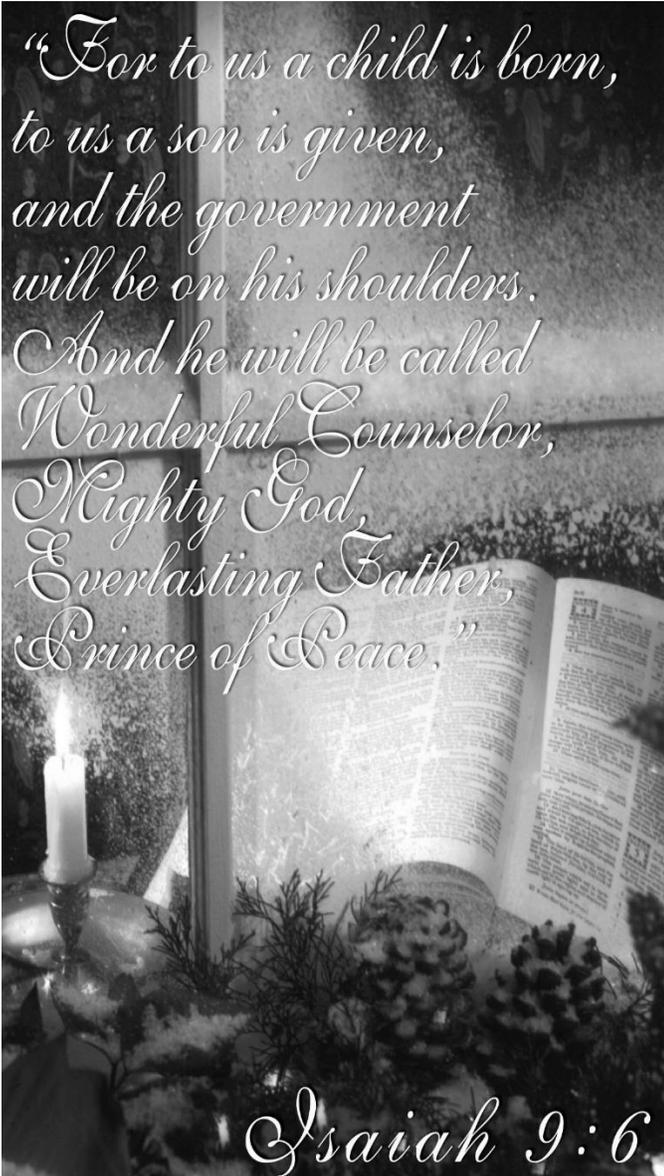




# The Bethesda Beacon

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



## In This Month's Beacon:

\*Pastor Seth's Beacon Article

\*Financial Update

\*Member News

\*Committee Updates

\*Faith on the Go!

\*And More



Christmas Eve Services will be led by Pastor Seth Wynands at 4:00p.m. & 8:00p.m.  
on Friday December 24<sup>th</sup>.



When I was starting my first summer as a camp counselor, I had to share something called a *God Moment*.

“God Moments” are short stories of how God has impacted us, and over the course of the summer, every counselor tells theirs a few times around the campfire. And I say I “had” to do this because, well, it was certainly not something I was looking forward to. This task, like many other bewilderingly new parts of camp life, felt pretty daunting.

Though I had been growing in faith as a young person, I was, like many others, pretty uncomfortable talking about God in my life. Eventually, though I prepared a story of an answered prayer that barely mentioned God at all and took all of about 90 seconds to tell, and I sped through my first telling in about 60.

As the early days of summer turned into weeks, though, something surprising happened.

Over the course of the summer, I heard a lot of God Moments. And as I listened, and as I got the chance to share my own God Moment a few more times, my understanding of God’s presence began to change. I began to see more fully how God might have been at work, not only in responding to my prayer but in shaping me and calling me into new relationships and deeper discipleship.

**Advent is, at its heart, a season about God Moments.** It’s a season full of stories of God Moments that move us toward the ultimate God Moment: the inbreaking of God in the person of Jesus.

And, yes, we do tell stories of God Moments all year long (it’s kind of the church’s thing!) But Advent, in particular, is a season of telling the story of how God showed up, in the flesh, and it’s a season of preparing for God to show up in our world.

My encouragement for you is to give your stories of God Moments a chance this advent, and see what God does with it.

And if you’re like me and are a bit stuck on the start, remember that you don’t have to have final answers for what God has been up to. We share our stories not by writing them in stone but in wondering about God. One of the many paradoxes of our faith is that we believe two things simultaneously:

1. God is present and active in our world.
2. God’s presence and activity are beyond our understanding.

So it is more than ok to wonder about your God Moments – in fact, I’d encourage it! **Stewarding our stories of God in our world will always be about wondering what God *might* be up to.**

Blessings to you this Advent and Christmas season as you share memories and make new ones!

~Pastor Seth



**SHHHHHHHH...**

Following a long-time Bethesda tradition, members and friends of Bethesda are invited to contribute to a cash gift for Pastor Seth and Andrea. You may give your gift to the office or Lynn Beatty by December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**The Annual Meeting will be held January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

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

**Bethesda Staff**

Seth Wynands, Pastor 424-337-0350

[pastor@bethesdacarlton.org](mailto:pastor@bethesdacarlton.org)

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)

Ronay Frank, Custodian

Anna Bong, 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)

**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.*



**SAVE THE DATE**

**DECEMBER 4, 2021**

**ANNUAL BAZAAR**

Featuring:

Meal Selections: Sloppy Joe's, Stew and Bars, Rice Pudding & Fruit Soup. Crispy Rosettes, Lefse: Packaged or "hot" & ready to eat, Christmas Cookies & Candy, Baked & Canned Goods, Craft Table & Next to New items.

We will again be asking for help with our Annual Bazaar. As you know, the women of the church (men included) will be holding the bazaar the first Saturday in December. If you would be willing to help in any way either to prep items before the sale or to work during the bazaar or for clean up afterwards please call and leave a message at the church and indicate in what you are willing to participate in.

We will need help with the following:  
**taking down** tables after the Bazaar  
**Baking**, both at the church and anything you care to bake at home and donate.

**Next to New:** Please remember to save items for this fabulous rummage sale.

**Items for our "Kitchen Nook"**

Cookbooks, new or gently used kitchen items, aprons, cloth grocery bags, etc.

**Crafts galore.** Show off your talents by donating your crafts.

**Baking/cooking** at the church include:

**Monday**-Rosettes, **Tuesday**-Sally Anns, **Wednesday**-Spritz, **Thursday**-stew-Sloppy Joes, **Friday**-lefse.

**Silent Auction:** We are looking for donations

Any items or time you can donate to help make this years Bazaar bigger and better would be greatly appreciated.

**Next to New** is looking for clean gently used items to sell at the Bazaar. It is a good way to rid your home of

unused items. We DO NOT sell clothing or VHS tapes. Please start bringing the items on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> to the Fellowship Hall. All donations need to be at the church by Wednesday December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you,  
WELCA, Women of the Church.  
Rena House 218 591-5651  
Lynn, 218 591-7519  
Linda 879-6274

**Wanted**

New or gentle used socks and gloves  
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, December 19, 2021*



Please consider bringing a Poinsettia "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" a Loved One to help adorn our Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Please have your plant(s) at the Church by 3pm on Thursday December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Let's fill the Sanctuary with lots of beautiful plants to add to the beauty of Christ's Birth!! Please let the office know by Dec 16<sup>th</sup> if you will be bringing a plant so your loved one(s) will be acknowledged in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Thank you.  
Pat Durkee

With cold weather fast approaching  
 The CHUM center in Duluth is in need  
 of blankets for area homeless people.  
 Please drop off blankets at church and  
 they will be delivered to CHUM.  
 Thank you.

We will be making polar fleece  
 blankets for some of the residents at  
 Interfaith Care Center. We are also  
 hoping to have a project kit prepared  
 the families can take home to  
 complete. Please contact Linda  
 Newlon at 218-879-6274 or JoAnn  
 Gustafson 218-879-7063 or 218-348-  
 2560 if you have any questions about  
 this project.

**Coffee Serving Schedule  
 2021  
 December**

- 5 Social Ministry “Damiano Center
- 12 Cary’s Group
- 19 Linda’s Group
- 26 Lil’s Group

<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.			



***“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 December our collection focus will be cereal.* 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.

From now until December 14<sup>th</sup> WELCA will be collecting donations for **Christmas Gift Cards**. Please let the office, Lynn Beatty or Pastor Seth 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 or may be dropped off at the church. You can also find envelopes in the pews at church. Thank you for helping those in need this holiday season! **Please make checks payable to WELCA.**



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



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 December Baptismal Birthdays**

Audrina Schwartz, Gary Eriksen, Brett Balow, Ella Rammer, Maddie Cragin, Chad Laine, Giselle Martini, Westen Radtke, Nancy Crider, Kaitlyn Kelley, Emma DeVriendt, Crosby

Moench, Alanna Soukkala, Emily Marciniak, Amelia McCarthy, Alan Moench, Kristen Wakefield, Stephanie Erickson, Alex Grover, Courtney Grover, Jolene Johnson, Bethany Mckeon, Haven Rockenstein, Renee Kesty, Bobbie McCorison, Abby Mickle, Brynn Mickle, Jackson Mickle, Peyton Schmitz, Aliza Vernon, Brody Vernon, Jack Vernon, Chris Rousseau, Patricia Schmitz, Sofie Herman, Kristianna Konietzko, Jazmyn Martini, Carol Hongisto, & Bethany Leseman.



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to the family of Jessica Swanson, Janice Despot, Karen Laine, Connor Laine & Laurie Sparks. God's promises of resurrection bring comfort and hope in Christ the risen savior.

**Worship**

Starting Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> we will be celebrating communion at the Communion Rail.

Wednesday Advent Services - traditional Worship format in the sanctuary will start on Wednesday December 1.

Service project- all members of the congregation and friends are invited to

a hands-on service project in the fellowship hall following Wednesday night services.

### Social Ministry

*Are you getting ready for winter, perhaps cleaning closets?*

Social Ministry is collecting **WINTER CLOTHING** for those in need. Jackets, coats, snow pants, winter hats/caps, gloves, mittens, socks, boots, underwear, sleeping bags, blankets. Donations can be dropped off in the collection box in the back of the Fellowship Hall.



Social Ministry will be hosting coffee in support of The Damiano Center on December 5<sup>th</sup> after Worship.

### Children, Youth, Family & Education

#### **December Storytime/Jesus Story video:**

**December 5th** - Storytime in the gathering space

**December 12th** - Jesus Story video in the sanctuary

**December 19th** - Storytime in the gathering space

**December 26th** - off - no video or class

**January 2, 2022** - off - no video or class

FILLED WITH HOPE  
AND GRATITUDE  
2021 Advent Devotional

#### **Wednesday, December 1 Philippians 1:3–11**

It is difficult to imagine that the Apostle Paul is actually writing from prison as he writes here to the Philippians. He does not express fear or anger, but instead thanksgiving and joy for the gospel and concern for the community, reminding them to put love at the heart of their witness. We are still early in Advent, but I am reminded that the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally “Gaudete Sunday” or “Joy Sunday.” Paul’s words and example invite us to look for joy throughout this Advent, as we prepare for, as we anticipate this yearly reminder that God’s love is with us “until the day of Christ Jesus.” Mothering God, we are so often caught in the prisons of our own brokenness, struggling to see beyond the hurt and the pain we have caused. Remind us of your grace, flood us with your love, draw us beyond our sinfulness, and breathe through us into relationship with all of Creation. Amen.

## **Thursday, December 2**

### **Luke 3:1–6**

This is such a familiar text! And such a powerful reminder that our God is one whose salvation stretches across time and space, reaching into every corner of our world and our being. John's wilderness words are a reminder and call for us to repent, to "turn around" so that we can live into the forgiveness of our sins that comes from the hands of our God. Even now, as we perceive the many ways we have participated in brokenness, we are reminded that every obstacle to God's love will be made low, that every path no matter how winding will lead directly to God. This is the promise we are holding onto during Advent; this is at the heart of our anticipation.

Mothering God, breathe with us in our wandering; help us to feel your love drawing us more deeply toward each other. When the way gets rough, when we want to refuse to see you in the eyes of those we have named as enemies or those who have hurt us, help us to see you anew. Breathe your love into us; help us to breathe out in repentance. Amen.

## **Friday, December 3**

### **Mark 1:1–8**

It almost goes without saying: We are living through challenging times. Far too often it can feel like we are wandering in a desert, torn between conflicting views about

justice, about the pandemic, about the very nature of democracy—and whether God is really present and continues to care day to day about this Creation. Our gospel reading reminds us that even in the depths of our fear and uncertainty, God is there lighting a path forward, drawing us close, showing us that repentance leads to forgiveness, and forgiveness grounds our hope. If only we have eyes of trust we will see God's salvation is at hand.

Mothering God, light our way through the deserts of our brokenness. Nurse us into just relationships. Breathe your love and hope into us, and help us to breathe out our anguish and fear. Amen.

## **Saturday, December 4**

### **"Filled with Hope and Gratitude"**

(ACS 907, Verse 1)

Once again we turn to Mary's song, remembering in these beautiful words the mothering nature of our God. Anyone who has ever nursed an infant knows the rush of joy that comes when one relaxes into the act of breastfeeding. Even in the confusion, uncertainty, and anxiety of being a new parent, there can be hope and gratitude and exultation as milk begins to flow and a babe on the breast quiets into feeding.

Mothering God, help us to relax into your forgiveness, to breathe in your grace and to breathe out our sinfulness.

As we await yet again the birth of your son, help us to recognize our brokenness and also lean into the comfort of your promises of eternal life. Amen.

**Sunday, December 5**  
**“Filled with Hope and Gratitude”**  
(ACS 907, Verse 1)

What can it mean for our God to smile upon the humble? Far too often we see ourselves as the humble, rather than recognizing all of the ways in which we sin by wreaking havoc upon others. Advent is a time of anticipation, yes, anticipation of God’s entry into our lives through the birth of Jesus the Christ. Yet Advent must also be a time of preparation, of recognizing the many ways in which we continue to hurt others, participate in oppression, and abuse Creation. The words of our song remind us in a special way that God smiles upon the humble. Now is a season for remembering what true humility can be, for accepting God’s power in our lives and living into the depth and width of God’s justice and love. Mothering God, draw us to your breast as any parent draws a toddler who tantrums. Help us to calm our fears and face our brokenness, nourished always by your loving forgiveness. Help us to breathe in your love and forgiveness and to breathe out our brokenness and hurt. Amen.

For additional days go go

<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpaus/e/advent-devotional/>



**Upcoming VLM Events:**



**Celebration of Light and Music**  
**Sunday, December 12, 2021 at**  
**Camp Hiawatha**

Join us for this annual event to celebrate the season of Advent, the coming Christ child, and light in the darkness. The Celebration of Light and Music combines afternoon family activities, such as sleigh rides, craft projects, and lefse making, with a music filled worship and festive holiday meal. It has become a yearly tradition for many, and we hope to gather with you again in 2021.

# December 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> <b>8am</b> Bazaar Prep~Spritz <b>5:45pm</b> Advent Worship Service	<b>2</b> <b>8am</b> Bazaar Prep~Stew & Sloppy Joes <b>3:30pm</b> Children, Youth, Family & Ed. Meeting	<b>3</b> <b>8am</b> Bazaar Prep~Lefse	<b>4</b> <b>7am</b> Bazaar Kitchen Prep <b>9am</b> Touch of Scandinavia Holiday Bazaar <b>1pm</b> Bazaar Clean- Up
<b>5</b> Social Ministry ~ Damiano Center <b>9am</b> Worship Storytime (Fellowship Hall) <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/Fellowship	<b>6</b> <b>5:30pm</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>7</b> <b>8:30am</b> TOPS <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	<b>8</b> <b>5:45pm</b> Advent Worship Service	<b>9</b> <b>1pm</b> Jam Group <b>5:30pm</b> Ladies of Kaleva	<b>10</b> <b>11am</b> Bible Study	<b>11</b> <b>9am</b> Fellowship Hall in Use~Johnson Family
<b>12</b> <b>9am</b> Worship/Sunday Storytime (Sanctuary) <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/Fellowship	<b>13</b> <b>5:30pm</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>14</b> <b>8:30am</b> TOPS <b>9am</b> Making Homeless Mats <b>4:30pm</b> Worship Committee Meeting <b>5:30pm</b> Council Meeting <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	<b>15</b> <b>Beacon                      Deadline</b> <b>5:45pm</b> Advent Worship Service	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>11am</b> Bible Study	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>9am</b> Worship/Sunday Storytime (Fellowship Hall) <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/Fellowship	<b>20</b> <b>5:30pm</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>21</b> <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	<b>22</b> <b>5:45pm</b> Advent Worship Service	<b>23</b> <b>1pm</b> Jam Group	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas                      Eve</b> Services at 4 & 8p.m.	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas! 
<b>26</b> <b>9am</b> Worship <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/Fellowship	<b>27</b> <b>5:30pm</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>28</b> <b>8:30am</b> TOPS <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve	

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.*

