



The Bethesda Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN
June 2020



is our
refuge
and
strength
a very
present
help in
trouble.

Psalm 46:1

In This Month's Beacon:

*Pastor Jim's Beacon Article

*Financial Update

*Member News

*Committee Updates

*Faith on the Go!

*And More

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, for the health & safety of all those in our congregation & community, in person worship services at Bethesda have been canceled for the month of June. Our Church Council will be meeting in the middle of June to evaluate the situation going forward. We will keep everyone updated. Thank you.

Dear friends,

Greetings in the Lord! In these days of COVID-19 I have been thinking about death. After all, over 85,000 in the U.S. have died already from this pandemic. Every day as the numbers present themselves, we are reminded that our days are numbered. “Ashes to ashes,” the scriptures say. “Dust to dust. . .”

If there is one thing I could teach the followers of Jesus. . .if there is one thing I could etch on their hearts and minds, it would be this: We don’t need to be afraid of death.

God loves his creation. God loves you. You are very, very special to Him. According to the philosopher who penned Ecclesiastes, God has “put eternity into humankind’s mind, yet so he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.” As we immerse ourselves into Jesus’ teachings, we don’t have to fear anything—especially death—because His promise of life eternal is with us.

I think of heaven. I imagine a world with no sickness. Nobody gets the Virus. Nobody gets cancer. Nobody has diabetes. And more: The Bible says no hunger, no war, no poverty, no greed or injustice. More than that, “And God. . .will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” No more loneliness. No more broken hearts. “Death will be

no more.” No more car accidents and late-night phone calls. No child will have to bury their parent—no parent will ever have to bury their child.

In the Scriptures what Paul calls “the glory to be revealed” is not just a world where suffering can be avoided or minimized. Paul writes in Romans 8 that “Creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay.” The very universe will be transformed, and things will be the way they should be. Near the end of the book of Revelation we are promised that there will be “a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth will have passed away.”

So...as we immerse ourselves in the teachings of Jesus, and as we face the dreaded Coronavirus and all the other troubles of this world, we need have no fear of death or anything else in all creation. That is the Promise from the Scriptures. That is the Promise from God. What do you think?

Something to ponder as we journey down the road of Life. . . Stay safe!
Live in His love!

Your brother in the Gospel,
Pastor Jim

Council Update

At our council meeting on May 19th, we discussed the federal and Synod guidelines for returning to in person worship services. There are 3 phases in place that need to be followed after our region has met the following criteria:

- 1) 14 days of declining symptoms
- 2) 14 days of declining cases
- 3) Hospitals are able to treat all patients without crisis care
- 4) Robust testing is in place for at risk health care workers (including emerging antibody testing)

When these 4 criteria have been met then we can look at having in person worship services while still practicing strong hygiene practices and social distancing. So, at this time we know we will not be returning to church during the month of June. At our June 16th council meeting we will re-assess the situation and make a decision for the month of July. We pray everyone is staying safe and healthy.



Hello Bethesda Lutheran members! On behalf of the church council, we want to first wish you all the health and happiness as we continue to work through the Covid-19 battle.

We will keep members updated through the church website, Facebook as well as by phone or email for those we have contact information on, as to when we will be able to safely resume in person worship services, but in the meantime we hope you are taking part in the services being live streamed every Sunday morning.

As treasurer, I also want to ask that we all remember to continue with church offerings, whether you mail your weekly, bi-weekly or monthly contributions in, or contact Bobbie at the church for details on how you can sign up for automatic payments to be sent electronically. We still have many of the usual monthly overhead expenses including insurance, staff, utilities and as of recent some unexpected maintenance repairs. Thank you, Stacy Colich

Bethesda Staff

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Financial Secretary

Stacy Colich, Treasurer 218-393-7775
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Nita Davis, Bookkeeper/Accountant
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Alice Kloepfer, Custodian

Cathy Dale, Accompanist

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Carlton MN 55718

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*Minutes on the rotating bulletin board
or view them on our website.*

Member News

Financial Update			
Year-to-date ending 04/30/2020			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	31465.00	32324.00	(859.00)
Non-pledged income	6727.45	5566.68	1160.77
TOTAL INCOME	38192.45	37890.68	301.77
Salaries/Compensation	24674.46	31231.96	(6557.50)
General Office Expenses	3307.98	2993.04	314.94
Utilities	4919.18	3460.32	1458.86
Other Expenses	899.20	1131.68	(232.48)
Benevolence Expenses	314.65	323.24	(8.59)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	1233.26	490.00	743.26
Social Ministry	108.00	116.68	(8.68)
Stewardship Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Worship Expenses	1165.37	600.00	565.37
CYFM Expenses	365.49	295.00	70.49
TOTAL EXPENSES	36987.59	40641.92	(3654.33)
Net Income	1204.86	(2751.24)	3956.10
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.			

Website: www.bethesdacarlton.org
Synod's Site: www.nemnsynod.org



**Celebrating June
Baptismal Birthdays:**

Lynn Beatty, Madison Goodwin, JoAnn Gustafson, Paige Johnson, Angela Martini, Edward Leiste, George Saarela, Mary Bryant, Brad Bunge, Marvin Durkee, Harper McKeon, Athena Pearce-Ante, Lloyd Schmitz, Christie Bunge, Sawyer Thorman, Devin Cook, Luke Konietzko, Cindy Mankowski, Amanda Radtke, Rusty Buscko, Katelyn Konietzko, Waylon Lekander, Anna Bong, Ruthann Goad, Sandy Moench, Hunter Thorman, Nicholas Colich, Samuel Goodwin, Austin Graves, Quinten Krueger, Tristan Krueger, Lindsay Pantsar, Marguerite Anderson, Dave Hendrickson, Amy Lindgren, Brad Matlack, Rachel Rudolph, Aaron Buller, Natalie Buscko, Susan Coady, Terry Coady, Stephanie Grover, Sheila Hopp, Tori Anderson & Richard Nygren

**2020 Members of Bethesda
Church Council**

- *President – Lynn Beatty
 - *Vice President –Frank Curtiss
 - *Secretary - Linda Newlon
 - *Stacy Colich, Treasurer
 - Dave Beatty
 - Deb Davis
 - 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*



Congratulations to Gregory Sundstrom, son of Julianne Emerson,

who recently graduated from UWS.
Wishing you the best of luck in your
future!

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee has been active over the last month, meeting through Zoom to finalize the Ministry Site Profile. In mid-April, our profile was finalized and approved by the council for submittal to the Synod Office. Since submittal, the Synod office has provided feedback on our profile and given call process training to the committee. We are now at the stage where the Synod office matches our profile with available candidates. In addition to the existing candidate pool, new graduates will become available late May. We had great timing on the submittal of our site profile for this new pool of candidates. If anyone has any comments or concerns about the process, please feel free to contact me.

Chris Mitchell
Call Committee Chair



*Thank you to Alice & Cliff Kloepfer
for all the hard work that you have
put in to cleaning Bethesda the last*

*few months, from shampooing
carpets in the Fellowship Hall to deep
cleaning the pews. Your hard work is
greatly appreciated!*



June 21st to all Dads
and those who fill
fathering roles. God
bless and guide fathers
everywhere.

Worship

A weekly email will be sent with the links to view our worship services online. If you do not use email you can go to our Facebook page, YouTube at Bethesda YouTube Worship Videos, on our website under **About Us-Worship**, or listen to Pastor Scott Kiehn's radio broadcast from the Lutheran Church of Baker, Montana. Worship begins at 11 a.m. Central time (**This program can only be listened to live-it is not recorded**)

Radiobaker.com

Faith on the Go

We often think that scenes like we read in Acts 2 don't occur anymore today. But if we look around, we see signs of the Holy Spirit all around us! Just like the crowds didn't understand what was happening, we don't always understand the work of the Holy Spirit around us. How can we notice where God's Spirit is at work around us today? How can we participate in that work? God is on a mission in the world to bring abundant life to all. What are ways that you can reveal God's love and work to someone you work or go to school with? Could it be just listening to them? Or praying for them?

Another way to think about God's work in the world is to take one day and walk around your neighborhood. Where is God's life-giving Spirit needed or where is it moving? Listen for what God might be saying about the neighborhood on this walk. Pray for the community.

Pray

Holy Spirit blow in our lives. Stir up our hearts to work for justice, love kindness and treat others with the mercy Christ has given us. Amen.

Connect

How did the Spirit move you today?

Bible

Acts 2:1-21 - The Spirit comes to the Disciples

Day 1

Acts 2: 1-4

When have you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?

How can we recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in other people?

Day 2

Acts 2: 5-11:

Have paper and markers/crayons handy. If you had to explain

God to someone without words what images would you use?

Day 3

Acts 2: 12-15:

We can be suspicious when people claim to be speaking about God. How can we tell when someone is really speaking about God or not? What is God's main message to us always?

Day 4

Acts 2: 16-21:

God's time is not our time and we don't know when Jesus will return. How can we live our lives today in a way that is part of what God is doing in the world?

Day 5

Acts 2: 1-21:

God gives us gifts for service in the world through the Holy Spirit. What are your unique gifts? How can you use them to share the love of God?

Bless

*May the Holy Spirit burn in your
hearts today and every day!*

June 2020



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 9am Making Mats for the Homeless	3	4 6:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	5	6
7	8	9 9am Making Mats for the Homeless	10	11 6:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	12	13
14	15 Beacon Deadline	16 9am Making Mats for the Homeless	17	18 6:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	19	20
21	22	23 9am Making Mats for the Homeless	24	25 6:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	26	27
28	29	30				

Bethesda Lutheran Church
204 5th Street
P.O. Box 210
Carlton, MN 55718

Sunday Worship
9:00am
Sunday Story Time
(Check calendar for dates)
*All worship services have moved
online.*

*You can also view the Beacon
on our website at
bethesdacarlton.org or if you
would like to have it mailed or
emailed to you please contact
the office.*

