

The Bethesda Beacon

*Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN
204 5th St. P.O Box 210
Carlton, MN 55718
February 2025*

Turn my
HEART
toward
YOUR
statutes.
Psalm
119:36,
NIV

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



Words of Affirmation

Years ago, I spent a couple of summers as a camp counselor at a Lutheran summer camp. I worked mostly with middle schoolers, and we'd spend the week playing, swimming, singing, doing bible study, and all the other things kids get to do at camp.

However, spending every hour of every day with a group of 13-year-old boys can be, well, challenging! And every week, without fail, there would be a moment when I would get frustrated or angry.

It was partly for this reason that I was so grateful for what came at the end of the week. On Thursday night, at the last campfire before the kids went home the next day, we would do "Affirmations". The counselors would go sit in the trees on a piece of carpet while the kids sang songs around the campfire with the song leaders. Then each kid would go up to their counselor, who would give them an "Affirmation" – meaning a few words about who the kid was and what their God-given gifts were.

Perhaps you can imagine what this was like. From my perspective, it was a lot of pressure! It meant that I needed to know each middle schooler well, to learn their gifts and be prepared to affirm who they were. I was always so

grateful when the Spirit gave me the words to say when I was at a loss for words!

But from the campers' perspective, these Affirmations resonated deeply. Often the cabin groups, whether boys or girls, would be in tears as they walked back to the campfire. I've talked to campers who still remembered years (or decades) later the things that their counselor told them in their Affirmation.

It's so rare to hear positive messages about ourselves, and so common to hear the negative ones. Negative messages spill out so easily when we feel stressed, angry, or afraid.

That's why it's so precious when we do hear words of affirmation, and so important to share them with others. Sometimes, sharing a positive word of affirmation about a young person, a friend, or a coworker can be the most impactful thing we ever do for them.

It has been said that every person, no matter their age or stage of life, needs at least 6 affirmations for every put-down they receive.

This is also one of the reasons we end each Sunday worship service with a blessing: so that, if nothing else, we at least hear words of affirmation and blessing.

Would you share a word of affirmation with someone this week?

And, I hope you'll hear and embrace this message today:

You are blessed and good, and God loves you, no matter what.

Pastor Seth Wynands

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.*

Our first Break Bread Together potluck was held on Tuesday, January 28th at 5:30 PM. We had 18 people in attendance with food and conversation.

Our next Break Bread Together potluck will be on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 5:30 PM in the gathering space. Come and join us for a Community meal with great conversation with your neighbors. All are welcome to join us!

The Meatball Supper is planned for mid March or mid April. More to follow. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Davis at 218-591-6486 or JoAnn Gustafson at 218-348-2560. Thank you!

Bethesda Staff

Seth Wynands, Pastor

Phone: 424-337-0350

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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

Jeannette KorpelaTreasurer

Diana Davis

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

February 18th at 5:30 p.m

Financial Update

Year to date as of 12/31/2024

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	97775.03	110000.00	(12224.97)
Non-pledged income	47153.38	38100.00	9053.38
TOTAL INCOME	144928.41	148100.00	(3171.59)
Salaries/Compensation	93777.70	111450.00	(17672.30)
General Office Expenses	11125.96	11562.00	(436.04)
Utilities	13458.58	14705.00	(1246.42)
Other Expenses	2243.93	1690.00	(553.93)
Benevolence Expenses	977.50	1100.00	(122.50)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	2884.38	3630.00	(745.62)
Social Ministry	339.00	325.00	14.00
Worship Expenses	2067.86	3075.00	(1007.14)
CYFM Expenses	2853.96	4795.00	(1941.04)
TOTAL EXPENSES	129728.87	152332.00	(22603.13)
Net operating income	15199.54	(4232.00)	19431.54

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.

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

Social Ministry will also be hosting coffee in support of Camp on February 16th.

Member News



February Baptismal Birthdays

Carol Beckstrom, Johanna Bernu, Karter Davis, Kenzie Davis, Kenley Olson, Marilyn Michog, Anna Kiehl, Trent Olson, Wayne Olson, Lori Bunge, Jordan Thompson, Alena Wallin, Cora Ostby, Brad Nygren, Gregory Emerson, Randy Schmitz, Michelle Schleret, Amber Kantonen, Brock House, Linnea Harris, Brianna Despot, Aurora Graves, Jaxon Graves, Madison Graves, Alice Kloepfer, Floyd Aubol, Katie Pille, Ambrielle Mazzitello, Amy Mattson, Jennifer Redowl, Deborah Johnson, Carol Chalberg, Keith Isakson & Rebecca House.

Thank you from the funeral committee for the set-up, prepping and cooking food, serving and clean-up and baking bars for Marnie Emerson's celebration of life service. Our congregation is a wonderful blessing!

Thank you to George and Mary Saarela for bringing the donations that have been collected to the Damiano Center and to Gladys for making a display sign collection mittens and gloves. We will continue to collect all winter.



Our hearts and prayers are with the family, friends, and all who knew and loved Marilyn Estrem, a former member of Bethesda who passed away on December 26th and to the families

of Lonnie Korpela, Renee Kesty and Duane Soukkala in the loss of their uncle Glenn Solomon, to Dick and Patsy Nygren in the loss of his sister, Mary Baxley, to Amber Kantonen and family in the loss of her stepmom Mary Kantonen and to Chris and Mary Marciniak and family in the loss of his mom Carol Marciniak. 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!

Beacon Information CYFED – January 2025

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.

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 1st 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 23rd. 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 14th 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.

4th & 5th grade Grow in Faith will be held on Wednesday, January 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th 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 6th – 9th grade youth. Faith Partners for grades 6th-10th will start on March 5th.

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

Our youth went to Interfaith Care Center on Sunday, December 22nd 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, FEBRUARY 4TH, 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.

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



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

*****March 2nd** – J.A.M. – Jesus and Me

*****March 9th** – message with Pastor Seth

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

*****March 23rd** – message with Pastor Seth

*****March 30th** – J.A.M. – Jesus and Me



Beacon Information CYFED – February 2025

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.

Our first Break Bread Together potluck will be on Tuesday, January 28th at 5:30 PM. All are welcome to join us! We will be doing 2 more potlucks on Tuesday, February 25th and March 25th.

Faith Partners' orientation will be on Thursday, February 27th at 6:00 for approx. 45 minutes.

Faith Partners for grades 6-10th will begin on Wednesday, March 5th at 6:00.

4th & 5th grade Grow in Faith started Wednesday, January 8th and will run for 4 weeks.

Stewardship class will be in the spring of 2025.

Andrea from VLM will be meeting on March 12, 2025, from 6-7:30 PM to talk to the kids about camp. Bethesda would like to do a day camp. There will be a camp in 2025 in Cloquet. More to follow.

***Synod Ministry night is re-scheduled for Wednesday, **APRIL 9, 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!

Early registration for camp is now open. When early, early bird registration ends, then early bird registration will begin. We currently have 2 kids signed up to go. VLM has a new payment plan they will be rolling out. Memorial and Endowment will continue sponsoring \$250.00 campership.

The next CYFED meeting will be held on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 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.



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

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

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



March Coffee Serving Schedule

3/2 Lori's Group
3/9 Jeannette's Group
3/16 Ginny's Group
3/23 Pat's Group
3/30 Cary's Group

Greeters

3/2 Pat & Marv Durkee
3/9 Ryan Swanson
3/16 Joann Gustafson & Ailie
3/23 Debby Johnson
3/30 Rod & Deb Davis

Lector

3/2 Cheryl Ankrum
3/9 Roxane Schmitz
3/16 Diana Davis
3/23 Linda Newlon
3/30 Lynn Beatty

Acolyte

3/2 Anna
3/9 Ailie
3/16 Mason
3/23 Anna
3/30 Ailie

Communion Assistants

3/2 Lynn Beatty & Pat Durkee
3/9 JoAnn Gustafson & Anna Bong
3/16 Jason & Jen Goad
3/23 Chris & Wendy Mitchell
3/30 JoAnn Gustafson & Anna

Ushers

3/2 Debby Johnson & Mary Saarela
3/9 Craig & Roxane Schmitz
3/16 Joann Gustafson & Ailie
3/23 Terry & Sue Coady
3/30 Sharon Bragge & Cheryl Ankrum

Counters

3/2 Lynn Beatty & JoAnn Gustafson
3/9 Mary Saarela & Gladys Sievert
3/16 Diana Davis & Lori Bunge
3/23 Chris Mitchell & Linda Newlon
3/30 Gene Bryant & Bev Mangan



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

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!

February 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 8:30am Worship guest preacher Taryn Montgomery 9:45am Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am Worship @ River's Edge	3	4 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 5:30pm CYFed. Meeting 6pm Serenity Seekers	5 6pm 10 th Grade Confirmation	6	7 11am Bible Study	8
9 8:30am Worship 9:45am Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am Worship @ River's Edge 2:30pm Interfaith Service	10	11 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 6pm Serenity Seekers	12 6pm 10 th Grade Confirmation	13 1pm Jam Group	14 11am Bible Study	15
16 8:30am Worship J.A.M 9:45am Coffee for Camp/Fellowship WELCA Meeting	17	18 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 4pm Worship Committee Meeting 5:30pm Council Meeting 6pm Serenity Seekers	19 6pm 10 th Grade Confirmation	20 5:30pm Ladies of Kaleva	21 9am Fellowship Hall in Use~Pat Durkee 11am Bible Study	22 Beacon Deadline 9am Fellowship Hall in Use~Pat Durkee
23 8:30am Worship Baptismal Birthdays 9:45am Coffee/Fellowship	24	25 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 6pm Serenity Seekers	26 6pm 10 th Grade Confirmation	27 1pm Jam Group	28 11am Bible Study	29

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Sunday Worship
8:30am
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