



# **The Bethesda Beacon**

*Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN*  
March 2023



## In This Month's Beacon:

\*Pastor Seth's Beacon Article

\*Financial Update

\*Member News

\*Committee Updates

\*And More



## What does it mean to be a Christian?

A campus worship service that began on February 8, 2023 and at the time of this writing is still going on, has sparked the Christian movement that is an answer to prayers as church leaders have looked at their emptying pews. Over 50,000 people have created traffic jams in the small town of Wilmore, Kentucky, not to mention started an unprecedented social media enhanced movement across the country.

Certainly a far cry from our usual prayer and worship practices! It's also fascinating because it is led by folks even younger than me: it's a movement by and for college students, and focused on youth and young adults, though others have joined in as well. People have shared stories, found healing, sang songs led by volunteer bands, and experienced the Holy Spirit anew.

Not surprisingly, though, there's also been some pushback against this movement.

The crux of the argument is this: Jesus didn't ask us to stay in worship for weeks at a time. Jesus asked us to go out and love our neighbors, feed the hungry, and create justice.

And I can see where the detractors are coming from! For example, in

Matthew 17, on the mountain where Jesus was "transfigured," it was Peter, not Jesus, who wanted to set up camp and stay in that holy place. But Jesus reached out, touched his disciples, and led them down the mountain, to do the work of ministry.

Here's where I think this argument falls short: it ignores the fact that before they went on down the mountain, Jesus touched them.

There are all kinds of ways that people are hurt: by our upbringings, by broken relationships, by homelessness or food insecurity, by exclusion, by mental illness, by racism, by the loss of income...

Worship, and authentic community, can be part of how Jesus touches us. Worship and community can help us heal. We may also need something else, some other aspect to healing, but if people are finding healing, connection, and hope from flocking to a month-long worship service, who am I to say that it's not the work of the Holy Spirit?

Ultimately, the tension and beauty of the Christian tradition leads us to this: we need both.

If we have action without prayer/worship, we act without grounding and guiding.

If we have prayer/worship without action, we pray empty prayers.

This Lent, whether your focus is on prayer or on action, may the one lead you deeper into the other.

Have a Blessed Lenten season.

*Pastor Seth Wynands*

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### **2023 Members of Bethesda Church Council**

Jason Goad -President

Deb Davis-Vice President

Jen Goad-Secretary

Jeannette Korpela-Treasurer

JoAnn Gustafson

Debby Johnson

Renee Kesty

*\*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*

**God's Work our Hands - on going - year round** -- Consider hemming precut diaper squares, and onesies. Located on the table in the narthex.

We have 2 office desks in the basement and 2 pianos to get rid of. Talk to Lynn or call the office if you are interested. Thank you.

Coffee Serving Schedule  
**March 5<sup>th</sup>** -Linda's Group  
**March 12<sup>th</sup>** – Social  
Ministry~Adult/Teen Challenge  
**March 19<sup>th</sup>** –Lil's Group  
**March 26<sup>th</sup>** – Renae's Group

For weather related cancellations of Sunday worship service please tune in to WKLK or KBJR. We will also post the information on Facebook and make phone calls to notify everyone.

**Save the Date: Bethesda Meatball Supper March 18<sup>th</sup> 2:30-5:30.**

We are looking for volunteers to cook, peel, set up, clean up, serving, ticket sales, advertising. If you would like to help please see Deb Davis or Renae House. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Thank you.

Communion Assistants (Intinction) & 2 Counters.

The sign-up sheets will be on the table in the Narthex beginning **March 4<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions, contact Pat Durkee, 384-3645. Thank you for your willingness to serve.



Please consider bringing a Lilly/Plant for Our Easter Flower Garden “In Memory of” or “In Honor of” a Loved One to help adorn our Sanctuary on Easter. ***Please have your plant at the Church by 11 am on Friday, April 8th.*** Let's fill the Sanctuary with lots of beautiful plants to add to the beauty of Christ's Resurrection!! ***Please let the office know by April 3rd*** if you will be bringing a plant so your Loved One(s) will be acknowledged on Easter morning. Thank you. Pat Durkee

Bethesda holds a church service at Interfaith Care Center the 2nd Sunday of each month. We have music along with a short service held in the IFCC Community Room at 3:00 P.M. The service lasts approximately 20-30 minutes. Coffee and treats are served directly following the service by the Ladies of Kaleva. All are welcome to join!

<b>Financial Update</b>			
Year to date as of 1/31/2023			
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>
Envelope giving	6893.00	8025.00	(1132.00)
Non-pledged income	2421.00	2383.33	37.67
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>9314.00</b>	<b>10408.33</b>	<b>(1094.33)</b>
Salaries/Compensation	8432.62	8545.05	(112.43)
General Office Expenses	1003.35	699.01	304.34
Utilities	1046.26	955.42	90.84
Other Expenses	18.39	86.66	68.27
Benevolence Expenses	68.93	90.83	(21.90)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	38.92	210.84	(171.92)
Social Ministry	27.00	27.08	(0.08)
Worship Expenses	0.00	233.33	(233.33)
CYFM Expenses	0.00	81.67	(81.67)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>10635.47</b>	<b>10929.89</b>	<b>(294.42)</b>
<b>Net operating income</b>	<b>(1321.47)</b>	<b>(521.56)</b>	<b>(799.91)</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.			



Please prayerfully consider Volunteering to assist at the Easter Service on April 9<sup>th</sup> for the 8:00am service.

**LayMinistry Assistants Needed:**

Acolytes, Crucifix Holder, Ushers, A Lector, 2 Greeters, 2

## Social Ministry



Social Ministry will be hosting coffee in support of 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Ministries on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Galyna Tuttle will be speaking about her trips to Ukraine bringing medical supplies to the people there. They are in need of backpacks, duffel bags and suitcases to bring the medical supplies. If you are able to donate please bring your donation to the church. Thank you.

**Social Ministry** will be continuing the collection of jackets, hats, mittens, etc. as well as hygiene products; shampoo, toothpaste, personal care products for the Damiano Center. They will also be collecting larger backpacks and suitcases with wheels. Please bring gently used items. There is a box for each in the Fellowship Hall.



*“Live simply....so others may simply live.”*

Please continue to donate to the Salvation Army, our local food shelf, on Carlton Ave. in Cloquet. ***For the month of March our collection focus will be canned soup, stew and canned meats; tuna, chicken, etc.*** 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.

## Worship

**Mid-Week Lenten Services**  
begin March 1<sup>st</sup> @ 6pm.

### **March Worship Assistants**

If you are unable to be here for the date that you are scheduled, please try to find a replacement. Thank you!  
***We are in need of people to usher. If you are able there will be a sign-up sheet outside the Sanctuary.***

### **Greeters**

3/5 JoAnn Gustafson  
3/12 Ryan Swanson  
3/19 Marv & Pat Durkee  
3/26 Lori Bunge

### **Ushers**

3/5 Sharon Bragge & Mary Saarela  
3/12 Terry & Sue Coady  
3/19 Debby Johnson & Cheryl Ankrum  
3/26 Pat Durkee & Ryan Swanson

### **Lector**

3/5 Wendy Mitchell  
3/12 Roxane Schmitz  
3/19 Ginny Korte-Castle  
3/26 Randy Schmitz

### **Acolyte**

3/5 Anna Bong  
3/12 Alex  
3/19 Mason Haley  
3/26 Ailie Gustafson

### **Communion Assistants**

3/5 Daryl & Linda Bong & Anna  
3/12 Andrea Wynands & Alex  
3/19 Jason & Jen Goad & Mason

3/26 JoAnn Gustafson & Ailie  
**Counters**  
3/5 Lori Bunge & Lynn Beatty  
3/12 Mary Saarela & Chris Mitchell  
3/19 Linda Newlon & Gladys Sievert  
3/26

Children, Youth, Family and Ed

### **MARCH 2023 SCHEDULE FOR J.A.M./ MESSAGE**

**\*\*\*March 5<sup>th</sup>** – Jesus and Me –  
J.A.M.  
**\*\*\*March 12<sup>th</sup>** - message with Pastor  
Seth  
**\*\*\*March 19<sup>th</sup>** - message with Pastor  
Seth  
**\*\*\*March 26<sup>th</sup>** – message with Pastor  
Seth

### **Beacon Information – March 2023**

Good News! CYFED has a new member – Diana Davis. Thank you very much Diana for sharing your time and talents with our committee.

CYFED sent out 19 valentine cards to pre-K through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Adult education classes continue with Bible study on Friday's at 11:00 and Book/Article study the last Tuesday of the month at 5:30. Paula Olsen would like to organize a night for the group to go out for supper. More to follow. We are also looking to hold a Bible study class in early 2023. Ginny Kortie-

Castle will talk with Diana Davis to see if there is a study they can offer.

Pastor Seth is looking at spring to hold something on Mental Health/Suicide training.

We had two kids complete 3<sup>rd</sup> grade bible study on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. They were Oliver Soukkala and Crosby Moench. Congratulations!

Holy Communion class with Crosby Moench will be on March 29<sup>th</sup> from 9-12. He will be receiving his 1<sup>st</sup> Communion on Palm Sunday or Maundy Thursday.

Cardia Deo will be held on March 18, 2023, in Grand Rapids. This is for kids grades 9-12. Bethesda could possibly have 4 boys from Bethesda attending and possibly 2 more from Rivers Edge. Wendy is reserving 2 adjoining room if available. They will have a hotel with a pool to regroup and discuss the events. Wendy is following up with a couple more and Pastor Seth will follow up with Rivers Edge.

The stewardship challenge is for grades 10-12<sup>th</sup>. All the kids received \$20.00 to start with. After they have used their original \$20.00 they need to report back on how the money was used. The kids have until Ash Wednesday to use the \$20.00, then they will get the remainder of \$100.00. Rivers Edge will also be giving their 2 kids at total of \$120.00.

Lenten faith partners started February 22, 2023. Pastor Seth will make up the curriculum again this year to be used. We could have 3 kids from Rivers Edge attend. If asked to be a faith partner, please prayerfully consider.

Ideas for youth outings are Duluth Playhouse (winter or spring), zoo, aquarium, and the New Wine Musical.

Our next CYFED meeting will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 5:30 PM in the gathering space. **PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE.** All are welcome to attend.

### Member News



#### Celebrating March Baptismal Birthdays

Tanner Anderson, Blu Bong,  
Brock Peterson, Karson Davis,  
Kennedy Davis, Darlene Godbout,  
Bridger McCorison, Ryan Lindgren,  
Cecelia Moench, Karen Johnson,  
Deanna Wallin, Audrey Lokken, Brian  
Allen, Jared Kelley, Jason Peterson,  
Pastor Seth Wynands, Emily Hanson,  
Macguier Thorman, Sullivan Kiehn,  
Jonathon Radtke, Paul Sell, Jason  
Goad, Harlow Lekander-Karsiko,  
Ruth Olson, Amy Schwoch, Jayden  
Swanson, Toni Vanguilder, Rollin  
Martini & Daniel Wakefield.



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to Bob & Myrna Postal and Jerry Beckwith. Bob & Jerry's brother Ray Postal passed away on January 28<sup>th</sup>. To Craig & Roxane Schmitz & Randy Schmitz & family. Their mom Ellen Schmitz, long-time member of Bethesda, passed away on February 9<sup>th</sup>. To the family of Dolly Niemi who passed away on February 10<sup>th</sup>. To the family of Myrt Olson who passed away February 7<sup>th</sup>. To Char & John Francour, Jessica Krone and family & Marlene Anderson & family. Char's father, Jessica's grandfather and Marlene's brother -in-law Nick Schneider passed away on February 13<sup>th</sup>. God comfort and strengthen our hearts in hope in the resurrection through Christ.



Thank You to our Bethesda family for your prayers & thoughtfulness with the loss of our mother and grandmother Ellen. Thanks to Joel for sharing his gifted voice & Pastor Seth for phone visits/prayers. Thanks to all who prepared the delicious lunch, desserts, served, and did the clean-up & dishes. With Appreciation,  
The Family of Ellen Schmitz

Excerpted from:

## **Come and See, Go and Tell**

Bishop Amy Odgren

*The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." (John 1:35-39)*

At the invitation of Bishop Sani Ibrahim Azar of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), I had the privilege to join seventeen bishops from the ELCA to travel to Israel, Palestine, and Jordan for the last two weeks of January. Our visit was based on the scripture referenced above, grounded in the radical logic of Christ's love – an agape that defies human logic, that rests in the mind of Christ and the heart of God, that insists all human beings are created in the image of God, and that sees God's face even in the enemy. In this sacred, historical, and complicated geopolitical area of the world, we were invited to Come and See - Go and Tell as we learned first hand of the realities that Palestinians suffer daily, while noting the many signs of God's

presence and power that were evidenced there. John's gospel offers a helpful word to all who come to Palestine and Israel as Christians. "What are you looking for?" Jesus asks the disciples who are following him on his way. People come from all over the world on pilgrimages to the Holy Land; and what they are seeking often shapes what they find. The response of the disciples – "Rabbi, where are you staying?" – is a good and true answer. They are seeking a promise of presence: they are looking for the place where they know they will find Jesus. As people of faith, our hearts might sometimes echo this same search. Where are you God? Where can we find you? Where are you staying? Jesus answers not with a location, but with an invitation; "Come and see." As the seventeen bishops spent time touring, meeting, listening, worshiping and getting to know many from across the ELCJHL and its ministries, not only did we recognize the holy presence of God in the ancient stones from the past, but also in the living stones we met who shared brutal realities of living under occupation, but with an unswerving hope where the reign of God erupts from the soil and the people and disrupts injustice with love, resilience, and defiant joy.

We heard from teachers and administrators from four of the K-12 schools that the ELCJHL supports. We were impressed by the confidence and



poise of the students who demonstrated their skills at public speaking, robotics, music and dance. The schools are privately operated by the church and attended by both Muslim and Christian students, many who must go through Israeli Army checkpoints on their way to and from school. It was particularly impressive to learn that the curriculum includes mediation skills training as well as gender justice. We also toured a vocational trade school in Ramallah which is supported by the Lutheran World Federation. One of the primary functions of this school is to provide skills for gainful employment for young women. They serve young men as well, but options are limited for women in Palestine. This school provides training in computer-based interior design, clothing design, keyboarding, computer programming/web design, and woodworking.

Like many cultures and communities, especially indigenous ones, Palestinians recognize their identity as bound up with the land. It is less that the land belongs to the people as that the people belong to the land – it is a mutual relationship, not a transactional one. This is essential to understand as Palestinians confront narratives that they are interlopers on the land, or that they could simply pack up and live in peace somewhere else. We learned of the environmental impact of Israeli

occupation and the struggles of farmers to care for and tend their land as they watch encroaching Israeli settlements spring up, and the human cost of walls and checkpoints that treat a whole community as guilty until proven innocent. I pondered walls and their ability to not only keep people out – but to also keep people in, cut off from family, supplies, services, and even worship. But I learned that for Palestinian Christians, hope is found not only in a far-off future but in the present, in their resilience – or “resistance through existence” that is their birthright – a gift of the God of the universe, incarnate in the babe born in Bethlehem. “My prayer for the church in Palestine, and around the world, is that God moves our inner spirits to cry and lament the things that are wrong and broken in our communities, nations, and even in our churches...Lamenting is our gateway to restoration, just as the cross is our pathway to the resurrection. Yes, Jesus died on the cross. But that was not the final chapter. He died so that he and his followers might live again. His death paved the way for a new life and a new beginning. His crucifixion and resurrection serve as an example that life from death is possible...And so today, we lament in hope because we believe in the God of resurrection hope.” – Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac, *The Other Side of the Wall*

Through all of the diplomatic visits, school tours, meeting with ELCJHL clergy and leaders, our bishop group still found time to explore the holy sites of this amazing land. We visited Christmas Lutheran Church in Jerusalem, the Church of the Nativity and the Shepherd's Fields in Bethlehem, the Galilean area of Capernaum and the Church of the Multiplication, as well as Tabgha. We enjoyed a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and ate St. Peter's fish for lunch. In Jordan, we visited the baptismal site of Jesus, Mt. Nebo, and the ancient city of Petra. We shopped for spices, drank delicious tea and coffee, and bought lots of scarves. It was an amazing experience and one that I will continue to reflect on and share with all of you.

"I have learned and dismantled all the words in order to draw from them a single word: HOME." The Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish calls us into discernment about what "home" means for Palestinians and Israelis, as well as other displaced peoples throughout the world. As the musical Hamilton notes, George Washington often found inspiration in the prophet Michah's vision of a land where everyone "shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid." Is such a home possible in the Holy Land? In any land? Micah offers us a vision of a homeland where swords and spears are

destroyed and reformed into tools for life, because they will never again be needed as weapons. And yet, the first step toward that vision lies with a different prophet, Mary of Nazareth, the mother of Jesus, whose song of praise in the gospel of Luke proclaims a reversal of the status quo, so that the lowly are lifted and the powerful dethroned. Jesus' first sermon in heart of this Palestinian city, images of Mary from nearby and from "nations Nazareth in Luke is an echo of his mother's – and in Nazareth, in the very far away" remind us of the power of Mary's prophetic word for people all over the world who also long to draw from her promise "a single word: HOME."

Prayer: God of justice, hear the proclamation of Mary, Micah, Mahmoud, and the living stones of the people we met in the Holy Land. Turn your ear to your people who long and work for a world where every person is at home. Humble those who rule by fear and control, and empower those who would lead in love and justice. Let the "days to come" of shared land come to the Holy Land, and to all homelands, soon. In Jesus name, Amen.

*(Some excerpts taken from the Devotional Booklet prepared for our trip by the Rev. Dr. Rachel Aelabouni.)*

To view the full article and see pictures go to [nemnsynod.org-Events](http://nemnsynod.org-Events) & Communications-News & Announcements

# March 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 <b>6pm</b> Lent Worship Service <b>6:30pm</b> 7-10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lenten Faith Partner Meeting	2 <b>1pm</b> Jam Group <b>5:30pm</b> Children, Youth, Family & Ed. Meeting	3 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	4
5 <b>8:30am</b> Worship Jesus and Me (J.A.M) - Fellowship Hall <b>9:45am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship	6	7 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	8 <b>6pm</b> Lent Worship Service <b>6:30pm</b> 7-10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lenten Faith Partner Meeting	9	10 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	11
12 Social Ministry~11 <sup>th</sup> Hour Ministries <b>8:30am</b> Worship/ Children's Message <b>9:45am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship <b>3pm</b> Interfaith Worship Service @ IFCC	13	14 <b>9am</b> Making Homeless Mats <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	15 <b>Beacon Deadline</b> <b>6pm</b> Lent Worship Service <b>6:30pm</b> 7-10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lenten Faith Partner Meeting	16 <b>1pm</b> Jam Group <b>5:30pm</b> Ladies of Kaleva Meeting	17 St. Patrick's Day <b>11am</b> Bible Study	18 Meatball Supper Serving 2:30-5:30
19 <b>8:30am</b> Worship/ Children's Message <b>9:45am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship	20 President's Day	21 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>4pm</b> Worship Committee Meeting <b>5:30pm</b> Council Meeting <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	22 <b>6pm</b> Lent Worship Service <b>6:30pm</b> 7-10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lenten Faith Partner Meeting	23	24 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	25 First Communion Retreat
26 <b>8:30am</b> Worship/ Children's Message <b>9:45am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship	27	28 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	29 <b>6pm</b> Lent Worship Service <b>6:30pm</b> 7-10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lenten Faith Partner Meeting	30 <b>1pm</b> Jam Group	31 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	

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

Sunday Worship

**8:30am**

*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.*

**March**