



# THE BETHANIA BLADE

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

May—June 2024

*D*ear People of Bethania,

Several weeks ago I issued an invitation for everyone to attend the Church Council meeting on May 7. The occasion involves my preaching on God's politics, in stark contrast to typical human politics. I'm aware that the sermon tends to be a one-way form of communication. Understanding God's politics vs. human politics is too important to leave off in a sermon. Deeper understanding comes through conversation. So I am here extending the invitation once again to begin the conversation at the May 7 Council meeting.

The Council meeting will offer the opportunity for you to give your feedback on talking about politics in any form. What are your questions and concerns? But we will also want to begin strategizing on how to continue the conversation. I suppose we could also decide to drop the conversation, but I believe that would be a costly mistake. Let me briefly explain why.

I have come to believe over the past forty years that the version of the Gospel with which I grew up is in serious need of revitalizing. Some of the gravest consequences of a too-small Gospel, focused mostly on the afterlife, have been political. Christians have largely failed to speak out against injustice, and even more so to *act* with God's justice, to the costly tune of genocides and World Wars over the past couple centuries. I believe that we now stand in the position of losing our democracy to authoritarian control. The two-hundred-forty-year American experiment of living into the ideal of all people being created equal could come to an end. The cost of our too-small Gospel has already been extremely high in recent centuries. We may

pay an even higher price in the months ahead if we lose the best thing going for us, our democracy.

What do I mean by a too-small Gospel? The four Gospels in the Bible all tell us that God sent the Messiah Jesus to make clear to the world what God's reign looks like – something extremely different than what typical human reigns look like. We human beings have always relied first and foremost on the power of military force. God's reign in Jesus the Messiah relies first and foremost on the power of love, which is the power of life itself. It is the true power which created all things. If we were to switch our allegiances, our faith, to the power of love rather than military force, than it would mean nothing less than being human in a new way. It would mean a new start for the rest of creation, too, because we would finally assume our proper roles of working with God to care for creation. Grace upon grace, God has gotten started on this project of being human in a new way with or without us – mostly, without us, especially since the dawn of “Christendom” under the emperor Constantine. Nevertheless, the Gospels and St. Paul portray Easter as the launching of God's reign on earth, as nothing less than New Creation.

Is that the Gospel you grew up with? I know I didn't. It's been the exciting journey of my life in faith to have it be my job to learn about the exciting new ways of reading and understanding the biblical faith anew. It's something I'm very passionate about passing on to you. Since it's all about God's reign coming on earth through Jesus the Messiah, *politics* is at the center of it. So learning to talk about politics in a very new way, I firmly believe, is a must. The alternative is to remain stuck in our too-small Gospel. And to have the world continue on its current path to self-destruction. Please join the conversation at Church Council on May 7.

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Paul*

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# CALLING ALL 2024 Graduates!



If you have any one in your family that will be graduating in 2024 please let the church office know. We would like to acknowledge their accomplishments on Sunday, June 30, 2024.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS  
Are now available online.

Deadline is:  
May 31 at 3:00 p.m.

## CONGREGATIONAL BRUNCH

Potluck

Sunday, June 30th 2024

In the Hearth room





JOIN US PENTECOST SUNDAY,

May 19th, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

for the

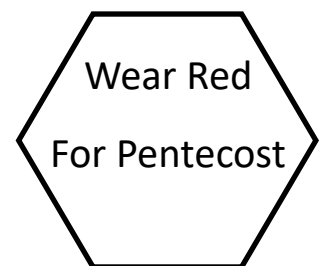
Confirmation of

*Ava Madolyn Leger*

At Bethania Lutheran Church

4120 Wright Avenue

Racine



Reception following the Worship service

BETHANIA HOSTS THE MEAL SITE

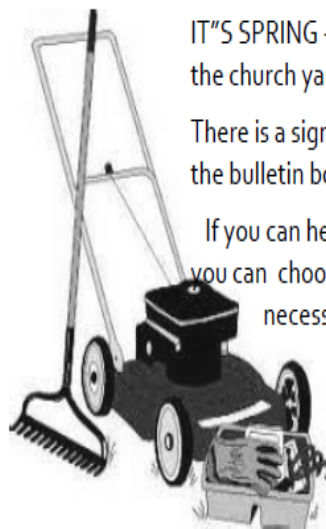
SUNDAY MAY 5 2024

At Living Faith Lutheran Church

2915 Wright Avenue

At 4:00 p.m.

If you can help please see Jeff or Shelly Alderson



IT'S SPRING - Which means we need help with the church yard.

There is a sign up sheet for the weekly mowing on the bulletin board outside the hearth room.

If you can help with weeding—just come when you can choose a flower bed. No sign up necessary there's always weeds to pull.

Thank you!



*Dear Bethania Family,  
Travel season is upon us  
once again. Please  
send or bring back a  
postcard and let us  
know where you've been.*



*Care and Concern List:*

Please consider sending a note of encouragement to someone on this list. These are people who are dealing with challenges of health, mobility, or other things in their lives.

**Carolyn Luetgen**  
5321 Douglas Avenue  
Racine, WI 53402

**Grete Loschenkohl**  
819 Indiana Street  
Racine, WI 53405  
Phone - 262-633-6095

**Tom Nielsen**  
Racine, WI 53405

**Marilyn Petersen**  
Pleasant Point  
Senior Living  
8500 Corporate Drive  
Apt. #403  
Racine, WI 53406

**Joyce Thomsen**  
2935 Old Mill Drive  
Racine, WI 53405



If you have anyone you would like to have added to the prayer chain **please contact Kelly Imhoff at 262-554-1558 or by email: [bethaniaprayerchain@wi.twcbc.com](mailto:bethaniaprayerchain@wi.twcbc.com)**



*Prayer List*

Heather Joshi, ,  
Pat Nelson,  
Jeff & Sue O.,  
Bonnie Jensen,  
Anita Neilsen,  
Grete Loschenkohl,  
Bettie Liston,  
KathyWood,  
Julie Nelson,  
Kim Flock.  
Don Hansen,  
Gene,  
Mike,

Date	Worship Leader	Communion Assistant	Reader	Acolyte & Presenter	Offering	Building Host	Coffee Hour	Altar Flowers
May 5		Brad Larsen Anita Nielsen	Ann Woodward	Brad Larsen		Brad Larsen		
May 12		Jeff Alderson Calaway	Calaway Alderson	Jeff Alderson		Jeff Alderson	Altar Guild	
May 19 Pentecost		John Barnes Robin Barnes	Robin Barnes	John Barnes		John Barnes		
May 26		Julie Hansen Vicki Thiery	Vicki Thiery	Ed Young		Ed Young		
June 2		Kelly Imhoff Jerod Alderson	Ann Woodward	Kelly Imhoff		Kelly Imhoff		
June 9		Brad Larsen Anita Nielsen	Brad Larsen	Brad Larsen		Brad Larsen	Altar Guild	
June 16		Jeff Alderson Calaway Alderson	Jeff Alderson	Jeff Alderson		Jeff Alderson		
June 23		John Barnes Robin Barnes	John Barnes	John Barnes		John Barnes		
June 30		Julie Hansen Vicki Thiery	Julie Hansen	Ed Young		Ed Young	Potluck	



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DATE	GIVNG	IN PERSON	FACEBOOK
March 3, 2024	\$1,753.00	36	31
March 10, 2024	\$ 875.00	21	58
March 17, 2024	\$1,511.00	23	39
March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday	\$ 551.00	28	44
March 31, 2024 Easter	\$ 729.00	37	52
April 7, 2024		11	
April 14, 2024		24	
April 21, 2024		22	
April 28, 2024			



**What You Have To Offer...**

Contributions have been down this year. If you have a little extra please consider giving it to the church.

There is a giving/expense graph on the bulletin board outside the office if you want to see how we are doing financially.





## **Bethania Lutheran Church**

4120 Wright Avenue  
Racine, WI 53405  
262-632-7267

Church Email: [Bethania@wi.twcbc.com](mailto:Bethania@wi.twcbc.com)

Pastor's Email: [Pastor@wi.twcbc.com](mailto:Pastor@wi.twcbc.com)

Website: [www.bethanialutheran.org](http://www.bethanialutheran.org)

### Office Hours:

Monday through Friday 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Emergencies: Call (262) 909-5369

*(Please note: There may not be a car in the parking  
lot but the office is open.)*

Reverend Paul Nuechterlein, Pastor  
Cathi Webster, Administrative Assistant  
Willy Mueller, Church Musician  
Mike Imhoff, Maintenance

### COUNCIL

Jeff Alderson, President  
Kelly Imhoff, Vice President  
Cathi Webster, Secretary  
Ed Young, Treasurer  
Shelly Alderson  
Brad Larsen, Property  
John Barnes

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May 3—Kyle Webster  
May 4—Cassandra Dittmer  
May 5—Mitchell Rybarik  
May 8—Mike Imhoff  
May 9—Zach Barnes  
May 11—Debra O'Connor  
May 12—Aaron Kechter  
May 16—William Mueller  
May 19—Donna Melgaard  
May 20—Jerod Alderson  
May 29 - Karen Fernandez  
May 31—Grete Loschenkohl



June 5—Sharon Leger  
June 7—Bronn Dittmer  
June 11—Denise Munch  
June 13—Ingaborg Stauersbol  
June 26—Dan Hagerman  
June 26—Magnus McGaughey  
June 28—Anita Nielsen  
June 30—Shelly Alderson

*(Please let us know if there are any changes or missed birthdays or anniversaries. Thank You!)*

May 10—Jason & Jessica Kechter  
May 22—Mike & Kelly Imhoff  
May 25—Zach & Savannah Barnes

June 9—Don & Julie Hansen  
June 12—Don & Lisa Rybarik  
June 14—John & Robin Barnes  
June 19—Ed & Jacci Young  
June 20—Rick & Vicki McGaughey  
June 21—Bill & Liz Krause



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**Our Sympathy to Donna (Petersen) Meldgaard and family** on the passing of her husband, Glen Meldgaard. Glen passed away on Tuesday April 2, 2024 . His funeral services were held at Bethania on Wednesday April 12, 2024 with Pastor Paul Nuechterlein officiating.

**Our Sympathy to Cathi Webster and family** on the passing of her sister in law, Kathy Wood. Kathy passed away on Monday, April 22, 2024 . Her funeral services were held in Viroqua, WI on Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

**MEMORIALS**

In Memory of Glen Meldgaard  
by Dennis & Jean Dragan



# May 2024

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Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	2 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	3 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	4
5 9:30 a. Worship In person &	6 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	7 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	8 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m	9 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	10 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.  RUSD 8-3 LL	11
12 9:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE	13 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	14 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	15 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.  <b>Thread by Thread OPEN 10-2</b>  6 pm Bible Study, Hearth room	16 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	17 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.  RUSD 8-3 LL	18
19 9:30 a. Worship In person &	20 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m	21 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	22 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m  NO Bible Study,	23 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	24 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.  RUSD 8-3 LL	25
26 9:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE	27 <i>Memorial Day</i>  Office CLOSED	28 Office OPEN –	29 Office OPEN –	30 Office OPEN –	31 Office OPEN –	



# June 2024

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Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 coffee Hour 10:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE	3 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	4 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	5 Office OPEN –7:30 to 9:30 a.m.  Thread by Thread OPEN 10–2	6 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	7 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	8
9 9:30 coffee Hour 10:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE	10 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	11 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	12 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	13 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	14 Flag Day	15 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.
16 9:30 coffee Hour 10:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE	17 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	18 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	19 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.  Thread by Thread OPEN 10–2	20 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	21 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	22
23 9:30 coffee Hour 10:30 a. Worship In person & ONLINE	24 Office OPEN 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	25 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	26 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	27 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	28 Office OPEN – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.	29
30 9:30 coffee Hour 10:30 Worship In person & ONLINE						



Place Stamps  
here

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