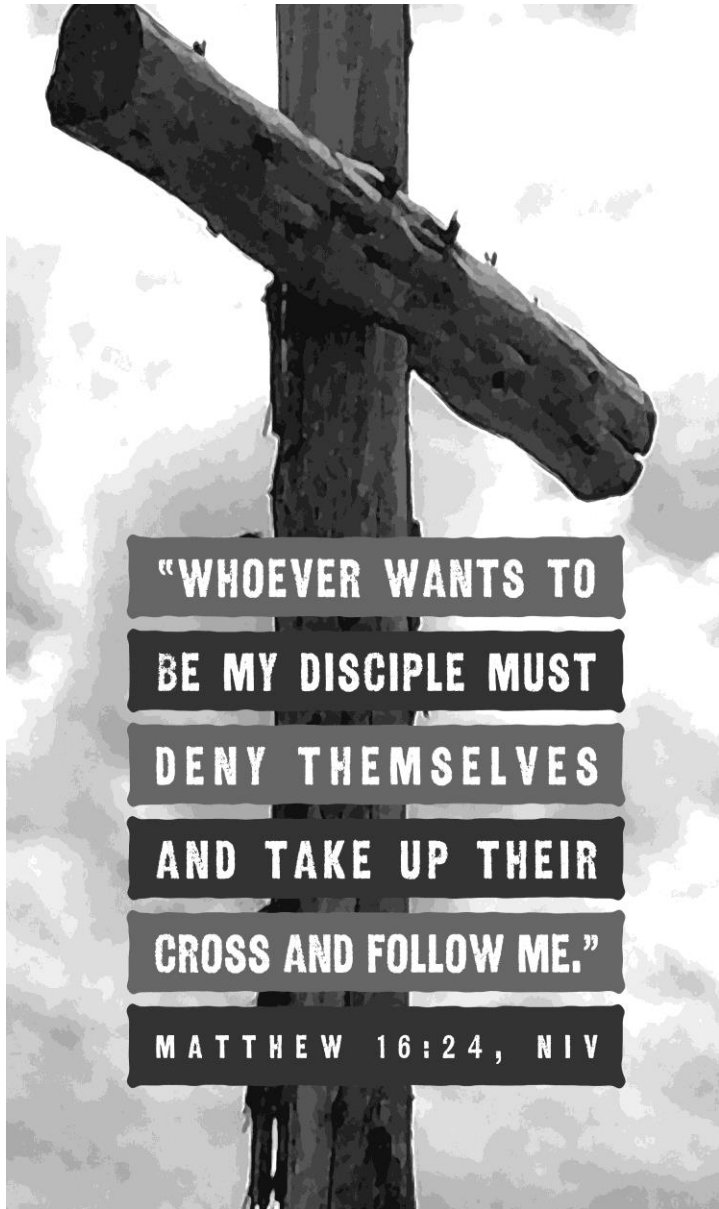




The Bethesda Beacon

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



In This Month's Beacon:

- * A Message from Pastor Mary
- *Financial Update
- *Member News
- *Committee Updates
- *Information on First Communion
- *Community Events
- *Faith on the Go
- *Information about the Upcoming Meatball Supper
- *Upcoming VLM Events
- *And More!

March Beacon Deadline is February 15th. Please have all submissions into the office on this date. The Beacon crew will be assembling the newsletter on February 28th.



Lent is always a memorable time for pastors and congregation members alike. It's a dedicated time during the church year where we come together and focus on our discipleship life as we make our way toward the cross and resurrection. As I mentioned earlier in January, the focus of our midweek Lenten services will be evangelism. The act of preaching the gospel has obviously been found in many forms over the centuries, but I have found the best way to share the gospel with people is through gracious invitation and hospitality modeled to us by Jesus.

I know we joke a lot as Lutherans about how little we evangelize to those around us, and I wonder if the main reason this is a reality is because (for the most part) we share about our faith life by talking about the things going on in our church building. This is a great first start, but it only scratches the surface of how we can be sharing the mission of God in the world.

Throughout my Lenten sermon series, we will engage with a book called *A Story Worth Sharing: Engaging*

Evangelism. It is comprised of small essays written by various Lutheran authors that help us envision evangelism differently.

These essays work on top of each other, just as my sermons will, to learn the basics of evangelism and how we can more easily articulate exactly how God is working in the world through us and our lives for the sake of others. My hope is that throughout the 40 days of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 14th and ending with Easter on April 1st, that those who come to the Wednesday evening worship services will be better equipped to share the gospel with others they encounter in their everyday lives.

If you have been looking for something to “kick start” your faith life lately, this may just be exactly what you have been praying for! Even if this isn't something that is currently on your radar, I pray you take it into consideration as you arrange your agenda for the coming months. You are welcome to share in the community meal at 5:30 pm before worship, or just come for worship at 6:30 pm. Services are casual and you are welcome to come as you are. Take an additional 45 minutes out of your week to devote to yourself and your journey with God.

Bethesda Staff

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Visit our Synod's Site at

www.nemnsynod.org



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.

Financial Update			
Year-to-date ending 12/31/2017			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	\$114,948.00	\$120,000.00	(\$5,052.00)
Non-pledged income	\$20,868.30	\$14,131.00	\$6,737.30
TOTAL INCOME	\$135,816.30	\$134,131.00	\$1,685.30
Salaries/Compensation	\$52,398.17	\$78,256.10	(\$25,857.93)
General Office Expenses	\$7,388.99	\$9,450.00	(\$2,061.01)
Utilities	\$10,501.54	\$11,300.00	(\$798.46)
Other Expenses	\$1,791.56	\$18,230.00	(\$16,438.44)
Benevolence Expenses	\$8,855.36	\$9,600.00	(\$744.64)
Evangelism Expenses	\$364.42	\$330.00	\$34.42
Property Expenses	\$1,456.76	\$3,200.00	(\$1,743.24)
Social Ministry	\$338.00	\$350.00	(\$12.00)
Stewardship Expenses	\$212.20	\$400.00	(\$187.80)
Worship Expenses	\$2,392.30	\$2,200.00	\$192.30
CYFM Expenses	\$3,691.90	\$1,400.00	\$2,291.90
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$89,391.20	\$134,716.10	(\$45,324.90)
Net Income	\$46,425.10	(\$585.10)	\$47,010.20
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.			

Member News



Celebrating February Baptismal Birthdays:

Carol Beckstrom, Johanna Bernu, Karter Davis, Kenzie Davis, Brock House, Rebecca House, Karter Davis, Kenzie Davis, Kenley Olson, Trent Olson, Wayne Olson, Anna Kiehl, Lori Bunge, Jordan Thompson, Alena Wallin, Brad Nygren, Gregory Emerson, Jane Willie, Russell Grover, Randy Schmitz, Michelle Schleret, Nichole Theisen, Amber Despot, Virginia Erikson, Austin Davis, Brianna Despot, Alice Kloepfer, Floyd Aubol, Jennifer Redowl, Deborah Johnson, Amy Mattson, Ambrielle Mazzitello, Carol Chalberg & Katie Pille.



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to Wayne Olson & Family. Wayne's mom Karen Klein passed away on January 9th. God gives us hope and strength in the promise of the resurrection in Christ.

Duane Soukkala's letter of resignation from the council was accepted with Thanks for his service.

Next Worship Committee Meeting:
February 22nd at 4pm.

Next Children, Youth, Family & Ed Meeting:
February 2nd at 3:30pm.

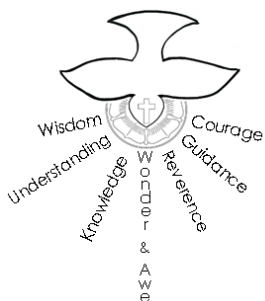


Mark Your Calendars –

Our annual Meatball Supper will be held on Saturday April 21st 4-7 pm. This is a wonderful event of fellowship and community. Please feel free to contact Duane Soukkala at 218-260-0004 with any questions. Thank you.

Save The Date:
For Northern Carlton County Bishop's Visitation to Confirmation Students. Bishop Tom Aitken will be coming to Bethesda

on February 7th 5:30- 7:30 to meet with the Confirmation students & their families. All are welcome!



Annual Carlton Volunteer Firefighters Bingo

Saturday February 10th
Carlton High School @ 7 pm.
Tickets are available from a Carlton Firefighter or at the door.

Heart to Heart

A Gathering of Women ~ Meeting in Friendship & Fellowship through Christ

Saturday February 3rd, 2018
9:45-11:30am

Zion Lutheran Church,
1000 Washington Ave. Cloquet
Guest Speakers: Debbie Radosevich
Message: "Never Give Up-God is my Strength."

Jana Clifford

Message: "Mom's in Prayer" -A group for women interested in gathering to pray for their children and schools.

Music: Missy Parker

Child care available upon request.

To RSVP:

Bonnie Chapman 218-499-8003

bchapman3246@hotmail.com

Jan Kangas 218-879-9653

gjkangas@hotmail.com

Sandy Raisanen

sandyraisanen@gmail.com

Heart to Heart is a non-denominational friendship ministry in our area bringing women together for a time of coffee, fellowship & fun. The goal is to offer women opportunities to impact their communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through word & deed.

A \$2 donation for the event is appreciated very much. Please join us and bring a friend.



“Gathered”

Cardia Deo is a retreat for high school youth in grades 9-12 and their adult leaders. As Christians, we are *Called, Gathered, Equipped and Sent* to be the Heart of God (*Cardia Deo*) in the world. Bible studies led by the LYO Board, servant learning, worship, mystery event, camp life, and an adult track led by the retreat chaplain all make this event a deeply meaningful, fun and faith-nurturing event.

March 2nd-4th Big Sandy Camp

McGregor

Grades 9-12

Early Registration before February

1st \$50

Standard Registration after

February 1st \$70.

Call the church office or contact

Pastor Mary with questions.

Registration forms can be found on

our website, in the church office or

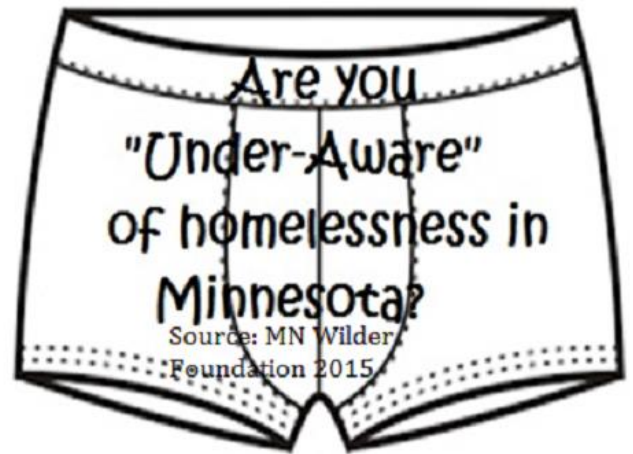
nemnsynod.org



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

Please make sure to check the expiration dates on donations. The food shelf will not accept expired food.

Thank you.



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.



Faith on the Go

Pray

Gracious God, we praise and thank you for the good things you have given to us. Call us to be generous with what we have, call us to be merciful and loving. Call us to action in our communities and world. Amen.

Connect

How did you listen for God this week?
How did you show your faith this week?

Bible

John 1:43-51—Jesus Calls Philip and Nathaniel

Chat

Day 1

John 1:43

“Follow Me.” A simple phrase. We hear it when we ask for help looking for something. What do you think Philip was looking for?

Day 2

John 1:44-46

“Come and see.” Name something that you needed to see to believe. What do you believe without seeing?

Day 3

John 1:47

What do you think that it means to have no deceit?

Day 4

John 1:48-50

What helps you believe? Hearing the stories? Seeing amazing works?

Day 5

John 1:51

What Gospel story do you think Jesus is talking about when he describes angels ascending and descending?

Bless

God calls you by name.

Upcoming VLM Events



YourStory Retreat Series

A four weekend series at Camp Vermillion

Join us for an innovative retreat format that blends self-guided self-reflection through questions and story starters, exploration of related biblical characters, and developing your story. Whether you believe it or not, your life is filled with amazing stories and experiences. The people and places in your life are woven together in a story unique to you.

YourStory 2: February 2-4
Changing Your Story

YourStory 3: April 27-29
Characters in Conflict

YourStory 4: Summer 2018 TBD
Making Ripples
Come for one; Come for them all!

Registration fee:
\$150/person/weekend

includes meals, lodging and programming, For more information go to www.vlmcamps.org or call 800-33-5148

Jr. High Rejuve (grades 7-9) - February 23-24, 2018 at Camp Vermillion

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.

Space for these retreats is limited so we encourage you to register early. To register, please call the camp office at (800) 331-5148 or fill out and send a **retreat registration form.**

Worship & Sacrament Classes

Second graders

Clergy led classes to prepare students for taking a more active role during worship service and to share in the communion meal.

Classes: Wednesday nights at 5:30 pm. Meals provided.

February 21, 28, March 7, and 14

Saturday Retreat: March 24

First Communion Service: Sunday, March 25, 2018

Parents are asked to attend and participate. A \$5 donation is requested to cover student materials. RSVP with the office 384-4501

February Volunteers

9:00

Greeters

- 4. Theresa Vick
- 11. Ginny Korte-Castle
- 18. Sheri & Jon Kolb
- 25. Julie Wagman

Ushers

- 4. Sharon Bragge & Jon Kolb
- 11. Des Holm & Pat Durkee
- 18. Bob & Marnie Emerson
- 25. Stacy Colich & JoAnn Gustafson

Lay Readers

- 4. Stacy Colich
- 11. Bethany Leseman
- 18. Cheryl Ankrum
- 25. Renae House

Communion Assistants

- 4. Dawn & Duane Soukkala
- 11. Stacy Colich & JoAnn Gustafson
- 18. Janice Dahl & Renae House
- 25. Pat Durkee & Nixon Mitchell

Acolytes

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

Communion Prep & Clean

- 4. Renee Kesty (P & C)
- 11. Sharon Bragge(P) Jane Joki(C)
- 18. Linda Newlon (P & C)
- 25. Sharon Bragge (P & C)

Counters

- 4. Chris Mitchell & Dawn Soukkala
- 11. Bethany Leseman
- 18. Jane Joki & Janice Dahl
- 25. Lynn Beatty & Linda Newlon

Coffee Servers

- 4. Marlys' Group
- 11. Social Ministry
- 18. Gladys' Group
- 25. Linda's Group

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

February 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 11am Men's Bible Study 3:30pm Children, Youth & Family & Ed. Meeting	3
4 9am Worship Sunday Story Time 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship Sing 'N Play	5 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	6 5pm Tentative Executive Committee Meeting	7 Northeast Carlton County Bishop's Visitation 5:30pm Community Meal 6pm Speaker: Bishop Tom Aitken	8 1pm Jam Group	9 11am Men's Bible Study	10
11 Transfiguration of Our Lord Social Ministry 9am Worship Sunday Story Time 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship Sing 'N Play	12 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	13 Kettle River Conference 5:30pm Moms Group	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday 5:30pm Lenten Faith Mentorship 6-9 th Grade Community Meal 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship	15 5:30pm Tentative Council Meeting	16 11am Men's Bible Study	17
18 First Sunday in Lent 9am Worship Sunday Story Time 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship Sing 'N Play	19 President's Day 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	20 8am Hymn Planning Committee	21 5:30pm Holy Communion Instruction Lenten Faith Mentorship 6-9 th Grade Community Meal 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship	22 1pm Jam Group 4pm Worship Committee Meeting	23 11am Men's Bible Study	24
25 9am Worship Sunday Story Time 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship Sing 'N Play	26 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	27 5:30pm Moms Group	28 5:30pm Holy Communion Instruction Lenten Faith Mentorship 6-9 th Grade Community Meal 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship			