

BEFORE



**BUILDING
ON FAITH**

AFTER



October 2024

Volume 24 | Number 10

The Bethesda Star
Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the updated Bethesda Star Newsletter!

October comes with a bonus of change and the excitement of what's yet to come. I hope you will embrace the changes and enjoy the new format. We have so many things to be thankful for and be excited for. Fall is a favorite season of mine for so many reasons. Crisp fall mornings and evenings, football of all kinds, the colors, the start of fun decorating and smells, and don't forget the start of fall baking and the goodness that comes from learning a new recipe from a friend. We hope to see you here at church! We do have a lot going on!

*Blessings,
Karen*

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ANNOUNCEMENT!

The Bethesda Lutheran Church Council will hold a Special Congregational Meeting:

**Sunday, October 20
10:45 a.m.
Fellowship Hall**

The purpose of this meeting is to vote on changing Pastor Grant's call from his current 50% role with Bethesda Lutheran Church and 50% role with Table of Mercy to 100% position with Bethesda Lutheran Church in Moorhead, MN. This change, if approved, will take effect on January 1, 2025. This decision follows a meeting held in July, where it was shared that the 50% call for Table of Mercy will end after this year. Additionally, there will be time allotted for discussion about the next steps for Table of Mercy and how this change will impact the church's budget. A reminder postcard will be sent to all church members.

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**401 40th Avenue South
Moorhead, MN 56560
218.236.1420
www.bethesdamhd.org**

FROM THE PASTOR

Throughout October in our worship, we will encounter Gospel texts from Mark in which various people come to Jesus and ask him questions or ask him to do things for them.

Some pharisees come and ask Jesus a question about whether or not it is lawful for a man to divorce his wife. They ask this, presumably, to trick him or to expose him as a heretic. His response, "what did Moses command you?" is likely not satisfying for their end goal. But then he elaborates, "the reason Moses gave you this command is not because divorce is a flippant thing, or a desirable thing, but because your hearts are so hard!"

A man comes to Jesus, kneeling, and asks him "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus, looking at him and *loving* him, responds in a relatively orthodox way, "you know the commandments..." to which the rich man says, "Teacher, I have kept these since my youth." But Jesus goes on: "you lack one thing - sell all that you own and give the money to the poor." He walks away despondent.

James and John, disciples and sons of Zebedee, come and say to Jesus, "Teacher, we want you to do whatever

we ask of you." They then ask, "grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." "You don't know what you're asking for," Jesus responds. "Can you drink the cup that I drink?" What he means is "I am going to die, on a cross, killed by religious leaders conspiring with the Empire... do you *really* want that?"

Bartimeaus, a blind beggar, sitting on the side of the road outside of Jericho, hears that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by and shouts out twice, each time getting louder and causing more of a scene, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" He asks, "My Teacher, let me see again." And Jesus tells him, "Go; your faith has made you whole."

In each of these stories Jesus is "the teacher," the one who has knowledge and apparently power, who is known far and wide by religious leaders, political leaders, peasant fishermen, and beggars. All of them recognize that it is this one, Jesus, who has something that they need, something that they desire. I dare to say that what they see in Jesus is the very life of God shining forth, the Kingdom of God coming to be in and through him. (Continued)

That life draws them to Jesus. But only one, Bartimaeus, really gets what he's seeking. Wholeness.

The others, seeking superiority, seeking eternal life without letting go of that which binds them, seeking a place of honor rather than a place of servitude and humility, all walk away empty handed.

But Bartimaeus rises, eyes open, and *follows Jesus in the way*. He, this blind beggar, is the one who experiences new life, a place at the table, wisdom from God.

How unlikely! How topsy-turvy! How gracious, and merciful, and hopeful!

We all have questions, things we want or desire from Jesus.

The good news is that Jesus promises to love us, to be with us, and to provide what we really *need* for abundant life in Him. So, bring your questions to Jesus. And know that, even if the answer isn't what you expect, God's kingdom is near to you, and you are near to it.

Peace be yours,

Pr. Grant

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

October 6

For more information, contact Pr. Grant
at pastorgrant@bethesda.mhd.org

Church Council Notes: September

The Church Council met on 9/10/2024. Topics discussed included credit card use policy as we have changed bank and names on the credit cards. Terrie Wold will no longer be providing the video and the power point of the Sunday service. Activities at the church will be written on the new Google Calendar. Check with Karen to update all activities. Discussion about confirmation of 4 youth on 10/27. New members will be welcomed on 10/6. Going to set up a meeting with the BAS council.

WE NEED TO UPDATE OUR

PHOTO DIRECTORY

Come get your picture taken!

10/20 after worship (10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

10/23 from 5-7 p.m.

11/2 after worship (10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.)



MEMORIALS

In Memory of
Raymond Waechter

In Honor of
Gwen Erickson
Darlene Kalstrom
Maxine Allen
Lowell Swanson
Ron Gadberry
Myron Johnsrud
Bill Austin
Margie Branter

Given by
Arland & Willy Jacobson
Given by
Roger & Sue Reinhart
Eddie Bernhardson
Eddie Bernhardson
Eddie Bernhardson
Eddie Bernhardson
Eddie Bernhardson
Eddie Bernhardson
Eddie Bernhardson

Volunteer Opportunity Spotlight

Church Council

The leadership of the church is the duty of the Church Council. The Church Council meets one time a month (11 or 12 meetings a year) to discuss, plan and make decisions for how the church is run. The finances for the church are reviewed monthly and an annual budget is prepared. The council makes decisions on all bills under \$10,000. If there are bills over \$10,000 a Special Congregational meeting is called and a vote is needed. They review the actions of the pastor and all the committees and will approve or deny these actions. They are responsible for making sure that all actions of the church are according to the church bi-laws. The council is made up of 9 church members and 1 youth member of our congregation. Each council member serves as a liaison to a committee. Those committees are: Executive Committee, Stewardship, Worship and Music, Christian Education, Property, Evangelism, Outreach, Parish Life and Hospitality. Council members also serve as a liaison with Bethesda All Star, Evergreen Cemetery and the Church Foundation. The Church Council prides themselves on being transparent and keeping the congregation informed of our actions.

The Executive committee is part of the church council. It is made up of the president, vice president, secretary and treasurer of the council. The Executive Committee will meet monthly prior to the church council meeting. The Executive committee will review all issues that are to be discussed at the council meeting. From this the executive committee will create an agenda for the council meeting.

The Executive Committee also acts as a Personnel Committee. The personnel committee meets on an "as needed basis". The personnel committee will review all current employees and provide an annual review. The Personnel Committee will interview all potential hire and will make a recommendation to the Church Council for hiring. They are responsible for writing a job description that will entail all of the employee's job duties. If needed, the personnel committee will be responsible for making a recommendation to the Church Council about releasing someone from their contract.

President of the Council is responsible for leading the church council meetings.

Vice President of the Council is responsible for leading the church council meetings when the President is unavailable.

Secretary of the Council is responsible for taking minutes at all church council and special congregation meetings.

Treasurer of the Council is responsible for keeping the church finances and providing detailed expense reports of the church. The Treasurer works together with a professional accounting firm.

If you wish to put your talent to work for Bethesda, we'd love to have you volunteer to be a leader of a ministry!

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church						
2024 Bethesda Budget						
Aug-24						
(Church only)						
	MTD			YTD		
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	Actual	Budget	over Budget
Total Income	\$17,425	\$23,010	(\$5,585)	\$230,721	\$201,360	\$29,361
Total Expenses	\$29,326	\$25,090	\$4,236	\$234,837	\$196,476	\$38,361
Net Income	(\$11,901)	(\$2,080)	(\$9,821)	(\$4,116)	\$4,884	(\$9,000)



**Bethesda Lutheran Church
Blood Drive
December 11, 2024
3-7 p.m.**

We had so much success at our Lenten blood drive, we wanted to host another during Advent!

Sign up now for an appointment with the QR code or

Contact Mary Wenaas to schedule at 701-320-2007 or msandness007@hotmail.com



Out of the Darkness Walk - Bethesda Team

CHURCH HAPPENINGS -SAVE THE DATE-



OUTDOOR COOKOUT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 5-7:30 P.M.

CAMPFIRE & KICKBALL
HOT DOGS & SMORES PROVIDED
BRING A SALAD OR SIDE TO SHARE (& A LAWN CHAIR)
ALL ARE WELCOME

Women of the ELCA

FALL LUNCHEON

Conference 5
Saturday, October 12
Bethesda Lutheran Church

9:30 A.M. COFFEE & REGISTRATION
10 A.M. MEETING & PROGRAM

FEATURED SPEAKER: ANNA SATHER,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FARM IN THE DELL
OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY

LUNCH TO FOLLOW
SIGN UP IN THE OFFICE BY OCTOBER 8
COST: \$15 PER PERSON





HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW

includes raffle!
food & beverage available for purchase

funds supporting
Table of Mercy



Saturday
November 2
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bethesda Church
401 40th Ave. S
Moorhead

If you're interested in being a vendor or donating an item for the raffle, please contact Karén at 218.236.1420 or karenh@bethesdamhd.org

We are looking for more auction items for the Craft Show! If you have something to donate, please call the office or email Karen. All items need to be in the office by 10/18.

LIFE-ENRICHING COMMUNICATION

WITH JOEL WESTBY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9 @ 1:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23 @ 1:30 P.M.

COST OF BOOK IS \$10

...a way to connect with yourself & others by using true empathy, effectiveness & satisfaction



Volunteer Opportunity Highlight: Quilting

One of Bethesda's many volunteer experiences is joining the quilters. Every Tuesday starting at 1pm, Bethesda women gather to make quilts. This is a true generational project, in that, this year our BAS school-age students helped us with designing quilt tops. They made 20 tops with the help of their day care teacher, Clarine Nelson. Quilt tops come to us in several different ways. They are sometimes donated to the quilters when someone is not able to finish the quilt for some reason. We have a couple of people that will finish sewing the quilt top and prepare it for tying. We also have women that will take material home with them, cut the fabric and sew them into a new quilt top that is ready for assembling.

Many of the quilters meet every week and will choose the best flat bed sheet to accent the quilt top. We will add batting and will lay out the quilt top in preparation for tying and pinning. The quilters will tie knots that will adhere the quilt top to the batting to the quilt back. The quilters will then pin the edges to prepare it for the sewers. Sewing the border is completed last, but a few quilters do this either at church or at their home.

Each year the quilters complete 60 to 80 quilts, with half of them sent to the Lutheran World Relief project for distribution to families in need in foreign countries. The remaining quilts are shared with the homeless. They have also become quite the prize at the Vendor Fair and PRIDE in the park.

I want to emphasize to the newsletter readers that if you (men, women and children) have a Tuesday afternoon open and you want to gather with friends. Quilting at Bethesda means just tying and pinning. If you do want to sew, we will find a spot for you either at home or at church. Everyone has a skill that can help a person in need.

Bethesda Quilters



Pastor Grant stopped in Oklee to get backing for the quilters

**JOIN THE
QUILTERS
& PRAYER
SHAWL
MINISTRY**

QUILTING
KNITTING
CROCHETING

**TUESDAYS
1-4 P.M.**

AUGUST
THROUGH
MAY



“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10

What does abundant life look, feel, sound like to you?

Maybe abundant life means having the people you love and who support you actively involved in your life. Maybe it means living with empathy and compassion for your neighbors. Maybe it means living out of a place of love rather than fear.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to life abundant in Him by living the way of the cross, the way of being the Body of Christ in the world, the way of service and compassion for all people, the way of self-emptying love that seeks to be co-creators with God of peace and justice in this world.

Our Stewardship Campaign this year is all about Abundant Life! We'll focus in on three areas of abundant life here at Bethesda: community, compassion, and justice/love. During November, we'll even hear from several Bethesda members about their experiences of abundant life in Jesus that they've found in these areas of our life together.

We were absolutely blown away by the generosity of our congregation for the Building on Faith Capital Campaign. The overwhelmingly positive response challenged us all to live fully into this community of faith, Bethesda, and to trust one another deeply.

And now, a year later, we already see the fruits of our giving and our labor - new shingles, repaired rubber roof, beautiful and durable siding on our building that will prevent water leakage.

And not only the physical structure of our church building, but in our relationships with one another we are growing in trust and connection, especially in our new GiFT cross+generational faith formation on Sunday mornings. We're also ready to move into having a full-time pastor again, folding our ministry with folks experiencing homelessness and economic insecurity, Table of Mercy, into the outreach ministries of our congregation.

Abundant Life is springing up all around us here at Bethesda! And now, moving into 2025, we have the opportunity to step into another new season of ministry together that promises to be filled with abundance. You'll get lots more information in the coming weeks about our Stewardship Campaign, so keep your eyes open for mailings. Commitment Sunday will be November 24th, and we want each of you to be here to consecrate ourselves to God's mission among and through us.

Peace be yours, and life abundant!

Bethesda's Stewardship Team

Drew Robinson

Keith Phillips

Willy Jacobson

Kelli Anderson

Pr. Grant Vanderford



GENERATIONS IN FAITH TOGETHER

We're calling it GiFT!
Come experience our new
version of Sunday School!
All ages encouraged.

FELLOWSHIP HALL
AFTER WORSHIP



BETHESDA CHOIR

REHEARSALS ON
WEDNESDAYS AT 7 P.M.



Fall Preschool Openings!

4 Star Parent Aware Rated

- EXPERIENCED TEACHERS
- SMALL CLASS SIZE
- WEEKLY MUSIC PROGRAM
- EXPANSIVE OUTDOOR PLAYSPACE
- FULL DAY OR MORNING SCHOOL YEAR OPTIONS

Call today!



CONTACT US:

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401 40th Ave. South, Moorhead
Phone: 701-272-6637
Email:
kari.penas@bethesdaallstars.com

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be 3 years old
- Must be potty trained

OFFICERS

Marty Ohren..... President
Aaron Wenaas Vice President
Sharon Bungum Olson Secretary
Nancy Lund Treasurer

CHURCH STAFF

Pr. Grant Vanderford Pastor
Karen Henschke Admin. Assistant
Tyler Pyle Pianist
Sam Sadlowsky Choir Director
Tammy Costin Health Ministry
Billi Jo Townsend Financials

The Bethesda Star is an informative monthly newsletter made available to members and friends.

Deadline for inclusion in the November 2024 issue is October 22, 2024.

