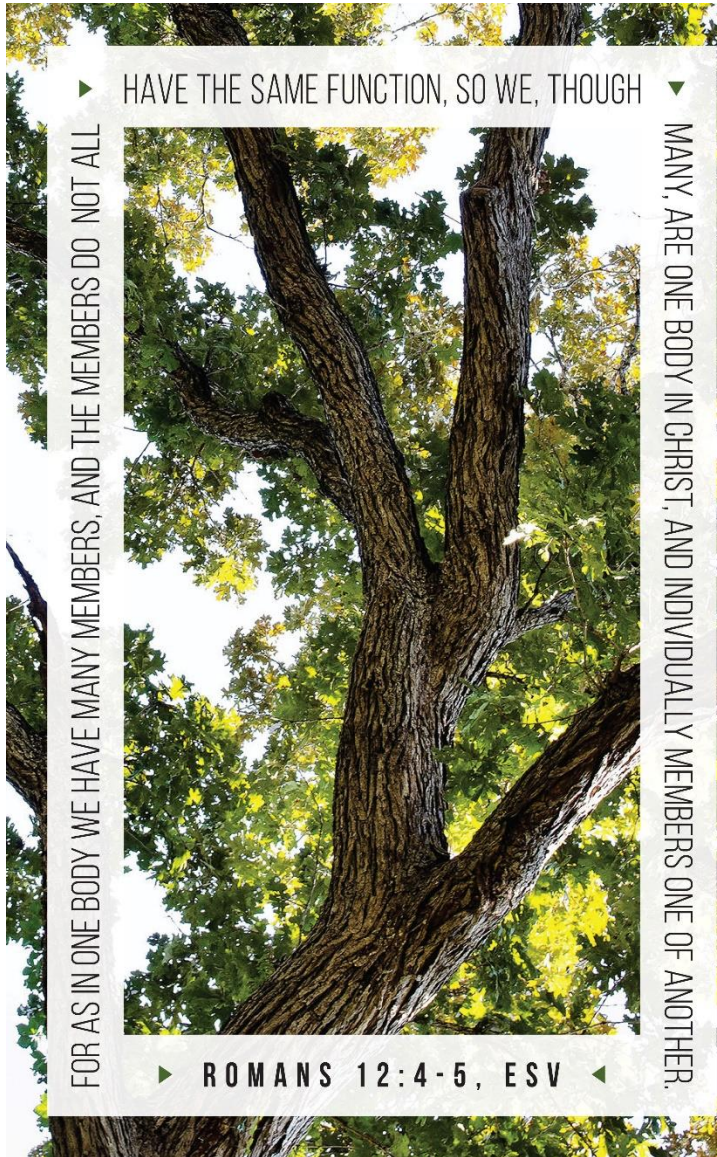




The Bethesda Beacon

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



In This Month's Beacon:

*Pastor Jim's Beacon Article

*Financial Update

*Member News

*Committee Updates

*Faith on the Go!

*And More



Dear friends,
Greetings in the Lord! The world is in disarray. Covid-19, job loss, paying our bills, and our political system has tipped the simple life we were used to living upside down. Have you used this time to work on your relationship with Christ? Have you relied on your faith to give you strength? Have you been saying your prayers?

I remember taking my son fishing when he was in junior high. It was one of those days when the fish weren't biting fast and furious so we had a lot of time to talk. Out of the blue Jake asked, "Dad, what is the toughest thing God ever tried to do?" The question kind of caught me off guard so like a good teacher, I answered a question with a question, "What do you think it was, son?" Jake responded, "Even though you are a minister, you don't know much about God do you, Dad?" The boy then proceeded to answer his own question.

"Since taking science in school, I thought the creation of the world might be the hardest thing God ever tried to do," he said. "Then in Sunday School we were talking about some of the miracles like Jesus' resurrection, and I thought that might be the toughest thing God ever tried to do to get us to understand who he is and that he loves us."

Out of the mouths of babes. . . All I could say to the boy was this, "Son, I think you are right! That's the hardest thing God ever had to do and there was only one way he could do it!"

God has come down in the person of Jesus. That is the good news of the Gospel. We need to draw close to Him these days! That is what we need to do during this time of pandemic. Why did God come down? Because that is the only way he could reveal himself to us. If you have seen the face of Jesus, you have seen the face of God.

During these difficult days I invite you to ponder our mysterious Creator and how he moves and works in the world. Invite the Holy Spirit to stir your heart and mind these days. I believe you will find peace and joy. I think you will be amazed at the depth and breadth of this Great Mystery!!

I send each of you my love and Best Wishes!!

Your friend in Christ,

Pastor Jim

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Synod's Site: www.nemnsynod.org

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.*

Thrivent Financial members

There are many ways that action team money can be used in our community at this time. School supplies, hand sanitizer and masks are just some of the items that are needed. If you need help requesting this money please contact your Thrivent Financial Advisor or call Linda Newlon at 879-6274.

Join us for breakfast at the Brickyard in Wrenshall on Wednesday's at 9am. Wear your mask. We will be social distancing. All are welcome.

Financial Update			
Year-to-date ending 07/31/2020			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	61098.00	59149.00	1949.00
Non-pledged income	10137.57	7541.69	2595.88
TOTAL INCOME	71235.57	66690.69	4544.88
Salaries/Compensation	35225.89	54668.43	(19442.54)
General Office Expenses	6215.05	5161.57	1053.48
Utilities	6985.28	6055.56	929.72
Other Expenses	1057.64	1196.69	(139.05)
Benevolence Expenses	610.98	591.49	19.49
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	1233.26	857.50	375.76
Social Ministry	189.00	204.19	(15.19)
Stewardship Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Worship Expenses	3717.10	1050.00	2667.10
CYFM Expenses	510.90	662.50	(151.60)
TOTAL EXPENSES	55745.10	70447.93	(14702.83)
Net Income	15490.47	(3757.24)	19247.71

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.

On September 13th and 27th we will be doing in house worship services led by Pastor Jim. Pews will be marked off for social distancing, we will have pre-filled communion & a designated spot for you to put your offering to name a few. Please wear your mask and we hope to see you there!

Over the past couple of month's the church has had several issues with members of our congregation receiving emails from what is made to look like other members of the congregation trying to reach them due to an emergency. It appears someone is trying to hack into our system. The emails have used words like *discreet* and *emergency*. If you receive anything like this in your email that is questionable, please **Do Not Reply**. Contact the office or that person directly. Thank you!

Jay Anderson, Chase Martin, Ron Peterson, Jill Rousseau, Debbie Davis, Walter Anderson, Joel Soukkala, John Foss, Kaden Olesen, Duane Soukkala, Tim Beatty, Jerry Beckwith, Harper Ostby, Matthew Ostby, Ethan Krone, Ayden Buscko, Ethan Buscko, Max Buscko, Sheila Crisp, Quinn Peterson, Rowan Rockenstein, Annabelle Soukkala, Katie Moench, Destiny Solomon, Faith Solomon, Joseph Solomon, Lucas Solomon, Teresa Solomon, Steven Habhegger, Aiden Theisen, Laura Castle.



Thank you to Joel Soukkala and Sue Coady who have continued to work on putting together the online services for each Sunday. Your dedication to reaching the congregation and others in the community is greatly appreciated!

Member News



Celebrating September Baptismal Birthdays

Amanda Dewitt, Leif

Herman, Cory Saarela, Liam Antilla, Elijah Theisen, Donald Lokken, Tasia Beatty, Alexis Carpenter, Kaylee Lent, Spencer Rousseau, Jett Theisen, Linda Bong, Christine Erickson,



Birthday Blessings

Former long-time member of Bethesda, Helen Matlby, celebrated her 100th birthday on August 24th. She loves to receive cards and letters. Let's flood her mailbox with birthday wishes.

Please mail to:

Helen Maltby
Augustana Care Center
710 S. Kenwood Ave.
Moose Lake, MN 55767





Congratulations to the following Students who celebrated their First Communion on Sunday August 30th during the

Outdoor Worship Service; Nicholas Colich, Jax DeWitt, Tatiana Hackensmith, Jackson Soukkala, Oliver Soukkala , Kylie Crisp, Aaron Krone & Evan Krone.

Meetings of less than 10 people, practicing social distancing, can meet at the church if needed. Please let the office know ahead of time so it can be put on the church calendar.

Children, Youth, Family & Ed.

The new brochure for the 2020-2021 Faith Formation classes is now available. Thank you to Wendy Mitchell for all her work on this and for coordinating Confirmation and the First Communion classes. Also thank you to Robbi Pearce for drafting special notice Information for the families involved.

Faith Formation and First Communion Class

The first communion students had been receiving classes that were suspended due to COVID-19. The last classes in the series resumed on August 19th, using social distancing at church, with Pastor Jim Raisanen and

Wendy Mitchell. Congratulations to the students on this spiritual milestone!

God's Works Our Hands

The 9-20-20 Community event has been **cancelled due to Covid 19 health and safety concerns.**

The Committee hopes to hold the event in the Spring of 2021.

School backpacks - **The most needed item is the 70 page notebooks.** We will need at least 500 notebooks to complete 125 backpacks.

Back to school supplies will be going on sale this month. This is the perfect time to purchase the notebooks and other school supplies.

See the insert regarding other items needed for the Spring God's Works our Hand event.

Contact Debby Johnson, 384-3360 (landline) and she'll make arrangements to pick up the supplies you purchase.

Cash donations can be made out to Bethesda Church ; On the check memo line, please put GWOH and mail to Bethesda Church PO Box 210 Carlton Mn 55718.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Lutheran World Relief:

Baby Care Kits:

Bath size 8- 9 oz. any brand bar soap
in original wrapping

Lightweight cotton T-shirts (onesies
can be cut to make T-shirts)

Long or short sleeved gowns or
sleepers

52" sq. med weight cotton or flannel
blankets

dark colored hand towels lightweight

Diaper pins or large safety pins

Lutheran World Relief:

Personal Care Kits:

Sturdy combs, dark bath towels

Metal nail clippers

Adult tooth brushes in original
packaging, 8-9 oz. bar soap, any brand
in original packaging

Towels-Lightweight 20"x40" or
52"x27"

Ditty Bags

Razors, Sturdy combs

Travel size shampoo, conditioner and
lotion, Sewing kits, Soap - full size

Adult tooth brush, Toothpaste

Medium or small note book

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)

Baby blankets

Northeastern MN Synod News

FREE MASKS!

Pickup at the Synod Office.

We are located at 1105 E. Superior St.

Duluth, MN 55802

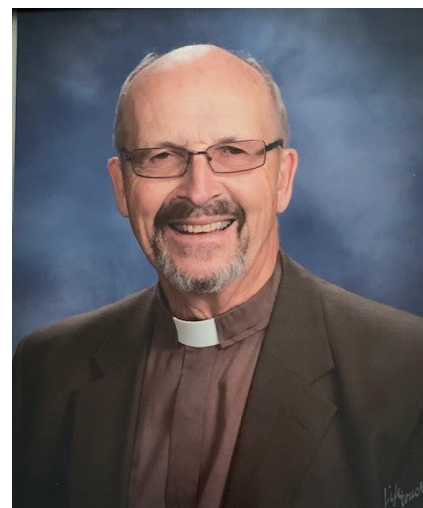
Our hours are Monday-Thursday

8:30-4:30

Call 218-724-4424 to schedule a
pickup time.

Donated by Bethlehem Lutheran
Church in Brainerd.

Remembering... Rev. Dick Hane



Rev. Richard "Dick" Clarence Hane, 79, of Hermantown, MN, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on November 11, 2019 at Essentia Health / St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth, Minnesota.

Dick was born on November 21, 1939, in St. Paul, Minnesota to James and Emma Hane. He married Judith J. Samuelson on July 9, 1966 at First Lutheran Church in White Bear Lake, MN, and they raised three children.

Dick graduated from White Bear Lake High School in 1957, Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN 1962, Northwestern Lutheran Seminary in St. Paul, MN, and was ordained in 1966 at Gustavus Adolphus College.

Over 50 years of ministry, Dick's pastoral calls included East Chain Lutheran Church in Guckeen, MN / Salem Lutheran in Pilot Grove, MN; St. Paul Lutheran Church in Red Wing, MN, and Salem Lutheran Church in Hermantown, MN, where he retired from in 2002 after 20 years of ministry. Following his retirement, he remained a member of Salem and continued to minister in various capacities, including visitation pastor at

Good Shepherd Lutheran in Duluth, Bridge Pastor at Bethesda Lutheran Church, Carlton, MN, member of the Moose Lake Prison Ministry team from Salem and active in the Northeast ELCA Synod. (Justice and Rural Life Committee, Refugee Task Force and Hunger Committee.) He was also a former member of the UMD Campus Ministry Board.

Dick was an active member in Kiwanis for over 40 years; traveled to the southern states to help with Habitat for Humanity; participated in ELCA mission trips to Honduras; active in Via de Cristo and volunteered for other local charities. He was a volunteer (not runner) for Grandma's Marathon for many years. For 25 years he pedaled his way (70 miles) to raise money for Bike for Hunger which supported local food shelves and World Hunger.

He enjoyed traveling to Scandinavia, Hawaii, Caribbean, Mexico, Canada, Panama Canal and an Alaskan cruise last summer which he was able to cross off the bucket list.

Dick is survived by, Judy, his loving wife of 53 years; his three children Jennifer Grant of Wyoming, MN, Brian (Stephanie)

of Portland, OR, and Eric (Jamie) of Wausau, WI. He had seven wonderful grandchildren and was “Papa” to Justin and Ethan (Jen); Jakob and Samuel (Eric); and “Papa-Sota” to Kennedy, Liam and Erica (Brian); Richard is also survived by his brother James Hane of Grand Marais, MN; nieces, nephews and cousins.

Drive-thru Visitation was held at Salem Lutheran Church, 4715 Hermantown Rd, Friday, August 21st and again from 9 – 11 am on Saturday, August 22nd a Celebration of Life was held. The service took place in the church parking lot with everyone staying in their cars and broadcasted on 92.5FM.

Private inurnment will take place at Bethany Cemetery, Hermantown.

In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to be made to Port of Duluth Kiwanis Service Fund; Salem Lutheran Church, Hermantown; or ELCA World Hunger or Second Harvest Food Bank in Dick's memory.

Please visit the website <https://www.sunrisefuneralhomeandcemetery.com/> for more information.

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/revrichardhane>

Faith on the Go

✝ Jesus’ words of denying ourselves and picking up our cross are frightening and harsh because we don’t know what life will look like when we do. It’s difficult for any of us to think about only worrying about our neighbor and not about ourselves. But what if in putting ourselves last we put someone in need first and meet them where they are? What if in thinking differently about our finances we ensure that the hungry are fed, the homeless are sheltered and the naked are clothed? Maybe what Jesus is trying to open up to us is the kingdom of God where all live in peace with and for each other? What would it mean for you to change one thing about your life today to reveal the kingdom of God in your neighborhood? Maybe donate your coffee money to Bread for the World or a food bank or offer a kind word to someone with whom you’ve experienced conflict. There are many ways large and small that we can follow Jesus to reveal love, grace and mercy not just for ourselves but for us all.

Pray

We give you thanks for all that we have: our homes, our families, clothing and food. We pray for everyone to have enough and for all people to share what they have. We know that it can be hard to follow you, Jesus, but we ask for courage and strength to share your love with the world. Amen.

Connect

How did you share God's love today? Where do you need help sharing God's love today?

Bible

Matthew 16:21-28 - Jesus Foretells his Death and Resurrection

Day 1

Matthew 16:21

Bad news from a close friend. Maybe it's a job loss, or a frightening diagnosis. How do you react? What do you want to say?

Day 2

Matthew 16:22-23

Peter reacts as many of us would when faced with this kind of news. How does Jesus' response make you feel? Does it seem too harsh? What might Jesus be tempted to do in the face of what is coming?

Day 3

Matthew 16:24

From our perspective, we know what Jesus is talking about with language about the cross. Do you think the disciples were confused? Or do you think the image of the cross was enough to make them understand?

Day 4

Matthew 16:25-26

Can you think of a time or situation in life where letting go of something allows you to keep it, but holding on tighter makes it slip away?

Day 5

Matthew 16:27-28

Does this passage comfort you or make you anxious? Does it sound like judgment or grace?

Bless

May you know nothing separates you from God's love.

Faith on the Go

✝ This week focus in on ways that you gather in Jesus' name. Perhaps you are participating in the God's work Our Hands Sunday and doing service for your community. Or perhaps with school in session and fall busy-ness settling in you need to think about and put on your calendar where and how you are gathering in

Jesus name—the car? At a meal? Bedtime? Morning devotions? And then consider how you are present in the life of others in your family, neighborhood, church, and/or community—how are you participating in the life of others and how can you bring the gospel of God’s love with you into the places you routinely go. Make a list of places you go each week and pray for those places and people that you will meet.

Pray

Jesus, you come and teach us to love all, even those things that are hard to love. Help us to be kind to others, pray for our enemies, and reach out to those who are lonely. Bless this food to our bodies and us to serve your world. Amen.

Connect

Where do you see God in your life or in the world today?

Where do you need God to walk with you this week?

Bible

Matthew 18:15-20—Reproving Another Who Sins

Day 1

Matthew 18:15

How do you deal with conflict? Do you face it head on? Do you hide from it?

Day 2

Matthew 18:16-17

How does Jesus normally treat tax collectors and gentiles? What do you think Jesus means for us to do when we have difficulty finding common ground?

Day 3

Matthew 18:18

What we say to each other matters on earth and in heaven. What does that make you hope for when you are in conflict with another?

Day 4

Matthew 18:19

Law or Gospel? Is it comforting to think that what we agree on echoes in heaven, or does it make you anxious?

Day 5

Matthew 18:20

This is an oft quoted passage, but what does it really mean? How does your interpretation of this passage change when you think about it in the context of what comes right before it?

Bless

May you walk with peace in this world knowing God’s love.

September 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9am Making Mats for the Homeless	2	3 1pm Jam Group 2pm Children, Youth, Family & Ed. Meeting 6pm Serenity Seekers	4 11am Men's Bible Study	5
6 9am Online Worship Service	7 Labor Day	8 9am Mats for the Homeless 5:30pm Council Meeting	9 5:30pm 6 th Grade Confirmation Class begins	10 6pm Serenity Seekers	11 11am Men's Bible Study	12
13 9am Worship Blessing of Faith Formation Leaders/Mentors 10am Mentor Orientation after Worship	14	15 Beacon Deadline 9am Mats for the Homeless	16 5:30pm 6 th Grade Confirmation Class	17 1pm Jam Group 6pm Serenity Seekers	18 11am Men's Bible Study	19
20 9am Online Worship Service	21 1pm Fellowship Hall in Use ~ Carol Beckstrom	22 9am Mats for the Homeless	23 5:30pm 6 th Grade Confirmation Class	24 6pm Serenity Seekers	25 11am Men's Bible Study	26
27 9am Worship	28	29 9am Mats for the Homeless	30 5:30pm Grade Confirmation Class			

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

Sunday Worship
9:00am
*September 13th & 27th
In House Services
September 6th & 20th Online*
*You can also view the Beacon
on our website at
bethesdacarlton.org or if you
would like to have it mailed or
emailed to you please contact
the office.*

