



BETHESDA LUTHERAN

NEWSLETTER

May 2025

Volume 25 | Number 5

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Pastor Grant Vanderford

Namesake

John 5:2-3

2 Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Bethesda/Bethesda/Bethsaida, which has five porticoes. 3 In these lay many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people.

Romeo & Juliet, Act II Scene ii

What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other word would smell as sweet.
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called,
Retain that dear perfection which he owes
Without that title.

Weekly
AT BETHESDA

MONDAYS AT 10 A.M.
**LECTIONARY BIBLE
STUDY**

THIRD TUESDAY OF THE
MONTH AT 9:30 A.M.
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS AT 9 A.M.
QUILTING

WEDNESDAYS AT 7 P.M.
CHOIR REHEARSAL

From her bedroom balcony, looking out at the moonlit night, Juliet swoons over this street rascal, Romeo, a son of a rival family “in fair Verona,” and asks herself this poignant question: What’s in a name?

Her own response seems a form of self-assurance that this boy, Romeo, is different than his family’s reputation might predispose a casual observer to believe. “That which we call a rose by any other word would smell as sweet.”

There is a kernel of truth in her estimation, I believe – particularly, that a person is not merely, or solely, defined by their past or their family’s infamy.

But a name can also be a powerful sign, even a prophetic indicator for a person or an institution’s actions and, if you will allow me to dip into mythological terminology, their destiny.

Which brings me to this reference to John 5 where Jesus, coming to Jerusalem for “a festival of the Jews,” apparently enters the city from the “Sheep Gate,” and approaches a set of pools, cisterns of some kind, where there are “many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people” laying about. This pool is called, depending upon the manuscript set a Biblical translator is working from, Bethesda.

Specifically in John’s Gospel the word, the name for this pool, is referenced as being “in Hebrew/Aramaic,” which gives us an indicator for why this pool is called what it is. Beth or beit is “house,” and chesed is “mercy.”

This pool, where the ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed folks in Jerusalem have gathered is known as a “house of mercy.”

So, I ask you, Bethesda community, “what’s in a name?” Is our congregation’s name a description of who we have been in the past? Or is it a prophetic voice calling us into our future? Or might it be both?

Friends, the world is on fire around us with anger, hatred, violence, and harm. Families are strained to the breaking point. Stress, anxiety, loneliness, and isolation are epidemics in our country.

And here we are – “House of Mercy” – a place of healing and reconciliation right in the fray, in the midst of all the messiness of the world.

What we as a community of faith have to offer the wounded, beloved, beautiful world is precisely what Jesus brought with him for that man lying on his mat for thirty eight years, waiting to be helped into the waters of the Pool of Bethesda. Healing. Wholeness. Love. Mercy.

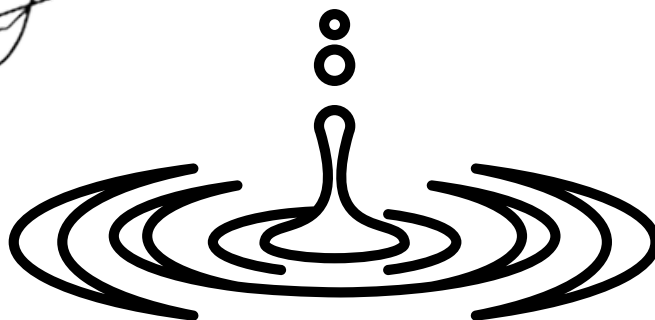
How might we be sent out to be pools of healing in the world?

What’s in a name? Perhaps more than we ever could have imagined.

Peace be yours,



Pr. Grant



Quilters: A Breath of Fresh Air

The quilters have been rejuvenated with the addition of four recent retirees, Sharon Olson, Cindy Casselton, Debra Fogel and Jane Johnson. A spark of new life is happening and so appreciated. In addition, we have been given a new Ulna sewing machine that Teresa Norwig's mother had purchased by never used. We had 3 old machines that did not work so we relied on one in fair condition and one on loan. Sharon Olson has learned about Orphan Grain Train based in Nebraska with a satellite office in Jamestown. They will refurbish these machines and send them overseas or give to people in need in the USA. This is the same agency that collects and distributes the pillowcase dresses that have been made by a few of our church members.

Sharon and Cindy are taking our 3 machines and any others that our church collects and the dresses to this agency. If you have any that you would like to donate, bring them to the church and place in the area across from the church office by May 15, 2025 for Sharon and Cindy to transport.

Thank you to the Norwig family for donating the new sewing machine and thanks to everyone that has donated fabric, sheets, pillow cases, thread and to the quilters for hours spent on these projects. This year we had additional help from the daycare as their summer project was to design fabric blocks into quilt tops. Their teacher, Clarine Nelson sewed the blocks together and the quilters finished them by adding the batting, tying, pinning and binding them all together.

Remember the quilting project for Lutheran World Relief with memorials and donations as there are costs, such as purchase of batting and shipping to this project. The quilters are always looking for new members to help. There are tasks for everyone, even if you don't sew. Join us on Wednesday from 9 to 12. We can always use the help.

bethesda lutheran

MUSIC MINISTRY FUNDRAISER CONCERT

**FEATURING THE BETHESDA CHOIR,
BETHESDA BELLS, TYLER PYLE + MORE!
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW**

*June 4
6:30 pm*

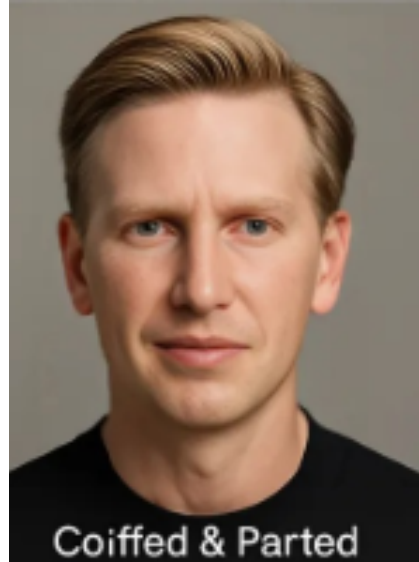
**MONEY RAISED WILL GO TO
HANDBELL REFURBISHMENTS,
ORGAN REPAIRS, + MUSIC PURCHASES**

**CONTACT SAM AT SAMSADLOWSKY@GMAIL.COM
IF YOU HAVE MUSIC TO SHARE OR WOULD BE
WILLING TO PROVIDE TREATS FOR THE RECEPTION!**



Bowl Cut

SCAN ME



Coiffed & Parted

Photos are AI generated from GoFundMe

Since moving to Moorhead and joining Bethesda in 2022 you have all only known me to have long hair - typically tied up tight, but occasionally hanging loose. That wasn't always the case! When Clair and I first met (over 18 years ago), my hair was short and trim. Then there were the years with the 'California look'. And in 2011 I decided to let it go long so that I could donate it. This month I will be cutting it off to donate for the fourth time to Wigs for Kids, and I want all of you to decide what haircut I end up with.

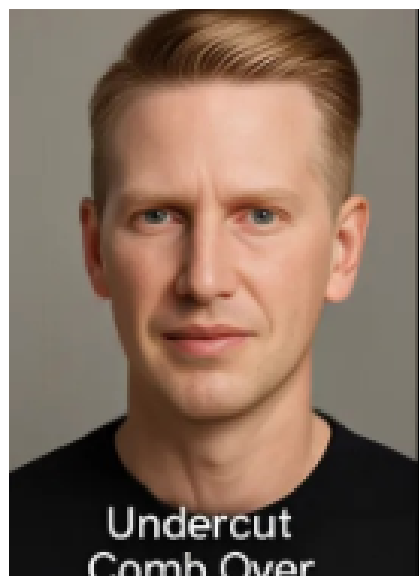
Should it be neat and trim like a responsible adult? A sleek comb over like the kids do these days? Or should I emulate Pr. Grant with my head shaved clean? Whichever way it goes, your donations will help kids who have experienced medical hair loss. Check out their website at wigsforkids.org, and follow this QR code to donate, and VOTE, on my Cut for a Cause! Thank you!



Shaved Clean



Flat Top



Undercut
Comb Over

CUT WITH A CAUSE

HOME

SHOP

check out
Bethesda's
clothing store



IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEE AN ITEM IN PERSON,
STOP BY PERSONAL TOUCH (2600 24TH AVE S, MOORHEAD)



DONATIONS NEEDED

- toothbrushes and toothpaste
- shampoo and conditioner
- body wash
- deodorant
- pads and tampons
- hand soap
- dish soap
- can openers
- toilet paper
- paper towels
- foods that are easy to make, such as ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, fruit cups, or anything canned with easy-to-open tops that don't require a can opener

*benefits youth in
our community!*





Bethesda's NEWEST OUTREACH MINISTRY!

**SUNDAY, MAY 4
COFFEE HOUR | FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

YW
youthworks

Hear from member
Matthew Benson-Tuff,
who is the Homeless Programs Manager
at Youthworks, about how Bethesda
can get involved!

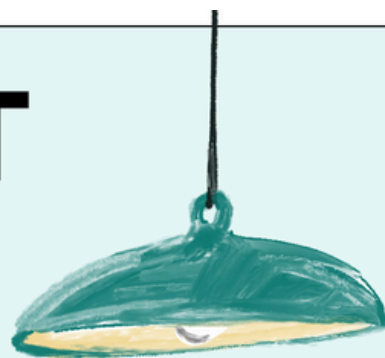
BE THE LIGHT LAMP DRIVE



Bethesda is taking lamp donations
with the following details:

- Suitable for living rooms or bedrooms
- New or gently used
- Light bulbs too!
- Bring to church between Sunday, April 27 and Sunday, May 25

Thanks to Becky Erickson for volunteering to store everything in her garage
during the collection period!



With Gratitude

As we come to the close of this Lenten season, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to all those who gave their time, talents and gifts to our church community during Lent.

You have served with open hearts and willing hands throughout these weeks of reflection, preparation, and anticipation. Whether you helped lead worship, shared your musical gifts, welcomed guests, prepared meals, set up for services, provided coloring pages and gifts for our children, decorated the sanctuary, or simply showed up faithfully in prayer and presence — your contributions have made this season meaningful and beautiful. You created spaces for worship, moments for community, and opportunities for deeper faith.

Thank you for your energy, your creativity, your quiet behind-the-scenes work, and your public leadership. Thank you for offering your time even when life was busy and for making sacrifices, both seen and unseen, that strengthened our church family. I am humbled and honored to serve alongside such a faithful and compassionate community.

With gratitude,

Kelli

Kelli Anderson



CLEAN UP

MAY 10 FROM 9A-12P

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

NOISY OFFERING

NEXT DATE: MAY 11

reconciling IN CHRIST

LEARN MORE: BETHESDAMHD.ORG/ABOUT

Bethesda Bells

rehearsals
Wednesdays
6-7 p.m.
April 30 - May 28





NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

MEETINGS ON **MAY 10 & 18**
AT 10:45 A.M. IN THE LOUNGE
WELCOME AT WORSHIP ON **SUNDAY, JUNE 1**





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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Email:

kari.penas@bethesdaallstars.com



REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be 3 years old
- Must be potty trained



CHURCH STAFF

Pr. Grant Vanderford
Olivia Kelly
Tyler Pyle
Sam Sadlowsky
Tammy Costin
Billi Jo Townsend

Pastor
Administrative Assistant
Pianist
Choir Director
Health Ministry
Financials

OFFICERS

Kelli Anderson
Aaron Wenaas
Drew Robinson
Nancy Lund

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

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