



The Bethesda Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN
January 2024

WITH **God** ALL
things are
Possible

This Month's Beacon

Pastor's Beacon Article

Staff & Council

Updates//Financial Update

Collecting for a Cause//Donation Items

Children, Youth, Family, & Ed.

Baptismal Birthdays

Coffee & Worship Assistant Schedules

Looking Back//Looking Ahead

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

Why do we celebrate Epiphany?

And what even is Epiphany, anyway?

Epiphany is a strange holiday for us. We've just come off of Advent and Christmas, when we prepare for Christ's return and celebrate his birth. Culturally, for us, Christmas is our big holiday, and it's the time when we tell the story of God come to Earth.

Epiphany has often bugged me because it seems to celebrate the same things! Epiphany means "Appearance" or "Manifestation", and it refers to God's appearance among us.

So why celebrate Epiphany?

Well, for starters, it gives us the chance to celebrate another part of the story. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus – the story of Mary, the shepherds, and the angels from the Gospel of Luke. Epiphany, on the other hand, celebrates the visit of the Magians (the "3 Kings" who probably weren't kings or 3!) from the Gospel of Matthew, and in the early church the holiday primarily was about the Baptism of Jesus. Today, we celebrate the visit of the Magians one Sunday and then the Baptism of Jesus soon after.

So, why celebrate Epiphany?

In our culture, most of us wouldn't notice if Epiphany weren't celebrated at all! In some cultures, though, Epiphany is a far bigger holiday than Christmas. If you've ever heard of a "King Cake", where a little king is put in a cake and the person (usually a child) who finds it is treated like a king – that's Epiphany. If you've ever seen videos of Greek Orthodox Christians taking a cold plunge or communally dancing in ice water in January – that's Epiphany.

In Mexico, Santa doesn't bring gifts, but the Magi do – you guessed it, at Epiphany.

If you've ever heard of people dressing green and pinching each other – no, wait, that's St. Patrick's Day!

So, you might have noticed, all these answers are a bit unsatisfying. There's no case to be made that for us we should make Epiphany up to be like Christmas or Easter. But there is, I think, a reason to celebrate in the meaning of Epiphany, and that is that, in a way, it gives us a chance to really dwell the meaning of God's presence in ordinary life.

Christmas is a celebration of Christ's birth. But for us, Christmastime is anything but ordinary. We travel and visit, plan and party, give gifts and take time off of work. Christmas can be simultaneously exhilarating and exhausting, hope-giving and frustrating.

Epiphany gives us a second chance to consider that God didn't just come 2000 years ago. Epiphany gives us a second chance to slow down and look for God in our midst in our daily lives, when things are normal.

This month, as we celebrate Epiphany, tell the story of the Magi and Jesus's baptism, I pray that you may have eyes to see God, not only in the stories of the Bible, but in the stories of your life.

-Pastor Seth Wynands

Updates

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

- 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!*

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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

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

Financial Update

Year to date as of 11/30/2023

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	93292.42	99200.00	(5907.58)
Non-pledged income	12926.98	7749.99	5176.99
TOTAL INCOME	131083.38	134483.26	(3399.88)
Salaries/Compensation	97632.22	101679.92	(4047.70)
General Office Expenses	5484.32	7689.11	(2204.79)
Utilities	12959.63	10509.62	2450.01
Other Expenses	3131.63	2253.26	(878.37)
Benevolence Expenses	909.22	999.13	(89.91)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	7022.22	2319.24	4702.98
Social Ministry	297.00	297.88	(0.88)
Worship Expenses	1981.27	2333.37	(352.10)
CYFM Expenses	2993.69	4823.37	(1829.68)
TOTAL EXPENSES	132411.20	132904.90	(493.70)
Net operating income	(1327.82)	1578.36	(2906.18)

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

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for helping pack up the 'next to new' items to get ready for the funeral this past month.

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.

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...

Sewers Needed

Consider hemming precut diaper squares, and onesies. Flannel sheets/material is also needed to make diapers out of.

Boxes for above items located in 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.

Winter Clothing for the Damiano Center

Winter clothing is now being collected for those in need – Items needed are: winter jackets, snowpants, scarves, socks, hats, boots, and mittens. As well as large backpacks and smaller suitcases with wheels.

Boxes for above items located in 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.

Cloquet Salvation Army Food Shelf Items

December/January Items: Peanut butter, jelly/jam, & crackers

Collection box located near basement stairs.

Salvation Army Drive-Thru Food Shelf Hours:

Monday 4:30p-6:00p | Tuesday 8:30a-12:30p
316 Carlton Ave. Cloquet | 218-879-1693

Children, Youth, Family, & Ed.

January 2024 J.A.M//Message

January 7 th	Jesus and Me [J.A.M]
January 14 th	Message with Pastor Seth
January 21 st	Jesus and Me [J.A.M]
January 28 th	Message with Pastor Seth

Thank you, thank you!

Thank you to the youth and families that came out to make cards, decorate cookies, and assemble Christmas gift bags for Interfaith on December 9th, and thank you to those who joined us on the 11th to deliver the Christmas bags and sing carols for the residents. What a wonderful way to spread some holiday cheer!

Christmas Cards

13 Christmas cards were sent out to preschool-5th graders this past December.

CYFED will meet on January 9th 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.



January Baptismal Birthdays

Lance Konietzko, Brit Simula, Dawn Sell, Brady Gordon, Emily Matlack, Tucker Kiehn, Phyllis Rousseau, Sandy Vernon, Everly Jahr, Jim Olson, John Holden, Karlie Balow, Natalie Lijewski, Scott Frederick, Jacob Anderson, Aaron Vick, Jason Ableiter, Julie Frederick, Brookelynn Sell, Brielle Simula, Blair Nygren, Aaron Schilla, Brandon Sell, Zariah Erikson, Jayson Grover, Jacob Anderson, Anton Sheda, Joshua Beatty, Nicole Kutzler, Evan McKeon & Betty Peterson.

January 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

1/7 Sharon Bragge & Debby Johnson
1/14 Jason & Jen Goad
1/21 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
1/28 Mary Saarela & Sharon Bragge

Ushers

1/7 Sharon Bragge & Debby Johnson
1/14 Terry & Sue Coady
1/21 Cheryl Ankrum & JoAnn Gustafson
1/28 Mary Saarela & Ryan Swanson

Lector

1/7 Wendy Mitchell
1/14 Ginny Korte-Castle
1/21 Cheryl Ankrum
1/28 Pat Durkee

Acolyte

1/7 Anna
1/14 Mason
1/21 Ailie
1/28 Anna

Communion Assistants

1/7 Chris and Wendy Mitchell
1/14 Jason & Jen Goad
1/21 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
1/28 Linda Newlon & Pat Durkee

Counters

1/7 Chris Mitchell & Lynn Beatty
1/14 Lynn Beatty & Mary Saarela
1/21 Gladys Sievert & Gene Bryant
1/28 Lynn Beatty & Linda Newlon

February 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

2/4 Debby Johnson & Mary Saarela
2/11 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
2/18 Ginny Korte-Castle & Jason Goad
2/25 Linda Newlon & Pat Durkee

Ushers

2/4 Debby Johnson & Mary Saarela
2/11 Terry & Sue Coady
2/18 Mary Saarela & Sharon Bragge
2/25 Craig & Roxane Schmitz

Lector

2/4 Myrna Postal
2/11 Cheryl Ankrum
2/18 Ginny Korte-Castle
2/25 Roxane Schmitz

Acolyte

2/4 Anna
2/11 Ailie
2/18 Mason
2/25 Anna

Communion Assistants

2/4 Sharon Bragge & Pat Durkee
2/11 JoAnne Gustafson & Ailie
2/18 Jason & Jen Goad
2/25 Linda Newlon & Pat Durkee

Counters

2/4 Chris Mitchell & Mary Saarela
2/11 Lynn Beatty & Gladys Sievert
2/18 Mary Saarela & Bev Mangan
2/25 Lynn Beatty & Linda Newlon



Coffee Service



January Coffee Serving Schedule

1/7 Jeanette's Group
 1/14 Ginny's Group
 1/21 Pat's Group
 1/28 Cary's Group

February Coffee Serving Schedule

2/4 Linda's Group
 2/11 Deb's Group
 2/18 Renae's Group
 2/25 Lori's Group

Looking Back



Bethesda hosted yet another successful Bazaar on December 2nd! Thank you so much to everyone involved from start to finish and in-between, your time and talent is so appreciated!



Looking Back, continued...

Photos from our December Youth Vigil & delivering of Christmas bags {and Christmas carols} to IFCC



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!*

Special Service: Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 31st | 8:30a
 Bethesda Lutheran Church

Reminder: Pastor Seth will be out of office from December 25th – January 1st

January 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	3	4 1p Jam Group	5 11a Bible Study	6
7 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	8	9 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 5:30p CYFED Meeting 6p Serenity Seekers	10	11	12 11a Bible Study	13
14 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge 3p Interfaith Service	15 <i><u>Beacon Deadline</u></i>	16 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 4:30p Worship Committee Mtg. 5:30p Council Mtg. 6p Serenity Seekers	17	18 1p Jam Group 5:30p Ladies of Kaleva Mtg.	19 11a Bible Study	20
21 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	22	23 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	24	25	26 11a Bible Study	27
28 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge <i><u>Annual Meeting</u></i>	29	30 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	31			