



The Bethesda Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN
March 2018

← **BE STRONG** ≡
and
≡ **COURAGEOUS** →

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God
will be with you wherever
you go
Joshua 1:9

March at Bethesda:

*Council Meeting

March 8th 5:30pm

All Congregational Members are
Welcome to Attend.

*Palm Sunday Worship Service

March 25th at 9am with First Communion

*Maundy Thursday Worship Service

March 29th at 6:30pm

Good Friday Service of Light &
Darkness March 30th at 6:30pm

* Easter Sunday Worship Services

April 1st at 8am and 10:30am with
Breakfast from the Kiel Family

Following the First Service

In This Month's Beacon:

* A Message from Pastor Mary

*Financial Update

*Member News

*Committee Updates

*Community Events



In an effort to do more non-sermon prep reading, a couple of my clergy friends and I started a book club, and we met for the first time last month. We read *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tom Bolsinger. It's a newer book in the ministry leadership field, and the book focuses on how to lead churches in our current time. He uses the example of Lewis and Clark, who were given the task to canoe all the way to the east coast and discover what was out there, but then they came upon the Rocky Mountains, and realized they would have to give up their canoes, in which they were confident and skilled at, and figure out a new and scary plan to get through the mountain range.

Bolsinger explains that the same is happening to us in the church. I don't think I have to list here all the obvious signs that our churches are not the same as they were even 30 years ago (but come chat with me if you're wanting to know more!) and we have reached our own mountain range going forward on our expedition called life. We have been doing many of the same things for decades; we are comfortable doing them, and for a long time they have treated us well. But now we have reached the mountains where our society looks different and we are forced to enter into this new adventure wondering how we can be adaptive to the realities of the

world.

I've been around for six months now, and I can see people adapting to new ideas and outlooks on ministry for the future - and that makes me so excited! As I've mentioned to a couple people, the sky's the limit when it comes to new opportunities to Bethesda to be a part of. Just because things have been done one way for awhile, doesn't mean that they need to continue in the future if they're not meeting the needs of people in our church and beyond. We can't be afraid to give up our canoes and tackle a new sense of adventure working our way through unfamiliar mountaintop territory.

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Sue Coady has been training in our new treasurer. Her name is Nita Davis. Nita's contact information is listed under Bethesda Staff. She & Sue will be meeting every other Monday for the next month or two.

For weather related cancellations of church services please tune in to WDIO (ABC station), Northwoods Radio 1230AM, 96.5FM or 106.9FM or our Facebook page.



Celebrating March Baptismal Birthdays:

Tanner Anderson, Brock Peterson, Donna Koski, Karson Davis, Kennidy Davis, Darlene Godbout, Ruth Olson, Cecelia Moench, Karen Johnson, Deanna Wallin, Audrey Lokken, Jared Kelley, Jason Peterson, Jude Holden, Macguier Thorman, Emily Hanson, Sullivan Kiehn, Harlow Lekander-Karsiko, Amy Schwoch, Jayden Swanson & Rollin Martini.



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to the family of Morgan Olson who passed away December 14th, 2017, to the family of James Erickson who passed away February 10th, and to the family of Robert “Bob” Calverley who passed away January 19th. God gives us hope and strength in the promise of the resurrection in Christ.

Financial Update			
Year-to-date ending 01/31/2018			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	\$8,631.00	\$10,166.67	(\$1,535.67)
Non-pledged income	\$2,044.40	\$800.08	\$1,244.32
TOTAL INCOME	\$10,675.40	\$10,966.75	(\$291.35)
Salaries/Compensation	\$9,414.47	\$7,915.64	\$1,498.83
General Office Expenses	\$630.28	\$725.00	(\$94.72)
Utilities	\$1,310.68	\$893.33	\$417.35
Other Expenses	\$19.14	\$29.17	(\$10.03)
Benevolence Expenses	\$690.48	\$813.33	(\$122.85)
Evangelism Expenses	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$40.00
Property Expenses	\$256.87	\$225.00	\$31.87
Social Ministry	\$26.00	\$29.17	(\$3.17)
Stewardship Expenses	\$50.00	\$100.00	(\$50.00)
Worship Expenses	\$163.32	\$183.33	(\$20.01)
CYFM Expenses	\$0.00	\$322.07	(\$322.07)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,601.24	\$11,236.04	\$1,365.20
Net Income	(\$1,925.84)	(\$269.29)	(\$1,656.55)
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.			

2018 Members of Bethesda Church Council

- *President – Lynn Beatty
- *Vice President – Jason Goad
- *Secretary - Linda Newlon
- Beth Leseman
- Dave Beatty
- Stacy Colich
- Ryan Swanson
- Nevada McCorison
- Deb Davis
- Jane Joki
- Teresa Solomon
- Frank Curtiss



On February 11th we welcomed into the family of faith through the sacrament of Holy Baptism Cora Sara Jean Ostby daughter of Matt & Tayler Ostby.

Save the Date:

18th Annual Swedish Meatball Supper
April 21st 4-7pm

Any questions contact Duane Soukkala at 218-260-0004.



Please prayerfully consider
Volunteering on Easter April 1st:
*(Note there will be Two Services
at 8am & 10:30am)*

Lay Ministry Assistants Needed:

Acolytes, Crucifix Holders, Ushers,
Lectors, Greeters,
Communion Assistants (Intinction),
Counters, and Communion Clean Up.
The sign-up sheets are on the table in
the Narthex. If you have any questions,
contact Pat Durkee, 384-3645. Thank
you for your willingness to serve.

**Easter Breakfast at 9am following
the 8am Worship Service**

Volunteers needed to provide breakfast
food items, help
prepare, serve, & clean up.
The sign-up sheets are on the tables in
the Narthex.



Easter Garden:

Providing an Easter Lily or
Spring Flowers.
Please let the office know by March
27th if you are bringing a plant
and who it is in "Honor
of" or "Memory of" and have your
plant at the Church by 11am on Sat
March 31st. Let's fill the Sanctuary
with lots of beautiful plants to add to
the Beauty of Christ's Resurrection!!

NEW WINE PASTA FEED

Thursday March 15th 4:30-6:30
Zion Lutheran Church Cloquet
Come and support this wonderful
youth ministry.



Souper Bowl 2018

Team	Money	Items	Total points
Patriots	\$25.00	19	44
Eagles	\$14.00	14	28
Vikings	\$56.00	00	56
Misc	\$5.00	00	5

Money from this event will be sent to
the Second Harvest Food Bank for the
backpack program in Carlton Co. Six
schools participate in Carlton Co.
Thank you to all who gave. See you
next year! Gladys



Internship Update from
Deacon Candidate Colleen
Bernu:

The past month has been a
whirlwind of change and excitement. I
was formally welcomed into my
internship site on February 4th. I hit
the floor running (I have assisted with
a chili cook-off for CHUM,
participated in Bible studies, assisted
with worship services, and met with
parishioners and congregational teams
to see how I can best assist them as
they explore ways to connect the
church with the world through active
service). My list of "homework" is
filled with exciting learning
opportunities as I reach out to the
community and develop adult forums
for the congregation.
One of the main questions I've been
asked these past couple of weeks is
"What is a deacon?" (This is almost

always followed up with the question of “Will you eventually become a pastor?” These are awesome questions! To answer them, we need to explore the ELCA’s roster system. The ELCA has two ministry rosters (lists): the roster for ministers of Word and Service (Deacons) and the roster for ministers of Word and Sacrament (Pastors). The work of the ministers on these rosters complement each other because fundamentally all ministers are charged with the same task: carry out the work and mission of the church by sharing God’s love for the world through Christ’s liberating message of justice, love, and mercy. Pastors spread the news of God’s love preaching and administration of the sacraments (Baptism and Communion). Deacons spread this liberating message through preaching and active service within and outside congregational settings. So...no, I won’t eventually become a pastor. God has called me to be a deacon (a professional minister who engages in humble service while carrying out a task appointed by God). But, I will work alongside pastors, and together, we will lead congregations to figure out what tasks of service God is asking us do and how we can live faithfully into completing them as all of us, professional and lay ministers, share God’s love for the world through acts of justice, love, and mercy.



Bishop Tom’s Visitation

On Wednesday, February 7, 2018, over 53 confirmation students and adults from Salem, Elim and Bethesda Lutheran churches, enjoyed a delicious meal and fellowship prior to worship.

Bishop Tom Aitkens’ message was that “Jesus loves you and forgives you” was followed by communion and the Bishop anointing, with frankincense oil, each of us with our own blessing of love and caring.

Thanks to all of you who helped with food and hospitality for our visitors.



Lutheran women in the United States have been gathering in mission since the 1800s, and we owe much to our foremothers who responded to God’s call, created a place and lived out a purpose when women had no voice in the church.

Three groups came together in 1987 to form Women of the ELCA. These groups were the American Lutheran Church Women (of the American Lutheran Church), the Lutheran Church Women (of the Lutheran Church in America) and Women in Action for Mission (of the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches). The constituting convention was held June 13-14, 1987, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with the theme “Embrace

God's World." The organization was officially constituted Jan. 1, 1988, with the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#).

Communication tools would soon follow. The magazine *Lutheran Woman Today* began publishing in January 1988 and *Newsletter* (the predecessor to [Interchange](#)) followed in June of that year. The organization's first website was inaugurated in 1995. [Café](#), our electronic magazine for young women launched in 2006, with podcasts soon to follow.

In 2011, *Lutheran Woman Today* changed its name to [Gather](#), and continued providing award-winning content (Bible studies and articles) to more than 45,000 readers, with a pass-along rate of 3 additional people per subscriber.

The organization's first smart phone app, [Daily Grace](#), was unveiled in 2011 (available for [IOS](#) and [Android](#)), the same year that the magazine took on a new name, [Gather](#).

Various program initiatives were launched in 1988, some of which continue today such as the [grants](#) and [scholarship](#) programs. Initiatives came and went, meeting the needs of the women at the time. [Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls](#), the organization's health initiative, began in 2005. [Bold Women's Day](#), an annual celebration of our mission and the women who accomplish it, launched in 2007.

Today the organization is active in approximately 7,000 congregations of the ELCA and in 64 of the 65 synods (the only synod without a synodical organization is the Slovak Zion Synod, the ELCA's only non-geographical synod).

Our purpose hasn't wavered since we created our first constitution. "As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world."

Since constituting in 1988, Women of the ELCA has belonged to the women; it is self-incorporated. No money from the ELCA budget is given to Women of the ELCA; [all monetary support comes from the women themselves](#).

Thanks to you, Women of the ELCA [continues its ministry today](#). Visit : www.womenoftheelca.org



Spring Kettle River Conference will be held Saturday April 7 at Grace Lutheran in Sandstone.

NE MN Synodical Women's Organization - WISE Scholarship

Each year donations from Congregational WELCA units and individuals are given to "Women in Seminary Education" Scholarship Program. Funds are sent to seminarians as they study to become leaders in our church. Seminarian Colleen Bernu, along with three other seminarians recently received this scholarship.

Additional information is posted on the WELCA bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.



Admit it—when you're down and out, one of the last place you'd probably want to spend your money is on undergarments!

During Lent, our congregation will be working to provide "unmentionables" to the homeless in our region. Please bring NEW packages of underwear, long johns, t-shirts, socks, or bras and place them in the laundry basket in the narthex. OR—you can donate cash to the collection during our Wednesday Lenten Services. Thrivent is supporting this Community Action campaign through our congregation. Any questions, contact Ginny Korte-Castle at 218.384.3896.



Social Ministry will be hosting coffee in support of the Damiano Center on March 18th.



Please remember to donate to the Food Shelf

Our local Food Shelf is located at the Salvation Army on Carlton Ave. in Cloquet. There is also a box located in the entryway of the church. Please make sure to check expiration dates on the items you are donating. Thank you.

"Live simply...
so others may simply live."



Pray

Faith God, we thank you for your promise to love and care for us. We thank you for the gifts of food, water and shelter. Keep us mindful of your promises to us. Call us to be your workers to help fulfill your promises for the world. Amen.

Connect

Where did you see God's promise today?
Where did God seem far away today?

Bible

Mark 8:31-38—Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

Chat

Day 1

Mark 8:31-32a

“I’m going to die, but it’s OK, I’ll be alive again in 3 days!” How many different emotions do you feel when you hear that?

Day 2

Mark 8:32-33

What do you wonder about Peter’s motivation for criticizing Jesus? Was he worried? Did he think that Jesus sounded crazy?

Day 3

Mark 8:34

What does “take up your cross” mean to you? What do you imagine it meant to the disciples who had not yet seen Jesus die?

Day 4

Mark 8:35-37

What would you risk your life for?
What would you risk your possessions for?

Day 5

Mark 8:38

Are you willing to share your faith outside of the church? Who do you tell? Why?

Bless

God has promised great things in you.



Upcoming VLM Events

Elementary Rejuve (grades 3-6)- March 16-17, 2018 – Camp Vermilion

Camper Rejuves are a great way to get back to camp during the school year, or to check out camp for the upcoming summer! You'll get your camp fix on this 23 hour overnight - games, campfire, songs, friends, learning, and of course, great camp food.

Cost: \$50 per camper. *A \$15 non-refundable deposit is due with your registration. Churches are welcome to register as a group, with a deposit to hold your spots.* (One adult leader is free with every 8 campers when coming with a church group)

When: Registration begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and the program ends following supper on Saturday (about 6:00 p.m.). More information will be sent to all registered campers.

To register, please call (800) 331-5148 or fill out and send a **retreat registration form**.

March Volunteers

9:00

Greeters

- 4. Paula & Noah Olsen
- 11. Jane Joki
- 18. Janice Dahl
- 25. Debby Johnson

Ushers

- 4. Debby Johnson & Paul Carpenter
- 11. Lew Castle & Ginny Korte-Castle
- 18. Paula & Noah Olsen
- 25. Ryan Swanson & Jon Kolb

Lay Readers

- 4. Ginny Korte-Castle
- 11. Wendy Mitchell
- 18. Linda Newlon
- 25. Paul Carpenter

Communion Assistants

- 4. Janice Dahl & Linda Newlon
- 11. Lynn & Dave Beatty
- 18. Sharon Bragge & Mary Saarela
- 25. Pat Durkee & Bethany Leseman

Acolytes

- 4. Annabelle Soukkala
- 11. Nixon Mitchell
- 18. Anna Bong
- 25. Annabelle Soukkala

Communion Prep & Clean

- 4. Pat Durkee (P & C)
- 11. Mary Saarela (P) Jane Joki(C)
- 18. Renee Kesty (P & C)
- 25. Ryan Swanson (P)
Bethany Leseman (C)

Counters

- 4. Mary Saarela & Julie Wagman
- 11. Bethany Leseman & Janice Dahl
- 18. Chris Mitchell & Dawn Soukkala
- 25. Julie Wagman & Gene Bryant

Coffee Servers

- 4. Pat's Group
- 11. Renae's Group
- 18. Social Minsitry
- 25. Jenny's Group

April Volunteers

9:00

Greeters

1. Easter Sign-Up Sheet
8. Dave & Lynn Beatty
15. Paul Carpenter & Mary Saarela
22. Sharon Bragge & Anna Bong
29. Craig & Desi Holm

Ushers

1. Easter Sign-Up Sheet
8. Paula & Noah Olsen
15. Debby Johnson &
Sharon Bragge
22. Dave & Lynn Beatty
29. Paul Carpenter & Mary Saarela

Lay Readers

1. Easter Sign-Up Sheet
8. Cheryl Ankrum
15. Stacy Colich
22. Bethany Leseman
29. Pat Durkee

Communion Assistants

1. Easter Sign-Up Sheet
8. Stacy Colich &
JoAnn Gustafson
15. Dawn & Duane Soukkala
22. Renae House & Nixon Mitchell
29. Janice Dahl & Cheryl Ankrum

Acolytes

1. Easter Sign-Up Sheet
8. Nixon Mitchell
15. Anna Bong
22. Annabelle Soukkala
29. Jaiden Soukkala

Communion Prep & Clean

1. Easter Sign-Up Sheet
8. Renee Kesty (P & C)
15. Pat Durkee(P) Jane Joki(C)
22. Linda Newlon (P & C)
29. Sharon Bragge (P & C)

Counters

1. Easter Sign-Up Sheet
8. Janice Dahl & Jane Joki
15. Lynn Beatty & Linda Newlon
22. Mary Saarela &
Bethany Leseman
29. Chris Mitchell &
Dawn Soukkala

Coffee Servers

1. Easter Breakfast
8. Social Ministry
15. Beth's Group
22. Jeannette's Group
29. Lil's Group

March 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 3:30pm Children, Youth & Family & Ed. Meeting	2 Cardia Deo 11am Men's Bible Study	3 Cardia Deo
4 Cardia Deo 9am Worship Sunday Story Time 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship Sing 'N Play	5 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	6	7 5:30pm Lenten Faith Mentoring 6-9 th Grade Holy Communion Instruction Community Meal 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Lenten Worship	8 1pm Jam Group 5:30pm Council Meeting	9 11am Men's Bible Study	10
11 Pastor Mary Vacation Daylight Savings Time Begins 9am Worship Sunday Story Time 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship Sing 'N Play	12 Pastor Mary Vacation 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	13 Pastor Mary Vacation 5:30pm Moms Group	14 Pastor Mary Vacation 5:30pm Lenten Faith Mentoring 6-9 th Grade Holy Communion Instruction Community Meal 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Lenten Worship	15 Pastor Mary Vacation	16 Pastor Mary Vacation 11am Men's Bible Study	17
18 Social Ministry ~ Damiano Center 9am Worship 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship Sing 'N Play	19 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	20	21 5:30pm Lenten Faith Mentoring 6-9 th Grade Community Meal 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Lenten Worship	22 1pm Jam Group	23 11am Men's Bible Study	24 9am Holy Communion Retreat
25 9am Palm Sunday Worship First Communion 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship Sing 'N Play	26 10am Fellowship Hall In Use- Pat Durkee 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	27 5:30pm Moms Group	28 5:30pm Community Meal 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship	29 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service	30 11am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Good Friday Service of Light & Darkness	31

