live in the Rice Lake area. In addition to the ELCA, Synods and numerous congregations, his ministry represents the love and support of his family, wife Katie and three children Nicole, Erik, and Lianna.



Deputy Chief of Chaplains
for Reserve Matters
**Rear Admiral Peter
Muschinske**

Sabbath by Rev. Dr. Arthur Bergren, Lead Pastor



If I have heard it once, I have heard it a thousand times. “Pr. Arthur, I’m just so tired.” It’s a quality that the young & old, rich & poor and sad & joyful possess. Fatigue is now commonplace. The National Institute of Health reports that one out of every five Americans experiences extreme fatigue. So many of us live with chronic stress, lack of sleep, overlapping commitments and long work hours. It’s no wonder that many of us are tired. The corrective is for us to embrace the gift of the sabbath. The Hebrew noun, *sabbat*, appears over a hundred times in the Old Testament. The Greek word, *sabbaton*, appears over 60 times in the New Testament. In all of scripture, it means to stop, desist and refrain. In this case to refrain from work. Sabbath has its origin in Genesis’ creation texts. Six days, God created. The seventh day, God rested. Gerald Hasel puts it this way, “God made this day ‘holy’ by separating it from all other days.” It became a day of rest, worship and renewal. For our Jewish brothers and sisters, Sabbath is Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. For us Christians, it is Sunday and is rooted in Christ. There are two wonderful implications that rise from this idea of sabbath.

First, it can be said that getting rest and taking care of ourselves is an act of faith. To be honest with all of you, I have not always done this very well. I have struggled with weight and food nearly my entire life, but I am learning. Taking care of yourself is being a good steward of your health. It is faithful to eat healthy, exercise and sleep. It is wise to take your vacation and days off. I know firsthand how easy it is to rationalize why there isn’t time for resting and taking care of ourselves. I bet you know this list of excuses too. *I’m too busy to add exercise. Don’t worry about dinner, I’ll hit the drive through. I’ll catch up on my rest later. My health isn’t too bad. My work is my priority.* I know all the excuses because I’ve made all the excuses. Remember you are a baptized son or daughter of God. You are precious and loved by God, not to mention by your family and friends. Taking care and getting rest is honoring your faith and family.

Second, it can be said that gathering to worship is an act of faith. When we worship, we do so in four parts. We are gathered together as Christian community through singing and prayer. Next, we hear God’s Word in scripture and preaching. Following the Word, we gather at the table for the Eucharist. Lastly we are sent out as Christ’s ambassadors in the world.

Worship is rehearsal for life. In worship, we are practicing putting God at the center of that hour so that we might put God at the center of all the other hours of the week. In worship, we are being spiritually shaped and formed in God’s ways of love. In worship, we are renewed through God’s grace. In Word and Sacrament, we are given Christ’s love. If you are weary and exhausted from the rigors of life, give yourself a gift. Take good care and be in worship. It will make all the difference.

“Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.” Genesis 20: 8



Rev. Sue Eidahl, Visitation Pastor



The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Psalm 19:1

I love the above verse from Psalm 19. This verse reflects how nature seems to honor and worship God just by being there. The beauty we see in nature came from God and was perfectly and intentionally designed by God.

One of my favorite ways to see God is in nature. His creation is for us to enjoy and is a way for God to show us his good work. I feel so blessed to be surrounded by the beauty of our world. Every little detail is stunning in its own way and serves as a reminder of all that God has created. If you feel you'd like to explore connecting with

God through nature, here are some practical ways you can spend time in nature while focusing on the Lord:

- Go out in your neighborhood or to a local park,
- Walk or drive to somewhere quiet and peaceful to help ground you,
- Take a hike to some place with a view,
- Explore a new place that has lots of diverse wildlife to view,
- Visit a nature reserve or a state park,
- Go to a lake or river.

Experiment with the time of day when you go outside. God created both night and day, with the sun, moon and stars all reflecting his glory. If you'd like to experience this connection with nature and faith, join us on April 28, 2-3 PM for a walk in nature at Moon Lake Park. We will share a short meditation and then off we go to see what surprises God will share with us. Watch for other dates this summer in publications. Spending quiet time in nature might be all you need to begin to feel closer to God. Bless your journey.

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms: Gannon Thomas Nieman, Cal Thomas DeSantis, Ripley Bruce Stephens

Stewardship



Serve



Give



Attend



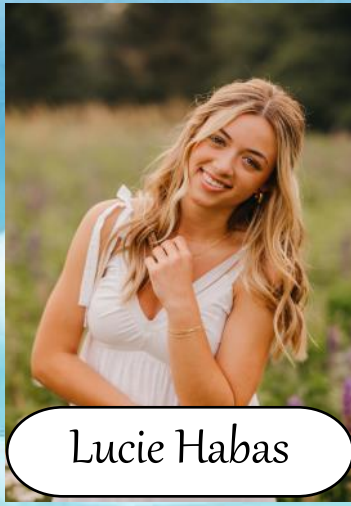
Grow

Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21



Carson Donze



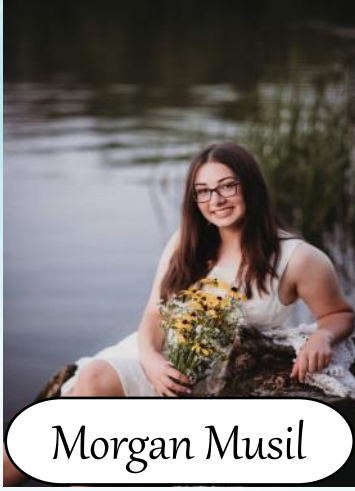
Lucie Habas



Hanna Johnson



Braeden Kretschmar



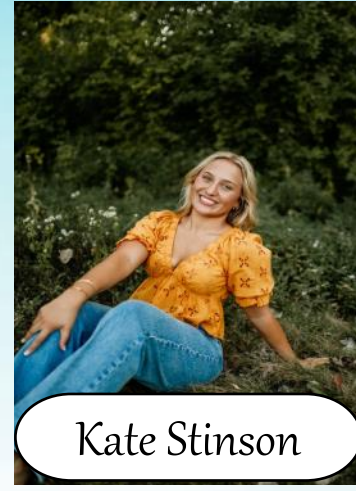
Morgan Musil



Emily Scheu



Emma Schnacky



Kate Stinson



Easton Stone



Nolan Tomesh

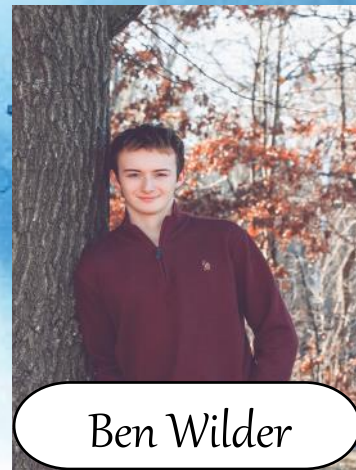


Remington Wager



Taylor Weinstock

Class of 2024



Ben Wilder

Passing the Torch: *Ministry in Action*

Community Connections to Prosperity representatives

were recently guests at Bethany's middle hour, CrossTalk. Sarah Turner and Jenny Jorgenson spoke about how this local coalition is working to build an understanding of poverty and responding to needs within the communities in Barron County. This effort has been around for quite a few years and has recently established short term goals along with longer term goals that can alleviate poverty in the community. The original title of Cross Talk was "Tiny Homes and More" – and after attending there is so much MORE that Community Connections is working on! One particular project that we heard about involves laundry. Many in our community lack laundry facilities in their homes or apartments. And although laundromats are available, the quarters (ability to pay) are not. A long-term goal of this organization is to purchase a mobile laundry and shower. A new short-term solution has been identified and a model for it exists in Chippewa Falls. "Loads of Love" would identify laundromats in various communities and seek partners (perhaps service groups or congregations) that would be willing to provide assistance with laundry services on a scheduled basis. What a great concept and project! So, what does this have to do with Bethany? Well, my friends, the Mission Outreach Team is looking into partnering with others under the direction of the Loads of Love committee through the Community Connections committee. Community Connections is currently putting together an implementation plan in our county. What an exciting new ministry possibility! Our Mission Outreach Team is currently looking into how Bethany can join others in this valuable service. More information will be on its way in late spring or early June. Contact anyone on the Mission Outreach Team if you are interested in keeping up with this project: Members include Joan Gerland, Shirley Peterson Lenae Sovacool, Bill Evans (Council Rep), Bea Evans, or Amy Brekke (Staff rep and acting chair).



Passing the Torch: *in the Northwest Synod*



Changes are coming in the Northwest Synod of the ELCA. The Northwest Synod is our grouping of congregations in this part of Wisconsin. It is 1 of 65 Synods in the ELCA and within the Northwest Synod there are approximately 195 churches with 93,000 members! Each of the Synods has a Bishop elected by delegates from member congregations within the Synod every 6 years.

2024 will be a year of change of leadership in our Synod as delegates from each congregation gather at UW-Eau Claire on June 7 & 8. At this gathering, among other business will be that of choosing the next Bishop. Our current Bishop, Laurie Skow-Anderson will not be seeking another term as Bishop.

Bishop Skow-Anderson was elected in 2018 for a 6-year term. She was the first female bishop in the Northwest Synod. Under her leadership there have been thoughtful changes, adaptations and resources for congregations, and care and support provided to congregations throughout the pandemic. By the way – at least half of her term took place during those challenging years. Bishop Laurie championed inclusion of all generations, established ministry teams in areas of Gender Equity, Racial Justice, LGBTQIA+ rights, Hunger, and Creation Care. If you are interested in hearing more about the Assembly and Candidates for our next Bishop, you can access information here: <https://nswi.org/synod-assembly-2024>. The theme for this year's Assembly is "Water is Life." Bethany's delegates to the Assembly are: Michelle Seymour, Con Eastwold, and Mike Diercks. Keep them and all of our Synod in your prayers.

Candle Holder Memorial Exemplifies Christ's Resurrection Victory

What began as a labor of love between friends many years ago has recently been restored to its natural, sacred significance. And several men from Bethany Lutheran Church are responsible for creating this treasure.

Jan and Ed Skaw of Cameron were mourning the passing of a son, Jason, on September 4, 1975. Their friend, Eldon Vrieze, later volunteered to build a candle holder and dedicate it for use in the church baptismal services. Jan said she hoped it would match the woodwork in the church sanctuary, so Eldon chose mahogany wood, a tropical hardwood timber that turns into a deep, reddish-brown color at maturity.

Eldon, who taught Industrial Arts at Rice Lake High School for 33 years, said he built the candle holder in his school workshop, and that he also built a manger for Bethany that included Mary and Joseph, the earthly parents of our Savior, Jesus.

The candle holder was used for many years at Bethany, but was placed into storage at some point. Recently, Paul Hanson, who serves as chairperson of the Bethany Worship and Music Committee, thought it would be nice to have the candle holder restored to its original beauty, so he spearheaded a campaign to do just that.

Lynn Koob of Rice Lake agreed. He volunteered to refurbish the candle holder and was able to match the stain used by Eldon in the 1970s. He cut off about 14 inches from the top and then asked his son-in-law, Roger Britton, to help him make a bronze cross to be mounted near the candle holder plaque that was originally purchased in memory of Jason.

Now the candle holder is on permanent display in the Bethany Gathering Room. It is presently being used as a Paschal Candle that is lit for special occasions, such as Easter worship and at funerals. Also known as the "Christ Candle" it represents our Savior's presence in the world and His resurrection victory over death.

The candle also points to the truth that Christ is the Alpha and Omega...the beginning and ending of all that God has done, and that Jason's memory lives on eternally.



Flat Jesus Returns!

Summer is a time for lots of fun and exciting adventures: camping, travel, vacations, spending time with family, and more. Flat Jesus helps us stay connected with our church family during the summer and to remember that Jesus is with you wherever you go! Bring Flat Jesus with you this summer—everywhere you go. Take a picture of Flat Jesus on all of your adventures and send to bethany@bethanyricelake.org. Include your name & a comment about where you are. We can all stay connected and enjoy hearing about one another's adventures. Pick up a Flat Jesus in the narthex starting on May 12, 2024, or print your own Flat Jesus from the Bethany 411. Attach Flat Jesus to a flat stick, like a paint stick.



Celebrate our High School Seniors
Baccalaureate Sunday
May 19, 2024

10:00 a.m. worship service
Reception in the Narthex at 9:00 a.m.



Don't forget to share a personal message with the seniors. Message bags will be in the Narthex on the long wood table starting in May.

Parent's Day Program
Sunday, May 12
9:15 a.m. in Sanctuary
Everyone is invited!



Open to all 9th-12th grade students.

Tuesday mornings from 7-7:30 a.m. in the Narthex for coffee, donuts, and devos.

Wednesdays 7:30-9pm in Youth Room for Fellowship & Games

Yummy Cinnamon Rolls!



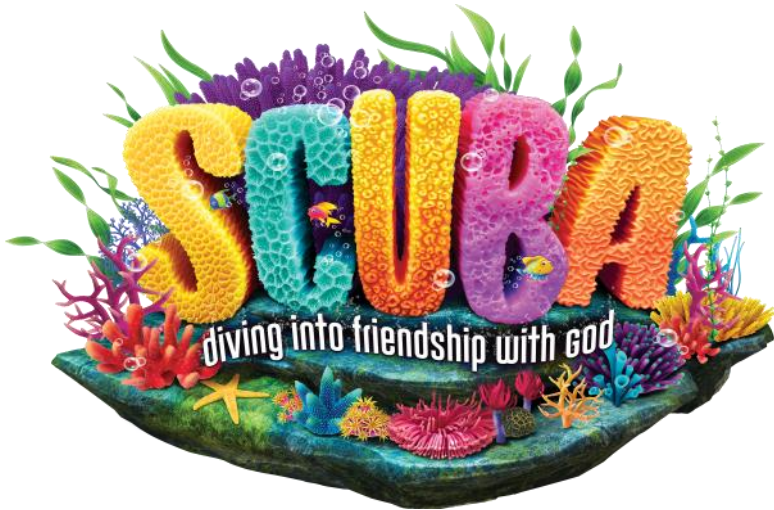
NOLA Youth Gathering Group will be selling Cinnamon Rolls May 11-12, 2024.

Gift Card Fund Raiser



The NOLA group will be selling Kwik Trip Cards between services on Sundays.

You can also purchase them from Angie during the week.



VBS

June 10-13

1:00-4:30 p.m.

Ages 4 years –5th Grade

Scan QR Code To Register for Scuba VBS
(Ages 4 years - 5th Grade)



Scan QR Code To Volunteer at Scuba VBS
(6th Grade—Adult)



Worship & Music

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

May 18—19

The Congregation
is invited to wear
red at all
services.



Singers wanted for a special
Memorial Day choir

Sunday, May 26
9:00 AM Worship

Rehearsals 6:30 PM Choir Room
May 8, 15, & 22

RSVP: abrekke@bethanyricelake.org



Holy Trinity Weekend May 25 at 5:30PM & May 26 at 9:00 AM
This weekend is a special day for our church and our country.
At worship Pr. Sue will preach on our belief that God is the Triune God.
We believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For our country, we
remember all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. At each service
there will be a special time of remembrance. On Sunday, the Bethany
Brass and the Memorial Day Choir will provide special music.

Summer Worship Schedule

May 26—September 1

Saturday Worship
5:30 pm ~ Gathering Room

ONE Sunday Worship
9:00 am ~ Sanctuary

Everyone is invited
to a special program
In honor of all parents.
Our youth have made a
special gift just for you!

Parent's Day Program
Sunday, May 12
9:15 a.m.
Sanctuary

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

Passing the Torch: *Generosity*



The world produces more than enough food to feed every person, yet the number of hungry people has grown since 2019. More than 2 billion people around the world aren't sure where their next meal will come from.

*Thanks to generous donors, all gifts to ELCA World Hunger as part of the Generation Zero-Hunger will be matched—dollar for dollar—until we reach \$250,000. That means your gifts will go twice as far in the work to end hunger!

[Click Here to Donate](#)

Your financial gift makes a change in the lives of many!

Be a Faith Builder! Support Luther Park with a financial gift. Envelopes are located in the Narthex and can be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office. Thank you for making a difference!



Luther Park Bible Camp



Sunday morning coffee and fellowship in the Narthex has become a wonderful way to connect with friends, catch up on announcements, and prepare ourselves to enter worship.

We are seeking sponsors to help cover the cost of the coffee and donuts. Sponsors can designate a special person or event . le In Honor of our Parents 25th Wedding Anniversary or In memory of our beloved Grandmother.

Cost is \$40/week. Sponsorship envelopes are located at the coffee station or stop by the church office. Thank you!

Gifts ~ Thank You ~ Reminders

General Fund

In memory of Lind Knudson

By: Buster & Diane Folstad

Memorial Fund

In memory of Alice Johnson

By: Kathleen Stoddart

Thank you to Pastor Arthur, Pastor Sue, Jon Tillung (Appleyard's Home for Funerals), Andrea, and many good friends for all their help and kindness following Lind's funeral. What a comfort and blessing you have been! ~ *Carol Knudson Family*

Articles and information for the June Newsbreak are due by Monday, May 13



The Good News Break

...THIS COULD BE YOUR LAST MAILED COPY

Beginning June 2024, Bethany's monthly news letter will only be available on line **UNLESS** we hear from you. If you would like to continue receiving a paper copy of our newsletter, click here to fill out a questionnaire, scan the QR code, or call the church office.



Save Papers
Save Trees
& Save Money

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Caring Community

Gail Weber, Chair

715-736-0887

Wanda Bock, Council rep.

Faith Formation

Angie Buchli, Chair

715-205-2009

Keith Moffatt, Council rep.

Finance

Wendy Markgren, Chair

715-651-0905

Mike Diercks, Council rep.

Library

Ed Skaw, Council rep.

Mission Outreach

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Bill Evans, Council rep.

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Tammy Roberg, Council rep.

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608-475-0441

Dave Myre, Council rep.

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Ted Hakala, Council rep.

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