



# 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 1

www.bethanyricelake.org 715-234-9028

January 2024



## Annual Meeting

Sunday, Jan 28 9:00 a.m.  
 Annual Reports due *January 3*  
 Please send to  
***bethany@bethanyricelake.org***

### New Member Orientation January 14 and 21

If you are interested or know of someone who would be interested in becoming a member of Bethany Lutheran Church, please contact the church office at 715-234-9028 or [bethany@bethanyricelake.org](mailto:bethany@bethanyricelake.org). New members will be received the weekend of Feb 3-4, 2024.



### Lenten Devotional Booklet

Help us put together our traditional Lenten Devotional created by those who worship at Bethany! This year's theme is Shine Your Light - Contributions can range from drawings, puzzles, coloring pages, to more traditional short devotions. Please consider contributing to it. Sign up in the Narthex, call the church office, 715-234-9028 or contact Carol Hakala at [carolhakala@gmail.com](mailto:carolhakala@gmail.com)

*Please pray for our Mission Team serving in Jamaica Jan 6—13*



Rev. Dr. Arthur Bergren, Lead Pastor

## A Year Worth Remembering

His name was Leo Baekeland. He was born in 1863 in Belgium. He was gifted in the field of physics and chemistry. After a brief stint teaching in the university, he immigrated to America.

Baekeland worked at first as a photographic chemist and in 1891 he opened his own laboratory. In 1893 he began to manufacture a photographic paper, and six years later his company was bought out by the Kodak Corporation. Financially independent, Baekeland returned to Europe to continue his studies in chemistry.

Baekeland's studies lead to a discovery. He created a substance which had a hard amberlike resin, which could be cast and machined. Not only that, the substance possessed durability and electrical properties. To put it simply, Baekeland discovered the first generation of plastics which he called Bakelite.

It's hard to imagine our world without plastics. When I look at my desk, I see plastics everywhere. My phone, computer keyboard, pens, and even the paperweight on my desk come from plastics. He made 1909 a year worth remembering.

As we enter into a new year of ministry, let's ask ourselves a question. How can we make 2024 a year worth remembering at Bethany Lutheran Church?

Just like Baekeland, I hope people remember what we produce. What is our product? It's love. We are people who share Christ's love. It's my desire that our sharing of Christ's love will be so compelling, faithful and clear that 2024 will be unforgettable.

As your pastor, I see signs of this around us. I see our people living generously with time, talent and treasure. I see our program ministry faithfully and creatively meeting the spiritual needs of our community. I see our leaders supporting and facilitating the work of Christ in Rice Lake and beyond. No ministry is perfect, including ours. There is always room for improvement. But on a daily basis, I see that we are a community of faith that is rooted in love.

I don't know what 2024 will bring. I don't know what joys and sorrows, what happiness and hardships will come our way in the world, in America or Rice Lake this year -- but I know this. If we stay focused on sharing Christ's love first and always, this will be a year worth remembering. ~ Pr. Arthur

*You crown the year with your bounty. Psalm 65: 11*

## A Message from the Stewardship Team

Wouldn't it be neat if you could be better than last year? If you could be a better Christian... a better husband or wife... a better mom or dad or child... a better boss or employee? If you could be more loving, more joyful, more at peace, more considerate, more disciplined and more effective at making a difference? It is really possible to experience a new you in the new year. Yes, it is! That is exactly what God wants for you in the New Year. God is in the life-transformation business. He has a plan and program to change your life to make you more like Him in the way you act and react.

Have you been hurt in the past year? We all have bad things that happen to us in the past. God says LET IT GO. Give those hurts to me so you can move on down the road. Have you sinned or failed in the last year intended or not? Confess those sins to God and get them out of your heart and accept his complete and total forgiveness. God does not want us to live looking in the rear view mirror. He wants us to put our eyes on Jesus. God wants there to be a new you. It is within reach. It is his will and desire for you.

*Let it go*



Rev. Sue Eidahl, Visitation Pastor

Epiphany

Epiphany. The startling reality of something absolutely out of this world, full of amazement and awe. An overwhelming feeling of recognition and divine understanding taking hold.

Epiphany is a word used to describe the visit of the Magi, the three Wise Men, to the young Christ child, not long after his miraculous birth. A time we celebrate on January 6th, just after the notable 12 days of Christmas.

Epiphany is a season that the secular world hardly recognizes. While it is a season of light, most households have removed the brightly colored Christmas lights and the nights again take on the darkness of winter. Epiphany is a season of celebration we recognize after Christmas, after the miraculous birth of Jesus took place. The three wise men, known as the Magi, visited the child they had heard about. They brought gifts and presented them to Jesus' parents at the end of their long journey. They gazed upon the face of a young child, a baby king, that was sent straight from the hand of God, through His Holy Spirit. The joy each Wise Man, perhaps a king in their own right, must have felt, as the stark realization hit, that THIS is the chosen one, the Christ child, the Savior come to heal this very broken world and bridge the gap between a sinful humanity and God the Father's perfect, all-encompassing love.

Epiphany. It happened then, at Jesus' birth. It happens now, in the heart of every Christian when they come to know Jesus, not only as the miraculous baby born hundreds of years ago, but as God with us. A divine Savior. As we consider the realization the Magi discovered when they met the young Christ child, may we also realize, each and every day, the spirit of the most high, that dwells inside the heart of each of us. Now that's an Epiphany. ~ Pr. Sue

Pastoral Acts

Funeral: Caroline Dostal

Baptism: Ezrielle Renna Murphy

Bethany Council



What a blessed Christmas season we all enjoyed at Bethany Lutheran Church. There are many to thank – from the beautifully decorated church to the meaningful Christmas Program to the Bethany Christmas Concert. If you missed any of these go to the Bethany website and scroll through the archives to view these great events.

Your Bethany Church Council is rolling up our sleeves and working on the budget for 2024. Please keep us in your prayers as we face some tough decisions. Pledges to sustain our ministries are down from last year. If you haven't turned your pledge card in, please do so. If you are among many members who do not pledge, please continue supporting our ministries.

Thank you to all of you who took the time to join us for our Special Congregational meeting. The application has been made to Dairy State Bank to obtain a \$250,000 line of credit. This will be used to finance the cost of two new boilers, a new air conditioning unit and to cover any short-term borrowing needs. Thank you to Eric Roethel and the Property Committee team for all their work over the last month to diagnose, research, and keep our boilers going.

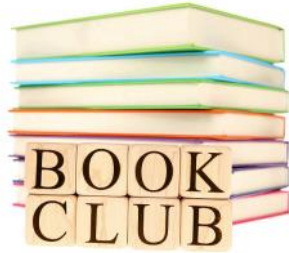
The Council approved hiring Rock & Tait Exteriors out of Chippewa Falls to handle our roofing project. The roofs at Bethany were severely damaged in the July hailstorm and need to be replaced. This project will take place in May or June when the weather improves.

Please put January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 on your calendars – our Bethany Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will take place at 9 am. Join us in celebrating the accomplishments of 2023 and laying the ground work for a wonderful year of ministries.

# January Happenings

## Connecting Through Stories

A book club for Bethany women and their friends, looks forward to another year of reading and connecting! Book discussions take place at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month and at 10:00 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month. In January the group is reading The Art Thief, a mystery by Michael Finkel. February's book is Last Circle of Love by Lorna Landvik, a regional author. If either of these books pique your interest, please contact Bea Evans at [beaevans2@gmail.com](mailto:beaevans2@gmail.com) or 262.565.3327



## Stamps for the Wounded

Stamps for the Wounded (SFTW) is a service organization dedicated to providing comfort and stimulating activity to U.S. veterans through stamp collecting. SFTW has been helping veterans since 1942. The Mission Outreach Team will be collecting stamps throughout the year for this very important project.

Please drop off your stamps in the collection box in the Narthex. For more information about SFTW, check out their website [www.stampsforthewounded.org](http://www.stampsforthewounded.org)

Reminder: Annual Meeting: Sunday, Jan 28  
9:00 a.m. Sanctuary

## 2023 in Pictures—What a great year!





## Youth Happenings from Angie Buchli

### Christmas Cookie Sale

Thank you to everyone who supported our youth going to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer through our Christmas Cookie sale! We made 4056 cookies in 5 days! That's over 330 dozen cookies sold!

# HERE WE STAND

**HWS ~ Wednesdays from 6-7p.m.**  
Jan 3 No HWS  
Jan 10 - HWS Resumes in Gathering Room

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Next NOLA Cinnamon Roll Sale  
January 27-28



### Club 9



January 14 - Youth and mentor need to attend a different church's worship service prior to meeting.



**See you on January 7!**



## Worship & Music Happenings from Amy Brekke

### Bethany Christmas THANK YOU

*Thank you to all the musicians, ushers, greeters, communion assistants, readers, assisting ministers, hosts, projection operators, camera operators, advertising helpers, office staff and all behind the scene people to make this year's Advent & Christmas season so special!  
This is a great church!*

*Thank you for your generosity....  
From the SS Christmas program and Noisy Offering \$2292.30 was collected for God's Global Barnyard.  
That's a lot of animals the kids can purchase!*



*This year's Christmas Concert offering totaled \$1750.  
Proceeds will help further music education in our community.*

### Lent & Easter Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday  
Feb 14 noon & 6:30

Lent Services  
Wed Feb 21—Mar 20

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.

## Gifts

### **God's Global Barnyard**

*In memory of Lee Haight*

By: Brian & Alexa Giddings

### **Music Fund**

*In memory of Dorothy Anderson*

By: Lynn Sulockow

### **Radio Fund**

*In memory of Ed & Maridale Jacobson*

By: Gene & Rhonda (Jacobson) Keller

*In memory of Ben Jacobson*

By: Gene & Rhonda (Jacobson) Keller

*In memory of Virginia Tronstad*

By: Barry & Sue Meyer

*In memory of Alice Johnson*

By: John Mongerson

By: Elizabeth Circle

*In memory of Lee Haight*

By: Elizabeth Circle

*In honor of Red & Pauline Eidahl*

By: Elizabeth Circle

*In honor of Esther Honetor*

By: Elizabeth Circle

*In memory of Jim Sockness*

By: Donna Sockness

*In memory of the Brunner Family*

By: Donna Sockness

*In memory of Tom Klasell*

By: Naomi Circle

*In memory of Ted Eby*

By: Naomi Circle

*In memory of Mike Messner*

By: Naomi Circle

*In honor of Betty Granum, Mike Haas, Bob*

*Johnson & Sue Linder*

By: Naomi Circle

*In memory of Val and in honor of our 45th*

*Wedding Anniversary*

By: Lynn Sulockow

### **We Share Food Pantry**

*In memory of Doris Lemler*

By: Ken & Alexa Gonske

### **Worship Arts Fund**

*In honor of the 5th Christmas Concert*

By: Christmas Concert Performers

## Thank You

The "Reaching Out" team wants to thank the many volunteers who have helped with funeral luncheons at Bethany. In 2023 we served 11 funeral luncheons. This wonderful ministry at Bethany would not happen if it weren't for our faithful volunteers who so graciously prepare and serve these lunches.

We would like to take this opportunity to share with each one of you our appreciation for your dedication to reaching out! What a great way for each of you to Shine Jesus' Light.

## Reminders

Due to HIPPA regulations, our Pastors find it harder to learn of those members that are going through a procedure or in the hospital. Our pastors want to pray and visit with you. Please reach out by calling the Church office, 715-234-9028, or you may call either pastor directly. Pr. Arthur 309-230-5212 or Pr. Sue Eidahl 715-506-0012.

### **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



Articles and information for the February Newsbreak are due by Thursday, January 18



## 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.

### Council

Audrey Kusilek, President

ajkusi@yahoo.com

Mike Diercks, Vice President

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Wanda Bock, Secretary

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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.

### Staff

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pastorarthur@bethanyricelake.org

Visitation Pastor

Pastor Sue Eidahl

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Administrative Assistant

Andrea Stakston

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bethany@bethanyricelake.org

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!