



The Bethesda Beacon

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

love
each other
as I have
loved you
- John 15:12 -

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

Where Are You Going?

When I was in middle school, I went to a week of mountain biking camp.

Now, coming in, I was pretty confident in myself. I knew how to bike, was pretty good at sports, and figured, “how hard could it be?” Boy, was I wrong!

Once we got off the gravel trails and onto the designed mountain biking trails, I kept getting slowed down! I would want to go fast, but I kept having to navigate around rocks, roots, tight curves, sudden uphill, and quick downhill – all while trying to guess the right gear for the terrain!

To be fair, I wasn’t the only one who struggled. Other kids did too. I felt like I was always staring at the ground right in front of my bike, afraid to hit a root in the wrong way and end up... no longer on the pedals.

At the end of the week, though, we got to take a big mountain biking excursion with a new instructor, who had way more mountain biking experience than our week-long counselors did. He was the type of guy who had 3 layers of tan and owned multiple carrying racks for his car – you know the type!

Well, after he saw us struggling for a while, he offered us one great piece of advice: “Look where you want to go. Trust the bike – it’ll follow where you’re looking.”

I’m not sure any of us 12-year-olds mastered that art that day, but the few times I managed it, it worked! My bike did end up following where my eyes were leading.

In the church, and in our lives, we’re living through some rocky, bumpy, curvy times. We’ve got obstacles to navigate and pathways to follow.

But we would do well to heed the advice of my tan, outdoorsy bike guide of so many years ago: keep your eyes on where you want to go, and the rest will take care of itself.

When our eyes are on Jesus, then that’s where we’ll go. Let the Holy Spirit take care of the rest.

-Pastor Seth Wynands

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, September 10th at the Carlton Park Pavilion with special music by Jason & Andy.

- 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!*

Bethesda Staff

Seth Wynands, Pastor
Phone: 424-337-0350

Email: pastor@bethesdacarlton.org

Stephanie Erickson-Russell, Admin.
Phone: 218-384-4501

Email: office@bethesdacarlton.org

Nita Davis, Accountant/Bookkeeper
Phone: 515-890-1235

Email: nita@davisbooksandtax.com

Ronay Frank, Custodian

Anna Bong, Custodian

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

September Council Meeting will be held
September 19th at 5:30p

Financial Update

Year to Date as of 6/30/23

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	47387.42	50600.00	(3212.58)
Non-pledged income	25847.51	21699.96	4147.55
TOTAL INCOME	73234.93	72299.96	934.97
Salaries/Compensation	52333.06	55112.49	(2779.43)
General Office Expenses	3928.76	4194.06	(265.30)
Utilities	6634.94	5732.52	902.42
Other Expenses	1426.85	1819.96	393.11
Benevolence Expenses	450.17	544.98	(94.81)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	6667.75	1265.04	5402.71
Social Ministry	162.00	162.48	(0.48)
Worship Expenses	705.27	566.68	138.59
CYFM Expenses	1310.46	2640.02	(1329.56)
TOTAL EXPENSES	73619.26	72038.23	1581.03
Net operating income	(384.33)	261.73	(646.06)

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.

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

WITH DEEPEST sympathy

Healing prayers and comfort to Gladys and Arlyn Sievert, Al Holm, and the family and friends of Lurene Schmidt, who passed away on August 10th.

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.

God's Work, Our Hands

*Many of these kits are ready to be filled but please continue collecting items for these indoor projects.

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.

School Backpacks/Supplies: 70 sheet count notebooks, 16-24 count boxes of crayons, pencil sharpeners, 30cm rulers, blunt scissors, #2 pencils, black or blue ballpoint pens, 2 ½ inch erasers.

Personal Care Kits: Bath towels, bar soap in original wrapping (no ivory), sturdy combs, adult-sized toothbrushes in original packaging, metal nail clippers.

Ditty Bags: Bar soap in original wrapping (no ivory), wash cloths, toothbrushes, medium or large toothpaste, small or medium-sized notebooks, razors, sturdy combs, travel-sized shampoo/conditioner/lotions, sewing kits...

Donation box is located in the Narthex

Sewers Needed

Consider hemming precut diaper squares, and onesies.

Located on the table in the Narthex.

Thank you for making a difference!

Looking Back {A Recap}

Bethesda, along with Our Savior's and Zion Lutheran Churches hosted a successful VBS July 24th-27th

Initially we had 7 youth signed up to participate but were pleasantly surprised when 14 showed up to play, pray, craft, sing, laugh, and share the love of Jesus with one another! Thank you so much to all the churches, pastors, staff, and volunteers who helped make this happen!



Congratulations to Gordy Davis for being selected Grand Marshall for this year's Carlton Daze Parade! Gordy has done so much for our community and our church – this honor was well-deserved.



The women of Bethesda were also out and about over Carlton Daze, their Bake Sale raised \$1,165 in a matter of hours! Thank you to everyone involved!



Thank you again to the Postal Family for sharing their musical gifts with us on August 6th. If you or someone you know is interested in providing special music at a service, please reach out to the office.

Member News



September Baptismal Birthdays

Amanda Dewitt, Leif Herman, Cory Saarela, Liam Antilla, Elijah Theisen, Jax Dewitt, Donald Lokken, Tasia Beatty, Alexis Carpenter, Kaylee Lent, Spencer Rousseau, Jett Theisen, Linda Bong, Danielle Davis Christine Erickson, Jay Anderson, Chase Martin, Jill Rousseau, John Foss, Kaden Olesen, Duane Soukkala, Tim Beatty, Jerry Beckwith, Harper Ostby, Matthew Ostby, Ethan Krone, Ayden Buscko, Ethan Buscko, Max Buscko, Sheila Crisp, Quinn Peterson, Rowan Rockenstein, Annabelle Soukkala, Katie Moench, Faith Solomon, Joseph Solomon, Lucas Solomon, Teresa Solomon, Steven Habegger & Aiden Theisen

Children, Youth, Family, & Ed.

September 2023 J.A.M//Message

September 3rd (Labor Day Weekend) **No J.A.M**
September 10th Message with Pastor Seth
September 17th Jesus and Me [J.A.M]
September 24th Message with Pastor Seth

Fall Cook-Out Kick Off

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

Food, fellowship, games, prayer, and a time to get to know your neighbors. Brief informational meeting at 6p with dinner to follow, please consider bringing a dish to share!

Faith Formation Programs

Faith formation programs will start on
Wednesday, September 15th

Discovering Your Bible – 3rd Grade*
Growing in Faith – Grades 4-6
Confirmation Classes – Grades 6-9**

*Bibles will be handed out on September 10th for the youth attending the Bible class.

**Confirmation class will start on September 13th for grades 6-9. Please prayerfully consider being a Faith Formation partner

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
Cragun's Resort, Brainerd, MN

Synod Night will be on September 13th from 6:00p-7:30p. Deacon Colleen Bernu will be leading the service for the night and all Faith Formation students are encouraged to attend with their parents.

Family Service Opportunity

Please consider volunteering as a family for God's Work, Our Hands on September 17th. More information can be found in the "Looking Ahead" section of the Beacon, at the church, or by reaching out to the office!

Save the Date: 2024 Youth Gathering

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

Faith Formation Brochures were mailed out to families, there are more available in the Narthex if needed.

CYFED will meet on September 5th 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.

Good luck to everyone starting a new school year! From Kindergarten to College, you all are in our prayers, and we hope this year is the best one yet!

September 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

9/3.....Sharon Bragge
9/10.....Outdoor Worship
9/17.....Jason Goad
9/24.....Linda Newlon

Ushers

9/3.....Mary Saarela & Sharon Bragge
9/10.....Outdoor Worship
9/17.....Terry & Sue Coady
9/24.....Debby Johnson & Ryan Swanson

Lector

9/3.....Pat Durkee
9/10.....Ginny Korte-Castle
9/17.....Wendy Mitchell
9/24.....Lynn Beatty

Acolyte

9/3.....Anna
9/10(Outdoor Worship).....Ailie
9/17.....Mason
9/24.....Anna

Communion Assistants

9/3.....Cheryl Ankrum & Pat Durkee
9/10.....JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
9/17.....Chris & Wendy Mitchell
9/24.....Daryl & Linda Bong

Counters

9/3.....Lynn Beatty & Gladys Sievert
9/10.....Mary Saarela & Lori Bunge
9/17.....Chris Mitchell & Bev Mangan
9/24.....Lynn Beatty & Linda Newlon

Coffee Serving Schedule

9/3.....Pat's Group
9/10(Outdoor Worship).....Ginny's Group
9/17.....Jeanette's Group
9/24.....Cary's Group

Looking Ahead

God's Work our Hands: September 17th

On Sunday, September 17th, ELCA congregations along with other denominations will come together for "God's Work, Our Hands."

Sunday will be a dedicated day of service. As a church, we are guided by our life in Christ to share the love and Jesus and serve our neighbors—even if these acts of service take place from our homes, outdoors or indoors. Please contact the church office 218-384-4501, if you are interested in donating your time either for outside or indoor (Zion Lutheran Church) projects or if you know of someone that needs our help.

All outdoor projects must have an onsite person, no painting, & must be within 10 miles of Cloquet.

You can also help by purchasing items needed for indoor projects (list can be found in the Narthex) or through monetary donations so that more items can be purchased (*please make note on your check memo line GWOH*).

Volunteer Information:

- Please wear your black Thrivent t-shirt.
- Group photo will be taken out front on the church steps after service.
- Dress appropriately for the weather.
- Bring water, gloves, kneeler, rake (if you have one), weeding tools (if applicable), bug spray, and sunscreen.

Lunch will be from 12:00p-2:30p at Dunlap Island Park and will be served by Room at the Table food wagon.

This is Bethesda's 10th year participating in this community event. *Thank you* for volunteering to help those in need.

Book/Article Study

Book/Article Study is still held on the last Tuesday of the month at 5:30p. All are welcome to join, starting again on Tuesday, September 26th.

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!

Coffee Serving Schedule: September-December

September

9/3 – Pat's Group
9/10 – Ginny's Group
9/17 – Jeanette's Group
9/24 – Cary's Group

November

11/5 – Jeanette's Group
11/12 – Ginny's Group
11/19 – Pat's Group
11/26 – Cary's Group

October

10/1 – Linda's Group
10/8 – Deb's Group
10/15 – Renae's Group
10/22 – Lori's Group
10/29 – Gladys' Group

December

12/3 – Linda's Group
12/10 – Deb's Group
12/17 – Renae's Group
12/27 – Lori's Group

Community News

Twin Ports Youth Revive 2023

Wednesday, September 6 – 6:30p-8:00p
Common Ground Coffee Bar, Cloquet

Common Ground invites all youth in grades 6-12 to join in a night of music, worship, and fun! Music by PRESENCE MUSIC, Tru-Serva, and more!

Blackhoof Firefighters Relief Association Annual Pancake Breakfast & Raffle

Saturday, September 9 – 7:00a
Blackhoof Fire Department, Barnum

Enjoy some breakfast and/or purchase a raffle ticket to support our neighbors in the Blackhoof area.

2023 Cloquet River Run

Saturday, September 30 – 9:00a
Churchill Elementary School, Cloquet

Race proceeds go toward health-related equipment and programs for Churchill Elementary. More information and registration for the 1 Mile or 5K courses found at <http://www.cloquetriverrun.com>

Apple Fest for Haiti

Sunday, October 1 – 3:00p-7:00p
Zion Lutheran Church, Cloquet

A benefit event sponsored by Zion Lutheran Church Hunger and Justice Committee and Ministry in Medical Mission

Live music, apple tastings, apple juice pressing demonstrations, pick your own apples, and more!

September 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 11a Bible Study	2
3 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	4 <i>Labor Day</i>	5 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 5:30p CYFED Mtg. 6p Serenity Seekers	6 6p Kickoff Cookout!	7	8 11a Bible Study	9
10 9a Bible Presentation 9:30a Outdoor Service @ Carlton Park Pavilion 10:30a 3 rd Grade Bible Class 3p Interfaith Service	11	12 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	13 6p Wednesday Worship 6:30p Confirmation	14 1p Jam Group	15 11a Bible Study <i><u>*Beacon Deadline</u></i>	16
17 <i>God's Work, Our Hands</i> 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge 12p Community Service Projects	18	19 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 4:30p Worship Committee Mtg. 5:30p Council Mtg. 6p Serenity Seekers	20 6p Wednesday Worship 6:30p Confirmation	21 5:30p Ladies of Kaleva Mtg.	22 11a Bible Study	23
24 8:30a Worship – Baptismal Birthdays 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	25	26 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	27 6p Wednesday Worship 6:30p Confirmation	28 1p Jam Group	29	30