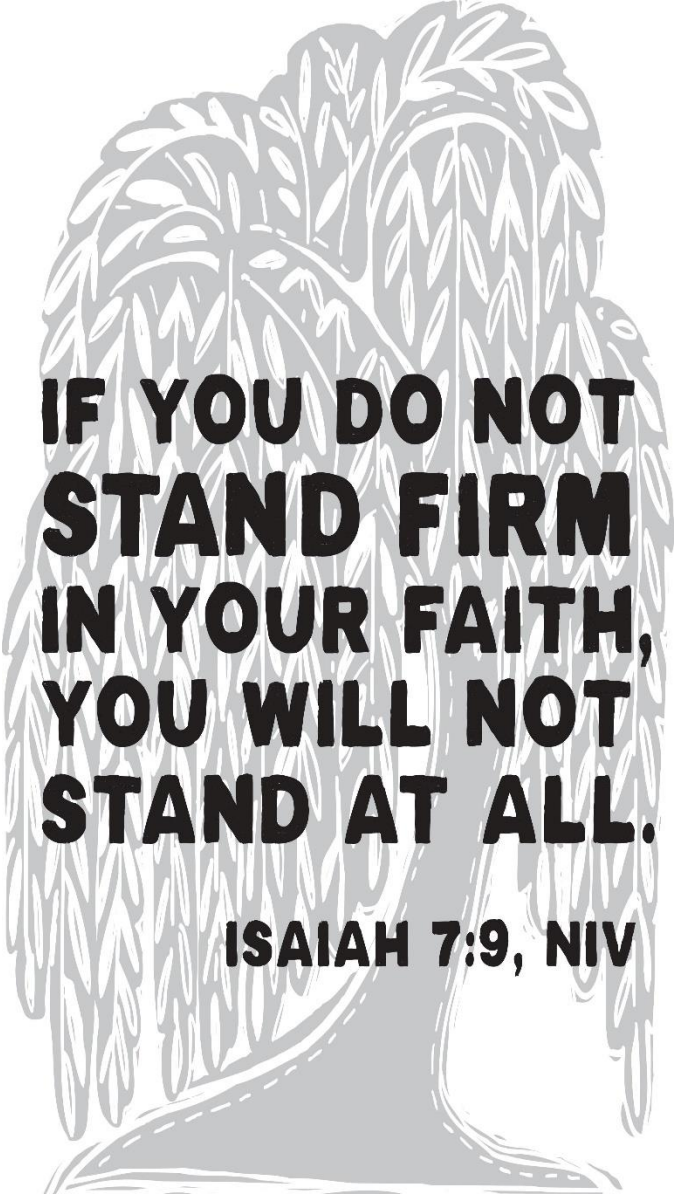




The Bethesda Beacon

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



**IF YOU DO NOT
STAND FIRM
IN YOUR FAITH,
YOU WILL NOT
STAND AT ALL.**

ISAIAH 7:9, NIV

In This Month's Beacon:

*Pastor Seth's Beacon Article

*Financial Update

*Member News

*Committee Updates

*And More

God Speaking to Us

Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” [1 Samuel 3:10](#)

I received a phone call from an unknown number. Often, I let those calls go to voicemail, but this time I picked up. The random caller asked politely if I had just a minute for him to share a short Bible passage. He quoted Revelation 21:3–5 about how God “will wipe every tear from their eyes.” He talked about Jesus, how he was our assurance and hope. I told him I already know Jesus as my personal Savior. But the caller wasn’t aiming to “witness” to me. Instead, he simply asked if he could pray with me. And he did, asking God to give me encouragement and strength.

That call reminded me of another “call” in Scripture—God called out to the young boy Samuel in the middle of the night (1 Samuel 3:4–10). Three times Samuel heard the voice, thinking it was the elderly priest Eli. The final time, following Eli’s instruction, Samuel realized that God was calling him: “Speak, for your servant is listening” (v. 10). Likewise, through our days and nights, God may be speaking to us. We need to “pick up,” which might mean spending more time

in His presence and listening for His voice.

I then thought of “the call” in another way. What if *we* sometimes are the messenger of God’s words to someone else? We might feel we have no way of helping others. But as God guides us, we could phone a friend and ask, “Would it be okay if I just prayed with you today?”

By **Kenneth Petersen**

Reflect and Pray

What message of encouragement did someone recently share with you? Who might be encouraged by a phone call from you?

Dear God, prompt me to think of others whom I can encourage with Your wisdom.

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Coffee Serving Schedule
May 7th -Pat's Group
May 14th – Cary's Group
May 21st –Social Ministry~23rd
Veteran
May 28th – Linda'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*

May Council Meeting will be May 23rd at 5:30 pm.

God's Work our Hands - on going - year round -- Consider hemming precut diaper squares, and onesies. Located on the table in the narthex.

Highway Clean-up
Monday, May 3rd at 9am
Meet at Bethesda
All are welcome!

New Member Classes
Tentatively scheduled for May 7th-May 28th. Contact Pastor Seth if you are interested in joining.

Sunday May 14th following worship please join us as we thank Bobbie McCorison for her 9 years as our dedicated church secretary. We wish her God's blessings!

Meatball Supper Update
A note about our meatball supper. We had a terrific bunch of volunteers at the supper and preparing for the supper. The youth had a Thrivent sponsored table to help with Easter baskets for Interfaith. Lil made an Easter tablecloth and others donated jelly, jewelry, dishcloths and more. They raised about \$200. We had a great turnout, serving over 300. This included approximately 130 to 150 takeouts and deliveries. Numerous leftovers from the supper were sold the following day after church. The fellowship was awesome with several community members staying to visit for quite some time. With the help of Thrivent seed money, we raised over \$4400. Thank you to all who made the delicious desserts, donated items and/or contributed in any way.



May 14th to all mothers and those who fill mothering roles!

Thank you to those who helped put together 39 baby care kits for Lutheran World Relief on Sunday March 26th at Zion Lutheran Church

Member News



Celebrating May Baptismal Birthdays

Joyce Cerny, Alaina Kiehl, Colleen Bernu, Wes Buscko, Beth Towslee, Devan Towslee, Willow Towslee, Judy Lindquist, Jaiden Soukkala, Paige Dittberner, Lucas Radtke, Alecia Radtke, Mason Radtke, Kayla Radtke, Jared Stirewalt, Cody Martin, Jackson Radtke, Nicholas Radtke, Tayler Ostby, Janice Dahl, Flaxxen Kincade, Jacquelyn Gunderson, Kylee Crisp, Casey Marciniak, Cheryl Ankrum & Audrey Kavanaugh.



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to Gordy Davis and family & friends of Lil Davis. Lil passed away on April 14th. She was a lifelong member of

Bethesda and a gift to all who knew her. To Bill & Donna Kelley and family whose brother-in-law

Bill Parteka passed away in March. To Audrey Kavanaugh and family whose brother Russel Olson passed away on April 17th. God comfort and strengthen our hearts in hope in the resurrection through Christ.

Financial Update			
Year to date as of 03/30/2023			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	22788.42	24025.00	(1236.58)
Non-pledged income	12926.98	7749.99	5176.99
TOTAL INCOME	35715.40	31774.99	3940.41
Salaries/Compensation	26148.52	25635.16	513.36
General Office Expenses	2572.09	2097.03	475.06
Utilities	3141.67	2866.26	275.41
Other Expenses	894.08	259.98	(634.10)
Benevolence Expenses	227.88	272.49	(44.61)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	3664.45	632.52	3031.93
Social Ministry	81.00	81.24	(0.24)
Worship Expenses	104.24	366.67	(262.43)
CYFM Expenses	960.96	1610.01	(649.05)
TOTAL EXPENSES	37794.89	33821.36	3973.53
Net operating income	(2079.49)	(2046.37)	(33.12)
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.			

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!

Ronald McDonald house is still collecting can tabs. Thank you to everyone who's been saving them for Ronald McDonald house in Duluth. We had a 2 gallon bag full that we delivered in April. Keeping pulling them off you cans. Thank you!

Social Ministry



Social Ministry will be hosting coffee in support of 23rd Veteran on May 21st.

SAVE the DATE

Joint Outdoor Worship

Zion Lutheran Church Wednesdays
June 21st, July 19th, and August 16th

God's Work Our Hands

Sunday September 17, 2023

VLM Day Camp

July 19th-22nd, 2023

Location to be determined

Social Ministry will be continuing the collection of 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 May 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 for supporting your local food shelf.



MEMORIAL
DAY

The office will be closed Monday May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

We take time to remember & pray for many loved ones during this weekend including our service men and women and those families who are in grief.

Worship

May 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

5/7 Sharon Bragge

5/14 Sharon Bragge & Jimmy Bragge

5/21 Marv & Pat Durkee

5/28 Deb Davis

Ushers

5/7 Terry & Sue Coady

5/14 Sharon Bragge & Mary Saarela

5/21 Craig & Roxane Schmitz

5/28 Debby Johnson & Ryan Swanson

Lector

5/7 Cheryl Ankrum

5/14 Lynn Beatty

5/21 Wendy Mitchell

5/28 Ginny Korte -Castle

Acolyte

5/7 Anna Bong

5/14 Alex

5/21 Mason

5/28 Ailie

Communion Assistants

5/7 Linda & Daryl Bong

5/14 Andrea Wynands & Alex

5/21 Jen & Jason Goad

5/28 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie

Counters

5/7 Chris Mitchell & Linda Newlon

5/14 Mary Saarela & Lynn Beatty

5/21 Lori Bunge & Gene Bryant

5/28 Lynn Beatty & Diana Davis

Children, Youth, Family and Ed



The worship service for Senior Recognition and Blessing is May 21st, 2023. On this Sunday, each graduate will receive a quilt that was made by our quilters and has been blessed with a special blessing.

Bridger McCorison ~ Esko High School

Please call Linda Newlon at 218-879-6274 if you know of a congregation member or their relative who is graduating this year from a local high school.

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

***May 7th – Jesus and Me – J.A.M.

***May 14th - message with Pastor Seth

***May 21st - Jesus and Me - J.A.M.

***May 28th – message with Pastor Seth



Beacon Information - May 2023

CYFED sent out 19 Easter cards pre-k through the 6th grade.

We also passed out 63 Easter gift bags with cards to the residents at IFCC on Sunday April 2nd. Thank you to Carol and Larry Beckstrom, Sharon Bragge, Daryl, Linda and Anna Bong, Jerri Pike, JoAnn Gustafson, Bethany Leseman for helping. Thank you Linda Newlon for organizing. Also thank you to all who helped put the bags and cards together.

Book/article group met for dinner on Monday, March 26, 2023. We will meet on April 25th at 5:30 PM

1st Communion retreat was held on Saturday, March 25th from 9-noon. Congratulations to Crosby Moench who made his 1st Communion on Sunday, April 2, 2023. May you continue to grow in the grace of God.

Confirmation will be held on Sunday, April 30, 2023.

We had one student from Bethesda and two from River's Edge attend Cardia Deo on March 18, 2023, in Grand Rapids.

The Stewardship Challenge for grades 10th - 12th continues. One student has completed their \$20.00 challenge and their \$100.00 challenge. Three more

students are working on their \$20.00. Once they complete the \$20.00 challenge, they will be given the final \$100.00.

Growing in Faith for grades 4-6th will start on May 3rd through May 24th. We will meet at 5:30 for service followed by class from 6-7. Pizza will be provided. Parents are encouraged to attend with your child.

Graduation dinner, Labyrinth and service is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of May 21st - 22nd. We will have one student from Bethesda and two students from River's Edge.

The Easter Vigil will be held on Saturday, April 8th from 6-8. We will once again do an Easter youth service project. Easter eggs will be delivered to families in the community. We will have crafts, food, and a blessing by the fire by Pastor Seth before departing to deliver the eggs.

CYFED will purchase tickets for the youth to attend the performance presented by New Wine. The date will be May 7th at 7:00 PM.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 5:30 PM. We will not be meeting in April as we met on March 28th to finalize details for Holy Week.

COLLECTING FOR A CAUSE -

On going yearly collection ministry

Pop tops off aluminum cans for The Ronald McDonald House

Brown paper grocery bags – given to a nonprofit thrift store

Hygiene products – given to those in need

New greeting cards – given to Interfaith Care Center, Carlton Place and Pineview Apartments for Residents use

Fall of the year - next year's calendars – given to residents at Interfaith Care Center

Above items can be dropped off in the narthex area.

Food Shelf – donated to the Salvation Army Food Shelf, Cloquet, MN
Collection box located near basement stairs

Clean plastic shopping bags - Mat Makers us them to created 6'3' sleeping mat for those in need. **Drop off** in small coat closet in the Narthex

Thank YOU!!
For making a difference.



Upcoming VLM Events:

Mother's Day Brunch
Sunday, May 14, 2023
11:30 AM 1:00 PM

Camp Hiawatha 36944 Camp
Hiawatha Road Deer River, MN,
56636

Cost: \$18/adult, \$9/youth ages 6–11 (5 and under are free)

Tickets are to be purchased online prior to the event.

Join us on Mother's Day at Camp Hiawatha for a brunch to celebrate the wonderful women in our lives! Seating is at 11:30am. Ticket purchasing closes on May 8th at 11:59 pm so make sure to purchase your tickets before hand! **Space is limited.** Please contact the VLM office with any questions.

MENU: Main Dishes: Ham scrambled egg cups w/ cheese and green onion, egg bake w/ veggies, cinnamon french toast w/ cream cheese glaze, strawberry crepes

Meats: Bacon, Sausage links

Pastry: caramel Rolls, Raspberry white chocolate scones

Fruit: Glazed Fruit Medley, Raspberry tea soup

Beverages: tea, coffee, assorted Juices, milk

FAMILY OVERNIGHT – VERMILION

Friday, May 5, 2023 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 6, 2023 3:00 PM

Camp Vermilion

2555 Vermilion Camp Road

Cook, MN, 55723



Site: Camp Vermilion

Ages: All ages

Cost: \$0 - \$50/family*

This event is free if you help with Work Day. \$50 per family if you are unable to stay for Work Day.

CAMP WORK DAY – VERMILION

Saturday, May 6, 2023

8:00 AM 3:00 PM

SCHEDULE

8:00 - 9:30 - Registration & breakfast

8:30 - 12:30 - The work happens!

12:30 - Lunch

1:30 - The work continues for as long as people are able to stay.*

ABOUT CAMP WORK DAY

Camp Work Day is a time to prepare the site for our summer camping season and we can't do that without your help! To help ensure the health and safety of our volunteers, Covid protocols will be in place. Grab your favorite mask and plan to join us!

FAMILY OVERNIGHT – HIAWATHA

Friday, May 19, 2023 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 20, 2023 3:00 PM

Camp Hiawatha

36944 Camp Hiawatha Road

Deer River, MN, 56636

Site: Camp Hiawatha

Ages: All ages

Cost: \$0 - \$50/family*

Family Overnight is a great opportunity to introduce new friends to camp – especially if the camper (or

camper parent) is nervous about being away from home this summer. Join us Friday night for dinner at 6:30 with games, campfire, and fellowship in the evening. After breakfast on Saturday, explore the camps on your own or join in on Work Day as we get our camps ready for the summer. Family Overnight is also open to youth groups!

Camp Work Day is a time to prepare the site for our summer camping season and we can't do that without your help!

Schedule is the same as Camp Hiawatha Work Day

This event is free if you help with Work Day. \$50 per family if you are unable to stay for Work Day.

Covid-19 safety protocols will be in effect during these overnight experiences.

DO YOU HAVE A PROJECT SUGGESTION OR IDEA?

We'd love to hear what ideas you have for work projects at camp. Please submit your suggestions by calling the Main Office at [\(800\) 331-5148](tel:8003315148).

CAMP WORK DAY – HIAWATHA

Saturday, May 20, 2023

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Camp Hiawatha

36944 Camp Hiawatha Road

Deer River, MN, 56636

Site: Camp Hiawatha

Ages: All ages

Cost: Free

MARK YOUR CALENDARS & RALLY YOUR CONGREGATION

Sounds of the Northwoods Festival and Fundraiser for Camp



Site: Camp Vermillion

Ages: All

Cost: Free

To RSVP or find out more information on any of these events call the camp office at [\(800\) 331-5148](tel:8003315148) or visit www.vlmcamps.org

May 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 6pm Serenity Seekers	3 9am Highway Clean-Up	4	5 11am Bible Study	6
7 8:30am Worship/ J.A.M (Fellowship Hall) 9:30am New Member Class 9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship	8	9 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 5:30pm CYFed. Meeting 6pm Serenity Seekers	10 5:30pm 4 th -6 th Grade Spring Faith Classes	11 1pm Jam Group	12 11am Bible Study	13
14 Mother's Day 8:30am Worship Children's Message (Sanctuary) 9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship 3:00am Fellowship Hall in Use~Leseman Family	15 Beacon Deadline	16 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 4pm Worship Committee Meeting 6pm Serenity Seekers	17 5:30pm 4 th -6 th Grade Spring Faith Classes	18 5:30pm Ladies of Kaleva Meeting	19 11am Bible Study	20
21 Social Ministry~23 rd Veteran Graduation Sunday 8:30am Worship J.A.M (Fellowship Hall) 9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship	22	23 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 5:30pm Council Meeting 6pm Serenity Seekers	24 5:30pm 4 th -6 th Grade Spring Faith Classes	25 1pm Jam Group	26 11am Bible Study	27
28 8:30am Worship Children's Message (Sanctuary) 9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship	29 Memorial Day	30 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 6pm Serenity Seekers	31			

Bethesda Lutheran Church
204 5th 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 or if you
would like to have a copy
mailed or emailed to you please
contact the office.*

