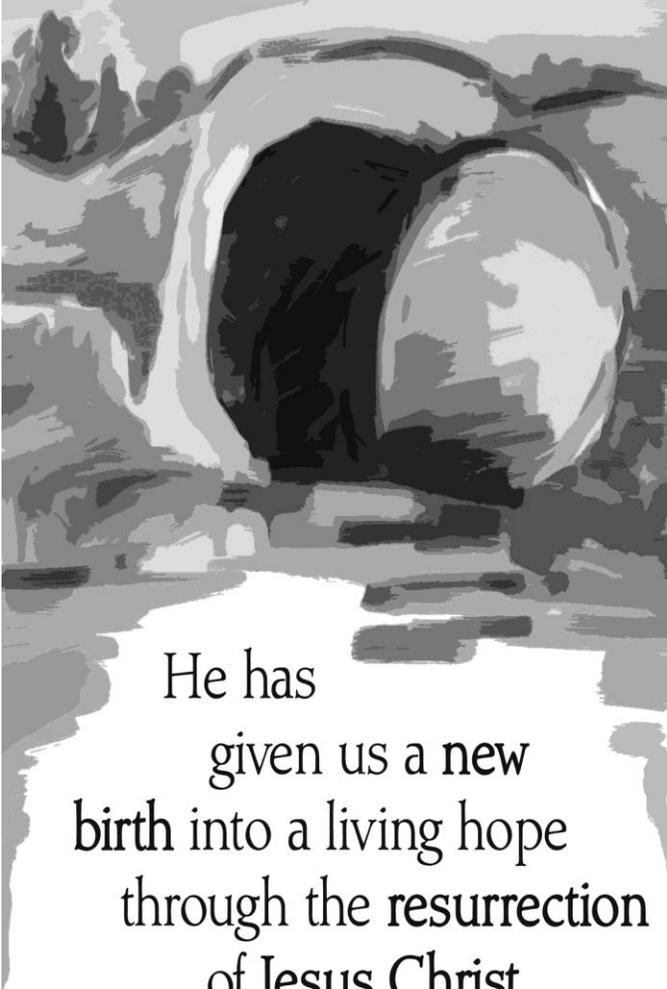


# **The Bethesda Beacon**

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



He has  
given us a new  
birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection  
of Jesus Christ  
from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NRSV

## In This Month's Beacon:

\*Pastor Jim's Beacon Article

\*Financial Update

\*Member News

\*Committee Updates

\*Faith on the Go!

\*And More

*In Person Good Friday Service will be at noon on Friday April 2nd with Pastor Jim officiating. There will not be a Maundy Thursday service this year. We will be celebrating Easter Sunday service at 9:00 a.m. April 4<sup>th</sup>, officiated by Pastor Greg Garmer, in Person and also live on Facebook.*



Greetings in the Lord! The other night my friend Louie had a t-shirt on that was from Gettysburg. It brought back memories from when I had visited there a few summers ago. I remembered sitting on Little Round Top as the sun was about to set. I had heard the story of the bloodiest battle of the Civil War at Gettysburg, and I wondered how humankind could do things like this to each other. Go to war. Kill. Maim.

Later that night in the Town Square there was a community band preparing to give a concert. The musicians were busy tuning up their instruments or talking to one another, or waiting quietly. But when the conductor stood on the podium and rapped his directors wand for attention, everyone stopped and looked up. The leader would not begin until he had the attention of all the players. Good music requires attention.

“The eyes of all rest upon you,” says the Psalmist. That is a beautiful description of how we are to live in our relationship to our Creator—eyes forward, intent on our Conductor, our leader. It is easy to get distracted. . . easy to wander to petty and unimportant things. After all, we live in a broken world, and we aren’t perfect. Too often we Children of God spend time with petty details and bicker over minor matters. But, if one

would play in God’s symphony orchestra, the order is simple and strict; eyes to God, hands posed to follow His will. We are to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. And the result will be beautiful music.

Let us together work and play, serve and love that we can be that orchestra that brings beautiful music to our Father’s world. This Lenten season I invite and remind you—keep your eyes on Jesus.

I am on the journey with you!

Pastor Jim

**The Annual Meeting will be held  
April 11<sup>th</sup> following the worship  
service.**

**Bethesda Staff**

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### A Note from The Council

A potential buyer has asked if Bethesda would consider selling 1-1/2 Lots of the wooded area of our parking lot. Using the Plat map and with help from Larry Beckstrom we marked off the six lots that make up the parking lot. Each of the six lots are 40 ft x 150 ft. Lots #1 through #4 make up the open areas where we park. Lots #5 & #6 are the wooded area on the east end of the parking lot. We are looking at selling half of Lot #5 and all of Lot #6. We would keep the west half of lot #5 adjoined to lot #4 which is used in the summer when the picnic table/campfire are in use and where the snow is pushed when Harold plows in the winter.

The council discussed this proposal in November and at our December meeting voted unanimously to sell 1/2 of lot #5 and all of lot #6 (total of 60' x 150') for \$25,000 pending congregation approval. The buyer would have the property surveyed to find exact property lines as we only paced them off and also to put up a privacy fence.

In trying to find the value of the property and a fair sale price we spoke to the Assessor's Office, to the City, a realtor and a Property Management Company. With land being scarce in Carlton right now we feel \$25,000 is a fair price and still enables us to be good stewards of the church's property.

### **Note from Terry and Sue Coady.....**

As part of our Crossroads team we identified the need for updating signs to let the community know about Bethesda. At the beginning of February 2020, we began researching new signage for the outside of the church. After a meeting with the council to show them some designs COVID hit!!

Correspondence with council and the manufacturer, many mockups, and samples/colors of the material to be used eventually led to the design, color and layout. We received the completed sign in February 2021.

Sign Pro, the company that made and hung our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banner, agreed to hang the new sign.

We are pleased to be able to donate this beautiful sign welcoming all to our Bethesda Church home. We do this to honor all the saints who have gone before us as a great cloud of witnesses. We have missed our church family and look forward to joining in person to worship soon.

With love, Terry and Sue



***“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. 42.6# was delivered on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Keep up the good work! *For the month of April our collection focus will be macaroni and cheese.* 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.

Interfaith is in need of puzzles (no larger than 350 pieces), Emory boards, nail files, light colored fingernail polish, candy, shampoo, and conditioner. If you would like to donate, they will be delivered to Interfaith.

**Men’s Bible study is now Friday Bible Study.**

Everyone is invited to attend Friday’s at 11 a.m. No treats will be served but you may bring your own coffee. Please wear a mask.

***Easter Lilies***

Those who would like to bring lilies or other plants to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday can bring them to the church during holy week. That week Bobbie will be in the office on Monday and Thursday from 9 to noon and Thursday evening from 3-5. It would be best to call before you come to be sure that the doors will be open.

**Call Committee**

The Call Committee has seen some activity in the last month. We conducted a Zoom interview with an applicant that shows some promise. We have plans to bring that applicant in for a second, in-person interview and facility tour. Otherwise, new applications are slow this time of year, but we are hopeful to get more when the new graduates become available. Members include: Jenny Lokken, Jay Goad, Betty Peterson, Paula Olsen, Noah Olsen, Joann Gustafson, Chris Mitchell

**SAVE THE DATE**

**“God’s work. Our hands.”**

Sunday will be **Sunday September 19, 2021.** 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.

Our community GWOH area churches include Bethesda, Our Saviors, Our Redeemers and Zion Lutheran Churches, Northwoods Methodist/ Esko, and Queen of Peace

## Member News



### **Celebrating April Baptismal Birthdays:**

Vance Moench, Kristal Hanson, Sharon Bragge, Terrance Radtke, Colin Emerson, Patricia Durkee, Brittany Dahl-Holm, Craig Schmitz, Matthew Moench, Ross Soukkala, Lindsey Dahl-Holm, Liam Meagher, Makenzie Simula, Desiree Sheda, Cassidy Sheda, Molly Sheda, Curtis Martin, Myrna Postal, Lydia Kiehl, Bernie Despot, Andrew Castle, Tanner Betts, Jackson Soukkala, Oliver Soukkala, Mark Vernon, Nevada Jo McCorison, Michael Lijewski, Hahna Hakala, Samantha Thompson, Scott Thompson, Terry Skutevik, Colton Clark, Melissa Clark, Sean Clark, Shelby Nygren, Wesley Harden,

Brynlee Baasch, Spencer Thorman & Tanner Thorman.



Our deepest sympathy & prayers Colleen, Chuck and Johanna Bernu. Colleen’s dad, David Hankins passed away on March 16<sup>th</sup> & to the family of JoEllen Carroll who passed away February 14<sup>th</sup>. God’s promises of resurrection bring comfort and hope in Christ the risen savior.



Happy Birthday to longtime Bethesda member Marguerite Anderson who turned 100 years young on March 25<sup>th</sup>! God’s continued blessings to you! You are amazing!

## Children, Youth, Family & Education

### **2021 Graduates**

At this time the CYFED team is planning on having Graduation Dinner and Prayer Labyrinth on Saturday,

May 22nd or Sunday, May 23.  
Senior Recognition /Blessing will be during worship service on Sunday, May 23.

Please look for more information in the May Beacon, Bethesda website, and our Facebook page.

Bethesda's Children, Youth, Family and Education Team is collecting donations to put together care packages for our college students. You can donate cash/check or you can choose from the list below. All donations need to be in by Easter Sunday.

Please if you choose to send money, specify it is for the CYFED team for college care packages!

There will be two drop off times during the week. Sunday mornings right before or after services OR Wednesday evenings between 5:30 and 6:30pm.

Supplies needed (please note we will be putting together 12 packages):

- Empty boxes for the care packages, around a shoe box size.
- Mini tissue packages
- Hand sanitizers
- Granola bars
- Gum
- \$5 gift cards for coffee or food (McDonald's, Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, etc.)

- Chapstick
- Pens
- Post it notes
- Highlighters
- Mini first aid kits
- Mini soaps or lotions
- Canned soups & Ramen
- Card games & Word puzzles
- Mini coloring books
- Cards with encouraging words
- Other items you think a college student might need or enjoy.

Our college students have faced such a challenging school year, let's brighten up their days a little with these surprise care packages!

Mat Makers
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We've been busy and now with many able to get the Covid vaccine, we hope more of you will be comfortable to join us Tuesdays 9-11. We started meeting Fridays 9-11 also to catch up on bags for awhile. There is enough room in the basement to distance ourselves. Don't feel comfortable coming to join us, we have bags that you could flatten and fold at home for us. Anything you can do is a great help. The Cloquet high school has been collecting, cutting and planning bags for us. We took 13 mats to CHUM for use in warming house in December. They called and asked if we had any mats available and we were able to take 15 to them in

March. It takes many hands to make one and we would appreciate any time you could share. CROCHETERS would be wonderful! Men are welcome. There's lots to do. Any questions call Mary 393-2693. Thanks to all of you who are helping us provide for the homeless!

<b>Financial Update</b>			
Year-to-date ending 02/28/2021			
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>
Envelope giving	11979.00	8400.00	3579.00
Non-pledged income	257.54	4491.67	(4234.13)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	12236.54	12891.67	(655.13)
Salaries/Compensation	4555.05	7795.49	(3240.44)
General Office Expenses	728.24	504.34	223.90
Utilities	498.80	850.67	(351.87)
Other Expenses	20.61	449.17	(428.56)
Benevolence Expenses	119.79	87.50	32.29
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	0.00	112.50	(112.50)
Social Ministry	27.00	29.17	(2.17)
Worship Expenses	400.00	583.33	(183.33)
CYFM Expenses	9.81	77.09	(67.28)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	6359.30	10489.26	(4129.96)
<b>Net Income</b>	5877.24	2402.41	3474.83
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.			

Northeastern MN Synod News

**Maps and Trail Guides  
for the Wilderness**

A message from Pastor Stacy Jutilla  
What a difference a year makes. Last March I was invited by a colleague in the synod to supply preach while she was on vacation with her family. As I drove to the church that morning, I listened to news headlines of COVID-

19 cases being identified in the United States. I remember walking into the church and being warmly greeted by a Church Council member. As he welcomed me to the church, I remember him saying, “the news reports recommend that we don’t shake hands, but I am glad you are joining us this morning.” He then showed me where hand sanitizer was located in the narthex, near the coffee table, the first pew, and behind the altar. Little did either of us know that in one week, we would hear that the World Health Organization would declare a global pandemic. This service would be the last Sunday worship service I would attend in person in 2020, and along with many people throughout our synod and the world, I would be stepping into unchartered territory at work, home and church. As I look back on this past year, I have taken pause to think about the maps and guides that have helped us to navigate a way through this pandemic. As we live into the second week of Lent, I recognize that the metaphor of maps and guides continues to be important.

Maps and guides for living through a pandemic have at times felt just as complicated as navigating a boundary waters portage after a windstorm or a road that hasn’t yet been plowed in a snowstorm. Finding a path forward on these trails, roads or through a pandemic isn’t always clear. Public

Health officials, pharmacists, physicians, nurses and many other community leaders have provided us with guidance of how to be as safe as possible in this pandemic and supported those who have contracted the virus or had a loved one die from complications related to the virus. Educators have navigated many ways of ensuring that children will have opportunity to learn and connect during the pandemic. Many people have wondered how they will navigate job changes, job loss or financial crisis over the last year. Families and friends have tried to find ways to celebrate birthdays, holidays and grieve the death of a loved one when we can't all be in the same room. In each of these instances, it hasn't always been easy to find a guide or map for a way forward.

Finding maps and guides for congregations may include guides to recording and streaming worship services and coming up with safe plans of when, if and how the church building will be open. As a rostered leader serving in a hospital, I have been looking for guides and maps on how to equip my team with personal protective equipment so they can safely support patients, families and staff in the hospital. Our chaplain team partners to connect a patient with their family via Zoom or assist a deacon or pastor in coordinating care for a patient. Thank you to each of you who reach out to chaplains and other health

care workers and offer your support, encouragement and prayers. Know that we chaplains, hold congregational leaders in our prayers and count you as such vital and loving sojourners through this pandemic wilderness.

Last March, it was hard to fully comprehend that this global pandemic would continue for a second season of lent. Have we found maps and guides to keep us moving forward in ways that we hadn't anticipated last March? As Christians, we are given a guide and a map to navigate in all seasons of life. We are invited to receive anew, year after year, God's story of claiming us as beloved in all seasons of the year and all seasons of our lives. As the Israelites were in exile, we can find a guide and narrative of how God promises to guide the Israelites through the wilderness. What might some of the trail maps and guides from our faith forbearers assist us in the pandemic wilderness and the Lenten wilderness of 2021? I offer a few trail guides and maps that I have learned along the way in the wilderness this year.

**1. Accept what we have the ability to change and impact** - In the wisdom of the serenity prayer – “accept the things I cannot change; Courage to change the things I can; And wisdom to know the difference.”

**2. Focus on daily sustenance/ the manna for today** – God provided

sustenance for the Israelite, not in stockpiles, but enough food for each day. What and where do you find your daily sustenance, the simple daily gifts in life versus the big celebrations and feasts?

**3. Be supportive and connect with others who are also traveling through the wilderness** – What ways can you offer encouragement to the clerk at the store, the nurse providing vaccines, the teacher navigating hybrid learning and the person living in a nursing home. When we feel all alone in the pandemic, what are ways that we can find meaningful, Together and with God’s help they found a way through the wilderness.

**4. Find God’s presence in the wilderness** – At times, we may feel isolated, alone and lost in the wilderness. When these moments occur, may we take pause to look, listen and explore where God’s presence remains with us in the wilderness.

Please know that whether you are in Sandstone, International Falls, Brainerd, Duluth or Grand Marais, our chaplain teams at Essentia Health are here to walk through this wilderness with you. Should you have questions about ways that our hospital ministry can connect with the ministries within your congregations, pastoral care for hospitalized patients, grief support, or clinical pastoral education, I welcome the opportunity to connect you for

conversation. Together, with God’s guidance, may we find a way through the pandemic wilderness.

Peace and Blessings,  
Stacey

**Stacey Jutila**

*Director*

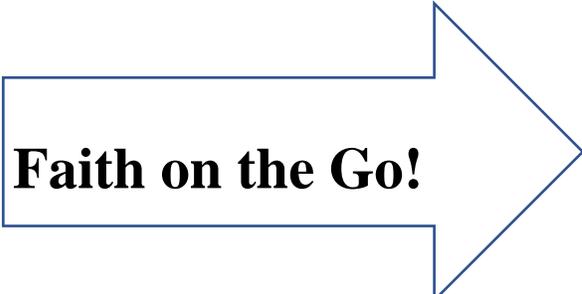
**Essentia Health – East**

Chaplaincy Services

407 E 3rd St, Duluth, MN 55805

Phone: (218) 786-4441

[stacey.jutila@essentiahealth.org](mailto:stacey.jutila@essentiahealth.org)



**Faith on the Go!**

Easter Season: Hunger Issues

Take time as a family to learn about hunger issues where you live and around the word. There is a simple project for each week of Easter to help you and your household learn about hunger and provide a real gift to help your local community.

**Week 1**

Research: First, find out where you can donate food locally. If you aren’t sure try [www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank](http://www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank) for their Food Bank locator. Second, find out more about hunger and provide a real gift to help your local community.

## **Pray**

Thank you, God for all our food; tasty, healthy, filling and good. Teach us how to share the feast, with those who are hungry and have the least. Amen.

## **Connect**

What amazed you about God's creation today?  
What did you do to be creative today?

## **Bible**

Genesis 1: 1-2-God Makes Everything

## **Day 1**

Genesis 1: 1-2:3  
What is your favorite day of creation?  
What makes it your favorite?

## **Day 2**

Genesis 2: 1-3  
God took time to rest after the work of creation. Do you rest after hard work?  
What are your favorite ways to rest?

## **Day 3**

Genesis 2: 4-24  
The "second" creation story, what do you like about this story? Why do you think there are two stories?

## **Day 4**

Genesis 2: 18-23  
God creates women and men from one being instead of making each from dust. Do you think this is important?

## **Day 5**

Genesis 2: 9  
What do you think the two trees in this verse are? Why did God put them in the garden with Adam & Eve?

## **Bless**

*May the living Christ raise you up and bring you joy! Alleluia!*

*For additional weekly devotionals go to:*

*<http://faithformationjourneys.org/>*



## **VLM Events:**

**Summer Camp Registration  
is now OPEN!**

This coming summer we will be soaking in WILD GRACE as we gather together around the campfire at Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermillion. With new Covid protocols in place, all of our usual summer camp programs are scheduled but our capacity will be reduced which means space is limited- sign up today by calling 1-800-331-5148 or [vlmcamps.org](http://vlmcamps.org).

# April 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Maundy Thursday <b>1pm</b> Jam Group <b>2pm</b> Children, Youth, Family & Ed. Meeting	2 <b>11am</b> Bible Study <b>12pm</b> Good Friday Service	3
4 Easter Sunday <b>9am</b> Worship	5	6 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless	7	8	9 <b>9am</b> Mat Makers <b>11am</b> Bible Study	10 <b>10am</b> Carlton High School Choir Practice
11 <b>9am</b> Worship Presentation of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible's <b>10:15am</b> Annual Meeting	12	13 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless <b>5:30pm</b> Council Meeting	14 <b>5:45pm</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Prayer Class 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Proclamation of Faith	15 Beacon Deadline <b>1pm</b> Jam Group	16 <b>9am</b> Mat Makers <b>11am</b> Bible Study	17 <b>10am</b> Carlton High School Choir Practice
18 <b>9am</b> Worship	19	20 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless	21 <b>5:45pm</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Prayer Class 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Proclamation of Faith	22	23 <b>9am</b> Mat Makers <b>11am</b> Bible Study	24 Agape Meal/ Proclamation of Faith <b>10am</b> Carlton High School Choir Practice
25 <b>9am</b> Worship Confirmation	26 <b>1pm</b> Fellowship Hall in Use~Book Club	27 <b>9am</b> Making Mats for the Homeless	28 <b>5:45pm</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Prayer Class	29 <b>1pm</b> Jam Group	30 Synod Assembly <b>9am</b> Mat Makers <b>11am</b> Bible Study	31 Synod Assembly <b>10am</b> Carlton High School Choir Practice

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.*

