



The Bethesda Beacon

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



Photos from the 2022 Churchwide Assembly held in Columbus, OH



“Worship by the Lake”. That was their favorite thing.

Let me back up. This past weekend, I got to go with 10 confirmation-age students from Bethesda, Our Savior’s, and Zion to a joint retreat at Camp Vermillion. Then, at the very end of the weekend, Jennifer asked four students what they liked best.

And to my amazement, they each said that “Worship by the Lake” was the highlight of the weekend. Not the ping-pong, or the candy, or the pizza, or the staying up late, or any of the numerous things I was expecting them to say. Nope – to my utter shock, all four of the kids she asked said some variation of, “I really liked worship/sitting quietly/having communion by the lake.”

This, along with some pointed and wise questions from the youth on the retreat, has got me thinking: Why do we worship?

Often, we are taught to worship God out of duty or obligation, which, if we’re honest with ourselves, makes the act of worship seem like a chore. But what this experience, and a few others like it, tell me is this: we worship because WE need to worship.

In other words: at our best, Christians worship God not out of duty but out of our own deep need for God. We worship because connecting with God and with others is what we were made for. And it’s our relationship with our relational, creating God– and our need for God – that should pull us back into worship, even when it’s not as exciting as ping pong, candy, or anything else that might draw us in.

Perhaps the youth, for one day at least, understood our need to worship deeper than normal. Perhaps they were energized by the “Worship by the Lake” not because it was so superior or different but because they sensed that they were in the right place, at the right

time, doing just what God made them to do.

May it be so for you, and for God's whole church, this month!

Pastor Seth Wynads

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2022 Members of Bethesda Church Council

- *President – Lynn Beatty
- *Vice President – Deb Davis
- *Secretary - Linda Newlon
- *Treasurer - JoAnn Gustafson
- 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

Financial Update			
Year to date as of 8/31/2022			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Envelope giving	69130.00	75077.00	(5947.00)
Non-pledged income	9476.66	3733.36	5743.30
TOTAL INCOME	78606.66	78810.36	(203.70)
Salaries/Compensation	61809.26	66965.97	(5156.71)
General Office Expenses	5574.47	5458.03	116.44
Utilities	7988.21	6453.36	1534.85
Other Expenses	1479.22	410.00	(1069.22)
Benevolence Expenses	691.41	750.77	(59.36)
Evangelism Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Expenses	651.79	553.36	98.43
Social Ministry	216.00	216.64	(0.64)
Worship Expenses	3424.81	4716.64	(1291.83)
CYFM Expenses	2539.31	2471.72	67.59
TOTAL EXPENSES	84374.48	87996.49	(3622.01)
Net operating income	(5767.82)	(9186.13)	3418.31
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.			

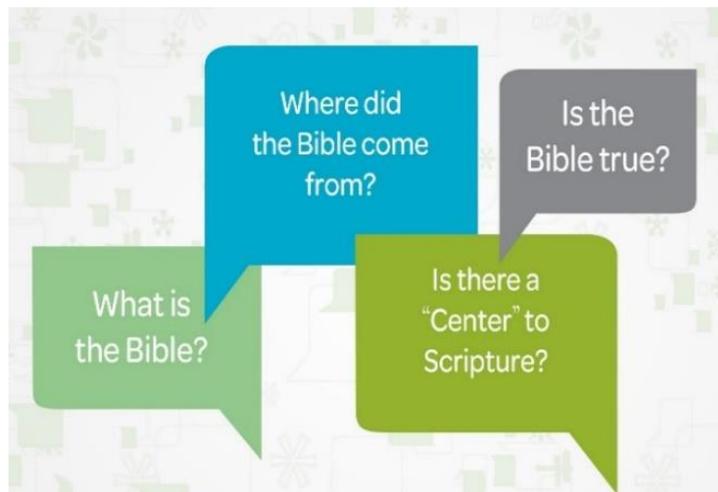
WELCA

Church Bazaar Planning meeting on October 10th at 5:30 at church. Everyone is welcome.



Save the Date: A Touch of Scandinavia Holiday Bazaar Saturday December 3rd, 2022. Calls will be made in

November to ask for volunteers. Please consider taking part in this Bethesda Tradition. We are looking for volunteers to set-up, clean-up, cook, bake, & serve.



GREAT QUESTIONS!!

Have you ever wondered about these questions or similar questions?

Here is an Opportunity for you:

MAKING SENSE OF THE SCRIPTURE GROUP STUDY

Men... Women... Singles... Couples
ALL are welcome!

Cost: Study book suggested donation
\$15

Begins on Wednesday, October 5,
8 sessions

6:30pm in Fellowship Hall

In *Making Sense of Scripture*, Author, David Lose, invites the reader to engage in a conversation, one that

he imagines discussing around his kitchen table, about seven major questions of the Bible. More than a standard biblical reference book, *Making Sense of Scripture* is a dialogue that encourages readers to bring their questions or doubts to the table when reading Scripture. During this conversation, there are different opportunities for the reader to interact with the Bible, ultimately leaving room for personal transformation of the heart and mind.

(copied from study description found on Augsburg Fortress)

We need to order materials **ASAP**

For more information or to reserve your spot, contact group facilitators:

Ginny Korte-Castle 218-384-3896

Myrna Postal 218-384-3186 (h) 218-269-5130 (c)

Wanted 2023 Calendars...for the residents at Inter Faith. There is a collection box in the Narthex.

Social Ministry



Social Ministry will be hosting coffee in support of Welcome Home Ranch on October 16th. Lynn Beatty will be giving a temple talk.

Join us for Bible Study

Fridays at 11am
All are welcome!

Mat Making

Join us Tuesday's at 9am to take part in making mats that are donated to the CHUM for the homeless to use to sleep on. It takes many steps to complete one mat. We need someone to flatten bags, fold bags, cut bags, make plarn (plastic yarn) balls that are then used to crochet the mats. Any of steps can easily be done at home and now with the weather starting to cool down it would be a great indoor project for the upcoming months. If you would like to see how all of this is done, please come and watch what we do. Contact Mary Saarela with Questions 218-393-2693.



“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 October our collection focus will be Soups, stews and canned meats.*

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.

Member News



Celebrating October Baptismal Birthdays

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



Our deepest sympathy & prayers to Scot & Lynette Thorman and family on the loss of their son Hunter who died August 29th. To Cathy Dale and family on the loss of her stepdaughter Sandra Martinson who passed away on August 29th, and to Curt Trevena whose mother Carol passed away September 8th. God comfort and strengthen our hearts in hope in the resurrection through Christ.

At the Special Congregational Meeting on January 18th, 50 voting members were present to vote on a Shared Ministry Agreement with River's Edge Presbyterian Church. The vote was passed unanimously.
Worship Service at Bethesda will now be at 8:30 a.m. beginning October 2nd

Children, Youth, Family and Ed.

- Good News!! We have a new member on the CYFED Committee. Bobbie McCorison has volunteered to be part of CYFED. Thank you, Bobbie.
- There will be a new bible study starting Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at 6:30 in the gathering space. The topic for this 8-week study will be "Making Sense of the Scripture". If you would like

more information or would like to join, please contact Myrna Postal or Ginny Korte-Castle. All are welcome to attend.

- September 27th at 5:30 will be the book study get together. All are welcome to join. Friday bible study is going well - attendance 4-6 people.
- Wendy is working on matching and confirming partnerships for Bethesda and River's Edge. If asked to be a mentor, please consider. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved with our youth. Pastor Seth has a sign-up sheet on which night the mentors can be a discussion partner for the class.
- Had a good discussion on what youth activities we can start planning. We had suggestions of an activity with Interfaith and the kids. Bobbie will contact Kim McCuskey to see what our youth could do at IFCC. We also discussed we could do an assembly with the kids for a cause. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas, please feel free to contact a member of CYFED.
- The next CYFED meeting will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2022, at 2:00 PM. All are welcome to join us and share your ideas.

**Hey!! Did you hear the good news?
Storytime has a new name. It is now
called *Jesus and Me - J.A.M.***

**OCTOBER 2022 SCHEDULE FOR
J.A.M./ MESSAGE**

*****October 2nd - Jesus and Me -
J.A.M.**

*****October 9th - message with Pastor
Seth**

*****October 16th - Jesus and Me -
J.A.M.**

*****October 23rd – message with
Pastor Seth**

*****October 30th – TBD**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 612
12th St, Cloquet, MN

Workshop presenters are members of congregations and leaders in our synod who will share the stories of their ministries and how this work has made a difference in their lives and the lives of others. Topics include faith formation, digital ministry, Faith in Action, forming network partnerships, strategic planning, harm reduction ministry, justice ministry, RIC, and more.

Join us October 8th! Registration required. Access the registration link at www.nemnsynod.org.

Northeastern Minnesota

Walking Together

In Stories of Ministry

Good stories draw us in, captivating our attention, inspiring us to dream, inviting us to see the world a little bit differently, encouraging us to respond. Walking Together is an opportunity for us to learn from people in our synod through the stories of ministries happening right here in Northeastern Minnesota Synod. This is a great way to learn from each other as we celebrate the work of the Spirit!

October 8, 2022, from 9AM—4PM

Check-in and social time begin at
7:45AM

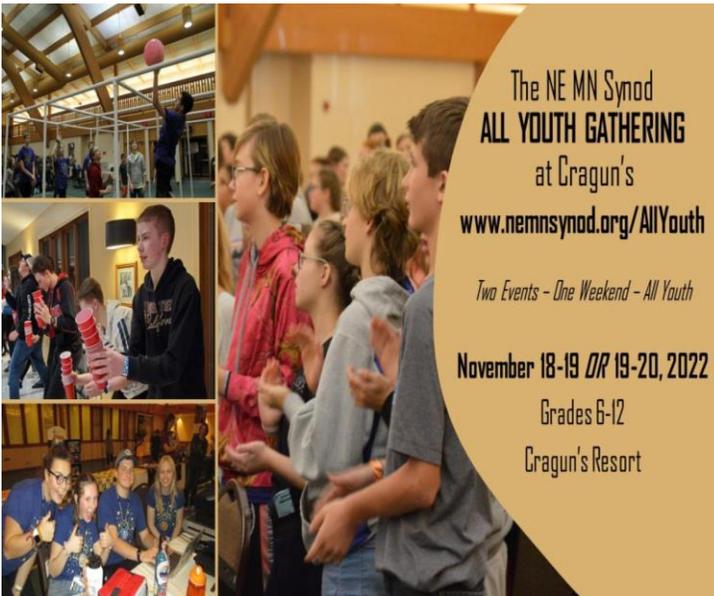
Cost: \$25, includes lunch



***For we cannot stop speaking about
what we have seen and heard.***

Acts 20:4

God's Work, Our Hands



All youth in grades 6-12 and their adult leaders are invited for a weekend retreat to grow in faith, build relationships, laugh and play, and worship with hundreds of youth from across the synod!

The All Youth Gathering will include large group sessions for the entire group, learning opportunities by age group, hotel life, games, worship, and more! Details and Registration Forms are posted at www.nemnsynod.org/AllYouth.

Coffee Serving Schedule

- October 2nd - Linda's Group
- October 9th - Deb's Group
- October 16th - Social Ministry~
Welcome Home Ranch Group
- October 30th - Marlys' Group

God's Work Our Hands is over for 2022 and what a success it was! God blessed us with a beautiful day. The rain stopped just in time to complete 12 outdoor projects. Over 100 people working together for our community and beyond. from yard work, window washing, weeding flower beds etc.... Indoor projects completed: 73 baby care kits, 46 personal care kits, 105 school backpacks. These kits are going to Lutheran World Relief to be distributed to those in need. Also, 59 ditty bags, filled with personal care items, were completed, along with many hand knit hats that will go to the Seafarer's Mission in Duluth, MN.

There are so many to thank. **Thank you** to those who donated their time and talents, kit donations, monies, Thrivent members who applied for and received the \$250.00 Community Impact Cards, to each of the churches, Bethesda Lutheran, Queen of Peace, Our Saviors and Zion Lutheran

GOD has truly BLESSED ALL OF US! GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

2022 We are woven together: In her churches, representatives, for their organizational skills to make each GWOH event an awesome experience each year.

Mark your 2023 Calendar -- GWOH Sunday will be 9-17-2023



September column for *Living Lutheran*, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton writes: “In Christ we are individually members one of another. Sometimes we might feel like we are stuck with each other. This is the great mystery and beauty of the wounded body of Christ—we are woven together.”

He was a young man. In his early 20s. He had cancer. His mother and stepfather cared for him to the point of weariness. The family was unchurched, but a friend was a member of our parish and asked if I could visit them. That’s how I came to walk with them in the last months.

There were hospitalizations and finally palliative care. The young man endured with stoic courage. His mother and stepfather never wavered in their care. Friends supported the

family by bringing meals and sometimes just sitting in silence with them. At last, the call I knew was coming came. The young man had died.

I drove to the farmhouse past the cemetery where he would be buried. When I arrived the stepfather opened the door and motioned me to the living room. The young man had died in his mother’s arms. He had stopped shaving some weeks before, so his beard had grown in. Mother cradling the body of her dead son. It was a modern-day pietà.

In my time with the family, I found out that the stepfather was not baptized. I’ll call him Jim. We had many talks sitting at the wooden kitchen table—some profound, some less so.

And Jim had questions: not so much why this had happened to his stepson, but where was God? Where was hope? He knew his wife and son had been baptized. Jim wanted to know what that meant, what difference it made.

I answered that God was with Jim’s stepson in his pain. I explained that baptism was the gift of life that brought forgiveness, that [baptism](#) made us part of the body of Christ, the church, and that baptism made those who had been strangers from God and each other part of the same family. I told him that baptism was an unbreakable relationship between God and God’s people

because God loves us and doesn't want to lose a single one of us, that not even [death](#) can separate us from God's love.

There is no room to dissolve the bond of baptism.

Jim asked to be baptized. He came to the realization that, as it has been said, water really is thicker than blood. Baptism doesn't guarantee a life without struggle or hardship, but it makes us part of the one who suffered, died and was buried—and who, through that suffering and death, defeated death. So, at that wooden kitchen table with a stainless steel mixing bowl filled with water, Jim was baptized into Christ.

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his” (Romans 6:3-5).

We have been through a difficult season in our country and our church. I'm not sure if we will ever completely understand the effects of the pandemic's stress on all of us. The pandemic laid bare racial inequities

and disparities in access to medical care, housing, employment and law enforcement. Civic discourse has become coarse and mean. Life is seen as a zero-sum game—if your side gets something then mine loses out.

This is also played out in the church. Of course there is room for debate and disagreement, there is room to call out one part of the church when it has hurt another. There is even room for justified anger. But there is no room to dissolve the [bond of baptism](#). It isn't even possible. In Christ we are individually members one of another. Sometimes we might feel like we are stuck with each other. This is the great mystery and beauty of the wounded body of Christ—we are woven together. Praise the One who makes us one.

Northeastern Minnesota Synod – ELCA Hires Joy Hensel for Mental Health and Wellness Ministries

(September 8, 2022) Northeastern Minnesota Synod welcomes Joy Hensel as Synod Minister for Mental Health and Wellness. She has worked with the Synod as a mental health program consultant in a grant-funded role since 2019 and brings over 20 years of experience in ministry, mental health and addiction to the Northeastern Minnesota Synod. For the full article go to nemnsynod.org.

October 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 8:30am Worship JAM (Fellowship Hall) 9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship	3	4 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 6pm Serenity Seekers	5 10am Office Staff Mtg 5:30pm 7 th -10 th Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm Making Sense of the Scripture Book Study	6 2pm Children, Youth, Family & Ed. Meeting	7 11am Bible Study	8
9 8:30am Worship Children's Message (Sanctuary) 9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship 3pm Interfaith Care Center Worship Service	10 Columbus Day Indigenous People's Day 8am Finnish Panukakku and Sausage Breakfast 5:30pm WELCA Bazaar Planning Meeting	11 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 6pm Serenity Seekers	12 10am Office Staff Mtg 5:30pm 7 th -10 th Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm Making Sense of the Scripture Book Study	13 1pm Jam Group 3:45pm Children, Youth, Family & Ed. Meeting	14 11am Bible Study	15 Beacon Deadline
16 Social Ministry ~Welcome Home Ranch 8:30am Worship J.A.M 9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship	17	18 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 4pm Worship Committee Meeting 5:30pm Council Meeting 6pm Serenity Seekers	19 10am Office Staff Mtg 6:30pm Making Sense of the Scripture Book Study	20 5:30pm Ladies of Kaleva	21 11am Bible Study	22
23 8:30am Worship Children's Message (Sanctuary) 9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship 30 8:30am Worship 9:45am Coffee/ Fellowship	24 31 Happy Halloween!	25 9am Making Mats for the Homeless 6pm Serenity Seekers	26 10am Office Staff Mtg 5:30pm 7 th -10 th Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm Making Sense of the Scripture Book Study	27 1pm Jam Group	28 11am Bible Study	29

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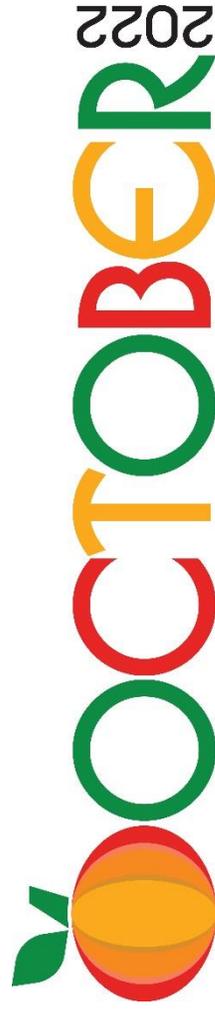
Sunday Worship

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.*



OCTOBER
2022