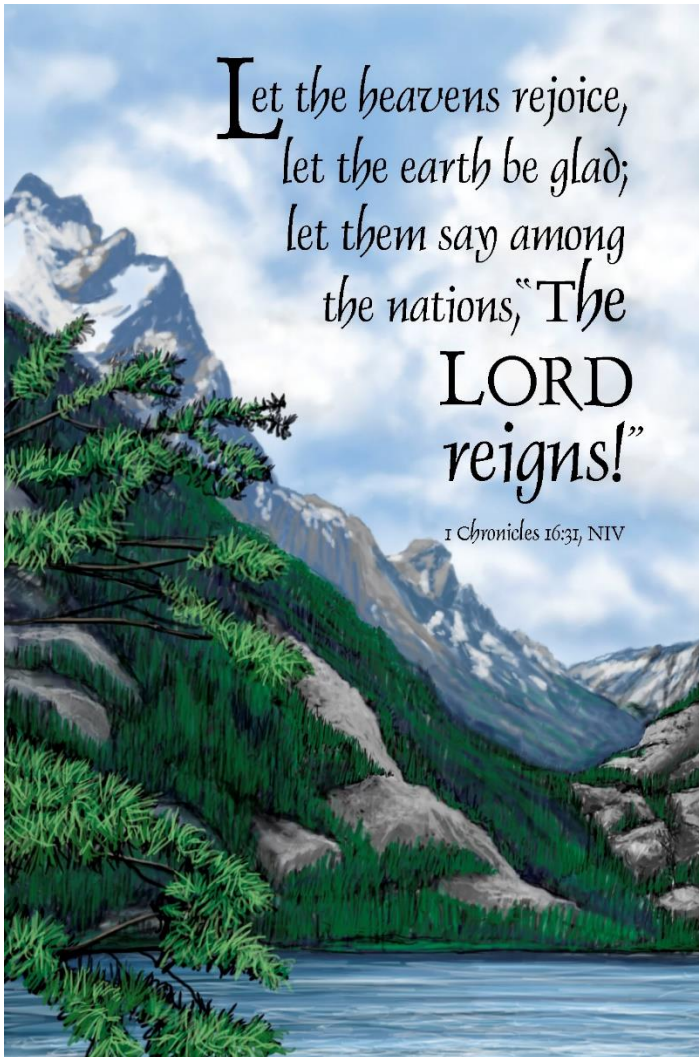




The Bethesda Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carlton MN
February 2022



In This Month's Beacon:

*Pastor Seth's Beacon Article

*Financial Update

*Member News

*Committee Updates

*And More



It may be hard to believe, but Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is actually in

February! So, just having completed the annual meeting but now thinking about Lent, I thought I would revisit the “seven things that I think I have learned about you” that I wrote about in my portion of the annual report. Here’s the part I’m thinking of: *“Here are seven things that I think I have learned about you during our first six months together:*

- 1. You love to spend time in fellowship together (almost as much as you love coffee!)*
- 2. Fishing, hunting, and spending time outdoors is an important part of this community’s life.*
- 3. Connections among the wider community, from the closest family connections to the “sister’s best friend’s husband’s aunt” connections, are important to you.*
- 4. Supporting local community organizations is one important way that you love your neighbor. You also maintain these relationships by inviting their leaders to speak once a month (what a great practice!)*
- 5. You show a commitment to this congregation’s life – even when it would be easier not to bake all those baked goods or step out the door when it’s 20 below!*

6. You show both a love for your past and an openness to your future.

7. Most importantly, you love one another, and you trust in God’s promises.”

Now, with Lent coming up, we have a chance to build on our strengths with (one of my favorite words) **intentionality**. Intentionality is about putting into practice what God calls us to – and really making a point of it (rather than, as is all too easy for me at least, just simply trying a little here and there and hoping for the best!)

Since the early church, Lent has been a season of Baptismal preparation for Holy Week and the three days (Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter!). So Christians have turned to intentional practices – prayer, fasting, love of neighbor, dwelling in scripture - for two thousand years.

Sometimes, people try to give something up for Lent – a noble idea, and worthy of consideration. But allow me to suggest something else: perhaps Lent can be a time to try to **add** a practice, with some intentionality. Or, if you do choose to give something up, perhaps you might consider adding something to take it’s place – for example, I might consider giving up facebook scrolling for 10 minutes and replace that time with praying a psalm or walking outside.

So with that in mind, here are seven suggestions for intentional practices that you might consider taking up during the six weeks of Lent:

1. Invite someone you don't know, or don't know well, to have coffee or lunch with you. See how much you can find out about their story.
2. Spend time each day walking – walking in silence, or in conversation with a partner, can both be a form of prayer!
3. Reconnect with one person that you've lost touch with (maybe even one every week?)
4. Give a small amount each week or day to an organization that matters to you or is doing God's work.
5. Pray each day for our church – both here in Carlton and across the world.
6. Write in a journal every day (this can also be a form of prayer!)
7. Read through one Gospel from beginning to end. We're reading Luke this year, although Mark is the shortest if that helps. I prefer reading with a study Bible, but any version will do!

As you read this, you still have a few weeks until Ash Wednesday. May the upcoming season of Lent, and all the days until then, be a blessing to you and to your neighbor.

Pastor Seth Wynands

Bethesda Staff

Seth Wynands, Pastor 424-337-0350

pastor@bethesdacarlton.org

Office 218-384-4501

Bobbie McCorison, Secretary,
Financial Secretary

Stacy Colich, Treasurer 218-393-7775

stacycolich@yahoo.com

Nita Davis, Bookkeeper/Accountant
515-890-1235

Nita@davisbooksandtax.com

Ronay Frank, Custodian

Anna Bong, Custodian

Cathy Dale, Accompanist

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church

204 5th St – PO Box 210

Carlton MN 55718

Email: bethesda55718@msn.com

Website: www.bethesdacarlton.org

Synod's Site: www.nemnsynod.org

2021 Members of Bethesda Church Council

*President – Lynn Beatty

*Vice President – Frank Curtiss

*Secretary - Linda Newlon

JoAnn Gustafson

Debby Johnson

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.*

Thank you to all who donated to our four recent Thrivent Action team projects in Nov, Dec, and Jan to provide our local Carlton/Wrenshall school children /youth in need of socks, hats/gloves/mittens, sweat pants, and underwear.. We collected a total of 510 pairs of socks, 60 pairs of gloves/mittens (also donations of 16 hats, 1 scarf, and 1 pair of snowpants), 67 sweatpants, and 317 pairs of underwear.

Your generosity was very much appreciated and welcomed to fulfill a big need by our local schools.

Thanks again,

Amy & Kevin Olesen, Pat & Marv Durkee, Tricia & Derek Hackensmith, and Debby Johnson

Offering Envelopes for 2022

We will not be ordering offering envelopes for this year. We ask that you let the church office know if you are in need of an offering envelope booklet. We also continue to encourage everyone to “automate” your contributions. Thank you.



***“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 85.4 pounds of food were delivered in October. Keep up the good work! *For the month of February our collection focus will be soup.* 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.



It is So Simple

1. Pick a Convenient [Location](#)
2. Sign up For a Ruby's Guest [Account](#)
3. [Schedule](#) Your Express Track Registration and Handle Your Donation Online to Save Time
4. OR Just Come to the Pop-Up Pantry Location on the Upcoming Monthly Date

[Cloquet, MN](#)

NEXT POP-UP PANTRY

4th Wednesday of each month

Cloquet National Guard Armory

Sponsored By: Cloquet Area Churches

DAYS AND HOURS

Registration begins at 9:45 AM

Food bundles available 10:00-11:30

AM

For more information on dates and locations go to Rubyspantry.org

Ruby's Pantry Phone

651.674.0009

E-mail goodnews@rubyspantry.org

New Office hours effective
February 1-May 31st
Monday's 8 a.m.-Noon
Thursday's 8 a.m.-2

Member News



Celebrating February Baptismal Birthdays

Carol Beckstrom, Johanna Bernu, Karter Davis, Kenzie Davis, Kenley Olson, Marilyn Michog, Anna Kiehl, Trent Olson, Wayne Olson, Lori Bunge, Jordan Thompson, Alena Wallin, Logan Beckstrom, Cora Ostby, Kristin Davis, Brad Nygren, Gregory Emerson, Randy Schmitz, Michelle Schleret, Amber Kantonen, Virginia Erikson, Brock House, Linnea Harris, Brianna Despot, Aurora Graves, Jaxon Graves, Madison Graves, Alice Kloepfer, Floyd Aubol, Katie Pille, Ambrielle Mazzitello, Jennifer Redowl, Deborah Johnson, Carol Chalberg, Keith Isakson & Rebecca House.

NEMN Synod

Employment Opportunities

Together Here Ministries Coordinator

Together Here Ministries in
Northeastern MN Synod, ELCA,

is seeking a skilled leader to serve as Coordinator. The mission of Together Here is to create space for transformational change through listening, learning, and relationship building among diverse peoples and communities. The Coordinator receives a \$1495 monthly stipend for an average workload of 15 hours per week (up to 10% time committed to travel). Experience with Zoom, MSOffice, and Google products is helpful.

Ideal candidates have a passion for social and racial justice work and a commitment to equipping others to live out the mission of Together Here.

Applicants should be people of faith committed to working in alignment with the mission and structure of the ELCA in order to fulfill job roles and

responsibilities. Membership in the ELCA is not required.

Interested applicants should send both a cover letter and a resume to the Advisory Board

at togetherherenemnsynod@gmail.com. The Organizational Structure and Duties of Together Here Ministries, including the Coordinator roles and responsibilities, can be found

at <https://bit.ly/30HdJFf>. Review of cover letters and resumes will begin on January 16, 2022. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Social Ministry



Social Ministry will be hosting coffee in support of Adult & Teen Challenge February 6th after Worship.

Children, Youth, Family & Education

January Storytime/Jesus Story video:

February 6th – Storytime in the gathering space

February 13th – Family Worship- Jesus Story video in the sanctuary with children’s sermon

February 20th - Storytime in the gathering space

February 27th - Family Worship- Jesus Story video in the sanctuary with children’s sermon

*Bishop's Night will be on February 16, 2022. Pastor Seth talked with Salem and Elim . We need the count from Salem/Elim by Wednesday February 9th and Bethesda youth by Friday, February 11th. Meal will be from 5:30 - 6:30.

*Lent starts on Wednesday March

2nd. Wendy will start sending out reminders in February to remind the kids to start connecting with their mentors. We are once again encouraging mentors/mentees to meet on Wednesday night.

*The plan for the next youth outing is visiting the Lake Superior Zoo. More to follow.

*On Thursday, December 9th there was a youth activity. They toured Bentleyville in Duluth. They had a great night for an outing.

*The Cardia Deo retreat is scheduled for March 3-6, 2022.

*Storytime continues on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's in the gathering space and the 2nd and 4th Sunday's are for the Jesus Story video in the sanctuary.

*The Monday night book study (Bible study) has been changed to the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of the month starting at 5:30 PM.

*The Friday Bible study is held at 11:00 in the gathering space. All are welcome.



Upcoming VLM Events:

SPRING QUILTING RETREAT

Thursday, March 10, 2022 12:00 PM

Sunday, March 13, 2022 2:00 PM

Camp Vermillion 2555 Vermillion
Camp Road Cook, MN, 55723

Ages: Experienced Quilters

Cost: \$260/person*

ENJOY THE SEASON

Spring is an excellent time of the year for a get-away in God's great Northwoods, and VLM's Quilting Retreat offers a chance to tackle some of your big projects.

FOCUS & CONNECT

This retreat is ideal for quilters who need some focused time to start or finish a project, who are interested in connecting with others who share a passion for sewing, or simply need a weekend away in a beautiful setting! Of course, we would love to have you join us for the whole weekend, but this retreat also provides the chance to join us for the day as well. (Or, if you live close enough, come to sew and eat, but perhaps go home to sleep in your own bed!)

NOT A QUILTER?

Bring your knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, scrapbooking, or any other craft you wish.

To register, you may also download the registration form on our [resources page](#) at www.vlmcamps.org or call the camp office at [\(800\) 331-5148](tel:8003315148).

**This retreat fee includes 8 meals, snacks, irons, a cutting table, space to sew, and lodging (multiple-occupancy) in Voyageur Lodge. Can't stay the whole time? [Contact us](#) for additional rates.*

Godspeed, Gretchen and Bella



Since 2010, Gretchen served both as Program Director and as Director of Operations. As a Program Director, she was the driving force of our summer camps and summer staff community, and most of our policies and procedures have been upgraded and updated because of her work. More recently, as Director of Operations, Gretchen put her 25 years of experience to work in all aspects of camp, helping build up the structure that supports this ministry and supervising year-round staff. She coordinated VLM's success with Give to the

Max Day, and was also responsible for organizing most of the behind the scenes work for the Summer Bluegrass Festival and the Celebration of Light and Music. On occasion, Gretchen could be found working in the kitchen, the place where her love of camping ministry got started. A lot has been on her plate during her time here and we are thankful for her work and dedication.

This is a big change for VLM and a change like this is difficult. However, we know that both Gretchen and VLM have good work ahead of them in new ways.

Godspeed to you, Gretchen and Bella. Thank you for loving camp during the best and the hardest times. And thank you for sharing your gifts and love with the campers, staff, and community in God's great northwoods.

If you would like to connect with Gretchen, please contact the main office for a current email address.

Church Partnerships and Volunteerism Newsletter

A monthly update from your ministry partners at
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

Thank you for your partnership with LSS! This newsletter provides an invitation to participate in some of the ways we are caring for all our neighbors across Minnesota.

Thank you for your warmth and generosity!

In December, LSS received an outpouring of generosity in the form of gifts from donors, volunteers and faith communities. These gifts were showered upon people receiving support from LSS. Gifts of winter coats, warm hats and mittens, quilts, gift cards, toys and other requested items were passed along to those who had specific needs.

These gifts often fill a need while also passing along the warmth and care of a community. This support speaks volumes to people who are receiving empowering, life-giving and life-changing support. Your partnership in this process makes a difference!





Pictured above: Volunteers from Incarnation Lutheran Church (Shoreview) wrapped and then presented gifts to residents at [LifeHaven](#) – a transitional living service for teen moms and their children who are experiencing homelessness. (Source: Facebook-Incarnation Lutheran Church)

Volunteer in 2022

Thank you, volunteers! Last year, despite the ongoing effects of COVID-19, LSS volunteers made an incredibly generous impact upon their communities:

LSS Lines of Service reported at least 7,000 volunteers donated 155,000 hours for the work of LSS across all 87 counties in Minnesota.

With the onset of a new year, LSS will offer new and exciting ways to engage

with your neighbors. Check out [current volunteer opportunities](#).

Servant of Christ Award: Nominate a Remarkable Congregation

Faith communities across Minnesota have always been important partners in LSS' mission to serve our neighbors. Congregations have hosted office space, provided homemade meals, sewn quilts and masks, welcomed refugees, and contributed in so many unseen ways to their communities.

Each year, LSS recognizes partnering congregations that are leaders in social ministry and social justice in their community, have a connection to LSS services in their area, and faithfully provide financial support for the service ministry of LSS. Nominate a single congregation – or congregations in partnership – in service of their neighbors. [Nominate a congregation](#) for the LSS Servant of Christ Award by Monday, January 31.

Resources for Lent

The season of Lent begins on March 2. This season of intentional study and introspection may be perfectly suited to engage one of these [resources](#) – provided by LSS as free digital downloads. These are a few we wish to highlight in 2022:

- [Rebuilding Bethany](#) is a Bible study written for the Advent season that can also be used during Lent for individual or small group study. This resource provides an understanding of the journey of children and their families experiencing crisis and the generous response of neighbors in Duluth and the northeast region of Minnesota.
- [Not Even One Night](#) helps raise awareness about youth homelessness. Use this five-week study for adult education, a Lenten study and preaching aid, confirmation study, or any way that works best for your congregation.
- [Safe and Healthy Relationships](#) is a four-session guide for middle school and high school youth, to be used in confirmation classes and youth groups. The interactive sessions guide youth in understanding how they can engage in healthy friendships and dating relationships – all while reinforcing their value as a child of God.

- Join the Church Partnership [Facebook](#) group.
- Request a speaker or preacher: email us at congregations@lssmn.org.

Thank you for your partnership. We are grateful for you!



The Rev. Julie Wright
 Director of Church Partnerships and
 Volunteerism
julie.wright@lssmn.org |
 651.529.8855

*Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
 expresses the love of Christ
 for **all** people through service that
 inspires hope, changes lives and builds
 community.*

[Volunteer with LSS.](#)
[Give Generously.](#)
[Visit the LSS Website](#)

Connect with LSS

These are some ways to connect with LSS in the new year:

- Find [services](#) near you.
- Attend an [event](#).
- [Volunteer](#).

February 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 8:30am TOPS 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 6pm Serenity Seekers	2	3 8:30am Office Staff Mtg 1pm Jam Group 3:45pm Children, Youth, Family & Ed. Meeting	4 11am Bible Study	5
6 SocialMinsitry~ Adult/Teen Challenge 9am Worship Storytime (Fellowship Hall) 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship WELCA Meeting	7	8 8:30am TOPS 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 4:30pm Worship Meeting 5:30pm Council Meeting 6pm Serenity Seekers	9 10am Hymn Planning	10 8:30am Office Staff Mtg	11	12
13 9am Worship Storytime (Sanctuary) 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship 3pm InterFaith Service	14 Valentine's Day	15 Beacon Deadline 8:30am TOPS 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 6pm Serenity Seekers	16 5:30pm Bishop Night with Confirmation Students	17 8:30am Office Staff Mtg 1pm Jam Group	18 11am Bible Study	19
20 9am Worship Storytime (Fellowship Hall) 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship	21 President's Day	22 8:30am TOPS 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 6pm Serenity Seekers	23	24 8:30am Office Staff Mtg	25 11am Bible Study	26
27 9am Worship Storytime (Sanctuary) 10:15am Coffee/Fellowship	28					

Bethesda Lutheran Church
204 5th 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 or if you
would like to have a copy
mailed or emailed to you please
contact the office.*

 F E B R U A R Y