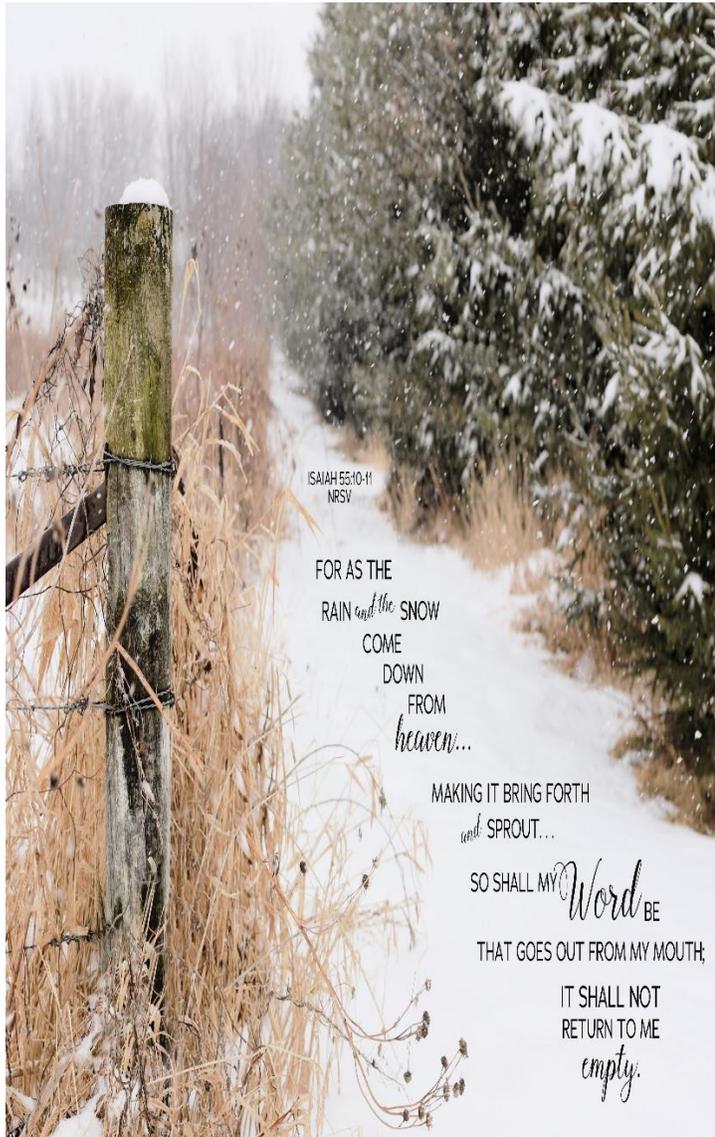




The Bethesda Beacon

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



In This Month's Beacon:

*Pastor Jim's Beacon Article

*Financial Update

*Member News

*Committee Updates

*Faith on the Go!

*And More



Greetings in the Lord! I trust that you are staying safe and staying whole in these days of pandemic. Our lives have been turned upside down as Covid-19 has killed 220,000 Americans, turned our economy upside down, changed the way we school our children, and socially marginalized all of us. How will we survive?

My old Grandpa had a saying when I was growing up. He said, “Strong winds require deeper roots!” When I asked him what he meant by that he told me that when times are tough one has to dig deeper inside oneself to withstand the wind. He told me that life was going to kick me around and that I had better have a strategy to get through the tough times. Say your prayers, he said. Get to know God! . . . how He works. . . how He moves across the face of the earth. Dig deeper into your faith! If you don’t dig deep, you won’t withstand the winds of time. If you do nothing, he said, the winds of this world will destroy you!

So I did dig deeper! And I continue to dig! I am amazed at how loving, reliable, and extraordinary our God is. He really does love us!

I have learned that Life is a journey. We will make mistakes. We will take shortcuts. . . that will cause more damage than good. But as I continue to

talk to God in prayer, as I seek out my church family, the roots that I have developed have been able to stand against the storms of life. Faith in God makes a difference! During these days of pandemic, it is a good place to be! Stay safe!

Your friend in Christ!

Pastor Jim

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Synod’s Site: www.nemnsynod.org



Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 1st. Don’t forget to
turn your clocks back.

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.*



70 pounds of food went to Second Harvest which included a large donation of peanut butter. For the next month we will be focused on collecting rice and noodles but all donations are welcome and needed.

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



* November 11th is Veteran’s Day. Remember to pray for our Veteran’s and the service men and women and their families; and thank them for honorable service for our country.

Financial Update			
Year-to-date ending 09/30/2020			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	79654.82	76316.00	3338.82
Non-pledged income	10806.18	8525.03	2281.15
TOTAL INCOME	90461.00	84841.03	5619.97
Salaries/Compensation	42242.08	70259.41	(28017.33)
General Office Expenses	7371.07	6590.59	780.48
Utilities	7870.92	7785.72	85.20
Other Expenses	697.46	1240.33	(542.87)
Benevolence Expenses	766.55	763.16	3.39
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	1233.26	1102.50	130.76
Social Ministry	243.00	262.53	(19.53)
Stewardship Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Worship Expenses	4938.00	1340.00	3598.00
CYFM Expenses	538.40	1882.50	(1344.10)
TOTAL EXPENSES	65900.74	91226.74	(25326.00)
Net Income	24560.26	(6385.71)	30945.97
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.			

From now until November 22nd WELCA will be collecting donations for ***Thanksgiving Gift Cards***. There is an envelope included in your Beacon if you would like to donate. Please let the office, Lynn Beatty or Pastor Jim know if there is anybody that you know of that may be in need of some extra help this holiday season. Donations can be mailed with the envelope included or may be dropped off at the church. Thank you for helping those in need this holiday season! **Please make checks payable to WELCA.**

Bethesda Call Committee Update

Call Committee activity has picked up significantly in the last month. The synod office received a new batch of seminarians as well as some experienced pastors who are considering a move to the NE MN Synod. We are currently reviewing profiles for multiple candidates that have requested to be considered by the Bethesda Call Committee. Once we find a good fit that meets the requirements of our Ministry Site Profile we will begin the interview process.

Joann Gustafson has joined the Call Committee, replacing Ron Peterson. We thank Ron for his contributions and welcome Joann to the committee.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions about the call process.

Chris Mitchell
Call Committee Chair

Member News



Celebrating November Baptismal Birthdays

Lewis Castle, Lillian Dewitt, Joyce Houtz, Jaxson Swanson, Haley Ableiter, Marlys McKinstry, Autumn Buller, Kevein Conley, Stacy Sell, Debra Smith, Daniel Sell, Tara Olson, Linda Newlon, Jackie Curtiss, Nita

Lindgren, Steven Alexander Jr., Aaron Krone, Evan Krone, Joyce Aubol, Madalyn Dewitt, Peter Young, Jorgen Herman, Kurt Johnson, Tucker Selin, Kristie Peterson, Jeff Sell, Zeke Rousseau-Sheff, Colten Devriendt, Adam Schmitz, William Sparks, Nathan Young, Ellie Jo Peddle, Marlee Wakefield, Kim Ableiter, Charles Finne, Callie Holm, Hannah Nygren, Lauren Soukkala, Kari Isakson, Kristin Johnson, & Daniel Rudolph.



On September 4th, 2020 we welcomed into the family of faith through the sacrament of Holy Baptism Jax Dewitt son of Mark & Amanda Dewitt.



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to Christina, Hannah & Alex Walther and the members of St. Matthews church in Esko. Pastor Jeff Walther went home to be with the Lord on October 25th. God's promises of resurrection bring comfort and hope in Christ the risen savior.



All Saints Sunday is November 1st.
All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November

heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.



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

11/18/2020 10:00 AM

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

Ruby's Pantry Phone

651.674.0009

E-mail goodnews@rubyspantry.org

There is still time to sign Bishop Tom's Guest Book!

Use the link below to sign the Guestbook.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NortheasternMinnesotaSynod/FarewellCommentsForBishopTom>

Would you like to give a gift?

Any offerings in Bishop Tom's honor will be split between the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Seminarian Debt Relief Program and the Together Here Ministry.

Please mail your gifts to the Synod office at:

1105 E. Superior St. Upper Ste.
Duluth, MN, 55802



The installation of Amy Odgren as Bishop of the NEMN Synod took place on Saturday October 17th at Hope Lutheran Church in Walker, MN.

Resiliency: Faith Practices in Tough Times

NEW Resiliency Resources

www.elca.org/Resources/Faith-Practices#Resiliency

Daily Meditations: Strive for justice and peace in all the earth

WHY? Take a moment and meditate on the "why" of injustice and unrest. Consider those situations of injustice which trouble your heart. *Question: How might you be an agent of change or support those who are bringing change?* Daily Meditations:

Unwrapping the Gifts of Discipleship yet to be opened.

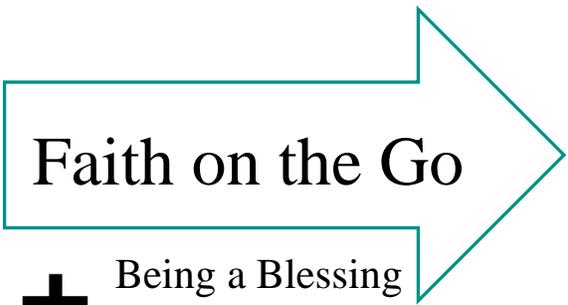
NOW WHAT? Take a moment and dedicate on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Identify areas where the Holy Spirit might be stirring in you. *Question: What gift of discipleship has yet to be unwrapped by you as you discover what it means to live faithfully?*

NEW Resiliency Resources

Resiliency includes others, hope, and meaning! That's nothing new to God. Jesus lived it. The Holy Spirit provides all three on a continual basis. These new resources use the Five Gifts of Discipleship as a framework to explore resiliency in these times.

- [Resiliency: Faith Practices in Tough Times](#)
- [Resiliency: Setting Free our Lament](#)
- [Resiliency: Parent's Guide](#)

- [Lament: A Conversation with Brenda Smith](#)



Faith on the Go

✝ Being a Blessing

The Beatitudes are some of the most well-known words in the Bible, yet, I wonder if they are also some of the most misunderstood. We tend to look at these words from the perspective of ourselves in the place of someone who mourns, is meek, is merciful, is a peacemaker. But what if these words were about how we see other people around us?

How would that change how you see and interact people if you viewed them from the lens of these verses? You see someone sad that you perhaps don't know very well and normally would just leave them alone but you take a risk and simply are present with them or offer a simple word of comfort. What impact would that make on the world if we all viewed others from Jesus' perspective of those who are "blessed"?

Being blessed is less about worldly happiness and more about the knowledge that God is with us. We, as the people of God, can reveal God's unfailing presence and unconditional love with our presence, words and actions. Take time this week to

recognize when your presence could be helpful (even if it makes you a bit uncomfortable!) and offer to sit in sadness, stand in solidarity, point out God's mercies, or listen to those saying countercultural things that reveal the kingdom of God in our world.

Pray

We are given so much each day. We are grateful for our food, our homes, our families, our friends and our communities. We are especially grateful for your presence in our lives, God. Every day we want to live our lives sharing your love, mercy and grace to everyone we meet. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Connect

Name one thing that was good today and one thing that was hard today. How did you experience the presence of God in both of those situations?

Bible

Matthew 5: 1-12—The Beatitudes

Day 1

Matthew 5:1-3

What does it mean to you to be poor in spirit? Why do you think that Jesus blesses them with the kingdom of heaven?

Day 2

Matthew 5:4

Think of a time when you have been comforted. Who comforted you and why? How was it a blessing to you?

Day 3

Matthew 5:5-6

How are these two blessings related? When do you feel meek? What do you hunger and thirst for?

Day 4

Matthew 5:7-9

Merciful, pure in heart, and a peacemaker—these are actions we take. What happens when you are merciful, pure in heart, and a peacemaker? How do you treat other people?

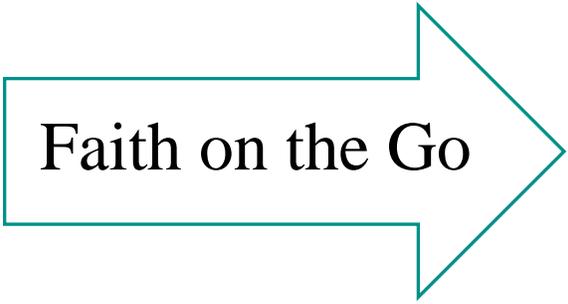
Day 5

Matthew 5:10-11

Jesus is probably not asking us to seek persecution for ourselves! We are being called to stand firm in our faith, to hold to the values of mercy, love, and peace. When does standing firm in your faith cause you to be persecuted today?

Bless

You are a blessed child of God.



Faith on the Go

+ Keep Awake!

Many spiritual directors talk about ‘staying awake’ or being present in our spiritual life and in our connections to God and to the other areas of our life—physical health, mental health, emotional health, etc. and that all these facets of us are interconnected and work together. Jesus reprimands the bridesmaids for not staying awake and not being ready for the groom’s arrival. Since being connected to ourselves and our spirits is vital not only for whole, healthy living but for shining a light that reflects Christ to the world, in what ways can you stay awake today and this week? Talk as a household or journal individually about how you will stay awake and connected to your spirit. Will you start a new practice of reading scripture, or commit to taking a walk outside more often? Is there music that inspires you or reading and meditating time that can help you connect during the day? Find a spiritual practice that can work for you and give it a try this week!

Pray

Living God, keep us awake and alert to who you are in our world. We give you thanks for this food and for all that you give us. Help us to shine your light so others may see your good gifts. Amen.

Connect

How have you seen the light of Christ this week?

Where do you hope to see the light of Christ in your life today?

Bible

Matthew 25:1-13—The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

Day 1

Matthew 25:1-4

Are you the type of person who is always prepared, or do you just go for it and hope for the best?

Day 2

Matthew 25:5-6

What is your back-up plan? The Bridesmaids had to wait longer than they thought they would. What do you do when things go wrong?

Day 3

Matthew 25:7-9

Who do you identify with? Are you on the side of the bridesmaids who need a little help because they were a little unprepared? Are you on the side of the Bridesmaids who were ready, had a back-up plan and don’t want to give help?

Day 4

Matthew 25:10-12

What motivates you to be prepared? Is it the fear of missing out on something? Concern about looking foolish?

Day 5

Matthew 25:13

So much of this story is about being ready, or being awake.

What do you “sleep through” in your own life? What do you wish you could keep awake for?

Bless

Let your light so shine before others that they may know God.



Upcoming VLM Events:

Cut Your Own Christmas Tree



December 5 & 19, 2020, 10am-3pm

at Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion

Pick a camp- Pick a tree

Looking for that special Christmas tree?

Want to help VLM and the forests at both camps?

Here is a great reason to take a little drive to Camp Hiawatha or Camp Vermilion in December. Both Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion are hosting Cut Your Own Christmas Tree events. Open to all, friends and family can come out to camp, find a balsam fir in a designated area to cut, tie it down and take it home. Top the trip off with a warm beverage and sweet treat around the outdoor fire. A \$20 donation per tree is requested for this event.

Event attendees are asked to bring a hand saw, tie down materials and a sled (if needed) to retrieve the tree from the forest. (*VLM will have a limited supply of hand saws, sleds and tie down twine available at both sites.*) This event will take place outside, so please dress accordingly. Restroom facilities will be limited and not readily available at the cutting locations. While reservations are not needed, COVID protocols will include physically distancing groups in the forest as well as around the fire, hand sanitizer will be available, and wearing

of masks will be encouraged outdoors and mandatory indoors.

How does this help the camp forests? By selectively harvesting Balsam Fir trees in certain areas of the camp forests where they are denser, we are eliminating fuel for future wildfire threats, as well as providing biological balance for the forest ecosystem that has been interrupted by the elimination of fire controls. Reducing the density of Balsam Fir trees allows space for other, more stable and longer growing trees like white and red pine, to thrive.

Celebration of Light and Music

Sunday, December 13, 2020 at Camp Hiawatha

2:00 - 7:00 p.m.



Join us for an afternoon of fellowship, holiday fare, winter activities, and celebrating the season of Advent. There is something for all ages as we gather in community to prepare our hearts for the coming Christ child. We invite you to participate in all or part of this day.

Activities for the day include sleigh rides, food demonstrations, crafts, cookie decorating, hymn sing, worship, and a festive holiday meal. It's a great event for all ages!

Cost: \$15 for adults, \$7 ages 6-11, free under 5. Covers afternoon activities and meal.

Please RSVP by December 9 by contacting the main VLM office - email or 218-666-5465.

Schedule of Events

2:00-4:30 - Sleigh rides, Ethnic food demonstrations and samples, cookie decorating, Advent crafts, conversation and fellowship

4:30 - Holiday Hymn sing

5:00 - Worship Service

6:00 - Festive Holiday Dinner

November 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 All Saints Day 9am Worship Sunday Story Time	2	3 Election Day 9am Making Mats for the Homeless	4 5:45pm 6 th Grade Confirmation	5 2pm Children, Youth, Family & Ed. Meeting	6 11am Men's Bible Study	7
8 9am Worship	9	10 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 6pm Council Meeting	11 5:45pm 6 th Grade Confirmation	12 1pm Jam Group	13 11am Men's Bible Study	14
15 Beacon Deadline 9am Worship	16	17 9am Making Mats for the Homeless	18 5:45pm 6 th Grade Confirmation	19	20 11am Men's Bible Study	21 Middle School Gathering Weekend
22 Middle School Gathering Weekend 9am Worship	23	24 9am Making Mats for the Homeless	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving! 	27 11am Men's Bible Study	28
29 1 st Sunday in Advent 9am Worship	30					

Bethesda Lutheran Church
204 5th 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 or if you
would like to have a copy
mailed or emailed to you please
contact the office.*

