



The Bethesda Beacon

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

Do not forget to
entertain strangers
for by doing so
some have
unwittingly
entertained
angels

HEBREWS 13:2

This Month's Beacon

Pastor Seth's Beacon Article

Staff & Council

Updates//Financial Update

Collecting for a Cause//Donation Items

Looking Back {A Recap}

Member News

Children, Youth, Family, & Ed.

Coffee & Worship Assistant Schedules

Looking Ahead

Community News

Calendar

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

Connections: New or Old?

Did you know that as we age, we want to spend more time with those we know and less time investing in new relationships?

It's true. According to Atul Gawande's book *Being Mortal*, younger people are more interested in expanding their social networks, while older people are more interested in spending time with their closest family and friends – those whom they love.

Both these interests are good, of course, and this pattern also makes sense; older people have had more time to meet people, and may also have decades-long friends, kids, or grandkids whom they know and love. Young adults, on the other hand, by a sheer mathematical difference, haven't had the same amount of time to build and choose relationships and to test which ones matter most.

But what might be most surprising about these studies is that they have also been tested in extreme circumstances and found very different results. To sum up their findings, when there is a big existential threat, young people take on the same relationship preferences as their elders.

For example, the city of Hong Kong in the 1990's was moving quickly towards annexation by China after years of status as a British colony. To the citizens of Hong Kong, this brought both uncertainty and danger; it seemed an existential threat. As the transition time came closer, the study showed that young people wanted to spend more and more time

with those closest to them – because they weren't sure if they would be able to do so after that date.

Then, once the annexation came and went without destruction and chaos and life got mostly back to normal, the whole population reversed the pattern entirely, so that everyone, including the elderly, began looking to get to know new people instead of spending time in their closest relationships.

Remarkably, this pattern of relationships also often holds true in churches – not in the age of its members, but in the age of the congregation itself.

The time when a church connects with the most people is in its first ten years of existence. And the flip side is true, too: when a church experiences an existential threat, it becomes far more closed off to outsiders, focusing on the people and relationships that matter most.

So, for church leaders across the country, planting new churches matters, even in places where existing churches are present.

But wait! We're not a church plant! We're a pair of existing churches planted over 100 years ago! So what does this mean for us?

Well, I could be wrong, but I think it could mean a few things:

First, it means that opening ourselves up to new people and new ways of being church takes intention. It's not impossible for existing churches to connect with people, it just isn't as natural as it is for brand new churches.

Second, having intentionality about openness requires us to try some things, some of which won't work! We can't be afraid of failure – it's part of faith.

Third, deep relationships matter too! Old friends are sometimes the best friends. As the old kids' song goes: "*Maaake neew friends, and keep the oold, one is silver and the oother's gold.*"

And fourth, relationships aren't the only thing that make us the church. Jesus built deep relationships, but he also taught his disciples to pray, to read Scripture, to serve, to welcome, and to heal. Ultimately, we're not a social club, we're a discipleship club.

When we do all these things with depth and with intention, let's not be surprised when new people come around to join us!

May you find connection with God in relationships new, old, and in between this month!

Pastor Seth Wynands



a FRIEND
LOVES at
all times

PROVERBS 17:17

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Cathy Dale, Accompanist

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 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

- Outdoor Worship will be held Sunday, July 9th at 9:30a at the Carlton Park Pavilion
- Polka Worship will be held Sunday, July 30th at 8:30a
- 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:

June/July Items - Paper products: toilet paper, Kleenex, toweling, feminine products...

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}

Bethesda welcomed 5 new members on June 11th – Bev Mangan, Jamie & Diana Davis, and Joe & Nancy Kacer. Thank you for joining us, we're so glad you're here!

We now have a new and improved website! While some updates are still being made you can check it out under the same web address:

www.bethesdacarlton.org

Thank you to the committee (Pastor Seth, Lynn Beatty, Myrna Postal, Joel Soukkala, Donald Lokken, Stephanie Erickson-Russell, & Sue Coady) for their time, effort, and input over this past year and a half!



Annabelle Soukkala went to Leadership Camp, accompanied by Pastor Seth! She was among 18 high schoolers, aged 16-18, who make up the "Lutheran Youth Organization" board that leads the Middle School Gathering, Cardia Deo, & the Synod Journey in the summer. She's the first youth from Bethesda to be selected in many years. We learned peer ministry skills, including "get-to-know-you" practices and deep listening skills, as well as how to lead small groups and activities. Annabelle is excited to help lead her peers at church and at school. Way to go Annabelle!



Member News



July Baptismal Birthdays

Taylor Anderson, Stacy Colich, Macy Hanson, Tyler Thompson, Doug Finke, Landon Hammitt, John Stradtman, Robert Chapman Sell, Tricia Hackensmith, Gracie Meagher, Andrea Kiehl, Chase Ableiter, Andrew Olesen, Keanna Simula, Chaise Jokinen, Justin Jokinen, Teresa Olson Colich, Pierce Davis, Jessica Krone, Kevin Frederick, Robert Postal, Patricia Nygren, Kevin Olesen, Charlie Wolter, Harold Ankrum, Johnny Moen, Amajja Halli, Chris Marciniak, Jason Goodwin, Janelle Bell, Amy Olesen, Bryan Bunge, Carrie Buller, Julieauna Johnson, Mark Matlack, Attlei Sheldon, Peter Allen, Barb Saarela, Dawn Saarela.

WITH DEEPEST
Sympathy

Our thoughts, and prayers to Arlyn and Gladys Sievert and to all who knew and loved their daughter Virginia Rae Erickson, who passed away on Sunday, June 18th

May your happy memories give you peace and comfort and may God embrace you in this time of grief and bring healing to your hearts.



Children, Youth, Family, & Ed.

July 2023 J.A.M./Message

July 2 nd	No J.A.M
July 9 th	No Message with Pastor Seth
July 16 th	Jesus and Me [J.A.M]
July 23 rd	Message with Pastor Seth
July 30 th	Jesus and Me [J.A.M]

Save the Date: 2024 Youth Gathering

This will take place in New Orleans, July 14th-21st. More details to follow!

CYFED will meet on July 11th 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.



2023 Community Day Camp

All are welcome to join with the youth of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Zion Lutheran Church & Bethesda Lutheran Church!

Dates: July 24th-27th

Time: 9:00a-3:00p

Ages: Completed Grades K-5

Location: Our Saviors Lutheran Church,
Cloquet

Cost: Free Will Donation

Please reach out to Stephanie Erickson-Russell in the office for registration.
Registration Deadline: July 10th

Volunteers Needed

If you're interested in helping with Day Camp, we are looking for adult chaperones, monetary donations to purchase snacks for the campers, and gift cards to local restaurants for counselor dinners. *Thank you!*

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

July 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

7/2.....Deb Davis
 7/9.....Outdoor Worship @ Pavilion
 7/16.....Jason Goad
 7/23.....Sharon Bragge
 7/30.....Debby Johnson

Ushers

7/2.....Terry & Sue Coady
 7/9.....JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
 7/16.....Craig & Roxane Schmitz
 7/23.....Cheryl Ankrum & Sharon Bragge
 7/30.....Debby Johnson & Mary Saarela

Lector

7/2.....Karin Towslee
 7/9.....Lynn Beatty
 7/16.....Wendy Mitchell
 7/23.....Diana Davis
 7/30.....Pat Durkee

Acolyte

7/2.....Anna
 7/9.....Outdoor Worship @ Pavilion
 7/16.....Mason
 7/23.....Ailie
 7/30.....Anna

Communion Assistants

7/2.....Daryl & Linda Bong
 7/9.....Linda Newlon & Sharon Bragge
 7/16.....Jason & Jen Goad
 7/23.....JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
 7/30.....Daryl & Linda Bong

Counters

7/2.....Gene Bryant & Lori Bunge
 7/9.....Lynn Beatty & Linda Newlon
 7/16.....Chris Mitchell & Bev Mangan
 7/23.....Lynn Beatty & Diana Davis
 7/30.....Mary Saarela & Chris Mitchell

Coffee Serving Schedule

7/2.....Jeanette's Group
 7/9.....Ginny's Group
 7/16.....Pat's Group
 7/23.....Cary's Group
 7/30.....Linda's Group

Looking Ahead

Community Bonfire: July 19th

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!

Future dates include August 16th

Book/Article Study is held on the last Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. We are looking at using a video/book study.

Bible Study is planned for later in 2023, they are looking at a fall/winter class. The group is Ginny Korte-Castle, Myrna Postal, Wendy Mitchell, and Diana Davis. They all have a lesson they are reviewing and will regroup this summer to work out the details. Friday Bible Study consists of 6-7 attending.

God's Work our Hands: Sunday, 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!*

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

Carlton Daze 2023: Our Annual Community Celebration

When: Friday, July 28th-Sunday, July 30th

Spend some time celebrating our wonderful little town, activities include live music, volleyball, softball, and golf tournaments, a parade, and even Bethesda's own Craft and Vendor Fair! This will be held in our parking lot on Saturday from 10a-2p. For more information, or if you're interested in volunteering or setting up a booth, reach out to Jen Goad at

bethesdalutherancouncil@gmail.com
or Stephanie Erickson-Russell at
office@bethesdacarlton.org

National Night Out: Building Communities, Enhancing Relationships

When: Tuesday, August 1, 2023

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and brings police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. *More info to come on times, locations, and events.*

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!

More info at: cityonthehillmusicfest.com

July 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	3	4 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers 	5	6 1p Jam Group	7 11a Bible Study	8
9 9:30a Outdoor Worship @ Carlton Pavillion 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 3p Interfaith Service	10	11 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	12	13	14 11a Bible Study	15 *Beacon Deadline
16 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	17	18 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 4p Worship Committee Mtg. 5:30p Council Mtg. 6p Serenity Seekers	19 6:30p Community Bonfire @ Zion	20 1p Jam Group 5:30p Ladies of Kaleva Mtg.	21 11a Bible Study	22
23 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge 3p Day Camp Volunteer Training @ Our Saviors	24 9a VLM Community Day Camp @ Our Saviors	25 9a VLM Community Day Camp @ Our Saviors 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	26 9a VLM Community Day Camp @ Our Saviors	27 9a VLM Community Day Camp @ Our Saviors	28 11a Bible Study	29 10a-2p Carlton Daze Craft + Vendor Fair @ Bethesda
30 8:30a Worship: Baptismal Birthdays//Polka Service 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	31					