

April Bell Echoes

Bethesda Lutheran Church



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00am *Traditional Worship Service*
10:00am *Sunday School*
10:30am *Contemporary Worship Service*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, April 1st

EASTER SUNDAY

9:00am and 10:30am *Worship Service*

9:30-10:30am *Easter Brunch*

Friday, April 6th

6:00pm—*Guatemala Gala—Southview Country Club*

Monday, April 9th

6:00pm—*ILAG Update*

Saturday, April 14th

9:00am—*Women's Prayer Breakfast-TimberLodge*

From Pastor Maggie-

April showers bring May flowers! I don't know about you but I am itching to get into my garden. The spring flower catalogues are arriving daily and Gertens, Lilydale and Highland Garden centers are calling my name. I can hardly wait to get my hands in the dirt and let Gods creation do its work.

One of the reasons I love gardening is I have always had fun playing in the dirt but the real reason is I love the cooperation between me and Gods creation. God set everything in motion and then gives us the opportunity to create things together. Every year I am amazed and surprised at how beautiful my garden turns out. Think about it; a gardener digs a hole, puts in some seeds that look dead, covers the seeds with soil, waters and then mostly waits to see what will happen. Certainly there is a little more to it than that but not much. You can bet that a beautiful garden has a patient gardener who is ok with mystery.

Even when seeds germinate and pop through the soil there is no guarantee that they will thrive and abundantly produce. There is always mystery involved. This is also true with our faith growth. We can plant; read our bible, pray, do daily devotions, worship and have faith discussions with others but there are no guarantees that those acts will make us *feel* closer to God. A relationship with a transcendent God will always be somewhat mysterious for God is mystery as well known. So are you alright with that notion or does that make you just a tad bit uncomfortable? The truth is God in all of God's mystery holds on tight to us no matter what we are feeling. God's love for us is as solid the ground beneath our feet.

Prayer exercise:

What you will need: package of sunflower seeds, dirt, flower pot or plastic cup with drain holes.
(The dollar store as all you need)

Ask God to be present and help you to focus on what God has to say to you.

Take out one of the seeds and hold it in your hand.

How does this seed remind you of what you are going through at this time of your life?

What do you want God to germinate in you?

What do you need to help you grow into what you and God desire for your life at this time?

Plant the seed, water and thank God for the growth that will be unseen and seen in your life.

Watch for the seed to sprout and grow and thank God for God's mysterious working in your life.



Bethesda Missions

ILAG Guatemalan Mission
Neighbor's Inc.
Feed My Starving Children
Mission Trip Scholarship Fund

Mission Focus for April

ILAG – Iglesia Luterana Augustina de Guatemala

Since its founding in 1991, the Iglesia Luterana Augustina de Guatemala (ILAG) has always been about ministering to people living in the margins of Guatemalan society, particularly the indigenous poor. From the lowlands of Petén in the north to the ravines of Guatemala City, the ILAG works to make God's grace known to all. Currently, the Lutheran church in Guatemala has more than 2,000 members in 17 congregations. The church also operates an elementary school, Colegio Luterano Agustino de El Mirador, in Guatemala City, serving 100 students.

Since formalizing a companion partnership in 2005, the Saint Paul Area Synod and the Iglesia Luterana Augustina de Guatemala have been walking together to learn more about what it means to be Lutheran in our global church.

Guatemala Gala- April 6th

Join us for the 4th Annual Guatemala Gala at 6:00 pm at Southview Country Club
\$75.00 per person (\$15 deductible)

All proceeds go to the Guatemala Women's Center. Donations will go to expansion of the building of a center for 10 women and for ongoing support.

For more ticket information see Cheryl Hilber.

Bethesda Parking Lot Picnic Party

Mark your calendar and invite a friend to church for our Parking Lot Picnic Party on the evening of **Wednesday, May 23rd**! Please consider joining us on April 5th at 6:30pm as we plan this fun, community outreach event!

Watch for complete details to follow!

NEIGHBORS MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE

Last year 5,940 families visited Neighbors Food Shelf and 666,287 pounds of food were distributed. Neighbor's Inc. finished second in the state in Minnesota Food Share last year. **Will you help stock the shelves? We have only a little bit more time to stock the shelves and be a part of this year's Minnesota Food Share Drive. Bring food items or a check to Bethesda before April 8th.**

Food For Friends

Meals are available in the Caring Corner in the library (freezer and cupboard). Do you know of a need?



"WALK IN LOVE, AS CHRIST HAS LOVED US" Ephesians 5:2

GREETINGS WOMEN OF BETHESDA

Greetings,

February was such a faith filled month. We served the first Lenten dinner and made over 500.00 dollars which will be used to support the Women's Center in Guatemala. Thank you everyone for the sloppy joes, chips, bars, and everything else you brought and did to make another meal happen at Bethesda. The Refresh and Renew event brought 64 amazing women together for a "faith lift". Penny, the motivational Christian comedian, inspired us all with her God given spirit to definitely give us the lift the we needed.

Nancy Todd & Dianna Houska

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring event:

Saturday April 14th Spring Awakening Breakfast 9:00 - 11:00 am at Timber Hills Lodge. The menu will be: Cinnamon rolls, scrambled eggs, sausage, breakfast potatoes, mandarin oranges, juice, and coffee. Tickets are available to purchase now for \$9.50.

St. Paul Area Synod Events:

Spring Convention @ Christ Lutheran Church, Lake Elmo. May 4 & 5. Information is posted on the bulletin board about the material offering and a silent auction gardening basket.

Coffee BREAK!

Fair Trade Coffee is ordered by the Women of Bethesda and is used on Sunday mornings as well as all other Bethesda events. If you would like to purchase some coffee it is available in the lounge.

Contact Information

Dianna Houska 651-493-0129 dianna.houska@gmail.com
Nancy Todd 651-455-2982 nancytodd19@yahoo.com
Womenofbethesda@gmail.com



REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

Wednesday Bible study
9:30-11:00 am.

We will be starting a new Bible study on March 28 which will go through May 23rd. We will be studying "Philippians: Jesus Our Joy". All are welcome.

Contact Sharon Stanefski to join this group or just show up!

Book Club
We will meet on Tue.
April 10th @ 6:30 pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Spring Event
April 14th

Spring Convention
May 4 & 5

Watch your e-mails for future events



Women's Ministry Board Members

Co presidents:

Dianna Houska & Nancy Todd

Co-vice presidents:

Jane Walker
Renee Deshane

Secretary

Naomi Dorau

Treasurer

Jennifer Tiedman

Bulletin board design:

Naomi Dorau
Sharon Stanefski

Boutique spaces:

Lynette Thorson

Cookies for Shut-ins:

Dawn Sargent
Danielle Courselle

Additional Advisors:

Marsha Morgan
Sally Muraski

Bell Echoes Editor:

Pattie Rooney

ReFresh & ReNew Chairs:

Cheryl Hilber
Robin Ross
Sharon Stanefski

APRIL 2018

Youth News



VFW Taco Feed/Meat Raffle

On Saturday, April 7th, we are having a VFW Taco Feed and Meat Raffle fundraiser for our youth who are attending the Mission Trip and Wapo Bible Camp. We need youth and adult volunteers to help. The fundraiser runs from Noon-4 pm and there will be two Adult shifts, 11:30-2 and 2- 4:30. People interested can talk to Jacob or Kim.

Dates to Remember:

- ◆ *April 7th*
VFW Tacos/
Meat Raffle
- ◆ *April—Gerten's*
Card sales begin
- ◆ *July 7th-14th*
Youth Mission
Trip
- ◆ *July 22-27 Youth*
Bible Camp
- ◆ *August 2018*
Relay For Life

Sky Zone

On April 29th after church we are going to Sky Zone to jump on some trampolines. We need you to be signed up for this outing and paid by April 8th so that we can make our reservation. The cost is \$10 for Bethesda members and \$16 for friends. This is for 4th-12th graders.

Avenger Infinity War Movie

On Saturday May 20th the 9th through 12th graders will be going to see the Avenger Infinity War movie after church. It's free for Bethesda members and \$5 for friends. It will be at the Woodbury 10 theater. Bring money if you would like to purchase snacks.

Wooddale Fun Zone - Skating

On Saturday May 12th, the 4th - 12th graders will be going skating at the Wooddale Fun Zone. There will be FREE Pizza at this event. Bring money for other snacks. This outing is \$10 for Bethesda members and \$13 for friends. We will meet at 6:30 pm at church.

Gerten's Gift Cards

How are your gardens coming along?
Need more plants?

The youth will be selling Gerten's Gift cards in the Narthex on April 22nd, May 6th and May 15th. Feel free to reach out to any of the youth or see Kim Burress if these dates don't work for you.

They are available in increments of \$25, \$50, & \$100. Gift cards will be available until the beginning of June.

Contact the youth team with any questions!

Jacob Backman: jacob.backman@comcast.net
Kim Burress: kburress@msn.com or 651-457-7080 or 651-260-3922



Sunday School Schedule

April 1st-No Sunday School-Easter

April 8th-Sunday School

April 15th-Sunday School

April 22nd-Sunday School

April 29th-Sunday School

Don't forget about the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 31st from 10 am to 11 am. If you would like to help or donate snacks or prize items please sign up on the Sunday School Bulletin Board or contact Mindie.

Mindie Schussler

Sunday School Coordinator

612-875-6622

mindie.schussler@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

February, 2018

Report explanation: This report is split into three sections. The largest section on the left lists the month end balances for all funds, including the general fund. The top section on the right is the Statement of Activities report that shows the income and expense activity for the general fund categories. The bottom box on the right lists the liabilities, currently consisting of the monthly payroll withholding, the renovation mortgage balance and the Tax Assessment loan with the Thoring Fund.

Please contact Gary Johnson with any questions.

| All Funds | Balance |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| General Fund | (\$12,245.06) |
| Capital | 26,555.03 |
| Mortgage Reduction | 4,834.69 |
| Sunday School | 682.37 |
| Altar Flowers Fund In/Out | 0.00 |
| Dedicated Memorial | 3,185.00 |
| Undedicated Memorial | 0.00 |
| Garden Party | 148.56 |
| Special Appeals In/Out | 0.00 |
| Wedding | 140.00 |
| Vacation Bible School | 0.00 |
| Contemporary Choir | 855.00 |
| Bethesda Resource Center | 584.74 |
| Bible Fund | 200.00 |
| Choir | 1,360.88 |
| Youth Mission Trip | 1,282.37 |
| Youth Faith Based Activities | 1,936.30 |
| Youth Camp Travel Fund | 748.09 |
| Timmy Autey Camp Scholarship | 2,721.13 |
| Christian Care Fund | 0.00 |
| Men's Club | 54.00 |
| Parish Nurse | 692.00 |
| Smores (Outreach) | 3,033.77 |
| Financial University Fund | 201.96 |
| Paul & Agnes Thoring Endowed Fund | 65,451.39 |
| Missions | 1,693.75 |
| Tech Team | 525.62 |
| Mission Trip Scholarship - ILAG | 3,128.32 |
| Mission Trip Scholarship - Youth | 2,650.88 |
| Sidewalk Fund | 423.88 |
| New Sign Fund | 6,446.00 |
| Lenten Supper | 349.00 |
| Total All Funds | \$ 117,639.67 |

| Statement of Activities | February | Year-To-Date |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Income: | | |
| Envelopes | \$ 12,935.39 | \$ 32,381.78 |
| Loose | 230.00 | 385.00 |
| Adopt-A-Bill | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| Other General Fund | 21.69 | 442.26 |
| Thrivent Dollars | 0.00 | 162.00 |
| Preschool Rent | 1,163.50 | 2,327.00 |
| Fund Raisers | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Coffee Fund | 83.00 | 206.12 |
| Total General Fund Income: | \$ 14,583.58 | \$ 36,054.16 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Salary Expense | \$ 12,411.57 | \$ 25,390.79 |
| Non-Salary General & Administrative | 852.65 | 1,341.06 |
| Property | 8,143.06 | 11,919.76 |
| Worship And Music | 116.38 | 162.56 |
| Education | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Youth | 165.00 | 394.86 |
| Smores | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Stewardship | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| ELCA Mission Support | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Camp Wapogasset | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total General Fund Expenses: | \$ 21,688.66 | \$ 39,209.03 |

| Liabilities | Balance |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Payroll Withholding | \$ 1,858.42 |
| Thrivent Financial Mortgage | 422,668.68 |
| Thoring Loan (Tax Assessment) | 10,288.00 |
| Total Liabilities | \$ 434,815.10 |

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Average monthly income needed to make 2018 budget: | \$ 18,320.25 |
| Current month General Fund income: | \$ 14,583.58 |
| Average actual Year-To-Date General Fund Income: | \$ 18,027.08 |
| Average actual Year-To-Date General Fund Expense: | \$ 19,604.52 |

April is volunteer recognition month. So I wanted to thank all the volunteers who so faithfully have been delivering meals to those in need. Mobile meals currently serve 41 clients.

Monthly drivers are: Lynette Thorson, Cheryl Hilber, Yvonne & Ray Morency, Dave Hohle, and Jim Petersen. Fill-in drivers are Marsha & Jim Morgan and Nancy & Greg Todd.

If anyone who is a Thrivent member and would like to direct some of their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Mobile Meals please contact them @ 651-457-5686 ext. 103.

Thank you all for being Gods' hands and feet here on earth.
Nancy Todd



April 2018

May Events:
May 4 & 5 Women's Spring Convention
May 11 & 12 Basement Sale
May 23 Parking Lot Picnic Celebration

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| 1 EASTER 9:00am <i>Worship Service*</i> 9:30am <i>Easter Brunch</i> 10:30am <i>Contemporary Worship Service*</i> | 2 6:30pm <i>Boy Scouts</i> 6:30pm <i>Quilting B's</i> | 3 10:00am <i>Prayer Group</i> 5:30pm <i>Contemporary Band Rehearsal</i> 6:30pm <i>Property Team</i> | 4 9:30-11:00am <i>Women's Bible Study</i> 4:30pm <i>Executive Team</i> 6:30pm <i>Confirmation</i> 6:30pm <i>Choir Rehearsal</i> | 5 10:00am <i>Bible Study</i> 6:30pm <i>SMORE Mtg.</i> | 6 6:00pm <i>Guatemala Gala</i> LuLa Roe → | 7 12:00-4:00pm <i>Youth Fundraiser VFW-So.St.Paul</i> |
| 8 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00am <i>Worship Service</i> 10:00am <i>Sunday School</i> 10:30am <i>Contemporary Worship Service</i> 3:45pm <i>Cub Scouts</i> | 9 6:30pm <i>Boy Scouts</i> 6:00pm <i>ILAG Update</i> | 10 10:00am <i>Prayer Group</i> 5:30pm <i>Contemporary Band Rehearsal</i> 6:30pm <i>Book Club</i> | 11 9:30-11:00am <i>Women's Bible Study</i> 6:30pm <i>Confirmation</i> 6:30pm <i>Choir Rehearsal</i> | 12 10:00am <i>Bible Study</i> | 13 | 14 9:00am <i>Women's Spring Breakfast</i> |
| 15 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00am <i>Worship Service*</i> 10:00am <i>Sunday School</i> 10:30am <i>Contemporary Worship Service*</i> 7:00pm <i>Girl Scouts</i> | 16 1:00pm <i>Quilting B's</i> 6:30pm <i>Boy Scouts</i> | 17 10:00am <i>Prayer Group</i> 5:30pm <i>Contemporary Band Rehearsal</i> 6:00pm <i>RFL Kickoff</i> | 18 9:30-11:00am <i>Women's Bible Study</i> 6:30pm <i>Confirmation</i> 6:30pm <i>Choir Rehearsal</i> | 19 10:00am <i>Bible Study</i> 6:30pm <i>Council Mtg.</i> | 20 | 21 |
| 22 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00am <i>Worship Service</i> 10:00am <i>Sunday School</i> 10:30am <i>Contemporary Worship Service</i> | 23 6:30pm <i>Boy Scouts</i> | 24 10:00am <i>Prayer Group</i> 5:30pm <i>Contemporary Band Rehearsal</i> 5:45pm <i>RFL Meeting</i> | 25 9:00-10:30am <i>Women's Bible Study</i> 6:30pm <i>Confirmation</i> 6:30pm <i>Choir Rehearsal</i> | 26 10:00am <i>Bible Study</i> | 27 | 28 8:00am <i>RFL Breakfast</i> 10:00am-8:00pm <i>Dakota Grand Squares</i> |
| 29 5th Sunday of Easter 9:00am <i>Worship Service</i> 10:00am <i>Sunday School</i> 10:30am <i>Contemporary Worship Service</i> Youth—SkyZone 7:00pm <i>Girl Scouts</i> | 30 6:30pm <i>Boy Scouts</i> | | | | | |



April 2018 Birthdays

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 <i>Nancy Todd.</i> | 6 | 7 <i>Rosie Atkinson</i> |
| 8 <i>Charles Tiedman</i> | 9 <i>Janet Huston</i> | 10 <i>Abby Atkinson</i> | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 <i>Robert Esko</i> |
| 15 | 16 | 17 <i>Jane McLagan</i> | 18 | 19 <i>Jennifer Burress</i> | 20 | 21 <i>Dawn Sargent</i> |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 <i>Darleen Heltné Lynette Thorson</i> | 27 <i>Cheryl Petersen</i> | 28 |
| 29 <i>Gary Johnson</i> | 30 | | | | | |

I have really felt the love of the Lord surrounding me the past weeks as I celebrated my milestone birthday. I have been blessed with a loving wife and four great kids. They, in turn, have added four wonderful "children-in-law" which led to seven amazing grand kids and ultimately to six greats. And finally to my Bethesda Family. I want to thank each and every one for the cards and gifts and for helping me celebrate the BIG NINE-OH!! It's been fun. Let's do it again on my 100th. I have been well and truly blessed.
To God Be the Glory.
In Christian Love, Loren

"OUR PRAYERS"

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer.*

Romans 12:12



"OUR PRAYERS"

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church

OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

We ask that you keep these concerns in your prayers throughout the week. Please update us by filling out the prayer cards, available at the usher's station. Bethesda's Prayer Group meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Chapel, lifting the concerns of the week before our Lord.

We pray for the community and world:

**For peace and justice throughout our world; For our leaders, who are facing important decisions and conflicts; For the unemployed and those going through financial distress; For the needed and necessary ministry among the poor. Neighbors, Inc. and Feed My Starving Children
For our sisters and brothers in the *Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala* and for our companion partner congregations *Milagro de Dios*, and *Living Joy***

We pray for the family and friends of:

**Loving Gustafson, (sister-in-law of Jane Gustafson), died March 12th
Helen Schadegg, died March 6th**

In our "circle of friends" (with long term care needs):

Jane Gustafson, Darleen Heltne, Tom Muraski, Loren Neubauer, Tom Classen, Emily Willette, Andy Benjamin (friend of Renee and Chet DeSchane), Carol Evenson, Lorna Hohle, Dawn Belotta (daughter of Maxine Pfeiffer), George Pankonin, Evelyn Johnson (granddaughter of Donna and Gary Johnson), Christopher Johnson (son of Gary and Donna Johnson), Clarence and Lucille Sharrow, Ardie Bratten, Gloria Johnson, Ronald Willerton, Bill O'Neill, , Dorothy Nelson, Marian Petersen

For those with health concerns:

Naomi Dorau, Lezlie Olson (friend of Ann Siegel), Pat Ginsbach (aunt of Ann Siegel), Oscar Heltne, Declan Beau Doyle (great grandson of Sally Muraski), Lucille Sharrow, Cheryl Christensen (sister of Joyce Rudquist), Amy Harrison (daughter of Theresa Staehnke), David Johnson, Kim Burress, Kaelee DuFrane (Ray Morency's niece's granddaughter), Dianna Houska, Cheryl Hilber, Lloyd Sachs, John Sargent, Donna Johnson, Felisita Delgado, Tonia Becerra, Barb Roth, Pastor Sue Gravelle (friend of Kim Burress), Amber Thorson, Kay Roberts, Finley Doyle (great granddaughter of Sally Muraski), Emersyn Kay Johnson, Clementine Brown, Renee Edmunds, Larry Krech (nephew of Fran Delia), Judy Carney (sister of Naomi Dorau), Kyle Galle, Jane Walker, Mary Jacobs, Julie Swedberg, Kelly Dohmen, Kris Jore, Mary Morness

Hospice:

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Brian Ginsbach (cousin of Ann Siegel), Ted Thorson (father of Randy Thorson), Jerry Ohmann (friend of Jane McLagan), Kelsey Breitkruetz, Miranda McLagan (great niece of Jane and Clint McLagan