

The Good NewsBreak

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. 23, Issue 10

www.bethanyricelake.org 715-234-9028

October 2023

Grace and peace.

We, your Bethany Staff, are excited to announce the launch of our 2023-2024 ministry theme, "Shine Jesus' Light." You may remember this theme from our summer VBS program. We are now bringing it to the whole church!

Shine Jesus' Light serves as a reminder of our mission and an opportunity for us to come together as a faith community.

In a world that often feels lost, it is essential for us to "Shine Jesus' Light". Through this campaign, we aim to inspire and empower each member of our congregation to embrace their role as spot lights of God's grace. By embodying the teachings of Jesus, we can make a difference in the lives of individuals, families, and our community. When you "Shine Jesus' Light" or when you see someone else "Shining Jesus' Light", we want you to share! In the Narthex will be a special display of all the ways we are working to "Shine Jesus' Light". Please fill out a card and pin it to the board! Or, you can post a picture or video of a "Shine Jesus' Light" moment in a public Facebook or Instagram post, use the hashtag #blcshinejesuslight. Everyone who pins a card on the display board or submits a picture has their name entered in a monthly prize drawing!

There will also be opportunities throughout the year when we come together for various initiatives and activities through outreach programs and community service projects.

We invite each and every one of you to join us in this campaign. Coming together as a-family of believers, we will " Shine Jesus' Light" in our homes, workplaces, schools, and communities. Together, we can make an impact and bring the message of God's grace to Rice Lake and beyond.



Bethany Staff: (L to R) Andrea Stakston, Jenny Landes, Leatha Shores, Pr. Sue Eidahl, Angie Buchli, Amy Brekke and Pr. Arthur Bergren



A Message from Pastor Arthur Bergren

Stewardship 2023: Grow 10%

The Rev. Ken Olsen served a six year term in Metropolitan Chicago Synod as bishop. Among his many gifts, he was a stewardship expert. Ken often said, “Stewardship is everything you do after you say ‘yes’ to God.” In other words, stewardship is how we live out the Christian faith and life.

As many of you know, Bethany Lutheran Church has begun its 2023 annual stewardship program. Leadership is calling it the “Grow 10% Campaign.” Tithing is giving away 10% of our resources. Tithing is a biblical principal and expectation. Our twist with this year’s stewardship program includes a challenge for all Bethany members to grow their giving by 10%.

Here’s how that works. If you give \$10 a week, you are being asked to prayerfully consider giving \$11 a week. If you give \$50 a week, you are being asked to prayerfully consider giving \$55 a week. If you are giving \$100 a week, you are being asked to prayerfully consider giving \$110 a week. Please know a chart will be provided to help everyone calculate a 10% increase in giving.

Over the course of October, we will hear three temple talks from Bethany members sharing their love of our shared ministry. We will hear stewardship sermons from Pr. Sue and myself extoling the joy of giving. Over the weekend of October 21and 22, everyone will be invited to bring forth their pledge card.

I invite you to prayerfully consider to grow your giving by 10%. If every Bethany member participates, our finances will be strong as we move into our best possible future. ~ Pr. Arthur

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

2023 Fall Stewardship Campaign ~ Grow 10%

Fall harvest provides a wonderful analogy for how, as stewards of our lives, we are responsible for making the most of our time on earth. Life comes only from God and like farmers who grow crops, it is up to us to manage and optimize the properties and processes of life that God designed for us. We can cultivate our lives through prayer, worship, scripture, generosity, love, and service. While being stewards of our lives to help us grow we shall consider tending to the soil of our church community to help Bethany grow. Fall harvest brings a time to enjoy life abundant as Jesus promises and also brings about Bethany's stewardship campaign: Grow 10%. This year as you prepare for Commitment Weekend prayerfully consider growing your giving to Bethany by 10%.

Working together to grow our church and care for our blessings, we ask that you take the next few weeks to prayerfully consider your role in the ministry of Bethany Lutheran Church. Everyone will receive a letter the first week of October outlining the 2023 Stewardship campaign, along with a commitment card. Each weekend, at worship, we will hear a special testimony from members on “*What I Love about Bethany.*”

Over this three week campaign, keep your commitment card in sight. Pray about it. Talk about it. On the weekend of October 21—22, bring your filled out card to worship and together we will celebrate each gift.

Join us between services for a special coffee hour hosted by the Stewardship Committee. This is a small token of our appreciation celebrating all we can do together.





A Message from Pr. Sue Eidahl

I love this year's theme for worship of **"Shine Jesus' Light"** because I love lighthouses—fun fact: I have several photos of them in my home! I have made it a point to visit several lighthouses around the Great Lakes. Each one is unique in structure and color but serves one purpose; to shine its light so boats know the way. Lighthouses have been used for centuries to guide ships safely to shore. They are a symbol of hope and safety during stormy seas. In the same way, our lives can be like lighthouses shining forth the love of Christ to those around us. So, in short, I

genuinely love the idea of "Shining Jesus' Light." According to Hebrews and Biblical understanding, light is the manifestation (indicator) of God. It is God's presence in the world, bringing hope and healing to humanity. How do we "Shine Jesus' Light?" By living out our baptismal calling as children of God's grace. When we were baptized, we received a candle and heard the words: **"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."**

To "Shine Jesus' Light" means:

- To live in such a way that others see Jesus in us.
- To reflect His character, love, and truth in all we do.
- To be people of integrity, whom others can trust.
- To be kind and compassionate, patient, and forgiving.
- To live our lives to point others to Christ.

There are so many practical ways that we can "Shine Jesus' Light." It begins with living out our faith in our everyday lives. Stay tuned for more ideas to "SHINE JESUS' LIGHT." ~ Pastor Sue

"From the Inside Out"

What a joy it has been to meet and interact with the people of Bethany since my husband, Larry, and I became members last Spring. In mid-August, we attended Bethany's Adult Bible Study sessions and greatly enjoyed meeting new people, sharing meals, listening to teachings from Pastor Arthur and Pastor Sue, and playing a variety of games.

I had a particularly interesting discussion with Marie Sanborn, who sat at our table as we learned about the New Testament book of Philippians. Marie had written a Lenten devotion which was published on March 29, 2023. I was one of those readers.

Marie told me how she had attended a meeting of the Burnett County Ministry group held in Grantsburg in the 1980s. The guest speaker was Peter Marshall, Jr., whose father, Reverend Peter Marshall, Sr., was the Chaplain of the United States Senate from 1946-47. In 1937, he was called to be pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C.

Peter, Jr. was the only child of Reverend Marshall and his wife, Catherine. The young boy was only 9 years old when his father died suddenly of a heart attack. Catherine wrote her husband's memoirs and sermons and titled the book "A Man Called Peter" which was published in 1951 and later made into a movie.

Both the book and movie had a strong impact in my spiritual life growing up and were a huge part of what influenced my own call to the ministry.

Therefore, it was an easy discussion topic for Marie and I to share at Bethany. Her memories of the event and her strong faith bound us together in the joy of God's Spirit. We took part in worship and communion during Bible School and also shared God's peace with one another.

Bethany is a gift to so many and I am blessed to be one of them. So from my heart to yours, and from "The Inside Out" may God's hope surround you...Reverend Susan Odegard



CELEBRATION OF GIVING

The Bethany Trust has given \$1.1 million dollars to mission work in the last forty years. We are pausing a moment to acknowledge how proud we are of this great Trust and the difference it has made in lives around the world. Please join us for cake and coffee between services on Sunday, October 15th, in the church narthex. Trust members and others will be present to answer any questions you might have about the Trust as you Celebrate Giving.



Volunteers needed for Downtown Trick-or-Treating Hot Dog Event

Bethany Parking Lot ~ Saturday, October 28 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.



What does it take to hand out 2500 hot dogs to hungry kids and families as they trick-or-treat on Main Street? Well, we think it's going to take about 70 volunteers between setup, the event, and cleanup.

- **SET-UP:** Seeking 10 volunteers from 9:30-10:30am. This shift will help set up for the event: move & set up tables in the parking lot, put up signage, bring supplies out, and any other setup needed.
- **EVENT:** Seeking 45 volunteers from 10:45am-1:00 pm. Volunteers will be assigned to one of the following areas: hot dog server, drink server, condiment station, Main Street PR team, kitchen runner, Welcome roamer, front and back of line staff, or recycle/garbage team. Each team will have a leader to assign jobs and instruct duties. We hope all workers will DRESS UP in costume, though that is not a requirement.
- **CLEAN-UP:** Seeking 15 volunteers from 1:00pm-2:30pm. This shift will wash and put away tables, clean roasters, package any leftovers, remove signage, etc.

Can you make yourself available to be part of this amazing Bethany outreach ministry this fall? If so, please sign up for a shift, either Set-up, Event or Clean-Up, on the Signup Genius on the Bethany's website home page found at bethanyricelake.org and in the BLC 411.

Don't use Sign-up Genius? Simply contact the Bethany office at 715-234-9028 or email Angie Buchli at abuchli@bethanyricelake.org

Heart of the North Conference Annual Day of Renewal

Falling Boldly in Love with Jesus

Saturday, October 14 9 AM—1PM

Women of Bethany, join other women from across the Heart of the North Conference for a morning of faith, fun, and fellowship. Renew your passion as a disciple of Christ as we discover what it means to fall boldly in love with Jesus. This year's event will be held at Bethany. The day begins with registration & coffee, then to the sanctuary for worship, communion, and a special devotional bible study led by Pr. Sue Eidahl. After a quick break, leadership speaker, Dori Pulse will share her personal journey with Jesus. Pick up your registration forms in the church office or Narthex. Registration is due by October 2.



Women of the **ELCA**

Happenings—Get Ready—Mark Your Calendars!



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Lutheran World Relief Truck
Bethany Parking Lot
Saturday, Oct. 14 , 8 a.m.—11 a.m.
Help is needed to load the truck
Please sign up in the Narthex

HWS Food Drive is October 4th

Our Here We Stand confirmation class will be out collecting food from 5:45-6:45pm on Wednesday, October 4. If you are not going to be home, you can drop off non-perishable food items at the church in the We-Share Food Pantry cubby in the Narthex.



Bethany invites you and your family to a special event entitled **Women of the Bible: A Dramatic Presentation of Ancient Voices** by Anita Gutschick

Women of the Bible is a dramatic presentation told through voices from the Old and New Testaments. Anita reaches back across the ages to vividly portray biblical women. Through a series of monologues, these women recount their personal stories, shedding light on their lives in a dramatic and engaging way. She also shares these stories of faith via video presentations. Anita will present live performances at Bethany Lutheran Church on:

**Fri , October 13 at 7:00 p.m.* “Too Old, Too Busy, Too Sinful”
featuring Sarah, Martha and the Sinful Woman.**

*Appropriate for men, women and school-aged children

Sat, Oct 14 at 2:00 p.m.* Queen Esther, Lot’s Wife & The Lost Coin
*Family friendly program

Sunday, Oct 15 at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. worship *Woman at the Well*

A dear friend of Anita’s and Synod Authorized Minister, Colleen Monfre, will host a *Women of the Bible Warm-Up* in which she will present some of Anita’s recorded videos to lead a short bible study. Colleen has hosted these warm-ups many times and those attending found them inspiring and enjoyed Anita’s live performance even more.

Colleen will present to our HWS students on **Wednesday, Sept 27** at 6:00 p.m. and then again on **Thursday, Oct 5** at noon and 6:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

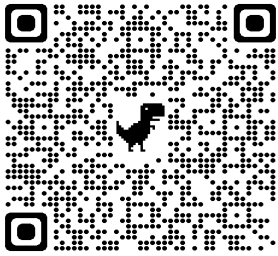
2023 Rally Sunday



Youth Happenings from Angie Buchli

Parents—Easy sign up!

Scan the QR code for
**ONE STOP
REGISTRATION**
Sunday School, Here
We Stand, Club 9,
and High School
Youth Group.



Sunday school 9:00am-9:50am
Preschool meets in Room 101
K-5th Grade begins in Room 108/109 for music
K-3rd Grade meets in Room 107
4th-5th Grade meets in Room 105

Club 9

October 8 - "To Live Among God's Faithful People."

Confirmation Journey Lesson - God

October 28 – Service Opportunity –
Downtown Trick-or-Treating Hotdog Event

November 12 - Core Values
Confirmation Journey Lesson - Faith



Wednesdays 6—7 p.m. Gathering Room

September 27 - Women of the Bible Presentation

October 4 - Food Drive (5:30-7pm)

October 11 - Lesson -The Human Condition

October 14 (Saturday) - Service Opportunity

Load Lutheran World Relief Truck 8-11 a.m.

October 15 (Sunday) 7th Grade Students &
Guides serve as worship assistants

October 18 - Lesson – Abraham & Sarah

October 25 - Lesson - Joseph

October 28 (Saturday) - Service Opportunity
Hotdog Dog Event



Open to all 9th-12th grade students

Tuesday mornings 7-7:30 a.m.

Meet in the Narthex for coffee, donuts, and devos.

Wednesday evenings 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Meet in the Youth Room for devos, fellowship,
and games!

Sunday School

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

**December 10 at both 8 a.m.
& 10 a.m. worship services.**



2024 Seniors Mark Your Calendars!

Baccalaureate will be held on
Sunday, May 19, 2024 at the
10:00 a.m. service with a
reception before the service.

Education Volunteers Needed

Bethany Lutheran Church has an outstanding tradition of Sunday morning education. We need help in continuing that tradition with volunteers to teach Sunday school or help out with our Wednesday afternoon programming. Sunday school is from 9:00-9:50 a.m. on Sundays. We need a group of teachers who will rotate Sundays for both preschool and our K-5th grade classes. Curriculum is easy to follow and fun to teach! All materials & supplies are provided.

**If you would like more information
about volunteering, or to sign up,
please contact Angie Buchli
at abuchli@bethanyricelake.org
or 715-205-2009.**

Worship & Music Happenings from Amy Brekke



Bethany Christmas Concert Singers Needed – Please join us!

Sunday, December 17, 2023– 4:00 p.m.

Rehearsals Wednesdays beginning October 4 6:30 p.m.

contact Amy Brekke to sign up 715-651-6991 or brekke.amy@gmail.com

This year's concert is going to not only feature the choir but also a mass bell performance of Carol of the Belles and a special nine-piece trumpet ensemble, along with all our other amazing musicians, including our handbell choirs, piano, organ, percussion, and Bethany brass!

Over 400 people attended last year's concert and over \$1800.00 was collected. One-half of the collection helped defray music expenses and the other half was donated to the *Kids from Wisconsin*, supporting musical youth in our community and beyond.

Middle Handbells – there's still time to join!

Handbells are a fun and great way to learn music! As you experience handbells, you will learn music reading and handbell techniques that we use to Praise God! Groups meet for a 30-minute rehearsal on Wednesdays and play at one worship service per month.

Spirit Alive Bells (gr. 6-8) 4:30—5:00 p.m.
In the Bell Room

Pastoral Acts

Mark your calendars!

Special Worship Services

Oct 28-29 Reformation & Confirmation
Nov 4-5 All Saint's Weekend
Nov 19-20 Thank Offering
Nov 22 Thanksgiving
Eve Service at 7:00p.m.
Nov 29 Prepare Ye
Dec 2-3 First Weekend of Advent
Dec 10 SS Christmas Program
Dec 24 Christmas Eve
1PM, 3PM, 5PM
Dec 25 Christmas Day
11AM

Funerals: *Elaine Gonske, June Hoff-Ross, Charles Kee, Mike Messner, Clint Miller*

Shine Jesus' Light Spotlight



Bethany Quilters support Luther Park Fundraiser

On August 6, Luther Park held their annual Quilt and Art Event. There were online and in-house bidders on the many beautiful quilts donated. Our Bethany Quilters, made up of members and non-members who meet on Monday afternoons, donated 6 quilts that generated \$850. JoAnn Skaalrud and her sister, Janice Sheets, members of this group, made 3 quilts that sold for \$500. We have another quilt group called the Luther Park Quilters who meet occasionally. They made a lovely quilt, Circles of Love, that was auctioned for \$750. All these Bethany Quilters helped raise \$2100 of the \$29,500 raised that day for Luther Park Bible Camp. Congratulations ladies for your awesome donation of time and talent.

Hannah Circle: Lutheran World Relief School Kits and Other Mission Projects

Hannah Circle has been sponsoring LWR school kits for over 20 years. In that time, we have shipped 2,321 kits with the generous help of Bethany's congregation. Thank you, Bethany, for continuing to support our mission project and helping make many children happy going to school with supplies they need! For the last couple of years, we have been putting together Hospice Kits that go to Global Missions. We have sent 80 kits at this writing. This year, one of our members noticed that the Rice Lake Public Library has personal health bags available in the ladies' restroom. At our summer picnic, we put together 20 of these health bags and donated to the library.



Articles and information for the November Newsbreak are due by Monday, October 9

Author William Kent Krueger

Returns to the Rice Lake Public Library on October 9 to introduce his new book, THE RIVER REMEMBERS. The Bethany book club will host and serve treats before the presentation at 6:30 that evening. Last year over 300 readers enjoyed a wonderful hour with Kent Krueger entertaining from the moment he entered the library doors. All are invited to welcome Kent back to Rice Lake. Call the Library with any questions. ~ Bethany Book Club

Gifts

Christmas Dinner

In memory of Mike Messner

By: Kathleen Madison

Flower Garden Fund

In memory of Mike Messner

By: Marie & Jolene Anderson

General Fund

In memory of Pete Mueller

By: Don and Pauli Storm

In memory of Elaine Gonske

By: Jack & Monica Berkseth

In memory of Mike Messner

By: Don & Pauli Storm

Global Health

In memory of Elaine Gonske

By: Suzanne Arnevik

Memorial Fund

In memory of June Hoff-Ross

By: The family of June Hoff-Ross

In memory of Mike Messner

By: Jack & Monica Berkseth

By: Howard & Sandy Johnson

By: Shirley Peterson

By: Mark & Cindy Nymo

Mission Outreach

In Honor of Deanna Rebertson

By: Deb Stange

Music Fund

In memory of Lorraine Barta

By: Jim & Carol Sevals

Naomi Circle

In memory of Mike Messner

By: William & Gail Weber

Radio Fund

In memory of Mike Messner

By: Kathy Swenson

By: Bob & Carol Stononik

In memory of Ted Eby

By: Kathy Swenson

In memory of Clint Miller

By: Jack & Monica Berkseth

Youth Christmas Program

In memory of Kaye Olson

By: A special friend

Stained Glass Fund

In memory of Mike Messner

By: Annette Messner

By: Bea Evans

By: James & Maxine Williams

By: Con Eastwold

By: Sue Hildebrand

By: Jim & Carol Sevals

By: Randy & Peggy Norton

By: Shirley Bergthold

By: Helen K Miller

By: Dewayne & Sue Finstad

By: Bun & Paulette Hanson

Thank you

Thank you, Bethany. You "SowHope!"

Thanks Bethany for hosting a benefit for SowHope under the tent on August 29th. SowHope is one of the only global organizations focused exclusively on the holistic needs of women living in extreme poverty. Those attending the event enjoyed music by the SongSmiths with Jack White and were inspired by the stories Mary Brown, SowHope's founder, shared.

SowHope believes that in every group of people, the answer to solving problems lies with competent and passionate local leaders who are able to recognize concerns, problems and



the corresponding solutions according to their own society and culture. SowHope seeks out and develops partner relationships with these leaders, learns about their ideas for sustainable solutions to challenges faced by local women, and provides funds to get a project up and going.

Thanks to the generous support of those attending the benefit, over \$3,000.00 was raised for SowHope! For more information, check out SowHope's website sowhope.org.

Shine Jesus' Light ~ Love in Action

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Joe Erickson, Pr. Arthur Bergren - Staff Rep.

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Nancy Kann, Kathy Lehman,

Cindy Nymo, Don Storm,

Renee Swanson, Eldon Vrieze,

Pr. Arthur Bergren - Staff Rep.

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Jolene Anderson, Bob Halverson

Pr. Arthur Bergren - Staff Rep.

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Shirley Bergthold, Ric Brekke

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Wendy Markgren, Keith Moffatt,

Russ Schnacky, Josh Weinstock

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Mal Bailey, Jennifer Jenkinson,

Mike Messner, Pr. Arthur Bergren- Staff Rep.

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Bun Hanson - Council Rep.

Andy Denison, Con Eastwold, Bun Hanson,

Linda Mullikin, Tammy Roberg,

Carol Sevals, Julie Stephens, Jan Wick

Amy Brekke - Staff Rep.

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

Daily ideas to Shine Jesus' Light in October



1. Pay it Backward: buy coffee for the person behind you in line.
2. Compliment the first three people you talk to today.
3. Send a positive text message to five different people right now.
4. Post inspirational sticky notes around your neighborhood, office, school, etc.
5. Tell someone they dropped a dollar (even though they didn't). Then give them a dollar.
6. Donate old towels or blankets to an animal shelter.
7. Say hi to the person next to you on the elevator.
8. Surprise a neighbor with freshly baked cookies or treats!
9. Let someone go in front of you in line who only has a few items.
10. Leave a gas gift card at a gas pump.
11. Throw a party to celebrate someone just for being who they are, which is awesome.
12. Have a LinkedIn account? Write a recommendation for coworker or connection.
13. Leave quarters at the laundromat.
14. Encounter someone in customer service who is especially kind? Take an extra five minutes to tell their manager.
15. Leave unused coupons next to corresponding products in the grocery store.
16. Leave a note on someone's car telling them how awesome they parked.
17. Try to make sure every person in a group conversation feels included.
18. Write a kind message on your mirror with a dry erase marker for yourself, your significant other or a family member.
19. Place a positive body image notes in jean pockets at a department store.
20. Smile at five strangers.
21. Set an alarm on your phone to go off at three different times during the day. In those moments, do something kind for someone else.
22. Send a gratitude email to a coworker who deserves more recognition.
23. Practice self-kindness and spend 30 minutes doing something you love today.
24. Give away stuff for free on Craig's List.
25. Write a gratitude list in the morning and again in the evening.
26. Know parents who could use a night out? Offer to babysit for free.
27. Hold up positive signs for traffic or in a park for people exercising outside!
28. Return shopping carts for people at the grocery store.
29. Buy a plant. Put it in a terracotta pot. Write positive words that describe a friend on the pot. Give it to that friend!
30. Write a positive comment on your favorite blog, website, or a friend's social media account.
31. Have a clean up party at a beach or park.