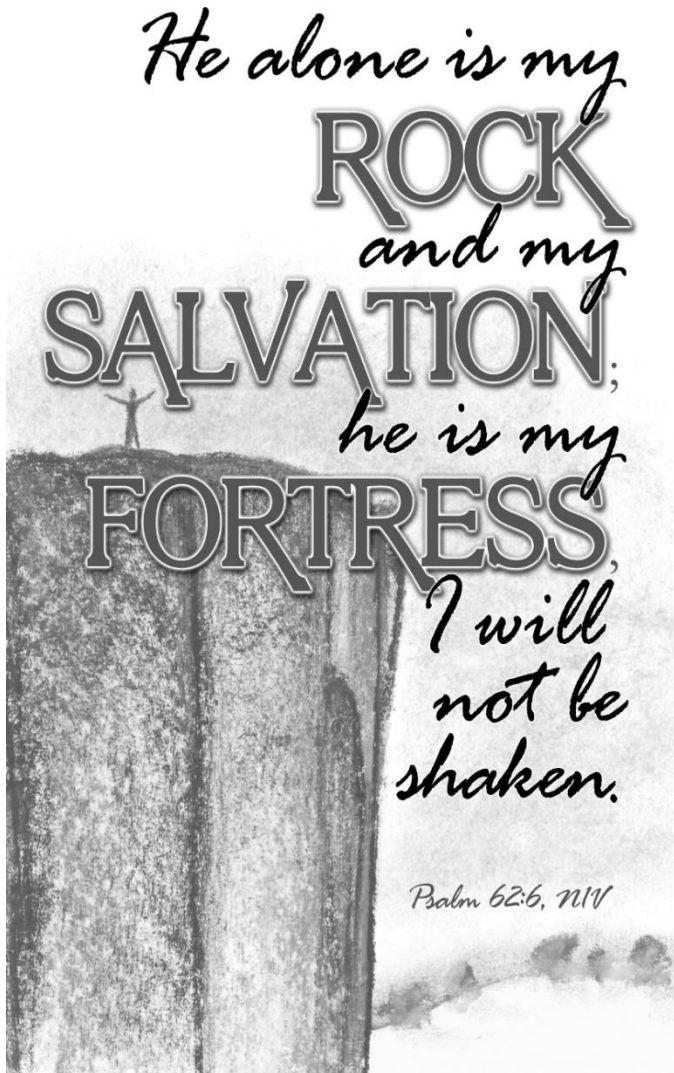




The Bethesda Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN
April 2023



In This Month's Beacon:

*Pastor Seth's Beacon Article

*Financial Update

*Member News

*Committee Updates

*And More

Travel Notes: Pastor Seth will be traveling with Andrea and family to Holland for a family visit with his grandmother from April 11-27. Amy Teske and Karen Linne will lead worship, and retired pastor Dennis Morreim will be on call for pastoral emergencies. In case of emergency, he can be reached at (218)940-5123.

Today's newsletter article comes to us from Peggy Hahn, who is a Deacon in the ELCA and the director of a church leadership organization Living Every Day As Disciples (LEAD). She lives in Texas with her husband and helps churches across the country listen to God and their neighbors. I love what she has to say about "familying" beyond blood relatives and the hard sacred work that this is.

May you and those you "family" with be blessed this Holy Week and Easter!

-Pastor Seth Wynands

There are times when practicing our love for our neighbor becomes a call to loving our family (who may not be blood relatives.) As I write this, it is my honor to accompany my godmother through what is likely the last season of her life. It is so hard. I am ashamed to admit that I should have been doing a better job at this all along. At the same time, I am taking the grace and living into this moment, loving her and feeling her love for me.

I think this is family-ing. The deep intersection of our lives. It's messy.

Hard, holy times with family at the in-between times in life as we deal with our own feelings, identity, and gratitude that God is God and we aren't. We are healing together as we do mundane things like cleaning her house, going to the doctor, and sharing a cup of tea. My life has been so blessed by hers, and I am learning so much about myself in this moment. That's why family-ing is hard – because it is personal. It is about deep God-like love.

I am struck by Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night with his faith questions in John 3. Jesus is pushing him to move from his "head" faith to a spiritual, embodied, heart-felt faith. The invitation Jesus extends is to be born again. To heal from the past framework of the faith and to understand God's overflowing love. We even get a taste of Jesus' sarcasm, or is it irritation, he expresses that this religious leader doesn't already know that faith is a spiritual, soulful experience.

It is this genuine and messy love that makes family-ing a call. A call from God to love in the hard moments. To show up with compassion and grace in the same way God always shows up. God did not send Jesus to this world to condemn the world. The whole

enterprise is about love. Our family, or closest friends, are the first relational circle we are called to show compassion. I am praying that you find this kind of soulful love in this season of Lent – and offer it back to those closest to you.

-by Peggy Hahn (She/Her), Executive Director of LEAD

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Coffee Serving Schedule

April 2nd -Marlys' Group

April 9th – Gladys Group

April 16th –Social Ministry~Camp

April 23rd – Jeannette's Group

April 30th~ Ginny's Group

2023 Members of Bethesda Church Council

Jason Goad -President

Deb Davis-Vice President

Jen Goad-Secretary

Jeannette Korpela-Treasurer

JoAnn Gustafson

Debby Johnson

Renee Kesty

**If you have items that you wish to be addressed by council, contact a member of the Executive Committee, who sets the council agenda.at bethesdalutherancouncil@gmail.com. You can keep up to date with church business by viewing the Council Meeting Minutes on the rotating bulletin board or view them on our website*

God's Work our Hands - on going -

year round -- Consider hemming precut diaper squares, and onesies. Located on the table in the narthex.

We have 2 office desks in the basement and 2 pianos to get rid of. Talk to Lynn or call the office if you are interested. Thank you.

Member News



Celebrating April Baptismal Birthdays

Sharon Bragge, Vance Moench, Briar Mrozik, Kristal Hanson, Terry Radtke, Colin Emerson, Patricia Durkee, Brittany Dahl-Holm, Stacie Hopp, Todd Bryant, Craig Schmitz, Ross Soukkala, Lindsey Dahl-Holm, Wesley Harden, Liam Meagher, Makenzie Simula, Cassidy Sheda,

Desiree Sheda, Molly Sheda, Jessica Betts, Shelby Nygren, Michael Lijewski, Merlea Mrozik, Spencer Thorman, Tanner Thorman, Curtis Marin, Myrna Postal, Lydia Kiehl, Terry Skutevik, Nevada Jo McCorison, Bernie Despot, Andrew Castle, Colton Clark, Melissa Clark, Sean Clark, Tanner Betts, Rick Johnson, Jackson Soukkala, Oliver Soukkala, Andrew Buller & Mark Vernon



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to Randy & Alieca Johnson. Randy's father Vernon Johnson passed away on March 4th. God comfort and strengthen our hearts in hope in the resurrection through Christ.

Financial Update			
Year to date as of 2/31/2023			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	15571.00	16125.00	(554.00)
Non-pledged income	5135.00	5366.66	(231.66)
TOTAL INCOME	20706.00	21491.66	(785.66)
Salaries/Compensation	16876.65	17090.10	(213.45)
General Office Expenses	2066.59	1398.02	668.57
Utilities	2093.60	1910.84	182.76
Other Expenses	36.78	173.32	136.54
Benevolence Expenses	155.71	181.66	(25.95)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	1940.08	421.68	1518.40
Social Ministry	54.00	54.16	(0.16)
Worship Expenses	54.00	54.16	(0.16)
CYFM Expenses	221.31	718.34	(497.03)
TOTAL EXPENSES	23498.72	22002.28	1496.44
Net operating income	(2792.72)	(510.62)	(2282.10)
Non-pledged income includes Loose offering, Special Services, Meatball supper, Sunday School, Interest Income, etc.			
Memorial money is not included in any of the figures above.			



Please prayerfully consider Volunteering to assist at the Easter Service on April 9th for the 8:30am service.

LayMinistry Assistants Needed:

Crucifix Holder, Ushers, A Lector, 2 Greeters, 2 Communion Assistants & 2 Counters.

The sign-up sheets are on the table in the Narthex. If you have any questions, contact Pat Durkee, 384-3645. Thank you for your willingness to serve.



Please consider bringing a Lilly/Plant for Our Easter Flower Garden "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" a Loved One to help adorn our Sanctuary on Easter. ***Please have your plant at the Church by 11 am on Saturday April 8th.*** Let's fill the Sanctuary with lots of beautiful plants to add to the beauty of Christ's Resurrection!! ***Please let the office know by April 3rd*** if you will be bringing a plant so your Loved One(s) will be acknowledged on Easter morning. Thank you. Pat Durkee

Bethesda holds a church service at Interfaith Care Center the 2nd Sunday of each month. We have music along with a short service held in the IFCC Community Room at 3:00 P.M. The service lasts approximately 20-30 minutes. Coffee and treats are served directly following the service by the Ladies of Kaleva. All are welcome to join!

Social Ministry



Social Ministry will be hosting coffee in support of camp on April 16th.

Social Ministry will be continuing the collection of jackets, hats, mittens, etc. as well as hygiene products; shampoo, toothpaste, personal care products for the Damiano Center. They will also be collecting larger backpacks and suitcases with wheels. Please bring gently used items. There is a box for each in the Fellowship Hall.



“Live simply....so others may simply live.”

Please continue to donate to the Salvation Army, our local food shelf, on Carlton Ave. in Cloquet. ***For the month of April our collection focus will be cereal; cold or hot.*** Monetary donations are also ***greatly*** appreciated as a donation like this can purchase much more with the resources the Salvation Army has access to. Thank you.

Worship

April Worship Assistants

If you are unable to be here for the date that you are scheduled, please try to find a replacement. Thank you!

Greeters

4/2 Sharon Bragge
4/9 Sharon Bragge & Jimmy Bragge
4/16 Marv & Pat Durkee
4/23 Lori Bunge
4/30 Debby Johnson

Ushers

4/2 Sharon Bragge & Mary Saarela
4/9 Craig & Roxane Schmitz
4/16 Terry & Sue Coady
4/23 Debby Johnson & Cheryl Ankrum
4/30

Lector

4/2 Lynn Beatty
4/9 Randy Schmitz
4/16 Pat Durkee
4/23 Linda Newlon
4/30 Ginny Korte -Castle

Acolyte

4/2 Anna Bong
4/9 Anna Bong
4/16 Mason
4/23 Ailie
4/30 Alex

Communion Assistants

4/2 Linda & Daryl Bong
4/9 Jen & Jason Goad
4/16 Wendy Mitchell & Roxane Schmitz
4/23 Jen & Jason Goad
4/30 Andrea Wynands & Alex

Counters

4/2 Mary Saarela & Linda Newlon
4/9 Chris Mitchell
4/16
4/23 Lori Bunge & Gene Bryant
4/30 Lynn Beatty & Diana Davis

APRIL 2023 SCHEDULE FOR J.A.M./ MESSAGE

*****April 2nd – NO JAM OR
MESSAGE – PALM SUNDAY**

*****April 9th – Easter - message with
Pastor Seth**

*****April 16th - Jesus and Me - J.A.M.**

*****April 23rd – message with Pastor
Seth**

*****April 30th – Jesus and Me -
J.A.M.**



Beacon Information – April 2023
The 1st Communion class for Crosby Moench will be on Saturday, March 29th from 9:00 – 12:00. During this time he will be making bread with Sharon Bragge. He will be making his 1st Communion on Sunday, April 2nd which is Palm Sunday.

Adult education classes continue with Bible study on Friday's at 11:00 and Book/Article study the last Tuesday of the month at 5:30. Paula Olsen would like to organize a night for the group to go out for supper. More to follow. We are also looking to hold a Bible study class in early 2023. Ginny Kortie-Castle is buying entire lessons to be used.

Pastor Seth is looking to hold something on Mental Health/Suicide training in May 2023.

Synod night will be held the fall of 2023 and we will ask Colleen Bernu to lead.

Cardia Deo will be held on March 18, 2023, in Grand Rapids. This is for kids grades 9-12. Wendy has reserved 2 adjoining rooms for the kids and chaperones. We have one student from Bethesda attending and 2 students from River's Edge. The 2 from River's Edge will each be bringing a friend so we will have 5 attending.

The stewardship challenge is for grades 10-12th. We have heard back from 1 student. Kayla will report back on what she used her \$20.00 and what her \$100.00 used for. We have not heard back from the other students but hope to soon. More to come!

Lenten faith partner plan started on February 22, 2023. Pastor Seth will make up the curriculum again this year to be used. Please remember to meet every week with your mentee and use the handouts Pastor Seth has on the back table. This is your time to get to know them, they get to know you and you can share the bible stories and questions together. It is a time when you can both grow in your faith.

Growing in faith for grades 4-6 will start on May 3rd through May 24th. The class will be 4 weeks long. The time will be 5:30 worship service with class from 6-7. Pastor Seth will lead the class.

Pastor Seth talked about Summer Stretch which will be held August 21st – August 24th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Cloquet from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

They are doing VLM day camp but will be more community based. They do not want to hold at a church but invite local churches to attend. They are looking for a place in the community to hold.

The Easter Vigil will be on Saturday, April 8th. Andrea and Diana will supply crafts for the kids to do. We will again do an Easter Egg Hunt for the younger kids.

Ideas for youth outings are Duluth Playhouse (winter or spring), zoo, aquarium, and the New Wine Musical. The dates for the New Wine Musical will be May 3,4,7 at 7:00 PM and May 18,20,21 at 7:00 PM. We will find out when tickets go on sale.

Our next CYFED meeting will be held on Thursday, March 25, 2023, at 5:30 PM in the gathering space. We are planning on meeting prior to Easter week.

PLEASE NOTE THE DAY AND TIME CHANGE OF OUR MEETINGS. THE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THE 1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5:30 PM. All are welcome to attend.

WELCA



Women of the ELCA Kettle River Conference

Spring Gathering

April 15, 2023 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Registration and fellowship begins at 8:30 am

Theme: You Are Not Alone

Verse: Philippians 4:6 "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God."

Offering focus will be LSS Center for Changing Lives in Duluth

Pastor Brenda Wicklund will be with us for our service of Holy Communion Silent Auction and Buy it Now tables Prizes for First Time Attendees!!

Northeastern Minnesota Synod ELCA Monthly Reflections

"Nurturing Your Mental Wellbeing"

By Synod Minister Joy Hensel



Breath Prayer
Gracious God,
Inhale: May the
light of your
presence

Exhale: Shine
through me to

others. Amen

Ephesians 5:8-9 “for once you were darkness but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good, right, and true.”

How is Christ's light reflected in you?

Walking as children of light can at times be challenging and even overwhelming. It might feel like a heavy call to embody. The good news is, we do not do it on our own. We hear in this Ephesians passage that we are called to live in goodness, righteousness, and

truth as part of a larger community. We are called to walk and live as children of light together- in relationship, with the body of Christ.

The body of Christ is big. Everyone in this body has unique gifts—and sometimes this Body, doesn't get along so well, or even like each other much. So then, how can we live together—reflecting Christ's light?

We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live together by caring for the wellbeing of each other. According to the Earl E. Bakken Center for Spirituality, “Wellbeing is a state of balance or alignment in body, mind, and spirit.” Wellbeing is influenced by “6 factors; Environment, Health, Community, Relationship, Purpose and Security.” Wellbeing “reflects an understanding and respect for our interconnectedness as human beings and with the natural world.”

We, who lived in darkness, have been redeemed by Christ's saving love and so we now have new life and live in the Light--reflecting Christ's light to all whom cross our path. Because of whose we are, Christ's, we are called to

action, to daily reflect Christ's light by

- sharing , care, concern and compassion for each other;
- showing a commitment to justice;
- shining Christ's love, for all human beings.

This Scripture passage is about our new identity, our new life as baptized believers and followers of Christ—and in this new role, we have a new purpose, a new calling. An invitation is extended to each of us to explore how the Gospel story impacts and shapes how you and how we live into each new day as members of the body of Christ—sharing, showing, and shining Christ's deep care and love for the wellbeing of all.

Where do you experience Mental Wellbeing?

How will you nurture your Mental Wellbeing today?

Joy Hensel, Synod Minister for Mental Health and Wellness
joy.hensel@nemnsynod.org

Northeastern MN Synod

The building that the synod purchased in 2000 has been sold. The office space was spacious, but not necessarily what was needed in 2023, as synod staff do some of their work remotely and within congregations across Northeastern Minnesota. While the building served the needs of the synod for many years, there were several pending repairs needed, with the biggest problem being that it was not handicap accessible. In addition, the synod council felt that it would be more cost effective to move into a space with a ministry partner/congregation. After researching several sites across the greater Duluth area, it was determined that the office could be easily located and accessed on the London Road entrance to First Lutheran Church in Duluth. Your synod staff have been busy sorting, pitching, packing, and moving years' worth of records and office necessities to our new home. Please note that our address has changed to **1111 London Road, Duluth, MN 55802**. Our telephone number remains the same; 218-724-4424. Look for notice of an Open House in the very near future!

The synod office has moved! It was made by the confirmands in the building where we now reside.)

Staff transitions are also happening! Deacon Brenda Tibbetts has announced her retirement after serving in the church for twenty-



two years, eight of which have been as part of your synod staff. She will be transitioning from her work as the Synod Minister for Leadership Support over the summer and will be fully retired as of September 1, 2023. The Synod Council has issued a call to Deacon Susan Williams (picture on right) to serve in this position, with a start date of April 15, 2023. Both Deacon Brenda and Deacon Susan will have plenty of overlap as they tend to the call process, roster and first call administration, congregations in transition, and the leadership events of the synod. We will formally welcome Deacon Susan as she is installed at Synod Assembly on Friday, April 28, 2023. We will have a service of Godspeed for Deacon Brenda as part of the closing worship at Synod Assembly on Sunday, April 30, 2023. Finally, there will be a reception of welcome and thanksgiving for both Deacons on Saturday night of the Assembly, April 29, 2023. As we give God thanks for Deacon Brenda's

faithful service over the years, we also give God thanks for the capable gifts that Deacon Susan will bring to this position.



Greetings from Camp!
Songs and Sips - April 18th, 7-9 p.m.
Hosts: VLM and Christian Ministries of the National Parks
Gather with us at Lake Superior Brewing to sing some camp songs, have some pizza and learn more about outdoor ministry programs. You are encouraged to bring your family and friends and an instrument if you want to play along as we sing!

Estate Planning 101 - April 20th, 6-7:30 p.m.
Host: Joel Abenth of VLM and Jeff Hakala of Thrivent
Interested in learning more about the basics of estate planning? Want to explore ways to protect and transfer assets to the ones you love? Join us for a light snack and an evening of conversation at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

April 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
<p>2</p> <p>8:30am Palm Sunday Worship</p> <p>9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship</p> <p>3pm Interfaith Care Center Worship Service</p>	3	<p>4</p> <p>9am Making Mats for the Homeless</p> <p>5:30pm CYFed. Meeting</p> <p>6pm Serenity Seekers</p>	5	<p>6</p> <p>5:30pm Lenten Dinner</p> <p>6pm Maundy Thursday Service</p> <p>7pm 7-10th Grade Faith Partner Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11am Bible Study</p> <p>1pm Good Friday Service at River's Edge Presbyterian Church</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30pm Easter Fest and Bonfire</p>
<p>9</p> <p>8:30am Easter Worship</p> <p>9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pastor Seth Gone April 10th-27th</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9am Making Mats for the Homeless</p> <p>6pm Serenity Seekers</p>	12	<p>13</p> <p>1pm Jam Group</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11am Bible Study</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Beacon Deadline</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Social Ministry ~Camp</p> <p>8:30am Worship J.A.M</p> <p>9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship</p>	17	<p>18</p> <p>9am Making Mats for the Homeless</p> <p>4pm Worship Committee Meeting</p> <p>5:30pm Council Meeting</p> <p>6pm Serenity Seekers</p>	19	<p>20</p> <p>5:30pm Ladies of Kaleva</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11am Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p> <p>11am-6pm Fellowship Hall in Use~Ableiter Family</p>
<p>23</p> <p>8:30am Worship</p> <p>9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship</p> <p>30</p> <p>8:30am Worship Confirmation J.A.M</p> <p>9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship</p>	24	<p>25</p> <p>9am Making Mats for the Homeless</p> <p>6pm Serenity Seekers</p>	26	<p>27</p> <p>1pm Jam Group</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11am Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10th Grade Agape Meal and Faith Proclamation</p>

Bethesda Lutheran Church
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Carlton, MN 55718

Sunday Worship
8:30am
*In House
And Online*
*You can also view the Beacon
on our website at
bethesdacarlton.org or if you
would like to have a copy
mailed or emailed to you please
contact the office.*

