



The Bethesda Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN
January 2017



February Beacon Deadline is January 15th. Please have all submissions into the office on this date.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, January 22nd, 2017 @ 10:15a.m.

Purpose:

- *To review 2016 ministries and activities.*
- *To prayerfully plan for the year ahead.*
- *To elect council members and other leadership positions.*
- *To determine the 2017 Budget.*
- *To ratify the revised Constitution.*
- *To approve the changes to the Constitution made by churchwide at the 2016 meeting.*

November 30, 2016
Attention: Council President Sue
Frank

Dear Bethesda Council:

Since Council's identification of serious financial challenges, we have been in conversation together. I have also had conversations with Bishop Aitken about Bethesda's ability to financially support a pastor either full-time or part-time, which is crucial information for your Call Committee in completing your Ministry Site Profile (MSP).

In my recent discussions with Bishop Aitken, he affirms that I have successfully completed the interim work at Bethesda, and that my skills are best used elsewhere. We agree, therefore, that it is time for my interim contract to end.

All of this is to say that my last Sunday with you will be Christmas Day. I will then take my last week of vacation, which means that my official last day for compensation and benefits will December 31, 2016.

Please know that I have enjoyed our time together, both the challenges and the joys. You are a congregation of strong leadership and passionate commitment. We have worked hard together for the future ministry of this congregation. You will always be in my heart and prayers.

In Christ,
Cheryl Fleckenstein
Interim Pastor

"To all of you who gave Paul and I Christmas cards, gifts, and good thoughts, I thank you. God bless you in 2017."

An Update from the Call Committee:

Our search has begun! The Call Committee is excited to announce we have completed Stage One of our call process - our Ministry Site Profile (MSP) has been now completed, submitted, and approved by both our Church Council and the Synod office. Thank you to our Transition Task Force for their hard work compiling the TTF report, you made our work completing the MSP faster and easier. We also want to thank our Church Council, Pastor Cheryl, Brenda Tibbetts from the Synod office, and every member of our congregation for your prayers and support through this first stage. We can now begin our Stage Two - seeking candidates for consideration to become our new pastor.

Refresher of Stage Two - Searching for Candidates

The Synod staff searches for appropriate candidates to submit to your Call Committee for

consideration. Names of potential candidates can be received from members of the congregation. The Chair of the Call Committee will contact the Synod office with any names submitted by congregation members, and the Synod will then follow up with those individuals. Pastors may also give their names to Synod expressing their interest, and Synod will provide those names to your Call Committee. Once the Call Committee receives the Rostered Leader Profile of a potential candidate, we begin our review for candidate consideration and Stage Three, the interview. If a candidate is considered, Stage Three, the candidate interview, then begins. All information about potential candidates and interviews will be kept confidential among the Call Committee.



For weather related cancellations of church services please tune in to WKLK or KBJR. You may also check Facebook or our church website.

Annual Report Deadline...

All **COMMITTEE REPORTS** are due by **January 6th**. Please have them into the office by this date. The Annual Meeting will be held January 22nd.

Thank you!



During the winter months, women's Bible study will not meet during inclement weather or if it is -15 degrees or colder.

During this time of transition, the church door will be locked during office hours. If you have a key you can use that to get into the building or call ahead to let me know that you are coming. The office hours will vary at times so if you are making a special trip to the church please call ahead so I can make sure I will be available to let you in or assist you in any way if needed.

Thank you, Bobbie



Thank you to the many hands who helped make this season a blessing: in Advent worship services and suppers; in the Living Nativity; in special music and decorations; the volunteers for Christmas Eve, for all those who brought Poinsettias and the many preparations inside and out! Serving hearts know joy, and we pray our gratitude!

Financial Update			
Year-to-date ending 11/30/16			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	\$111,333.50	\$141,498.50	(\$30,165.00)
Non-pledged income	\$22,452.32	\$16,324.91	\$6,127.41
TOTAL INCOME	\$133,785.82	\$157,823.41	(\$24,037.59)
Salaries/Compensation	\$120,830.45	\$117,128.44	\$3,702.01
General Office Expenses	\$8,947.28	\$8,938.37	\$8.91
Utilities	\$9,278.11	\$10,449.89	(\$1,171.78)
Other Expenses	\$4,018.32	\$4,368.37	(\$350.05)
Benevolence Expenses	\$9,605.25	\$11,739.75	(\$2,134.50)
Education Expenses	\$1,648.37	\$2,473.00	(\$824.63)
Evangelism Expenses	\$528.98	\$550.00	(\$21.02)
Property Expenses	\$815.05	\$2,933.37	(\$2,118.32)
Stewardship Expenses	\$342.86	\$650.00	(\$307.14)
Worship Expenses	\$1,860.77	\$2,733.37	(\$872.60)
Youth Expenses	\$705.63	\$916.63	(\$211.00)
Choir Music Expenses	\$69.40	\$0.00	\$69.40
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$158,650.47	\$162,881.19	(\$4,230.72)
Net Income	(\$24,864.65)	(\$5,057.78)	(\$19,806.87)
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.			

Bethesda Staff

Office 218-384-4501

Bobbie McCorison, Secretary
384-4501

Alice Kloepfer, Custodian

Cathy Dale, Accompanist

Sue Coady, Treasurer 384-3628

Chris Kuras, Financial Sec.

218-491-3546

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church

204 5th St – PO Box 210

Carlton MN 55718

Email: bethesda55718@msn.com

Website: www.bethesdacarlton.org

Visit our Synod's Site at

www.nemnsynod.org

2016 Members of Bethesda Church Council

*President – Sue Frank

*Vice President – Duane Soukkala

*Secretary – JoAnn Gustafson

*Treasurer – Sue Coady

Stacy Colich,

Jason Goad,

Jon Kolb

Jen Kuras,

Theresa Vermeersch

**If you have items that you wish to be addressed by council, contact a member of the Executive Committee, who sets the council agenda. The Executive Committee consists of these officers. They also serve as the Personnel Committee. You can keep up to date with church business by viewing the Council Meeting Minutes which are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office or view them on our website.*

Committee Chairs

Larry Beckstrom - **Endowment**

Committee

Colleen Bernu - **Children, Youth and
Family Team**

Joel Soukkala - **Worship Committee**

Dave Beatty - **Property Committee**

Sharon Bragge - **Social Ministry
Committee**

Member News



Celebrating January Baptismal Birthdays:

Marlene Anderson, Lance Konietzko, Britt Simula, Madilynn Vermeersch, Emily Vermeersch, Holly Vermeersch, Dawn Sell, Emily Matlack, Carol Bergstrom, Tucker Kiehn, Phyllis Rousseau, Evan McKeon, Sandy Vernon, John Holden, Laurie Sparks, Scott Frederick, Paul Carpenter, Merie Johnson, Jason Ableiter, Julie Frederick, Nancy Lee Olsen, Brookelynn Sell, Brielle Simula, Nathaniel Bong, Aaron Schilla, Brandon Sell, Zariah Erikson, Jayson Grover, Anton Sheda, Betty Peterson & Natalie Lijewski.

Social Ministry

Social Ministry will be collecting for Loaves and Fishes through **January 8th**. Items needed are: Jackets, hats, mittens, **New socks Cotton (adult size)**. Sleeping Bags, Tarps: camo and brown.



Social Ministry will be hosting coffee in support of the Wycliffe Bible Translators on January 8th.



C.A.R.E, (Community Addiction Recovery Enterprise) Formerly Liberalis, in Carlton is in need of hats & mittens for the winter months. There is also a continued need for shampoo, conditioner, tampax, deodorant, soap, toothpaste, etc. There is a donation box outside the office. All donations are very much appreciated.



**Please remember to donate
to the Food Shelf**

WELCA

Women of the ELCA



Thank you to all who donated money toward the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. Your generous donations have helped to feed many area families!

The women of WELCA would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Holiday Bazaar a success. Without the hearts and hands of our church family this community event would not be possible each year.



15th ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

Save the date for the Bethesda Women's Retreat from January 26 thru January 29, 2017. Come for the entire weekend, part of the weekend or just one day.

The Retreat is at Camp Amnicon where we have enjoyed the past 14 Retreats.

Cost: \$130.00 for 3 nights
 \$ 95.00 for 2 nights
 \$ 74.00 for 1 night
 \$ 40.00 for all day

This is a non-structured weekend for the women of Bethesda to enjoy getting to know each other while relaxing and taking time to do what you enjoy – or doing nothing at all!

Please see Lynn Beatty with any questions: 384-3765 (591-7519 Cell)
or nssgbeatty@gmail.com

15th ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL _____

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS: _____

ARRIVE: _____ DEPART _____

AMOUNT PAID _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: LYNN BEATTY



10th Grade Confirmation classes will be on Wednesdays beginning January 11th - February 22nd. Information will be mailed closer to the date classes will begin.



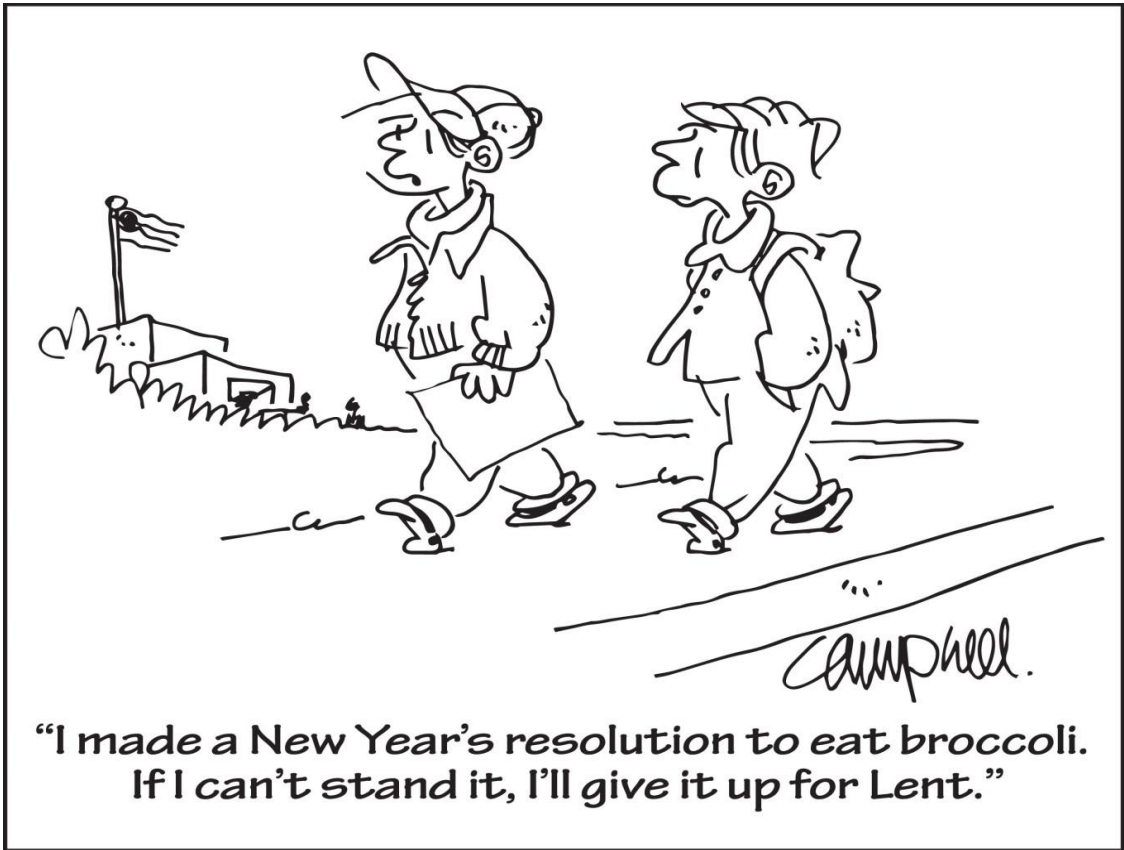
Reformation Bus Trip - January 6th

A one-day charter bus trip is being offered on **Friday, January 6th** to kick-off the 500th year of the Reformation. The day will include a visit to the Minneapolis Institute of Art with a private tour of the exhibit "Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation." A stop at Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis will be next with a private organ/choir concert. The day will finish up with the musical "Rise Up O Men" at the Plymouth Theater by the Church Basement Ladies. The cost will be around \$125 per person which includes the bus, tickets to all of the events, lunch at the MIA and a buffet dinner. The bus will travel Hwy. 53 to Cloquet cut-off (Hwy. 33) and then on

to I-35 so if you happen to live along the way, a pick-up site can be pre-arranged. There are still about a dozen seats remaining. Contact Bailey Conger at 218-666-2377 to reserve your spot.

Reformation Bus Trip - January 7th

In 2017 Lutherans all over the world celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. The Minneapolis Institute of Art has an exhibit **Martin Luther, Art and the Reformation** from October 31, 2016 through January 15, 2017. The story of Martin Luther and the Reformation will be brought to life through artworks and historical objects, traveling outside Germany for the first time ever. Tickets are going fast. Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd is organizing a day trip to the MIA on Saturday, January 7, 2017. In order to get tickets, we need to know how many can commit to joining the group. Tickets for the show would cost \$16 plus another \$5 for audio, if desired. A round trip ride in a 52 passenger motor coach would cost \$20. We are hoping to cover the cost of the bus by a grant. We are inviting other ELCA churches in the community to join us. If you are interested or want more information, contact Rosemary Guttormsson roseyrita@mac.com or call her 218-728-4037. She needs a commitment to get tickets by **December 15**.



January Volunteers

9:00

Greeters

1. Renae House
8. Duane & Dawn Soukkala
15. Jonathan Kolb
22. Renee Kesty
29. John Stradtman

Ushers

1. Gordy & Lil Davis
8. Cody & Cary Martin
15. Craig & Desiree Holm
22. JoAnn Gustafson & Paula Olsen
29. George & Mary Saarela

Lay Readers

1. Stacy Colich
8. Linda Newlon
15. Paul Carpenter
22. Karin Towslee
29. Brad Bunge

Communion Assistants

1. Paul Carpenter & Dave & Lynn Beatty
8. Pat Durkee, Julianne Emerson & Jean Johnson
15. Marlys McKinstry & Mary Saarela & JoAnn Gustafson
22. Sharon Bragge & Duane & Dawn Soukkala
29. Linda Newlon, Sarah Carpenter & Stacy Colich

Acolytes

1. Noah Olsen
8. Bridger McCorison
15. Anna Bong
22. Colin Emerson
29. Johanna Bernu

Communion Prep & Clean

1. George Saarela (P & C)
8. Sharon Bragge (P & C)
15. Renee Kesty (P & C)
22. Linda Newlon (P & C)
29. Jenny & Donald Lokken (P & C)

Counters

1. Lynn Beatty & Bethany Leseman
8. Chris Mitchell & JoAnn Gustafson
15. Mary Saarela & Dawn Soukkala
22. Lorna Bryant & Lori Bunge
29. Gene Bryant & Lynn Beatty

February Volunteers

9:00

Greeters

- 5. Ron & Betty Peterson
- 12. Julie Frederick
- 19. Brad & Lori Bunge
- 26. Alice Kloepfer

Ushers

- 5. Sharon Bragge & Brad Bunge
- 12. Gordy & Lil Davis
- 19. Lynn & Dave Beatty
- 26. Pat Durkee & Ryan Swanson

Lay Readers

- 5. Bethany Leseman
- 12. Lynn Beatty
- 19. Pat Durkee
- 26. Bethany Leseman

Communion Assistants

- 5. Paul Carpenter, Pat Durkee & Linda Newlon
- 12. Dave & Lynn Beatty & Jean Johnson
- 19. Bethany Leseman, Cheryl Ankrum & JoAnn Gustafson
- 26. Duane & Dawn Soukkala & Sharon Bragge

Acolytes

- 5. Johanna Bernu
- 12. Noah Olsen
- 19. Bridger McCorison
- 26. Anna Bong

Communion Prep & Clean

- 5. Ryan Swanson(P)
Joel Soukkala (C)
- 12. Pat Durkee (P & C)
- 19. Julie Frederick(P)
Bethany Leseman (C)
- 26. Gordy & Lil Davis (P & C)

Counters

- 5. Bethany Leseman & Chris Mitchell
- 12. JoAnn Gustafson & Dawn Soukkala
- 19. Bethany Leseman & Lorna Bryant
- 26. Gene Bryant & Lori Bunge



January 2017



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1 New Year's Day 9am Worship - Service of the Word Sunday Story Time 10:15am Coffee/ Fellowship</p>	<p>2 5:45pm Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>3 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting</p>	<p>4 5:30pm Wednesday S.T.O.R.Y Word & Worship</p>	<p>5 5:45pm Children, Youth & Family Ministry Planning</p>	<p>6 11am Men's Bible Study</p>	7
<p>8 Social Ministry - Wycliffe Bible Translators 9am Worship Sunday Story Time 10:15am Coffee/ Fellowship</p>	<p>9 5:45pm Women's Bible Study</p>	10	<p>11 5:30pm Wednesday S.T.O.R.Y Word & Worship 10th Grade Confirmation Class</p>	<p>12 11am Worship Committee Meeting 1pm Jam Group 5:30pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>13 11am Men's Bible Study</p>	14
<p>15 Beacon Deadline 9am Worship Sunday Story Time 10:15am Coffee/ Fellowship</p>	<p>16 Martin Luther King Day 5:45pm Women's Bible Study</p>	17	<p>18 5:30pm Wednesday S.T.O.R.Y Word & Worship 10th Grade Confirmation Class</p>	19	<p>20 11am Men's Bible Study</p>	21
<p>22 Annual Meeting 9am Worship Sunday Story Time 10:15am Annual Meeting</p>	<p>23 5:45pm Women's Bible Study</p>	24	<p>25 5:30pm Wednesday S.T.O.R.Y Word & Worship 10th Grade Confirmation Class</p>	<p>26 1pm Jam Group</p>	<p>27 11am Men's Bible Study</p>	28
<p>29 9am Worship Sunday Story Time 10:15am Coffee/ Fellowship</p>	<p>30 5:45pm Women's Bible Study</p>	31				