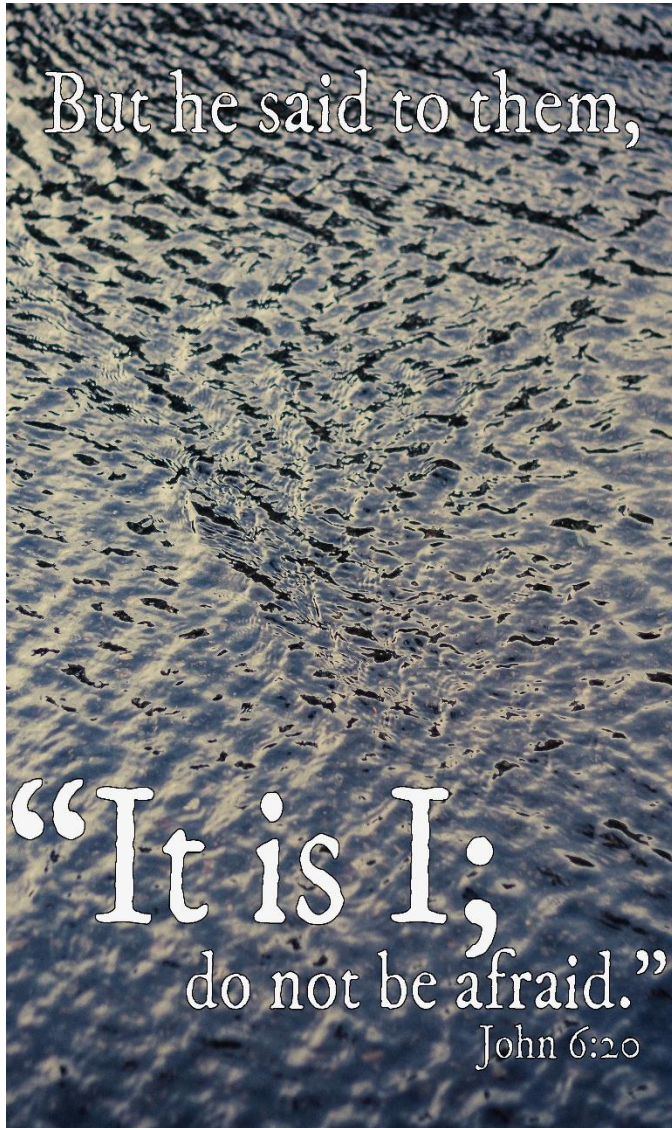




# The Bethesda Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN  
July 2021



## In This Month's Beacon:

\*Pastor Jim's Beacon Article

\*Financial Update

\*Member News

\*Committee Updates

\*Faith on the Go!

\*And More



Dear friends in Christ,

It has been almost two years since I joined you as an Interim Minister. Now you will move ahead in welcoming a new pastor to work with you in sharing the Gospel in Carlton and beyond. What a privilege it has been to share the journey of faith with you. Even during this time of pandemic, what a blessing it has been to support each other in these moments of time. Our lives have been interwoven in the fabric of faithful service to our Lord and Savior.

If we could take a snapshot of the congregation in September of 2019 and hold it alongside of today, we would see a church we recognize, but also a church that has been much transformed. Two years ago, none of us could have predicted Zoom meetings, or the live-streaming of worship. But by masking and social distancing and individual packets of Holy Communion, the worship and praise of our Living Lord carried on. This is God's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

I will continue to hold you in my prayers and ever be the friend to you that you have all become to me. I pray that you will give your new minister the same support and encouragement you have given to me. All through the Bible God's people are called to be

ready to go where God is leading them. May He be your guide always! And may you remain faithful to what God has envisioned as the next chapter in the life of Bethesda Lutheran Church.

Love and blessings, now and always,

Reverend James E. Raisanen



We will be celebrating the Ordination and Installation of Seth Wynands on Saturday July 31<sup>st</sup> at 1pm. There will be a luncheon following the service. Please RSVP to the office by July 16<sup>th</sup>. You may call or email. Please leave a message if no one is available in the office.

A heartfelt thank you to the Call Committee; Chris Mitchell, JoAnn Gustafson, Jenny Lokken, Jason Goad, Paula Olsen, Noah Olsen & Betty Peterson for their dedication, hard work and many hours they put in before, during and after the pandemic searching for a new pastor for Bethesda. We welcome Seth & Andrea Wynands and look forward to sharing Bethesda's mission together!

## **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)



***“LIVE SIMPLY....SO  
OTHERS MAY SIMPLY  
LIVE.”***

Please continue to donate to the Salvation Army, our local food shelf, on Carlton Ave. in Cloquet. Congregation members are asked to bring non-perishable food donations to church. Gladys Sievert picks up the items and brings them to the food shelf in Cloquet each month. She reports that we are donating an average of 50 pounds a month. Keep up the good work! *For the month of July our collection focus will be breakfast cereal.* If you would prefer to give a monetary donation, this is also **greatly** appreciated as a donation like this can purchase much more with the resources the Salvation Army has access to. Thank you.

## **2021 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.*

Coffee and Fellowship is back! Serving groups will be starting back up. Mary Saarela will be trying to contact the head of each serving group. If you do not hear from her please contact her at 218-393-2693.

Lawn Mowers are needed weekly. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex or you can call the office. Thank you!

Financial Update			
Year-to-date ending 05/31/2021			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	46769.00	42000.00	4769.00
Non-pledged income	7989.69	7558.35	431.34
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	54758.69	49558.35	5200.34
Salaries/Compensation	19959.66	38977.45	(19017.79)
General Office Expenses	2511.22	3140.95	(629.73)
Utilities	4270.12	4253.35	16.77
Other Expenses	152.39	645.85	(493.46)
Benevolence Expenses	469.69	437.50	32.19
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	40.61	562.50	(521.89)
Social Ministry	135.00	145.85	(10.85)
Worship Expenses	3070.03	2916.65	153.38
CYFM Expenses	923.69	885.45	38.24
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	31532.41	51965.55	(20433.14)
<b>Net Income</b>	23226.28	(2407.20)	25633.48
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.			

As mentioned on Facebook we are looking for someone who would be willing to chair an activity sponsored by Bethesda for Carlton Daze which is July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>. We are also looking for ideas and people who would be willing to participate in National Night Out which is on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Anyone who would want to be involved with either of these projects please contact the office or someone on the Worship Team.

We once again will be having a Polka Service on the Sunday of Carlton Daze, July 25<sup>th</sup>.

A reminder that we are still collecting for C.A.R.E (formerly Liberalis) and pop tops. The containers are on the table closest to the Fellowship Hall. Also, the collection box for Interfaith Care Center is on the table in the Narthex.

## Member News



### Celebrating July Baptismal Birthdays:

Taylor Anderson, Stacy Colich, Macy Hanson, Tyler Thompson, Doug Finke, Landon Hammitt, John Stradtman, Robert Chapman Sell, Tricia Hackensmith, Gracie Meagher, Andrea Kiehl, Chase Ableiter, Andrew Olesen, Keanna Simula, Chaise Jokinen, Justin Jokinen, Teresa Olson Colich, Pierce Davis, Jessica Krone, Kevin Frederick, Robert Postal, Patricia Nygren, Kevin Olesen, Charlie Wolter, Harold Ankrum, Johnny Moen, Amajja Halli, Chris Marciniak, Janelle Bell, Amy Olesen, Bryan Bunge, Carrie Buller, Julieauna Johnson, Peter Allen, Mark Matlack & Attlei Sheldon.



Jeanne Ketchum is celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Anybody wanting to wish her a good day, her address is new perspective 3730 horizon drive Barnum MN. 55707. Apt. 406. Happy Birthday Jeanne! God's blessings to you on your birthday and always!



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to the family of Patricia Hohensee & Arnold Tribby. Arnold is the father of Mary Radtke.. God gives us hope and strength in God comfort and strengthen our hearts in hope in the resurrection through Christ.



We give thanks to God as we celebrated either in person or in spirit the Ordination of **Colleen Bernu** to the Ministry of Word & Service on June 19<sup>th</sup>! Colleen has been called to serve on the Northeastern MN Synod Staff as Director for Evangelical Mission and Synod Minister for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. May God continue to bless Colleen in her call to service and leadership. Congratulations!

We are looking for a new janitor. Below is the job description. If you or someone you know would be interested please call the office for an application or apply on our website.

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton, MN  
 Position: Janitor  
 Reports to: Pastor  
 Hours: approx. 5 hours per week

**Job Summary:**

The Janitor is responsible for the cleaning and general minor maintenance of church property.

**Job Qualifications:**

1. Physically able to do the required work
2. Ability to work well without direction
3. Flexibility (e.g. available for special events such as funerals and weddings)

**Job Responsibilities:**

1. Keep the interior of the church building clean.
2. Reports needed repairs to the Director of Discipleship in a timely manner
3. Must maintain an adequate amount of janitorial supplies
4. Keeps track of the number of hours worked and tasks completed by submitting completed task lists to the Treasurer
5. Available to clean before and after weddings, funerals, and various church functions. The Janitor will receive extra pay based on the established rate schedule for all weddings and receptions held at the church.

A **BIG** Thank you to Alice and Cliff Kloepfer for all the hours you put in keeping our church home looking so neat & clean! We are so grateful for your hard work and so blessed that you are part of Bethesda's family!

Special Giving:  
*In Memory of*

**Austin Davis**

By Dave & Lynn Beatty  
By Gene & Lorna Bryant  
By Craig & Roxane Schmitz

**Rosalie Wiggins**

By Marv & Pat Durkee

**JoEllen Carroll**

By Marv & Pat Durkee

**Helen Maltby**

By Marv & Pat Durkee  
By Debby Johnson  
By George & Mary Saarela  
By Sharon Bragge

**Ken Olson**

By Gordy & Lil Davis  
By Debby Johnson  
By Marv & Pat Durkee  
By Bob & Marnie Emerson  
By Richard & Patricia Nygren  
By Bob & Myrna Postal

**Trish Katzmarek**

By Gordy & Lil Davis

**Florence Holm**

By George & Mary Saarela

*In Honor of*

**Marguerite Anderson**

By Marv & Pat Durkee  
By Jan Grannes

*Camperships*

By Chris & Wendy Mitchell  
By Paula Olsen

**SAVE THE DATE**

**“God’s work. Our hands.”**

Sunday will be **Sunday September 19, 2021.** This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

Our community GWOH area churches include Bethesda, Our Saviors, Our Redeemers and Zion Lutheran Churches, Northwoods Methodist/ Esko, and Queen of Peace

***How you can help:*** Simply drop off your donations at Bethesda Lutheran Church. If you prefer to write a check please make it out to Bethesda and put a memo for God’s Work, Our Hands.

**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)

Northeastern MN Synod News

**Reflection – Pr. Luke Lekander  
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church,  
Outing, MN**

I’ve been grieving the death of a dear friend leading up to penning this reflection. He was a member of the same seminary cohort as I. Our cohort remains very close, we are like a family. Often, when I think of Paul’s description of the body of Christ, I think of my cohort spread all over the world doing the work of Christ as one. We lost a member of that body, and many are suffering for it. One of the phenomena of grief is what is referred to as “grief brain.” There is occasional absent-mindedness, aloofness, and confusion that settles into the grieving mind. I bring this up for two reasons. First, to remind everyone to be gracious with the grieving. Secondly, to apologize ahead of time if my reflection seems to ramble.

Jesus began his ministry in Mark with the words, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news” (NRSV). As we come closer to June 17th, the commemoration of the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, I am

reminded once again to repent and believe. The good news is that there is no longer a boundary between us and God. Remember that during Jesus’ baptism the heavens were torn open, the boundaries were erased. All that would separate us from God has been removed. So what? Repent, that’s what. Repent simply means to change your thinking, to perceive the world in a whole new way. Jesus says we must change our thinking about God. The time of God being separated from us has been fulfilled. God’s kingdom has drawn near. So, change your thinking about where God is and believe in this new fact: God is here, with us, right now!

Another specific thing Jesus calls us to change our minds about is time. “The time is fulfilled” is Jesus’ call to action. It is a way of saying, do not wait any longer for salvation to come to you. Salvation is already here. Now is the time we all must act.

This truth prompts all of us into discernment. If now is the time to act, what is it we must act upon? This is a question to ponder both individually and communally. Once I realized that salvation was already here, I discerned that my actions must be to dismantle white supremacy in myself, in our communities’ structures, and in our institutions, including the church. I recognize the pain that is involved in this work through experience. As my

eyes were slowly opened to the suffering of others, suffering perpetuated by my ignorance, I found myself frozen in pain, unable to act, and tempted to restore my ignorant ways. Slowly, I realized that I needed to lean into the power of confession and to receive the forgiveness afforded me in Christ Jesus. This allowed me to see that there is no neutrality when it comes to evil. The time has come to act. Jesus ensured this in his incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension.

I implore you to recognize the upcoming commemoration of the Emanuel Nine as an impetus to act. Will you repent with me? Will you change your perceptions and see the kingdom of God with me? Will you believe that our salvation is complete and that we are totally free to speak truth to power? The time has come. Let's repent and believe together. Let's dismantle these evil systems together. Amen.



**Faith on the Go!**

These next several weeks we will focus on how service can be done in simple ways in the very places we live.

We can change how we think about what we do in our routines and out of our routines when we remember our all to serve and love one another.

### **This Week**

Make a list of the things that need to get done at home and who does them. Look at the list and add to it if you need to. Have each person talk about one thing they did this week and how seeing it as service to one another influenced or changed the way they thought about the chore. Now do a chore switch. Each person pick a job that they normally don't do and offer to do it this week. The person who does do the job normally can show them how, give details about when to do this and any other information needed. Make a new list for this week of who is doing what new job.

### **Pray**

Dear God you come to us in unexpected times and ways. Thank you for always being with us. Bless our food and time together. Amen.

### **Connect**

Where did you feel welcome today?  
Who did you welcome today?

### **Bible**

Mark 6: -13 The Mission of the 12





## **Faith on the Go!**

### **Day 1**

Mark 6: 1

Where or what is “home” to you? Is it the place you grew up? The place you raised your children? The place where you met your best friend?

### **Day 2**

Mark 6: 2-4

Jesus is judged unfairly in his home town. Have you ever been judged unfairly? By whom and for what reason? How did you respond?

### **Day 3**

Mark 6: 5-6a

Jesus’ power seems to be limited by unbelief, except that he is still able to perform healing miracles! What do you wonder about this sentence?

### **Day 4**

Mark 6: 6b-9

What extra baggage are you carrying with you today?

### **Day 5**

Mark 6: 10-13

The disciples travel to places where they are welcome and do good work for the people. Where do you feel called to do good work?

### **Bless**

Say to each other before you leave to go anywhere for the day: ***Remember Jesus walks with you today.***

### **This Week**

Last week you were asked to switch chores with someone in the house. Talk about how your job switch went. What new things did you learn? Was it easy or hard? How did the other person feel about someone else taking responsibility for their normal task? Now do a job switch for one more week. Have everyone pick a new chore to do and post it.

### **Pray**

True and living Christ, you gather us all into one people and claim us as your own. We are grateful for your presence and all that we have: our vocations, our time with family and friends, our homes, our food and our health. We pray for all who suffer in any way of mind, body or spirit and pray for your healing touch to flow to them. Our hope is in you! Amen.

### **Connect**

What brought you hope today?  
Where do you need hope today?

### **Bible**

Mark 6: 14-29 -the death of John the Baptist

### **Day 1**

Mark 6: 14-16

This story starts immediately after Jesus sends out the disciples to teach and heal. What do you think Herod heard about Jesus? Why would the people say he was a prophet?

### **Day 2**

Mark 6: 17-20

Herod liked to listen to John! What do you think Herod and John talked about? Why would Herod fear John?

### **Day 3**

Mark 6: 21-23

What does this say about Herod's relationship with his wife's daughter? What does it say about Herod as a ruler?

### **Day 4**

Mark 6: 24-28

It seems that Herodias has more influence than Herod. What does this gruesome story tell you about the social structure that Jesus was fighting against?

### **Day 5**

Mark 6: 29

The story has strong parallels to Jesus' death. What do you see that is the same? What do you see that is different?

### **Bless**

Say to each other before you leave to go anywhere for the day: ***Remember Jesus walks with you today.***

*For additional weekly devotionals go to: <http://faithformationjourneys.org/>*



### **Upcoming VLM Events:**

2021 Bluegrass Festival –  
our 10th year!

**Sunday, July 25-Saturday, July 31**

*For schedule and raffle information on this event go to [vlmcamps.org](http://vlmcamps.org) or call*

# July 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 <b>3pm</b> Children, Youth, Family & Ed. Meeting	2 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	3
4 Independence Day Vicar Seth's 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday <b>9am</b> Worship <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/	5 <b>5:15pm</b> Bible Study	6 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	7	8 <b>1pm</b> Jam Group	9 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	10
11 <b>9am</b> Worship <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship	12 <b>5:15pm</b> Bible Study	13 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>5:30pm</b> Council Meeting <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	14 <b>5:45pm</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Prayer Class 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Proclamation of Faith	15 Beacon Deadline	16 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	17 <b>10am</b> Carlton High School Choir Practice
18 <b>9am</b> Worship <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship	19 <b>5:15pm</b> Bible Study	20 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	21	22 <b>1pm</b> Jam Group	23 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	24 Fellowship Hall in Use ~ Pat Durkee
25 <b>9am</b> Worship <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship	26 <b>5:15pm</b> Bible Study	27 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	28 <b>5:45pm</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Prayer Class	29 <b>1pm</b> Jam Group	30 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	31 <b>1pm</b> Ordination & Installation of Seth Wynands Luncheon to follow

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

Sunday Worship

**9:00am**

*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.*

