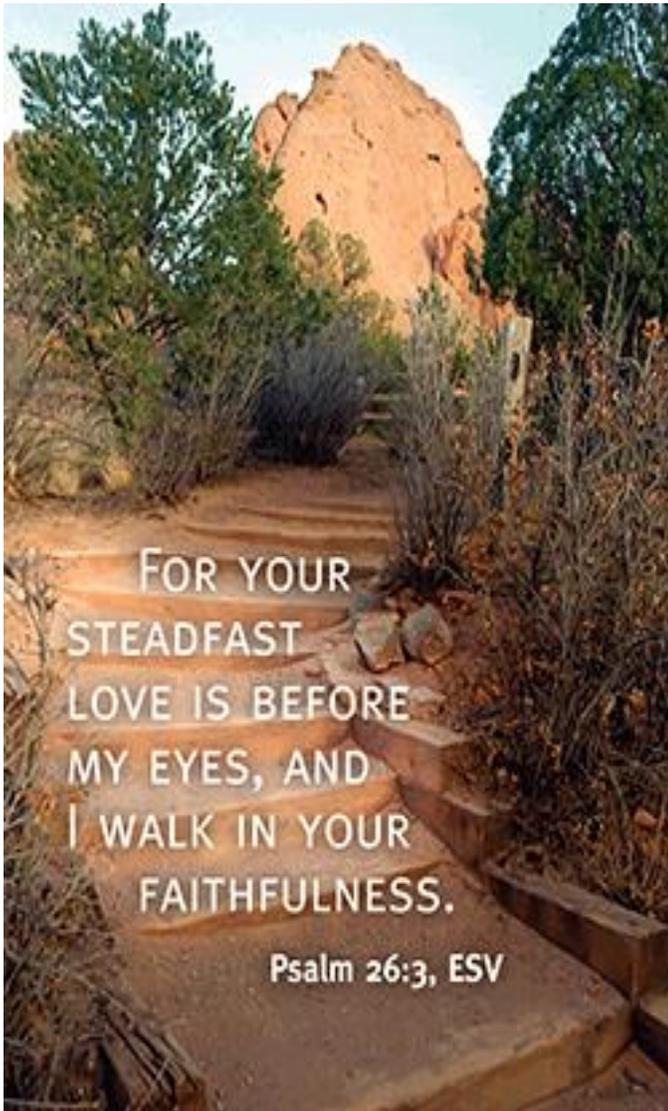




The Bethesda Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN
October 2018



In This Month's Beacon:

- *Pastor Mary's October Newsletter Article
- *Member News
- *Financial Update
- *An Update from Deacon Candidate Colleen Bernu
- *Committee Updates
- *Community Events
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- *Upcoming VLM Events

November Beacon Deadline is October 15th. Please have all submissions into the office on this date. The Beacon crew will be assembling the newsletter on October 24th.



I have been an entertainment fan for as long as I can remember -- whether that is music, movies, or especially musical theatre. I can distinctly remember going to my first musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, when it came to the Orpheum Theatre in Minneapolis. And I have always enjoyed listening to all sorts of musical genres and going to as many movies as I can. There is something about putting in some earbuds or entering a dark theatre that brings me out of my current state of mind and allows me to focus on something else for that amount of time I take in whatever media I'm enjoying.

When you're listening to the lyrics of a song, or watching the acting on stage or screen, you're forced to pay attention to what is going on in that moment, and it doesn't allow you to focus on what else is happening in the "outside world." I think that's why people love movies and theatre so much -- it's a form of escapism and we can forget about whatever is stressing us out at that time and concentrate on the comedy or drama happening in front of you.

Many new mega churches are recreating these escapist settings in their worship spaces now a days. Worshippers can sit in comfy seats, with their fancy coffees, and watch a music and light show happening on stage. In most cases the overhead

lights are dimmed, and you can feel the sense of anonymity from those around you. For the most part, these churches are very popular, and I think a lot of it has to do with that idea of escapism. They allow for people to come to the worship center and give them, well essentially, a show.

These worship experiences are in stark contrast to what you'd find in a "traditional" Lutheran worship service. And while I am obviously pretty bias to how we do worship, I honestly feel like that other kind of worship is a possible hindrance to our faith. The production level of the music may be wonderful, and they may hear amazing preaching, but I wonder how many people come because it is more "entertaining." Now I'm not saying that I think worship should not be engaging all of our senses, but worship should be something we are giving, not receiving.

And I also wonder in those hours of escapism whether or not worshippers are bringing the highs and lows of life to God. What I love about our liturgical services is that we have moments of repentance and forgiveness, thanksgiving and praise, and we come to the table of our Lord with all our burdens and allow for God to work through the elements to show us new life. We can literally bring our all, our whole selves, to worship and know that God is there for

us. We don't have to do anything to fit in -- being there is enough for that.

But there is something to escapism that I wish we would bring more into worship -- allowing for one hour in our week away from all our busy schedules to take time for God. That's why I find it so important to take a moment of preparation before we begin worship each week.

A moment to remember why it is that we are there; to worship our God and fellowship with one another. Preaching should touch on what you're dealing with in your day to day. We don't want to come to worship to just be entertained and escape from our crazy lives. Worship should be there to support your spiritual life and challenge you in your walk of discipleship.

Whatever worship styles seem to hit home for you, I hope that you come to worship prepared to engage in worship, not just be entertained by it. And if you're using it to escape the real world for a short hour, I hope it inspires you to put into action, outside the sanctuary, the things you hear and experience during worship. Leave the entertaining for the professional musicians and actors, and enjoy the time with each other and your God.

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Financial Update			
Year-to-date ending 08/31/2018			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	\$69,617.50	\$81,333.36	(\$11,715.86)
Non-pledged income	(\$9,712.57)	(\$9,950.64)	\$238.07
TOTAL INCOME	\$30,035.54	\$35,800.25	(\$5,764.71)
Salaries/Compensation	\$61,912.98	\$62,281.74	(\$368.76)
General Office Expenses	\$6,517.85	\$6,929.50	(\$411.65)
Utilities	\$7,915.92	\$7,146.64	\$769.28
Other Expenses	\$2,319.40	\$2,683.36	(\$363.96)
Benevolence Expenses	\$5,569.40	\$6,506.64	(\$937.24)
Evangelism Expenses	\$155.00	\$0.00	\$155.00
Property Expenses	\$1,598.86	\$1,800.00	(\$201.14)
Social Ministry	\$219.00	\$233.36	(\$14.36)
Stewardship Expenses	\$50.00	\$100.00	(\$50.00)
Worship Expenses	\$776.04	\$1,466.64	(\$690.60)
CYFM Expenses	\$985.93	\$2,653.56	(\$1,667.63)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$88,020.38	\$91,801.44	(\$3,781.06)
Net Income	(\$57,984.84)	(\$56,001.19)	(\$1,983.65)
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.			

2018 Members of Bethesda Church Council

- *President – Lynn Beatty
- *Vice President – Jason Goad
- *Secretary - Linda Newlon
- *Stacy Colich, Treasurer
- Beth Leseman
- Dave Beatty
- Ryan Swanson
- Nevada McCorison
- Deb Davis
- Jane Joki
- Teresa Solomon
- Frank Curtiss

**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*

Bethesda Highway Clean Up will take place on Tuesday October 2nd. We will meet at Bethesda at 9 a.m. Looking for volunteers of all ages. Come rain or shine! Any Questions Contact Mary Saarela at 218-384-4412.

Member News



Celebrating October Baptismal Birthdays

Brad McKinstry, Noah Olsen, Karen Laine, Wendy Mitchell,

Dylan Stradtman, Kristian Herman, Ben Talarico, Marnie Emerson, Robert Emerson, Laraya Kiehl, Larry Beckstrom, Chloe Olesen, Cary Martin, Sandy Wallin, David Beatty, Rebecca Feldbrugge, Makayla Stirewalt, Drayden Adams, Joseph Rudolph, Rodney Davis, Mikayla Stirewalt, Elijah Halli, Mary Marciniak, Katrina Hough, Lori Moench, Steven Anderson, Grayson Coulter, Parker Kunze, Tatiana Hackensmith, Bruce Bong, Al Holm, Craig Holm, Cheryl Schilla, Carol Foss, Clifford Kloefer, Julianne Emerson, Elizabeth House & Roxane Schmitz.



Our sympathy & prayers to the Families of Virginia “Ginger” Rowe & Darrell Drewlow. God gives us hope and strength in the promise of the resurrection in Christ.



Congratulations and blessings to Robbi Pearce & Anthony Ante who were married at Bethesda on August 25th. God bless this newly formed family.

If anyone would like to send Elizabeth House a letter while she is at basic training, her address is on the following page. The training center states that the letter or card envelope

be plain; no stickers, coloring, or glitter on the envelope, no singing cards or newspaper clippings or packages. It can be such a spirit booster getting mail from home and know people are thinking of you.

**SR House, Elizabeth, M
Recruit Company Quebec 196
USCG Training Center
1 Munro Avenue
Cape May, NJ 08204-5083**

Update from Deacon Candidate
Colleen Bernu

I love hanging out with toddlers and young children. Their curiosity is invigorating. All the why and what questions remind me to pause and consider my plans and my actions. What is this thing I'm working on? Why am I doing what I'm doing? Why do I do things this way? What is the true purpose of this project?

It's been awhile since we've had a toddler around our house. Yet, what and why questions have given me a lot to think about lately. Why do we do what we do? What is God asking of the church? What work is God placing on my heart for me to do in my community? What could we as Christ's Church accomplish if we didn't hit the override button on God's plan? Fortunately, these are questions

that we are invited to ponder together in our faith communities.

At Our Savior's, the community interview teams have wrapped up their formal interview process in their neighborhood. At this point, they will walk together as a faith community, discerning God's plans for them in their neighborhood, living as God's faithful people among their neighbors. There are a lot of questions, and no one knows the answers to all those questions right now. However, we know that we can and will explore these questions together all the while trusting that God has a plan and is guiding each step along the way.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths (Proverbs 3:5 – 6). For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope (Jeremiah 29:11). Amen!

Children, Youth, Family & Ed.



Middle School Gathering at Cragun's
Resort, Brainerd.
November 16-17 or November 17-18
2018

Grades 6-9

The speaker will be Dave Scherer, also known as AGAPE with focus on "The Sacraments."

The Middle School Gathering brings together nearly 1000 youth and adults from across our synod to grow in faith and build new friendships, while digging into confirmation teachings in a unique way!

Registration are due October 3rd. A \$30 deposit required to secure a spot. Make checks out to NEMN Synod. See Pastor Mary with questions.

Social Ministry



Social Ministry will be hosting coffee in support of Breast Cancer on October 14th.



Please remember to donate to the Food Shelf

Our local food shelf is at the Salvation Army on Carlton Ave. in Cloquet. The collection box has been moved from the entryway to under the mailboxes. Please check the expiration dates on the non-perishable food items you are donating. Thank you.

WELCA



2018 Fall WELCA Kettle River Conference "Gather Us In"

October 13th, 9-noon

Our Redeemer Lutheran Pine City

Schedule: **8:30** - Coffee &
Registration

9:00 - Welcome and Bible Study
Led by Pastor Fred

9:30 - Brunch

10:00 - Break

10:15 - Business Meeting

10:30 - Workshops - 25 min each
assembling food in backpacks for
school kids, tying quilts with Our
Redeemer Lutheran Church quilters,
assembling school kits for Lutheran
World Relief and carving a pumpkin
with each step focus on a Bible verse.

12:00 - Announce Silent Auction
Results

Bring your children that are old
enough to take part in the workshops.
Childcare will be provided upon
request for younger children. RSVP by
October 1st if wanted.

In-kind contributions will be school
supplies for the school and food
backpacks. Items needed for the school
kits can be found at [http://lwr.org/get-
involved/build-kitsofcare/school-kits](http://lwr.org/get-involved/build-kitsofcare/school-kits)

Penny offering for 2018-2019 will go to Pine City Food and Fun

Conference offering goes to ½ to Churchwide, ¼ to Current for Curran, ¼ for a Place for You

Bring items for the Silent Auction - proceeds go to Tri-Annual Scholarships



Upcoming VLM Events:



Family Fall Festival 2018

Experience nature's spectacular color show this fall at Camp Hiawatha! Come to camp on October 7th from 2pm-5pm for our annual Fall Fest! Activities include crafts, games, pumpkin painting, and a picnic supper. Cost is \$5/person, or \$20/family. www.vlmcamps.org for more information.

Celebration of Light and Music Sunday, December 9, 2018 at Camp Hiawatha 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of fellowship, holiday fare, winter activities, and celebrating the season of

Advent. There is something for all ages as we gather in community to prepare our hearts for the coming Christ child. We invite you to participate in all or part of this day.

Activities for the day include sleigh rides, food demonstrations, crafts, cookie decorating, hymn sing, worship, and a festive holiday meal. It's a great event for all ages!

Cost: \$5 per person for the afternoon activities (\$15 family maximum)

Meal: \$10 for adults, \$5 ages 6-11, free under 5 years.

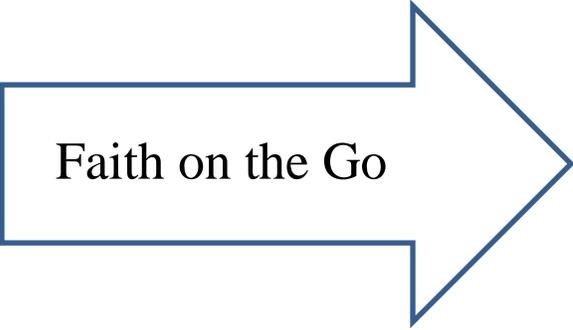
Please RSVP by December 5th by contacting the main VLM office - 218-666-5465 or vlm@VLMcamps.org



Schedule of Events:

2:00-4:30 - Sleigh rides, Ethnic food demonstrations and samples, cookie decorating, Advent crafts, conversation and fellowship

4:30 - Holiday Hymn sing
5:00 - Worship Service
6:00 - Festive Holiday Dinner



Faith on the Go

Pray

Jesus our healer, be with us on the journey. Send good food for our bodies, nourish our hearts and minds with your word and promises, and bring mercy to those in need of your healing in so many ways. Amen

Connect

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

Bible

Mark 9:30-37—Who is the greatest?

Chat

Day 1

Mark 9:30-32

What things about Jesus do you find difficult to understand?
What are your questions about faith?

Day 2

Mark 9: 33-35

What are things about faith/church/the Bible that people argue about today?
What do you think Jesus would say to

those things? How do we love one another when we disagree?

Day 3

Mark 9:33-35

When have you been last and how did that feel? When have you been first and how did that feel? Which do you prefer? What does it mean to be last so someone else is first? What are ways we can live this out today?

Day 4

Mark 9:36-37

Why do you think Jesus used a child to explain how to welcome others? Who are the people in our world that we need to welcome?

Day 5

Mark 9:36-37

How do we welcome others in the name of Christ? What does this do for us when we welcome others? What does it do for the other person? How can you be welcoming this week?

Bless

Jesus goes along beside, behind, and in front of you always

October Volunteers

9:00

Greeters

- 7. Craig & Des Holm
- 14. Pat & Marv Durkee
- 21. Anna Bong
- 28. Tricia Hackensmith

Ushers

- 7. Jon Kolb & Ryan Swanson
- 14. Ginny Korte-Castle & Lew Castle
- 21. JoAnn Gustafson & Debby Johnson
- 28. Paula & Noah Olsen

Lay Readers

- 7. Paul Carpenter
- 14. Pat Durkee
- 21. Stacy Colich
- 28. Bethany Leseman

Communion Assistants

- 7. John & Jude Holden
- 14. Bethany Leseman & Stacy Colich
- 21. Dave & Lynn Beatty
- 28. Pat Durkee & JoAnn Gustafson

Acolytes

- 7. Nixon Mitchell
- 14. Anna Bong
- 21. Annabelle Soukkala
- 28. Lucas Radtke

Communion Prep & Clean

- 7. Sharon Bragge (P & C)
- 14. Pat Durkee (P & C)
- 21. Mary Saarela (P & C)
- 28. Ryan Swanson (P)
Bethany Leseman (C)

Counters

- 7. Janice Dahl & Mary Saarela
- 14. Mary Saarela & Bethany Leseman
- 21. Lynn Beatty & Chris Mitchell
- 28. Linda Newlon

Coffee Servers

- 7. Jenny's Group
- 14. Social Ministry
- 21. Beth's Group
- 28. Pat's Group

November Volunteers

9:00

Greeters

- 4. Dawn Soukkala
- 11. Renee Kesty
- 18. Bob & Marnie Emerson
- 25. Theresa Vick

Ushers

- 4. Frank & Jackie Curtiss
- 11. Debby Johnson &
Sharon Bragge
- 18. Dave & Lynn Beatty
- 25. Paul Carpenter & Mary Saarela

Lay Readers

- 4. Stacy Colich
- 11. Cheryl Ankrum
- 18. Renae House
- 25. Ginny Korte-Castle

Communion Assistants

- 4. Cookie Jaakola &
Cheryl Ankrum
- 11. Renae House & Janice Dahl
- 18. Frank & Jackie Curtiss
- 25. Lynn & Dave Beatty

Acolytes

- 4. Ethan Krone
- 11. Anna Bong
- 18. Annabelle Soukkala
- 25. Jaiden Soukkala

Communion Prep & Clean

- 4. Renee Kesty (P & C)
- 11. Frank & Jackie Curtiss (P & C)
- 18. Sharon Bragge (P & C)
- 25. Linda Newlon (P & C)

Counters

- 4. Jane Joki & Gene Bryant
- 11. Julie Wagman & Lynn Beatty
- 18. Gladys Sievert &
Linda Newlon
- 25. Janice Dahl & Mary Saarela

Coffee Servers

- 4. Social Ministry
- 11. Dawn's Group
- 18. Lil's Group
- 25. Cary's Group

October 2018



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	2 5pm Executive Committee Meeting	3 5:30pm Community Meal Confirmation 6-9 3 rd Grade Discover your Bibles 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship	4 1pm Jam Group 3:30pm Children, Youth & Family Ministry Planning	5 11am Men's Bible Study	6
7 Pastor Mary Vacation 9am Worship Sunday Story Time 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship	8 Columbus Day Pastor Mary Vacation 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	9 Pastor Mary Vacation 4pm 5:30pm Council Meeting	10 Pastor Mary Vacation 5:30pm Community Meal Confirmation 6-9 3 rd Grade Discover your Bibles 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship	11	12 11am Men's Bible Study	13
14 Social Ministry ~ Breast Cancer 9am Worship Sunday Story Time 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship	15 Beacon Deadline 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	16 5:30pm Women's Bible Study	17 5:30pm Community Meal Confirmation 6-9 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship	18 1pm Jam Group	19 11am Men's Bible Study	20
21 9am Worship 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship	22 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	23 5:30pm Women's Bible Study	24 5:30pm Community Meal Confirmation 6-9 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship	25	26 11am Men's Bible Study	27
28 Reformation Sunday 9am Worship 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship	29 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting	30 5:30pm Women's Bible Study	31 Halloween 5:30pm Community Meal Confirmation 6-9 6pm Faith Formation 6:30pm Worship			