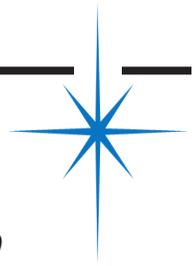


THE BETHESDA STAR



NOVEMBER 2022

VOLUME 22

NUMBER 10



Beloved Bethesda Congregation, greetings to you in the name of Jesus!

*During the month of November, I invite you to join me in prayer and discernment about the ministry and mission we are being called to in the year 2023. Our stewardship theme this year is **YES!***

*What is God calling us to say **YES!** to in our shared ministry and mission?*

*You can support Bethesda ministries **at this time, in this place:***

✝ through word & sacrament being Reconciling in Christ 

with Table of Mercy 

 By supporting the BAS program

during Sunday School & Confirmation 

 on the building & grounds with our children 

beside our neighbors 

 using our hands in song 

I invite you to examine your own financial giving as an active response to God's great gift of love. We are blessed by God to share in God's work, and that work is the mission of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ that welcomes all people to the table; the Gospel that continues to move us toward reconciliation and hope in the midst of division and despair; the Gospel that refuses to sit by and allow our neighbors to suffer injustice of any kind, but instead calls us to die to ourselves and to rise with Christ for the sake of our neighbor.

(continued on page two)

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401 - 40TH AVENUE SOUTH
 MOORHEAD MN 56560
 (218) 236-1420
www.bethesdamhd.org

FROM THE PASTOR (cont'd)

We think about our annual budget as a Mission Plan. Every dollar has a purpose for ministry. Our Mission Plan outlines our shared values, lifts up our priorities for ministry, and helps us stay focused on what God is calling us to be about.

As you know, inflation is significantly impacting our lives right now. The cost of everything from gasoline, groceries, housing, utilities, and more has gone up. The church is not immune from these increases.

We are anticipating the increase of operational expenses in 2023 to be nearly 14% (about \$37,000). While that number might seem daunting, I have no fears about the upcoming year. This congregation's faithful commitment to the work that the church is all about - ministering to God's people through thick and thin, and trusting that God is present with us - has been consistent throughout our history. We are a people who step out in faith and commit to being the Body of Christ here and now, no matter what.

If you have given in the past, thank you for your faithfulness and your partnership in ministry. I invite you to consider growing in your giving this year for the sake of God's ongoing mission in and through Bethesda.

If you have not given financially, I invite you to pray about how you might partner financially with your congregation and then to make a commitment. Every gift makes an impact, and any amount supports God's work in and through Bethesda. Together, we share responsibilities and the joys of being community. Together, we steward what is our shared mission: to be a place of healing and welcome for all!

To help us plan for our future ministry and mission, a **financial commitment card** is enclosed. It might seem like a simple thing to do, filling out a card for your church, but this simple act impacts

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

It is composed at Bethesda Lutheran Church, 401 - 40th Avenue South, Moorhead MN.

The editor is Roxanne West.

Deadline for inclusion in the December issue is November 23, 2022.



KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED:

Joyce Swenson
Briana Moore

Joan Kopperud
Russ Hanson

**PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH
(218) 236-1420**

*in the event of any hospitalization,
a death or birth, so we are made aware
of your needs.*

the mission and ministry we share in significant ways.

I invite you to fill it out and bring it to worship on Sunday, November 20, 2022. We will have a time of offering our pledges in worship as well as a celebration of our shared life together after worship with coffee and apple crisp! You may also return your financial commitment card by dropping it off or mailing it to the church office at any time.

You will also find information regarding **automatic giving through SimplyGiving**. You can fill out the enclosed form and return it to the church office, or you can call Roxanne at 218-236-1420 and she can walk you through the process. It really is a simple and straightforward way to participate in giving at Bethesda, and the consistency of automatic giving assists us as we steward our budget throughout the year.

Also, please pray about and consider giving to Bethesda in your **year-end giving**. As we wrap up 2022 any gifts, offerings, end of year pledge fulfillments, or financial bequests are more than welcome.

We will have a preliminary budget available for you to look at in December, and if you have any questions or would like to talk to someone please feel free to contact me or our Treasurer, Nancy Lund.

May God bless you as we partner together in ministry and mission in 2023.

Your Co-Worker in God's Unfolding Mission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Dan".

FROM THE PRESIDENT

My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. As a child, my family of five at that time would drive from Chicago to Alliance, Ohio to my Dad's family on Wednesday. My Mom's family lived in Georgia and Florida so too far. Grandma would meet us at the door usually after midnight. "Come in! Come in! Are you hungry?" My Mom or Dad would reply, "No, we're just tired and need to go to bed." A large and delicious meal was soon to be shared. Aunt Winnie, my Dad's only sibling would host us and Uncle Frank's family. There were at least twelve at the table. White tablecloth, spiced peaches in a crystal compote, beet pickles & eggs in another one besides the turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, and pumpkin pie for dessert. A feast, with conversation, sometimes heated, but family and belonging.



I have a similar sense of family and belonging at Bethesda though we have only been members since February of 2014. Caring and accepting greetings, a thanksgiving meal, Eucharist, every Sunday and meaningful worship, music and discussion that nurtures and strengthens me to meet life's challenges. I hope it does the same for you, also.

I'm glad that Thanksgiving is in November. It is good to ponder and be reminded of one's many blessings when the world seems so troubled, chaotic,

and at odds with one another. It is good to be reminded of one's many blessings when it is budget time, deciding what is needed, how it is possible, and how we might achieve it. How will Bethesda proclaim the unconditional love for all through Christ here and now in the upcoming year, 2023? Christ's unconditional love that heals and calls each of us at this time and in this place to give what we can of ourselves, our time, our gifts, and our financial support for the mission and ministry of Bethesda.

Our stewardship drive is entitled **Yes!** More information is in this newsletter and is coming personally to you on November 6th and after. So in the meantime, please think about, pray and ponder how you will say **Yes!** to Bethesda's important mission and ministry since 1880.



One last request: Be sure to get some raffle tickets and check out the items for the raffle at the Craft and Vendor Fair on November 12th. Eat lunch, and shop at the vendors' booths. Table of Mercy will receive all proceeds from the raffle tickets, lunch, and the vendors' fee is donated also. Let's partner and support Pastor Grant in this mission development for our homeless and economically challenged neighbors.

With Gratitude, Hope, and Joy for your Partnership,
Sue Reinhart, President

Want to make a difference?

Give generously during Give to the Max 2022 and help us fund the important work that Table of Mercy does to help make our community stronger.

Thank you!



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Fall is in full swing with Confirmation and Sunday School started and we're finding our groove!

Confirmation is meeting Wednesday evenings to learn more about what it means to be Lutheran and look into Luther and his Small Catechism. We are an inquisitive group and the curriculum we're using this year encourages that by asking us lots of questions. It is designed to be silly and the right amount of confusing to get us thinking and talking on the topics. At the end of October, we had our first Food and Fellowship Night to eat together and play some games. I am looking forward to settling into our confirmation routine and continuing to get to know each other as a group.



Part of our confirmation program is to work with a mentor during the years the students are in class. I ask that students complete service projects with their mentor and provide some questions for the student to ask the mentor to get to know each other a bit. My hope is for our young people to know there are adults in our community that care for them. If you would be interested in walking alongside one of our youth as a mentor, please let me know. I am hoping to collect a list of people that our youth could reach out to if needed, who are excited to join them in faith during their confirmation years and beyond.

* * * *



Sunday School is also off to a great start. All kiddos age 3 through 6th grade are welcome to join us after church. We eat our donuts, read a story, do a craft, play a game, and maybe sing a song, depending on time. Time

flies by! Our story generally connects to one of the scripture readings from worship that day. I have been working on updating our Worship Bags which are available for kids to use during worship. These are colorful fabric bags hanging in the narthex near the entry to the sanctuary. My hope is to have a new coloring page or activity sheet each week that matches some part of worship, either a scripture reading or a song somehow. I also plan to add and rotate through other items they can use, connected to worship. Take a look at the bags and see if your little one may enjoy using that during worship. Also, let me know what types of items may be useful to add to our Worship Bags.

I am thankful for our Bethesda Family and all we have going on in our community!

Jessica Berndt

Dear Bethesda,

It was so kind of you to send a \$50 honorarium for the presentation I did for you in October. Thank you so much for your unexpected generosity ~ I certainly didn't expect anything.

I enjoyed sharing my passion for educating and supporting the memory loss community. Thank you for your interest and support.

Warmly, Deb Kaul

THANK
YOU

*Dear Bethesda Lutheran Church,
We are so grateful for your gift to Churches United!
Your thoughtful support helps us be here for every neighbor, and
gifts like yours make a true impact. In 2021, we provided safe
shelter to over 1,250 people, with more than 270 being children.
Thank you for your generosity! Warmly, churches United*

STEWARDSHIP

Dear Siblings in Christ,

In the course of year-end tax planning, you may find yourself considering special one-time donations in 2022. There is a growing trend among donors to make online contributions to their favorite organizations during the final weeks of the year. As you contemplate year-end gifts, please keep Bethesda in mind. Bethesda could use your financial support specifically in a couple areas:

Table of Mercy – \$25,000 of contributions from Bethesda and partner churches are needed this year, and to-date contributions total only \$10,000, leaving a revenue shortfall of \$15,000. Table of Mercy reaches out to those who struggle with housing security.



Forward50 – although we're still in the bidding process for Forward50, we know the construction costs will be well above our original estimate of \$113,000.

Forward50 strives to continue our proclamation of God's love for all by taking care of our building, which houses our congregation and Bethesda All Stars, our preschool and childcare ministry.

We welcome your donations for these or other ministries of Bethesda. Gifts may be given through the online giving page on Bethesda's website www.bethesdamhd.org, donating during worship, mailing or dropping off a check in the office.

Sincerely,
Stewardship Committee



ORGAN RECITAL

The 2022-2023 season of the Bethesda Music Series is presented in loving memory of Dewey & Margery Possehl

The afternoon organ recital will be followed by a brief liturgy of evening prayer.

Cantor Dillon J. Swanson

Sunday, November 20

4:00pm

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church

2022 Bethesda Budget

SEPTEMBER 2022

(Church only)

	MTD			YTD		
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	Actual	Budget	over Budget
Total Income	\$18,104	\$21,618	(\$3,514)	\$194,499	\$194,562	(\$63)
Total Expenses	\$23,434	\$22,318	\$1,116	\$225,240	\$200,862	\$24,378
Net Income	(\$ 5,330)	(\$700)	(\$ 4,630)	(\$30,741)	(\$6,300)	(\$24,441)

THE RECIPE CORNER



MEXICAN CHICKEN STEW

Submitted by Nancy Lund

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Tablespoon Olive Oil 1 pound boneless, skinless Chicken Breast, cut into cubes 1 cup Chicken Broth 1 can (4 oz.) chopped Green Chilies 1-1/2 teaspoons California Style Blend Garlic Powder 1-1/2 teaspoons Ground Cumin 1 teaspoon Oregano Leaves | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 teaspoon Chili Powder 1/2 teaspoon Home Style™ Seasoned Salt 1 can (15 oz) red Kidney Beans, undrained 1 can (15 oz.) Black Beans, drained and rinsed 1 can (16 oz.) Whole Kernel Corn, drained 1/2 cup sliced Green Onion |
|--|---|

Heat oil in large skillet over medium - high heat. Add chicken and cook 5 minutes, stirring often. Remove chicken and set aside.

Add remaining ingredients except onion to skillet; mix well. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to medium and cook 10 minutes.

Stir in cooked chicken and onion; Simmer 5 - 10 minutes.

Makes 6 servings.



Excellent served with corn muffins.

FROM THE CANTOR

As this church year comes to an end and we prepare for the new year, there is so much to be thankful for. I reflect on our musical and liturgical journey together and see so much wonderful memories that I continue to cherish as we move to the year's end. I would like to just take the opportunity to share a few of those things with you now.

Thinking back to last Advent, we had the opportunity to worship on Wednesdays with Holden Evening Prayer in three different ways. Once with piano and cantor, once with piano and guitar led by Mary and Don Rice, and once with Deb Fogel's ensemble, Borderline Strings. This was a renewing experience to sing and hear a very familiar setting of the evening prayer liturgy reimagined in a variety of ways. Then at the end of Advent, we gathered for a service of healing and prayer for the longest night with music led again by the Borderline Strings. We sang six new hymn settings commissioned for the event and this ensemble. This was an incredibly beautiful service and I very much look forward to it again this Advent.

Our first Christmas together was indeed a 'holy night.' I will forever remember the sound of our mighty Bethesda voices singing the final stanza of "Silent Night" unaccompanied with the warm glow of candlelight. Our Christmas season then concluded with an Epiphany Hymn Festival celebrating major themes of the season to follow and the life and work of Susan Palo Cherwien. Then after an unexpected re-occurrence of COVID-19, we were able to return to the flow of things in time for Lent.



Our Lent and Paschal Triduum seasons were holy moments of meditation and worshipful music. Our weekly Holden Prayer Around the Cross liturgies on Wednesday evenings were some of the most powerful moments I will remember. The meditative chanting of simple melodies over evocative texts in candlelight around the cross provide a sense of strength and comfort I was not expecting personally. It was balm for weary and uncertain times with the invasion of Ukraine and other acts of violence swarming the world. We were delighted to welcome the Concordia Chapel Choir to sing as a part of one Wednesday liturgies and many of the students left with the same impression. At Easter we celebrated with brass and choir using music that was composed to celebrate the lives of our beloved Margery and Dewey Possehl. Hymn settings featuring brass and special choir parts to acknowledge their vocational work in our community as church musicians.

Our journey continued into the summer with a rather windy Pentecost celebration on the front lawn

by the peace poles and onward into music camp.

Music Camp began as a dream and the reality was bigger than my dream could've every imagined. Our beloved Bethesda home welcomed in over 70 children to learn about music in a sacred and fun-filled environment. The 4-day camp week culminated in a program celebrating creation care and a picnic supper. I am happy to share that this ministry will continue next summer in July 2023.



And now, we are almost back where we started on the calendar year, November. This fall we've welcomed our new ministries of the Bethesda Music Academy, Sacred Music Scholars, and the Bethesda Music Series sharing in the music education of our local young people and bringing exceptional music concerts to our own neighborhood. In one year's time, this is good work Bethesda has done just in song. I give thanks for each and every one of you, our music making together, and our shared support and love for the art of music.

A couple of upcoming things to note; the fall portion of the Bethesda Music Series will conclude with an Organ Recital and Evening Prayer on Sunday, November 20th at 4:00pm and the following week our Advent Procession with Lessons and Carols on November 27th at 4:00pm. You really don't want to miss the Advent Procession. This wonderful program is based on the "O Antiphons," an ancient set of texts that later inspired the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." This program will be led by the Bethesda Choir and Bethesda Carillon Ringers.

Happy "Feasting" Season!

Cantor Dillon Swanson

~ MEMORIALS ~

In Memory of:	From:
KRIS MONTIS — Table of Mercy	Family and Friends
ERMA KREIN — Building Fund	John and Kimberley Krein
TERRY NOKKEN, BOB KNUTSON, RAY STOLA, MIKE SMYLLIE, MIKE ERICKSON, MARK BRATLIE, DEWEY POSSEHL, ELROY FOLSTAD, BRIAN JACOBSON, BETTY LEISETH — Projection System	Eddie and Barb Bernhardson

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Present: Susan Reinhart, Rev. Grant Vanderford, Chris Carlson, Theo Baspaly, Connor Henschke, youth representative, Mary Wallum, Nancy Lund, Jay Johnson and Carol Hamilton, Absent: Marty Ohren.

Devotions by Rev. Mary Wallum.

President Susan Reinhart called the meeting to order.

Secretary's report (Minutes) for September. Corrections for August include revision of attendees, as Mary Wallum and Jay Johnson were absent. Motion to approve, minutes passed.

Treasurer's report by Nancy. We continue to run behind in income. We are currently \$31,000 behind budget, much can be attributed to lack of funding received for Table of Mercy. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Sue updated us on the custodian search. We have hired Garner Moe. We await his background check, necessary for working near children. The meeting with BAS was cancelled. Nancy is working with BAS to step up contribution to utilities to have a 30% share of responsibility, and an increase in contribution for custodial work. Nancy will present spreadsheets for BAS to review, and the two board executive councils will meet in November.

Nancy and Pastor Grant discussed grants for an air conditioner for BAS, and a hydration station. Nancy is

spearheading efforts to apply and be approved for these grants.

Pastor Grant summarized his written report provided to the council. Carol asked Pastor what he has learned and appreciated from the various synod trainings. Pastor reeled off four items about which he was enthusiastic and excited.

The council will collect money and a gift card for the vendor fair raffle. The raffle winner will receive a gift card and a donation in their name to Table of Mercy.

Discussion regarding displaying quilts.

Theo presented on Forward Fifty. The campaign has begun. November 2, we will gather before choir rehearsal to pack bags for delivery of YES Fall Stewardship packages delivered to members' homes starting on November 6.

Nancy mentioned that we have so far collected \$7,500 for Forward Fifty, and we have currently spent \$12,000 with the payment to YHS for specs and services. Discussion regarding opportunities to present the campaign and the intention of the Forward Fifty project soon.

Reports for the next council meeting are due by November 8. Our next meeting will be Nov. 15th.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.



Advent Procession

with Lessons & Carols

Sunday, November 27
4:00pm

*The 2022-2023 season of the Bethesda
Music Series is presented in loving
memory of Dewey & Margery Possehl*

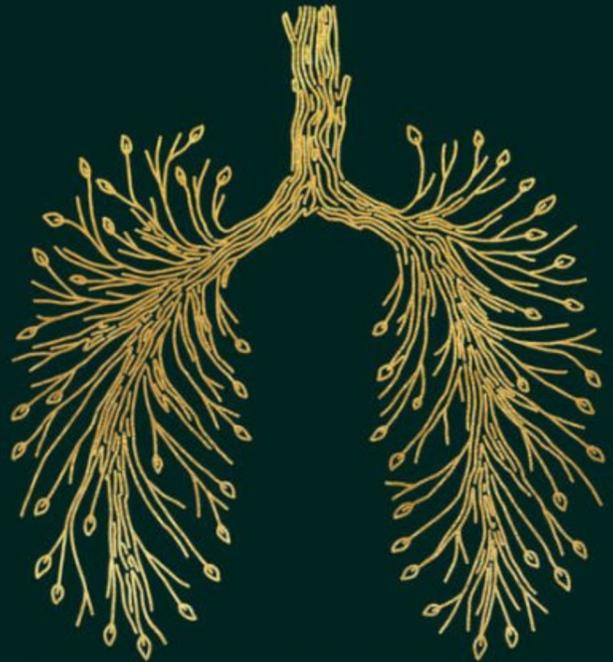


READING RELIGIOUSLY

Wednesday,
November 30th
@ Noon

Bring a brown
bag lunch!

This Here Flesh



Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us

Cole Arthur Riley

CREATOR OF BLACK LITURGIES

*I wait for the LORD,
my soul does wait, and in
his word do I hope.*

- Psalm 130:5



MONEY COUNTERS ARE NEEDED!



A team of two is needed to join our three existing teams in counting offering each week. Each team counts once a month.

Member giving has reduced the weekly time requirement to between 30-60 minutes. If you have some basic Excel skills, we need your assistance!

Please consider counting once a month.

Thank you!

Please contact Roxanne or Nancy Lund.



~ BOARD OF DIRECTORS ~

The Bethesda All Stars Board of Directors is looking for new members starting in 2023.

Board terms are for 2 years, but can be renewed up to 3 terms. We are looking for people passionate about children and making our child care center the best that it can be!

Skill sets that are helpful to have include: someone good with numbers/accounting, technology, action and service minded individuals, and problem solvers. We meet monthly, but only when board action needed; a minimum of 6 times a year. If this is you or someone you know, please have them contact me at:

kari.penas@bethesdaallstars.com.



Bethesda Music Series

SUNDAYS AT 4PM

November 20th - Organ Recital
Cantor Dillon Swanson
followed by evening prayer

November 27th - Advent Procession with
Lessons and Carols



Get ready for a

FALL CRAFT & VENDOR BLENDER AT BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH

401 40th Ave South, Moorhead, MN

November 12th
10am-4pm

Raffle and Quilt Raffle Available!

Raising Funds for Table of Mercy

Come join us for a day of fun

And shopping!

Food and beverages served in the
Kitchen. All are Welcome!



CHURCH STAFF

Pr. Grant Vanderford Pastor
Roxanne West Office Manager
Jessica Berndt Youth Connections
Dillon Swanson Cantor
Tammy Costin Health Ministry
Billi Jo Townsend Financials

OFFICERS

Susan Reinhart President
Mary Wallum Vice President
Chris Carlson Secretary
Nancy Lund Treasurer

WORSHIP SCHEDULE for November

November 6 — 9:30 AM Eucharist
10:30 Fellowship; 10:45 Sunday School

November 13 — 9:30 AM Eucharist
10:30 Fellowship; 10:45 Sunday School

November 20 — 9:30 AM Eucharist
10:30 Fellowship; 10:45 Sunday School

~ No Thanksgiving Eve Service ~

November 27 — 9:30 AM Eucharist
10:30 Fellowship; 10:45 Sunday School
4:00 pm Advent Procession



A flyer for 'Table of Mercy Laundry with Love'. The background is yellow with various hand icons in blue, green, and pink. At the top left is a circular logo with 'TABLE OF Mercy' and a cross. In the center is a dark circle containing a white washing machine icon with a heart inside, and the text 'LAUNDRY with LOVE'. Below this, it says 'FREE - ALL ARE WELCOME!' followed by a list of services: '- 2 loads of laundry per household (washed & dried)', '- hearty meal', and '- conversation, prayer, activities for kids'. The date and time are listed in blue rounded rectangles: 'NOVEMBER 26', '3 TO 6 P.M.', and 'East 10 Laundry'. The address is '3318 HIGHWAY 10 EAST, MOORHEAD' and the website is 'WWW.TABLEOFMERCYMHD.ORG'.

TABLE OF Mercy

LAUNDRY with LOVE

FREE - ALL ARE WELCOME!

- 2 loads of laundry per household (washed & dried)
- hearty meal
- conversation, prayer, activities for kids

NOVEMBER 26

3 TO 6 P.M.

East 10 Laundry

3318 HIGHWAY 10 EAST, MOORHEAD

WWW.TABLEOFMERCYMHD.ORG



A vertical banner with a sunset background. The text is in a brown, serif font. At the bottom, the text 'Hosea 6:3' is written in a bold, black, serif font.

Let us press on
to know Him
and He will
respond to us
as surely as the
coming of dawn.

Hosea 6:3