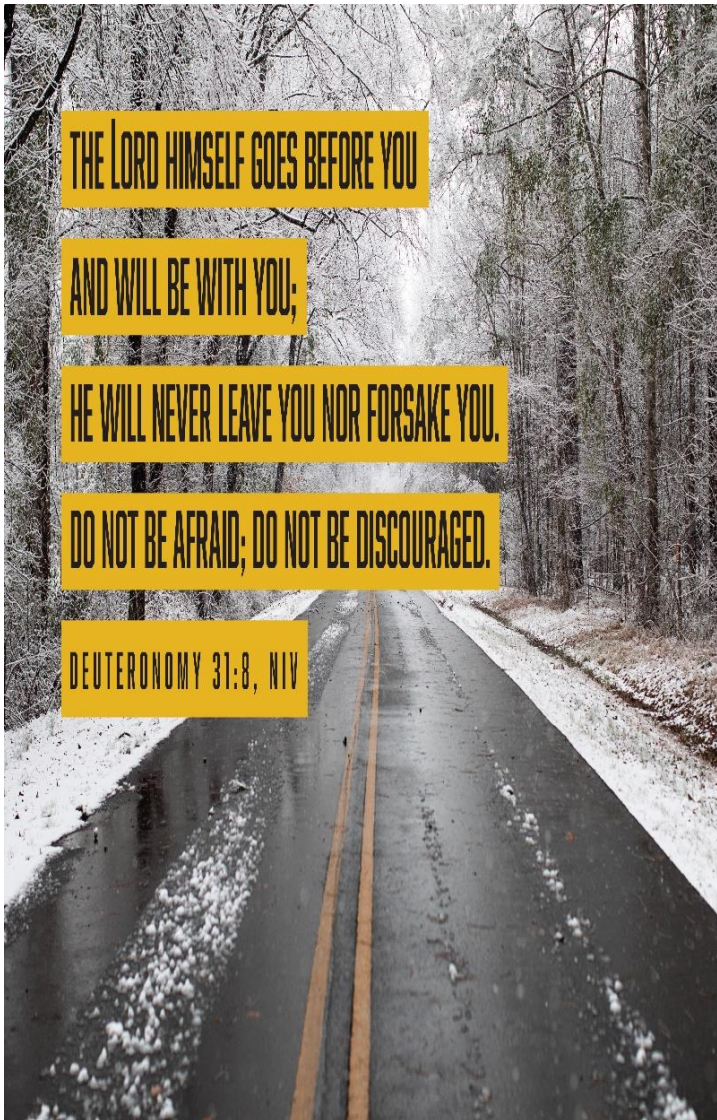




# **The Bethesda Beacon**

*Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN*  
January 2023



In This Month's Beacon:

\*Pastor Seth's Beacon Article

\*Financial Update

\*Member News

\*Committee Updates

\*And More



## On Listening

We know when we've been listened to – and when we haven't.

Recently, I had a couple of stark reminders of the difference listening can make.

One was with a group of fellow new pastors from across the country. One of our leaders, a pastor for three decades, had plenty of wisdom to share, but in practice, he was actually a lousy listener. To be clear, he wasn't rude or overbearing, but despite his profession, when one of us in the first-call learning group shared something difficult or heavy, he often responded with a story or with "wisdom" rather than asking the person to go deeper. Because of that, no matter how wise his words were, none of us really felt like taking in the lessons of his experience. His failure to show that he was listening stilted the group's growth and hindered our closeness.

On the other hand, good listening can make all the difference. In our weekly local Bible study group with one other pastor and three SAMs (Synodically Authorized Ministers – people who aren't pastors but who preach at small congregations), one SAM had just come back from a life-threatening surgery. He told us about his accident and how he was trying to make sense of the whole ordeal. Ultimately, this group

colleagues listened to him, asked him good questions, and left space for his thoughts and feelings. It was beautiful to experience, and, unlike my first-call group, we grew closer because of the experience.

Listening is so important in all our relationships, from our partners, parents, and kids to our workplace colleagues, friends – even our enemies!

Here's a few possible benefits of good listening:

- Learning
- Conflict Resolution
- Real Apologies and Real Forgiveness
- Deepened Relationships

This is all true for churches, too! We know how important it is to listen deeply and listen well to each other. But what's less natural for us is to listen to our neighbors.

It's no secret that the institutional church – and that's the whole church, not just the mainline – is changing. Generations from baby boomers to my own generation to teenagers today are all engaging less with institutions, spending more time alone, and choosing less often to associate with a local church.

There's good news, however, and that is that God is always active, calling people

to faith and to discipleship. So the church's job in this long season of change is to listen deeply: to God, and to our neighbors.

Ultimately, deep listening is what might allow the church, both here in Carlton and across North America, to reconnect with generations that aren't finding their way into the walls of the church.

This year, may you find ways to listen, and to be listened to. And if nothing else, know that God listens to you and knows your deepest needs, no matter what.

Christ's Peace be with you in 2023!  
Pastor Seth Wynands

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### **2023 Members of Bethesda Church Council (this will change as of the Annual Meeting Jan. 22, 2023)**

\*President – Lynn Beatty

\*Vice President – Deb Davis

\*Secretary - Linda Newlon

\*Treasurer - JoAnn Gustafson

Debby Johnson

Dave Beatty

Bethany Leseman

*\*If you have items that you wish to be addressed by council, contact a member of the Executive Committee, who sets the council agenda. 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.

Looking Ahead:

- January Council Meeting will be 1/10/23 5:30 pm



**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.**

All **COMMITTEE REPORTS** are due by **January 5<sup>th</sup>**. Please have them into the office by this date.

Thank you!

<b>Financial Update</b>			
Year to date as of 11/30/2022			
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>
Envelope giving	95816.00	106760.00	(10944.00)
Non-pledged income	24223.28	4608.37	19614.91
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>120039.28</b>	<b>111368.37</b>	<b>8670.91</b>
Salaries/Compensation	88740.12	90214.55	(1474.43)
General Office Expenses	7359.53	7282.76	76.77
Utilities	11169.73	8873.37	2296.36
Other Expenses	1534.39	545.00	(989.39)
Benevolence Expenses	948.27	1067.60	(119.33)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	2146.58	760.87	1385.71
Social Ministry	297.00	297.88	(0.88)
Worship Expenses	5513.85	6716.63	(1202.78)
CYFM Expenses	3296.87	2896.74	400.13
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>121006.34</b>	<b>118655.40</b>	<b>2350.94</b>
<b>Net operating income</b>	<b>(967.06)</b>	<b>(7287.03)</b>	<b>6319.97</b>
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.			

## Social Ministry



Social Ministry will be hosting coffee in support of Wycliffe Bible Translators on January

15<sup>th</sup>.

**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. Thank you.

CHUM is in great need of gloves and socks for the winter months. We will be collecting for the next several months. You may leave your donations in the office. Thank you! Maureen Singleton

There will be no offering envelopes ordered for the upcoming year. If you need a booklet please contact the office and let me know and I will get them ready for you. Thank you!

For weather related cancellations of Sunday worship service please tune in to WKLK or KBJR. We will also post the information on Facebook and make phone calls to notify everyone.



*“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 January our collection focus will paper products; toilet paper, paper toweling, Kleenex and feminine products.*** 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.



## January Worship Assistants

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

**We are in need of people to usher. If you are able there will be a sign-up sheet outside the Sanctuary.**

### **Greeters**

1/1 Sharon Bragge  
1/8 JoAnn Gustafson  
1/15 Marv & Pat Durkee  
1/22 Lori Bunge  
1/29 Jason Goad

### **Ushers**

1/1 Sharon Bragge  
1/8  
1/15 Debby Johnson & Mary Saarela  
1/22  
1/29

### **Lector**

1/1 Cheryl Ankrum  
1/8 Ginny Korte Castle  
1/15 Karin Towslee  
1/22 Linda Newlon  
1/29 Kevein Conley

### **Acolyte**

1/1 Anna Bong  
1/8 Alex  
1/15 Mason Haley  
1/22 Ailie Gustafson  
1/29 Anna Bong

### **Communion Assistants**

1/1 Daryl & Linda Bong & Anna  
1/8 Andrea Wynands & Alex

1/15 Jason & Jen Goad & Mason  
1/22 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie  
1/29 Daryl & Linda Bong & Anna

Children, Youth, Family and Ed

## **JANUARY 2023 SCHEDULE FOR J.A.M./ MESSAGE**

**\*\*\*January 1<sup>st</sup> – NEW YEAR’S DAY – NO J.A.M. OR MESSAGE WITH PASTOR SETH**

**\*\*\*January 8<sup>th</sup> - message with Pastor Seth**

**\*\*\*January 15<sup>th</sup> - Jesus and Me - J.A.M.**

**\*\*\*January 22<sup>nd</sup> – message with Pastor Seth**

**\*\*\*January 29<sup>th</sup> – Jesus and Me - J.A.M.**

Happy  
New  
Year

**Holy Communion Classes** start 1/29 for four weeks,  
**Family retreat** Sat 2/25,  
**First Communion Service** Sun 2/26.

## **Beacon Information – January 2023**

CYFED sent out 19 Christmas cards to kids ages 1 through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

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.

Joel Soukkala did a Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. We had 7 of our youth participate. After the pageant, we went to Interfaith Care Center to hand out Christmas bags and cards. All youth and adults were invited to join us.

We will be holding 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible study starting on January 11, 2023. We will have 2 kids attending.

Pastor Seth and Wendy contacted Joy Hensel from the Synod office regarding mental health and substance abuse. We will be able to tailor and refine a program that will work for our needs. We can pick areas we feel are more widespread with our youth. The topics could be anxiety, depression, and suicide. We are also looking at evening classes with the kids and parents tailored to their needs. Pastor Seth and Wendy will meet again with Joy to see where we go from here.

Pastor Seth and Wendy sent an email to Judy/Carol at River's Edge discussing the cost for their kids' attending retreats. What they would need is a

heads up what we are doing for our kids and their kids, then they will see what they can do to furnish funds.

Memorial and Endowment approved keeping the \$250.00 campership for Bethesda members. If we have kids from other churches, we will work with them to see what can be done to help them out financially if needed.

A stipend of \$500.00 will be given to those interested in becoming a camp counselor and less if you would be a counselor in training. Becoming a camp counselor helps build good leadership skills.

We had 6 kids along with Pastor Seth and Wendy attend all youth gathering at Craguns. The kids had a fun time.

March 18, 2023, in Grand Rapids, MN, will be Cardia Deo. For those interested in attending, we could offer a hotel room on Saturday night to debrief and bond with others. More to come.

Advent services are 3:45 until 4:15, and class will be 4:15 – 5:30.

We have 4 – 10<sup>th</sup> grade kids doing their final confirmation. Pastor Seth has a helper this year – Stephanie Erickson-Russell. Thank you, Stephanie, for helping.

We sent in 24.5 lbs. of crayons for the crayon initiative. Thank you, Wendy,

for sending these out. These crayons will be recycled for kids in hospitals.

We are looking at a youth outing this winter or spring. Possibly an outing at the Duluth Playhouse. More to come!

Our next CYFED meeting will be held on Thursday, January 5, 2023, at 2:00 PM in the library. All are welcome to attend.

Special Giving:  
*In Memory of*

**Jeanne Ketchum**

By Brad & Lori Bunge

By Terry & Sue Coady

By Marv & Pat Durkee

By Bob & Marnie Emerson

By Debby Johnson

By Dick & Pat Nygren

By Judy Olson

By George & Mary Saarela

**Lorraine "Rae" Carpenter**

By Marv & Pat Durkee

**Sue Modoc**

By Debby Johnson

**Yvonne Davis**

By Debby Johnson

*In Honor of*

**Bethany Leseman's Birthday**

By Sharon Bragge

**Recycle your Holiday Lights**

CARLTON, MN – If you have unwanted or no longer working holiday lights, please recycle them at the Carlton County Transfer Station located at 1950 Highway 210. The program provides FREE holiday lights recycling. Electric cords are also accepted. The year-round hours for the Carlton County Transfer Station are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For efficient recycling, remove all decorations from your string lights. Remove them from any type of plastic spool, cardboard packaging, or plastic bags. Place the clean string lights in the correct box at the Transfer Station. Rope lights are acceptable. Acceptable electric cords include extension cords, appliance cords, and telephone cords. The material will be processed at a recycling facility to separate the recyclable metal materials. The Carlton County Transfer Station offers solid waste disposal and recycling services to Carlton County residents. Disposal services available for a fee include household garbage and construction/demolition material. Recycling services for a fee include mattresses, brush, tires, electronics, and appliances. Recycling services available to county residents without a fee include household recyclables, food waste, grass and yard clippings, oil and oil filters, antifreeze, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, medical sharps, and scrap metal. The household hazardous

waste facility is closed for the season and will re-open May 2023. Area residents with questions about the Transfer Station can call the Zoning and Environmental Services Office at 218-384-9176. For more information visit <https://www.co.carlton.mn.us/580/Transfer-Station>

## Member News



### **Celebrating January Baptismal Birthdays**

Marlene Anderson, Lance

Konietzko, Brit Simula, Dawn Sell, Brady Gordon, Emily Matlack, Carol Bergstrom, Tucker Kiehn, Phyllis Rousseau, Sandy Vernon, Everly Jahr, Jim Olson, John Holden, Karlie Balow, Natalie Lijewski, Scott Frederick, Jacob Anderson, Aaron Vick, Paul Carpenter, Jason Ableiter, Julie Frederick, NancyLee Olsen, Brookelynn Sell, Brielle Simula, Blair Nygren, Aaron Schilla, Brandon Sell, Zariah Erikson, Jayson Grover, Jacob Anderson, Anton Sheda, Joshua Beatty, Nicole Kutzler, Evan Mckeon & Betty Peterson.



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to Paul & Sarah Carpenter and family. Paul's mom and member of Bethesda Lorraine "Rae"

Carpenter passed away on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022. To Pat Durkee, Debby Johnson and family. Their sister-

in-law Lois Johnson passed away on December 25<sup>th</sup>. God comfort and strengthen our hearts in hope in the resurrection through Christ.

Coffee Serving Schedule  
**January 1<sup>st</sup>**-Renae's Group  
**January 8<sup>th</sup>** -Marlys' Group  
**January 15<sup>th</sup>** - Social  
Ministry~Wycliffe Bible Translators  
**January 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Gladys' Group  
**January 29<sup>th</sup>** - Jeannette's Group

## Our Daily Bread Ministries

### **When You're Afraid**

*When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." Judges 6: 12*

I had a medical checkup scheduled, and although I'd had no recent health concerns I dreaded the visit. I was haunted by memories of an unexpected diagnosis long ago. While I knew God was with me and I should simply trust Him, I still felt afraid. I was disappointed in my fear and lack of faith. If God was always with me, why was I feeling such anxiety? Then one morning I believe He led me to the story of Gideon. Called "mighty warrior" (Judges 6: 12), Gideon was fearful over his assignment to attack Midianites. Although God had promised him His presence and victory, Gideon



still sought multiple reassurances (vv. 16-23, 36-40). However, God didn't condemn Gideon for his fear. He understood him. On the night of the attack, He assured Gideon again of victory, even giving him a way to assuage his fears (7: 10-11). God understood my fear too. His reassurance gave me the courage to trust Him. I experienced His peace, knowing that He was with me regardless of the outcome. In the end, my checkup was uneventful. We have a God who understands our fears and who reassures us through the Scriptures and the Spirit (Psalm 23: 4: John 14: 16-17). May we worship Him in thankfulness, just as Gideon Did (Judges 7: 15) By Karen Huang

### **Reflect & Pray**

What fears of challenges are you facing? How does it help to know that God is with you and wants to help you?

*Dear God, thank You for not condemning my fears, but always reassuring me of Your presence. Help me turn to You when I'm afraid and trust in You.*

### **Scripture Insight**

At the time of the events in Judges 7, Gideon was still an obscure figure. The Midianite army had heard nothing of his military prowess, for he hadn't yet accomplished anything. The angel's words back in Judges 6 were key to his eventual success: "The LORD is with you" (v. 12). The enemy soldier's

dream and its interpretation were also direct evidence of God's intervention in the life of His people Israel (7:13-14). But every step of the way, Gideon struggled to believe it. At last, upon hearing his name on the lips of the enemy, he gained full confidence (v. 15).

Tim Gustafson



### **Upcoming VLM Events:**

**Summer 2023 Registration is Open!**  
Registration is open for Summer 2023!

### **ELEMENTARY CAMPER REJUVE**

Friday, February 24, 2023 7:00 PM -  
Saturday, February 25, 2023 6:00 PM  
Camp Hiawatha 36944 Camp  
Hiawatha Road, Deer River, MN,  
56636

Camper Rejuves are a great way to get back to camp during the school year, or to check out camp for the upcoming summer! You'll get your camp fix on this 23 hour overnight - games, campfire, songs, friends, learning, and of course, great camp food

To register, you may also call the camp office at [\(800\) 331-5148](tel:8003315148)

**BETHESDA'S ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT**

**January 26-29, 2023**

**Camp Heartland, Willow River, MN**

- \*Make new friends! Catch up with old!
- \*Coffee & tea always on!
- \*Home cooked brunch (9:30) and dinners (5:30)
- \*Lots of ski, snowshoe, walking trails—so bring your gear!
- \*Open to ALL women of Bethesda and their friends.
- \*Cozy up to the hearth!
- \*Well-lit crafting area with tables.
- \*Your own bed

Most rooms sleep 2-3 people, you will have your own bed—all bottom bunks. Please bring your own linens, pillow, towels, and toiletries. Bathroom in each room. Coffee/tea provided--bring other beverages of your choice and any snacks/games you'd like to share.

Tables provided for crafting, as well as ironing boards and irons. Bring your own extension cords and/or ott light.

**\*Pre-registration requested by Dec. 15 which must include a \$50 non-refundable deposit. Balance due by January 15, 2023**

\*\*\*\*\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell : \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>I will be attending: (check all that apply)</u>	<u>Day Only</u>	<u>Overnight</u>
_____ Thursday night, Jan. (pizza/salad/treats)		___\$35.00
_____ Friday, (brunch/dinner)	___\$25	___\$35.00
_____ Saturday (brunch/dinner)	___\$25	___\$35.00
_____ Sunday brunch		___(included)

TOTAL DUE: \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**BALANCE DUE BY January 15, 2023**

Thank you to WELCA and Thrivent Financial for helping support this retreat.

**Please make checks payable to WELCA, and return with this form to  
Ginny Korte-Castle, 2175 Gillogly Rd, Carlton, MN 55718  
218-384-3896 vircastle@gmail.com**

# January 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 New Year's Day <b>8:30am</b> Worship (FH) <b>9:45am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship	2	3 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	4 <b>10am</b> Office Staff Meeting <b>3:45pm</b> Worship & 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	5 <b>1pm</b> Jam Group <b>2pm</b> Children, Youth, Family & Ed. Meeting	6 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	7
8 <b>8:30am</b> Worship Children's Message <b>9:45am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship	9	10 Office Closed <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>4pm</b> Worship Meeting <b>5:30pm</b> Council Meeting <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	11 Office Closed <b>10am</b> Office Staff Meeting <b>3:45pm</b> Worship & 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	12 Office Closed	13 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	14
15 Beacon Deadline Social Ministry~Wycliffe Bible Translators <b>8:30am</b> Worship J.A.M (FH) <b>9:45am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	18 <b>10am</b> Office Staff Meeting <b>3:45pm</b> Worship & 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	19 <b>1pm</b> Jam Group <b>5:30pm</b> Ladies of Kaleva Meeting	20 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	21
22 <b>8:30am</b> Worship Children's Message <b>9:45am</b> Annual Meeting	23	24 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	25 <b>10am</b> Office Staff Meeting	26 Women's Retreat	27 Women's Retreat <b>11am</b> Bible Study	28 Women's Retreat
29 Women's Retreat <b>8:30am</b> Worship J.A.M (FH) <b>9:45am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship <b>10am</b> Holy Communion Classes	30	31 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers				

Bethesda Lutheran Church  
204 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 210  
Carlton, MN 55718

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

