



Bethany Lutheran Church

welcomes you to worship!

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

8:00 a.m.

Order of Worship

We Gather

Prelude

Susan Barta

Welcome

Worship Welcome Video

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

ELW 379: Bulletin Page 4

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

“This is the Feast”

ELW Page 140-141: Bulletin Pages 5-6

Prayer of the Day

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

We Hear God’s Word

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

“My Jesus I Love You”

Mark Nymo and Sara Scheu

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.

¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

ELW Page 142: Bulletin Page 7

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

Pastor Peter Muschinske

Hymn of the Day

“O God, Empower Us”

LBW 422: Bulletin Page 7

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing of Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

Offering

Bethany Text Giving Available: 715-303-3484

Offering Hymn

"Earth and All Stars!"

ELW 731: Bulletin Page 8

Today's request is by Lynn Sulackow in memory of Val Sulackow.

Offering Prayer

God of love, **you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer

We join our voices together in the Lord's Prayer. Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Communion Music

"O Day Full of Grace"

Bethany Belles

Prayer after Communion

We Are Sent

Announcements

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"Shout to the Lord"

ELW 821: Bulletin Page 9

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

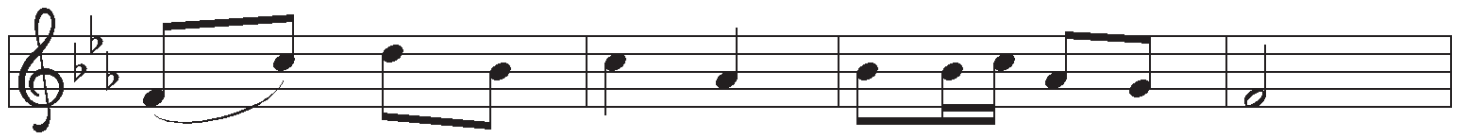
Postlude

Susan Barta

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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Hymn of Praise

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

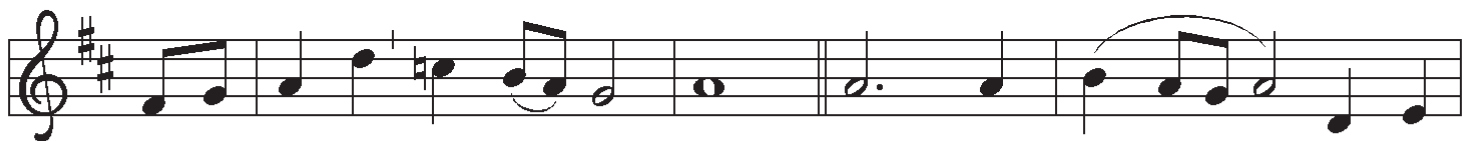


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

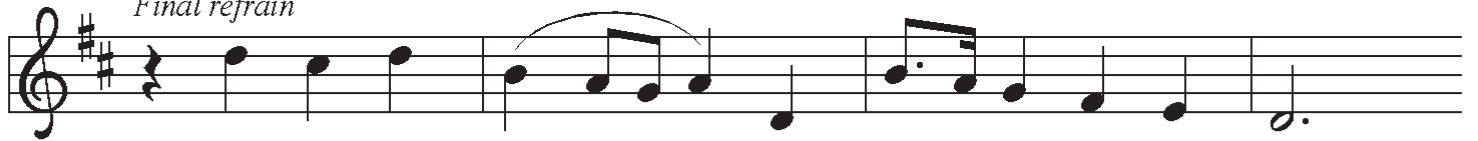


al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Hymn of the Day

O God, Empower Us

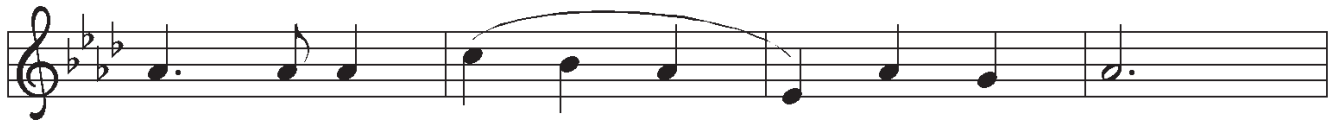
- 1 O God, empower us to stem
the hatreds that divide.
Enable us to bring an end
to ghastly wars of pride.
Let our example point the way,
that feuds be not prolonged.
Let us forgive, as you forgave,
when we have suffered wrong.
- 2 When neighbors feel distress, or grieve,
or sickness takes it toll,
enable us to feel their pain,
the better to console.
And when the neighbor's path is dark
and heavy with despair,
help us to lift the gospel's light
and show the Father's care.
- 3 Though cold suspicion meet our warmth,
we love at your command;
and though not always understood,
we pray to understand.
Enable us to stifle greed
for thanks or gain, dear Lord,
and live that sacrificial life
which is its own reward.

Text: Lee M. Baldwin, 1906-1982
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Earth and All Stars!



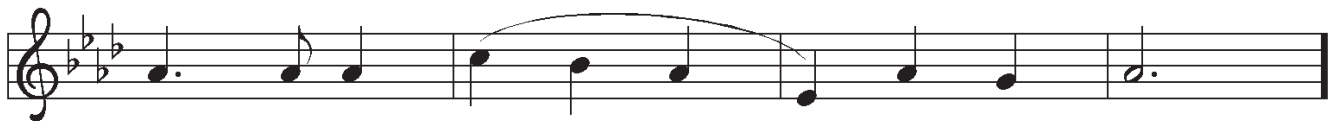
1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!
3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!
4 Class-rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes!
5 Knowl-edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!
Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!
Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!
Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!



Refrain
God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Shout to the Lord

My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.

All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.

My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;

let ev - ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise

to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the

sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;

for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.

Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

Weekly Worship Opportunities:

- Tune in every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. to WJMC FM 96.1 & AM 1240
- 8:00 a.m. worship is streamed live on Bethany's website and Facebook page
- Watch on local access cable channels 992 (Charter) & 993 (Mosaic) on Sundays at 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM and Thursdays at 7:00 PM
- In person 10:00 a.m. worship on Sundays. Reserve a spot through Bethany's website under the Signups tab or contact the church office at 715-234-9028 or lhullinger@bethanyricelake.org. **Bethany will continue to follow the county guidelines of wearing masks and physical distancing at worship and for all activities inside the building.**

Spring into the Garden! Bethany is looking for someone who wants to get their hands dirty...with soil, that is! If you are interested in working in Bethany's flower gardens, as an individual or a group, please contact Dawn Paul at 715-296-2817 or dpaul@bethanyricelake.org.

Thank you: Thank you for your concern and interest in support of Angie Buchli, our Director of Education, Youth & Congregational Ministries. Angie has been out of the office in support of health care for their daughter, Cady.

HYMNALS to Give Away! Help us find a home for our previous Lutheran hymnals. Available for pick up in the Narthex until May 30. Pass along the gift of music.

- Give to a music student
- Take one for your neighbor
- Add to your personal library
- Use for a music craft

Word or words: zoomversations on our life of faith: To be a part of conversations (zoomversations!) on the first and third Wednesday mornings of the month at 10:00 a.m., please email Pastor Peter at pastorpeter@bethanyricelake.org so he can provide links for essential background/pre-session preparation. Post-session applications will be up to all of us as Disciples of Jesus Christ! The next conversation is Wednesday, May 5, 2021!

May 12 CrossTalk: We INVITE all; We GROW in faith; We GO to share God's love and grace.

Growing into our Mission: *Bethany, a Reconciling in Christ Church – Next Step*

Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Bethany Sanctuary and via Zoom

Come to share; discussion will be hosted by Church Council. The CrossTalk session will focus on our Reconciling In Christ ministry: Welcome and Inclusiveness. Please add May 12 to your calendars.

Sign up for the in-person through the Signups tab on the Bethany website.

For those of you preferring to attend with Zoom, please contact the office at 715-234-9028 or lhullinger@bethanyricelake.org.

The Good NewsBreak: During Covid, Bethany has been bulk mailing the newsletter to our member's homes. In order to be better stewards of our resources (paper and monetary), we request you let us know if you would like to receive the online version only. If you find that you are not reading your paper copy and would like to opt out of the mailing in favor of the online version, please contact Leah in the office at 715-234-9028 or lhullinger@bethanyricelake.org.

Baccalaureate: We will be celebrating Baccalaureate on Sunday, May 16! We are planning an additional special worship for graduates and their families at 11:00 a.m. Bethany members can tune in to the live stream to celebrate with them!

Confirmation: Bethany Confirmands will affirm their baptism on Sunday, May 23! We are planning an additional special 11:00 a.m. worship for confirmands and their families. Bethany members can tune in to the live stream to celebrate with them!

From Mission Jamaica: Plans and hopes are gearing up to be able to travel as a team again to Jamaica with Mission Jamaica. If you have questions or are interested in joining us, please contact Lenae Sovacool at sovacool@chibardun.net. The travel arrangements are complex. We hope if you were on the team for 2021, that you will consider joining us in 2022. We need dates too for travel if you have specific times you need.

Safely Regathering Task Force Update: *“Therefore encourage and build one another up, just as you are already doing.” --1 Thessalonians 5:11*

*“Be an encourager. The world has enough critics already.”
--Dan Willis*

This week in thinking about my message, for the first time I felt like I needed some guidance in what to say. I will give an update on the data as usual, but it just didn't feel like enough. I, like many of you, have grown tired of thinking about COVID. And I know that just because I am done with COVID, doesn't mean COVID is done, but I just needed to take a different approach. COVID is hard. We have all been negatively affected in some way (some more than others) by this virus. I think it's safe to say we could all use a little encouragement right now! And encouraging your neighbors is an important part of loving them as yourself.

With that in mind, I do have some encouraging data to report. The numbers have not increased (or decreased) significantly in the past two weeks. We still remain in the orange (or high risk) level. Although this may not seem particularly encouraging, it is, considering many of the surrounding states and counties were seeing a surge in COVID cases. As of today (Wednesday April 28), there is 10.1 cases per 100,000, and although that number keeps us in Phase 2 or 25% of our capacity, if we see a drop below 10 cases/100,000 for two weeks, we will be able to move back into Phase 3. The vaccination rate is currently 37.5% in the state for first dose vaccination.

Vaccine supply is also very encouraging with plenty of supply and no waiting lists for vaccine. All individuals 16 and up are eligible. There is a Community-Based Vaccine Clinic at UWEC-BC in the gymnasium from 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. You can call 1-844-684-1064 to register by phone or online at <https://vaccinate.wi.gov>. I encourage you all to get your vaccine if you have not and encourage others to do the same if you have. Continue to wear your mask, wash your hands and socially distance to keep our numbers encouraging.

If you have questions, do not hesitate to reach out to one of our members or contact Mark Nymo, chair of the Safely Regathering Task Force, at nymomtn@gmail.com. Also check the COVID-19 page on Bethany's website.

From the Call Committee: The Call Committee and Council met with our Synod liaison on Monday, April

26 to review the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The council offered input and voted to approve the profile. The MSP will now be “officially” submitted to the Synod office and a description of the position will be posted on the ELCA website. The Synod will begin to look for candidates for us to consider that meet the leadership skills identified in the MSP.

If you know of a clergy person that you think would be a good candidate, you can email contact information and name of the candidate to lutheranbethany21@gmail.com or call Carol Hakala at 715-450-4031. This will be forwarded to the Synod and our representative will follow up with candidates. A summary of the MSP will be available to you within the coming few days and posted on the Call Committee's web page. If you have questions or comments, you can contact any of the call committee members. Exciting times!

For more information, please email lutheranbethany21@gmail.com. You can also find updates and information on the Call Committee's web page!

Follow Along with Worship: The Sunday bulletins are available on Bethany's website homepage and archived on our bulletin publications page! We invite you to print a copy or follow along on your device with our order of service.

Online Worship Archives: Bethany archives previous worship services on their website and Facebook for 90 days. After that, the videos are removed, but there are hard copies in the office. If needed, you can contact Leah Hullinger at lhullinger@bethanyricelake.org for more information on older worship services.

Sunday School Lessons are available online: Even though we are not meeting in person at the moment, you can still participate in Sunday School! The lessons are posted on Bethany's website under the At-Home Resources page. The page is password protected, due to copyright, so please see the email from Angie Buchli for the password. If you did not receive the email and password, please contact Angie at abuchli@bethanyricelake.org.

The Bethany WeekAhead • May 2 - 8, 2021

Sunday
2 8:00 AM Worship/Streamed Online & Radio
Sunday School Lesson Available Online
10:00 AM In-Person Worship/SA

Monday
3 11:30 AM "a Just You" Book Study/Zoom
1:00 PM Quilting/QR
7:00 PM Red Cedar Symphony Board/CR

Tuesday
4 8:45 AM Staff Meeting/Zoom
12:00 PM Lunch Box/Parking Lot

Wednesday
5 10:00 AM Word or words/Zoom

Thursday
6 9:30 AM Caring Community Coordinators/Zoom
7:00 PM AA/3F

Friday
7

Saturday
8

Main Level: CR-Conference Room GR-Gathering Room LI-Library NA-Narthex SA-Sanctuary NS-Nursery BR-Bell Room
Lower Level: LL-Luther Lecture FH-Fellowship Hall QR-Quilting Room YR-Youth Room *Upper Level:* 3F-3rd Floor

Bethany Text Giving Available: 715-303-3484

Earth and All Stars!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Email: lhullinger@bethanyricelake.org

Website: www.bethanyricelake.org

Facebook: Bethany Lutheran - Rice Lake, WI

Live Radio Broadcast: Sundays 8:00 a.m.
WJMC 96.1 FM & 1240 AM

Worship: Sundays 8:00 a.m. (Online); 10:00 a.m. (In Person)

Live Streaming: Sundays 8:00 a.m. on Bethany's website and
Facebook page

Cable Broadcast: Channels 992 (Charter) & 993 (Mosaic)
Sundays 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM; Thursdays 7:00 PM

Prayer Ministry

New Prayers for Members: Cady Buchli

Ongoing Prayers for Members: Sandie Anderson • Ray Arnevik • Red Axtell • Laif Bever • Ron Debner • Bob Gerber • Jim Hagen • Lee Haight • Kevin Jacobson • Doug Karis • Carolyn Kochel • Maci Lundequam • Alyssa McCullough • Dick Moe • Regina Mueller • Leon Mundt • Kaylee Musil • Roxie Olsen • Randy Read • Shirley Stokes • Lynn Sulackow • Virginia Tronstad • Ray Vaughn

New Prayers for Family & Friends of Members: Vanessa Gagner (Coe)

Ongoing Prayers for Family & Friends of Members: Bonnie Brandt • John Jaros • Clara Kern • Paul Klancher • Marianne Koser • Charlie Lawton • Mark Loehlein • Gloria Mattakat • Colin McCann • Bruce Olson • Kaye Olson • Nolan Passint • Mary Simma • Holly Thompson • Kelly White (Anderson) • Paul Wilker

Active Military Duty: Tanner Ely • Alex Kusilek • Jonathan Marsh • Ethan Nieman • Alain Pierre • Jason Randall • Abby Ring

Radio Broadcast: In Memory of Val Sulackow by Lynn and Marie Sulackow

You may make requests for the Prayer Ministry by calling the church office at 715-234-9028. You can also email bethany@bethanyricelake.org or fill out a request form on Bethany's website.

Prayers for Our Home Members

Sandie Anderson • Edie Berg • June Brunette • Irene Christianson • Foster Dunwiddie • Pauline Eidahl • Donna Gagner • Elaine Gonske • Betty Granum • Nancy Herbert • Esther Honetor • Alice Johnson • Sid & Carolyn Johnson • Dick Moe • Randy Read • Nadyne Reiten • Janie Riggs

Congregational Leaders & Staff

Ministers: All Members • **Ministry Team:** Peter Muschinske, *Interim Pastor* • **Director of Education, Youth & Congregational Ministries:** Angie Buchli • **Director of Music:** Amy Brekke • **Director of Business:** Dawn Paul • **Communications & Publications Specialist:** Leah Hullinger • **Cleaner:** Amanda Baker • **Council President:** Pam Crouse • **Council Members:** Mal Bailey, Wanda Bock, Tami Bowman, Andy Denison, Mike Diercks, Bill Evans, Alexa Giddings, Dave Myre, Mackenzie Narins, Jennifer Nelson, Deb Slagstad, Brad Wiedmann