

The Bethesda Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN

204 5th St. P.O Box 210

Carlton, MN 55718

December 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

And More...

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



Advent Food for Thought

Before we get to the Bazaar, the parties, and the candles, here's some Advent food for thought:

Darkness and Light: We sometimes generalize the categories of light and dark as good and bad. And, of course, we all need a little light in our lives, especially as the days get shorter and the nights get longer.

But dark doesn't mean bad. Good things can happen in the dark. We rest and grow in the dark; growing bodies need sleep to grow, and all our bodies need sleep to shut down and recharge. And even when we're awake, we can think deeper, breathe slower, or feel differently in the quiet that dark brings.

Christmas Eve services often feature both darkness and light. This Christmas Eve, as the service moves toward its conclusion, notice how the darkness impacts you. Does it build anticipation? Does it bring calm? Anxiety? Togetherness? Loneliness?

Advent and Christmas helps us embrace the goodness of gathering around the light as well as dwelling in the dark this season.

Waiting and Hope: Advent is a season about a kind of coming. In our Scripture readings, we hear prophecies of the coming of Christ from Isaiah and from John the Baptist, and we retell the strange and wonderful tales of Mary and Joseph, shepherds and animals, angels and archangels. We hear again its

themes of poverty and power, wandering and wondering, refugees and welcome.

And as we do, we also remember and prepare for the coming - the second coming - of Jesus. The nativity is not only in the past, it's also a sign and a guarantee of the return of Christ. And though the story of Christ's return is mysterious and unknown, it is also good, for God is good, and Christ's final coming can only mean good things for a people and a world who wait desperately for new hope.

Advent and Christmas help us embrace the goodness of waiting – not only for Christmas, but for the coming of Jesus.

Love: The holidays serve as a time of coming together. Our family gatherings around hearths and Christmas trees are, for many of us, the defining element of the season.

What I especially appreciate, though, is the way that Christmas can move us beyond ourselves to see and to serve our neighbors. Families volunteering at shelters and nursing homes. Parents, grandparents, or friends giving gifts of goats or chicks to Lutheran World Relief and the like in place of toys or clothes. Churches and individuals sending cards to the sick and homebound. Generosity and love for the needy is expressed in all kinds of ways.

Advent and Christmas help us embrace the goodness of love – not as a requirement or as another item on the checklist, but as our first priority.

May the God who will always wait for you, who is with you in darkness and in light, and who loves you beyond measure, dwell close by you this Advent and Christmas.

Pastor Seth Wynands

There will be a joint service at Rivers Edge on December 15th at 10:30 with a potluck to follow.



Christmas Ever Candlelight

Worship Services

3 and 7 p.m.

There will be no services on Christmas Day.



SHHHHHHHH...

Following a long-time Bethesda tradition, members and friends of

Bethesda are invited to contribute to a cash gift for Pastor Seth. You may give your gift to Roxane Schmitz no later than Sunday, December 15th.

Annual Meeting

January 26th, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

All committee reports are due in the office by January 5th.

IFCC Service Reminder

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

Bethesda Staff

Seth Wynands, Pastor

Phone: 424-337-0350

Email: pastor@bethesdacarlton.org

Office Contact Information

Phone: 218-384-4501

Email: office@bethesdacarlton.org

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 KorpelaTreasurer

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

December 17th at 5:30 p.m.

Please prayerfully consider volunteering to assist at one of the Christmas Eve Services on Tuesday, Dec 24th. Times of Services are 3 pm and 7 pm. We will need Ushers, Lectors, Greeters, Communion Assistants, Counters, Communion Set Up after 3 pm Service and Clean Up The sign-up sheets will be on the table in the Narthex beginning Nov 17th. If you have any questions, contact Pat Durkee, 218-384-3645. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Please consider bringing a Poinsettia "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" a Loved One to help adorn our Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Please have your plant at the Church between 9am and 11am. on Monday Dec 23rd. Let's fill the Sanctuary with lots of beautiful plants to add to the beauty of Christ's Birth!! Please let the office know by Dec 17^h if you will be bringing a plant so your Loved One(s) will be acknowledged in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Thank you. Pat Durkee

Changes to the Book/Article Study:

The group did meet at the church on Tuesday, October 29th and discussed how to move forward.

On Tuesday, November 26th we will be going out for supper. We will be meeting at the Big Lake Golf Course at 5:30 to share a meal. All are welcome to join. We will not meet in December due to the holidays.

Starting in January 2025 we will try doing a potluck on the last Tuesday of the month instead of going out to eat.

Tuesday night will look a little different. We will no longer go by Book/Article Study but will be "Break Bread Together Fellowship."

We will start on Tuesday, January 28th at 5:00. We are inviting the congregation of Bethesda and ask you to bring a dish to share. We will be having fellowship along with a reading from the Daily Devotional followed by discussion.

We will meet again on February 25th and March 25th. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Linda Newlon, 218-879-6274.

There will be no mat making on Tuesday December 3rd. Thank you.



Social Ministry will be hosting coffee in support of Damiano Center on December 22nd. Seth Currier will be here to give a temple

talk.

Financial Update

Year to date as of 07/31/2024

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	80185.03	82500.03	(2315.00)
Non-pledged income	111858.64	112325.09	(466.45)
TOTAL INCOME	89233.64	88475.07	758.57
Salaries/Compensation	72808.36	81634.75	(8826.39)
General Office Expenses	7158.06	8671.50	(1513.44)
Utilities	9976.63	11028.69	(1052.06)
Other Expenses	1028.60	1392.44	363.84
Benevolence Expenses	801.60	825.03	(23.43)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	2265.75	2722.50	(456.75)
Social Ministry	249.00	243.72	5.28
Worship Expenses	833.04	1574.97	(741.93)
CYFM Expenses	1392.55	3596.22	(2203.67)
TOTAL EXPENSES	96513.59	111689.82	(15176.23)
Net operating income	(7279.95)	(23214.75)	15934.80

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.



“A Touch of Scandinavia”

Annual Christmas Bazaar
Saturday December 7th
9:00-1:00.

It will feature all the different areas and specialty items that we have had in the past. If you have items to donate and /or are willing to work, please call the person in charge of that part of the event.

Rosettes- Mary Saarela 218-393-2693

Peanut butter blossoms – Ginny

Kortie-Castle 218–384–3896

Spritz –Debra Croft 218–380–1035

Krumkake- Linda Newlon 218-879-6274

Lefse- Linda Newlon Home 218-879-6274

Baked items from home- Jen Goad 218–590–5042

Lunch items-Jeannette Korpela 218–590–7848

Hot Lefse- Dawn Soukkala 218–879–1648

Next to New-Sharon Bragge 218–384–4076

Silent auction- Mary Saarela 218–393–2693

Raffle- JoAnn Gustafson 218–879–7063

Crafts /miscellaneous items- Mary Saarela 218–393–2693

Check out – Pat Durkee 218–384–3645

Sign-up Sheets with specific dates and times will be available the beginning of November. These activities will also

Christmas gift cards

beginning November 24th, deadline for donations will be December 15th. There are envelopes on the music stand as you enter the sanctuary.

THANK YOU for your donations.

Because of them many families will be able to have a great holiday meal!

THANK YOU for your donations that blessed 24 families with food gift cards for their Thanksgiving gatherings.

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.

be announced at church and will be on our Facebook page.

This is a great opportunity to work together and get to know each other better as members of the Bethesda and members of River's Edge who are willing to come and help us with this event.

Please feel free to call me with any questions and /or concerns that you might have. Linda Newlon, Bazaar chair 879-6274

Please see JoAnn Gustafson to purchase Raffle tickets for the Bazaar before or after the church service. Thank you.

Member News



Celebrating December Baptismal Birthdays

Audrina Schwartz, Giselle Martini, Nancy Crider, Kaitlyn Kelley, Emma DeVriendt, Crosby Moench, Alanna Soukkala, Emily Marciniak, Amelia McCarthy, Alan Moench, Kristen Wakefield, Stephanie Erickson-Russell, Alex Grover, Courtney Grover, Jolene Johnson, Bethany Mckeon, Haven Rockenstein, Renee Kesty, Bobbie Selin, Abby Mickle, Brynn Mickle, Jackson Mickle, Peyton Schmitz, Aliza Vernon, Brody Vernon, Jack Vernon, Chris Rousseau, Patricia Schmitz, Sofie Herman, Kristianna Konietzko,

Jazmyn Martini, Carol Hongisto, & Bethany Leseman.



Our hearts and prayers are with the family, friends, and all who knew and loved Carol Chalberg & Karin Towslee both longtime members of Bethesda who passed away on November 3rd & November 15th. To the family and friends of Carol Munter Tischer who passed away on November 12th. She was a former longtime member of Bethesda. May God's love surround you and provide you with strength, peace and comfort in the days ahead.

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!

DECEMBER 2024 SCHEDULE FOR J.A.M./ MESSAGE

*****December 1st** – J.A.M. – Jesus and Me

*****December 8th** – message with Pastor Seth

*****December 15th** - J.A.M. – Jesus and Me

*****December 22nd** – ***NO MESSAGE WITH PASTOR SETH***

*****December 29th** – ***NO J.A.M. – JESUS AND ME***



JANUARY 2025 SCHEDULE FOR J.A.M./ MESSAGE

*****January 5th** – J.A.M. – Jesus and Me

*****January 12th** – message with Pastor Seth

*****January 19th** - J.A.M. – Jesus and Me

*****January 26th** – message with Pastor Seth



Beacon Information CYFED – December 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.

The Tuesday night Book Study will be going out for a meal and fellowship on Tuesday, November 26th at 5:30 PM at the Big Lake Golf Course. There will be no get together in December due to the holiday season. Please feel free to join us in November. Starting in

January 2025 we will try doing a potluck on the last Tuesday of the month instead of going out to eat. Tuesday night will look a little different. We will no longer go by Book/Article Study but will be “Break Bread Together Fellowship.” More information in the December Beacon. The Friday Bible Study still meeting. They have good discussion with approx. 3-6 in attendance.

A new online Advent Study will start on December 1st. Diana Davis will be coordinating the online study. You can go to the Bethesda page on Facebook and click the on the link shown to join. Each morning Diana will post a scripture reading, some insights and a discussion question. Feel free to join in the discussion anytime offering your own insights and experiences. Posts will not disappear so you can go back to each day and respond on your own time. The advent season is a special time to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Christmas and through our study, we will explore the themes of hope, peace, joy and love. Each day we will delve into scripture, engaging in meaningful discussions, and share insights that can deepen our faith and understanding. Whether you are new to Advent traditions or have celebrated for years, this study is an opportunity for growth and connection. Let's make this season truly memorable by learning and growing together.

The All-Youth Gathering will be held on November 23rd or 24th. As of this meeting, we have 6 youth signed up to go and 2 volunteer chaperones.

The Family Advent party for the youth and parents will be held on Saturday, December 14th from 6-8 PM. We will be sharing a meal, doing crafts and assembling the Christmas bags for the residents at InterFaith Care Center. Please join us for a night of fellowship while sharing a meal.

4th & 5th grade Grow in Faith will be held on Wednesday, January 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th at 6:00-7:30 PM.

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!

10th grade Confirmation will start on January 8th.

The next CYFED meeting will be held on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD 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.

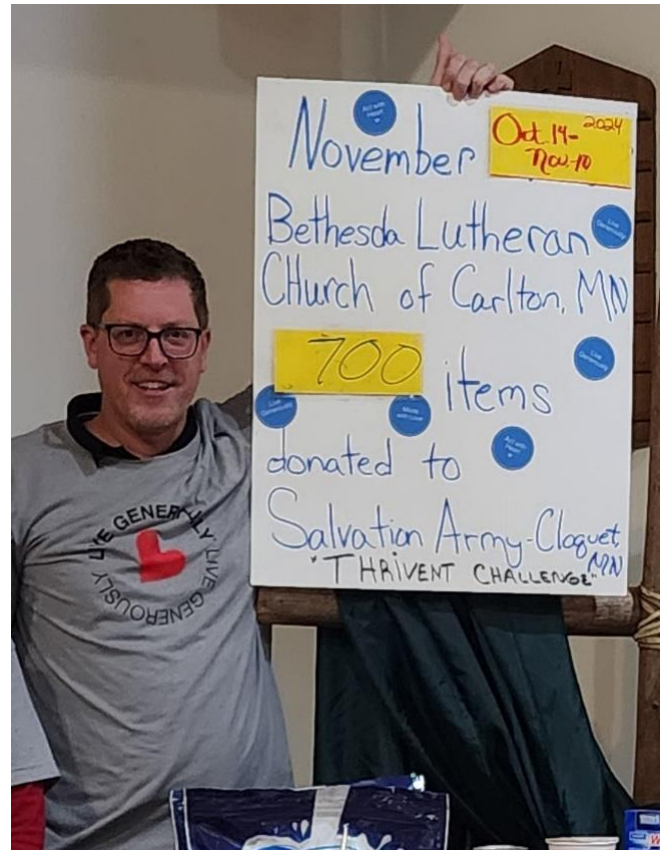
2024 Thrivent Food Shelf Challenge

Wow, what an awesome success for our 2024 Thrivent Fall Food Shelf Challenge! We surpassed the original Goal of 300 items, ending with a total of 700 items being donated to the Cloquet Salvation Army!

Thank you to the generosity of our giving Congregation, other friends, and Thrivent for helping us exceed our goal to help those in need in the Community. Jimmy Bragge delivered the Thrivent Food Shelf donations to Salvation Army. The donations delivered weighed in at 449.22 lbs!

I am the Church!
You are the Church! We are the Church Together! Thanks again!!

Take Care.
God's Blessings!
Pat and Debby





December Coffee Serving Schedule

- 12/1 Pat's Group
- 12/8 Cary's Group
- 12/15 Joint Service at Rivers Edge
- 12/22 Linda's Group
- 12/29 Deb's Group

Greeters

- 12/1 Marv & Pat Durkee
- 12/8 Brad & Lori Bunge
- 12/15 Joint Service at Rivers Edge
- 12/22 Ginny Korte-Castle
- 12/29 Deb & Rod Davis

Ushers

- 12/1 Pat Durkee & Debby Johnson
- 12/8 Craig & Roxane Schmitz
- 12/15 Joint Service at Rivers Edge
- 12/22 Sharon Bragge & Mary Saarela
- 12/29 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie

Lector

- 12/1 Lynn Beatty
- 12/8 Randy Schmitz
- 12/15 Joint Service at Rivers Edge
- 12/22 Ginny Korte-Castle
- 12/29 Lessons and Carols

Acolyte

- 12/1 Anna
- 12/8 Ailie
- 12/15 Mason (Joint Service River's Edge)
- 12/22 Anna
- 12/29 Lessons and Carols

Communion Assistants

- 12/1 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
- 12/8 JoAnn Gustafson & Anna Bong
- 12/15 Joint Service at Rivers Edge
- 12/22 Jason & Jen Goad
- 12/29 Lessons and Carols

Counters

- 12/1 Lynn Beatty & Linda Newlon
- 12/8 Mary Saarela & JoAnn Gustafson
- 12/15 Joint Service at Rivers Edge
- 12/22 Chris Mitchell & Diana Davis
- 12/29 Bev Mangan & Linda Newlon



January Coffee Serving Schedule

- 1/5 Lori's Group
- 1/12 Jeannette's Group
- 1/19 Ginny's Group
- 1/26 Pat's Group

Greeters

- 1/5 Debby Johnson
- 1/12 Sharon Bragge & Jimmy Bragge
- 1/19 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
- 1/26 Rod & Deb Davis

Ushers

- 1/5 Debby Johnson & Pat Durkee
- 1/12 Terry & Sue Coady
- 1/19 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
- 1/26 Craig & Roxane Schmitz

Lector

- 1/5 Lynn Beatty
- 1/12 Linda Newlon
- 1/19 Kevein Conley
- 1/26 Diana Davis

Acolyte

1/5 Anna
1/12 Ailie
1/19 Mason
1/26 Anna

Communion Assistants

1/5 Lynn Beatty & Cheryl Ankrum
1/12 JoAnn Gustafson & Anna Bong
1/19 Jason & Jen Goad
1/26 Chris & Wendy Mitchell

Counters

1/5 Bev Mangan & Lori Bunge
1/12 Linda Newlon & Gladys Sievert
1/19 JoAnn Gustafson & Gene Bryant
1/26 Diana Davis & Mary Saarela

Coffee Serving Groups 2025

If you are in a group and can't be there to help, please find someone to fill your spot. Most of us are willing to help out. Thank you!

#1 Pat
Marv & Pat Durkee 384-3545
Rusty Buscko 269-7057
Tricia Hackensmith 384-9401
Kevin & Amy Olesen Family 391-6683

#2 Cary
JoAnn Gustafson 879-7063
Curt & Cary Martin Family 348-4146
George & Mary Saarela 393-2693

#3 Linda
Linda Newlon 879-6274
Debby Johnson 384-3360
Gene & Lorna Bryant 384-4691

#4 Deb's
Rod & Deb Davis 591-6486
Randy Schmitz & Lynn 393-2193
Terry & Sue Coady 940-5152
Renee Kesty 260-8891

#5 Renae
Renae House 591-5651
Paula Olson 390-8728
Craig & Roxanne Schmitz 590-3059

#6 Lori
Brad & Lori Bunge 380-2565
Jason, Jen & Mason Goad

#7 Jeanette
Dave & Lynn Beatty 591-7519
Lonnie & Jeanette Korpela 590-7347
Diana Davis 393-7324

8 Ginny
Carol Beckstrom 384-4114
Lew & Ginny Castle 384-3896
Chris & Wendy Mitchell 269-0825

Thank you to everyone who has been so willing to help serve coffee. You are very much appreciated. We started our coffee groups in 2018 and it seems to have been very successful! If you're not in a group yet and would like to help, please let me know. 393-2693. Thanks again, Mary.

Duluth Christmas Concert featuring Wonderstate
December 12 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm



Join Mn Adult & Teen Challenge for a Christmas Concert celebration! Hear clients share stories and songs of hope. The concert will be held on Thursday, December 12 from 7:00 – 8:00pm at Hermantown Community Church. Doors open 45 minutes prior to the concert. Please register online as seats are limited. **This is a free-will offering event!** Gather your family and friends and join us for an evening of festive songs and powerful testimonies. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to start the Christmas season with a night of joyful worship and celebration. The concert is free, but seating is limited, so please reserve your seats at www.mntc.org/event/duluth-christmas.

Bethesda Women's Retreat 2025
Wednesday, January 15 – Sunday, January 19
One Camp Heartland, Willow River, MN

Open to all women of Bethesda, River's Edge, and their friends!

Crafting area with tables | Fireplace with hearth for lounging | Snowshoe & ski trails (bring your own gear) | 9:30a Brunch & 5:30p Dinner

You will have your own bed (all bottom bunks depending on our numbers) with a bathroom in each bedroom. Bring your own linens, toiletries, snacks, beverages, games, extension cords, ott lights, iron/board (if sewing), etc.

\$50 per person (or I'm happy to take payment in full-less paperwork!!) Final payment due by January 3rd. If you cancel you will forfeit your deposit. Please print **CLEARLY**. Thanks and can't wait to spend time together.

Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

The cost is \$45 per day if you plan to sleep at camp OR \$25 if you attend just for the day. Meals are included, starting with dinner on Wednesday night.

I will be attending: Wednesday with overnight:	\$45	_____
Thursday day only:	\$25	_____
Thursday with overnight:	\$45	_____
Friday day only:	\$25	_____
Friday with overnight:	\$45	_____
Saturday day only:	\$25	_____
Saturday with overnight:	\$45	_____

Thank you to WELCA and Thrivent Financial for helping support retreat. Make check payable to WELCA and return this form to Ginny Korte-Castle 2175 Gillogly Rd. Carlton, MN 55718 vircastle@gmail.com 218-384-3896

Country Store and Holiday Sale December 7th

9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

515 Skyline Blvd. across from hospital



Fine handwork, quilts, plated cookies, pickles, jams, jellies, candies, breads, baked goods, soup mixes, Grab-and-go sandwiches.



December 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
<p>1</p> <p>8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge 12p Fish Fry at River's Edge</p>	2	<p>3</p> <p>5:30p CYFed. Meeting 6p Serenity Seekers</p>	4	5	6	7	
<p>8</p> <p>8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge 2:30p Interfaith Service</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p>9a Making Mats for the Homeless 9:30a Red Hat Club 6p Serenity Seekers</p>	11	12	13	14	
<p>15</p> <p>No Worship Service @ 8:30 or 10:30 10:30a Worship @ Rivers Edge Potluck to follow</p>	16	<p>17</p> <p>9a Making Mats for the Homeless 4:30p Worship Committee Mtg. 5:30p Council Meeting 6p Serenity Seekers</p>	18	19	20	21	
<p>22</p> <p>Baptismal Birthdays 8:30a Worship – Seth Currier Temple Talk 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge <u>Beacon Deadline</u></p>	23	<p>24</p> <p>3 & 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Services</p>	25	26	27	28	
<p>29</p> <p>8:30a Worship 9:45a Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30a Worship @ River's Edge</p>	30	<p>31</p> <p>9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers</p>					

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



Sunday Worship

8:30am

*In House
And Online*

*You can also view the Beacon
on our website at
bethesdacarlton.org or if you
would like to have a copy
mailed or emailed to you please
contact the office.*