

The Bethesda Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN

204 5th St. P.O Box 210

Carlton, MN 55718

October 2024



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

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



What does God really promise us??

Last week at confirmation, we talked about this

question: what are God's promises for us?

At first it might seem easy – or like a question you covered in confirmation and haven't had to think about ever since!

But once we get into it, it gets a little trickier.

For example, here's a few possible ideas. How many of these questions would you say yes to?

1. God promises to keep us safe
2. God promises to help us succeed in life
3. God promises to bless us when we are good.

If you're having trouble, you should feel good – because Scripture has multiple perspectives on each of these issue. In the book of Psalms, one Psalm will praise God for keeping the psalmist safe while another will lament that God has left the writer to the wolves. The book of Proverbs clearly takes the stance that God rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked.

But, of course, we know that life is not so simple – sometimes, or even often,

people who climb over others make it to the top, while faithful people are not immune from affliction.

It's a conundrum! Some parts of scripture say one thing, while others say something else.

So what do we do with this?

Well, for one, we always need to consider the genre of a book. Psalms is a book of poetry; Proverbs is a book of wisdom sayings. Proverbs describes what might be generally true (for example, treating others well will lead to good things), but it's not a book of hard and fast promises.

But more importantly, we need to consider what we **hope** for compare with what we are **promised**.

I believe that God is at work to keep us safe in the world, but God does not guarantee safety. I believe that God plants seeds in our hearts and guides us, but God does not guarantee success. I believe that God wants good things for us, but God does not guarantee blessing.

So what does God promise? What would be on your list?

In Martin Luther's Small Catechism, he writes that baptism brings "forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal

salvation to all who believe it, as the words and promise of God declare.”

Later, he writes that water can do such things because “the Holy Spirit is poured out on us richly, through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs, according to the hope of eternal life.”

And then? “**The saying is sure.**”

God promises, through faith, the Word, and the waters of baptism:

1. Forgiveness
2. Redemption
3. Eternal Life
4. Heirship
5. The Holy Spirit

That’s a good place for a list, and for our faith, to start. The rest, I think, can be up for discussion, but the core of our faith is in God’s unshakeable promises, as signified and received in our baptism.

As Luther says: cling to the promises! That’s what faith is all about.

I pray today that you and yours have a blessed month and a fantastic fall!

Pastor Seth Wynands

Bethesda Staff

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Cathy Dale, Accompanist

Anna Bong, Custodian

Ronay Frank, Custodian

Current Members of Bethesda

Church Council

Roxane SchmitzPresident

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

September 17th at 5:30 p.m.

Financial Update

8/31/2024

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	71523.03	73333.36	(1810.33)
Non-pledged income	30937.61	27066.72	3870.89
TOTAL INCOME	102460.64	100400.08	2060.56
Salaries/Compensation	66312.32	72998.14	(6685.82)
General Office Expenses	6265.42	7708.00	(1442.58)
Utilities	9163.09	9803.28	(640.19)
Other Expenses	1016.49	1293.28	276.79
Benevolence Expenses	714.98	733.36	(18.38)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	2228.22	2420.00	(191.78)
Social Ministry	219.00	216.64	2.36
Worship Expenses	583.04	1241.64	(658.60)
CYFM Expenses	1281.82	3196.64	(1914.82)
TOTAL EXPENSES	87784.38	99610.98	(11826.60)
Net operating income	14676.26	789.10	13887.16

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.



Our hearts are with the family, friends, and all who knew and loved Brad Mckinstry who passed away on August 30th, Larry Beckstrom who passed away on September 6th and Lois Johnson who passed away on September 11th. May God's love surround you and provide you with strength, peace and comfort in the days ahead. We are so sorry for your loss.



God's Work our Hands indoor and outdoor projects were held September 15th. Thank you to those who volunteered for both projects. This is our 11th year of participating in this ELCA event.

Those volunteering enjoyed helping others and getting to know the volunteers from Queen of Peace, Our Saviors and Zion Lutheran Church. When projects were complete we enjoyed fellowship at Dunlap Island with great food from Room at the Table food truck.

Indoor projects-

29 completed ditty bags for the Duluth Seafarers mission

Below is what will be distributed by Lutheran World Relief

72 Baby kits completed

135 School backpacks

85 Personal care kits

Thank you volunteers and to those who donated items for the above kits.

WELCA is meeting Oct 6th after church. For those not able to attend, there will also be a meeting Monday Oct 7th @ 6:30 to discuss the Christmas Bazaar.

Come join the Bible Study Group
Fridays at 11 a.m.-Noon

Thanksgiving Donations: From now until November 17th, WELCA will be collecting monetary donations for Thanksgiving gift cards for those in need. Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the church – there are also envelopes available in the pews. Please make checks payable to **WELCA**.

IFCC Service Reminder

Bethesda holds a service at Interfaith Care Center the 2nd Sunday of each month in the IFCC Community Room at 2:30 p.m. *All are welcome to join!*

News & Notes

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!

Beacon Update

The deadline to get information to the office has been moved to the 22nd of each month. Thank you!

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.

Fall of 2024- 2025 calendars to give to residents at Interfaith Care Center.

Social Ministry

Hygiene products for those in need:

Shampoo, toothpaste/brush, soap, comb and personal care products

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

Lutheran World Relief project
Please consider hemming pre cut diaper squares, onesies, sleepers.
Flannel sheets, pillow cases/material needed to make diapers and receiving blankets

Cloquet Salvation Army Food Shelf

316 Carlton Ave. Cloquet, MN
218-879-1693

Hours:

Monday 4-6:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Please consider donating nonperishable food items and paper products. Our Food Shelf collection box is located near the basement steps.
Thank you!

Mark your calendars for the women's retreat Jan. 15-19 2025, at One Camp Heartland. Registration materials available in December. Open to all women in Bethesda and their friends.



Social Ministry will be hosting coffee in support of The Seafarers on October 20th. Pastor Doug Paulson will be giving a temple talk.

Social Ministry is collecting winter items, hygiene products, for the Damiano Center. They need winter jackets, boots, hats, mittens, scarfs and winter items for larger men.



Beacon Information CYFED –
September 2024

J.A.M./message schedule remains the same. J.A.M. the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month and the message on the 2nd and 4th Sunday's.

Book/Article study is still held on the last Tuesday of the month at 5:30. The months of June, July and August the group went out for dinner. The Friday Bible Study still meeting. They have good discussion with approx. 3-6 in attendance.

A new bible study started on Thursday, September 5th from 5:30 – 7:00. The class is Galatians and will last 6 weeks. There was a total of 10 in attendance. Thank you to Diana Davis for teaching the class. There will be a Facebook page you can add discussion items to.

The cookout/kickoff for fall classes was held on Wednesday, September 4th.

There were approx. 24 in attendance. Thank you to the Mitchell family for donating the meat and to Jimmy Bragge for cooking. Confirmation classes started on Wednesday, September 11th and there is a signup sheet again to help make and serve the meal.

Mental Health night for grades 6-12th youth & families will be held on Wednesday, October 9th from 6-7:30 pm. Guest speaker will be Joy Hensel. Our Saviors Lutheran will be joining Bethesda. Diana Davis will reach out

to Jody Eller at Salem to see if they have any interest. A meal will be provided.

The All-Youth Gathering will be held on November 23rd or 24th. More to follow!

Synod Ministry night is scheduled for March 12, 2025, from 6-7:30 pm. The guest speaker will be Reverend Taryn Montgomery from the Synod. The event will be at Bethesda Lutheran Church and will be a multi-parish event with meal and worship. More to follow!

Diana Davis and JoAnn Gustafson met with Nixon Mitchell, Jen Saari and Lillian DeWitt on Wednesday, September 4th to interview/video them on their youth gathering in New Orleans July 14-21, 2024. We asked the kids some questions to get their feedback on the trip. The video will be shown to the congregation at a later date. Thank you Nixon, Jen and Lillian.

We had 3 kids complete the Stewardship Challenge for 2024. Each one of the kids were given \$100.00 to use their resources to benefit others in need. The kids were Tatiana Hackensmith, Jackson Soukkala, and Ailie Gustafson.

Tatiana donated sensory items, some baby dolls and a storage cart to the Wrens Club at the Wrenshall

School. She also gave them the Calming Corner from her class.

Jackson Soukkala donated \$100.00 to the Carlton Area Lions Club to make kids care kits. He worked with Lion Rita making 40 kits. All the kits are different. Some included toothpaste and toothbrushes and other kits included hygiene products. The kits are donated to area schools and Chum. Jackson also dropped off 20 kits at Barnum Elementary School.

Ailie Gustafson purchased \$100.00 worth of school supplies. These supplies were given to the Churchill School in Cloquet for all kids that need them. Ailie felt this was important to her as she attended Churchill School along with her brother Liam.

Thank you to these kids as they poured their hearts into something they felt was an important cause to them.

The next CYFED meeting will be held on **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST AT 5:30 PM IN THE GATHERING SPACE.**

All are welcome to join us. We are always looking for ideas to get our youth involved. Thank you from the CYFED Committee Pastor Seth, Wendy Mitchell, Linda Newlon, Diana Davis, and JoAnn Gustafson. If you have questions/concerns/ideas please feel free to contact a committee member.

From the Funeral Committee:

Thank you to everyone for all the hard work you did for the recent funerals with setting up the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, preparing food and serving it, washing the many dishes that we had and last but not least cleaning up. You are all a huge blessing! Bethesda is so wonderful! You are so appreciated!

Kettle River Conference 2024

Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering

October 5th, 8:30 a.m.

Zion Lutheran Church Cloverdale

Theme: "Abundance of Blessings"

Please see flyer on bulletin board for more details.



Pannukakku (Finnish oven pancake) and Sausage Breakfast Monday October 14th 8am-11am

Bethesda Lutheran Church
Adults \$9 Child (6 & under) \$5
Served by the Ladies of Kaleva Vainottaren Tupa #24 (Cloquet chapter.) This event is held to raise money for Ladies of Kaleva scholarships. We are an ethnic organization dedicated to the preservation of our Finnish heritage. Breakfast includes: Pannukakku, sausage, coffee & juice.



October Coffee Serving Schedule

- 10/6 Cary's Group
- 10/13 Church Council
- 10/20 Deb's Group
- 10/27 Renae's Group

October & 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

- 10/6 Cheryl Ankrum & Lori Bunge
- 10/13 Sharon Bragge & Jimmy Bragge
- 10/20 Jason & Jen Goad
- 10/27 Marv & Pat Durkee

Ushers

- 10/6 Craig & Roxane Schmitz
- 10/13 Debby Johnson & Mary Saarela
- 10/20 Lynn Beatty & Pat Durkee
- 10/27 Sue & Terry Coady

Lector

- 10/6 Randy Schmitz
- 10/13 Lynn Beatty
- 10/20 Diana Davis
- 10/27 Pat Durkee

Acolyte

- 10/6 Anna
- 10/13 Ailie
- 10/20 Anna
- 10/27 Mason

Annual Fall Harvest
Roast Beef
DINNER

Roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, rutabagas, bread, pumpkin dessert & beverage

St. Matthews Lutheran Church
 4 Elizabeth Ave, Esko
 (218) 879-3510

October 9, 2024
4-7pm

Tickets must be purchased in advance by
 Oct 2nd-only 400 tickets available
 \$18 for Adults
 \$10 for Kids (6-12 years old)
 Donation for Kids 5 & under
 Take-out available!

Proceeds support LWML Mission Projects

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Communion Assistants

10/6 Lynn Beatty & Cheryl Ankrum
10/13 JoAnn Gustafson & Anna Bong
10/20 Jason & Jen Goad
10/27 Sharon Bragge & Linda Newlon

Counters

10/6 Linda Newlon & Lori Bunge
10/13 Lynn Beatty & Mary Saarela
10/20 Gladys Sievert & Diana Davis
10/27 Chris Mitchell & Bev Mangan

Lector

11/3 Kevein Conley
11/10 Cheryl Ankrum
11/17 Lynn Beatty
11/24 Wendy Mitchell

Acolyte

11/3 Anna
11/10 Ailie
11/17 Mason
11/24 Anna



November Coffee Serving Schedule

11/3 Lori's Group
11/10 Gladys' Group
11/17 Jeannette's Group
11/24 Ginny's Group

Greeters

11/3 Pat Durkee
11/10 Sharon Bragge & Jimmy Bragge
11/17 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
11/24 Rod & Deb Davis

Ushers

11/3 Linda Newlon & Debby Johnson
11/10 Sharon Bragge & Jimmy Bragge
11/17 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
11/24 Terry & Sue Coady

Communion Assistants

11/3 Roxane Schmitz & Mary Saarela
11/10 JoAnn Gustafson & Anna Bong
11/17 Jason & Jen Goad
11/24 Pat Durkee & Cheryl Ankrum

Counters

11/3 Linda Newlon & JoAnn Gustafson
11/10 Mary Saarela & Bev Mangan
11/17 Lynn Beatty & Lori Bunge
11/24 Chris Mitchell & Diana Davis

October 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 5:30p CYFed. Meeting 6p Serenity Seekers	2 6p Confirmation Class 6-9 th Grade 6p Family Worship for All	3 5:30p Galatians Bible Study and Pizza	4 11a Bible Study	5
6 8:30a Worship J.A.M 9:45a Coffee/Fellowship 9:45a WELCA Meeting 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	7 6:30p WELCA Meeting	8 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	9 6p Mental Health Night 6:00p Family Worship for All	10 1p Jam Group 5:30p Galatians Bible Study and Pizza	11 11a Bible Study	12
13 8:30a Worship Message with Pastor 9:45a Coffee/Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge 2:30pm Interfaith Service	14 Columbus Day 8a-11a Pannukakku (Finish oven pancake) & Sausage Breakfast	15 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 4:30p Worship Committee Mtg. 5:30p Council Meeting 6p Serenity Seekers	16	17 5:30p Ladies of Kaleva Mtg.	18 11a Bible Study	19
20 8:30a Worship with Doug Paulsen J.A.M 9:45a Coffee/Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge	21	22 Beacon deadline 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	23 6p Confirmation Class 6-9 th Grade 6:00p Family Worship for All	24 1p Jam Group	25 11a Bible Study	26
27 8:30a Worship with Dan Lindberg from Gentiva Hospice Message with Pastor Baptismal Birthdays 9:45a Coffee/Fellowship	28	29 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	30 6p Confirmation Class 6-9 th Grade 6:00p Family Worship for All	31 Happy Halloween!		

Bethesda Lutheran Church
204 5th Street
P.O. Box 210
Carlton, MN 55718

Sunday Worship

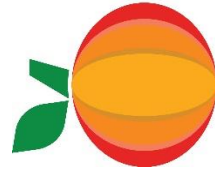
8:30am

In House

And Online

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 **OCTOBER**
2022