



Bethany Lutheran Church

Bethany News

124 W. 10th Street, Kaukauna, WI 54130

920-766-1452

secretary@bethanykaukauna.org

Facebook @ Bethany Lutheran Church—Kaukauna, WI

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Volume 58, Issue 1

January, 2025

From the Pastor...

A New Year and A New Sermon Series at Bethany

James: A Manual for Maturity



What is the foremost wisdom book in the New Testament that we're going to begin preaching from in this New Year? That would be **James**. "Not James!" you lament. "Didn't Martin Luther famously call James an epistle of straw?" You continue your protest. "Why, James only mentions Jesus two times—just *two times*! I'm with Luther," you say, "Compared to the likes of Paul and John, James is a theological lightweight!"

Not so fast. James has much to teach us about God's grace and our Spirit-empowered response. From the first to the last verse of his book, this half-brother of Jesus gives us one of the most practical pictures of the Christian faith in all the Bible. **James insists that we are saved by faith alone; but saving faith is never alone.** Faithfulness does not stop with a profession of faith but is a ticket to a life of continued transformation and service. To underscore this theme, James employs the word "mature" seven times in his five-chapter letter.

I'm calling this series, therefore, **James: A Manual for Maturity**. The lineup of sermons is as follows:

Sunday, January 5th: "Profiting From Your Problems"

(James 1::1-12)

Sunday, January 12th: "Feeding Your Faith" (James 1:17–25)

Sunday, January 19th: "Believing Better" (James 2:14–26)

Sunday, January 26th: "Taming Your Tongue" (James 3:1–18)

Sunday, February 2nd: "Facing Your Future" (James 4:13–17)

Sunday, February 9th: "Practicing Patience" (James 5:7–11)

I invite you to be a part of this opportunity so that, together, we **mature** in our Christian faith. What an awesome way to begin the new year!

God's Richest Blessings,

Pastor Rod



Who is Who at Bethany Lutheran

STAFF

Rev. Rod Krueger, Pastor

Amy Stingle, Secretary

Jessica Stingle, Lay Leader Family and Youth Ministry

VACANT, Custodian

Betty Hoover, Organist

Roxanne Megna, Organist/Contemporary Band Leader

ELDERS

Mike Baarts, Evan Bradtke, Joe Kamien, Bob Koehler, Ryan Petersen, Steve Schnuelle,

Scott Schupbach, Dan Thorson

COUNCIL LEADERS

Bob Koehler, President

Jonathan Woods, Vice President

Evan Bradtke, Elder

Amy Stingle, Evangelism

Jessica Stingle, Family Ministry

Gary Holcomb, Finance

VACANT, Properties

Cheri Rietveld, Council Secretary



A Message from Our President– Bob Koehler



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11.

As I, a sinner, write again this month, I have worry and doubt. Jesus has told me again and again to not do that. That he has it in control.

In the coming months, I will be asking for help in choosing how we care for Bethany Lutheran church. The Lord knows what we need and will provide, on his timetable. Please pray we hear.

As I pray for our church and the people, I must keep reminding myself that our Savior, Jesus Christ, has the plan, knows the plan and will give us a future, filled with hope.

“For onto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

Bob Koehler, Bethany Council president



Father/Son Banquet

The Men of Bethany along with the Board of Elders will be resurrecting the Father/Son Banquet at Bethany. Mark your calendars for Saturday March 1, 2025 4:00 pm. The event will be held in Bethany's fellowship hall.

This will be a lighthearted, spiritually enlightening event to bring men of all ages together to encourage our roles as males in today's world based on Biblical commands as Christian believers.

Scripture will lead this event with a short object lesson followed by a meal and a message from our featured speaker- Pastor Matt Ruesch. Pastor Ruesch is a former vicar of Bethany Lutheran Church and is currently a pastor at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Kingsford MI.

ALL Males of Bethany and friends are encouraged to attend -Grandfathers, Fathers, sons, grandsons, Godfathers, Godsons, Uncles, nephews, male mentors and male youth. More Information will follow – look for it in the monthly newsletters, emails, worship bulletins and announcements during worship service.

Please pray that this event will glorify God while strengthening our Faith and expose our role as Christian males in today's world.

To Christ be the Glory

Bob Wendt, Men of Bethany

Board of Elders

January Birthdays



Mallory Raether	January 1	Benjamin Krueger	January 24
Bonnie Schupbach	January 1	Raymond Schmoeker	January 24
John Ven Den Heuvel	January 1	Tim Schultz	January 24
Ross Jokipii	January 2	Rebecca Reffke	January 25
Gina Rauen	January 6	Lena Teeters	January 25
Melvin Tolliver	January 6	Robert Bohlmann	January 26
Kay Gast	January 8	Susan Skolos	January 26
Henry Teeters	January 9	Verna Hibbard	January 29
Anthony Megna	January 10	Lydia Woelfel	January 29
James Schoening	January 10	Lennetta Baarts	January 30
Cynthia Niesen	January 11	Cindy DuFrane	January 31
Ken Fink	January 13		
Sandra Walker	January 13		
Richard Driessen	January 14		
Casimir Van Stiphout	January 14		
Jon Broehm	January 15		
Erika Fuhrman	January 15		
Kimberly Buman	January 16		
Karen Eiting	January 16		
Shelli Fox	January 18		
Patrick Karle	January 19		
Alexis Alf	January 20		
Cassidy Van Epps	January 20		
Rod Krueger	January 21		
Kathie Landro	January 23		

January Anniversaries

Robert & Barbara Wendt	January 1
Dennis & Jacquelyn Pederson	January 8
Anthony & Roxanne Megna	January 16
John & Carol Hewett	January 21
Matt & Jenna Kleinke	January 24
Tom & Rita Nagan	January 28



National Youth Gathering 2025 - We officially have 7 youth committed to the National Youth Gathering! Watch for fund raising that will assist in their gathering expenses.

Bible Studies offered at Bethany:

Monday, 6:30PM: MOB– Growing Older and Wiser

Tuesday, 10AM: Lighthouse: Book of Romans, part 2

Wednesday, 6:15PM: Minor Prophets of the Old Testament

Sunday, 9AM: Adult Bible Study—Called to Vote



January Elder Schedule

Sunday, 7:45AM—January 5—Bob Wendt

Sunday, 7:45AM—January 12, 26—Scott Haldiman

Sunday, 7:45—January 19—Evan Bradtke

Sunday, 10AM—January 5—Bob Koehler

Sunday, 10AM—January 5—Evan Bradtke

Sunday, 10AM—January 12, 26—Mike Baarts

Sunday, 10AM—January 19—Ryan Petersen

Sunday, 10AM—January 19—Bob Koehler

Thursday, January 9, 16, 23, 30—Steve Schnuelle



January Dates to Remember:

January 14—Elders Meeting 6:15 Council Meeting 7:15

January 15—Evangelism 11AM Prayer Shawl 12PM

January 19—Community Meal

ALL ARE WELCOME

January 23—Ladies for Bethany

January 25—Ladies Brunch

Bethany Lutheran Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 6:15 p.m.

Members Present: Pastor Rod Krueger, Bob Koehler, Jonathan Woods, Evan Bradtke, Gary Holcomb, Jessica Stingle, Amy Stingle, and Cheri Rietveld.

PRAYER: Pastor Rod Krueger opened the November meeting with prayer.

OCTOBER MINUTES: Corrections to the October minutes include; Jonathan Woods was in attendance; Gary had changes to the August year to date financials. He was asked when expenses are listed, and he said they are listed after the bank processes the payment; The Council approved the payment of \$3,555 for the registration fee for the National Youth Gathering (NYG). Jonathan made a motion to accept the October minutes, Jessica seconded the motion, motion carried.

BOARD REPORTS:

Elders: Evan reported that the attendance for October was 562 vs. October of 2023 attendance was 713 making the attendance down by -21.17%. Total year-to-date attendance for 2024 is 7,778 vs. 7,944 for 2023 attendance. The YTD attendance was down -2.08%, or 166 less attending. November 2023-October 2024 had one fewer Sunday than October 2022-November 2023 and October 2024 had one fewer Sunday than October 2023; The Elders concluded that a broader congregational survey was needed before changing communion frequency and encourage recruitment of more help for altar guild.

Church Properties: Jonathan continues to work on the electronics and reported that he installed an outlet in the Elders closer and plans to put in a hub to make wiring easier; Jonathan will be working with cables and get the access point set up; Jonathan emailed Live Wire to get control of our network and moved in house. Jonathan reported that he has a request for an audio video drop to use in the fellowship hall. He asked the Council's permission to work on that, purchasing what is needed, which shouldn't be over \$100.00. The Council agreed to let Jonathan go ahead with this project.

Family Ministry: Jessica reported that in October the youth painted pumpkins for our shut ins and they hosted a VBS trunk for 2025; November 10 they held a bake sale with the youth making \$640.78; November 20th is the last Wednesday education class until January 8; No Sunday School on December 22, and 29; We will no longer be hosting the Children's Christmas Workshop, but looking forward to bringing it back in future years; Children's Christmas service is December 15 during 10 AM service; Family Ministry will be meeting in December to discuss 2025 events.

Finance: Gary reported:

Financial summary of October and YTD at Bethany Lutheran.

October 2024:

Actual Offerings:	Actual Expenses:	Difference:
\$19,738.42	\$18,572.84	\$1,165.58

YTD October 2024

Budgeted Offerings:	Actual Offerings:	Difference:
\$216,188.30	\$212,402.84	- \$3,785.46

Actual Offerings: Actual Expenses: Difference:

\$212,402.84

\$182,638.10

\$29,764.74

Evangelism: Amy announced that they have a Christmas gift for the shut-ins; There was a total of 75 boxes for Operation Christmas Child; The MOB are taking on the Christmas parade with the help of some youth.

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported that he preached a three week sermon series on the Lord's Supper; Pastor Walt led services on November 10; Thanksgiving Eve service will be Wednesday, November 27; Midweek Advent services will be on Wednesday December 4,11,and 18 at 6:30; December 8, Pastor is out of town and Timm Griffin will lead services and Bible class; We currently have four weekly Bible studies at Bethany; We hosted our monthly Community meal on October 20 with 52 people attending. The next Community meal will be November 17; October 26 we had nearly 300 children attend our annual Trunk or Treat; Our free will offering for hurricane relief received more than \$1,300.00 in donations; We currently have 13 shut-ins being visited regularly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Air conditioning: The A/C funds were not taken from the funds the Council voted on, it came out of the general fund. Bob is working with Barb to reimburse the general funds from the designed funds and write up a report and put in the bulletin and the January newsletter.

Server, Live Stream Camera, Hearing Loop WIFI: Some members have brought it to the Elders attention that when using microphones there is horrible background noise. When the Elders are talking from the lectern, they are hard to hear from the back of church, Jonathan suggested that they ask if they are being heard. Jonathan will look into the problem.

Tables/Chairs: Gary reported that we have over \$14,046.00 in a designated account for tables and chairs in the fellowship hall. Jessica made a motion to purchase 3 round tables,18 chairs, 6 new six foot long tables and one 6 foot 'coffee' table for a total of \$1,158.80, Bob seconded the motion, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Snow Plowing: After discussion, Jessica made a motion to have Bob & Dave's do Bethany's snow plowing for 2024-2025 season, Cheri seconded the motion, motion carried.

Custodian Duties and Responsibilities: Gary is retiring from his custodial duties and the Council discussed different options. It was decided to advertise in the weekly bulletin and update the job description. Gary has kept good records pertaining to the different tasks associated with the custodian position. Bob will work with Gary to put this together. We thank Gary for his dedicated service to Bethany.

Director of Family Ministry recommendation: With Jessica’s health situation, things are indefinite at this point. Concordia Wisconsin has a plan that Jessica could be a part of, but not in the immediate future due to her health. Our options are to keep Jessica on a part time capacity and go to our university intern programs. We did not get any calls back the last time we called for an intern. There are more openings and less candidates. If we call for an intern, it was suggested not to go back to Concordia, but to try other places. Intern applications need to be completed by the end of January. If we call from the field that would be someone working for a few years with experience receiving a higher salary with benefits. Pastor had some handouts with job descriptions, salaries and benefits. He suggested we pray that we make the right decision. We will have an additional meeting in December to discuss this further, asking the previous call committee for their input.

Monthly “Thank You”: Our monthly ‘Thank You’ goes to, Mike Baarts for his time and dedication to Bethany’s Church Council and Elder position. We are so blessed to have him using the gifts he was blessed with. May God richly bless you.

Closing Prayer: The Council decided to have a special meeting on December 2nd at 6:15 to continue discussion on DFM/DCE. The next Council meeting will be December 10 at 6:15. Jessica made a motion to close, Amy seconded it, motion carried. The Council closed with the Lord’s prayer.

Submitted by Cheri Rietveld



Our custodian is retiring at the end of 2024, and we will be looking for a replacement starting 1/1/2025. Below is a rough idea of tasks being completed during a week. It is a 7-10 hour per week position with added or reduced hours based on time of year and needs of the church. If interest, please contact Bob Koehler, 920-378-4913 or bobk@bobanddaves.com

Sample of the Bethany Custodian Typical Weekly Schedule on next page

Bethany Custodian Typical Weekly Schedule

MONDAY

- 1) Confirm sanctuary thermostat is set to correct temperature post Sunday worship services. Refer to posting above sanctuary thermostat in robe hallway.
- 2) Empty trash and recyclables from main level kitchen and Elder closet.
- 3) Inspect/clean three main level restrooms.
- 4) Empty trash and recyclables from secretary's office.
- 5) Check status of sanctuary and narthex roombas-are they docked after running? Roombas start weekly run every Monday at 8:00 per Amy Stingle's app setting.
- 6) Organize chairs in library area, narthex etc.
- 7) Vacuum main elevator and Henricks entrances if needed.

WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY (Depending on mid-week service day)

- 1) Set sanctuary thermostat to correct temperature per posting above sanctuary thermostat in robe hallway.
- 2) Empty trash and recyclables from secretary, DFM, Pastor's offices, and counting and altar guild rooms.
- 3) Inspect/clean three main level restrooms.
- 4) Sanctuary walk through— check for welcome pads in every pew back pocket, old bulletins left in pews, trash, etc.
- 5) Vacuum main, elevator and Henricks entrances if needed.

FRIDAY OR SATURDAY

- 1) Set/confirm sanctuary thermostat is set to correct temperature per posting above sanctuary thermostat in robe hallway.
- 2) Empty trash and recyclables from all lower level classrooms and rooms.
- 3) Inspect/clean three main level and two lower level restrooms.
- 4) Sanctuary walk through—check for welcome pads in every pew back pocket, old bulletins left in pews, trash, etc.
- 5) Vacuum main elevator and Hendricks entrances if needed.
- 6) Empty both narthex level Roomba dust cups. Confirm they are fully charged for automated run to start on Monday morning.

What's Happening at Bethany

New Security Policy Affective immediately we will be locking the entrance doors about 15 minutes after worship starts. The doors will remain locked after worship ends. This change is a step to ensure our safety during worship by preventing people with unknown motives from entering the building, roaming throughout the building, and in some cases entering the sanctuary during worship. The doors will be unlocked for certain special activities like community meals and other special activities that are planned.

Prayer Shawl will meet January 15 at Noon .

Do you Quilt? Quilters meet the first and third

Monday of the month at 1:00PM. New

members are more than welcome to join us!

Contact Joyce at 920-766-1273 if you have any questions.

Ladies Brunch—January 25 Sign up is on the counter

The Evangelism Team will be collecting hats, mittens and scarves (all sizes)

for (Pillars) the homeless shelter in Appleton for the month of January.

Please bring to the office.



There is a member that lives in Combined Locks that needs a ride to the 10AM service on Sundays. If you can help, please let Pastor or the office know.

Looking for ways to help at Bethany?

Greeters/Talkers needed! Family units welcome. Questions to Elder, Mike Baarts, mikebaar@icloud.com (262)995-4956.

Helping Hands Group: To be part of this group, please contact the church office and let them know your telephone number and email address. If you would like to talk to someone about this ministry, you can contact Keith Petersen, Mel Tolliver, or Bob Wendt.

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry The suggested donation items for December: Coffee sweetener, hand lotion, canned mushrooms, and shampoo. Please check your expiration dates before donating. Expired food cannot be given away. The collection box is located at the bottom of the balcony stairs. Thank you for your generosity.

PLEASE NOTE: We no longer take stamps, old glasses, ink cartridges or Campbell soup labels. Donations can be a big help for our church. If you have anything you wish to donate: items for the kitchen, books, things that you think another member might be able to use, please drop them off at the office. If the office is closed, just leave by the door. Your attention to this is greatly appreciated.

Christmas 2024 Memorials

To the Glory of God

From: Barb Dishno, Bruce & Linda Frederick, Bill & Sue Jorgensen, Dennis & Jackie Pederson, Marilyn Riemer, Cheri Rietveld, Jon & Lisa Woods

From:.....**In Memory of:**
Gordy and Mary Ann AndersonNorval & Jennie Anderson; Doris Johnson; Ann & Al Van Lith
Allwardt Family Kenneth, Wilma, & Richard Allwardt
Pat & Shirley Bayorgeon Leonard & Elaine Jones; Bob Pahl
Joan Borg & Family Dennis Borg & Borg Family; Elzear & Ella Petersen
Judy Borg & Family..... In loving memory of Michael Borg & members of the Borg and Reider families
Marvin Braun Amy Braun
Sharjioy Busse Family..... Foster Jr, Caleb, Bella, Foster Sr & Rosemary Busse; Harry & Alice Spietz
Shirley DeWitt & Nancie Sprangers.....Mr & Mrs Ernest Klitzke; Mr & Mrs Wilbert DeWitt, Daniel DeWitt; Donald Klitzke;
Ester Ciske
Joyce Diedrich Harold & Irene Duchow
Norb Fuhrman & Erika Altmann..... Irene Fuhrman & Karl Altmann
Jeff & Julie Gerrits..... Brian, Ted, Leo & Lillian Gerrits
Delmer Giessel Daniel, Sylvia, Barbara Giessel
Scott & Karmen Haldiman..... Doug Bennett (Scott's father); Charlene Helms (Karmen's mother)
Verna Hibbard George Hibbard
Jane Kleinschmidt Marlene Wilson
Jenna, Matt & Brock Kleinke; DeAhndra, Dariena, Dezirae Parish; Amaiya Francis Isaac Britzke
Dale & Nancy Owen Wayne Owen; Mel & Jan Wians
Richard Pomeroy.....Samuel & Irene, Clifford & Nancy, & Irvin Pomeroy; Elaine & Len Else; Shirley & Dick Longsine
Greg & Kris Popp..... Bruce & Evelyn Homan
Les & Nancy Ruen, Jean St Arnold; St Arnold & Ruen Families
Stenz, Stingle and VanDomelen John & Delores Wald, John W Wald
Joel & Mary Sweetalla.....James & Mary, Richard, Donald Stein; Delvin & Bernice Sweetalla
Phyllis, Diane, & Sonia Toonen Robert Toonen
The Trillings..... Jim, Joan, & Randy Rausch
Joyce Wilz.....Leo Wilz

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6:30 Worship Service-Holly Communion	3	4
5 7:45 & 10AM Worship-Holy Communion 9AM Sunday School and Bible	6 1PM Quilters 6:30PM MOB	7 10AM Bible Study	8 6:15PM Midweek Classes (Youth) and Adult Bible Classes	9 6:30 Worship Service	10	11
12 7:45 & 10AM Worship-Holy Communion 9AM Sunday School and Bible Class	13 1PM Quilters 6:30PM MOB	14 10AM Bible Study 6:15PM Elders Meeting 7:30PM Council Meeting	15 11AM—Evangelism 12PM-Prayer Shawl 6:15PM Midweek Classes (Youth) and Adult Bible	16 6:30 Worship Service-Holly Communion	17	18
19 7:45 & 10AM Worship-Holy Communion 9AM Sunday School and Bible Class 11:30-12:30 Com-	20 1PM Quilters 6:30PM MOB	21 10AM Bible Study	22 6:15PM Midweek Classes (Youth) and Adult Bible Classes	23 5:30PM Ladies for Bethany 6:30 Worship Service	24	25
26 7:45 & 10AM Worship-Holy Communion 9AM Sunday School and Bible Class	27 1PM Quilters 6:30PM MOB	28 10AM Bible Study	29 6:15PM Midweek Classes (Youth) and Adult Bible Classes	30 6:30 Worship Service-Holy Communion	31	

Bethany Lutheran Church

Rev. Rod Krueger, Pastor

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Mission Statement

Nurturing our
community to grow closer to
Jesus

NON-PROFIT

ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Kaukauna, WI

PERMIT NO. 163

Return Service Requested



*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:11