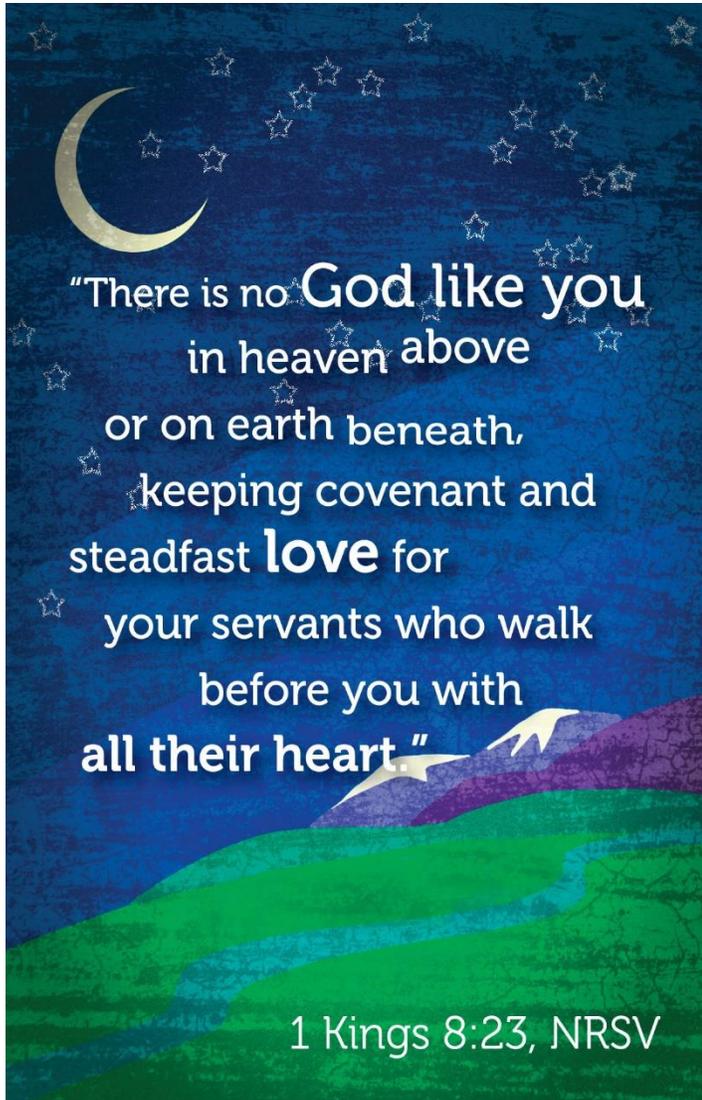




The Bethesda Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN
May 2022



In This Month's Beacon:

*Pastor Seth's Beacon Article

*Financial Update

*Member News

*Committee Updates

*And More



Holy Week and Easter Sunday is, without question, always one of the most memorable weeks of the year

for me. And this year, during my first Holy Week with you and my first as an ordained pastor, was no exception. Marking Maundy Thursday and Good Friday was beautiful, and celebrating the resurrection with you, along with millions of other Christians across the globe, made all the hard work of preparation worth it (and then some!) I expected to be blessed by the meaning and the joy of Holy Week and Easter, and I was. I hope you were, too.

Something caught me off guard during Holy Week, though. Something I wasn't quite expecting. And that something was our celebration of Easter Vigil Saturday.

The night before Easter has been celebrated as "Easter Vigil," the third of the Three Days, since the Early Church. Those worship services, which likely lasted for several hours, began around a bonfire and continued with a candlelight vigil and procession. The night served as a culmination of the whole season of Lent, and new believers would all be baptized at the end of the service, sometime after midnight. Some Catholic congregations today have carried this tradition forward by holding a service that ends just after midnight. Thankfully, we planned our celebration much earlier in the evening!

We didn't ever really set out to plan an Easter Vigil celebration, but I am so glad we stumbled into it. Even though it was different from Good Friday and

Easter Sunday, it was a blessing in its own way. In a sense, I think what I loved so much about it was that it had elements of the three parts of discipleship.

1. It had an element of **Community**. Disciples of all ages were in one place to eat, to enjoy each other's company, and to build each other up. Many brought something to share, from the cooks who brought Sloppy Joes to the guys who built the fire to the craft leaders.
 2. It had an element of **Spirituality**. First, we thanked God for the food. Then, as dusk was settling in, we gathered around the fire for a short "Easter Vigil blessing" – a blessing taken from the ancient service of fire and light and led by a few of our youth disciples.
 3. It had an element of **Caring for our Neighbor**. Once dark arrived, three carloads of middle schoolers drove with a few brave parents to "Egg" the homes of 19 families with young children – meaning that dozens of kids woke up on Sunday morning to an Easter egg hunt in their front yard! (Yes, this does give a new meaning to the word "Egged"!)
- What a way to serve the community and show our love for our neighbor – while having some fun in the process.

I certainly didn't see this night coming, but I was blessed by it, and I trust that others were as well. God works in surprising ways sometimes.

My favorite moment, though, might have summed up God's blessing for us that night, because it was kind of a combination of all three of these things. At the end of the Easter Vigil Blessing, when everyone's candle had been lit, each person got the chance to hear for

themselves, and to offer to someone else, these words of blessing:

“The light of Christ shines in you.”

May you know, with sureness of heart, that these words are true for you, too. The light of the risen Christ does indeed shine forth in you, dear friend.

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Highway Clean-up
 Monday, May 2nd 9am
 Meet at Bethesda
 All are welcome!

The office will be closed on May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.



MEMORIAL DAY

We take time to remember & pray for many loved ones during this weekend, including our service men and women and those families who are in grief.



Happy Mother’s Day
 May 8th to all mothers and those who fill mothering roles!

2022 Members of Bethesda Church Council

- *President – Lynn Beatty
- *Vice President – Deb Davis
- *Secretary - Linda Newlon
- *Treasurer - JoAnn Gustafson
- Frank Curtiss
- Debby Johnson
- Dave Beatty
- 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 Minutes on the rotating bulletin board or view them on our website.*

Financial Update			
Year-to-date ending 03/31/2022			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	7710.00	9181.00	(1471.00)
Non-pledged income	1434.66	1225.00	209.66
TOTAL INCOME	9144.66	10406.00	(1261.34)
Salaries/Compensation	7257.44	7698.98	(441.54)
General Office Expenses	1178.32	671.16	507.16
Utilities	824.05	806.67	17.38
Other Expenses	20.09	45.00	(24.91)
Benevolence Expenses	77.10	91.81	(14.71)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	446.34	69.17	377.17
Social Ministry	27.00	27.08	(0.08)
Worship Expenses	400.00	833.33	(433.33)
CYFM Expenses	407.18	328.34	78.84
TOTAL EXPENSES	10637.52	10571.54	65.98
Net Income	(1492.86)	(165.54)	(1327.32)
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.			



***“LIVE SIMPLY....SO OTHERS
MAY SIMPLY LIVE.”***

Please continue to donate to the Salvation Army, our local food shelf, on Carlton Ave. in Cloquet. Congregation members are asked to bring non-perishable food donations to church. Gladys Sievert picks up the items and brings them to the food shelf in Cloquet each month. She reports that we are donating an average of 50 pounds a month. Keep up the good work! ***For the month of May our collection focus will be cereal.***

Monetary donations are also ***greatly*** appreciated as a donation like this can purchase much more with the resources the Salvation Army has access to. Thank you.



Carlton High School runs a program supplying personal hygiene items and healthy snacks to students in need.

Our biggest needs are healthy snacks such as cracker sandwiches, granola bars, fruit strips, and trail mix. Each day approximately 5 students approach me privately to get a snack to keep their bodies and minds fueled.

Other than food supplies, we also keep a small variety of deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, and feminine hygiene products on hand to give to students in need. Of all those items, deodorant and feminine hygiene products are the most requested. Food items and hygiene items are requested directly from Amanda Radtke so that students are able to do so confidentially.

Thank your service to others. There is a collection box located in the Narthex.

**Amanda Radtke MSW, LICSW
Academic, Social and Emotional
Learning Advisor Carlton High
School**



MARK YOU CALENDARS
Tri parish Day Camp June 6-8th, 2022
5:15 pm-8 pm
Zion Lutheran church Cloquet,
Ages up to grade 5

Mat Makers Update

I Took mats to the Ruth house in superior and the gentleman that helped me carry them in said “oh good, we haven’t had any for awhile.” The people who get them really like them. So thanks to all who help with the process of making the mats! ~Mary Saarela

Member News



Celebrating May Baptismal Birthdays

Joyce Cerny, Alaina Kiehl, Colleen Bernu, Wes Buscko, Beth Towslee, Devan Towslee, Willow Towslee, Judy Lindquist, Jaiden Soukkala, Garrett Beatty-Christiansen, Paige Dittberner, Lucas Radtke, Alecia Radtke, Mason Radtke, Kayla Radtke, Jared Stirewalt, Cody Martin, Jackson Radtke, Nicholas Radtke, Tayler Ostby, Janice Dahl, Flaxxen Kincade, Jacquelyn Gunderson,

Kylee Crisp, Casey Marciniak, Cheryl Ankrum & Audrey Kavanaugh.



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to the family of long time member of Bethesda Jude Holden who passed away March 27th, to Renae House and family. Renae's mom Elsie Tveit passed away on March 24th, to Duane Soukkala & Renee Kesty & family. Their mother Evina Soukkala passed away March 12th, to Amber Kantonen & family for the loss of her grandmother Aino Kantonen, the family of Christine Fall, stepdaughter of Ernie Strandberg, and the family of Michelle Eggen, niece of Karen Towslee. God comfort and strengthen our hearts in hope in the resurrection through Christ.

Thank you all for being a blessing in my life. I appreciate all the cards, greetings and videos for my 90th birthday. Gordy & I will be giving a gift to the technology fund in your honor. My love to you all.
~Lil

Social Ministry



Social Ministry will be hosting coffee in support of 23rd Veteran on May 22nd after Worship.

WELCA

WELCA meeting, Monday, May 16 @ 6:30 at Bethesda

Children, Youth, Family & Education

MAY 2022 SCHEDULE STORYTIME/JESUS STORY VIDEO

- ***May 1st – Storytime in the gathering space
- ***May 8th – Family worship – Jesus story video in the sanctuary with children's sermon
- ***May 15th – Storytime in the gathering space
- ***May 22nd - Family worship – Jesus story video in the sanctuary with children's sermon
- ***May 29th - Storytime in the gathering space

Graduate Recognition

This event will be held during service at Bethesda on Sunday, May 22. If you know of a high school graduate that has a connection to Bethesda, please contact Linda Newlon at 218-879- 6274.

Thank you and God bless
Bethesda Lutheran Church

CYFED INFORMATION:

- We will have at least two kids going to camp. Kayla will give a temple talk on Easter Sunday regarding her camp experience.
- Faith mentoring went well. The material provided and the layout made the meeting go smoother.
- The 1st Communion time has been adjusted. Their first meeting will be on Maundy Thursday. This time will be used as a get to know each other as they experience the Last

Supper. 1st Communion will be held on Sunday May 22, 2022. The retreat will take place on Saturday, May 21, 2022. Linda and JoAnn can help if needed. Linda will contact Jason Goad and see if he can do acolyte training. Wendy will post the information on Facebook and Pastor Seth will reach out to each family.

- The 4th/5th grade Grow in Faith class will start on April 20, 2022. We will do a worship service at 6:00 PM followed by class from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. We have 4 kids attending, possibly 5. Wendy will post on Facebook when the class begins, and it will last 6 weeks.
- The Stewardship Challenge for 10th/11th grade will start on May 4, 2022. We have 2 youth participating this year. They will be given \$25.00 to start the challenge then \$125.00. Wendy will make a request of \$100.00 from the Endowment Committee. She will post the information on Facebook.
- Easter cards were sent out to pre-k through the 4th grade.
- The reaching out to Bethesda Congregation is going slow but we will continue until cards have been sent to all congregation members. Starting May 1, 2022, we will only put them on the tables once per month with the hope more congregation members reach out.

- We held a Saturday night Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 16th. All ages were welcome to attend. We did Easter themed crafts, serving our community through Easter gift assembly and a discussion regarding the cross. Food was provided. 6-9th graders were sent out with plastic eggs with candy in them and an Easter message to hide the eggs after sunset in designated families' front yards to surprise the littlest members in our communities.
- Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 5th at 3:45 in the library all are welcome to attend to see what our committee does for the youth. We are also open to ideas.
- A Bethesda outreach activity to the community was on Palm Sunday. A small succulent plant and a candy gift bag was given to each of the residents at IFCC for Easter. Thank you to Athena, Ailie, Anna, Linda, Kevein, Jean, Robbi, and JoAnn for helping to put the candy bags together and the delivery to the rooms at the nursing home. Thank you also to Betty Peterson for obtaining a Thrivent card. A special thank you to Linda Newlon for organizing this event and making their Easter a little brighter. God is good – all the time.

May 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1 9am Worship/ Storytime (FH) 10pm First Communion Class 10:15am Coffee/ Fellowship</p>	<p>2 9am Highway Clean-Up</p>	<p>3 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 6pm Serenity Seekers</p>	<p>4 6pm Worship 6:30pm 4th & 5th Grade Grow in Faith Class</p>	<p>5 1pm Jam Group 10am Office Staff Meeting 3:45pm Children, Youth, Family & Ed. Meeting</p>	<p>6 11am Bible Study</p>	<p>7 11am Celebration of Life for Leo Sell Luncheon to follow</p>
<p>8 Mother's Day 9am Worship Storytime (Sanctuary) 10pm First Communion Class 10:15am Coffee/ Fellowship</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 4:30 Worship Meeting 5:30pm Council</p>	<p>11 6pm Worship 6:30pm 4th & 5th Grade Grow in Faith Class</p>	<p>12 10am Office Staff Meeting 1pm Jam Group 5:30pm Ladies of Kaleva</p>	<p>13 11am Bible Study</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Beacon Deadline 9am Worship Storytime (Fellowship Hall) 10pm First Communion Class 10:15am Coffee/ Fellowship</p>	<p>16 6:30pm WELCA Meeting</p>	<p>17 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 4pm Worship Committee Meeting 5:30pm Council Meeting 6pm Serenity Seekers</p>	<p>18 6pm Worship 6:30pm 4th & 5th Grade Grow in Faith Class</p>	<p>19 10am Office Staff Meeting</p>	<p>20 11am Bible Study</p>	<p>21 9am First Communion Family Retreat</p>
<p>22 Graduation Recognition First Communion Parent & Graduate Dinner & Prayer Labyrinth 9am Worship Storytime (Sanctuary) 10:15am Coffee/ Fellowship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 6pm Serenity Seekers</p>	<p>25 6pm Worship 6:30pm 4th & 5th Grade Grow in Faith Class</p>	<p>26 10am Office Staff Meeting</p>	<p>27 11am Bible Study</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9am Worship Storytime (Fellowship Hall) 10:15am Coffee/ Fellowship</p>	<p>30 Memorial Day</p>	<p>31 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 6pm Serenity Seekers</p>				

Bethesda Lutheran Church
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Sunday Worship
9:00am
In House
And on Facebook
You can also view the Beacon
on our website at
bethesdacarlton.org or if you
would like to have a copy
mailed or emailed to you please
contact the office.

