



The Bethesda Beacon

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

This Month's Beacon

Pastor's Beacon Article

Staff & Council

Updates//Financial Update

Collecting for a Cause//Donation Items

Baptismal Birthdays

Children, Youth, Family, & Ed.

Coffee & Worship Assistant Schedules

Women's Retreat Information

Looking Ahead

Bazaar Details

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 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. But if we’re honest with ourselves, we all wrestle with these questions and can grow from understanding them better, especially in times of transition. This article is a reflection on the third question: purpose.

Did you ever read any of the “Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy” books? If you’ve never heard of it, Douglas Adams originally wrote the story as a British radio comedy in 1978, but it has been adapted into multiple books, a play, and a 2005 Hollywood film. The storyline features a few humans bumbling their way across space and trying to find a “home” again after alien bureaucrats destroy earth to build an “interspace highway”. Yeah, it’s more than a little kooky, and also pretty fun. There’s one moment that I love (and is oft-quoted), and it comes when a galactic super-computer, built by super-intelligent mice, is ready after 1000’s of years of computing to give an answer to The Big Question, THE Question. In the film version, there are crowds and crowds of people, cheering and excited for the final answer to THE Question. The mice go to up to the massive computer, ask it if it’s ready, and then as, “What is the answer to the Question, THE Question?” And the computer’s answer? “Well, I’ve given it a lot of thought... thousands of years, in fact... and here’s what I came up with: Forty-Two.” “Forty-Two???” “Forty-Two.” Well, not to ruin the plot too much, but this answer didn’t turn out to be too satisfying to the people or the mice. (If you’re curious, the computer decides to give the question over to earthlings to have humans come up with what THE Question actually is). As humans, we’ve been asking this question in a multitude of different ways for as long as we’ve been around: “What does it all mean? Why am I here? What’s our purpose?” And we tell stories to help us make sense of the meaning of our place on earth and our purpose on this earth.

As people of faith, though we have a particular story to tell. Our story is this: we are created to be in relationship with God. That’s why we’re here. The same is true for all animals, and plants, and all of

creation, and all of the universe, for that matter. We do this, in part, simply by existing: all that is alive, all that has breath, sings praises to God, simply by being who God has created us to be. Maple trees praise God by sprouting, growing, shedding leaves, pointing up or out or curving around, by being whatever God has made them to be. Cats and dogs praise God by barking and purring, shedding, racing around, making friends, making enemies, and generally being the wonderful, frustrating, fantastic rascals that God made them to be. So it is for us: we praise God simply by being who God has made us to be.

And as disciples of Jesus, our purpose goes further. Those who believe, as we do, share one purpose: to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. This purpose is powerful beyond measure. It colors everything we do, every decision we make, with a divine rainbow of purpose that bursts with life and meaning. It means that no matter who you are or what you are doing, your purpose, in every waking moment, is to live in the exuberant, brilliant, fantastic rainbow of God’s love, and to love and serve God and your neighbor. What’s our answer to THE Question? Without faith, “Forty-two” might be as good an answer as we can come up with. But with faith, we have a better story to tell: a story of relationship, love, and service.

May you find yourself basking in the colors of God’s love, and may you find your purpose today in discipleship, no matter where you find yourself.

-Pastor Seth Wynands

Updates

Christmas Eve – Volunteers Needed

Please consider volunteering to assist at one of the Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 24th. The services will be at 3p & 7p. Ushers, lectors, greeters, communion assistants, counters, & communion setup/cleanup are all needed.

Service Reminder

- 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

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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

November Council Meeting will be held
November 28th at 5:30p

Financial Update

Year to Date as of 8/31/23

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	65093.42	70200.00	(5106.58)
Non-pledged income	32836.76	27133.28	5703.48
TOTAL INCOME	97930.18	97333.28	596.90
Salaries/Compensation	69702.08	76044.74	(6342.66)
General Office Expenses	4557.06	5592.08	(1035.02)
Utilities	9163.33	7643.36	1519.97
Other Expenses	1460.53	1993.28	532.75
Benevolence Expenses	627.23	726.64	(99.41)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	6838.33	1686.72	5151.61
Social Ministry	216.00	216.64	(0.64)
Worship Expenses	855.27	700.02	155.25
CYFM Expenses	1884.01	3298.36	(1414.35)
TOTAL EXPENSES	95303.84	97901.84	(2598.00)
Net operating income	2626.34	(568.56)	3194.90

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



Our deepest condolences and prayers for healing to LeRoy Bergstrom and family, and to the many friends of Carol Bergstrom who passed away in late September.

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.

2024 Calendars: given to residents at Interfaith Care Center.

Above items can be dropped off in the Narthex area.

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.

Cloquet Salvation Army Food Shelf Items

October/November Items: Hot & Cold Cereals.

Collection box located near basement stairs.

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 located in the Narthex.

Thanksgiving Donations:

From now until November 12th, WELCA will be collecting monetary donations for Thanksgiving baskets. Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the church – there are also envelopes available in the pews.

Please make checks payable to WELCA.

Winter Clothing Donations:

Winter clothing is now being collected for those in need – Items needed are: winter jackets, snowpants, scarves, socks, hats, and mittens.

Collection box can be found in the Fellowship Hall

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.

Sewers Needed

Consider hemming precut diaper squares, and onesies.

Located on the table in the Narthex.

Thrivent Food Shelf Challenge 2023

From now until November 12th our goal is to collect 500 items for the Cloquet Salvation Army Food Shelf – if we collect 500 items, Thrivent will donate an additional \$500!

You can also donate money and the committee will go shopping for items, see Jen or Jason Goad, Pat Durkee, or Debby Johnson.

Contact the office with any questions and reach out to your local food bank to see what they are most in need of! Thank you for making a difference!



Please consider bringing a Poinsettia “In Memory of” or “In Honor of” a loved one to help adorn our Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Plants will need to be at the Church by 10a on Saturday, December 23rd and please let the office know by December 18th if you plan on bringing a plant so your loved one can be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve Bulletin.

Thank you, Pat Durkee



November Baptismal Birthdays

Lewis Castle, Lillian Dewitt, Joyce Houtz, Jaxson Swanson, Haley Ableiter, Marlys McKinstry, Adrian Buller, Autumn Buller, Kevein Conley, Stacy Sell, Daniel Sell, Tara Olson, Linda Newlon, Colton Bieniek, Jackie Curtiss, Stella Smolej, Nita Lindgren, Steven Alexander Jr., Aaron Krone, Evan Krone, Joyce Aubol, Madalyn Dewitt, Peter Young, Jorgen Herman, Kurt Johnson, Tucker Selin, Kristie Peterson, Jeff Sell, Zeke Rousseau-Sheff, Colten Devriendt, Adam Schmitz, William Sparks, Nathan Young, Ellie Jo Peddle, Marlee Wakefield, Kim Ableiter, Charles Finne V, Callie Holm, Hannah Nygren, Lauren Soukkala, Kari Isakson, Kristin Johnson, & Daniel Rudolph

CYFED will meet on November 2nd 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.

Child Fund International - Update

Did you know that Bethesda sponsors a child through Child Fund International? Her name is Anita Kumari and she is 10 years old (born November 11, 2012). She's from India and lives in the village of Rani Nandani. Within her family Anita has her mother - Ram Nandani, and her father - Umesh. She also has 3 siblings, 16-year-old brother Ankit, 18-year-old sister Nisha, and 8-year-old sister Rachna.

Anita keeps busy with school and is also studying at Disha Coaching Centre. She is currently learning addition and subtraction and would also like to learn English. Her favorite season is the rainy season as she likes to sit by a window and watch the rain fall.

Children, Youth, Family, & Ed.

Mental Health Workshop: Grades 6-12 + family

Wednesday, November 8th – 6:00p-7:00p

Featuring Synod Minister for Mental Health, Pastor Joy Hensel

NEMN Synod All Youth Gathering: Grades 6-12

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

Registration closed October 18th – If you have any questions please reach out to the office.

Save the Date: 2024 Youth Gathering

July 14th-21st | New Orleans, LA

Registration closed October 8th – If you have any questions about planning or fundraising please reach out to the office.



Coffee Service



November Coffee Serving Schedule

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

December Coffee Serving Schedule

12/3 Linda's Group
12/10 Deb's Group
12/17 Renae's Group
12/24 ... Christmas Eve – Service at 3p & 7p
12/31 Lori's Group

November 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

11/5 Debby Johnson & Mary Saarela
11/12 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
11/19 Ginny Korte-Castle & Jason Goad
11/26 Linda Newlon & Pat Durkee

Ushers

11/5 Debby Johnson & Mary Saarela
11/12 Mary Saarela & Sharon Bragge
11/19 Cheryl Ankrum & Ryan Swanson
11/26 Terry & Sue Coady

Lector

11/5 Wendy Mitchell
11/12 Ginny Korte-Castle
11/19 Cheryl Ankrum
11/26 Lynn Beatty

Acolyte

11/5 Anna
11/12 Ailie
11/19 Mason
11/26 Anna

Communion Assistants

11/5 Chris & Wendy Mitchell
11/12 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
11/19 Jason & Jen Goad
11/26 Linda Newlon & Pat Durkee

Counters

11/5 Chris Mitchell & Gladys Sievert
11/12 Mary Saarela & Lori Bunge
11/19 Lynn Beatty & Bev Mangan
11/26 Lynn Beatty & Linda Newlon

December 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

12/3 Sharon Bragge & Debby Johnson
12/10 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
12/17 Joint Service/Potluck @ River's Edge
12/24 ... Christmas Eve – Service at 3p & 7p
12/31 Rod & Deb Davis

Ushers

12/3 Lynn Beatty & Mary Saarela
12/10 Craig & Roxane Schmitz
12/17 Joint Service/Potluck @ River's Edge
12/24 ... Christmas Eve – Service at 3p & 7p
12/31 Bob & Myrna Postal

Lector

12/3 Linda Newlon
12/10 Roxane Schmitz
12/17 Joint Service/Potluck @ River's Edge
12/24 ... Christmas Eve – Service at 3p & 7p
12/31 Diana Davis

Acolyte

12/3 Anna
12/10 Ailie
12/17 Joint Service/Potluck @ River's Edge
12/24 ... Christmas Eve – Service at 3p & 7p
12/31 Ailie

Communion Assistants

12/3 Sharon Bragge & Mary Saarela
12/10 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
12/17 Joint Service/Potluck @ River's Edge
12/24 ... Christmas Eve – Service at 3p & 7p
12/31 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie

Counters

12/3 Lynn Beatty & Mary Saarela
12/10 Linda Newlon & Gladys Sievert
12/17 Joint Service/Potluck @ River's Edge
12/24 ... Christmas Eve – Service at 3p & 7p
12/31 Chris Mitchell & Diana Davis

Bethesda Women's Retreat 2024
Wednesday, January 17 – Sunday, January 21
One Camp Heartland, Willow River, MN

Open to all women of Bethesda, River's Edge, and their friends!

Crafting area with tables | Fireplace with hearth for lounging | Snowshoe & ski trails
(bring your own gear) | 9:30a Brunch & 5:30p Dinner

You will have your own bed (all bottom bunks depending on our numbers) with a bathroom in each bedroom. Bring your own linens, toiletries, snacks, beverages, games, extension cords, ott lights, iron/board (if sewing), etc.

Pre-registration is due by December 1st and includes a \$50 non-refundable deposit. Full balance is due by January 1st.

Note: Wednesday night is an *additional* option, not instead of the regular nights offered as we still need to meet the camp's quota for lodging.

Please print your information clearly to ensure you receive updates about the event.

Name:

Cell Phone:

Email:

Please let me know if you will be staying overnight (\$40) or just for the day (\$25) Meals are included!

	DAY	OVERNIGHT
Additional Wednesday Overnight Option	_____	_____
Thursday	_____	_____
Friday	_____	_____
Saturday	_____	_____
Total Owed _____		
Total Paying Today _____		

Thank you to WELCA and Thrivent Financial for helping support this retreat. Make checks payable to WELCA and return this for to Ginny Korte-Castle, 2175 Gillogly Rd. Carlton, MN 55718 | vircastle@gmail.com | 218-384-3896

Looking Ahead

Book/Article Study

Book/Article Study is still held on the last Tuesday of the month at 5:30p. *All are welcome to join!*

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

Bible Study will continue every Tuesday from 5:30p – 7:00p until November 14th

God's Work Our Hands – Baby Kit Assembly

Sunday, November 5th – 11:30a
Zion Lutheran Church – Cloquet, MN

Join us as we assemble Baby Kits in Zion's Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided. Kits are then distributed through Lutheran World Relief.

Christmas Tree & Sanctuary Decorating

Sunday, November 26th – 9:45a

All are welcome to join us after Worship to decorate the Sanctuary and our Christmas tree!

Choir Practice

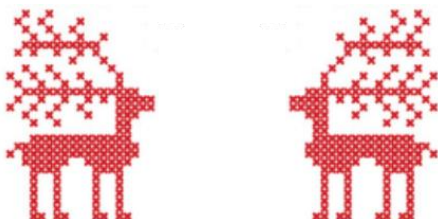
The Choir is coming back! We will start by singing one Sunday each month (on the 4th Sunday of the month) and go from there. Practices will be the Wednesday prior, after church (around 6:45p) and on the Sunday morning of. *All voices are welcome!*

A Touch of Scandinavia – Annual Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 2 – 9:00a-3:00p

Craft Table | Next to New Items | Silent Auction
Raffle | Lunch | Baked Goods (including Lefse!)

More details to come, volunteers always welcome!



Bazaar Details

General Chairperson:
Linda Newlon | 218-879-6274

~ **BAKED ITEMS AT CHURCH** ~
Lefse: Myrna Postal | 218-269-5130

Krumkake: Linda Newlon | 218-879-6274

Rosettes: Mary Saarela | 218-393-2693

Brown Bread: Chairperson Needed

Peanut Butter Blossoms: Chairperson Needed

Spritz: Chairperson Needed

~ **LUNCH** ~

Renee Kesty | 218-260-8891
Deb Davis | 218-591-6486

~ **NEXT TO NEW** ~

Jackie Curtis | 218-390-3424
Sharon Bragge | 218-384-4076

~ **RAFFLE** ~

JoAnn Gustafson | 218-879-7063

~ **SILENT AUCTION** ~

Mary Saarela | 218-393-2693

~ **CRAFTS** ~

Mary Saarela | 218-393-2693

If you would like to be involved in any of these activities please call the chairperson in charge. Whether it be preparation, creation, or cleanup, we are grateful help with any of these steps!

Any items made at home (baked goods, crafts, etc.) are always welcome and always appreciated.

May our hands be used in doing work to help
God's people ♥

November 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 6p Wednesday Worship 6:30p Confirmation	2 5:30p CYFED Meeting	3 11a Bible	4
5 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	6	7 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 5:30p Bible Study 6p Serenity Seekers	8 6p Mental Health Workshop 7:30p Mental Health Prayer Service	9 1p Jam Group	10 11a Bible Study	11 <i>Veterans Day</i> 
12 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge 3p Interfaith Service	13	14 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 5:30p Bible Study 6p Serenity Seekers	15 6p Wednesday Worship 6:30p Confirmation 6:30p Faith Partners meet over pizza! <i><u>Beacon Deadline</u></i>	16 5:30p Ladies of Kaleva Mtg.	17 11a Bible Study	18
19 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	20	21 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 4:30p Worship Committee Mtg. 5:30p Council Mtg. 6p Serenity Seekers	22 6p <u>NO</u> <u>Wednesday</u> <u>Worship</u> 6:30p <u>NO</u> <u>Confirmation</u>	23 <i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i> 	24 11a Bible Study	25
26 8:30a Worship - Baptismal Birthdays 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	27	28 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	29 8:30a Healing Service 6p Wednesday Worship 6:30p Confirmation	30		