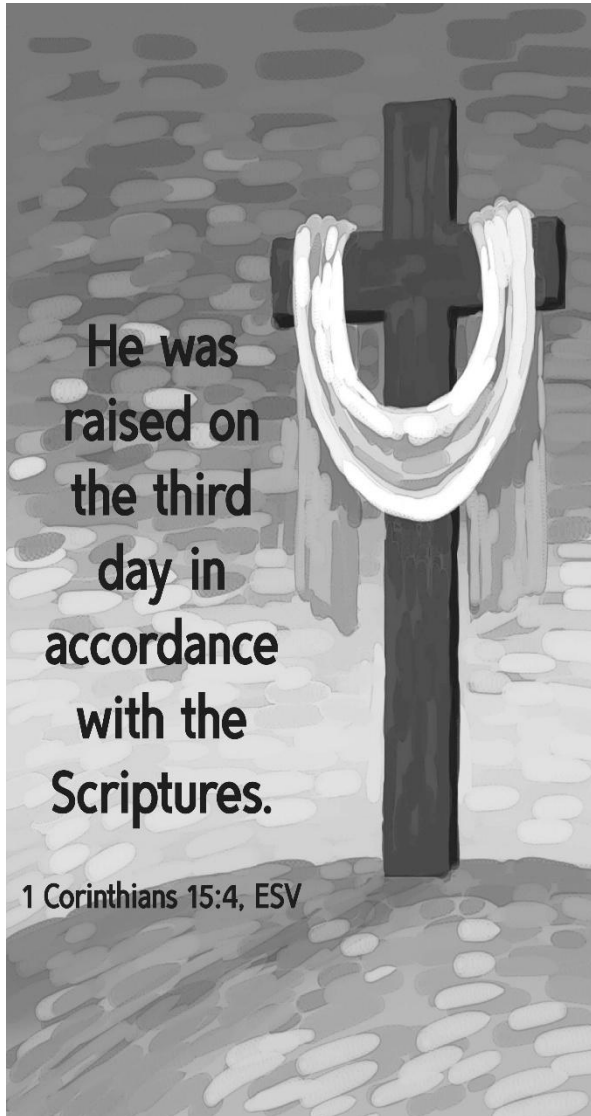


The Bethesda Beacon

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

If you would like to have a copy emailed to you, please contact the office at office@bethesdacarlton.org



Holy Week

What is Holy Week, and why does it matter?

Holy Week is, for some, just another week. A few days off from school, perhaps a family meal, maybe a sign of spring.

For Christians, though, Holy Week is truly **the heart of our faith.**

For Christians, Holy Week is undoubtedly the most important week of the year. The most important in Scripture take place during Holy Week, just like they did Holy Week:

- On Palm Sunday, Jesus enters Jerusalem, to a great crowd of people
- On Maundy Thursday, Jesus gave the Lord's Supper and washed the disciples' feet.
- On Good Friday, Jesus was arrested, tried, and was put to death.
- On Easter Vigil Saturday, Jesus lay dead but all of creation awaited his return.
- On Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead, and the women saw him alive again!

And all this happens in just seven short days.

Anyone who has ever had a brush with illness or heartbreak knows that life tastes different after you've tasted pain and loss. Holy Week is the same way. The stories and themes of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are sometimes dark or challenging. But whenever we try to skip over the tough stuff, the Easter message becomes just a feel-good story, without depth or meaning.

The story of Christ, though, is not false hope or shallow feel-good propaganda. The hope of Christ is found on the *other side* of the grave. **Christ lived like we live, Christ died like we die, and Christ lives again, so that we too might live.**

And the story we tell, from Palm Sunday through Easter morning, is ultimately a beautiful, hopeful story. It starts with celebration and fear, moves into Christ's command to serve and love, and then careens towards Calvary – the ultimate act of Christ's love and service.

I encourage you to make time to mark Holy Week this year, whether you're traveling or home. It will deepen your faith; it will help you grow in your relationship with God; and it will remind you of why we believe in Jesus in the first place. Thanks be to God!

I pray that you and yours have a blessed Lent, a good Holy Week, and a joyful Easter!

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.*

THE LUTHERAN COURSE

Continues Sundays, April 6th-April 13
9:45 AM-11:30 AM

Saturday April 26th at 5:30 p.m.

Agape Meal

Sunday April 27th at 8:30 a.m.

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday May 4th

Joint Worship Service at River's Edge
at 10:30 with New Wine performing

May 17th at 6 p.m.
Graduation Dinner

May 18th at 8:30 a.m.
Graduation Sunday

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

Diana Davis Secretary

Jeannette KorpelaTreasurer

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

April 10th at 5:30 p.m

Financial Update

Year to date as of 02/28/2025

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	15962.00	17500.00	(1538.00)
Non-pledged income	4856.72	5741.66	(884.94)
TOTAL INCOME	20818.72	23241.66	(2422.94)
Salaries/Compensation	14154.38	17913.76	(3759.38)
General Office Expenses	2082.08	2242.66	(160.58)
Utilities	1888.76	1978.50	(89.74)
Other Expenses	104.22	226.66	122.44
Benevolence Expenses	159.62	175.00	(15.38)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	443.09	500.02	(56.93)
Social Ministry	60.00	56.66	3.34
Worship Expenses	100.00	155.00	(55.00)
CYFM Expenses	103.10	828.32	(725.22)
TOTAL EXPENSES	19095.25	24076.58	(4981.33)
Net operating income	1723.47	(834.92)	2558.39

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.

Bethesda Lutheran Church,
Thank you very much for your generous donation to Carlton's first Giving Tree. Thanks to your help, we were able to support (3) families in our district. We would not have been able to do this without you.
Thank you again,
Kayla Radtke
(Giving Tree Chair)

Member News



Celebrating April Baptismal Birthdays

Sharon Bragge, Vance Moench, Kristal Hanson, Terry Radtke, Colin Emerson, Patricia Durkee, Stacie Hopp, Craig Schmitz, Ross Soukkala, Makenzie Simula, Cassidy Sheda, Desiree Sheda, Molly Sheda, Jessica Betts, Shelby Nygren, Michael Lijewski, Spencer Thorman, Tanner Thorman, Curtis Martin, Myrna Postal, Terry Skutevik, Nevada Jo McCorison, Bernie Despot, Andrew Castle, Colton Clark, Melissa Clark, Sean Clark, Tanner Betts, Jackson Soukkala, Oliver Soukkala, Andrew Buller & Mark Vernon

“Break Bread Together Fellowship.”
We will be having fellowship along with a reading from the Daily Devotional followed by discussion. We will meet again April 29th at 5:30. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Linda Newlon, 218-879-6274.

Save The Date:
God's Work, Our Hands
Sunday September 14th, 2025

Join us on April 3rd, at 3pm @ Zion Lutheran Church in Cloquet
for a GWOH project assembling baby kits for Lutheran World Relief



Our hearts and prayers are with Paula (Tim) Young and Meredith Stumpf in the loss of their mother, Phyllis Stumpf. May God's love surround you each of you and provide you with strength, peace and comfort in the days ahead.



Lenten Services:

March 12th-April 16th

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.

Palm Sunday Service

April 13th at 9:30 a.m at Bethesda
Potluck to follow

Maundy Thursday Service

April 17th at 6:00 p.m.
at Bethesda followed by a meal

Good Friday Service

April 18th at 1:00 p.m.
at River's Edge

Easter Sunday

April 20th 8:30 a.m. at Bethesda
10:30 a.m. at River's Edge

Prayerfully consider where you may be able to help on

Easter Sunday, April 20th.

"We are the CHURCH Together!"

Lay Ministry Volunteers still Needed:
Lector, 2 Greeters, 2 Counters

The sign-up sheet is on the Stand in the Narthex. If you have any questions, contact Pat Durkee, 218-269-6052. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Please consider bringing a Lilly/Plant for Our Easter Flower Garden "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" a Loved One to help adorn our Sanctuary on Easter morning. Please have your plant at the Church between 9 am to 11 am on Sat April 19th, Let's fill the Sanctuary with lots of beautiful plants to add to the beauty of Christ's Resurrection!! Please let the office know by Monday, April 14th or add your name to the sign up sheet in the Narthex if you will be bringing a plant so your Loved One(s) will be

acknowledged on Easter morning.
Thank you. Pat Durkee

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, scent free bar soap (no
antibacterial soap)

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 – April 2025

The 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.
Please join us for potluck "Breaking
Bread Together" on Tuesday, March
25th 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 and Diana Davis
will be teaching "The Lutheran
Course" on Sunday's from 9:45 –
11:30 AM starting March 2nd. They
have 10 in attendance. Thank you
Ginny and Diana.

The Friday Bible study is continuing at
11:00 in the gathering space.

The 10th grade confirmation class
finished at the end of February. They
have now started meeting with their
Faith Partners to work on their Faith
Statement which will be read at the

Agape Meal on Saturday, April 26th. The kids will decide what they would like to make, they prepare the meal and serve to their family and friends.

Confirmation will be held on Sunday, April 27th.

The Easter Vigil will be held on Saturday, April 19th from 6-8 PM. Please join us for fellowship, projects, food, games and more. If you know a family with small children in Carlton or Cloquet, please DM Wendy Mitchell with the family name, address, cell number, number of kids and what skill level is easy or medium. Our youth would like to hide eggs the night before Easter in the yard of the kids.

We had one student complete Growing in Faith class.

Faith Partners started on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. There will be a Lenten church service from 6:00 – 6:45 with a meal to follow. The kids will meet with their Faith Partners before or after the church service. All are welcome to join us.

They had the Tri-Parish Confirmation retreat on Feb. 16-17 for 8th & 9th graders. Bethesda did not have any youth attend.

Stewardship class will be in the spring of 2025.

WELCA purchased 2 music CD's, 15 board books and a newsletter birth – 3 years old from Frolic: Little Steps, Big Faith for the four baptisms this past year. This is part of a program Wendy Mitchell has taken on. It will be for children baptized ages birth to pre-K. We look forward to meeting the needs of our littlest congregation members.

Andrea from VLM attended the worship service on Wednesday, March 12th. This was a Camp Themed Wednesday Worship and the kids talked about their experiences. Andrea also talked about how important camp is for our youth.

***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 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, APRIL 1, 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.

APRIL 2025 SCHEDULE FOR

J.A.M./ MESSAGE

***April 6th – J.A.M. – Jesus and Me

***April 13th – *PALM SUNDAY – JOINT SERVICE 9:30 BETHESDA FOLLOWED BY POTLUCK*

***April 20th - *EASTER SUNDAY*

***April 27th – *NO MESSAGE – CONFIRMATION SUNDAY*



MAY 2025 SCHEDULE FOR

J.A.M./ MESSAGE

***May 4th – JOINT SERVICE AT RIVER'S EDGE 10:30 –NEW WINE

***May 11th – message with Pastor Seth

***May 18th - J.A.M. – Jesus and Me

***May 25th – NO MESSAGE – PASTOR GONE



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 Sharon Bragge & Jimmy Bragge

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 Anna, Crucifix Holder: Mason

4/27 Anna

Communion Assistants

4/6 Pat Durkee & JoAnn Gustafson

4/13 JoAnn Gustafson & Anna

4/20 Jen & Jason Goad

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 & Bev Mangan



May Coffee Serving Schedule

5/4 Joint Service @ River's Edge
5/11 Ginny's Group
5/18 Pat's Group
5/25 Cary's Group

Greeters/Ushers

5/4 Joint Service @ River's Edge
5/11 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie
5/18 Pat Durkee & Debby Johnson
5/25 Terry & Sue Coady

Lector

5/4 Joint Service @ River's Edge
5/11 Linda Newlon
5/18 Diana Davis
5/25 Randy Schmitz

Acolyte

5/4 Joint Service @ River's Edge
5/11 Ailie
5/18 Mason
5/25 Anna

Communion Assistants

5/4 Joint Service @ River's Edge
5/11 Cheryl Ankrum & Lynn Beatty
5/18 Jen & Jason Goad
5/25 JoAnn Gustafson & Anna

Counters

5/4 Bev Mangan & Gladys Sievert
5/11 Lynn Beatty & Mary Saarela
5/18 Chris Mitchell & Diana Davis
5/25 Lori Bunge & Linda Newlon

A Celebration Auction of Generosity and Hope



world hunger

**Working together for
50 years to end hunger and poverty,
both here and abroad, by supporting
the work of the ELCA Hunger
Appeal**

Support the NEMN Synod in their efforts to alleviate hunger and win a beautiful quilt or handmade item in the process!

Quilts and other items are available in an on-line auction at NEMNQuilts25.givesmart.com or a link from the synod webpage (NEMNSynod.org). The quilts will be displayed at the Synod Assembly at Breezy Point Resort on May 3-4.

The website is open for bidding from **April 27 until 11:30 am May 4**. New items will be added until the Synod Assembly, so check back often.

Items will be available for pickup at the conclusion of the Synod Assembly. We will deliver/ship items but ask that the recipient cover shipping costs to maximize the donation to the world hunger appeal.

Questions: Call or text Amy Loken at 218-391-4260, Marybeth Jacob at 218-830-0355 or Bob Murray at 218-244-50



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

EcoFaith Team

Rev. Beth Pottratz, EcoFaith Network Communication Coordinator

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

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

April 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 5:30pm CYFed. Meeting 6pm Serenity Seekers	2 6p Lenten Worship- 6:30p Supper	3	4 11a Bible Study	5
6 8:30am Worship 9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship Lutheran Course 10:30am Worship @ River's Edge	7	8 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	9 6p Lenten Worship- With Pastor Taryn 6:30p Supper	10 1p Jam Group 4:30p Worship Committee Mtg. 5:30p Council Mtg	11 11a Bible Study	12 9a First Communion Retreat
13 9:30am Palm Sunday Worship @ Bethesda 10:30am Potluck 10:45a Lutheran Course 2:30p Interfaith Service	14	15 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	16	17 6p Maundy Thursday Worship Service 6:30p Supper	18 1p Good Friday Service @ River's Edge	19 6p Easter Vigil
20 8:30am Easter Sunday Worship 9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30am Easter Worship @ River's Edge	21	22 Beacon Deadline 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	23 6p Growing in Faith 3 rd -6 th grade	24 1p Jam Group	25 11a Bible Study	26 5:30p Agape Meal
27 8:30am Worship/Confirmation Baptismal Birthdays 9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship 10:30am Worship @ River's Edge	28	29 9a Making Mats for the Homeless 6p Serenity Seekers	30 6p Growing in Faith 3 rd -6 th grade			

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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April