

# **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  
March 2025*



“THE LORD WILL  
FIGHT FOR YOU;  
YOU NEED ONLY  
TO BE STILL.”

EXODUS 14:14, 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](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)

## Unhappy Happy Things?

What makes you *happy*?

You've probably got at least a few answers to this question. Maybe a good book or a new episode of your favorite show. Maybe a cup of coffee or a bowl of ice cream. Maybe time spent alone, or maybe time spent with a good friend.

I certainly like most of these things! But what I sometimes puzzle over is: why do things like this sometimes also make us unhappy?

Consider, for a moment: pretend you've got a brand-new tv show that you love. And there's 15 of it, but the only way you're allowed to watch it is that you have to watch it all at once – once you start, you can't leave your house or do anything else outside!

Would you do it?

Some of us probably thing – heck yes! A whole day to stay in and watch a great show?? Sign me up!! But there's probably some hesitation, even for those who would sign up for this challenge. Because think of how you'd feel at the end of that day! Stiff, empty, and more than a little bit cranky.

Why might this be?? If a good TV show makes us happy, why doesn't a whole day of a good tv show make us extra happy?

Well, clearly, there can be too much of a good thing.

Chocolate is amazing, but too much chocolate gives us a stomach ache.

But I think there's something else at play here. A whole day, forced to be inside and forced to watch someone else's life or someone else's story, disconnects us from the world around us and even from ourselves.

I recently heard an author say that religion, even if it isn't true, does all these amazing things for us who participate in it. It gives us deep, authentic community; it offers us purpose and meaning; and it helps us understand our story and our identity.

And, to be sure, we can and do get some version of these things in other ways or places. We can make friends social clubs or sports, we can find purpose through a job or with family, we can find identity in politics or hobbies. But nothing offers us the depth of community, purpose, and identity that religion can. And maybe religion works so well for the most important things in life because there's deep truth within it – for Christians, the truth that God has made us, and that God wants to be in relationship with us.

So maybe that's part of why something that makes us happy in the moment doesn't always make us happy in the long run: because, ultimately, we are made to be in relationship with God, and knowing God means engaging in all these good things that God has made for us outside: meaningful community, meaningful purpose, meaningful living. Thanks be to God!

*May you be blessed, challenged, and strengthened this Lenten season.*

*-Pastor Seth*

The Meatball Supper is planned for the fall. 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!

### **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.*

### **THE LUTHERAN COURSE**

Sundays, March 2-April 14

9:45 AM-11:30 AM

Bethesda Lutheran Church,  
Carlton, MN

Informal learning and conversation to explore:

- \*What do Lutherans really believe?
- \*Who the heck was Martin Luther?
- \*Law and Gospel
- \*Baptism
- \*Communion
- \*Jesus, The Bible, Evangelism

**Great for new Lutherans, old Lutherans, and any one in-between!**  
**Text Ginny at 218-384-3896 or Diana 218-393-7324**

**by Feb. 28 to register. No charge.**

Lutheran Course Insert 3, © 2005 Augsburg Fortress.

### **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

Diana Davis ..... Secretary

Jeannette Korpela .....Treasurer

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

March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m

| <b>Financial Update</b>                                                                                             |                 |                 |                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Year to date as of 01/31/2025                                                                                       |                 |                 |                                |
|                                                                                                                     | <b>Actual</b>   | <b>Budget</b>   | <b>Over/(Under)<br/>Budget</b> |
| Envelope giving                                                                                                     | 10876.00        | 110000.00       | (99124.00)                     |
| Non-pledged income                                                                                                  | 2305.72         | (98379.17)      | 100684.89                      |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                                                                                 | <b>13181.72</b> | <b>11620.83</b> | <b>1560.89</b>                 |
| Salaries/Compensation                                                                                               | 7247.48         | 8956.88         | (1709.40)                      |
| General Office Expenses                                                                                             | 952.69          | 1121.33         | (168.64)                       |
| Utilities                                                                                                           | 1325.64         | 989.25          | 336.39                         |
| Other Expenses                                                                                                      | 92.11           | 113.33          | 21.22                          |
| Benevolence Expenses                                                                                                | 108.76          | 87.50           | 21.26                          |
| Evangelism Expenses                                                                                                 | 0.00            | 0.00            | 0.00                           |
| Property Expenses                                                                                                   | 443.09          | 250.01          | 193.08                         |
| Social Ministry                                                                                                     | 30.00           | 28.33           | 1.67                           |
| Worship Expenses                                                                                                    | 0.00            | 77.50           | (77.50)                        |
| CYFM Expenses                                                                                                       | 0.00            | 414.16          | (414.16)                       |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                                                                                               | <b>10199.77</b> | <b>12038.29</b> | <b>(1838.52)</b>               |
| <b>Net operating income</b>                                                                                         | <b>2981.95</b>  | <b>(417.46)</b> | <b>3399.41</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.                                                         |                 |                 |                                |

Member News



**Celebrating March  
Baptismal Birthdays**

Tanner Anderson, Blu Bong, Brock Peterson, Karson Davis, Kennedy Davis, Darlene Godbout, Bridger McCorison, Cecelia Moench, Karen Johnson, Deanna Wallin, Audrey Lokken, Brian Allen, Jared Kelley, Jason Peterson, Pastor Seth Wynands, Emily Hanson, Macguier Thorman, Sullivan Kiehn, Jonathon Radtke, Paul Sell, Jason Goad, Harlow Lekander-Karsiko, Ruth Olson, Jayden Swanson, Toni Vanguilder, & Daniel Wakefield

***Changes to the Book/Article Study:***  
 “Break Bread Together Fellowship.”  
 We will be having fellowship along with a reading from the Daily Devotional followed by discussion. We will meet again March 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Linda Newlon, 218-879-6274.

**Save The Date:**  
 God’s Work, God’s Hands  
 Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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



Our hearts and prayers are with Daryl, Linda & Anna Bong in the passing of Daryl’s brother, Dale, on January 27<sup>th</sup>. To Becki, Weston & Dylan Stradtman in the passing of their husband and father John who died on February 11<sup>th</sup>. To the family of Phyllis Zoltek who passed away on February 13<sup>th</sup>. To Cookie & Jim Jaakola and the Hubbell family in the loss of their sister. May God’s love surround you each of you and provide you with strength, peace and comfort in the days ahead.



### ***Lenten Services:***

March 12<sup>th</sup>-April 16<sup>th</sup>

Mid-Week Lenten Services at 6:00 p.m. followed by a light meal. We are looking for volunteers to bring soup or whatever you would like to make to share. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Any questions please see Sharon Bragge.

Ash Wednesday Service  
6:00 p.m at River's Edge

Maundy Thursday Service  
April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.  
at Bethesda

Good Friday Service  
April 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.  
At River's Edge

Palm Sunday Service  
April 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m at Bethesda  
and 10:30 a.m. at River's Edge

**Prayerfully consider where you may  
be able to help on**

**Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**"We are the CHURCH Together!"**

Lay Ministry Volunteers Needed:  
Acolyte, Crucifix Holder, 2 Ushers,

Lectors, 2 Greeters, 2  
Communion Assistants, 2 Counters,  
and Communion Clean Up.

The sign up sheets will be on the Stand  
in the Narthex by March 2, 2025. If  
you have any questions, contact Pat  
Durkee, 218-269-6052. Thank you for  
your willingness to serve.

Easter Garden: Providing an Easter  
Lily or Spring Flowers.

Please let the office know by April  
14<sup>th</sup> if you are bringing a plant  
and who it is in "Honor  
of" or "Memory of" and have your  
plant at the Church between 9am  
to 11am on Sat., April 19th.

Let's fill the Sanctuary with lots of  
beautiful plants to add to the Beauty of  
Christ's Resurrection!!

Thank you, Pat

### **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.

## 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 – March 2025**

The 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.

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

Please join us for a potluck Breaking Bread Together on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:30 PM. This is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbor, while enjoying a meal together. We also read the Daily Bread at each table. This is a community dinner and all are welcome to attend.

Ginny Kortie-Castle joined our meeting to discuss doing The Lutheran Course as a way to strengthen the church. After some discussion, it was decided to hold the class on Sundays, March 2-April 13, 9:45 AM-11:30 AM, informal learning and conversation to explore. This is great for new Lutherans, old Lutherans, and any one in-between! Text Ginny at 218-384-3896 or Diana 218-393-7324 by Feb. 28 to register. No charge.

Bethesda has had four baptisms this past year. CYFED has been investigating possible faith formation programs for families with children birth to pre-K. CYFED presented Frolic: Little Steps, Big Faith to four of our families. They were interested in some of the components, the

personalized monthly newsletters that share developmental information and age-appropriate faith formation ideas, board books, and if possible (with their busy lives') occasional gatherings with other young Christian parents.

CYFED will ask WELCA for the start-up funds to purchase copies of these newsletters that could be distributed monthly to the families, 16 board books, and two different birth-pre-K faith music CDs to trial and share with families. The overall cost will be \$200. We look forward to meeting the needs of our littlest congregation members.

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

Stewardship class will be in the spring of 2025.

The Tri-Parish Confirmation Winter Retreat will be held on February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> for grades 8<sup>th</sup> \* & 9<sup>th</sup> .

Andrea from VLM will be holding a Camp Themed Wednesday Worship 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!

Faith Partner orientation was held on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 6:45 PM.

Faith Partners will be meeting on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, which is Ash Wednesday.

Early registration for camp is now open. When the 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, MARCH 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.

## 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



## APRIL 2025 SCHEDULE FOR J.A.M./ MESSAGE

\*\*\***April 6<sup>th</sup>** – J.A.M. – Jesus and Me

\*\*\***April 13<sup>th</sup>** – message with Pastor Seth

\*\*\***April 20<sup>th</sup>** - J.A.M. – Jesus and Me

\*\*\***April 27<sup>th</sup>** – message with Pastor Seth



Spring Gatherings

WELCA

Kettle River Conference

Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> 8:30

Mora, MN



### 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

### 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

### Communion Assistants

3/2 Lynn Beatty & Pat Durkee

3/9 JoAnn Gustafson & Anna

3/16 Jason & Jen Goad

3/23 Chris & Wendy Mitchell

3/30 JoAnn Gustafson & Anna

### 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

**Lector**

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

**Acolyte**

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



**April**  
**Coffee Serving Schedule**

**4/6** Linda's Group  
**4/13** Deb's Group  
**4/20** Renae's Group  
**4/27** Lori's Group

**Greeters/Ushers**

**4/6** Mary Saarela & Debby Johnson  
**4/13** Craig & Roxane Schmitz  
**4/20** Easter Sunday  
**4/27** Rod & Deb Davis

**Lector**

**4/6** Ginny Korte-Castle  
**4/13** Lynn Beatty  
**4/20** Easter Sunday  
**4/27** Wendy Mitchell

**Acolyte**

**4/6** Anna  
**4/13** Ailie  
**4/20** Easter Sunday  
**4/27** Anna

**Communion Assistants**

**4/6** Pat Durkee & JoAnn Gustafson  
**4/13** JoAnn Gustafson & Anna  
**4/20** Easter Sunday  
**4/27** Linda Newlon & Sharon Bragge

**Counters**

**4/6** Gladys Sievert & Diana Davis  
**4/13** Lynn Beatty & Lori Bunge  
**4/20** Easter Sunday  
**4/27** Chris Mitchell & Linda Newlon



**2025 EcoFaith Summit of the Upper Midwest: *Earth's Cries, Earth's Call: Becoming Midwives of Hope for the Healing of Creation:***

Saturday, April 5, 9:30am - 5:00pm, First Lutheran Church in Duluth and Online. The day includes impactful speakers, action-oriented engagement sessions, vibrant worship, inspiring art, table exhibits, and networking time to equip disciples in congregations, camps, campuses and communities to respond to God's call in the cries of Creation.

To register and for more information including a carpool discount, free registration under age 30 and free childcare provided: [ecofaithnetwork.org/ecofaith-summit-2025](https://ecofaithnetwork.org/ecofaith-summit-2025)

**EcoFaith Team**

**Rev. Beth Pottratz, EcoFaith Network Communication Coordinator**

Subscribe to the [Green Blades Rising Newsletter](#)

Learn more at [ecofaithnetwork.org](https://ecofaithnetwork.org) or find us on [Facebook](#)

# March 2025

| SUN                                                                                                                                                                                    | MON | TUE                                                                                                                                                                                                        | WED                                                                                                                   | THU                                                | FRI                                 | SAT                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                        |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                       |                                                    |                                     | 1                                         |
| <b>2</b><br><b>8:30am</b><br>Worship<br><b>9:45am</b><br>Coffee/<br>Fellowship<br>Lutheran Course<br><b>10:30am</b><br>Worship @<br>River's Edge                                       | 3   | <b>4</b><br><b>9am</b><br>Making Mats for<br>the Homeless<br><b>5:30pm</b><br>CYFEd. Meeting<br><b>6pm</b><br>Serenity Seekers                                                                             | <b>5</b><br><b>6p</b><br>Ash Wednesday<br>Service @<br>River's Edge                                                   | 6                                                  | <b>7</b><br><b>11a</b> Bible Study  | <b>8</b><br><b>10a</b><br>Council Retreat |
| <b>9</b><br><b>8:30am</b><br>Worship<br><b>9:45am</b><br>Coffee/<br>Fellowship<br>Lutheran Course<br><b>10:30am</b><br>Worship @ River's<br>Edge<br><b>2:30p</b><br>Interfaith Service | 10  | <b>11</b><br><b>9a</b> Making Mats<br>for the Homeless<br><b>6p</b> Serenity<br>Seekers                                                                                                                    | <b>12</b><br><b>6p</b><br>Lenten Worship-<br>Camp with<br>Andrea from<br>VLM<br><b>6:30p</b><br>Faith Partner<br>Time | <b>13</b><br><b>1p</b> Jam Group                   | <b>14</b><br><b>11a</b> Bible Study | 15                                        |
| <b>16</b><br><b>8:30am</b><br>Worship<br><b>9:45am</b><br>Coffee/<br>Fellowship<br>Lutheran Course<br><b>10:30am</b><br>Worship @<br>River's Edge                                      | 17  | <b>18</b><br><b>9a</b><br>Making Mats for the<br>Homeless<br><b>4:30p</b> Worship<br>Committee Mtg.<br><b>5:30p</b> Council Mtg.<br><b>6p</b> Serenity Seekers<br><b>6:15p</b><br>Joint Council<br>Meeting | <b>19</b><br><b>6p</b><br>Lenten Worship<br><b>6:30p</b><br>Faith Partner<br>Time                                     | <b>20</b><br><b>5:30p</b> Ladies of<br>Kaleva Mtg. | <b>21</b><br><b>11a</b> Bible Study | <b>22</b><br>Beacon Deadline              |
| <b>23</b> <b>8:30am</b><br>Worship<br><b>9:45am</b><br>Coffee/<br>Fellowship<br>Lutheran Course<br><b>10:30am</b><br>Worship @<br>River's Edge                                         | 24  | <b>25</b><br><b>9a</b><br>Making Mats for<br>the Homeless<br><b>5:30p</b><br>Break Bread<br>Together<br><b>6p</b> Serenity<br>Seekers                                                                      | <b>26</b><br><b>6p</b><br>Lenten Worship<br><b>6:30p</b><br>Faith Partner<br>Time                                     | <b>27</b><br><b>1p</b> Jam Group                   | <b>28</b><br><b>11a</b> Bible Study | 29                                        |
| <b>30</b><br><b>8:30am</b><br>Worship<br><b>9:45am</b><br>Coffee/<br>Fellowship<br>Lutheran Course<br><b>10:30am</b><br>Worship @<br>River's Edge                                      | 31  |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                       |                                                    |                                     |                                           |

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.*

