



The Bethesda Beacon

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

To
God
be the
GLORY



Great Things He Hath Done!

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

Women's Retreat Update

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

Repentance

Remember being a kid and getting in a fight with a sibling or friend? What used to happen when an adult found out?

When we're young, adults step in to help resolve things. Reprimands are issued, apologies are forced, and life goes on, often with a resumption of the fighting as soon as the adults are out of the room again.

The words "I'm sorry" don't carry much weight when we go right back to doing what we had been doing before!

In Christian communities, we talk a lot about repentance. But real repentance goes beyond words.

The Greek word for repentance is "Metanoia". Metanoia means to change one's mind, to change one's heart, or change one's ways. The key, of course, is change – change of heart, change of mind, change of action. Metanoia is a change in response to one's own culpability or guilt.

And we humans aren't so good at changing our ways, are we?

I for one have no problem seeing the need for others to change – that's easy! But seeing the need for real repentance in myself, now that's a challenge.

One of the reasons why Lent has retained such a central place in the Christian liturgical calendar throughout thousands of years is just this challenge. It's far easier to see, as Jesus put it in Matthew 7, "the speck in another's eye" than "the log in your own eye". Oof.

Lent is our season for practicing this kind of reflection – for seeing the ways we need to change our hearts, our minds, our actions, as individuals, as a church, and as a community.

Seeing is the first step; confessing is the second; but truly changing our ways is the hardest.

The good news is that Holy Week is coming. On Maundy Thursday, we wash each other's feet or hands, as Jesus washes our feet, to show our love and service for each other. Then we eat and drink together and remember the story of Jesus on the same night he celebrated his last supper with his disciples. On Good Friday, we mark Jesus's death and give thanks that he loves us even unto death. On Easter Vigil Saturday, we celebrate our baptisms and anticipate Christ's resurrection. And on Easter morning, we celebrate the new life we have in Jesus.

When we've truly repented – when we've seen, and confessed, and then truly changed our ways – the forgiveness we receive is all that much sweeter.

Christ's peace be with you and yours throughout the rest of these 40 days.

-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!*

Easter Service Volunteers Needed

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

Volunteers Needed: Ushers (2), Lector, Communion Assistants (2), and Counters (2).

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



Bethesda Staff

Seth Wynands, Pastor

Phone: 424-337-0350

Email: pastor@bethesdacarlton.org

Stephanie Erickson-Russell, Administrator

Phone: 218-384-4501

Email: office@bethesdacarlton.org

Cathy Dale, Accompanist

Anna Bong, Custodian

Ronay Frank, Custodian

Current Members of Bethesda

Church Council

Jason Goad President

Lynn Beatty Vice President

Jen Goad Secretary

Jeannette Korpela Treasurer

Diana Davis

JoAnn Gustafson

Debby Johnson

Linda Newlon

Roxane Schmitz

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 March 19th at 5:30p

Love YOUR
neighbor
as yourself.
MATTHEW 22:39

Financial Update

Year to date as of 01/31/2024

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	6573.00	9166.67	(2593.67)
Non-pledged income	3071.00	3091.67	(20.67)
TOTAL INCOME	9644.00	12258.34	(2614.34)
Salaries/Compensation	8187.61	8636.62	(449.01)
General Office Expenses	310.80	963.50	(652.70)
Utilities	1122.37	1225.41	(103.04)
Other Expenses	16.24	99.16	82.92
Benevolence Expenses	65.73	91.67	(25.94)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	10.99	302.50	(291.51)
Social Ministry	27.00	27.08	(0.08)
Worship Expenses	55.95	133.33	(77.38)
CYFM Expenses	250.00	399.58	(149.58)
TOTAL EXPENSES	10046.69	11878.85	(1832.16)
Net operating income	(402.69)	379.49	(782.18)

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

❄️ 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.

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.

March 2024 J.A.M//Message

March 3 rd	Jesus and Me [J.A.M]
March 10 th	Message with Pastor Seth
March 17 th	Jesus and Me [J.A.M]
March 24 th	No Message with Pastor Seth Palm Sunday
March 31 st	No Jesus and Me [J.A.M] Easter Sunday

Youth Lock-In/Fundraiser

7:00p Friday, March 1 – 1:00p Saturday, March 2
Open to Bethesda Youth & Friends in Grades 8-12

Gather with friends for a night of games, bible study, and getting to know one another. We'll also be making and selling hotdishes to raise money for the upcoming National Youth Gathering!

Updates

-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 March 7th 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.



March Baptismal Birthdays

Tanner Anderson, Blu Bong, Brock Peterson, Karson Davis, Kennidy Davis, Darlene Godbout, Bridger McCorison, Ryan Lindgren, Cecelia Moench, Karen Johnson, Deanna Wallin, Audrey Lokken, Brian Allen, Jared Kelley, Jason Peterson, Pastor Seth Wynands, Emily Hanson, Macguier Thorman, Sullivan Kiehn, Jonathon Radtke, Paul Sell, Jason Goad, Harlow Lekander-Karsiko, Ruth Olson, Amy Schwoch, Jayden Swanson, Toni Vanguilder, & Daniel Wakefield.

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 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie

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 Ailie
3/31 Anna

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

April 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

4/7 Debby Johnson & Mary Saarela
4/14 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
4/21 Jason & Jen Goad
4/28 Sharon Bragge & Debby Johnson

Ushers

4/7 Debby Johnson & Lynn Beatty
4/14 JoAnn Gustafson & Cheryl Ankrum
4/21 Craig & Roxane Schmitz
4/28 Sharon Bragge & Debby Johnson

Lector

4/7 Linda Newlon
4/14 Wendy Mitchell
4/21 Roxane Schmitz
4/28 Lynn Beatty

Acolyte

4/7 Anna
4/14 Ailie
4/21 Mason
4/28 Anna

Communion Assistants

4/7 Sharon Bragge & Mary Saarela
4/14 Chris & Wendy Mitchell
4/21 Jason & Jen Goad
4/28 Pat Durkee & Mary Saarela

Counters

4/7 Lynn Beatty & Gladys Sievert
4/14 Chris Mitchell & Diana Davis
4/21 Lori Bunge & Bev Mangan
4/28 Lynn Beatty & Mary Saarela



Coffee Service



March 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

April Coffee Serving Schedule

4/7	Linda's Group
4/14	Deb's Group
4/21	Renae's Group
4/28	Lori's Group

Women's Retreat Update

The 2024 women's retreat was a great time of fun and fellowship thanks to the efforts of many!

Mark your calendars for next year—it will be held at Camp Heartland January 15-19.

- Ginny Korte-Castle

Thrivent Members Update

If you have money invested in Thrivent, you have Thrivent Choice Dollars. These are different than the Thrivent Action Dollars that you can apply for. Money needs to be allocated to a non-profit, such as Bethesda or another favorite charity by March 31, 2024.

It is very easy to do on-line after you log into your account. Your financial advisor can help you, or I'm more than willing to guide you through the process. A fun way to share your blessings!

- Ginny Korte-Castle (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!*

The Youth of Bethesda Present Take & Bake Hotdish Fundraiser

Saturday, March 2 | 10a-1p
Bethesda Lutheran Church Parking Lot
Suggested Donation: \$12/Small \$17/Large

Come grab a good ol' Midwestern dinner and support our youth traveling to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer!



Special Services

Midweek: March 6, 13, & 20 | 6p @ Bethesda
Palm Sunday: March 24 | 10:30a @ Bethesda
Joint Service w/ Potluck to follow!
Maunday Thursday: March 28 | 6p @ Bethesda
Good Friday: March 29 | 1p @ River's Edge
Easter Sunday: March 31 | 8:30a @ Bethesda & 10:30a @ River's Edge

Meatball Supper

Saturday, April 27 | Serving 2:30p-5:30p
Adults \$12 | Children 5-10 \$7 | Under 5 Free

Come enjoy Swedish meatballs, gravy, mashed potatoes, and more!

Please consider volunteering if you are able

March 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1p Jam Group	1 11a Bible Study 7p Youth Service Lock-In & Fundraiser Prep	2 10a-1p Youth Take & Bake Hotdish Fundraiser
3 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	4	5 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	6 6p Lent Wednesday Worship	7 5:30p CYFED Meeting	8 11a Bible Study	9
10 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge 3p Interfaith Service	11	12 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	13 6p Lent Wednesday Worship	14 1p Jam Group 5:30p Ladies of Kaleva Mtg.	15 11a Bible Study <u>Beacon Deadline</u>	16
17 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge 2p Conference Assembly @ Bethany Cromwell	18	19 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 4:30p Worship Committee Mtg. 5:30p Council Mtg. 6p Serenity Seekers	20 6p Lent Wednesday Worship	21 5:30p Ladies of Kaleva Mtg.	22 11a Bible Study	23
24 <u>Palm Sunday</u> 10:30a Joint Worship @ Bethesda – Potluck to follow!	25	26 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	27	28 1p Jam Group 6p Maunday Thursday Worship	29 1p Good Friday Worship @ River's Edge	30 6p Easter Vigil Festival
31 <u>Easter Sunday</u> 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge						