



# The Bethesda Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN  
November 2022



God's Work, Our Hands photo September 18, 2022



The last few months, I've heard this question, from both Presbyterians and Lutherans, at least a dozen times. I've

even wondered myself! *“What’s the big difference between Lutherans and Presbyterians, anyway??”* Well, today, let's have some fun and ask some of those questions!

*1. What do Lutherans and Presbyterians share in common?*

All the most important stuff! We can say that about all Christians (We are all part of the same body of Christ, after all!), but it is especially true of Lutherans and Presbyterians. Think of the whole church as one giant family: the Roman Catholic Church might be the ELCA's uncle, and the Pentecostal church would be our energetic cousin. But the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) and the Episcopal Church are our closest siblings; we share full communion with both.

*2. Wait, what's “full communion”??*

Over the last 30 years, ecumenical conversations between denominations have led to shared agreements about the Christian faith, baptism, and communion. When we reach these agreements, we agree that we can fully share the sacraments together without any misgivings. Practically, it also means we can share pastors! The ELCA and PCUSA also share full communion with the United Methodist Church (UMC), the Episcopal Church, the Moravian Church, and the Reformed Church in America (RCA).

*3. So Lutherans and Presbyterians are basically the same? Then why have denominations in the first place?*

We share the same faith, but we speak about it in some different ways. Research done in the last twenty years shows that congregations that fully engage their own tradition – meaning their denominational history – grow deeper and stronger in their communal faith lives than congregations that ignore them (See *The Practicing Congregation*, by Diana Butler Bass, if you want to know more).

Denominations do two things for local Christians: they connect Christians to each other, and they connect us to our theological tradition.

*4. Tradition, that sounds like old stuff... who cares???*

Our theological traditions are old, but that's part of what makes them good! They've helped millions of people understand and experience God for hundreds of years. It's not just about our history; our particular theological tradition also gives us a grounding of what it means to believe in Jesus. And this is really what is different between Presbyterians and Lutherans.

*5. Finally, we're getting somewhere! So what are these differences in theological tradition??*

You may know about Lutheranism: ours is a reformation tradition based on Martin Luther's interpretations of Scripture (especially the Book of Concord) in the 1500s. Presbyterianism is also a reformation tradition that finds its roots in John Calvin's interpretations of Scripture (especially the Westminster Confession). Today, though, there's really not much that separates us theologically, especially compared to our more distant relatives in the family of faith! We both believe we are

saved by grace through faith, by God's grace alone. We both believe we are called to be disciples of Jesus. But we do have some different language to say what we believe.

6. *So what differences still remain today?*  
Lutherans elect Bishops, who oversee each synod; Presbyterians elect moderators, whose authority is more limited. Lutherans often have "higher," or more formal, liturgies than Presbyterians, though this varies widely between congregations. In my experience, Lutherans might emphasize grace a bit more often, where Presbyterians might emphasize love a bit more.

7. *Wait, didn't you grow up Presbyterian?*  
Yes, yes I did :D And though I am proudly a Lutheran Christian today, I am also proud of my Presbyterian roots, and I'm so excited that we get to partner with a church as faithful and kind as Rivers Edge!

Disciples of Jesus, whether Lutheran or Presbyterian, may our marvelous and mysterious God, who loves us and saves us by grace, be with you this day, this week, and this month!

-Pastor Seth Wynands

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### **2022 Members of Bethesda Church Council**

\*President – Lynn Beatty

\*Vice President – Deb Davis

\*Secretary - Linda Newlon

\*Treasurer - JoAnn Gustafson

Debby Johnson

Dave Beatty

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*



November 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

<b>Financial Update</b>			
Year to date as of 9/30/2022			
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>
Envelope giving	69130.00	75077.00	(5947.00)
Non-pledged income	29338.28	10836.03	18502.25
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>98468.28</b>	<b>85913.03</b>	<b>12555.25</b>
Salaries/Compensation	69719.70	74816.59	(5096.89)
General Office Expenses	6058.92	6074.19	(15.27)
Utilities	9091.84	7260.03	1831.81
Other Expenses	1497.61	455.00	(1042.61)
Benevolence Expenses	783.66	818.88	(35.22)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	651.79	622.53	29.26
Social Ministry	243.00	243.72	(0.72)
Worship Expenses	4216.81	5249.97	(1033.16)
CYFM Expenses	2584.49	2780.06	(195.57)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>94847.82</b>	<b>98320.97</b>	<b>(3473.15)</b>
<b>Net operating income</b>	<b>3620.46</b>	<b>(12407.94)</b>	<b>16028.40</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.			

A big thank you to everyone who helps with funerals. From set-up, to clean-up, baking bars and everything in between. Your help is greatly appreciated! We are looking for people to help set up tables, and chairs and put on tablecloths before funerals. If you would be interested in helping, please contact the church 218-384-4501 or [bethesda55718@msn.com](mailto:bethesda55718@msn.com). Thank you!



Daylight Savings Time Ends November 6<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to turn your clocks back.

**Wanted 2023 Calendars...**for the residents at Inter Faith. There is a collection box in the Narthex.

Looking Ahead:

- **Annual Meeting will be held January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.** All **COMMITTEE REPORTS** are due by **January 5<sup>th</sup>**. Please have them into the office by this date. Thank you!
- Christmas Eve Worship Services will be December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4 & 8pm at Bethesda. Christmas Day Worship service will be at 10:30am at River's Edge. There will be no service at Bethesda

From now until November 13<sup>th</sup> WELCA will be collecting donations for **Thanksgiving 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. Donations for Christmas Gift Cards will begin November 27<sup>th</sup>-December 11<sup>th</sup>**

**WELCA**



**Save the Date:** A Touch of Scandinavia Holiday Bazaar Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. Calls will be made in November to ask for

volunteers. Please consider taking part in this Bethesda Tradition. We are looking for volunteers to set-up, clean-up, cook, bake, & serve.

Here is our Tentative Schedule. It is subject to change.

**November 27<sup>th</sup>**-set up tables

**November 28<sup>th</sup>**-Rosettes

**November 29<sup>th</sup>**-Lorna's Choice

**November 30<sup>th</sup>**-Carmael corn and Krumkake

**December 1<sup>st</sup>**-Stew and Sloppy Joes

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**-Bazaar

**December 4<sup>th</sup>**-Take down

Hope you can help. We will also have 2 baking days earlier in November. Have you ever wanted to bake bread? Come join us on bread baking day!

## Social Ministry



Social Ministry will be hosting coffee in support of Epilepsy on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Social Ministry** will be collecting jackets, hats, mittens, etc. as well as hygiene products; shampoo, toothpaste, personal care products for the Damiano Center until December 4<sup>th</sup>. There is a box for each in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you.



*“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 November our collection focus will be Soups, stews and canned meats.*** 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.

We will be sending out Time and Talent sheets in the next month for members to fill out. We are looking for worship assistants; readers, communion assistants, ushers, greeters and counters. Please consider signing up to volunteer. There will also be a sign up sheet outside the Sanctuary. Many hands make light work. Thank you!

## THRIVENT GENEROSITY CHALLENGE

It is that time of year again and I have signed us up for the challenge again this year. From now until November 13th our goal is to collect 500 items for the Salvation Army. If we collect 500 items Thrivent will give an additional \$500 to the Salvation Army.

**Items that can be collected:**

**-food -household items -personal hygiene items**

You can also donate money and Jason Goad and I will go shopping for you. Cash or checks made out to Jen Goad can be given to one of us at church on Sundays. Last year we collected 676 items. Lets beat that this year! *When dropping off items please put them all where the regular food shelf items are collected. Do not add them to the table that I will set up, as I have to keep track of the numbers.*



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to Jason & Jen Goad and family on the loss of their sister-in-law Holly who died September 22<sup>nd</sup>. To the family of Lila Schwoch who died September 20<sup>th</sup>. To the family of William Schroeder who died September 29<sup>th</sup>. God comfort and strengthen our hearts in hope in the resurrection through Christ.

## Member News



### Celebrating November Baptismal Birthdays

Lewis Castle, Lillian Dewitt, Joyce Houtz, Jaxson Swanson, Haley Ableiter, Marlys McKinstry, Adrian Buller, Autumn Buller, Kevein Conley, Stacy Sell, Daniel Sell, Tara Olson, Linda Newlon, Colton Bieniek, Jackie Curtiss, Stella Smolej, 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 V, Callie Holm, Hannah Nygren, Lauren Soukkala, Kari Isakson, Kristin Johnson, & Daniel Rudolph

### Poinsettia Plants for Christmas Eve:

Please let the office know by Dec 20th if you are bringing a poinsettia plant and who it is in "Honor of" or "Memory of" and have your plant(s) at the Church between 9:00 to 10:30 am on Friday Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Let's fill the Sanctuary with lots of beautiful plants to add to the Beauty of Christ's Birth!!

### **CONTACT YOUR THRIVENT AGENT NOW -2 FREE \$\$ PROGRAMS**

To set up where your **‘CHOICE DOLLAR** allocation. This is a benefit Thrivent offers

**Thrivent no longer sends out reminders regarding allocation of your choice dollars**

1. Thrivent **Choice**® charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering

Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. The Thrivent Choice program encourages Thrivent benefit members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes an amount of its charitable grand funds. Members make this recommendation by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches.

*Choice dollar allocation and the Community Action funds are two separate programs.*

How do Thrivent action teams work?

**Simply gather a team of neighbors or friends for a fundraiser, educational event or service activity.** Thrivent offers all the resources you need to get started, including up to \$250 in seed money. Your team provides the passion that brings your project to life. Each Thrivent member can apply each year for **two \$250.00 cards. That's \$500.00 Per member per year.**

Thrivent Action Teams are a great way to make a positive impact in your community. Simply gather a team of neighbors or friends for a fundraiser, educational event or service activity.

Thrivent offers all the resources you need to get started, including up to \$250 in seed money. Your team provides the passion that brings your project to life.

- The new Bible Study "Making Sense of the Scripture" was well attended. It was very professional and set a good tone for the attendees. The study will last 8 weeks. If interested, you can still join the study. Please contact Myrna Postal or Ginny Korte-Castle.
- The book/article study was held on Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. We discussed Amanda Gorman reading her poem "The Hill We Climb." Had good discussion on how this fits into our lives. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at 5:30 PM. All are welcome to join us.
- We finished our Faith Formation class for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade kids. It was well attended by the grades. In attendance were Chase Martin, Oliver Soukkala, Jackson Soukkala, Ailie Gustafson, Mason Haley, Jax DeWitt, Aaron Krone and Evan Krone. Thank you to all!
- Good attendance for the Mental health & Substance Abuse parents' night presented by Cara Keinanen from Reach. We will be holding a mental health parents' night for training on suicide prevention and the use of Narcan.

- We had 2 kids attend the confirmation retreat on September 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> at Camp Vermillion. Both the kids that attended were positive about their experience.
- Bethesda is planning to take a group of youth to the NEMN Synod ALL YOUTH GATHERING (6-12th graders) in Brainerd at Cragun's Resort November 18-19th. This event is *planned* and *led* by high school youth! So, it is fun! fun! There is an indoor pool and lots of different games and activities available for late night free time. *Lights out at 1 a.m.* (Lots of coffee for us adult chaperones.) Bethesda is asking for \$60 per youth (*however*, if money is the reason, you are not able to attend, we will find funds :) just let Wendy or Pastor Seth know). The \$60 covers transportation, the hotel room, breakfast, T-shirt, late night pizza, and transportation to and from the event. Make your checks out to Bethesda and memo "AYG."

Any last-minute changes must happen before Nov.7 with late charges. We will need negative COVID test results of each participant on the day of the event and the youth cannot have tested positive within five days of the event. Also, we will be stopping for fast food on the way there

Friday night and they will need cash for their dinner.

Wendy has gone to this event, and "I LOVE" it and so will your youth! So, use your persuasive powers to lean them into this event that has lots of faith, fellowship, and fun! More information will come out closer to the event regarding pick up time (4ish) and location, contact info of chaperones, etc. Let me know if you have any questions! Thanks for helping live out our baptismal promises to our youth!  
Wendy

- Wendy is still working on matching and confirming partnerships (Bethesda and River's Edge). If you are asked to mentor, please do some soul searching. It is an extremely rewarding experience and offers you a chance to get to know our youth.
- Our next CYFED meeting will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 2:00 PM in the library. All are welcome to attend.

## **NOVEMBER 2022 SCHEDULE FOR J.A.M./ MESSAGE**

**November 6<sup>th</sup>** - Jesus and Me - J.A.M.

**November 13<sup>th</sup>** - message with Pastor Seth

**November 20<sup>th</sup>** – Jesus and Me - J.A.M.

**\*\*\*November 27<sup>th</sup>** – message with Pastor Seth

## Coffee Serving Schedule

**November 6<sup>th</sup>** – Gladys' Group

**November 13<sup>th</sup>** - Social Ministry~  
Epilepsy

**November 20<sup>th</sup>** – Jeannette's Group

**November 27<sup>th</sup>** – Ginny's Group



Thank you to all who helped clean up our 2-mile highway stretch to the entry way of Jay Cooke State Park to help keep God's Country looking beautiful!! Let's keep it clean

## Our Daily Bread Ministries

### Trusting God's Foresight

While driving us to an unfamiliar location, my husband noticed that the GPS directions suddenly seemed wrong. After entering a reliable four lane highway, we were advised to exit and

travel along a one lane "frontage road running parallel to us. "I'll just trust it,"

Dan said, despite seeing no delays.

After about ten miles, however, the traffic on the highway next to us slowed to a near standstill. The trouble? Major construction. And the frontage road?

With little traffic, it provided a clear path to our destination. "I couldn't see ahead," Dan said, "but the GPS could." Or, as we agreed, "just like God can."

Knowing what was ahead, God in a dream gave a similar change in directions to the wise men who'd come from the east to worship Jesus, "born king of the Jews" (Matthew 2:2) King Herod, disturbed by the news of the "rival" king, lied to the magi, sending them to Bethlehem, saying: "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him" (v. 8). Warned in a dream "not to go back to Herod," however, "they returned to their country by another route. (v. 12).

God will guide our steps too. As we travel life's highways, we can trust that He sees ahead and remain confident that "He will make our paths straight" as we submit to His directions (Proverbs 3:6).

By Patricia Raybon

When has God presented you with a change in life's direction? As you trusted Him, what was the outcome? *I can't see the road ahead, God, as You can. Please give me discernment to know when a change in direction is coming from You.*

**BETHESDA'S ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT**

**January 26-29, 2023**

**Camp Heartland, Willow River, MN**

- \*Make new friends! Catch up with old!
- \*Coffee & tea always on!
- \*Home cooked brunch (9:30) and dinners (5:30)
- \*Lots of ski, snowshoe, walking trails—so bring your gear!
- \*Open to ALL women of Bethesda and their friends.
- \*Cozy up to the hearth!
- \*Well-lit crafting area with tables.
- \*Your own bed

Most rooms sleep 2-3 people, you will have your own bed—all bottom bunks. Please bring your own linens, pillow, towels, and toiletries. Bathroom in each room. Coffee/tea provided--bring other beverages of your choice and any snacks/games you'd like to share.

Tables provided for crafting, as well as ironing boards and irons. Bring your own extension cords and/or ott light.

**\*Pre-registration requested by Dec. 15 which must include a \$50 non-refundable deposit. Balance due by January 15, 2023**

\*\*\*\*\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell : \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>I will be attending: (check all that apply)</u>	<u>Day Only</u>	<u>Overnight</u>
_____ Thursday night, Jan. (pizza/salad/treats)		___\$35.00
_____ Friday, (brunch/dinner)	___\$25	___\$35.00
_____ Saturday (brunch/dinner)	___\$25	___\$35.00
_____ Sunday brunch		___(included)

TOTAL DUE: \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**BALANCE DUE BY January 15, 2023**

Thank you to WELCA and Thrivent Financial for helping support this retreat.

**Please make checks payable to WELCA, and return with this form to  
Ginny Korte-Castle, 2175 Gillogly Rd, Carlton, MN 55718  
218-384-3896 vircastle@gmail.com**

# November 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	<b>2</b> <b>6pm</b> Worship 7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class <b>6:30pm</b> Making Sense of the Scripture	<b>3</b> <b>2pm</b> Children, Youth, Family and Education Meeting	<b>4</b> <b>11am</b> Bible Study	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Daylight Savings Time Ends <b>8:30am</b> Worship <b>9:45am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Election Day <b>9am</b> Synod Pastors Conference Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	<b>9</b> <b>6pm</b> Worship 7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class <b>6:30pm</b> Making Sense of the Scripture	<b>10</b> <b>1pm</b> Jam Group	<b>11</b> Veterans Day <b>11am</b> Bible Study	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Social Minsitry~ Epilepsy <b>8:30am</b> Worship <b>9:45am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Beacon Deadline</b> <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>4pm</b> Worship Meeting <b>6:15pm</b> Joint Council Meeting <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	<b>16</b> <b>6pm</b> Worship 7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class <b>6:30pm</b> Making Sense of the Scripture	<b>17</b> <b>5:30pm</b> Ladies of Kaleva	<b>18</b> Synod All Youth Gathering <b>11am</b> Bible Study	<b>19</b> Synod All Youth Gathering
<b>20</b> <b>8:30am</b> Worship <b>9:45am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	<b>23</b> <b>6pm</b> Worship 7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class <b>6:30pm</b> Making Sense of the Scripture	<b>24</b> Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>8:30am</b> Worship <b>9:45am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship Set-Up for Bazaar	<b>28</b> Bazaar Prep~ Making Rosettes	<b>29</b> Bazaar Prep~Lorna's Choice <b>9am</b> Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	<b>30</b> Bazaar Prep~Caramel Corn and Krumkake <b>6pm</b> Worship 6:30pm 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class 7-9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Nursing Home Gift Bag Assembly			

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 or if you*

*would like to have a copy*

*mailed or emailed to you please*

*contact the office.*

 **NOVEMBER**  
2022