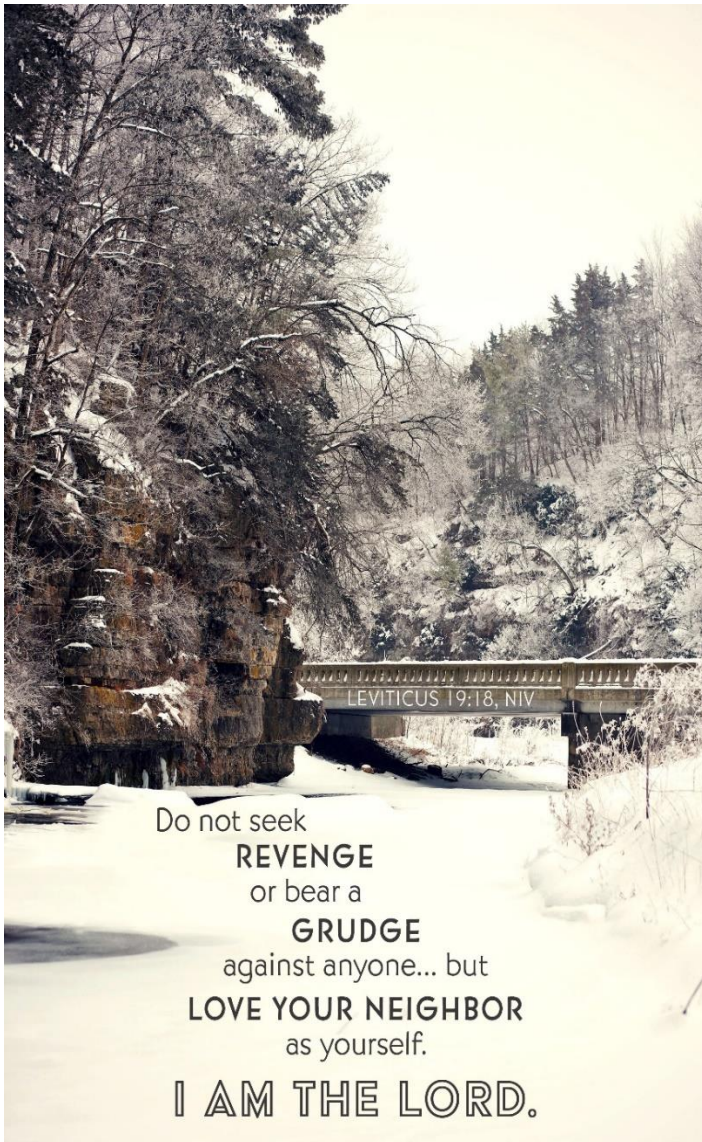




# The Bethesda Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN  
January 2022



## In This Month's Beacon:

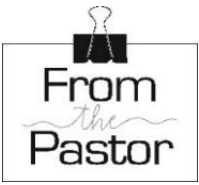
\*Pastor Seth's Beacon Article

\*Financial Update

\*Member News

\*Committee Updates

\*And More



When I was growing up, my family celebrated Christmas early – usually about a week before

Christmas. We celebrated early because we traveled from our home in North Carolina to visit our extended family in southern Ontario, Canada – where, of course, the celebrations continued!

What that meant, though – especially for me and my brothers, who naturally were SO EXCITED (!!) about gifts – was that we would open our presents one night, and then get in a car the next morning! This occasionally made for some interesting situations.

I remember one year, all I wanted for Christmas was a new computer game (FIFA soccer 1998, if I remember correctly 😊). I waited and waited and waited – and then, when we opened presents, it finally arrived! My parents had given it to me and my brothers as our “big gift” of the year, and I was – you guessed it – SO EXCITED!!

Naturally, I wanted to play right away, but it was bedtime, so I went to bed dreaming of scoring some sweet goals in the morning (when, of course, we were scheduled to leave for Ontario!) So, in the morning, I worked much quicker than normal to pack, and do my chores, and get everything done, so I could finally have time to play.

Then, at long last, after hours of wishing and weeks of hoping, I sat down to play, installed the game....

And that is when my dad walked in to say, “OK guys, ready to go?!?”

Luckily for me, my dad has a big heart; plus, my tears (hey, I was six, what do you expect?!?) convinced him to let me play one game before we all piled in the car.

I just couldn’t wait to use that gift! And when we got back, I kept using that gift, too.

So how about us?

We’ve come through a blessed, if challenging, Christmas season, and we have received the gift of Christmas, which is simply this: that God is with us.

Christmas, in all of its busyness and sorrows and joys, tells us that God showed up, in the most unexpected of places. And God continues to show up in unexpected places today.

What a gift!

So, will we use it?

Will we serve God in our daily lives?

Will we watch for God to show up in unexpected places in our world?

Will we share in joys and sorrows together in worship and in community?

Will we pray for our neighbor, for ourselves, for our world?

This – all this good stuff! – is what the season of Epiphany (which begins January 16 and ends with Ash Wednesday) is all about.

It's about taking the gift of Christ – God with us – and using it. Over, and over, and over again.

May you be blessed by the gift of Christ, and may you be emboldened to use it – in old ways and new!  
Pastor Seth Wynands

**The Annual Meeting has been moved to January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 after worship.**

All **COMMITTEE REPORTS** are due by January 10<sup>th</sup>. Please have them into the office by this date. Thank you!

**Bethesda Staff**

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Website: [www.bethesdacarlton.org](http://www.bethesdacarlton.org)

Synod's Site: [www.nemnsynod.org](http://www.nemnsynod.org)

**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.*

<b>Financial Update</b>			
Year-to-date ending 09/30/2021			
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>
Envelope giving	80421.00	77700.00	2721.00
Non-pledged income	12034.87	10525.03	1509.84
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>92455.87</b>	<b>88225.03</b>	<b>4230.84</b>
Salaries/Compensation	47817.89	70159.41	(22341.52)
General Office Expenses	4524.81	5485.56	(960.75)
Utilities	7564.58	7656.03	(91.45)
Other Expenses	466.30	842.53	(376.23)
Benevolence Expenses	804.21	787.50	16.71
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	454.90	1012.50	(557.60)
Social Ministry	243.00	262.53	(19.53)
Worship Expenses	5067.01	5249.97	(182.96)
CYFM Expenses	1477.35	3053.81	(1576.46)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>68420.05</b>	<b>94509.84</b>	<b>(26089.79)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>24035.82</b>	<b>(6284.81)</b>	<b>30320.63</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.			

Special Giving:  
*In Memory of*

**Walter Anderson**

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

**Austin Davis**

By Gordy & Lil Davis  
By Bob & Marnie Emerson

**Helen Maltby**

By Bob & Marnie Emerson

**Ken Olson**

By George & Mary Saarela

**Florence Holm**

By Bob & Marnie Emerson  
By George & Mary Saarela

**Marguerite Anderson**

By Jay & Lois Anderson  
By Gordy & Lil Davis  
By Bob & Marnie Emerson  
By Debby Johnson  
By Richard & Patricia Nygren  
By Judy Olson  
By George & Mary Saarela

*In Honor of*

**Jeanne Ketchum 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

By Marv & Pat Durkee

**Sharon Bragge 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

By Marv & Pat Durkee  
By Debby Johnson  
By Social Ministry

**George & Mary Saarela's  
Anniversary**

By Marv & Pat Durkee  
By Debby Johnson  
By Judy Olson

Special Giving:  
*In Memory of*

**Frank Chalberg**

By Jane Joki

*In Honor of*

**George & Mary Saarela's  
Anniversary**

By Arlyn & Gladys Sievert  
**Gordy & Lil Davis' Birthdays**  
By Arlyn & Gladys Sievert

**Wanted**

New or gentle used sweatpants  
(preferably neutral colors;  
black/grey/brown/navy for local area  
children / youth. Collection boxes  
located in the church Narthex. Two  
Thrivent community action \$250.00  
cards have been approved for these  
projects.

*Deadline Sunday, January 16, 2022*

**Coffee Serving Schedule**

**2022**

**January**

**2** Social Ministry "Damiano Center

**9** Cary's Group

**16** Linda's Group

**23** Lil's Group

**30**



***“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 85.4 pounds of food were delivered in October. Keep up the good work! *For the month of January our collection focus will be Canned stew, tuna, ham, chicken.* Monetary donations are also **greatly** appreciated as a donation like this can purchase much more with the resources the Salvation Army has access to. Thank you.

**Offering Envelopes for 2022**

We will not be ordering offering envelopes for this year. We ask that you let the church office know if you are in need of an offering envelope booklet. We also continue to encourage everyone to “automate” your contributions. Thank you.



**2022 ANNUAL**

**W O M E N ’ S R E T R E A T**

We will be having our retreat at **One Heartland** in Willow River again. It is a beautiful facility that sits on 93 acres. It has a large room for us to set up and work in and couches for relaxing and visiting. There are two large bunk rooms and six smaller bunk rooms on the main floor. There are a total of **27 bottom bunk beds**.

We need to bring our own bedding and towels.

We will do our own meals again and we can bring snacks and Beverages.

**Cost is \$45/day.**

Our Retreat is open to all women of Bethesda. We would love more women to come! On our last retreat we had room for a few family members/friends to attend if you have someone you would like to invite.

I'm sending this out now because we need to reserve our weekend. We are looking at **Thursday January 20th - Sunday January 23rd.** **Please reply by email or text if you plan to attend.I need a non-refundable deposit from everyone who's interested and also the number of days you will stay. Deposit for 3 nights is \$70; Deposit for 1 or 2**

**nights \$40. I need to receive your deposit within 30 days.**

*Anyone interested in coming for the day only it would be \$25.*

Questions or concerns please email, text or call: Lynn Beatty  
2424 County Road 3, Wrenshall, MN 55797  
(Phone) 218-591-7519

### In Search of Ideas for our Memorial Fund

Do you want to lead a faith-based activity that needs funding?

Our Memorial Fund could help turn your idea into reality. We're looking for good ways to invest in Bethesda's faith activities. We have over \$4000 for youth-based activities and another \$4800 available for any type of activity. Contact anyone on the Endowment Committee about your idea.

Chris Mitchell  
Endowment/Memorial Chair



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

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month

Cloquet National Guard Armory

Sponsored By: Cloquet Area Churches

DAYS AND HOURS

Registration begins at 9:45 AM

Food bundles available 10:00-11:30 AM

**For more information on dates and locations go to [Rubyspantry.org](http://Rubyspantry.org)**

**Ruby's Pantry Phone**

651.674.0009

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

### Member News



### **Celebrating January Baptismal Birthdays**

Marlene Anderson, Lance Konietzko, Brit Simula, Dawn Sell, Brady Gordon, Emily Matlack, Carol Bergstrom, Tucker Kiehn, Phyllis

Rousseau, Sandy Vernon, Everly Jahr, Jim Olson, John Holden, Karlie Balow, Natalie Lijewski, Scott Frederick, Jacob Anderson, Aaron Vick, Paul Carpenter, Jason Ableiter, Julie Frederick, NancyLee Olsen, Brookelynn Sell, Brielle Simula, Blair Nygren, Aaron Schilla, Brandon Sell, Zariah Erikson, Jayson Grover, Anton Sheda, Joshua Beatty, Nicole Kutzler, Evan Mckeon & Betty Peterson.



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to the family of Naomi Brigan, Julie Weiler, Kenneth Schmitz & Grant Gault brother to Linda Bong. God comfort and strengthen our hearts in hope in the resurrection through Christ.

## NEMN Synod

Online Reflections  
By Brenda Tibbets

### **“WHERE ARE WE?”**

Our two-year-old grandson Grady’s daily routine was disrupted by an unexpected change in both of his parents’ work schedules. So it was Grandpa who came to pick him up from daycare. When Grandpa walked in the door, his delightful squeal of “Grandpa!” and outstretched arms are one of those memories that have become etched forever into our hearts and minds.

Our grandson’s daily routine was disrupted. About halfway between Grand Rapids and Cook, securely strapped into his car seat, this little voice came from the back, “*Grandpa, where are we?*” Not quite satisfied with his Grandpa’s answer, about a minute later, the question came again, even louder. “*Where are we?!*” None of Grandpa’s answers were “acceptable” to his two-year-old brain trying to process this disruption of his daily routine. But he wasn’t anxious. Grady was simply wondering and asking the person he trusted in order to get his bearings.

How many times in these past two years have you and I asked that same question? “*Where are we?*” Two years into Covid pandemic mode and it feels like we are back to square one.

Two years of massive paradigm shifts in the educational, medical, business, service, and faith communities, “*Where are we?*” One year post-election of our Bishop in the Northeastern Minnesota Synod has a new staff configuration asking, “*Where are we?*” in terms of building teamwork as Synod Ministers. Core Team members listening to folks all around the synod as they share their vision, hopes and dreams for doing ministry together, “*Where are we?*” One year post-inauguration of a President, the turmoil our nation has experienced

over the past couple of years as we've watched and experienced a global pandemic, deep mistrust, shut downs and educating/working from home, racial inequities and injustices being witnessed in plain sight, refugees seeking safety, troops being sent, troops coming home - "*Where are we?*"

My grandson in all of his two-year-old wisdom has reminded me of the importance of looking to the One we trust as we seek answers and a new bearing for our question, "*Where are we?*"

It is so easy to get overwhelmed by daily events taking place near and afar. Our daily routines seem to be routinely interrupted and disrupted. We can lose our sense of direction, sense of purpose, and sometimes even our sense of calling. "*Where are we?*" As communities of faith, as siblings in Christ, as a nation, as members of the global community called to care for and serve our neighbor? "*Where are we?*" There will continue to be disruptions as we journey through life. We don't have to wander aimlessly, alone or without hope.

Jesus is the "bright and morning star" of this holy season and all seasons of life.

Jesus is our north star, our compass for this journey of faith, our GPS when we lose our way.

Jesus is our source of all love, hope, healing, and trust who promises to be with us - *always*.

In the disruptions of our lives, it is this Jesus - Immanuel, God with us, born in a manger who grew up, gave his life for us on a cross, defeated death, rose again, and who has promised to come again. This very same Jesus arrives at the door of our hearts with his arms outstretched, calling to us with delight, "Beloved!" May it be so - safe in Jesus' arms. "Come, Lord Jesus!"

*"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba, Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God." - Galatians 4:4-7*

## Social Ministry



Social Ministry will be hosting coffee in support of Wycliffe Bible

Translators January 16<sup>th</sup> after Worship.



## Children, Youth, Family & Education

### January Storytime/Jesus Story video:

**January 2<sup>nd</sup>** – No Storytime

**January 9<sup>th</sup>** - Jesus Story video in the sanctuary

**January 16<sup>th</sup>** - Storytime in the gathering space

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Jesus Story video in the sanctuary

**January 30<sup>th</sup>** - Storytime in the gathering space

Below is a link for Middle School Gathering information through Camp Hiawatha option. Watch for more info from CYFED to follow.

<http://www.nemnsynod.org/middle-school-gathering.html>

In December we had Advent services followed by our blanket service project. The tied blankets will be donated to the memory care unit at Interfaith Care Center for Christmas. We are also making Christmas bags for the remainder of the residents. Christmas cards for the residents were also collected and will be distributed.

The Middle School Gathering is tentatively scheduled January 2022. Bishop night is currently scheduled for February 16, 2022 at Bethesda. Pastor Seth will invite Salem and Elim.

Lent starts on March 2, 2022. There will be a program for the mentors/mentee's to meet during this

time.

Cardia Deo retreat scheduled for March 3rd through March 6, 2022.

With Thrivent Action Cards and help from congregation members we were able to deliver blankets to the memory care unit and gift bags to the rest of the residents at Interfaith Care Center. Thank you to everyone who helped in anyway with this project.



### **Upcoming VLM Events:**

#### **SPRING QUILTING RETREAT**

Thursday, March 10, 2022 12:00 PM

Sunday, March 13, 2022 2:00 PM

Camp Vermillion 2555 Vermillion  
Camp Road Cook, MN, 55723

**Site:** Camp Vermillion

**Ages:** Experienced Quilters

**Cost:** \$260/person\*

### **ENJOY THE SEASON**

Spring is an excellent time of the year for a get-away in God's great Northwoods, and VLM's Quilting Retreat offers a chance to tackle some of your big projects.

## **FOCUS & CONNECT**

This retreat is ideal for quilters who need some focused time to start or finish a project, who are interested in connecting with others who share a passion for sewing, or simply need a weekend away in a beautiful setting! Of course, we would love to have you join us for the whole weekend, but this retreat also provides the chance to join us for the day as well. (Or, if you live close enough, come to sew and eat, but perhaps go home to sleep in your own bed!)

## **NOT A QUILTER?**

Bring your knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, scrapbooking, or any other craft you wish.

To register, you may also download the registration form on our [resources page](#) at [www.vlmcamps.org](http://www.vlmcamps.org) or call the camp office at [\(800\) 331-5148](tel:8003315148).

*\*This retreat fee includes 8 meals, snacks, irons, a cutting table, space to sew, and lodging (multiple-occupancy) in Voyageur Lodge. Can't stay the whole time? [Contact us](#) for additional rates.*

## **PADDLE BUILDING**

Friday, April 1, 2022 6:00 PM  
Sunday, April 3, 2022 12:00 PM  
Camp Vermillion 2555 Vermilion  
Camp Rd Cook, MN 55723

**Site:** Camp Vermillion

**Ages:** All are welcome

**Cost:** \$250/person\*

## **CREATE A WORK OF ART**

This weekend-long class includes four sessions during which you will complete your own bent shaft canoe or stand-up paddleboard paddle. You will craft your own paddle, from gluing the wood blanks to a finished work of art.

## **ALL ARE WELCOME**

Bring your partner, friends, or family and spend a weekend in the Northwoods, with a beautiful piece to take home at the end. Parent/child or grandparent/grandchild participants can build a family heirloom together!

## **SPACE IS LIMITED**

To register, you may also download the registration form on our [resources page](#) or call the camp office at [\(800\) 331-5148](tel:8003315148).

*\*This class Fee includes all materials and tools needed, instruction, lodging, and Friday dinner through Sunday brunch. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due with your registration. If two people work on the same paddle, it is an additional \$50 for the second person to cover meals and lodging.*

# January 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 New Year's Day
2 <b>9am</b> Worship <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship	3 <b>5:30pm</b> Women's Bible Study	4 <b>8:30am</b> TOPS Office Staff Meeting <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	5	6 <b>1pm</b> Jam Group	7 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	8
9 <b>9am</b> Worship Storytime (Sanctuary) <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship <b>3pm</b> Interfaith Care Center Worship Service	10 <b>5:30pm</b> Women's Bible Study	11 <b>8:30am</b> TOPS Office Staff Meeting <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>4:30pm</b> Worship Meeting <b>5:30pm</b> Council Meeting <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	12	13 <b>3:45pm</b> Children, Youth, Family & Ed. Meeting	14 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	15 Beacon Deadline
16 <b>9am</b> Worship Storytime (Fellowship Hall) <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day <b>5:30pm</b> Women's Bible Study	18 <b>8:30am</b> TOPS Office Staff Meeting <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	19	20 Women's Retreat <b>1pm</b> Jam Group	21 Women's Retreat <b>11am</b> Bible Study	22 Women's Retreat
23 <b>9am</b> Worship Storytime (Sanctuary) <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship 30 <b>9am</b> Worship Storytime (Fellowship Hall) <b>10:15am</b> Annual Meeting	24 <b>5:30pm</b> Women's Bible Study  31 <b>5:30pm</b> Women's Bible Study	25 <b>8:30am</b> TOPS Office Staff Meeting <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	26	27	28 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	29

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.*

 **JANUARY**  
2022