



The Bethesda Beacon

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

Rejoice
IN THE Lord ALWAYS.

I WILL SAY IT AGAIN:

Rejoice!
-PHILIPPIANS 4:4

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

Announcement from Worship Team

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

Have you ever wondered what to say to God?

If you have, check out the book of Psalms!

Luther wrote that the Psalms are like a ‘little Bible,’ where everything is comprehended beautifully. We read them every Sunday in worship not for their stories or doctrines but because they contain within them so much of the human experience, and the words to match. It’s like the Bible’s prayer book.

The book of the Psalms is a collection 150 meditations, songs, lamentations, or even complaints. And they really do say it all!

Take Psalm 16, for example. The Psalm writers, from King David to the generations of writers that came after him, often expressed joy through praise. But Psalm 16 goes further: “Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.” The psalmist has found joy and safety. Sometimes, this is what we need – to thank God for all the good things in life. These Psalms can give us words to praise and thank God when times are good.

But then, consider Psalm 137. Verse 1 begins: “By the rivers of Babylon – there we sat down, and there we wept.” The whole Psalm is lament – a cry of anger, grief, and utter pain. Sometimes, that’s what we need. God can handle our anger! This is one Psalm that might help us express the uncertainty, confusion, or even rage that we might feel after a diagnosis, a death, or a loss.

Psalms helps us pray when we don’t know what to pray. Sometimes, they might even change our whole perspective.

Psalm 131 is the third shortest psalm in the whole book, sitting at just three verses! And yet, in the first verse, the psalmist is so downtrodden that they almost seem to be whispering: “My heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high.” Who among us hasn’t gone through something similar?

And yet, verse 2 continues: “But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its

mother...” The psalmist finds rest in the midst of stress and pain. And then it ends with hope: “O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time on and forevermore.”

What would it be like to read this Psalm, to pray it, whenever you were feeling stressed, anxious, or down?

To me, the most meaningful Psalms are the ones that have more than one thing; Psalms that are realistic about life, in all its challenges and uncertainties, and then still find reason to hope and rest in God, those are the Psalms that I can’t help but love. But all of them – the vindictive and the joyful, the depressed and hopeful, and even the strange ones – can all help us in our walk with our God.

If you’re interested in praying the Psalms and exploring them with others, you’re invited to join me during the Sundays of Lent (starting February 17 and ending March 16, before Palm Sunday) at 9:30 in the old Vicar’s office. I’ll introduce one lesser known Psalm every week; then we will explore it in good conversation and prayer for about 30 minutes!

And whether you join me or not, I hope that you find the Psalms when you need them. They’re like a gem, always there for us, just waiting to be uncovered.

The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you and yours this day and this Lent!

-Pastor Seth Wynands

Updates

IFCC 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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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

Next Council Meeting will be held February 20th at 5:30p

Financial Update

Year to date as of 12/31/2023

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	103155.42	109000.00	(5844.58)
Non-pledged income	12926.98	7749.99	5176.99
TOTAL INCOME	143798.67	147000.00	(3201.33)
Salaries/Compensation	105473.03	110225.00	(4751.97)
General Office Expenses	9658.17	8388.00	1270.17
Utilities	13943.76	11465.00	2478.76
Other Expenses	4020.37	2340.00	(1680.37)
Benevolence Expenses	1007.85	1090.00	(82.15)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	6834.01	2530.00	4304.01
Social Ministry	324.00	325.00	(1.00)
Worship Expenses	1981.27	2400.00	(418.73)
CYFM Expenses	3194.54	4915.00	(1720.46)
TOTAL EXPENSES	146437.00	143678.00	2759.00
Net operating income	(2638.33)	3322.00	(5960.33)

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

Winter Weather Service Reminder



Services will be cancelled if the regular temperature is -20 or lower.

A Facebook post will be made and there is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall for those who would like to be informed via text, email, or phone call.

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.

Children, Youth, Family, & Ed.

February 2024 J.A.M./Message

February 4 th	Jesus and Me [J.A.M]
February 11 th	Message with Pastor Seth
February 18 th	Jesus and Me [J.A.M]
February 25 th	Message with Pastor Seth

Thank You

Thank you to River's Edge for donating homemade hats for our blessing bags and thank you to Wendy and Nixon for passing out all 20 blessing bags to unhoused people, Union Gospel Mission, and the Damiano Center. We will make 20 more bags and continue to pass those out.

Updates

-Faith Partner Orientation will be February 7th from 6p-7p. Lenten Faith Partnering will be Wednesday, February 14th.

-3 youth have signed up to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering this July in New Orleans. We are planning a lock-in fundraiser for them Friday, March 1st, where they will be making hotdishes to sell Saturday, March 2nd from 10-1. There will also be games, a bible study, and time to get to know one another. This is open to Bethesda youth and friends in grades 8-12.

-Easter Vigil is scheduled for March 30th, more info to come!

-The Agape Meal & Proclamation of Faith will be held Saturday, April 13th with Confirmation being held on Sunday, April 14th.

CYFED will meet on February 1st 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.



February Baptismal Birthdays

Carol Beckstrom, Johanna Bernu, Karter Davis, Kenzie Davis, Kenley Olson, Marilyn Michog, Anna Kiehl, Trent Olson, Wayne Olson, Lori Bunge, Jordan Thompson, Alena Wallin, Logan Beckstrom, Cora Ostby, Brad Nygren, Gregory Emerson, Randy Schmitz, Michelle Schleret, Amber Kantonen, Brock House, Linnea Harris, Brianna Despot, Aurora Graves, Jaxon Graves, Madison Graves, Alice Kloefer, Floyd Aubol, Katie Pille, Ambrielle Mazzitello, Amy Mattson, Jennifer Redowl, Deborah Johnson, Carol Chalberg, Keith Isakson & Rebecca House.

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 Pat Durkee
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

March 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

3/3 Sharon Bragge & Debby Johnson
3/10 Rod & Deb Davis
3/17 Jason & Jen Goad
3/24 Sharon Bragge & Debby Johnson
3/31 Easter | Volunteers Needed

Ushers

3/3 Sharon Bragge & Debby Johnson
3/10..... Terry & Sue Coady
3/17 Cheryl Ankrum & JoAnn Gustafson
3/24 Mary Saarela & Ryan Swanson
3/31 Easter | Volunteers Needed

Lector

3/3 Diana Davis
3/10 Pat Durkee
3/17 Myrna Postal
3/24 Ginny Korte-Castle
3/31 Easter | Volunteer Needed

Acolyte

3/3..... Anna
3/10 Ailie
3/17 Mason
3/24 Anna
3/31 Ailie

Communion Assistants

3/3 Cheryl Ankrum & Roxane Schmitz
3/10 Chris & Wendy Mitchell
3/17 Jason & Jen Goad
3/24 Linda Newlon & Pat Durkee
3/31 Easter | Volunteers Needed

Counters

3/3 Lynn Beatty & Diana Davis
3/10 Chris Mitchell & Gladys Sievert
3/17 Lynn Beatty & Bev Mangan
3/24 Mary Saarela & Linda Newlon
3/31 Easter | Volunteers Needed



Coffee Service



February Coffee Serving Schedule

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

February Coffee Serving Schedule

3/3 Gladys' Group
 3/10 Jeanette's Group
 3/17 Ginny's Group
 3/24 Pat's Group
 3/31 Cary's Group

Announcement from Worship Team

Did you know that a few of our members have allergies or sensitives to scented products?

This is a gentle reminder to be mindful of your neighbor when it comes to using all our fun scented goodies (particularly perfumes, colognes, or aftershaves!)

The worship team would also love to hear any thoughts or feelings you have regarding scents; give Pastor Seth or a worship team member a ring.

Thank you!

- Pastor Seth and the Worship Team

Worship Team Contact Information

Joel Soukkala: 218-451-0715
 Linda Newlon: 218-879-6274
 Lynn Beatty: 218-591-7519
 Joanne Gustafson: 218-348-2560
 Pastor's Cell: 424-337-0350

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 Services

Ash Wednesday: River's Edge | 6:00p
 Midweek Services: Bethesda | 6:00p*
 Maunday Thursday: Bethesda | 6:00p
 Good Friday: River's Edge | 1:00p
 Easter Sunday: Bethesda | 8:30a**
 Easter Sunday: River's Edge | 10:30a

*There will be no suppers at Wednesday services

**There will be no pancake breakfast on Easter Sunday

Easter Service Volunteers

Please prayerfully consider volunteering to assist at the Easter Services on Sunday, March 31st at 8:30a.

Volunteers Needed: Acolyte, Crucifix Holder, Ushers (2), Lector, Greeters (2), Communion Assistants (2), and Counters (2).

The sign-up sheet will be on the table in the Narthex beginning Feb 18th. If you have any questions, contact Pat Durkee or the Church Office. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Easter Lilies

Please consider bringing a Lily or plant for Our Easter Flower Garden "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" a Loved One to help adorn our Sanctuary on Easter morning.

Please have your plant at the Church by 11a on Saturday, March 30th and let the office know by Monday, March 25th if you will be bringing a plant so your Loved One(s) will be acknowledged on Easter morning.

Let's fill the Sanctuary with lots of beautiful plants to add to the beauty of Christ's Resurrection!



Thank you, Pat Durkee



February 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 10a Admin Hours 1p Jam Group 5:30p CYFED Meeting	2 11a Bible Study	3
4 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	5	6 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 10a Admin Hours 6p Serenity Seekers	7 10a Admin Hours 6p Faith Partner Training	8 10a Admin Hours	9 11a Bible Study	10
11 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge 3p Interfaith Service	12	13 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 10a Admin Hours 6p Serenity Seekers	14 10a Admin Hours 5:30p Ash Wednesday Worship @ River's Edge 6:30p Faith Partner Meetings	15 10a Admin Hours 1p Jam Group 5:30p Ladies of Kaleva Mtg. <u>Beacon Deadline</u>	16 11a Bible Study	17
18 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge 2p Conference Assembly @ Bethany Cromwell	19	20 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 10a Admin Hours 4:30p Worship Committee Mtg. 5:30p Council Mtg. 6p Serenity Seekers	21 10a Admin Hours 6p Lent Wednesday Worship 6:30p Faith Partner Meetings	22 10a Admin Hours	23 11a Bible Study	24
25 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	26	27 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 10a Admin Hours 6p Serenity Seekers	28 10a Admin Hours 6p Lent Wednesday Worship 6:30p Faith Partner Meetings	29 10a Admin Hours 1p Jam Group		