

The Bethesda Beacon

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

AS THE
FATHER
HAS LOVED
ME, SO
HAVE I
LOVED
YOU. ABIDE
IN MY



JOHN 15:9,
ESV

In This Month's Beacon:

*Pastor Jim's Beacon Article

*Financial Update

*Member News

*Committee Updates

*Annual Meeting Minutes

*Faith on the Go!

*And More



Dear friends in Christ,
This morning as I was exchanging my winter shovels and outside table coverings for my spring rakes and hoses, I started thinking about all the “stuff” I have piled in my garage and storage units. My life is surrounded by “stuff”, and I haven’t been able to get it out of my mind!

We work all our lives to buy “stuff”, and the first thing we know, we have way too much “stuff!”

When we go on vacation, we have to take some “stuff” along, but most of our “stuff” we have to leave at home. And then we worry about someone taking our “stuff.” A lot of it is just old “stuff” that even our kids won’t want!

My daughter asked the other day if we wanted to put any of our “stuff” in her garage sale. The trouble. . . I will probably look around and find some really good “stuff” that I can’t live without!

And the price of “stuff” just keeps going up! We don’t get as much “stuff” as we used to for our money. And all that good “stuff” is advertised on TV and in the newspapers and magazines. We get the idea that we can’t live without it!

Jesus gave us a lot of good teachings on how we can get more meaning and purpose out of life. A teaching that I should have paid attention to a lot earlier is this: “Put

not your trust in the things of this world.” If I would I have invested my life into the lives of my family and my neighbors and in taking better care of Mother Earth, I may have made this world a much better place. Instead, I find myself surrounded by a lot of unnecessary “stuff!”

I should have listened to my Grandpa when he said, “ The hearse don’t stop at the Credit Union when you die, Jimmy! You can’t take it with you!” He was right! I should have been a better steward of all the “stuff” that has come my way!

Do any of you have the same problem?. . . too much “stuff”? Let’s talk!

Stay Safe! I send my Best Wishes! Pastor Jim

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Financial Update			
Year-to-date ending 03/31/2021			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	28768.00	25200.00	3568.00
Non-pledged income	2142.21	6575.01	(4432.80)
TOTAL INCOME	30910.21	31775.01	(864.80)
Salaries/Compensation	11854.48	23386.47	(11531.99)
General Office Expenses	1610.64	1905.02	(294.38)
Utilities	2754.36	2552.01	202.35
Other Expenses	61.83	547.51	(485.68)
Benevolence Expenses	287.68	262.50	25.18
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	40.61	337.50	(296.89)
Social Ministry	81.00	87.51	(6.51)
Worship Expenses	1891.90	1749.99	141.91
CYFM Expenses	269.93	681.27	(411.34)
TOTAL EXPENSES	18852.43	31509.78	(12657.35)
Net Income	12057.78	265.23	11792.55
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.			

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.*

THANK YOU Terry and Sue Coady for the new message on the side of the church facing Highway 210. It says” All are welcome and Bethesda is on the bottom. What a great way for us to let people know we are here for everyone.

We may need to upgrade and purchase equipment necessary to expand church service capabilities in the building and over the Internet. Anyone interested in making a donation toward those projects should designate it for “Technical Services .”

Interfaith is in need of puzzles (no larger than 350 pieces), Emory boards, nail files, light colored fingernail polish, candy, shampoo, and conditioner. If you would like to donate, they will be delivered to Interfaith.

The call committee presented their candidate of choice to the council on April 13. The executive committee will be working on a budget package to offer to the candidate.



Carlton High School
Choir Concert

May 2nd @ 2:00 p.m.

Please join us for this live streamed event by following the link below

<https://www.twitch.tv/carltonbulldogs>



We are going to be putting pollinator and monarch butterfly gardens by the Bell Tower and probably by

the side of the building the faces Highway 210. The kits from the Soil and Water Conservation District will be arriving June 18. We need volunteers to prepare the soil in these two areas and/or help plant the flowers when they arrive. If you are able to help with any part of this project please contact:

Linda Newlon at 879-6274



***“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 that we are donating an average of 50 pounds a month. 50# was delivered on March 30th and 42# on April 20th.

Keep up the good work! *For the month of May our collection focus will be canned soup.* If you would prefer to give a monetary donation, this is also

greatly appreciated as a donation like this can purchase much more with the resources the Salvation Army has access to. Thank you.

Rummage saleing this summer?

Keep your eyes open for gently used items to donate to the overseas Baby Care Kits, created by loving hands for our 9/19/21 Community God's Works our Hands project.

Baby Care Kit Items needed:

1. lightweight cotton t-shirts - Onesie's size 12 months – 24 months
2. long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers
3. receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square
4. cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
5. jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
6. socks
7. hand towel, dark color recommended

The Donation Box, for used or new baby items will be in the fellowship hall. Questions? Contact Debby Johnson 384-3360

HIGHWAY CLEAN UP

Thank you to those who volunteered to help clean up our "Adopt a Highway" section on April 16th. This was a spur of the moment decision based on the great weather God provided that day. Our section runs from our church east on Hwy 210 towards Jay Cooke Park. Our next clean-up day will take place this Fall. Watch upcoming Beacon's for date and time.



Happy Mother's Day May 9th to all mothers and those who fill mothering roles!



MEMORIAL DAY

We take time to remember & pray for many loved ones during Memorial Day weekend, including our service men and women and those families who are in grief.

SAVE THE DATE

"God's work. Our hands."

Sunday will be Sunday September 19, 2021. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Our community GWOH area churches include Bethesda, Our Saviors, Our Redeemers and Zion Lutheran Churches, Northwoods Methodist/ Esko, and Queen of Peace

FYI... If you are going to be coming into the building using the back parking lot door, when you unlock it from the outside, you need to relock it from the outside once the door is open. It has to be relocked manually. It will not relock on its own. This door is different from the other 2 doors. If you would like the door to stay open once you're in the building push in the locking bar and use the allen key to keep the bar pushed in. Before you leave make sure the locking bar is out and check the door behind you to make sure it is locked. This door has been left open at times and anyone could get into the building. Any questions see Lynn Beatty or Bobbie. Thank you.

Member News



Celebrating May Baptismal Birthdays:

Joyce Cerny, Alaina Kiehl, Colleen Bernu, Wes Buscko, Kane Desjardins, Karson Desjardins, James Hongisto, Beth Towslee, Devan Towslee, Willow Towslee, Judy Lindquist, Jaiden Soukkala, KariAnn Desjardins, Garrett Beatty-Christiansen, Paige Dittberner, Lucas Radtke, Alecia Radtke, Mason Radtke, Kayla Radtke, Jared Stirewalt, Cody Martin, Jackson Radtke, Nicholas Radtke, Tayler Ostby, Janice Dahl, Flaxxen Kincade, Jacquelyn Gunderson, Kylee Crisp, Casey Marciniak, Cheryl Ankrum & Audrey Kavanaugh.



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to the family of Elma McMillan. God gives us hope and strength in the promise of the resurrection in Christ.



Senior recognition/blessing

This service will be on May 23rd during in person worship service. The graduates will be contacted individually regarding quilts available

and to schedule a day and time for the prayer labyrinth.

Alex Despot-Cloquet Senior High
Colin Emerson-Carlton High School
Kristian Herman-Carlton High School
Brock House-Esko High School
Michael Lijewski-Cloquet Senior High
Aaron Schilla- Carlton High School
Willow Towslee- Cloquet Senior High
Please notify Linda Newlon @ 879-6274 if we have missed anyone.

The Durkee and Olesen family would like to congratulate Kaden Olesen on his upcoming May 7th graduation from MN State Community & Technical College in Wadena in the field of Electrical Lineworker Technology. Congratulations & best of luck to you Kaden!



Affirmation of Baptism through Confirmation was celebrated on April 25th. This year's confirmands are Bridger McCorison & Andrew "AJ" Olesen. Please keep them, their mentors and their families in your prayers as they continue to explore their relationships with our triune God and their Christian community as well as what it means to be Lutheran.



Happy Birthday to longtime Bethesda member Marguerite Anderson who turned 100 years young on March 20th! Last month's Beacon mistakenly said March 24th. We hope you had a wonderful day! God's continued blessings to you! You are amazing!

Children, Youth, Family & Education

Easter cards along with a Jelly Bean Prayer magnet craft have been sent to Pre-k through the 6th grade. We thought this Jelly Bean Prayer will put a little more meaning to Holy Week and Easter as we cannot meet in person.

Hope you had a Happy Easter,
CYFED Committee

Northeastern MN Synod News



Online Reflections

By Pastor Amy Odgren

Love Ignites Us!

We're looking forward to our second on-line synod assembly when we gather around the theme "Love Ignites Us" on April 30 and May 1. The theme

was designed around the need for all of us to embody and act upon the unconditional love that we have been given by God in Christ Jesus. Because we have first been loved lavishly by our Creator, we are urged on in this same love to share it, spread it, and live it in the hurting world around us.

God's love doesn't have strings attached. There are no pre-requisites. God's love doesn't have a check-list to follow before it is given. It is without limits. It doesn't ask questions – it just is. It's a hard thing to describe and it's a hard thing to define. It's one of those things that is so big, so deep, so wide you can't quite explain it – you just know it when you feel it or when you see it in action.

And what does that action look like? Embodying God's love looks like care and compassion for those who are ill and suffering. It looks like reaching out in service to neighbors near and far no matter who they are. It is advocating for and with voices that have been squelched by those in power. It is the action of forgiving, as hard as it might be. It is accompaniment in learning and acknowledging another one's story and seeing their human value. Embodying God's love looks like respect and care for the earth and all of God's creation. It is the action taken in working for peace and justice in the world.

It wouldn't mean as much if it were easy to give. We wouldn't know this love's worth or value if we never shared it with another. It's not something we can claim as ours alone. It's more than just a moment or a memory or a cheesy sentimentality. Sharing God's love is a commandment and a commissioning. It is our response to God's adoption of us into God's very own family.

The love of God in Christ Jesus urges us on...we're given the courage to love because Christ dwells within us. We become conduits...vessels of this love. **Love ignites us!** We can't help but share it – spread it - and give it away because the AGAPE love of God is poured out for the world with grace and mercy and peace for ALL people – no exceptions.

Here is where you have been chosen, dear synod partners - called and appointed by virtue of your baptism in Jesus' name to point to and witness to Christ, and to proclaim the good news that God loves us – and that God will not shy away even from the worst of humanity's instincts. And the resurrection that follows is the promise and sign that when we've done our very worst, been our very worst, fallen so tragically short of God's hopes for us...yet even then God's love embodied and made flesh in Jesus endures, remains, and is victorious.

Forgiven by God's mercy, this love sparks us to action.

“You did not choose me,” Jesus reminds us, “but I chose you and I have forgiven you so that you are free to go forth and bear the good fruit that I have called and appointed you to bear—fruit that will not just be a band-aid solution to the woes of this world, but fruit that also will have a long-lasting effect in bringing about the beloved community of justice, peace, and freedom for which I so ardently advocated until I took my last breath and gave my life over to the God whose Spirit guided me throughout my entire life in the way of truth.”

Oh, Love Ignites Us, people of God!
The AGAPE of God – the kind of love Jesus chooses for us – and chooses us *for* – is something we can only abide and dare to offer when we acknowledge that it's already been poured out for **our** sake too. Freed in Christ, then – go and share it with the world!



Faith on the Go!

Easter Season: Hunger Issues
Take time as a family to learn about hunger issues where you live and around the word. There is a simple

project for each week of Easter to help you and your household learn about hunger and provide a real gift to help your local community.

Pack up and Bless: Put the groceries you bought to donate in bags that you decorate. Say a prayer for the people who will receive this good and that this good may be a blessing to them. Deliver your bags.

Pray

God of life and growth, we thank you for the ways you nurture and care for us. We thank you for the good foods of the earth, and the refreshing waters of your creation. Help us to bear good fruit and share your good news. Amen

Connect

Where did you see God today?
Where did you need God today?

Bible

John 15: 1-8
The true vine and the branches

Day 1

John 15: 1-2
Have you ever seen people who work on trees cut out dead branches? Why do you think this makes the tree healthier?

Day 2

John 15: 3-4
How does a branch “abide” in the vine? How should we abide in Jesus?

Day 3

John 15: 5-8
Why are the branches important to the vine? What part of the vine lives in the branches? How should Jesus’ word live in you?

Day 4

John 15: 9-11
What does it feel like to be loved? Do you remember what Jesus called the greatest commandment? (Matt 22-38)

Day 5

John 15: 12-14
What do you think Jesus is talking about when he talks about laying down your life? Are there other ways to lay down your life for others?

Bless

May the living Christ raise you up and bring you joy! Alleluia!

For additional weekly devotionals go to:

<http://faithformationjourneys.org/>



Summer Camp Registration is now OPEN!

This coming summer we will be soaking in WILD GRACE as we gather together around the campfire at

Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion. With new Covid protocols in place, all of our usual summer camp programs are scheduled but our capacity will be

reduced which means space is limited- sign up today by calling 1-800-331-5148 or vlmcamps.org

Annual Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2021

Establish Quorum

Stacy and Dave counted members present which totaled 34, quorum met.

Call to Order...President Lynn Beatty called the meeting to order at 9:55.

Devotions... Pastor Jim Raisanen spoke about the fact that Jesus told us that the Kingdom of God is at hand. It is now and we need to take this good news into our hearts and minds and live it every day.

Agenda- Motion was made to accept the agenda as printed Chris Mitchell/JoAnn Gustafson MSC.

Secretary's Report... No approval is needed and there were no questions.

Treasurer's Report... No approval is needed.

Debby questioned the amount under worship expense as it was more than what had been on the budget for 2020. Lynn explained that was for the stipend that the council decided to give to Joel and Christy for the increased amount of work that they are doing for our services. Lynn also stated that in the proposed budget for 2021 there is a line item for this expense.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of 2021 budget. Lynn explained that although the budget shows \$9000 more for expenses than estimated income that amount included paying a full-time pastor for the entire 2021 year. At this time we have already gone 3 1/2 months without a full-time pastor so that expense will be less than what is in the proposed budget.

She also explained that income was quite steady in 2020 so we have a great increase in our check book compared to the balance at the end of 2019.

Gladys questioned on what activities is the CYFED budget is based. Wendy replied that the activities are listed on page 8 of this annual report.

A motion was made to accept the proposed budget by Pat Durkee/Stacey Colich MSC unanimously.

2. Proposed sale of 1 1/2 lots of parking lot area

The council has been discussing the sale of 9000 square feet of the east side of our parking lot to the mother of the woman who lives next to the Church. There are no utilities on that property. Research through the county and reality companies in the

area show that \$25,000 is an appropriate amount to ask for the property. The buyer would be responsible for all expenses and also would need to put up a privacy fence between the west property line of this property and our parking lot.

The question was raised as to whether the church needs to have the income that this sale would create. The answer was no.

Pastor Jim stated that he felt there were three reasons to sell the property:

1. Helping a neighbor.
2. Put the property on the tax roll.
3. In the future the church won't have to deal with any downed trees on this property.

The question was raised as to how the church would use this income. Lynn replied that at this time the money would probably be put into Memorial for future projects. Motion was made to sell 1/2 of Lot five and all of Lot 6 for \$25,000. The seller will be responsible for all expenses Deb Davis/Joel Soukkala. Council has discussed that we may need to remove the rest of the trees on our half of Lot 5. Gladys wanted to see what part of the parking lot is being proposed to be sold. Lynn explained the area using the plat map. The motion carried with one member opposed.

Call Committee- Chris Mitchell gave an update. They have been interviewing possible candidates using zoom meetings. They received a list of possibilities in the spring of 2020, the fall of 2020, and again in the winter of 2020. They did one on site interview but that person decided that they did not want to be considered for a call. At this time they have a candidate of choice and information about this person will be presented to the council on 04/13/21. This person will graduate this spring so the soonest they would be able to start work would be in June.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

2021 Ballot

Council (2-year terms; no more than 3 consecutive terms) Consists of officers, pastor & up to 14 members, not fewer than 6.

Candidates requiring re-election:

Lynn Beatty (Term 3/Year 1) <Open for Nomination> (Term 1/Year 1)

Dave Beatty (Term 3/Year 1) <Open for Nomination> (Term 1/Year 1)

Linda Newlon (Term 3/Year 1) <Open for Nomination>(Term 1/Year 1)

Bethany Lesemam (Term 3/Year 1)

Nominating Committee (2-year terms; cannot serve consecutively)
Consists of 4

<Open for Nomination> (Year 1)

<Open for Nomination> (Year 1)

Memorial & Endowment Committee (3-year terms; 2 consecutive terms) Consists of 5

Cary Martin (Term 2/Year 1) Paula Olsen (Term 1/Year 1)

Voting Members to 2020 Synod Assembly

<Open For Nomination>

<Open For Nomination>

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry Delegate (1-year terms; no term limits)
Consists of 2 adults and 1 confirmed youth

<Open For Nomination>_(Term 1) Adult

<Open For Nomination> (Term 1) Confirmed Youth

2021 Sitting Council and Committee Members (not up for re-election)

Council (2 year terms; no more than 3 consecutive terms) Consists of officers, pastor & up to 14 members, not fewer than 6.

Stacy Colich (Term 3/Year 2)

Deb Davis (Term 3/Year 2)

Jane Joki (Term 3/Year 2)

Frank Curtiss (Term 2/Year 2)

Nominating Committee

Jason Goad (Year 2)

Teresa Solomon (Year 2)

Audit Committee (3-year terms, no term limits) Consists of 3.

Chris Mitchell (Term 1, Year 3) Sue Coady (Term 2, Year 2)
Paula Olsen (Term 1, Year 3) Jenny Lokken (Term 2, Year 2)

Memorial & Endowment Committee (3-year terms; 2 consecutive terms) Consists of 5

Joel Soukkala (Term 1, Year 3)
Rena House (Term 1, Year 3)
Chris Mitchell (Term 2/Year 3)

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry Delegate

Chris Mitchell

Lynn read through the ballot and asked if there were any members who would be willing to be on the Council or the Nominating Committee. No one offered to be put on the ballot for either of these positions. Linda Newlon and JoAnn Gustafsson had agreed to be nominated for Synod Assembly delegates.

Lynn mentioned there were also openings for one confirmed youth and one adult on the Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry Board. No one offered to be nominated for either of these positions. A motion was made for a white ballot Mary Saarela/Beth Leseman MSC.

WRITTEN/REPORTS

Memorial and Endowment Committee -

Chris Mitchell reported that last year the Memorial Committee had sponsored three campers to Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry (VLM) camp. The camp had to be canceled due to COVID-19 and the committee decided to let VLM keep the registration money since their income would be greatly decreased in 2020.

The Memorial Committee is proposing: to take \$8,000 toward the new keyboard, from the Perpetual Fund.

Motion to approve:

\$1000 Interfaith Care Center for resident programs

\$200 Quilters materials

\$700 Bethesda's VLM Membership fee
\$8000 Replacement keyboard
\$10,000 Moving expenses for new pastor
made by Lynn Beatty/Wendy Mitchell MSC unanimously.

Mat Making- Mary encouraged members to participate in one of the various steps involved with this activity.

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry - Chris Mitchell is the adult representative from Bethesda. He reported that summer camps will be open this year at half capacity.

Lynn reported that the new door that leads to the parking lot needs to be locked with the key if it was originally unlocked with the key. This needs to be done even if the bar on the inside has been locked. This is different than the lock system for the other two outside doors on the church.

Mary Saarela thanked everyone who has been involved with keeping the church going during COVID-19.

Debby Johnson asked if we will continue to put church service on Facebook and the website once we are back at 100% capacity for in person service. Joel replied that at this time the Worship Committee has decided that we will continue using Facebook and the website.

Debbie Davis commented that in the Worship Committee report it says there have been an average of 141 viewing the service online. Joel stated that some of the special services have actually had 200 or more.

Pastor Jim gave a closing prayer.

The next Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2022.

At 10:39 motion was made to adjourn the meeting Deb Davis/Gladys Sievert MSC
Respectfully submitted, Linda Newlon, Council Secretary

Anyone who wants to join one of the committees or the council can do so at any time during the year. Just notify the office or a member of the council .

May 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Synod Assembly 10am Carlton High School Choir Practice
2 Synod Assembly 9am Worship 1pm Carlton High School Choir Concert	3	4 9am Making Mats for the Homeless	5 5:45pm 3 rd Grade Bible Class 4 th & 5 th Grade Prayer & Stewardship Class	6 1pm Jam Group 2pm Children, Youth, Family & Ed. Meeting	7 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 11am Bible Study	8
9 Mother's Day 9am Worship	10	11 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 4:30pm Worship Committee Meeting 5:30pm Council Meeting	12 5:45pm 4 th & 5 th Grade Prayer & Stewardship Class	13 1pm Jam Group	14 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 11am Bible Study	15 Beacon Deadline
16 9am Worship	17	18 9am Making Mats for the Homeless	19 5:45pm 4 th & 5 th Grade Prayer & Stewardship Class	20 1pm Jam Group	21 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 11am Bible Study	22 12 th Grade Prayer Labyrinth
23 12 th Grade Prayer Labyrinth 9am Worship Senior Recognition 30 9am Worship	24 1pm Fellowship Hall In Use ~ Book Club 31 Memorial Day Office Closed	25 9am Making Mats for the Homeless	26	27 1pm Jam Group	28 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 11am Bible Study	29

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.*

