

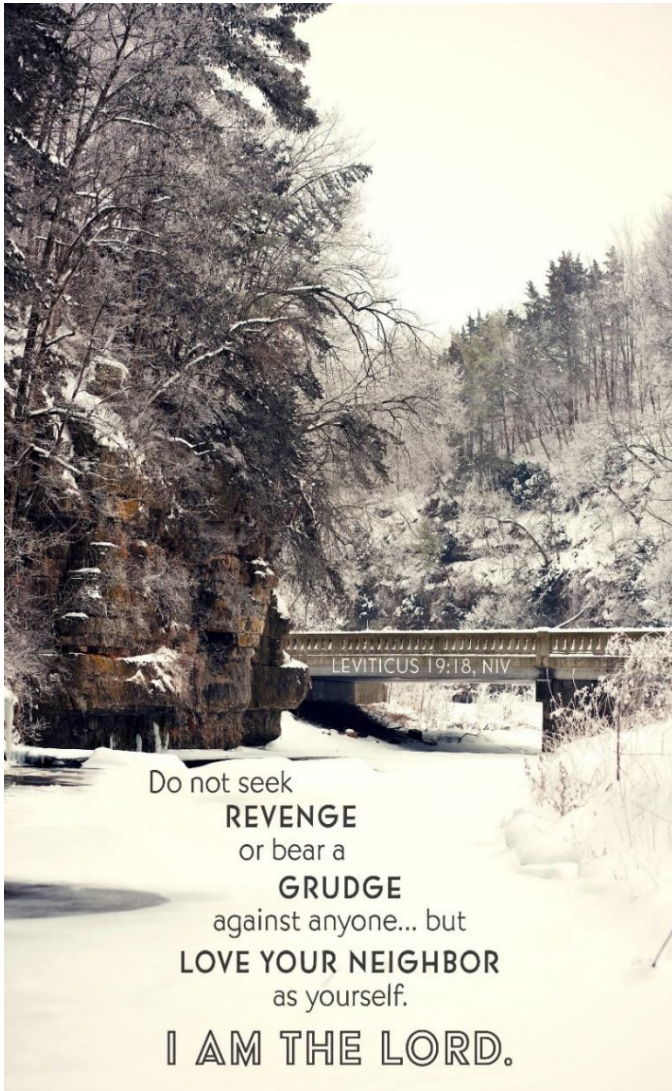
# **The Bethesda Beacon**

*Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN*

*204 5<sup>th</sup> St. P.O Box 210*

*Carlton, MN 55718*

*January 2025*



## **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](http://bethesdacarlton.org)

If you would like to have a copy  
emailed to you, please contact the  
office at [office@bethesdacarlton.org](mailto:office@bethesdacarlton.org)



## Music and Faith?

Why is music and singing so important to faith communities?

Did you know that there was a time when some churches didn't sing any "hymns"? In some parts of the church, the addition of music to regular worship services was quite controversial. Believe it or not, as late as the 1960's (if I remember the stories right), some churches fought and split over the issue of hymns versus Psalms!

Hard to believe, isn't it?

In one sense, music and faith don't HAVE to go together, right? You can have faith in Jesus and serve your neighbor without ever singing (or hearing) a single note. You don't have to sing Amazing Grace to believe in amazing grace.

And yet music, in almost every faith community across the world today, is instrumental (*please ignore this unintentional pun*) to communal worship.

So why is this?

Well, for one, music helps us worship. Going back to the time the Psalms were written, music was used in worship. There are references in the Psalms to King David playing a harp and stories of him dancing in the street. Psalm 150 is all about different instruments making a joyful noise to God. Music often expresses what we can't put into words –

joy, sorrow, and everything in between, and this helps us point our hearts towards God.

But I think there's something more to the connection between music and faith. Music also shapes us.

Have you ever tried to go to sleep with a song in your head? It can be tough to get it out, can't it? All kinds of songs can loop through our heads, for better or for worse.

If you've ever had a relative go through Alzheimer's or spent any time in a memory care unit, you probably have seen how music can bring people to life who otherwise can't communicate. Sometimes people will begin to sing along with songs even when they can't otherwise speak at all.

That's in part why I think music is important to faith, even when we're not musically gifted as individuals. The messages of good hymns and songs of praise get in to our hearts and our minds and help shape us in faith. This goes for old songs and new ones, too. So next time you get a good hymn stuck in your head after church – thank God for the gift of music!

I hope and pray that you and yours have a happy (and harmonious!) New Year.

*Pastor Seth Wynands*

**Annual Meeting**

January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.  
All committee reports are due in the office by January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**IFCC Service Reminder**

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

THANK YOU.... Because of your generous donations, Bethesda was able to send out over 25 food gift cards to help families have a wonderful Christmas celebration.

**BAZAAR 2024!!!**

I am happy to report that we had a very successful Bazaar this year. We made at least \$6300 which we will be using to help spread the love of Jesus to those in need in our community. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in any way to make this event successful.

If you were in charge of any activity for this event, please send detailed notes to me at your convenience.

Linda Newlon  
218-979-6274. [linnewl@aol.com](mailto:linnewl@aol.com)

**Bethesda's Women's Retreat**

January 15<sup>th</sup>-January 19<sup>th</sup>  
One Camp Heartland  
Willow River, MN

Please see registration forms on music stand next to the Beacon.

**Bethesda Staff**

Seth Wynands, Pastor

Phone: 424-337-0350

Email: [pastor@bethesdacarlton.org](mailto:pastor@bethesdacarlton.org)

Office Contact Information

Phone: 218-384-4501

Email: [office@bethesdacarlton.org](mailto:office@bethesdacarlton.org)

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](mailto:bethesdalutherancouncil@gmail.com)

Next Council Meeting will be held

January 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m

## Financial Update

Year to date as of 07/31/2024

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	90943.03	100833.37	(9890.34)
Non-pledged income	46712.26	35341.74	11370.52
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>137655.29</b>	<b>136175.11</b>	<b>1480.18</b>
Salaries/Compensation	88313.45	102813.20	(14499.75)
General Office Expenses	10086.49	10598.50	(512.01)
Utilities	12551.55	13479.51	(927.96)
Other Expenses	1231.82	1590.76	358.94
Benevolence Expenses	24779.04	26677.14	(1898.10)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	2265.75	3327.50	(1061.75)
Social Ministry	309.00	297.88	11.12
Worship Expenses	2013.04	2941.63	(928.59)
CYFM Expenses	1994.58	4395.38	(2400.80)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>119674.86</b>	<b>140452.73</b>	<b>(20777.87)</b>
<b>Net operating income</b>	<b>17980.43</b>	<b>(4277.62)</b>	<b>22258.05</b>

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.

### ***Changes to the Book/Article Study:***

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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Linda Newlon, 218-879-6274.

Social Ministry is continuing to collect winter jackets, boots, hats, mittens, scarfs and winter items for larger men.

## Member News



### **Celebrating January Baptismal Birthdays**

Lance Konietzko, Brit Simula, Dawn Sell, Brady Gordon, Emily Matlack, Tucker Kiehn, Phyllis Rousseau, Sandy Vernon, Everly Jahr, Jim Olson, John Holden, Karlie Balow, Natalie Lijewski, Scott Frederick, Jacob Anderson, Aaron Vick, Jason Ableiter, Julie Frederick, Brookelynn Sell, Brielle Simula, Blair Nygren, Aaron Schilla, Brandon Sell, Zariah Erikson, Jayson Grover, Jacob Anderson, Anton Sheda, Joshua Beatty, Nicole Kutzler, Evan McKeon & Betty Peterson.



Our hearts and prayers are with the family, friends, and all who knew and loved Marnie Emerson, a longtime member of Bethesda who passed away on November 26<sup>th</sup>. May God’s love surround you and provide you with strength, peace and comfort in the days ahead.

Prayers for the family of Marilyn Michog who passed away on



December 11<sup>th</sup>. She was a former member of Bethesda.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at Interfaith Care Center to pass out Christmas gift bags, Christmas cards and caroling in the hallways.

We had a total of 71 Christmas bags and cards that were distributed to the residents. Special thank you to Joel Soukkala, Annabelle Soukkala, Lauren Soukkala, Jackson Soukkala, Linda Newlon, Bev Mangan, Ailie Gustafson and JoAnn Gustafson.

It always warms your heart when you see their faces, knowing we could make their Christmas a little brighter this year.



Thank you to all who helped decorate the Christmas tree/ Sanctuary, all the Christmas Eve Volunteers and to those who brought Poinsettias for the Celebration of Christ's Birth.

I want to say Thank You to the following for their generous donation of handmade items for the bazaar:

- Lynn Beatty - (2 ) cat bags
- Lori Bunge - Christmas table runner
- Jeannette Korpela - homemade red bag
- Ginny Kortie- Castle - blue and green quilts
- Bev Mangan and Jen Goad - framed diamond sunflower picture
- Gladys Sievert -yellow bag

Winners of the items:

- Sarah L.-Cat bag
- Colleen Spicer-Cat bag
- Cindy Nelson-Table runner
- Bernie Howden-Red bag
- Rena House-Yellow bag
- Dawn Soukkala-Blue quilt
- JoAnn Gustafson-Green quilt
- Kim Payne-Sunflower picture

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets.

JoAnn Gustafson

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Next to New for the Bazaar from hauling items up from the basement, setting up tables, arranging everything, then packing up everything

at the end of the Bazaar. Some items went to the Damiano Center and were gone as soon as they were put out. Everything was hauled to the Thrift store in Cloquet.

Thank you to Alice Kloepfer for sending out Christmas cards to people who live far away and to our friends who can't get to church. People love getting these cards.

Thank you, Sharon Bragge

### **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!

### **Beacon Information CYFED – January 2025**

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

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." Our 1<sup>st</sup> Fellowship get together will be on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 5:30 in

the gathering space. Hope to see you there!!

Thank you to Diana Davis for all the Advent online bible studies. Each morning, she posted scripture readings, insights and a question for discussion. This online bible study was a great way to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Christmas exploring the themes of hope, peace, joy and love!

The All-Youth Gathering was held on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. We had 4 youth from Bethesda, 1 from another church and 2 chaperones attend. It was a wonderful experience for all. Thank you to our chaperones Wendy Mitchell and Mark Saari.

The Family Advent party for the youth and parents was held on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM. There were a total of 16 youth and adults. The night consisted of IFCC and Foster kid's welcome boxes, supper, prayer, and BINGO.

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

Stewardship class will be in the spring of 2025.

VLM wants to do a camp in Cloquet in 2025. 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!

Completed confirmation classes for 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade youth. Faith Partners for grades 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> will start on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

CYFED sent out 14 Christmas cards to our youth pre-k through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Our youth went to Interfaith Care Center on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> to pass out Christmas bags, cards and sing Christmas songs to the residents. Thank you to everyone who joined us to make their Christmas a little brighter.

The next CYFED meeting will be held on **TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025, 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.

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

**\*\*\*January 5<sup>th</sup>** – J.A.M. – Jesus and Me

**\*\*\*January 12<sup>th</sup>** – message with Pastor Seth

**\*\*\*January 19<sup>th</sup>** - J.A.M. – Jesus and Me

**\*\*\*January 26<sup>th</sup>** – message with Pastor Seth



## **FEBRUARY 2025 SCHEDULE FOR J.A.M./ MESSAGE**

**\*\*\*February 2nd** – J.A.M. – Jesus and Me

**\*\*\*February 9th** – message with Pastor Seth

**\*\*\*February 16th** - J.A.M. – Jesus and Me

**\*\*\*February 23rd** – message with Pastor Seth



### **Attention Thrivent Members:**

Thrivent members have access to Thrivent Choice dollars. This is not the same as the seed monies

benefit . You decide which qualifying organization(s) will receive a portion of your current years allocated “Choice Dollars”. The amount varies per member, per year. Questions, please contact your Thrivent agent. It is important that you review your allocated choice each year so you don’t miss out on this benefit.



### **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



### February Coffee Serving Schedule

2/2 Cary's Group  
2/9 Linda's Group  
2/16 Deb's Group  
2/23 Renae's Group

### Greeters

2/2 Ginny Korte-Castle  
2/9 Lori Bunge  
2/16 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie  
2/23 Rod & Deb Davis

### Ushers

2/2 Mary Saarela & Sharon Bragge  
2/9 Cheryl Ankrum & Pat Durkee  
2/16 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie  
2/23 Terry & Sue Coady

### Lector

2/2 Ginny Korte-Castle  
2/9 Randy Schmitz  
2/16 Lynn Beatty  
2/23 Kevein Conley

### Acolyte

2/2 Anna  
2/9 Ailie  
2/16 Mason  
2/23 Anna

### Communion Assistants

2/2 JoAnn Gustafson & Anna Bong  
2/9 JoAnn Gustafson & Anna Bong  
2/16 Jason & Jen Goad  
2/23 Mary Saarela & Linda Newlon

### Counters

2/2 Chris Mitchell & Bev Mangan  
2/9 Lori Bunge & Gladys Sievert  
2/16 Lynn Beatty & Diana Davis  
2/23 Gene Bryant & Linda Newlon



(Quilt: We Are the Sheep of His Pasture)

Dear Friends in Christ—quilters, crafters, woodworkers, and those who love all things handcrafted

This letter is to update you about the 2025 Northeastern Minnesota Quilt and Marketplace Auction for World Hunger. As you may remember we did not have a Quilt Auction or Marketplace at the 2024 Synod Assembly due to the Assembly being completely virtual.

However, the Quilt Auction and Marketplace will be back for the 2025 Synod Assembly!!

Here is what we know so far:

- The In-person Synod Assembly will be May 3-4, 2025 at Breezy Point near Brainerd.
- We plan to have on-line bidding starting a few days before the Assembly. On-line bidding has helped us reach a larger audience and also makes the “bookkeeping” end of the auction much easier.
- Quilts and Marketplace items will be displayed at the Assembly and posted on the bidding website.
- Some Marketplace items will be available for point of sale at the Assembly.
- Specific information for submitting items and uploading information to the Auction website will be sent out in March.
- Look for continued information about the Auction in the Synod Information Packet and on the Synod website and Facebook page

Since the first year of the Quilt Auction in 1999 and the addition of the Marketplace a few years later, nearly \$300,000 has been raised for World Hunger. This could not have been done without the many talented quilters and artisans who have shared their gifts so that others might be fed. So as you hunker down this winter, please consider working on an item to donate.

If you have questions, please contact Amy Loken at 218-391-4260 or Marybeth Jacob at 218-830-0355 or email at [marybeth.jacob56@gmail.com](mailto:marybeth.jacob56@gmail.com)

Blessings

The Quilt Auction and Marketplace Team

P.S. We are looking for volunteers during the Synod Assembly to help set up and take down. Let us know if you can help!

# January 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 <b>1pm</b> Jam Group	3 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	4
5 <b>8:30am</b> Worship Jesus and Me (J.A.M) - Fellowship Hall <b>9:45am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship <b>10:30a</b> Worship @ River's Edge	6	7 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>5:30p</b> CYFed. Meeting <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	8 <b>6pm</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class 4th & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Grow in Faith	9	10 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	11 <b>10am</b> Visitation for Marnie Emerson <b>11am</b> Funeral for Marnie Emerson Luncheon to follow
12 <b>8:30am</b> Worship/ Children's Message <b>9:45am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship <b>10:30a</b> Worship @ River's Edge <b>2:30pm</b> Interfaith Worship Service @ IFCC	13	14 <b>9am</b> Making Homeless Mats <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers <b>7pm</b> Session Meeting @Rivers Edge	15 Women's Retreat <b>6pm</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class 4th & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Grow in Faith	16 Women's Retreat <b>1pm</b> Jam Group <b>5:30pm</b> Ladies of Kaleva Meeting	17 Women's Retreat  <b>11am</b> Bible Study	18 Women's Retreat
19 Women's Retreat <b>8:30am</b> Worship/ J.A.M <b>9:45am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship <b>10:30a</b> Worship @ River's Edge	20	21 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>4:30pm</b> Worship Committee Meeting <b>5:30pm</b> Council Meeting <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	22 <b>6pm</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class 4th & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Grow in Faith	23	24 Martin Wedding Set- up <b>11am</b> Bible Study	25 Martin Wedding
26 <b>8:30am</b> Worship/ Children's Message <b>9:45am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship <b>10:30a</b> Worship @ River's Edge	27	28 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>5pm</b> Book Study/Potluck <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	29 <b>6pm</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class 4th & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Grow in Faith	30 <b>1pm</b> Jam Group	31 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	

Bethesda Lutheran Church  
204 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://bethesdacarlton.org) or if you  
would like to have a copy  
mailed or emailed to you please  
contact the office.*

