




# The Bethesda Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN  
August 2020



“Blessed  
are those  
who are  
**persecuted** for  
righteousness’  
sake, for  
theirs is  
the **kingdom**  
of heaven.”

Matthew 5:10

## In This Month’s Beacon:

\*Pastor Jim’s Beacon Article

\*Financial Update

\*Member News

\*Committee Updates

\*Faith on the Go!

\*And More

*Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, for the health & safety of all those in our congregation & community, in person worship services at Bethesda have been canceled for the month of August for sure. Our Church Council will be meeting August 18<sup>th</sup> to evaluate the situation going forward. We will keep everyone updated. Thank you.*



Greetings in the Lord! I trust you are figuring things out as to how we live into the “new normal”. I hope your faith in our Lord is helping you on the journey.

In a recent newsletter that I received from a former church that I served, Pastor James Muske reminded me of when the Israelites were freed from slavery by God and they wandered in the wilderness for forty years learning to trust God. . .for everything! Led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, they moved toward freedom and a new life in the Promised Land.

But it didn't take long for the children of God to start complaining. They wanted the comforts of their old life—even if it was a life of slavery! They wanted their old lives back! They wanted the familiar foods, their former quarters where they lived, their old neighbors. So they cried out and they complained.

God provided them water from the rock. He gave them manna in the mornings and doves in the evening to fill their stomachs.

Each day the Israelites had to rely on the promises of God. But it took them a whole generation to learn to trust Him. God gave them the 10 Commandments so they could

develop new ways to get along with each other and learn to live into the future with one another. He was leading them into a better, brighter future!

I am wondering if that isn't what is happening today. Do we have to learn all over again how to get along with our neighbor? how to love one another? how to trust God rather than relying on our own self-reliance? Is God leading us into a whole new world?

And what is the role of the Church—the Body of Christ? Are we continuing to love our neighbor? serve our neighbor? Is our faith and trust in God growing? Or like the Israelites, will it take the Next Generation to follow our Lord?

I encourage you not to lose hope in these days of pandemic. God's community is formed by God's love. While we do not have that pillar of cloud or fire there to mark our path, God's love is always present to lead and guide us into an unknown future. Let us as God's children march into the future together trusting that He will never “leave us nor forsake us.” Stay safe!

Your friend in Christ,

Pastor Jim

We will be having another outdoor service on Sunday August 30th at 9am at the DNR Park (Bike Shelter) with pastor Jim leading worship. The River of Grace will be providing music and we will have communion. Please wear a mask. We will be social distancing.



Thank you to the members of Bethesda who sent cards, memorial gifts and kept our Frank in their prayers during his illness.

The Chalberg Family

Meetings of less than 10 people, practicing social distancing, can meet at the church if needed. Please let the office know ahead of time so it can be put on the church calendar.

**A reminder that the church parking lot will be in use for an event at the Oldenburg House on Friday & Saturday August 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Join us for breakfast at the Brickyard in Wrenshall on Wednesday's at 9am. Wear your mask. We will be social distancing.  
**All are welcome.**

**Bethesda Staff**

Office 218-384-4501  
Bobbie McCorison, Secretary,  
Financial Secretary  
Stacy Colich, Treasurer 218-393-7775  
[stacycolich@yahoo.com](mailto:stacycolich@yahoo.com)  
Nita Davis, Bookkeeper/Accountant  
515-890-1235  
[Nita@davisbooksandtax.com](mailto:Nita@davisbooksandtax.com)  
Alice Kloepfer, Custodian  
Cathy Dale, Accompanist  
Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran  
Church  
204 5<sup>th</sup> St – PO Box 210  
Carlton MN 55718  
Email: [bethesda55718@msn.com](mailto:bethesda55718@msn.com)  
Website: [www.bethesdacarlton.org](http://www.bethesdacarlton.org)  
Synod's Site: [www.nemnsynod.org](http://www.nemnsynod.org)

**2020 Members of Bethesda Church Council**

\*President – Lynn Beatty  
\*Vice President – Frank Curtiss  
\*Secretary - Linda Newlon  
\*Stacy Colich, Treasurer  
Dave Beatty  
Deb Davis  
Jane Joki  
Bethany Leseman  
*\*If you have items that you wish to be addressed by council, contact a member of the Executive Committee, who sets the council agenda. You can keep up to date with church business by viewing the Council Meeting Minutes on the rotating bulletin board or view them on our website.*



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to Ellen Schmitz & family. Lloyd Schmitz passed away on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. God's promises of resurrection bring comfort and hope in Christ the risen savior.

Financial Update			
Year-to-date ending 06/30/2020			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	53418.00	41469.00	11949.00
Non-pledged income	10033.70	16550.02	(6516.32)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	63451.70	58019.02	5432.68
Salaries/Compensation	31682.61	46822.94	(15140.33)
General Office Expenses	4743.00	4447.06	295.94
Utilities	6566.79	5190.48	1376.31
Other Expenses	1029.02	1175.02	(146.00)
Benevolence Expenses	534.18	514.69	19.49
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	1233.26	735.00	498.26
Social Ministry	162.00	175.02	(13.02)
Stewardship Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Worship Expenses	2817.00	900.00	1917.00
CYFM Expenses	510.90	625.00	(114.10)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	49278.76	60585.21	(11306.45)
<b>Net Income</b>	14172.94	(2566.19)	16739.13
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.			

### God's Works Our Hands

The 9-20-20 Community event has been **cancelled due to Covid 19 health and safety concerns.**

The Committee hopes to hold the event in the Spring of 2021.

School backpacks - **The most needed item is the 70 page notebooks.** We will need at least 500 notebooks to complete 125 backpacks.

**Back to school supplies will be going on sale this month.** This is the perfect time to purchase the notebooks and other school supplies.

See the insert regarding other items needed for the Spring God's Works our Hand event.

Contact Debby Johnson, 384-3360 (landline) and she'll make arrangements to pick up the supplies you purchase.

### Member News



#### Celebrating August Baptismal Birthdays

Zachariah Buscko,

Zaiden Erikson, Belladonna Kincade, Hazel Kincade, Timothy Moench, Robbi Pearce, Dawn Soukkala, Jean Johnson, Kaden Lent, Cami Martin, Curtis Kiehl, Alex Despot, Troy Senarighi Jr., Dawayn Johnson, Jacob Newlon, Ailie Gustafson, Adeline Jahr, Jeanne Ketchum, Nixon Mitchell & Courtney Ableiter.

**Cash donations can be made out to Bethesda Church ; On the check memo line, please put GWOH and mail to Bethesda Church PO Box 210 Carlton Mn 55718.**

**Supplies needed:**

**Lutheran World Relief:**

**Baby Care Kits:**

Bath size 8- 9 oz. any brand bar soap in original wrapping  
Lightweight cotton T-shirts (onesies can be cut to make T-shirts)  
Long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers  
52” sq. med weight cotton or flannel blankets  
dark colored hand towels lightweight  
Diaper pins or large safety pins

**Lutheran World Relief:**

**Personal Care Kits:**

Sturdy combs, dark bath towels  
Metal nail clippers  
Adult tooth brushes in original packaging, 8-9 oz. bar soap, any brand in original packaging  
Towels-Lightweight 20”x40” or 52”x27”

**Ditty Bags**

Razors, Sturdy combs  
Travel size shampoo, conditioner and lotion, Sewing kits, Soap - full size  
Adult tooth brush, Toothpaste  
Medium or small note book

**Lutheran Work Relief – School Kits:**

Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers  
2 ½” erasers, 16 or 24 count crayons  
Pencil sharpener  
Blunt scissors  
30 centimeter rulers or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other side  
70 sheet notebooks wide or college ruled (no loose-leaf paper)  
14”X17” drawstring cloth backpack-with shoulder straps NO standard backpacks)

Baby blankets

*Northeastern MN Synod  
News*

*Excerpted from online NEMN Synod Resources & announcements*

Dear Synod:

As we continue to live into new and seemingly endless updated protocols for safety during this Covid-19 pandemic, know that I am grateful for the ways you are centered first in being faithful and wise stewards of your care for others. I think of that passage from Galatians, where St. Paul shares the truth about Christian freedom saying: "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become servants to one

another." In the very next verse he goes on to quote Jesus in the next verse, saying, " For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, *'you shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*"

I hear how you are thinking beyond your own congregation, and judging carefully in the midst of sometimes conflicting reports about how much it may be "legal" to open up buildings and how much is on the other hand, loving and intelligent for the good of all people Outside and inside gatherings alike need to be carefully thought through even though they pose different challenges. In the 13 Counties that make up the territory of our synod, there are currently more than 840 infectious cases of Covid-19.

Keep the Faith  
Share the Faith  
Share smart practices among you,

In Christ,  
+Bishop Thomas M. Aitken  
Northeastern Minnesota Synod,  
ELCA

Stay Informed.  
Be Safe.  
Wash your hands!  
Use the links provided for the most reliable information on COVID-19:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Minnesota Department of Health](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

Helpful NE MN Synod Webpages:  
[Faith Formation Resources to Understand and Address Racial Justice](#)

[Faith Formation Resources in Response to COVID-19](#)

[Mental Health Resources in Response to COVID-19](#)

## *Community Food Resources*



**Join us for an upcoming CFAP distribution!**

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

(CFAP) was created to provide support to U.S. farmers, maintain the integrity of the food supply chain, and ensure Americans continue to have access to the food they need during COVID-19.

You will receive 3-4 boxes of food (per household). There are no eligibility restrictions (like income or state/city residency). You can pick

up for your family, friends, and neighbors in need (limit 4 households).

Distributions will be in a low-contact, safe, drive-through format. Free food boxes include mixed produce, dairy, meat and cheese. The next distribution is: **AUGUST 5 - 10am**

UW Superior Wessman Arena  
2701 Catlin Ave, Superior, WI  
54880

Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank provides food through a regional network of non-profit agency partners (food shelves, soup kitchens, shelters and other programs).

**In Minnesota:** [SNAP](#) (formerly Food Stamps) (888) 711-1151, Minnesota Food Helpline

**In Wisconsin:** [FoodShare](#) (formerly Food Stamps) (877) 366-3635, FoodShare Helpline

- [United Way 2-1-1](#)

Simply pick up the phone and dial 2-1-1. This confidential phone number will connect you to important information about food, housing, employment, childcare, transportation, health services, seniors services and more!

If you are a furloughed government employee you qualify for our services.

Call (218)727-5653 or email at [info@northernlakesfoodbank.org](mailto:info@northernlakesfoodbank.org) if you are looking for resources or have questions.



It is So Simple

1. Pick a Convenient [Location](#)
2. Sign up For a Ruby's Guest [Account](#)
3. [Schedule](#) Your Express Track Registration and Handle Your Donation Online to Save Time
4. OR Just Come to the Pop-Up Pantry Location on the Upcoming Monthly Date

### [Cloquet, MN](#)

NEXT POP-UP PANTRY

08/26/2020 10:00 AM

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Cloquet

Sponsored By: Cloquet Area Churches

DAYS AND HOURS

4th Wednesday of the Month

Registration begins at 9:45 AM

Food bundles available 10:00-11:30 AM

### [Duluth, MN](#)

NEXT POP-UP PANTRY

08/20/2020 4:30 PM

First United Methodist Church  
230 E Skyline Pkwy, Duluth, 55811

Sponsored By: First United Methodist Church

DAYS AND HOURS

3rd Thursday of the Month

Registration begins at 4:30 PM

Food bundles available 4:30-6:00 PM

**Ruby's Pantry Phone**

651.674.0009

**E-mail** [goodnews@rubyspantry.org](mailto:goodnews@rubyspantry.org)



DOING THE MOST GOOD

**Serves:** Must reside in Carlton County.

**Requirements:** Current ID and proof of address.

**Hours:** Monday 4:00pm - 5:30pm  
Tuesday 8:30am - 11:30am;  
1:30pm - 2:30pm

For more information or to contact us call 218- 879-5447 or go to

[www.foodpantries.org/li/salvation-army-food-shelf-cloquet](http://www.foodpantries.org/li/salvation-army-food-shelf-cloquet)

*\* Important: Please call the food pantries to confirm that the hours have not changed. We do our best to provide full information and details, but food pantries often change their hours without notifying us. We do not want you to waste your time visiting a pantry that is not open.*

## Faith on the Go



### **Fear and Comfort**

Fear is a prevalent theme in our gospel text today. Fear is also a prevalent theme in our lives, as well. Fear seems to be all around us, threatening to be the all-consuming

emotion that drives many of our actions in our daily lives. But when we realize that we are not alone in our fear and that taking a "step of faith" is not just about ourselves but about everyone around us, fear loses its power. Most importantly, like Peter, we experience God in our most fearful moments and Jesus is right there to catch us when we feel like we are in free fall.

This week, read through the news as a household. Pray for all of the frightening situations in your local community and in the world. Write an encouraging note to someone in your congregation/community/neighborhood who might feel alone and afraid reminding them that they are loved by God and by the community.

### **Pray**

Gracious God, we thank you for the homes that we live in, the food on our tables and all of the ways we are cared for daily. We pray all of your children be housed, fed and not live in the fear of not having basic needs met. In Jesus name. Amen.

### **Connect**

Where did you see God today?  
Where do you need God today?



## **Bible**

Matthew 14:22-33 - Jesus Walks on Water

### **Day 1**

Matthew 14:22-23

Jesus is finally alone. What makes you long to be alone? When do you seek the comfort of friends?

### **Day 2**

Matthew 14:24-25

The story can be a metaphor for our lives. The disciples leave Jesus behind and find themselves battered and in danger. How do you feel when God seems far away?

### **Day 3**

Matthew 14:26-27

Sometimes getting help can be almost as frightening as the things you need help with. When is a time you have been scared to get help?

### **Day 4**

Matthew 14:28-30

Peter gets what he asks for, but finds it to be too much. When have you gotten everything you wanted but felt overwhelmed by it?

### **Day 5**

Matthew 14:31-33

Jesus doesn't leave, or laugh, or let Peter continue in fear. How has God helped you through something difficult?

### **Bless**

*May God calm your fears and give you courage.*



## Faith on the Go



### **Holiness and Faith**

A strong foundation. Jesus looks to Peter to be the bedrock of the new church. How often do we hear about the church as a community, not a building? Yet, we often focus our attention of the place where we meet. How many seats are there, and how many are filled? Is the current sound system enough, or should we upgrade? Do we have enough room for the band that we want? Certainly, the place we meet for worship is important, and we want that place to be welcoming and accessible, but what about the people who meet there?

Church is also more than the place we gather once (maybe twice) a week. Church should also happen at home,

with friends, on our walks and drives to work and school, around our tables. Jesus did not pick a location to build a church. Jesus picked a person to build a church.

Jesus looks to Peter to spread the good news, to gather people together as a community. It happens again after the resurrection (John 21:15 and following). What are the foundations of your faith? This week, strive to reconnect to your foundation and live a life that shows your faith.

### **Pray**

Living God, strengthen us with this food and drink to be your living presence in the world. Encourage us with your grace, free us with your mercy and empower us with your love. Amen.

### **Connect**

Who do you believe Jesus to be? Make a list of words or descriptions for who Jesus is in your life.

### **Bible**

Matthew 16:13-20—Peter's Declaration about Jesus

### **Day 1**

Matthew 16:13-15

What have you heard people say about Jesus? What have you

heard people say about Christians?

### **Day 2**

Matthew 16:16

How do you respond? Who do you declare Jesus to be?

How do you talk about Christianity in the world?

### **Day 3**

Matthew 16:17

Can you think of a time when you had a sudden realization about your faith?

### **Day 4**

Matthew 16:18-19

Peter is celebrated and challenged at the same time. Have you ever had this kind of experience? Maybe a big promotion at work, or a new responsibility at school?

### **Day 5**

Matthew 16:20

You just discovered something that changes everything! Now don't tell anyone. How does it make you feel?

### **Pray**

*May you know nothing separates you from God's love.*

# August 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 <b>9am</b> Online worship service	3	4 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless	5	6 <b>1pm</b> Jam Group <b>2pm</b> Children, Youth, Family & Ed. Meeting <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	7 Parking Lot in Use <b>11am</b> Men's Bible Study	8 Parking Lot in Use
9 <b>9am</b> Online worship service	10	11 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless	12	13 <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	14 <b>11am</b> Men's Bible Study	15 Beacon Deadline
16 <b>9am</b> Online worship service	17	18 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>5:30pm</b> Council Meeting	19	20 <b>1pm</b> Jam Group <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	21 <b>11am</b> Men's Bible Study	22
23 <b>9am</b> Online worship service  30 <b>9am</b> Outdoor worship service at DNR park	24	25 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless	26	27 <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	28 <b>11am</b> Men's Bible Study	29

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

Sunday Worship

**9:00am**

*All worship services have moved  
online.*

*You can also view the Beacon  
on our website at  
[bethesdacarlton.org](http://bethesdacarlton.org) or if you  
would like to have it mailed or  
emailed to you please contact  
the office.*

