



The Bethesda Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN
April-May 2024

Blessed

This Month's Beacon

Pastor's Beacon Article

Staff & Council

Updates

Financials

Collecting for a Cause//Donation Items

Children, Youth, Family, & Ed.

Baptismal Birthdays

Coffee & Worship Assistant Schedules

Looking Back//Looking Ahead

Calendars

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

Remember what winter feels like?
(Of course you do. You live in Minnesota!)

I ask because, when you read this, it'll be spring, at least according to the calendar. Gordy's is open, we've had plenty of sunshine, and as I write this, we're about to have a bonus springtime blizzard. All around, it's spring in Minnesota! So, now that it is spring, whether the weather is actually warm or not... do you remember what winter felt like?

Not just the cold on your face or the effort of shoveling snow. I mean what winter feels like – the feeling it's easy to get in February, when the days are short and it's hard to get any real sunlight, warm winter notwithstanding. Even those of us who enjoy winter can get the sense of being stuck in darkness and cold.

It's part of what makes spring so wonderful! It might be still be windy and cold, and the threat of a blizzard is never truly gone until mid-summer, but spring feels different – it's exciting, even hopeful.

Perhaps this is why, almost for as long as the church has been the church, we've celebrated Easter in the spring.

For in a way, the world we live in can feel like living in perpetual winter.

The New Testament often describes the power of death and sin as darkness or night. In the gospel of John, Jesus himself is described as “the Light of the World”.

It can be easy to take this too far – darkness can be beautiful, and good things happen in the dark (take Isaiah 45, for example). At times in Christian history, these themes have been used by white folks to put down people with dark skin – a clear misuse of the Word.

It's also not hard for us to see, though, that the power of death and sin are never far away in our world. Wars rage and children go hungry while politicians choose party and self over solutions. Families break apart after of unhealed hurts. Honest people get taken advantage of.

It's no wonder that scripture tells us about the forces of evil are more than just a few individuals making mistakes.

So it can be easy to feel like we're living in a world of constant mid-winter, even when the calendar turns over.

But the story of Easter actually tells us something different.

This story doesn't deny the evil present in our world. It's not summer.

But it does tell us that new life is breaking forth.

In Romans 13, Paul writes that the night is almost gone, and the day is near. And in 1

Corinthians 15, he writes that Christ's resurrection – Easter – are the first fruits of the new life to come.

It's like we're living in between winter and summer, in between the death and new life.

Or, to put it more simply, Easter means that we're living in the season of spring.

Jesus's resurrection, 2000 years ago, means that we have seen a glimpse of what's to come.

It's not here yet fully, but we've seen it, and it's on the way.

So when you start to see the hazy green on a tree-covered horizon or notice buds start to shoot out from the ground, you'll be reminded:

Christ's resurrection has already taken place. Christ's

return is assured. And we get to live in God's springtime!

Peace be with you and yours this Easter season.

-Pastor Seth Wynands

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!*

Bethesda Staff

Seth Wynands, Pastor
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 Phone: 218-384-4501
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Cathy Dale, Accompanist
 Anna Bong, Custodian
 Ronay Frank, Custodian

**Current Members of Bethesda
 Church Council**

Roxane Schmitz President
 Lynn Beatty Vice President
 Jen Goad Secretary
 Jeannette Korpela Treasurer

Diana Davis
 Jason Goad
 JoAnn Gustafson
 Debby Johnson
 Linda Newlon

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 April 16th at 5:30p

Updates Continued...

Thank you

Easter Volunteers & those who brought plants to our Easter Garden, you are so appreciated!

From the Funeral Committee

Thank you so much to everyone who has taken the time to prepare and serve food, to set up and clean up, and to host. Your presence, time, and the gifts you share are so appreciated. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

From the family of Chad Gustafson

Chad's family would like to thank everyone for the cards, hugs, kind words, lunch, and for helping our family and friends feel welcome. Your thoughtfulness, kindness, and compassion will never be forgotten.

Thank you,

JoAnn, Alawna, Liam, Ailie, Jessica, and families.

Beacon Update

The Beacon will continue to be printed, mailed, and posted every month but will now accommodate more information, such as additional committee updates and happenings for the upcoming month and a half or so. To make this happen the deadline to get information to the office has been moved to the 22nd of each month. Thank you!

Financial Update

Year to date as of 02/29/2024

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	15201.00	18333.34	(3132.34)
Non-pledged income	5856.00	6783.34	(927.34)
TOTAL INCOME	21057.00	25116.68	(4059.68)
Salaries/Compensation	17040.20	17273.24	(233.04)
General Office Expenses	685.00	1927.00	(1242.00)
Utilities	2348.72	2450.82	(102.10)
Other Expenses	32.48	198.32	165.84
Benevolence Expenses	152.01	183.34	(31.33)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	10.99	605.00	(594.01)
Social Ministry	54.00	54.16	(0.16)
Worship Expenses	55.95	266.66	(210.71)
CYFM Expenses	314.63	799.16	(484.53)
TOTAL EXPENSES	20693.98	23757.70	(3063.72)
Net operating income	363.02	1358.98	(995.96)

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.

Updates

Memorials & Donations

The Memorial Committee has a new fund designation set up titled "Basement Project" as 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 "Basement Project".

Thank you

Collecting for a Cause

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...

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.

With Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, friends, and all who knew and loved Chad Gustafson, James Kelley, and Rita Vonasek. Let us hold space for them in our hearts during this difficult time.

May the love of those close to you, those in your community, and our Heavenly Father comfort you in this season of mourning.

Children, Youth, Family, & Ed.

April 2024 J.A.M//Message

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

May 2024 J.A.M//Message

May 5 th	Jesus and Me [J.A.M]
May 12 th	Message with Pastor Seth
May 19 th	Jesus and Me [J.A.M]
May 26 th	Message with Pastor Seth

Easter Vigil

March 30th | 6:00p-8:00p

All are welcome to join us Saturday for food, activities, and fellowship!

Spring Faith Classes | Grades 4-6

W.O.W 6p-7:30p | April 10th, 17th, & 24th

New Orleans Gathering – Intro Event

April 7th | Brainerd or Grand Rapids

More information will be communicated to our youth attending NYG

Agape Meal & Proclamation of Faith

April 13th

Confirmation

Sunday, April 14th

CYFED will meet on April 4th 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.



April Baptismal Birthdays

Sharon Bragge, Vance Moench, Briar Mrozik, Kristal Hanson, Terry Radtke, Colin Emerson, Patricia Durkee, Brittany Dahl-Holm, Stacie Hopp, Todd Bryant, Craig Schmitz, Ross Soukkala, Lindsey Dahl-Holm, Wesley Harden, Liam Meagher, Makenzie Simula, Cassidy Sheda, Desiree Sheda, Molly Sheda, Jessica Betts, Shelby Nygren, Michael Lijewski, Merlea Mrozik, Spencer Thorman, Tanner Thorman, Curtis Marin, Myrna Postal, Lydia Kiehl, Terry Skutevik, Nevada Jo McCorison, Bernie Despot, Andrew Castle, Colton Clark, Melissa Clark, Sean Clark, Tanner Betts, Rick Johnson, Jackson Soukkala, Oliver Soukkala, Andrew Buller & Mark Vernon

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

May 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

5/5 Rod & Deb Davis
5/12 Sharon Bragge & Debby Johnson
5/19 Ginny Korte-Castle & Lori Bunge
5/26 Mary Saarela & Linda Newlon

Ushers

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

Lector

5/5 Diana Davis
5/12 Cheryl Ankrum
5/19 Ginny Korte-Castle
5/26 Pat Durkee

Acolyte

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

Communion Assistants

5/5 Chris & Wendy Mitchell
5/12 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
5/19 Jason & Jen Goad
5/26 Sharon Bragge & Pat Durkee

Counters

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



Coffee Service



April Coffee Serving Schedule

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

May Coffee Serving Schedule

4/7 Gladys's Group
 4/14 Jeanette's Group
 4/21 Ginny's Group
 4/28 Pat's Group

Looking Back

The lock-in fundraiser for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans had a great turnout! 113 hotdishes were made with the help of 5 youth, Pastor Seth, Stephanie, Diana, and Joel.

Thank you so much to our youth and adult helpers and to everyone who ordered a hotdish (or two, or three!). \$1,300 was raised and that is indeed something to celebrate!



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!*

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

April 24 | 9a: Bread making

April 25 | 5p: Prepping rutabagas and peeling/cooking/shredding potatoes for meatballs

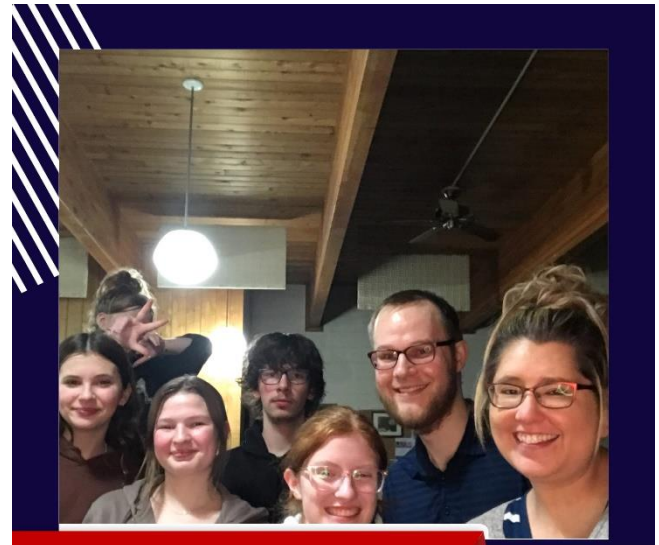
April 26 | 9a: Making meatballs

Help is also needed with setup, silverware wrapping, table setup, host/hostess, ticket sales, dessert room helpers, servers, delivery persons, cooking/cleanup, and more!

Signup sheets are at the church!

Adult Bible Study

James Study in May – More info to come!



April 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 5:30p CYFED Meeting 6p Serenity Seekers	3	4	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 6p Serenity Seekers	10	11 1p Jam Group	12 11a Bible Study	13 <i><u>Agape Meal</u></i> <i>@</i> <i><u>Bethesda</u></i>
14 8:30a Worship – Confirmation Day Service 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge 3p Interfaith Service	15	16 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 4:30p Worship Committee Mtg. 5:30p Council Mtg. 6p Serenity Seekers	17	18 5:30p Ladies of Kaleva Mtg.	19 11a Bible Study Fellowship Hall in Use	20 Fellowship Hall in Use
21 8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	22 <i><u>New Beacon</u></i> <i><u>Deadline</u></i>	23 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	24	25 1p Jam Group	26 11a Bible Study	27 <i><u>Meatball Supper</u></i> <i><u>2:30p-5:30p</u></i>
28 8:30a Worship – Baptismal Birthdays 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	29	30 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers				

May 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 11a Bible Study	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 CYFED Meeting 6p Serenity Seekers	8	9 1p Jam Group	10 11a Bible Study	11
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