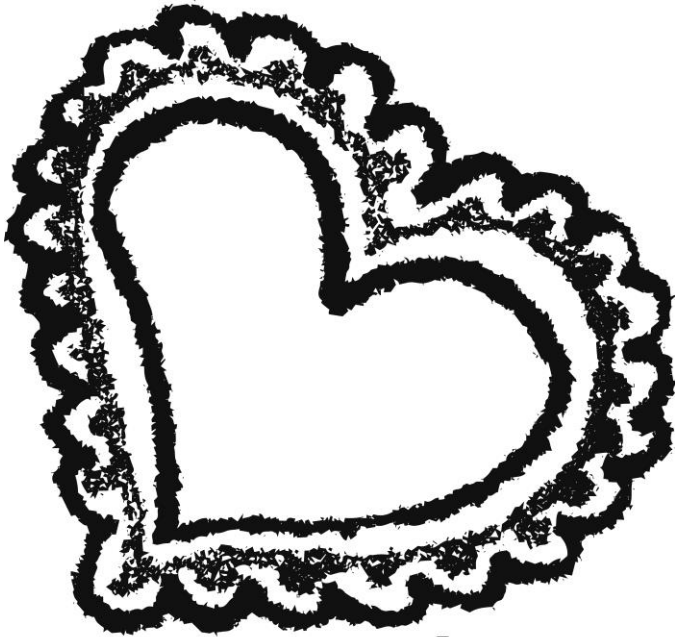




The Bethesda Beacon

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



**TRUST IN THE LORD
WITH ALL YOUR
HEART,
AND DO NOT LEAN ON
YOUR OWN
UNDERSTANDING.**

PROVERBS 3:5, ESV

In This Month's Beacon:

* A Candidacy Update from
Colleen Bernu

*Financial Update

*Member News

*Committee Updates

*Information on the Upcoming
Women's Retreat

*Community Events

*Faith on the Go

*Upcoming VLM Events

*And More!

February Beacon Deadline is January 15th. Please have all submissions into the office on this date. The Beacon crew will be assembling the newsletter on January 24th.

Bethesda Staff

Office 218-384-4501

Mary Fiel, Pastor 507-525-3909

Bobbie McCorison, Secretary

218-384-4501

Alice Kloepfer, Custodian

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Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Carlton MN 55718

Email: bethesda55718@msn.com

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Visit our Synod's Site at

www.nemnsynod.org

Members of Bethesda Church Council

*President – Sue Frank

*Vice President – Duane Soukkala

*Secretary - Linda Newlon

Dave Beatty

Lynn Beatty

Stacy Colich

Jason Goad

Jon Kolb

Ryan Swanson

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. 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 church website.*



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

Financial Update			
Year-to-date ending 11/30/2017			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	\$106,005.00	\$110,000.00	(\$3,995.00)
Non-pledged income	\$18,402.91	\$12,330.75	\$6,072.16
TOTAL INCOME	\$124,407.91	\$122,330.75	\$2,077.16
Salaries/Compensation	\$45,524.62	\$69,340.44	(\$23,815.82)
General Office Expenses	\$7,039.62	\$8,525.00	(\$1,485.38)
Utilities	\$9,349.25	\$10,358.26	(\$1,009.01)
Other Expenses	\$2,076.64	\$17,960.76	(\$15,884.12)
Benevolence Expenses	\$8,139.92	\$8,800.00	(\$660.08)
Education Expenses	\$903.14	\$1,095.87	(\$192.73)
Evangelism Expenses	\$364.42	\$302.50	\$61.92
Property Expenses	\$1,218.65	\$2,933.37	(\$1,714.72)
Social Ministry	\$312.00	\$323.00	(\$11.00)
Stewardship Expenses	\$212.20	\$383.37	(\$171.17)
Worship Expenses	\$2,265.88	\$2,050.00	\$215.88
Youth Expenses	\$540.77	\$366.63	\$174.14
Choir Music Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$77,947.11	\$122,439.20	(\$44,492.09)
Net Income	\$46,460.80	(\$108.45)	\$46,569.25
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.			

It's that time of year again... All COMMITTEE REPORTS for the Annual Report are due by January 5th. Please have them into the office by this date. The Annual Meeting will be held January 21st. Thank you.

Member News



Celebrating January Baptismal Birthdays:

Marlene Anderson, Lance Konietzko, Britt Simula, Madilynn Vermeersch, Emily Vermeersch, Holly Vermeersch, Dawn Sell,

Emily Matlack, Carol Bergstrom, Tucker Kiehn, Phyllis Rousseau, Evan McKeon, Sandy Vernon, John Holden, Laurie Sparks, Scott Frederick, Paul Carpenter, Merie Johnson, Julie Frederick, Nancy Lee Olsen, Brookelynn Sell, Brielle Simula, Nathaniel Bong, Aaron Schilla, Brandon Sell, Zariah Erikson, Jayson Grover, Anton Sheda, Betty Peterson Natalie Lijewski, Aaron Vick & Everly Jahr.



On December 10th we welcomed into the family of faith through the sacrament of Holy Baptism Amelia Rose McCarthy daughter of Broc Johnson.

Welcome

On Wednesday December 6th and Sunday December 10th we welcomed into this community of faith new members Kevin Conley, Paula Lijewski & Michael, Mark & Julie Wagman, Mark, Amanda, Madalyn, Lillian & Jax Dewitt, Brad & Tara Ninneman & Marissa Steltz.

Candidacy Update from Colleen Bernu:

I am excited to announce that I was endorsed by the NE MN Synod of the ELCA on Tuesday, December 12th, 2017 and will continue fulfilling my candidacy requirements for the Deacon roster. I have declared a call to

ministry in evangelism and mission. A large part of this call will be working as a community organizer to accompany congregations as they live into their Christian identities through active and visual discipleship. I have been accepted to serve my field experience through a congregation in West Duluth. I do not have an official start date, but we are anticipating that I will begin my field experience this upcoming February or March. During my field experience, my family and I will continue to be members at Bethesda. However, we will worship and serve in my field experience congregation, so we won't be able to see everyone as often as we usually do. As I transition into this new phase of ministry, I want to thank each of you who has supported us through prayer and physical presence. Your support has not gone unnoticed. We pray blessings on the entire Bethesda community of faith now and into the future. Peace, Colleen Bernu



Thank you to the many hands who helped make this season a blessing: in Advent worship services and suppers; in special music and decorations; the volunteers for Christmas Eve, for all those who brought Poinsettias and the many preparations inside and out! Serving hearts know joy, and we pray our gratitude!



Our annual Touch of Scandinavia Bazaar was a success due to all the work of everyone. Everyone who gave their time, talents, and/or donations. We had many new baked goods and the crowd seemed to enjoy that. Family members, friends, and neighbors stopped by to shop, socialize, and have lunch. Thanks again for making the Bazaar one of our most successful yet and see you next year!

There will be a WELCA/Bazaar meeting Sunday January 14th, 2018 after worship in the Library.

Social Ministry will be hosting coffee on January 7th in support of Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Homelessness in Carlton County

January 24, 2018, Bethesda will be a count site for the Carlton County homeless counts. Bethesda was asked to be a site because we offer a free community meal each Wednesday. Thank you in advance to the many hands that are coming together to serve our neighbors through the gift of food. Please keep our homeless population in your prayers.

The face of homelessness in Carlton County:

- nearly 85% of our homeless people work full-time jobs
- homeless families are most often headed by single moms under the age of 30
- many of our homeless neighbors own cars
- there are at least 6 "tent cities" within a 5 mile radius of Carlton
- 400 people are currently on the waiting list for affordable housing in Carlton County

Did you know?

Food pantries across America are shifting away from processed foods and encouraging clients to "eat fresh." A huge part of this shift is education for clients on nutrition and how to cook with fresh ingredients. The Salvation Army Food Pantry is part of this movement. You can help by:

- donating recipes that feature zucchinis, squash, carrots, potatoes, etc.
- donating fresh foods, especially surplus produce from your garden
- donating traditional, regional foods like wild rice and heirloom seeds
- donating venison and other wild game that has been processed and packaged by a licensed processor/butcher

Salvation Army Food Pantry needs:

- seasonings (salt, pepper, oregano, basil, etc.)
- personal care items and toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, etc.)
- toilet paper
- dish soap
- laundry soap

Thrivent News

Are you a Thrivent member? Then, you are provided two different pools of free money to make a difference. One is Thrivent Choice dollars. The other is Community Impact money. As a member of Thrivent, \$500 a year (\$250 at a time) is available to you to make a difference in your community. If you don't use this money every year, Thrivent will donate it to a charity of their choice. Despite the good work done by these charities, they are not local charities and the money will most likely not go to meet the needs of our Carlton community. So, make your money count right here at home by applying for a Community Impact Card today!

How does it work? Think about an unmet need in your community and how you could help. Apply to lead a volunteer team in a one-time service

activity, fundraiser, or educational event that can be completed within 90 days. Work can be done with any organization throughout the community; you don't have to work only through Bethesda's ministry projects. The application process takes 5-10 minutes and notification of approval comes within a week. Once your project is approved, you'll receive a Thrivent Action Kit, that includes a \$250 Community Impact Card to be used as seed money to get your project off the ground and make a bigger impact. If you have questions or would like help brainstorming project ideas, please connect with Pastor Mary.



Time & Talent Sheets

If you have not already filled out a time and talent sheet in 2017, please do so even if you are only letting me know your current contact information so I have updated information for everyone in the congregation.

Thank you!

Bethany Leseman



16th ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

Save the date for the Bethesda Women's Retreat from January 25th thru January 28th, 2018. 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 15 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

16th ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL _____

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS: _____

ARRIVE: _____ DEPART _____

AMOUNT PAID _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: LYNN BEATTY

Upcoming VLM Events

Paddle Building Workshop

**Friday, January 26 to Sunday,
January 28 at Camp Vermilion**

*Contact us if you would like to schedule a
Paddle Building retreat for your group!*



Come to Camp Vermilion and learn how to build your own canoe paddle! You'll select your pieces of wood, then glue and clamp your paddle together. Then you'll sand, sand, and sand some more until it's just the way you want it.

All are welcome! Bring your spouse, friends, or family and spend a weekend in the northwoods, with a beautiful piece to take home at the end. Parent/child or grandparent/grandchild participants can build a family heirloom together!

Depending on when participants are able to start on Friday, much of the work will be completed on Friday evening and Saturday.

Cost: \$200/paddle (\$250 if there are two participants working on a single paddle). A \$50 *non-refundable deposit is due with your registration.*

Includes: All wood and tools needed, lodging, and Friday dinner through Sunday brunch.

Space is limited to 6 participants, so register today! To register, please call the camp office at (800) 331-5148 or fill out and send a **retreat registration form**.



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



Faith on the Go

Pray

God of light and love, smile on us!
Give us hope, fill us with good things,
bless us with abundant life. We praise
and thank you for your good gifts
of mercy, grace, shelter, food and
relationships. Amen.

Connect

How have you been blessed this week?
How can you be a blessing to someone
else next week?

Bible

Luke 2:22-40 - Jesus Presented at the
Temple

Chat

Day 1

Luke 2:22-24

We know so little about Jesus'
childhood. Why is this detail
important enough to be written down?
What rituals does your
family have around childhood?

Day 2

Luke 2:25-32

The end of this passage is known as
the Song of Simeon. The text has been
used as communion blessing

throughout the centuries. What about
the song reminds you of communion?

Day 3

Luke 2:33-35

Mary has many things to ponder!
Angels telling her about her
son. Shepherds telling her about
Angels. Kings bringing gifts
that are more fitting for a funeral, and
now this! What do you wonder about
Mary's thoughts?

Day 4

Luke 2:36-38

The messages about Jesus must have
been difficult to hear. He will be great,
but he will suffer, he will unite God's
people and divide God's people. When
in your life have you been excited
and anxious at the same time?

Day 5

Luke 2:39-40

After all that they go home to raise
their child. What do you return to after
exciting or difficult times? Where do
you find comfort?

Bless

Go with God's peace in your heart and
on your lips.

January Volunteers

9:00

Greeters

- 7. Dawn Soukkala
- 14. Cheryl Ankrum
- 21. Bob & Marnie Emerson
- 28. Jon Kolb

Ushers

- 7. Bob & Marnie Emerson
- 14. Paula & Noah Olsen
- 21. Debby Johnson & Sharon Bragge
- 28. Dave Beatty & Paul Carpenter

Lay Readers

- 7. Stacy Colich
- 14. Linda Newlon
- 21. Paul Carpenter
- 28. Pat Durkee

Communion Assistants

- 7. Linda Newlon & Sharon Bragge
- 14. Lynn & Dave Beatty
- 21. Mary Saarela & Pat Durkee
- 28. Bethany Leseman & Linda Newlon

Acolytes

- 7. Jaiden Soukkala
- 14. Lauren Soukkala
- 21. Bridger McCorison
- 28. Anna Bong

Communion Prep & Clean

- 7. Johanna Bernu(P) Linda Newlon(C)
- 14. Sharon Bragge(P) Jane Joki(C)
- 21. Mary Saarela (P & C)
- 28. Pat Durkee (P & C)

Counters

- 7. Janice Dahl & Jane Joki
- 14. Dawn Soukkala & Bethany Leseman
- 21. Lynn Beatty &
- 28. Linda Newlon & Mary Saarela

Coffee Servers

- 7. Social Ministry
- 14. Lil's Group
- 21. Cary's Group
- 28. Rusty's Group

February Volunteers

9:00

Greeters

- 4. Theresa Vick
- 11. Ginny Korte-Castle
- 18. Sheri & Jon Kolb
- 25. Johanna Bernu

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. Johanna Bernu & Nixon Mitchell

Acolytes

- 4. Nixon Mitchell
- 11. Johanna Bernu
- 18. Nixon Mitchell
- 25. Anna Bong

Communion Prep & Clean

- 4. Renee Kesty (P & C)
- 11. Johanna Bernu(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

January 2018



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Happy New year! 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	2 5pm Executive Committee Meeting 5:30pm Moms Group	3 11am Tentative Carlton Area Chamber Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation Class 10 th Grade 5:30pm Community Meal 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship	4 3:30pm Children, Youth & Family Ministry Planning	5 Annual Report Deadline 11am Men's Bible Study	6
7 Baptism of Our Lord Social Ministry ~ Wycliffe Bible Translators 9am Worship Sunday Story Time 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship Sunday Sing 'N Play	8 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	9 9am Kettle River Conference	10 5:30pm Confirmation Class 10 th Grade 5:30pm Community Meal 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship	11 1pm Jam Group 5:30pm Council Meeting	12 11am Men's Bible Study	13
14 9am Worship Sunday Story Time 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship Sunday Sing 'N Play 10:30am WELCA/Bazaar Meeting	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Beacon Deadline 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	16 5:30pm Moms Group	17 5:30pm Confirmation Class 10 th Grade 5:30pm Community Meal 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship	18 5:30pm Council Meeting	19 11am Men's Bible Study	20 Olson Family Memorial Service
21 9am Worship Sunday Story Time 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship Annual Meeting	22 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	23 5:30pm Mom's Group	24 5:30pm Confirmation Class 10 th Grade 5:30pm Community Meal 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship	25 Bethesda's Women's Retreat 1pm Jam Group	26 Bethesda's Women's Retreat 11am Men's Bible Study	27 Bethesda's Women's Retreat
28 Bethesda's Women's Retreat 9am Worship Sunday Story Time 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship	29 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	30 11am Synod Assembly Worship Team	31 5:30pm Confirmation Class 10 th Grade 5:30pm Community Meal 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship			