



The Bethesda Beacon

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



This Month's Beacon

Pastor Seth's Beacon Article

Staff & Council

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Sunday Worship

8:30am

In House and Online

You can also view the Beacon on our website at bethesdacarlton.org
If you would like to have a copy mailed or emailed to you, please contact the office at office@bethesdacarlton.org

From Pastor Seth

The Fuller Institute on Youth Ministry has identified three big questions – belonging, identity, and purpose - that we face as we go through transitions in life. Youth and young adults, in particular are dealing with these questions all the time – both because they are facing them for the first time, and because they experience transition almost constantly. This article is a reflection on the second question: identity.

Identity

Have you ever noticed how much we can guess about someone based on learning one thing about them?

For example, take the cars we drive. Just based on how expensive a car looks, we might guess at someone's income and penchant for flash. The make and model might lead us to wonder about the driver's political leanings, occupation, or family size. A bright yellow Bug says something different to us than a red Ferrari, which says something different than a F-150. And that's all before we even notice anyone's bumper stickers!

All of these things are guesses at possible aspects of identity: personality, family, race and ethnicity, occupation and life station, education, politics, worldview, interests and hobbies. They're the kinds of things we might write in a one paragraph biography, and we make observations and judgements on these things all the time.

But, of course, as anyone who's ever been on a first date or a job interview can attest,

we can't really know someone from a resume, a paragraph, or even a few minutes with someone. One 2018 study from the University of Kansas estimated that it takes 40 and 60 hours to form a casual friendship, 80-100 hours to transition to being a friend, and more than 200 hours together to become good friends.

So, why it so hard to really know people, when guessing pieces of identity comes so naturally?

Perhaps this is because these superficial pieces of identity are not the core of who we are. Perhaps we only truly know people when we spend enough time with them to glimpse their soul.

Identity is, at times of transition for young and old alike, a live and impactful question, and our sense of our own identity shapes how we live and interact with the world. And identity is hard to navigate, with so many pressures and options and pitfalls. But here's the good news: Jesus gives the best possible answer to identity questions.

Because Jesus, through our baptism, gives us a priceless, eternal identity:
"A beloved child of God."

When we take on this identity, a few things happen.

First, we slowly become more able to see friends, acquaintances, and strangers alike as beloved children of God, and our snap judgements take on less weight.

Second, because we are surer of our own place in God’s eyes, we have less need to seek the validation of others.

Third, the other pieces of our identity fall into place, because of the firm foundation we find in this identity.

Fourth, we have freedom to go forth and boldly do what Jesus calls us to do, because no matter what happens, we will always remain God’s beloved child.

May you know today, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that you are a beloved child of God, and that there’s nothing you, or anyone else, can do about!

-Pastor Seth Wynands

Memorials & Donations

Did you know, when you give money to Memorial you have the option of designating *how* the money is used for the church?

The Memorial Committee has a new fund designation set up titled “Front Steps & Basement” The front steps of the church are in need of repair and the basement is in need of waterproofing.

If you’d like to designate your donation to this fund, please make a note on your contribution for “Front Steps & Basement”

Thank you

Bethesda Staff

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Ronay Frank, Custodian

Anna Bong, Custodian

Cathy Dale, Accompanist

2023 Members of Bethesda

Church Council

Jason Goad President

Deb DavisVice President

Jen GoadSecretary

Jeannette KorpelaTreasurer

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 at:
bethesdalutherancouncil@gmail.com

Council Meeting Minutes can be found on the rotating bulletin board or on our website.

July Council Meeting will be held July 18th at 5:30p

Updates

In an effort increase communication between council and members, we are updating our member email list. There's an email sign up sheet in the Narthex or you can email your first and last name to bethesdalutherancouncil@gmail.com

The office is in the process of updating its email address. The old account will be open still while we make the change, please use office@bethesdacarlton.org as you move forward with church communications.

Service Reminder

- Joint Outdoor Worship will be held Sunday, August 20th at Northridge Park in Esko. Potluck to follow.

- Bethesda holds a service at Interfaith Care Center the 2nd Sunday of each month in the IFCC Community Room at 3:00 p.m. *All are welcome to join!*

Financial Update

Year to Date as of 5/31/23

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	39594.42	42400.00	(2805.58)
Non-pledged income	22374.92	18983.30	3391.62
TOTAL INCOME	61969.34	61383.30	586.04
Salaries/Compensation	43960.35	46567.42	(2607.07)
General Office Expenses	3412.11	3495.05	(82.94)
Utilities	5454.61	4777.10	677.51
Other Expenses	1410.01	1733.30	323.29
Benevolence Expenses	372.24	454.15	(81.91)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	6534.32	1054.20	5480.12
Social Ministry	135.00	135.40	(0.40)
Worship Expenses	466.28	500.01	(33.73)
CYFM Expenses	1293.28	2315.85	(1022.57)
TOTAL EXPENSES	63038.20	61032.48	2005.72
Net operating income	(1068.86)	350.82	(1419.68)

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.

Collecting for a Cause:

Pop tops off aluminum cans: given to The Ronald McDonald House.

Brown paper grocery bags: given to a non-profit thrift store.

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

Fall of this year - next year's calendars: given to residents at Interfaith Care Center.

Above items can be dropped off in the Narthex area.

Social Ministry: Hygiene products for the Damiano Center:

Shampoo, toothpaste, and personal care products as well as larger backpacks and suitcases with wheels. Please bring gently used items.

There is a box for each in the Fellowship Hall.

Food Shelf Items: Cloquet Salvation Army

August/September Items: Any canned item: vegetables/fruit, meat/fish, soup/stew, etc.

Collection box located near basement stairs.

Making Mats for the Homeless:

Clean plastic shopping bags. Mat Makers use them to create 6' x 3' sleeping mats for those in need.

Drop plastic bags off in small coat closet in the Narthex.

Lutheran World Relief:

Baby Care Kits: Bar soap in original wrapping (no ivory), sizes 6-18mo. lightweight cotton t-shirts (onesies can be cut to make t-shirts),

sizes 6-18mo. long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers, 52” sq. medium-weight cotton or flannel blankets, dark colored hand towels, lightweight diaper pins or large safety pins, baby socks.

Donation box is located in the Narthex

Sewers Needed

Consider hemming precut diaper squares, and onesies.

Located on the table in the Narthex.

Chum Update

With summer approaching, Chum is looking for donations of blankets, tarps, tents, and sleeping bags. If you are able to donate these can be dropped off in the Narthex area.

Thank you for making a difference!

Looking Back {A Recap}

Campers

Mason Haley attended Camp Hiawatha the week of July 16th

Nixon Mitchell attended Camp Vermillion the week of July 24th

We hope you both had a wonderful time!



It was a beautiful day to worship outdoors on Sunday, July 9 at the Pavilion Park in Carlton. This service also featured live music by River of Grace!



*thank
you*

A sincere and heartfelt “**Thank You**” to everyone who has been helping with funeral services. From arriving early to set up, to washing dishes and taking out trash, to replenishing food and packing up leftovers... Our Congregation is so wonderful, and we are blessed to have all of you. Thank you, thank you!

With love, the Funeral Committee

Member News



August Baptismal Birthdays

Zachariah Buscko, Zaiden Erikson, Charles Hough Jr., Belladonna Kincade, Hazel Kincade, Timothy Moench, Jordan Hyry, Dawn Soukkala, Jean Johnson, Bailey Pantstar, Becky Felland, Kaleb Hyry, Zechariah Johnson, Veronique Jokkinen, Jodie Moen, Kaden Lent, Cami Martin, Curtis Kiehl, Leo Moen, Lucy Stahlbusch, Lucas Hyry, Alex Despot, Pamela Kosmerl, Troy Senarighi Jr, Jacob Newlon, Ailie Gustafson, Robin Hyry, Paige Olson, Alexander Peterson, Zackary Peterson, Adeline Jahr, Mark Johnson, Jeanne Ketchum, Nixon Mitchell, Courtney Ableiter, Ariel Peterson & Derek Swenson.



Our hearts are with the family, friends, and all who knew and loved Bob Emerson, who passed away Tuesday, July 4. May the memories of a life well-lived bring you comfort in this season.

“The man is a success who has lived well, loved much, and laughed often.”



Children, Youth, Family, & Ed.

July 2023 J.A.M//Message

August 6th Jesus and Me [J.A.M]
August 13th Message with Pastor Seth
August 20th **No J.A.M//Outdoor Service**
August 27th Message with Pastor Seth

There will be NO Summer Stretch 2023

Fall Cook-Out Kick Off

Wednesday, September 6th
6:00p – 7:30p

We will have food, fellowship, games, prayer, and a time to get to know your neighbors.

Faith Formation Programs

Faith formation programs will start on Wednesday, September 15th

Holy Communion Classes – All Ages
Discovering Your Bible – 3rd Grade
Growing in Faith – Grades 4-6
Confirmation Classes – Grades 6-9
Confirmation Class – 10th Grade

Faith Formation Events

Mental Health Workshop: Grades 6-12 + family

Wednesday, November 8th
6:00p – 7:30p

NEMN Synod All Youth Gathering: Grades 6-12

November 17th-18th or 18th-19th
Cragun's Resort, Brainerd, MN

CYFED will meet on August 8th at 5:30p in the library.

All are welcome to join us. We are always looking for ideas to get our youth involved. If you have questions, concerns, or ideas, please feel free to contact a committee member.

*~Thank you from the CYFED Committee:
Pastor Seth, Wendy Mitchell, Linda Newlon,
Diana Davis, and JoAnn Gustafson.*

VLM Summer Camp Schedule - Hiawatha

July 6-7: Grades K-4 (7/6, 7.7)
Grades K-4 Overnight (7/6-7/7)

July 9-14: Grades K-4 (7/10, 7/11, 7/12, 7/13)
Grades 3-4, Grades 5-6, & Grades 7-9

July 16-21: Grades 2-4 (7/16-7/18)
Grades 5-6 & Grades 7-9

July 23-28: Family Camp

July 30-Aug 4: Family Camp (7/30-8/2)
Rendezvous (8/2-8/4)

VLM Summer Camp Schedule - Vermillion

July 6-7: Grades K-4 (7/6, 7.7)
Grades K-4 Overnight (7/6-7/7)

July 9-14: Grades 5-6, Grades 7-9, & 10-12

July 16-21: Grades 5-6, Grades 7-9, & 10-12

July 23-28: Grades 3-4, 5-6, & 7-9

July 30-Aug 4: Grades 3-4, 5-6, & 7-9

August 6-11: Grades 2-4 (8/6-8/8)
Grades K-4 (8/7, 8/8, 8/9, 8/10)

More information at: www.vlmcamps.org

August 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

8/6.....Sharon Bragge
8/13.....Debby Johnson
8/20.....Outdoor Worship @ Northridge
8/27.....JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie

Ushers

8/6.....Sharon Bragge & Cheryl Ankrum
8/13.....Debby Johnson & Mary Saarela
8/20.....Outdoor Worship @ Northridge
8/27.....Dave & Lynn Beatty

Lector

8/6.....Cheryl Ankrum
8/13.....Linda Newlon
8/20.....Roxane Schmitz
8/27.....Ginny Korte-Castle

Acolyte

8/6.....Anna
8/13.....Mason
8/20.....Outdoor Worship @ Northridge
8/27.....Ailie

Communion Assistants

8/6.....Mary Saarela & Pat Durkee
8/13.....Chris & Wendy Mitchell
8/20.....Outdoor Worship @ Northridge
8/27.....JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie

Counters

8/6.....Mary Saarela & Lori Bunge
8/13.....Chris Mitchell & Linda Newlon
8/20.....Lynn Beatty & Diana Davis
8/27.....Lynn Beatty & Gladys Sievert

Coffee Serving Schedule

8/6.....Deb's Group
8/13.....Rena's Group
8/20.....Lori's Group
Potluck cleanup
8/27.....Gladys' Group

Looking Ahead

Community Bonfire: August 16th

Bonfire/Service will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, Cloquet, in their back parking lot. All are welcome!

Service: 6:30p-7:00p

Bonfire, S'mores, & Activities to follow!

Book/Article Study is continuing to meet during the summer months. They are going out for supper on the last Tuesday of the month at 5:30p – all are welcome to join!

God's Work our Hands: September 17th

This is Bethesda's 10th year participating in this community event. If you're interested in helping you can volunteer for a service: indoor or outdoor, drop off donations in the Narthex, or if you prefer to write a check, you can make it out to Bethesda with the memo: God's Work our Hands. *Thank you!*

Bible Study: Fall Back into the Scripture, studying the Book of Acts

October 3rd 5:30p – 7:00p

BYOB: Bring Your Own Bible – Any translation!

Spend some time in Scripture, see how the early Church grew and apply it to today's. Come have some pizza and enjoy a group discussion! Contact Myrna Postal (myrnpostal@msn.com) or Diana Davis (dianakaydavis33@gmail.com) with questions or to register.

Church Involvement

Please prayerfully consider volunteering as a Worship Assistant {see Stephanie Erickson-Russell}, to assist with coffee serving {see Mary Saarela}, or to serve on the Property Committee {see Lynn Beatty}. Your time and talent would be so appreciated!

Community News

National Night Out: Building Communities, Enhancing Relationships

When: Tuesday, August 1, 2023

5:30p – 7:00p

Carlton Pavilion/Park {next to the Fire Hall}

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and brings police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Fun for the whole family!

Free Food · Live Music · Bouncy House
Emergency Vehicles · Theater Performance
So Much More!

City on the Hill Music Festival: Three Days of Music, Worship, and Praise

When: August 3rd-5th

Where: Bayfront Festival Park, Duluth

This family-friendly event is designed to bring together people of faith for three days of wonderful music. Artists include Skillet, Casting Crowns, Crowder, and more!

Wood City Worship Festival

When: August 12th, 11a-10p

Where: Veterans Memorial Park, Cloquet

Gather for a day of worship, fellowship, food, live music, and more!

Worship at the Grandstand

When: August 16, 6:30p

Where: Carlton County Fair Grandstands

Join surrounding communities in worship followed by a concert featuring Brent Taylor.

August 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers National Night Out	2	3 1p Jam Group	4 11a Bible Study	5
6 8:30a Worship – Special Music from the Postal Family 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River’s Edge	7	8 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 5:30p CYFED Mtg. 6p Serenity Seekers	9	10	11 11a Bible Study	12
13 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River’s Edge 3p Interfaith Service	14	15 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers *Beacon Deadline	16 6:30p Community Bonfire @ Zion	17 1p Jam Group 5:30p Ladies of Kaleva Mtg.	18 11a Bible Study	19
20 9:30a Joint Outdoor Service & Potluck @ Northridge Park – Guest Preacher, Colleen Bernu 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship	21	22 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 4:30p Worship Committee Mtg. 5:30p Council Mtg. 6p Serenity Seekers	23	24	25 11a Bible Study	26
27 8:30a Worship – Baptismal Birthdays 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River’s Edge	28	29 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	30	31 1p Jam Group		