

# **The Bethesda Beacon**

*Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN*  
January 2021



In This Month's Beacon:

\*Pastor Jim's Beacon Article

\*Financial Update

\*Member News

\*Committee Updates

\*Faith on the Go!

\*And More!



Greetings, siblings in Christ!  
Happy New Year!

I was out shoveling snow the other day and found myself whistling “This is My Fathers World.” Do you believe that this is our Fathers world? If you do, how do you think our Father is feeling about our care for His world?

I thought back to a situation a friend of mine had while raising his kids. He and his wife went on a trip leaving his teenage daughter home alone. His beloved daughter thought that this would be a wonderful opportunity to have a party. The whole junior class showed up! The house got trashed.

My friends came back a day early—ooh, bad luck—and walked in to find a house where food, garbage, and aluminum cans were strewn everywhere. How do you think they responded? “Oh honey, we are so happy that you have so many friends. Don’t worry about the mess. We will clean it up! We are just glad that you had fun while we were gone!”

I don’t think so. More likely it was, “You’d better get going and start cleaning, young lady! And you are grounded until you’re 30! What were you thinking? Don’t you have any respect for us or this house?”

As this New Year begins, I am

thinking about how we are taking care of God’s good earth. He has left us in charge of His beautiful creation. How responsible have we been? Some day He will be coming back. Do you think He will smile and say, “I am happy that you polluted the rivers and fouled the air and caused the destruction of thousands of species of plants and animals. I am just glad that you had fun while I was gone.”

I don’t think so. More likely He will say, “You had better get going and start cleaning! What were you thinking? Don’t you have any respect for me or My creation?”

This is my Father’s world. This is God’s creation. I don’t believe He likes it when His creation is trashed. But I don’t think that it is too late. God does know what has happened, but I think we’d still be wise to get to work before He returns.

As we begin a New Year what are you going to do to help clean up the mess? After all, this is our Father’s world.

Something to ponder as we begin a new year! Stay safe!

Pastor Jim

## **Bethesda Staff**

Jim Raisanen, Interim Pastor

218-838-3690

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Bobbie McCorison, Secretary,

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Alice Kloepfer, Custodian

Cathy Dale, Accompanist

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Synod's Site: [www.nemnsynod.org](http://www.nemnsynod.org)



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

Please continue to donate to the Salvation Army, our local food shelf, on Carlton Ave. in Cloquet. Al Holm & Gladys Sievert dropped off December's donations which totaled 45 pounds. For the month of January our collection focus will be on soup. If you would prefer to give a monetary donation, this is also *greatly* appreciated as a donation like this can purchase much more with the resources the Salvation Army has access to. Thank you.

It's that time of year again... Annual Report are due in the office by January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. **Due to Covid, the Annual Meeting has been rescheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup> following the worship service.** If there is a significant drop in COVID cases and restrictions are lifted there is the possibility the meeting could be moved up into March.

We will continue to have in house worship services on Sunday's at 9 a.m. Pastor Jim will be leading worship on 2 Sunday's each month. On the Sundays that he is not leading it will be led by the worship team with a recorded sermon from Pastor Jim and Joel will live stream all services on Facebook. Services can also be viewed on our website and YouTube.

**Office Hours Monday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m.-11 a.m.**

If you need to get into the church and these times don't work for you, please call or email and we can set up a different time that will work.

Thank you!

## Member News



### Celebrating January Baptismal Birthdays

Marlene Anderson, Lance Konietzko, Emily Matlack, Carol Bergstrom, Phyllis Rousseau, Sandy Vernon, Everly Jahr, John Holden, Laurie Sparks, Natalie Lijewski, Aaron Vick, Scott Frederick, Aaron Vick, Paul Carpenter, Julie Frederick, NancyLee Olsen, Anton Sheda & Betty Peterson.



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to Cathy Dale & family. God's promises of resurrection bring comfort and hope in Christ the risen savior.



It is So Simple

1. Pick a Convenient **Location**
2. Sign up For a Ruby's Guest **Account**
3. **Schedule** Your Express Track Registration and Handle Your Donation Online to Save Time
4. OR Just Come to the Pop-Up Pantry Location on the Upcoming Monthly Date

### [Cloquet, MN](#)

#### NEXT POP-UP PANTRY

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month

Cloquet National Guard Armory

Sponsored By: Cloquet Area Churches

#### DAYS AND HOURS

Registration begins at 9:45 AM

Food bundles available 10:00-11:30 AM

For more information on dates and

locations go to [Rubyspantry.org](http://Rubyspantry.org)

#### Ruby's Pantry Phone

651.674.0009

E-mail [goodnews@rubyspantry.org](mailto:goodnews@rubyspantry.org)

Financial Update			
Year-to-date ending 11/30/2020			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	94162.82	92583.00	1579.82
Non-pledged income	14024.18	10008.37	4015.81
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	108187.00	102591.37	5595.63
Salaries/Compensation	50168.50	85850.39	(35681.89)
General Office Expenses	8450.12	8124.61	325.51
Utilities	8797.51	9515.88	(718.37)
Other Expenses	937.28	1283.37	(346.09)
Benevolence Expenses	941.63	925.83	15.80
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	1269.16	1347.50	(78.34)
Social Ministry	297.00	320.87	(23.87)
Worship Expenses	7329.09	1940.00	5389.09
CYFM Expenses	861.42	3397.50	(2536.08)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	79051.71	112705.95	(33654.24)
<b>Net Income</b>	29135.29	(10114.58)	39249.87
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.			

Special Giving for 2020:

*In Memory of*

**Frank Chalberg**

By Carol Chalberg

By Brian & Jenny Lokken

**Lloyd Schmitz**

By Marv & Pat Durkee

By Robert & Marnie Emerson

By Debby Johnson

By Brian & Jenny Lokken

**Vi Axtell**

By Marv & Pat Durkee

By Debby Johnson

By Chris & Heidi Rousseau

**Dorothy Gault**

By Marv & Pat Durkee

By Brian & Jenny Lokken

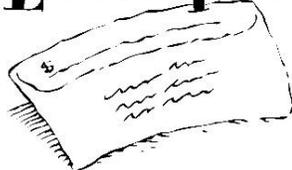
By Bobbie McCorison

By Gordy & Lil Davis

By Carol Chalberg

By Scott & Peggy Kiehn

**Offering  
Envelopes**



2021 offering envelopes are available to be picked up on the table in the Narthex. If you would like to begin giving electronically Vanco is an electronic, automatic option for giving as well. It is quick and easy to sign up. contact the office. There is a form you need to fill out. You can choose to donate weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or

yearly. Changes can be made at any time. An additional option is to use the envelopes provided in the pews. Any questions please contact the office. Thank you.

God's Work, Our Hands

Each September the **Community God's Works Our Hands group**, consisting of Bethesda , Zion, Our Redeemer , and Our Saviors Lutheran churches, United Methodist church-Esko, and Queen of Peace join together to help those in need locally and overseas. *Watch for the 2021 event date.*

**2020 "God's Works Our Hands" update -**

The September 2020 Community "God's Works Our Hands" event was cancelled for health concerns this past year. **However**, the Committee was contacted by Lutheran World Relief requesting much needed school backpacks for third world countries. Several Committee members got together and with the help of donations and a Thrivent "seed monies" card, school supplies were donated/purchased. The over 120 backpacks created will be delivered to Lutheran World Relief for distribution.

**What is "Gods Works Our Hands?"**

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

You work every day to make your community a better place. Let us continue doing this work together.

Northeastern MN Synod News
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### **Announcing Bishop Amy Odgren’s Synod Staff Calls!**

These important synod staff positions have been named and approved by the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Council at the December 5, 2020 meeting. Titles given to the positions reflect the areas of support given to our congregations and leaders across this synod.

#### **Synod Minister for Leadership Support**

– **Deacon Brenda Tibbetts** – effective immediately

Responsible for all areas of call process coordination and rostering, support to rostered ministers of the synod, and implementation of on-going training for rostered ministers.

#### **Synod Minister for Operations and Congregational Care**

– **Rev. Rollie Bockbrader** –

effective January 1, 2021

Responsible for all areas of office operations and the first line of response to congregational inquiries regarding administration.

#### **Synod Minister for Discipleship and Christian Community**

– **Catherine Anderson** –

effective immediately

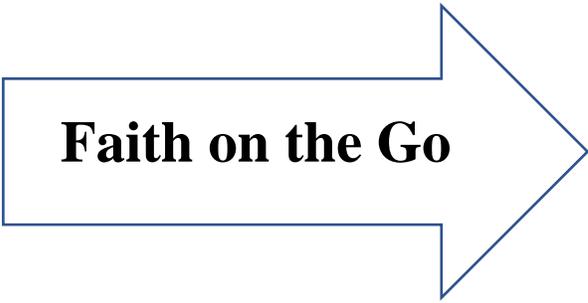
Responsible for the engagement and integration of faith formation and leadership development into the culture of the synod and its mission, giving particular emphasis on young people, while incorporating congregational embodiment of Christian Community.

#### **(Part-time Contracted) Synod Minister for Candidacy Management**

– **Rev. Elizabeth Davis** -

effective December 15, 2020

Responsible for the administration and full operation of Candidacy within the synod.



## Faith on the Go

### Who did you see?

By the time we get to Epiphany, Christmas is really over! Most the Christmas trees are down, lights are coming off the houses, even the after Christmas sales are ended. By Epiphany we are even done with New Year celebrations! Ready for the long slow ride around the sun until the Holiday season comes back.

The holidays are many things to people. They can be joyful or sad and everything in between, and often a mixture of several emotions. They are also a time that we gather together for worship, for parties, to keep each other company, or to just not be alone. It is interesting, then, that the reading we get at the end of the season is about a visit!

The kings appear at the very end of the Christmas story with all their gifts for the baby. One last visit of the Christmas season! Who can you visit at the end of the Christmas season? One more trip to see homebound church members? Coffee with a friend who lost a loved one in the past year? Challenge yourself to keep some of the Christmas visiting going throughout the year!

### Pray

God of good gifts, thank you for the things that you have given to us. Our lives, our family and friends, our health and our food. Give us the wisdom and courage to share your gifts with those in need. Amen.

### Connect

What gifts did you receive from others this today?

What did you give?

### Bible

Matthew 2:1-12—The Visit of the Wise Men

### Day 1

Matthew 2:1-3

Why do you think that Herod was frightened? Do you think that the people of Jerusalem were frightened for the same reasons?

### Day 2

Matthew 2:4-6

Do you think that the priests and scribes know Herod's intentions? Do you think that it would change their minds if they did?

### Day 3

Matthew 2:7-8

Why did Herod talk to the wise men in secret? What was Herod afraid of from the people?

## **Day 4**

Matthew 2:9-11

There are many writings and ideas about what the gifts mean, and there are many Christmas songs about what others can give. What would you bring to Mary, Joseph and the baby?

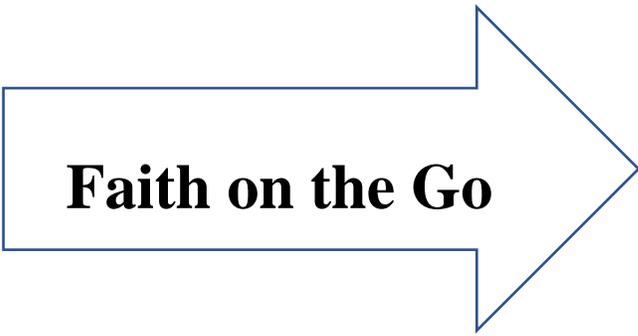
## **Day 5**

Matthew 2:12

When do you think the wise men had the dream? Before the visit with Herod? After?

## **Bless**

*You are a gift from God.*



## **Faith on the Go**

**What is your calling?** 1 Samuel 3:1-10 and John 1:43-5

Or even more what is a “calling”? Is it something that you just like to do, or something that you are good at? Is it something that brings you both struggle and joy? What about your calling as a follower of Jesus, or a believer in God?

These two passages can lead us to look for the big choices in life. Should you be a teacher, or a lawyer, or a pastor,

or a musician, etc. And how will I serve God in that call? These are really good questions, but this week let’s think small.

What are you called to do in this season? This month? This week? What are you called to do today? Sit with your household and talk about what each of you can do to live out your faith in small ways every day. Talk about how you can be more kind to each other, and talk about how you can show love to the people you meet. Come up with a top 5 list for each—5 ways to be kind to each other, and 5 ways to be more loving to the people you meet. Write them on a piece of paper and hang them in a central place, like the fridge. Make a ritual out of reading them together every day this week.

## **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

## **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?

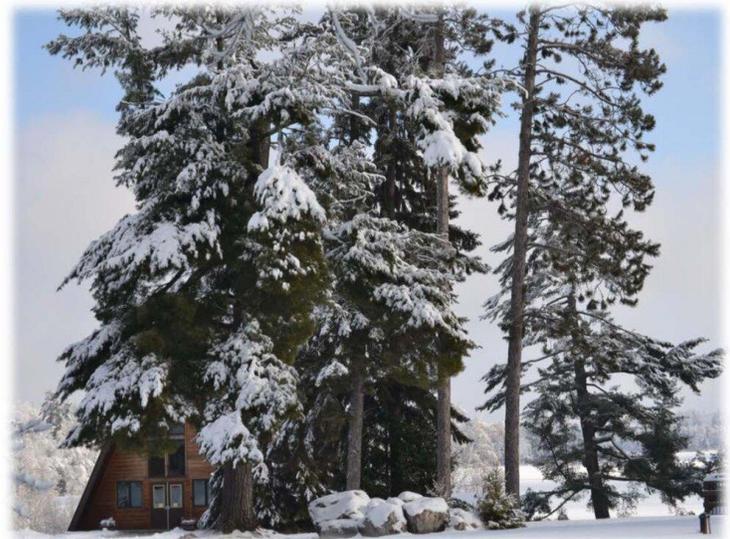
## **Bless**

*God calls you by name.*



## **Upcoming VLM Events:**

### **Family Rejuve**



**January 15-17, 2021**

*Does your family need a post-holiday retreat?*

*Do you want to re-live your summer camp memories in the snow?*

*Looking for that perfect blend of activity and relaxation in the middle of winter?*

*Sign up for the Family Camp Rejuve at Camp Hiawatha!*

This weekend retreat will bring together intentional family time built around a faith community, complete

with opportunities for play, rest, and a flexible schedule that lets you create the weekend you need. *Limited to 5 families to allow for physical distancing for lodging, activities and meals.*

**The retreat begins Friday evening and runs through Sunday.** (Option to stay through Monday is available)

**Cost: \$100/adult, \$75/youth (ages 4-17)**

For more information go to [vlm@VLMcamps.org](mailto:vlm@VLMcamps.org)

## **Paddle Building Workshop**

*Participants can create a bent shaft canoe paddle or a stand up paddle board paddle.*

**The next paddle building retreat is April 16-18, 2021 at Camp Vermilion**

This weekend long class includes four sessions during which you will complete your own **bent shaft canoe or stand-up paddle board paddle.**

You will craft your own paddle, from gluing the wood blanks to a finished work of art.

Bring your partner, 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!

**Cost:** \$250/person. A \$50 *non-refundable deposit is due with your registration. If two people work on the same paddle, it is an additional \$50 for the second person to cover meals and lodging.*

**Includes:** All materials and tools needed, instruction, lodging, and Friday dinner through Sunday brunch.

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



# January 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 New Year's Day	2
3 <b>9am</b> Worship	4	5 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless	6 <b>5:45pm</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	7 <b>1pm</b> Jam Group <b>2pm</b> Children, Youth, Family & Ed. Meeting	8 <b>11am</b> Men's Bible Study	9
10 <b>9am</b> Worship	11	12 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>4:30</b> Worship Meeting <b>5:30pm</b> Council Meeting	13 <b>5:45pm</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	14	15 Beacon Deadline <b>11am</b> Men's Bible Study	16
17 <b>9am</b> Worship	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless	20 <b>5:45pm</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	21 <b>1pm</b> Jam Group	22 <b>11am</b> Men's Bible Study	23
24/31 <b>9am</b> Worship	25	26 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless	27 <b>5:45pm</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	28	29 <b>11am</b> Men's Bible Study	30

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

Sunday Worship

**9:00am**

*In House  
And Online*

*You can also view the Beacon  
on our website at  
[bethesdacarlton.org](http://bethesdacarlton.org) or if you  
would like to have a copy  
mailed or emailed to you please  
contact the office.*

