



# **The Bethesda Beacon**

*Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN*  
June 2022



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

**Psalm 46:1**

## In This Month's Beacon:

\*Pastor Seth's Beacon Article

\*Financial Update

\*Member News

\*Committee Updates

\*And More

Remember playing Hide and Seek? During our fourth and fifth grade “Grow in Faith” class on Wednesday nights after worship, we’ve begun each class with a game outside. After playing hide and seek once, the young disciples liked it so much they wanted to play it every week, so that is what we did.

By week three, when it was my turn to be the one hiding, I thought I would make it a challenge. So even though there are only so many places to hide in a parking lot, I found the tree with the best coverage and climbed in behind it.

Well, after shouting the obligatory “Ready or Not, HERE WE COME!”, the excited seekers raced to one corner of the parking lot, and then the next. Then they passed close by me, without clueing in to my shifting from one side of the tree to the other, and ran off to the yard, where I was sure to be!

Alas, no luck – unbeknownst to them, I was still behind that one same tree. “Where is he?” wondered one young disciple. “I’m out of breath!” another replied. I thought they might be on the verge of giving up.

But they refused. They checked each corner again – slower this time – until finally they found me behind my tree. Credit where it’s due: they missed me the first time, but they never stopped looking.

Later, I asked the kids a related question: have you ever been lost? They had answers of all types! And, persistent or not, getting lost never feels good. It can be scary or lonely. And, speaking of hide and seek, did you ever experience the sinking feeling of getting “left” in your hiding spot in a game of hide and seek? There may be no worse feeling in the world!

Both in worship a few weeks ago and in Grow in Faith, we have spent some quality time with the parable of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Part of the truth of this story is that we can never be fully lost from the love of God, that God’s love never escapes us.

But there’s a flip side to this truth, too.

The flip side is that there are absolutely seasons in our lives when we experience being lost. We may experience “lost-ness” in a season of disconnection or disappointment. We may experience “lost-ness” when we lose a loved one, or in a season of change, or when our faith is upended.

We might even experience a sense of collective “lost-ness”, perhaps when someone takes their own life, or after another needless school shooting, or in response to another war and refugee crisis.

In these moments, the truth of the Good Shepherd is not just that we can’t get lost from God’s love. When we experience feeling lost, that truth, true though it is, doesn’t feel true in the moment. So we also need the flip side of that truth.

And, in a funny sort of way, those young disciples preached the flip side of that truth in that game; they kept searching, just as Jesus keeps searching.

And that gospel truth is simply this: no matter where we go or what we do or how lost we might feel, the God we know in Jesus is always coming for us. Always searching for us.

Thanks be to God, who never stops searching for us!

Pastor Seth Wynands

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## **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.*

<b>Financial Update</b>			
Year-to-date ending 04/30/2022			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	8137.00	10076.00	(1939.00)
Non-pledged income	(4776.69)	625.00	(5401.69)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	3360.31	10701.00	(7340.69)
Salaries/Compensation	7099.44	7698.98	(599.54)
General Office Expenses	433.85	561.16	(127.31)
Utilities	1098.65	806.67	291.98
Other Expenses	1459.35	95.00	1364.35
Benevolence Expenses	81.37	100.76	(19.39)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	128.45	69.17	59.28
Social Ministry	27.00	27.08	(0.08)
Worship Expenses	464.99	533.33	(68.34)
CYFM Expenses	0.00	468.34	(468.34)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	10793.10	10360.49	432.61
<b>Net Income</b>	(7432.79)	340.51	(7773.30)

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 June our collection focus will be paper goods; paper towels, Kleenex, and diapers.*** 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.

Thank you to the meals on wheels drivers who provide meals to those in need; Lynn Beatty, Mary & George Saarela, Bob & Myrna Postal, Jeannette Korpela and Renee Kesty. Anyone interested in delivering meals please see Mary Saarela or call the church office. Thank you

The Funeral Committee would like to give a big thank you to everyone who is willing and able to help out! Our wonderful church is a blessing. We appreciate all of you so much!

## Member News



### Celebrating Baptismal Birthdays

Lynn Beatty, Madison Goodwin, JoAnn Gustafson, Paige Johnson, Angela Martini, Karen Murphy, Edward Leiste, George Saarela, Mary Bryant, Brad Bunge, Marvin Durkee, Harper McKeon, Athena Pearce-Ante, 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



Thank you to all who helped clean up our 2 mile highway stretch to the entry way of Jay Cooke State Park to help beautify God's Country!! Let's keep it clean!!

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Tri parish Day Camp June 6-8th, 2022  
5:15 pm-8 pm  
Zion Lutheran church Cloquet,  
Ages up to grade 5  
Registration form is available on our website @ [bethesdacarlon.org](http://bethesdacarlon.org)

**We will be looking for volunteers for lawn mowing. Watch for the summer lawn mowing sign-up sheet in narthex area.**



June 19<sup>th</sup> to all Dads and those who fill fathering roles. God bless and guide fathers everywhere.



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to the family of Vincent "Bud" Schmidt, brother of Mary Bryant and to the family of Ailie Calverley step-mother of Judy

Olson. God comfort and strengthen our hearts in hope in the resurrection through Christ.

A memorial service for Jude Holden will be held at Bethesda on Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. with the visitation starting at 10 a.m.

### Coffee Serving Schedule

**June 5<sup>th</sup>**-Renae's Group

**June 12<sup>th</sup>** Marlys' Group

**June 19<sup>th</sup>** Gladys' Group

**June 26<sup>th</sup>** Jeannette's Group

### Children, Youth, Family & Education

\*There will be no June meeting for CYFED. Our next meeting will be on July 7, 2022, at 3:45 PM in the library and all are welcome to attend to see what our committee does for the youth. We are always open to ideas.

\*VBS with Zion Lutheran church will be held on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, June 8, 2022, from 5:15 PM – 8:00 PM. Debby Johnson has volunteered to do the meal on Tuesday night on behalf of Bethesda. There will be no cost to the kids attending. Volunteers are needed.

\*Congratulations to Mason Haley, son of Jen Mangan, who was baptized on Sunday, May 15, 2022. Warmest wishes on your baptism and praying

for God's blessing as you begin your new life in Christ. Welcome to our community of faith.

\*First Communion classes started on April 14, 2022, with First Communion on Sunday, May 22, 2022. We have 2 kids attending this class.

Congratulations to Kaylee Lent and Mason Haley who celebrated their 1<sup>st</sup> Communion on Sunday, May 22, 2022. May you continue to grow in the grace of God.

\*4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade Grow in Faith classes started on April 20, 2022 and will last for 6 weeks. The last class will be held on May 25, 2022. The kids shared a worship service along with their parents, outside activity, pizza, and class time. We had 4 kids attend the class. Those in attendance were Chase Martin, Ailie Gustafson, Aaron Krone and Evan Krone.

\*We have one student for the 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> grade Stewardship Challenge. He will be starting his challenge this summer and will be given \$25.00 to start the challenge then \$125.00.

\*We have 4 graduates we will be honoring this year along with them receiving quilts. They are Noah Olsen, Alaina Kiehl, Haley Ableiter and Joseph Solomon. They will receive their quilts on Sunday, May 22, 2022, with a blessing by Pastor Seth. There will be a graduation dinner along with the Labyrinth on May 21, 2022, or



May 22, 2022. Congratulations to our seniors!

\*Pastor Seth talked about having a leadership camp for high school kids instead of LYO. This was discussed at the Synod Assembly he attended at the end of April. This will be available to kids who have finished 9<sup>th</sup> grade through 11<sup>th</sup> grade. This will be held sometime this summer. They are also going to hold a Middle and High School gathering instead of just a Middle School gathering for those who missed due to COVID. It will be the same as the Middle School gathering a Friday night/Saturday or Saturday night/Sunday.

\*Bethesda will continue their reaching out to the Bethesda congregation. During the summer months, we will only be doing one Sunday a month to make sure we stay connected with those we are missing.

\*\*\***June 5<sup>th</sup>** – No storytime or Jesus story video

\*\*\***June 12<sup>th</sup>** – Storytime in the gathering space

\*\*\***June 19<sup>th</sup>** - Family worship – Jesus story video in the sanctuary with children's sermon

\*\*\***June 26<sup>th</sup>** - No storytime or Jesus story video

*Synod Journey/National Youth Gathering 2022*

*2022 National Youth Gathering  
CANCELLED*

After much prayer, conversation and tears, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2022 **ELCA Youth Gathering**, **MYLE** and the **tAble** due to the ongoing pandemic, the recent COVID-19 surge and public health considerations.

We know there are thousands of young people who will not get to experience the Gathering, and our hearts break for them. This was not an easy decision, and we ask for your prayers and your grace. We understand the impact this decision will have on our youth, volunteers and planning teams, and we hope to return to Minneapolis for a future Gathering.

Registered congregations can visit their registration accounts starting Monday, Feb. 7, to select their desired refund option. For more information and FAQs, please visit [elca.org/Gathering](https://elca.org/Gathering).

With God's power at work in and through us, we can do far more than we dare ask or imagine! The ELCA is fully committed to supporting the young people of our church and to seeing that the ministry of the Gathering, MYLE and the tAble continue for years to come. With that assurance, we are turning our attention toward 2024 for the next Gathering. Stay tuned to Gathering communications for a location announcement this summer.  
Grace and Peace, *ELCA  
Northeastern MN Synod Office*

# June 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 <b>10am</b> Hymn Planning Committee Meeting	2 <b>10am</b> Office Staff Meeting	3 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	4
5 No Storytime <b>9am</b> Worship <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/Fellowship	6 <b>5:15pm</b> Tri-Parish Day Camp @ Zion Lutheran Church	7 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>5:15pm</b> Tri-Parish Day Camp @ Zion Lutheran Church <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	8 <b>5:15pm</b> Tri-Parish Day Camp @ Zion Lutheran Church	9 <b>10am</b> Office Staff Meeting <b>1pm</b> Jam Group <b>5:30pm</b> Ladies of Kaleva	10 Pastor Seth out of office <b>11am</b> Bible Study	11 <b>10am</b> Jude Holden Visitation <b>11am</b> Jude Holden Memorial Service Luncheon to follow
12 <b>9am</b> Worship Storytime (Fellowship Hall) <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/Fellowship <b>3pm</b> Interfaith Worship Service @ IFCC	13	14 <b>9am</b> Making Homeless Mats <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	15 <b>Beacon Deadline</b>	16 <b>10am</b> Office Staff Meeting	17 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	18
19 Father's Day <b>9am</b> Worship Storytime (sanctuary) <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/Fellowship	20	21 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>4pm</b> Worship Committee Meeting <b>5:30pm</b> Council Meeting <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	22	23 <b>10am</b> Office Staff Meeting <b>1pm</b> Jam Group	24 <b>11am</b> Bible Study	25
26 No Storytime <b>9am</b> Worship <b>10:15am</b> Coffee/Fellowship	27	28 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>6pm</b> Serenity Seekers	29	30 <b>10am</b> Office Staff Meeting		

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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](http://bethesdacarlton.org) or if you*  
*would like to have a copy*  
*mailed or emailed to you please*  
*contact the office.*

