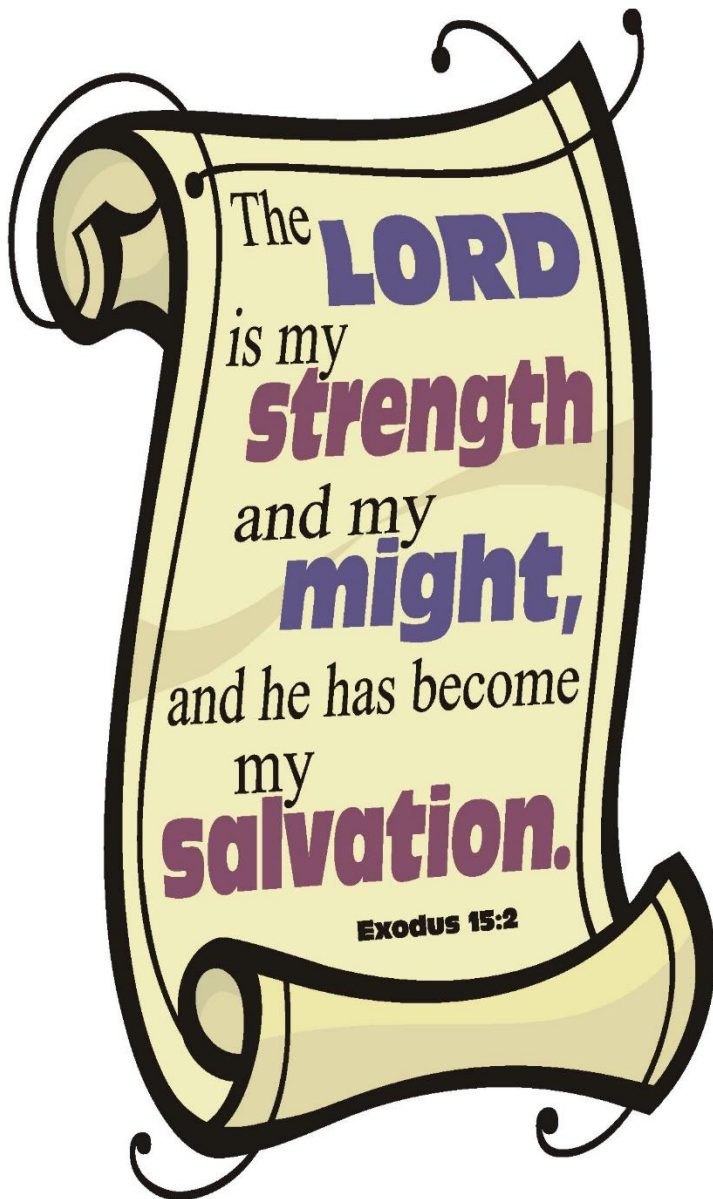




The Bethesda Beacon

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



In This Month's Beacon:

*Pastor Jim's Beacon Article

*Financial Update

*Member News

*Committee Updates

*Day Camp Information

*2 Weeks of Faith on the Go!

*And More

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, for the health & safety of all those in our congregation & community, Worship & all events at Bethesda have been canceled until further notice. All events listed in this newsletter are subject to change. Our Church Council will be meeting in the middle of May to evaluate the situation going forward. We will keep everyone updated. Thank you.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Greetings! I have been missing you these days. I have especially missed our Men's Bible Study and leading worship. I had looked forward to finishing off our First Communion class. I was also looking forward to getting to know our confirmands and high school graduates as well. And I really missed our Easter celebration of Jesus' resurrection! We are living in different times!

I have found in my months here at Bethesda that you are a close, loving, caring family of God. You genuinely want to follow our Savior's teachings! "God's work! Our hands!" is not just a saying. I believe you mean it!

So I want to remind you that the ministries of our church rely on your weekly offerings and gifts. Without in-person worship services for many weeks and even months, the financial impact could be devastating to our church. So please continue to give to this church and give regularly.

I know that, for many of us, this is a time of uncertainty and financial hardship. However, for those of you who are in a position to do more, the needs are great. Your church council and other church leaders want Bethesda to be a beacon of light here in Carlton in the midst of a dark, dark time in our world's history.

So...please continue to support your church, serve your neighbor, encourage one another, and lift our church and our world up in your prayers. Now is the time when we need one another. Now is the time to live and act as the faithful children of God.

Be of good courage! Remember that Christ is with us now and always!

In His love,

Pastor Jim Raisanen

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Synod's Site: www.nemnsynod.org



During this time of closure due to Covid-19, we would like to remind people that the church still has daily

operating expenses. Please continue to give as you are able. You can mail in your giving to P.O Box 210 Carlton, 55718 or you can download the GIVEPLUS+ app that is offered through Vanco.



Happy Mother's Day May 10th to all mothers and those who fill mothering roles!

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

Financial Update

Year-to-date ending 03/31/2020

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	24790.00	24051.00	739.00
Non-pledged income	6635.95	4575.01	2060.94
TOTAL INCOME	31425.95	28626.01	2799.94
Salaries/Compensation	21576.53	23386.47	(1809.94)
General Office Expenses	2430.48	2278.53	151.95
Utilities	4192.51	2595.24	1597.27
Other Expenses	879.29	1065.01	(185.72)
Benevolence Expenses	247.90	240.51	7.39
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	1233.26	367.50	865.76
Social Ministry	81.00	87.51	(6.51)
Stewardship Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Worship Expenses	388.12	450.00	(61.88)
CYFM Expenses	365.49	232.50	132.99
TOTAL EXPENSES	31394.58	30703.27	691.31
Net Income	31.37	(2077.26)	2108.63

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.

A special thank you to Joel Soukkala & Sue Coady for putting together the weekly worship services & posting them online, and everyone that has read lessons, prayers or prepared a message. We greatly appreciate being able to “connect” and listen to the Word of God during this challenging time. It has been wonderful! And, thank you to all of those who are doing special things to help those in our congregation and others in need; to the Children, Youth, Family & Ed. team for continuing to keep connected with the youth and putting curriculum together for them, the council for keeping us up to date & for making difficult decisions in this time, for those praying for the world around us and so much more. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

There are not enough words.



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.

Highway Clean-Up continues each spring and fall. A great way to keep God's house looking beautiful! Thanks to all of you who come out to help! Spring clean-up will be Wednesday May 27th at 9:00am. Any questions please contact Mary Saarela at 218-393-2693.

Member News



Celebrating May Baptismal Birthdays:

Joyce Cerny, Alaina Kiehl, Colleen Bernu, Wes Buscko, Kane Desjardins, Karson Desjardins, James Hongisto, Beth Towslee, Devan Towslee, Willow Towslee, Judy Lindquist, Jaiden Soukkala, KariAnn Desjardins, Garett Beatty-Christiansen, Paige Dittberner, Lucas Radtke, Alecia Radtke, Mason Radtke, Kayla Radtke, Phillip Johnson, Jared Stirewalt, Cody Martin, Jackson Radtke, Nicholas Radtke, Taylor Ostby, Janice Dahl, Flaxxen Kincade, Jacquelyn Gunderson, Kylee Crisp, Casey Marciniak, Cheryl Ankrum & Audrey Kavanaugh.



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to the family of Marian Stradtman. God gives us hope and strength in the promise of the resurrection in Christ.



The worship service for Senior Recognition and Blessing is tentatively planned for May 24, 2020. On this Sunday, each graduate will receive a quilt that was made by our quilters and has been blessed with a special blessing.

Tanner Anderson-Carlton High School
Justin Swanson-Carlton High School
Ben Talarico-Carlton High School
Tasia Beatty-Cloquet Senior High
Brianna Despot-Cloquet Senior High
Kaden Olesen-Wrenshall High School
Cami Martin-Esko High School

[Creative Ministry in](#)

[Challenging Times](#)

Here in the Northland, 4-H members have made more than 400 masks and have also been making scrub caps. The items are being donated to hospitals, schools, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities in the Carlton County

area, Fond Du Lac Reservation, and Duluth.

Featured in this story are:

- Nixon Mitchell, member of Bethesda Lutheran Church, Carlton, MN. Son of Chris and Wendy Mitchell, Carlton.
- Johanna Bernu, member of Bethesda Lutheran Church, Carlton, MN. Daughter of Chuck and Colleen Bernu, Fond Du Lac Community.
- Also featured are Aubry Compo and Josh Bleskacek, members of Queen of Peace Parish in Cloquet.

To date, members of the Esko Cloverleafs 4-H Club have sewn and delivered over 450 surgical masks and scrub caps to healthcare workers and facilities around MN. Serving our neighbor, regardless of the pathway of service, is a direct expression of our love for Christ. We are so proud of these youth for their faith-filled service in their communities.

<https://www.fox21online.com/2020/04/16/4-h-makes-masks-and-scrub-caps-for-northlanders/>

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

Social Ministry

 Social Ministry will be hosting coffee in support of 23rd Veteran on May 24th.

Please remember the Food Shelf during this time.
*Checks payable to Salvation Army.
Mail to Salvation Army
316 Carlton Ave. Cloquet 55720*

Children, Youth, Family & Ed.

Storytime for the month of May will take place on the 3rd and 10th.

2020 Dates to remember

5/16 10th grade Agape Meal and Proclamation of Faith

5/17 Confirmation Sunday

5/24 Senior Recognition Sunday & Acolyte Training to be held after Worship

5/20 or 5/24 Graduation Dinner and Prayer Labyrinth

At this time, First Communion classes, retreat, and ceremony are still temporarily suspended until we can participate in sharing the Eucharist again. Families will be updated as circumstances change. CYFED has also been working with families during this time of social distancing to

provide education for the upcoming fourth grade prayer class and the fifth grade stewardship class this spring. CYFED has been supporting families, faith mentors, and students to prepare for Confirmation and Graduation this spring/summer so that we, as a congregation can support, recognize, and honor their endeavors.

Summer Camp Update from VLM:



1105 E. Superior St. Lower Suite, Duluth, MN 55802 800-331-5148 218-666-5465
vlm@VLMcamps.org www.VLMcamps.org

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry provides opportunities for Christ-centered spiritual growth, leadership development, and outreach in God's great northwoods!

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. - Hebrews 13:8

Dear member congregations, pastors, volunteers and camp supporters, Holy Week. The week in our church year that moves us from praising, through darkness, and into hope and resurrection. It is a week full of changing and differing emotions. This time in our world is also full of change and emotion. We are concerned for ourselves, our neighbor, and our world. Just as Jesus walked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, so too Jesus walks with us during these uncertain times.

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry is also in a time of differing emotions as we seek to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic and to understand what social distancing and sheltering in place means for camp. This time of the year is generally filled with summer preparations – hiring staff, registering campers, writing curriculum, and

looking forward to the sounds of ministry at both our sites. But this year, we are preparing to do ministry in new ways.

The VLM Board of Directors, at their April 3rd meeting, voted that, **“For the safety of our campers, volunteers, staff, and their families and to position the organization to be a resource for our church and communities during these uncertain times, Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion and their associated programs, will be temporarily closed until further notice.”**

Our vision driving this decision is the safety of our campers, our organizational strength, and our ability to share the amazing love and grace of God through Jesus Christ to people in new ways.

The decision is based on the current and expected restrictions and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the State of Minnesota, and has the following ramifications:

- Cancellation of all summer on-site, Canoe Country, and Day Camp programming for 2020.
- Cancellation of all Retreats and community events through June 30th. July and August groups will be contacted no later than May 31st to review the current situation.
- Temporary furloughs of year-round ministry staff.

For more than 60 years, Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion have been providing life-changing ministry. We had recently launched a very aggressive plan to increase our summer and year-round ministry with a vision of **“Surrounding VLM with the leadership and resources to be the premier outdoor ministry partner in Minnesota”**. This year, the external impacts to VLM and the corresponding action within the organization are unprecedented. Though our vision has not changed, the current pandemic has had a direct impact on our program and retreat income that were a key part of that plan. The decision to cancel our camping season is not an easy one, but we feel that **this response allows us to both be proactive and to assure that VLM has a strong base from which to move forward.**

Families that have already registered for Summer Camp will be receiving information from VLM.



Faith on the Go:

A Deliberate Act of Love

The readings for this week call up images of God's love for us, and how we should work to mirror that love in our lives. This week act with love on purpose! As a household choose someone who is not in your immediate household and plan a deliberate act of love for that person (or people) keeping in mind social distancing. It can be almost anything!

Pray

Risen Christ, you feed us with the bread of life and wine of your covenant. Teach us to share your good news and grace with all creation. Meet us on our journey, share in our struggling and rejoicing, and walk with us on our way. Amen.

Connect

Where did you see God today?
Where did you need God today?

Bible

John 10:1-10 – Jesus the Good Shepherd

Day 1

John 10:1-2

If Jesus were telling this story today, do you think that he would

still use shepherds and sheep as an example? What might he use instead

Day 2

John 10:3

Do you think a gatekeeper is good or bad? Why? If you think they are bad, what might be a better image in this story for you?

Day 3

John 10:4-6

Do you feel like the disciples – having a difficult time understanding what Jesus is saying? Or is this passage clear and comforting?

Day 4

John 10:7-9

What changes in the passage when Jesus describes himself as the gate? Is it easier to understand or more difficult?

Day 5

John 10:10

What things in your life destroy your faith? Where do you find “abundant Life?”

Bless

Greet your household with a traditional Easter greeting! One person say,
“*Christ is risen!*”

Others respond, “*Christ is risen indeed!*”



Faith on the Go:

Moments of Prayer

Spend some time talking about prayer with your household! First make a list of times to say a quick prayer, and make sure that there is a mix of prayers. There should be concerns as well as joys. Prayers for help as well as prayers of thanks. Some ideas are before bed, before meals, whenever you hear a siren, when you see something good or beautiful, when you see someone who is homeless or in need, etc. Pick two or three prayer ideas each day and keep an eye out for them in the world around and say a short prayer when you see (or hear) them.

Pray

Risen Christ, you feed us with the bread of life and wine of your covenant. Teach us to share your good news and grace with all creation. Meet us on our journey, share in our struggling and rejoicing, and walk with us on our way. Amen.

Connect

Where did you see God today?

Where did you need God today?

Bible

John 14:1-14 – Trust in God, Jesus as the way

Day 1

John 14:1

What troubles your heart? How can you give this to God?

Day 2

John 14:2-4

What type of place do you think Jesus is preparing? What does that feel like or look like?

Day 3

John 14:5-7

When have you lost your way? What does it mean that Jesus is the way? How do you see Jesus being the way in your life?

Day 4

John 14:8-11

Where do you see God the Father dwelling in our world?

Day 5

John 14:12-14

What does Jesus mean by asking for whatever you need? Do we sometimes not get what we ask for? What do you think Jesus is trying to say to us today?

Bless

Greet your household with a traditional Easter greeting! One person say, “*Christ is risen!*”

Others respond, “*Christ is risen indeed!*”

May 2020



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12 5:30pm Council Meeting	13 5:30pm Community Meal 4 th Grade Prayer Class 5 th Grade Stewardship Class 6pm Worship	14 1pm Jam Group	15 Beacon Deadline 11am Men's Bible Study	16 10 th Grade Agape Meal Time TBD
17 9am Worship 10 th Grade Confirmation 10:15am Coffee Hour Sing 'N Play 5:00pm Bible Study	18	19 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 6pm Al-Anon Meeting	20 5:30pm Community Meal Graduation Dinner and Prayer Labyrinth 4 th Grade Family Prayer Retreat 5 th Grade Stewardship Class 6pm Worship	21	22 11am Men's Bible Study	23
*24/31 *Social Ministry~23 rd Veteran 9am Worship *Senior Recognition 10:15am Coffee Hour *Acolyte Training 5:00pm Bible Study *Graduation Dinner & Prayer Labyrinth	25 Memorial Day	26 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 6pm Al-Anon Meeting	27 9:00am Highway Clean-Up 5:30pm Community Meal 6:00pm Worship	28 1pm Jam Group	29 9:30am Fellowship Hall In Use~Olesen Family 11am Men's Bible Study	30 9am Fellowship Hall In Use~Olesen Family

May Volunteers

9:00

Greeters

- 3. Marv & Pat Durkee
- 10. Tricia Hackensmith
- 17. Renee Kesty
- 24. Anna Bong
- 31. Theresa Vick

Ushers

- 3. Lew Castle & Jon Kolb
- 10. Ryan Swanson & Paul Carpenter
- 17. Paula & Noah Olsen
- 24. Dave & Lynn Beatty
- 31. Debby Johnson & Mary Saarela

Lay Readers

- 3. Ginny Korte-Castle
- 10. Lynn Beatty
- 17. Linda Newlon
- 24. Wendy Mitchell
- 31. Paul Carpenter

Communion Assistants

- 3. Renae House & Cookie Jaakola
- 10. Marlys McKinstry &
Janice Dahl
- 17. Dave & Lynn Beatty
- 24. Linda Newlon & Mary Saarela
- 31. Pat Durkee & Bethany Leseman

Acolytes

- 3. Lucas Radtke
- 10. Ethan Krone
- 17. Anna Bong
- 24. Nixon Mitchell
- 31. Lucas Radtke

Communion Prep & Clean

- 3. Ryan Swanson(P)
Bethany Leseman(C)
- 10. Renee Kesty (P & C)
- 17. Linda Newlon (P & C)
- 24. Mary Saarela (P & C)
- 31. Pat Durkee (P & C)

Counters

- 3. Linda Newlon & Gene Bryant
- 10. Mary Saarela & Gladys Sievert
- 17. Janice Dahl & Bethany Leseman
- 24. Jane Joki & Chris Mitchell
- 31. Lynn Beatty & Lorna Bryant

Coffee Servers

- 3. Rusty's Group
- 10. Marlys' Group
- 17. Gladys' Group
- 24. Social Ministry
- 31. Linda's Group

Just a reminder that if you have switched duties with someone please contact the office so changes can be made for the bulletin. Thank you.

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

Sunday Worship

9:00am

Sunday Story Time

(Check calendar for dates)

Coffee/Fellowship **10:15am**

Sing 'N Play

10:00am

Wednesday Worship

5:30pm Meal

6:00pm Worship

6:30pm Faith Formation

*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.*

