



# The Bethesda Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN  
December 2016



## December at Bethesda: Mid-Week Advent Worship Schedule

Wednesdays

November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> &  
21<sup>st</sup>

Soup & Sandwich Supper

5:30 p.m.

Worship to follow at 6:30 p.m.

## Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Services

3, 5 & 10 p.m.

## Christmas Day Worship

9 a.m.

Carols & Readings

## Bethesda's

## A Touch of Scandinavia Holiday

## Bazaar

December 3<sup>rd</sup>

9 a.m-1p.m.

## December 11<sup>th</sup>

There will be a Cross generational  
activity after church

Making of Christingles.

Come and see what they are!



January Beacon Deadline is  
December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please have all  
submissions into the office on  
this date.



Interim Pastor's December  
Newsletter Article

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

The Advent and Christmas season can stir deep emotions within each of us. Many children greet the advent of Christmas with joy and excitement. Yet those who have lost loved ones during the past year may find great sadness in the very same event.

Thankfully, God meets us wherever we are, physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. The Advent series for midweek worship this year gives voice to the complex situations and emotions with which we greet the coming Messiah. It does that by using the reactions of those who first received the news of Jesus' birth — Zechariah, Joseph, Mary, and the shepherds. These midweek services acknowledge responses of fear, confusion, doubt, and curiosity, while the coming of Jesus promises comfort and joy for all of us. We will look at how the angel messages to Zechariah, Joseph, Mary and the shepherds speak to us today.

November 30 — “Fear.” We will (anonymously) examine our fears on notecards. These fears will be blessed and exchanged for use as prayer petitions during the following week.

December 7 — “Confusion.” From current newspapers we will examine both confusing world events and those relaying hopeful messages.

December 14 — “Doubt.” We will examine which articles of faith or passages of scripture that we find most difficult to believe and what we know to be true.

December 21 — “Curiosity.” We will wonder together about the birth of Jesus. What part of the story do we like best. What part is most important. What part is especially for you this year. What part of the story could we leave out and still have all the story we need.

Now may the peace of God accompany your waiting, the light of Christ warm your hearts, and the joy of the Spirit fill you with hope.

Peace, Pastor Cheryl



For weather related cancellations of church services please tune in to WKLK or KBJR. You may also check Facebook or our church website.

**Annual Report Deadline...**

All **COMMITTEE REPORTS** are due by January 6<sup>th</sup>. Please have them into the office by this date. The Annual Meeting will be held January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Thank you!

<b>Financial Update</b>			
Year-to-date ending 10/31/16			
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>
Envelope giving	\$100,181.50	\$128,635.00	(\$28,453.50)
Non-pledged income	\$17,881.14	\$15,247.86	\$2,633.28
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$118,062.64	\$143,882.86	(\$25,820.22)
Salaries/Compensation	\$110,167.94	\$106,480.40	\$3,687.54
General Office Expenses	\$8,081.48	\$8,171.70	(\$90.22)
Utilities	\$8,543.83	\$9,499.90	(\$956.07)
Other Expenses	\$3,973.32	\$3,916.70	\$56.62
Benevolence Expenses	\$9,605.25	\$10,672.50	(\$1,067.25)
Education Expenses	\$1,578.20	\$2,446.00	(\$867.80)
Evangelism Expenses	\$498.34	\$500.00	(\$1.66)
Property Expenses	\$815.05	\$2,666.70	(\$1,851.65)
Stewardship Expenses	\$342.86	\$650.00	(\$307.14)
Worship Expenses	\$1,336.87	\$2,566.70	(\$1,229.83)
Youth Expenses	\$376.22	\$833.30	(\$457.08)
Choir Music Expenses	\$69.40	\$0.00	\$69.40
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$145,388.76	\$148,403.90	(\$3,015.14)
<b>Net Income</b>	(\$27,326.12)	(\$4,521.04)	(\$22,805.08)
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.			

## Bethesda Staff

### Office 218-384-4501

Cheryl Fleckenstein, Interim Pastor  
608-495-3147

Bobbie McCorison, Secretary  
384-4501

Alice Kloepfer, Custodian  
Cathy Dale, Accompanist  
Sue Coady, Treasurer 384-3628  
Chris Kuras, Financial Sec.

218-491-3546

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)

Visit our Synod's Site at  
[www.nemnsynod.org](http://www.nemnsynod.org)

### 2016 Members of Bethesda Church Council

\*President – Sue Frank

\*Vice President – Duane Soukkala

\*Secretary – JoAnn Gustafson

\*Treasurer – Sue Coady

Stacy Colich, Jason Goad, Jon Kolb

Jen Kuras, Theresa Vermeersch

*\*If you have items that you wish to be addressed by council, contact a member of the Executive Committee, who sets the council agenda. The Executive Committee consists of these officers. They also serve as the Personnel Committee. You can keep up to date with church business by viewing the Council Meeting Minutes which are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office or view them on our website.*

### Committee Chairs

Larry Beckstrom - **Endowment  
Committee**

Colleen Bernu - **Children, Youth and  
Family Team**

Joel Soukkala - **Worship Committee**

Dave Beatty - **Property Committee**

Sharon Bragge - **Social Ministry  
Committee**



During the winter months, women's Bible study will not meet during inclement weather or if it is -15 degrees or colder. During Advent we will be studying the Apostle's Creed.

## Member News



### **Celebrating December Baptismal Birthdays**

*Everyone celebrating a Baptismal Birthday in December will be invited to come forward during worship on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> for the Affirmation of Baptism!*

Alexandra Aker, Audrina Schwartz, Ashlee Alexander, Vi Axtell, Frank Chalberg, Nancy Crider, Stephanie Erickson, Alex Grover, Courtney Grover, Jolene Johnson, Kaitlyn Kelley, Kristianna Konietzko, Jennifer Bamford, Chad Laine, Emma Devriendt, Bethany Leseman, Emily Marciniak, Giselle Martini, Jazmyn Martini, Abbey Mickle, Brynn Mickle, Jackson Mickle, Alan Moench, Westen Radtke, Chris Rousseau, Virginia Rowe, Patricia Schmitz, Alanna Soukkala, Aliza Vernon, Brody Vernon, Jack Vernon, Kristen Wakefield, Finn Willie, Connor Laine, Crosby Moench, Maddie Cragin, Emma Devriendt, Renee Kesty, Sofie Herman, Carol Hongisto, Theresa Vick Haven Rockenstein & Peyton Schmitz.



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to Rusty Buscko & Family, Ron & Betty Peterson & Families & Friends & Family of Nathan Gould.

For the safety of our younger members, we ask that children do not go into the basement without an adult as the furnace & mechanical room, janitorial closet & supply & storage rooms are down there & unlocked.

### **Volunteer Needed**

We're in need of a Sunday Story Time leader. This person would use purchased curriculum to teach our children the weekly Gospel lesson. Sunday Story Time meets Sundays from 8:55-9:30. The prep time is about 10 minutes weekly. The leader should plan to arrive Sunday mornings by 8:45. Co-leading is also a possibility. Please contact the office for more details.

### **Scheduling Conflicts Making It Tough to Get to Worship as a Family?**

Worship opportunities are available on both Sundays (9 AM) and Wednesdays (5:30 PM) to help everyone grow in their relationships with each other and God. On both Sundays and Wednesdays, opportunities exist for people to study the Gospel in ways that will help them fully understand the weekly message. Come visit us during worship to learn more.



Please prayerfully consider volunteering to assist at one of the Christmas Eve Services on Sat, Dec 24th. Times of Services are 3 pm, 5 pm and 10 pm.

(PLEASE NOTE: THE LAST SERVICE IS ONE HOUR EARLIER THIS YEAR!) We will need Acolytes, Ushers, Lectors, Greeters, Communion Assistants, Counters, Communion by Intinction Set Up and Clean Up. The sign-up sheets will be on the table in the Narthex by Nov 27th. If you have any questions, contact Pat Durkee, 384-3645. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

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 at the Church by noon 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!! Please let the office know by Dec 20<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

## Worship Committee

- The Library can be used as the nursery if there is anyone who has a need for it. There is now a speaker in there.
- Christmas Eve services will be at 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. The last service is one hour earlier than in the past due to the fact that the next day is Christmas day and we will be having worship service at 9 a.m. The Christmas day service will be readings and carols. If you would like to volunteer to do a reading that day, please call or e-mail the office. There will be communion on Christmas Eve and on Christmas day.
- If you are making an announcement on Sunday please make sure to leave a note in the office so the information can be passed on at Wednesday worship as well. Thank you.
- The next worship committee meeting is December 8<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.
- Members are invited to be part of the Lighting of the Advent wreath by reading the Scripture and / or lighting the candle. This is a great way for families and others to be part of the service. Please call Linda Newlon @ 879-6274 if you are interested in volunteering.

## Social Ministry

Social Ministry will be hosting coffee after worship on December 4<sup>th</sup> in support of Loaves & Fishes.



C.A.R.E, (Community Addiction Recovery Enterprise) Formerly Liberalis, in Carlton is in need of hats & mittens for the winter months. There is also a continued need for shampoo, conditioner, tampax, deodorant, soap, toothpaste, etc. There is a donation box outside the office. All donations are very much appreciated.



**Please remember to donate  
to the Food Shelf**

**LIVE SIMPLY...  
...SO OTHERS MAY SIMPLY  
LIVE."**



Food Distribution  
Sharing the love of Christ  
Through Food  
Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>  
10-11:30 a.m.  
Cloquet National Guard Armory  
Questions? Contact Sheila @  
879-3380  
[www.rubyspantry.org](http://www.rubyspantry.org)

### **Did You Know?...**

Bethesda has sponsored a child overseas since May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1967. Here is a letter from Lalo Kumari. She is the current child we sponsor.

Dear Friend  
Warm Greetings to you!!

I am quite well, healthy and happy here with my family members. We hope that you and all your family members are also quite well and healthy by the grace of God.

Friend, I have received the special gift amount that you sent me.(\$161). After receiving this gift amount I and my family members became very happy. Using the money I bought one big box, two chairs, one fan for family, salwar suit (a type of traditional dress in India), one pair of sleepers, three copies, and two pens for me, pant-shirt for my father and my

nephew. I also bought goat and sweets for my family. The remaining money I deposited in my saving account. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for sending the gift amount.

My study is going on very well. I participated in age based activity organized under the child fund India project. Farmers here are busy in cultivation of paddy crop. We are preparing to celebrate the festival of Raksha Bandhan which is about to come at our place. On this day sisters wear new clothes and tie sacred thread i.e. rakhi on their brothers' wrist. They pray to God for their long life and well-being. Rest is fine. Now I am concluding my letter here.

Thanks and best regards,  
Your Sponsored Child  
Lalo Kumari

### **A Warm Welcome to Pastor Amy Odgren!**

**The Rev. Amy Odgren** has accepted the call as Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop of the NEMN Synod. Most recently, she has served as Senior Pastor of Spirit Lutheran, in Eau Claire, WI. From 2007-2013, she served as an Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission in the NW Synod of WI. where she helped guide several congregations in strengthening their missional framework, as well as giving leadership to strategic planning processes. Pastor

Odgren encourages congregations in thinking more deeply about God's transformational power within existing ministries and raising awareness to what God might be calling them to become in the future. She has forged ecumenical relationships, sometimes posing new opportunities for effective ministry. Her synodical work has included a focus on Evangelism, Outreach, Generosity and Candidacy. Her first call in ministry was as a Mission Developer, cultivating and bringing together a new community of faith in the La Crosse Area Synod. As a parish pastor, she has given particular attention to cross-generational ministry and faith development. She believes that all the baptized are Ministers of the Gospel - and that practicing discipleship is a life long journey strengthened by participating in a community of faith.

**Pastor Odgren** is a native of Iowa and a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College and Wartburg Theological Seminary. She entered ordained ministry after a 16 year career of administration in the field of supports and services for people with disabilities in the state of Massachusetts. She and her husband Steve are the parents of three grown children, proud grandparents of one amazing grandson, and they share their living quarters with two very large, but loving Newfoundlands.

(Adapted from our Synod's website)



## 15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

Save the date for the Bethesda Women's Retreat from January 26 thru January 29, 2017. Come for the entire weekend, part of the weekend or just one day.

The Retreat is at Camp Annicon where we have enjoyed the past 14 Retreats.

Cost:       \$130.00 for 3 nights  
              \$ 95.00 for 2 nights  
              \$ 74.00 for 1 night  
              \$ 40.00 for all day

This is a non-structured weekend for the women of Bethesda to enjoy getting to know each other while relaxing and taking time to do what you enjoy – or doing nothing at all!

Please see Lynn Beatty with any questions: 384-3765 (591-7519 Cell)  
or [nssgbeatty@gmail.com](mailto:nssgbeatty@gmail.com)

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### 15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVE: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPART \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT PAID \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: LYNN BEATTY**



## December Volunteers

9:00

### Greeters

- 4. Mary Saarela
- 11. Sharon Bragge
- 18. Al & Florence Holm
- 25. Sandy Vernon

### Ushers

- 4. Paul & Sarah Carpenter
- 11. Ryan Swanson & Brad Bunge
- 18. Dave & Lynn Beatty
- 25. Pat Durkee & Larry Beckstrom

### Lay Readers

- 4. Wendy Mitchell
- 11. Jean Johnson
- 18. Lynn Beatty
- 25. Pat Durkee

### Communion Assistants

- 4. Jean Johnson, Cheryl Ankrum & JoAnn Gustafson
- 11. Janice Dahl, Sharon Bragge & Stacy Colich
- 18. Marlys McKinstry, Mary Saarela & Linda Newlon
- 25. No Communion

### Acolytes

- 4. Johanna Bernu
- 11. Bridger McCorison
- 18. Bridger McCorison
- 25. Johanna Bernu

### Communion Prep & Clean

- 4. Ryan Swanson(P)  
Joel Soukkala (C)
- 11. Pat Durkee (P & C)
- 18. Gordy & Lil Davis(P & C)
- 25. No Communion

### Counters

- 4. Chris Mitchell & Janice Dahl
- 11. JoAnn Gustafson & Mary Saarela
- 18. Dawn Soukkala & Lorna Bryant
- 25. Gene Bryant & Lori Bunge

## January Volunteers

9:00

### Greeters

1. Renae House
8. Duane & Dawn Soukkala
15. Jonathan Kolb
22. Renee Kesty
29. John Stradtman

### Ushers

1. Gordy & Lil Davis
8. Cody & Cary Martin
15. Craig & Desiree Holm
22. JoAnn Gustafson & Paula Olsen
29. George & Mary Saarela

### Lay Readers

1. Stacy Colich
8. Linda Newlon
15. Paul Carpenter
22. Karin Towslee
29. Brad Bunge

### Communion Assistants

1. Paul Carpenter & Dave & Lynn Beatty
8. Pat Durkee, Julianne Emerson & Jean Johnson
15. Marlys McKinstry & Mary Saarela & JoAnn Gustafson
22. Sharon Bragge & Duane & Dawn Soukkala
29. Linda Newlon, Sarah Carpenter & Stacy Colich

### Acolytes

1. Noah Olsen
8. Bridger McCorison
15. Anna Bong
22. Colin Emerson
29. Johanna Bernu

### Communion Prep & Clean

1. George Saarela (P & C)
8. Sharon Bragge (P & C)
15. Renee Kesty (P & C)
22. Linda Newlon (P & C)
29. Jenny & Donald Lokken ( P & C)

### Counters

1. Lynn Beatty & Bethany Leseman
8. Chris Mitchell & JoAnn Gustafson
15. Mary Saarela & Dawn Soukkala
22. Lorna Bryant & Lori Bunge
29. Gene Bryant & Lynn Beatty

# December 2016



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> <b>8am</b> Bazaar Prep <b>9am</b> Interim Pastor's Meeting <b>5pm</b> Visitation Team Meeting <b>5:45pm</b> Children, Youth & Family Ministry	<b>2</b> <b>8am</b> Bazaar Prep	<b>3</b> <b>8am</b> Bazaar Set-Up <b>9am</b> Touch of Scandinavia Holiday Bazaar <b>1pm</b> Bazaar Clean-Up
<b>4</b> Social Ministry - Loaves & Fishes <b>9am</b> Worship Sunday Story Time <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship	<b>5</b> <b>5:30pm</b> Council Meeting <b>5:45pm</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>6</b> <b>9:30am</b> Text Study <b>11am</b> Weekly Staff Meeting	<b>7</b> <b>5:30pm</b> Mid-Week Advent Supper <b>6:3 pm</b> Mid-Week Advent Worship	<b>8</b> <b>11am</b> Worship Committee Meeting	<b>9</b> <b>11am</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>9am</b> Worship Sunday Story Time <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship <b>10:30am</b> Making Christingles	<b>12</b> <b>5:45pm</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>13</b> <b>9am</b> Kettle River Conference-Mora <b>11:00am</b> Weekly Staff Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>5:30pm</b> Mid-Week Advent Supper <b>6:3 pm</b> Mid-Week Advent Worship	<b>15</b> <b>Beacon Deadline</b> <b>1pm</b> Jam Group	<b>16</b> <b>11am</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>9am</b> Worship Christingle Christmas Program <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/ Fellowship	<b>19</b> <b>5:45pm</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>20</b> <b>9:30am</b> Clergy Text Study <b>11:00am</b> Weekly Staff Meeting	<b>21</b> <b>5:30pm</b> Mid-Week Advent Supper <b>6:30 pm</b> Mid-Week Advent Worship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>11am</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Worship Services</b> 3pm, 5pm & 10pm
<b>25</b> Merry Christmas! <b>9am</b> Worship <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/Fellowship	<b>26</b> Pastor Cheryl Vacation <b>5:45pm</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>27</b> Pastor Cheryl Vacation <b>9:30am</b> Clergy Text Study	<b>28</b> Pastor Cheryl Vacation <b>5:30pm</b> Wednesday S.T.O.R.Y Word & Worship	<b>29</b> Pastor Cheryl Vacation <b>1pm</b> Jam Group	<b>30</b> Pastor Cheryl Vacation <b>11am</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>31</b> Pastor Cheryl Vacation New Year's Eve

