

April Bell Echoes

Bethesda Lutheran Church



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00am Traditional Worship Service
10:00am Sunday School
10:00am 6th/7th Grade Confirmation
11:00am Contemporary Worship Service
6:00pm High School Youth Group

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, April 6th

9:00am Women's Prayer Breakfast
at TimberLodge

Thursday, April 18th MAUNDY THURSDAY

Prayer Vigil

6:30pm Worship Service

Friday, April 19th GOOD FRIDAY

6:30pm Worship Service

Saturday, April 20th

9:30am Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 21st EASTER SUNDAY

9:00am Worship Service

11:00am Worship Service

From Pastor Maggie,

One Sunday recently I watched Becky Coursole and Evelyn Johnson skipping down the hall, holding hands and laughing. Seeing such joy made me ask myself, "When did I stop skipping?". You seldom see adults skipping and I wonder why. I suppose somewhere in the unspoken list of adult do and do not do behaviors skipping was deemed immature. But is skipping immature?

It is difficult to skip and be angry or sad. It is difficult to skip and take yourself too seriously or be controlling. It is difficult to skip and be weighted down with guilt or responsibility. Skipping is a physical activity that seems to free us into a space that allows joy to enter in. Have you ever seen anyone skip with a scowl on their face?

What would happen if we all skipped into our Bethesda church building on Easter morning? Sounds utterly ridiculous doesn't it. Then again Easter is a ridiculous kind of day. It is not reasonable to think that if there is a God that that God would even consider living fully as a human being even to the point of death. It doesn't make any sense for a God to suffer brutally at the hands of men and die on a cross. It is preposterous to believe in a person rising from the dead. Yet this is what we Christians profess to be true.

Christians believe that God exists. Christians claim that the Word (God) was made flesh and lived among us. Christians contend that Jesus was fully human and fully God. Christians declare that Jesus suffered and died on a cross and then three days later rose from the dead. Christians believe that we all have eternal life because of the grace of God. All of this sounds like nonsense and yet it is the glorious truth for all those who believe.

God's amazing grace frees us to live into an abundant life. A joy filled life. A life where we can and should express our joy freely and maybe even a little outlandishly. I know that skipping into church on Easter morning is a crazy idea; but if that is too much of an ask how about a spring in your step? This is the season to not only intellectually acknowledge the outrageous love of God but also to physically radiate the outrageous love of God!

Prayer experience:

Go somewhere that makes you feel joy. (This can be outside your home or just a favorite spot in our home.)

What does joy feel like for you?

What brings you joy?

What does the scripture verse "the Joy of the Lord is my strength and salvation" mean for you?

Ask God to sit with you in a state of joyfulness.

Getting to Know Your Council Members

Your Church Council was asked one question and provide a little piece of information about themselves. The question asked was: "Why is a church community important to me?" Their responses are below. Please contact any Council member if you have questions.

Robin Ross – Council President

We've been members for about 20 years. Our family came to Bethesda when Jaime started confirmation. There is no way I could have imagined a bunch of random people would become our family. When things are hard, my Bethesda Family is where I find support and love. When I question my faith, want to grow in my faith, or just need to praise God, Bethesda is where I want to be.

Cheryl Hilber – Council Vice President

The church community is important to me because they are my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. We are family. We pray for each other, we help each other, and we worship God together. As a community, with God's help, we support each other through good times, as well as bad. We can do together what one of us alone cannot.

My family joined this church when I was in the fifth grade. That was a long time ago. When we joined it was located on Sixth Avenue and Marie. I remember when the current building was built. My brothers and I had to walk up here twice a week for worship on Sunday and catechism on Wednesday. I was confirmed by Pastor Ulrich. When I was in your group here, Naomi and Art Dorau and Connie and Kent Emerson were our youth counselors. There were newlyweds and had no children yet. I told you it was a long time ago.

I left Bethesda for a few years, but am so glad that God has called me to come back. I don't know what I would do with this church community.

Dawn Sargent – Council Secretary

Church community is difficult for me to identify because I don't see where there is a separation of church and "real" life. Before coming to Bethesda, I thought church community was defined as those in the highest roles of the church. There was a real separation in other churches that we attended. Bethesda showed me that everyone belongs in this community. It's really not a community either, it is a family. Many times I look to God and my Bethesda family to help me get through difficult times and I get to praise God with my Bethesda family when times are good. The comfort and love that comes from this family/community is very difficult to fathom the enormity of it.

My family became members just over six years ago, and haven't looked back once! My grandchildren adore everyone in the congregation and feel absolutely comfortable with everyone, as if they are truly our familial relatives. Matter of fact, most of you are closer to us than our own relatives!

Nathan Schussler – Council Member

I believe that any journey is more enjoyable when traveling with people that have a common goal. The diversity of ideas of how to get there is also important to me as everyone thinks differently which will help broaden the experience of the group. The community will have different goals and abilities to help each other on our journey that will enrich my experience and enable me to help people that I may not have had the ability to do so by myself.

Ryan Ihle – Council Member

A Church community is important for my spiritual growth and development. Church provides and opportunity for me to find the shining light within myself. Church is a place where people are able to help guide others, and be guided on their journeys.

It is important that I am reminded that I am loved and saved by the grace of God!

I enjoy fishing and golfing!

Jim Petersen – Council Member

I have been a member of Bethesda for over 60 years. I will be serving as a member of the church council for the next 3 years.

Bethesda is a building. Jesus Christ is its foundation. The building rests upon that foundation. The church is His body. Who can say yes to Christ, its head, and no to the body? I know the Lord Jesus is at work in Bethesda.

Please talk to me with any concerns you may have in the next three years. I want to represent you. God Bless.

Robert McCabe – Council Member

One of the first things Jesus did in his ministry here on earth was to begin a community with His disciples and followers. I think we need to try and follow their example, encouraging each other, learning from each other, lifting each other up over heavy burdens, and yes, even occasionally suffering and failing from all too human weaknesses. That is why a church community is important to me.

I'm a second grade teacher at Urban Academy Charter School in St. Paul, Minnesota. My wife, Jennifer, and I have been married for 28 years. We met at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. We moved to Minnesota from Illinois in 2004, joining Bethesda Lutheran Church at that time.

Renee Zamora – Council Member

I have been a member of Bethesda since 2008 and live in Cottage Grove with my husband Gil, my youngest son Nick, and my mother-in-law Irene. I enjoy playing golf and pickleball, and have recently been blessed with a beautiful granddaughter to spoil.

This is my first time serving on a church council so I will be praying for guidance as well as observing the seasoned members of the council. This is a perfect Segway into why a church community is important to me. I believe that people are more productive, successful, and happy when they have support from others. A church community is one of the best sources of support because they should be open and non-judgmental to all.

Laura O'Donnell – Youth Council Member

A church community is important to me because everybody can lean on each other in hard times and celebrate with each other during the good times.

A little bit about me: I'm a junior at Simley High School.

I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. [John 6:35](#)

LENTEN SUPPER - Part 2

The Women will be serving the Lenten dinner on April 10th. We will be serving Mac & Cheese, Beans & Franks and Garlic toast. We will be taking a collection to purchase the ingredients if you are willing to help with any amount. If there is money left over it will go in the free will offering. If you are able to help with serving and clean up plan to be at church by 4:30. The funds will be use to purchase non budgeted physical needs of the church.



REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Beginning April 10th through May 29th we will be studying "Jesus' Final Week". As we study these events of this final week in order, we will find a bit of perspective from each of the four Gospel writers. Gaining insight and wisdom from following the path to the cross, from Palm Sunday to Good Friday to Easter- the path that Jesus, King of Kings and suffering servant walked for us.

For more information contact Sharon Stanefski.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Spring Prayer Breakfast

The Women's Spring Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday, April 6th at Timber Hills in Inver Grove Heights. Tickets may be purchased from Dawn Sargent.

Book Club

The next book club meeting will be on April 16th @ 5:30. We will be discussing the book "Hotel on the Corner of B Bitter and Sweet". Contact Jennifer McCabe to get a book.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

April

Spring Prayer Breakfast

April 6th

Lenten Dinner

April 10th

Book Club

April 16th

Women's Ministry Board Members

Co presidents:

Co-vice presidents:

Secretary:
Naomi Dorau

Treasurer:
Jennifer Tiedman

Bulletin board design:
Naomi Dorau
Sharon Stanefski

Boutique spaces:
Lynette Thorson

Cookies for Shut-ins:
Dawn Sargent
Dannielle Coursolle

Additional Advisors:
Marsha Morgan
Sally Muraski

Bell Echoes Editor:
Pattie Rooney

ReFresh & ReNew Chairs:
Cheryl Hilber
Robin Ross

Contact Information

Womenofbethesda@gmail.com





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.

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 and have been engaged in helping each other.

Guatemala Gala- Sunday, May 5th

Join us for the 6th Annual Guatemala Gala from 4:00-8:00 pm at Southview Country Club
Marimba Band, Silent Auction, Textile Market, Giving Tree, Games

\$75.00 per person (\$15 deductible)

All proceeds go to the relocation of the Lutheran elementary school in Guatemala City. It must be relocated for safety reasons as it resides near a steep ravine which is crumbling away.

For more ticket information see Cheryl Hilber.

Bethesda Parking Lot Picnic

Mark your calendar for an August party!!!

We are inviting all groups at Bethesda to get involved and help in the implementing of this church-wide celebration.

Help will be needed to plan and facilitate this fun, community outreach event!

What activity would you be willing to sponsor?

Watch for opportunities to help in the planning of this important picnic.

NEIGHBORS MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE

One in eight children in Minnesota struggle with hunger. **Will you help stock the food shelves in your community? We have only a little bit more time to fill 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?

Sundays, 10:00 - 10:45am

Warm Weather Ahead!

It feels as though we are finally moving to a time of consistently warmer weather, so let's give thanks for that! Remember to take some time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air, maybe open a few windows in the house to let in the sunshine and the breeze. Take some quiet time with your student to tell the Easter story, using the winter and spring weather as an analogy of awaiting for Jesus' Resurrection.

Holy Saturday Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt at Bethesda on Saturday, April 20th, from 9:30am - 11:00am. Come for a fun morning of finding Easter eggs, crafts, and snacks.



Upcoming Sunday School Schedule

April 7th: Confirmation Led Sunday School

April 14th: Easter Lesson

April 20th: Easter Egg Hunt at Bethesda

April 21st: No Sunday School, Easter Sunday

April 28th: David and Goliath

BETHESDA YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS



April Minnesota Zoo

We're going to the Minnesota Zoo! April 14th, leave church at 12pm, return at 4:30pm. Come hear Beth's plethora of animal fun facts! Cost is \$15 for members, \$18 for nonmembers, 4th - 12th graders welcome!

Gerten's Gift Cards for Sale

Spring is right around the corner! Support Bethesda youth ministries by buying a Gerten's gift card. Youth will be selling between services April 14th, April 28th, and May 5th. Cards will be available until early June.

Mission Trip Shares are back!

Youth will be selling shares again this year between services on March 31st and April 7th. Shares are \$20, and are a great way to support our youth as we raise funds for our mission trip to Grand Rapids, MI.

Senior Spotlight: Anna Watt

Church Activities: 7x VBS Volunteer, 4x Mission Trip Participant, 5x Camp Participant

Future Plans: Notre Dame or College of St. Benedict, Double Majoring in Elementary Education and Spanish



Contact the Youth Team!

KIM BURRESS
(651) 260-3922
kburress@msn.com

BETH MCCABE
(651) 315-4634
bmccabe088@gmail.com

LAURA O'DONNELL
(651) 276-6776
lauraodonnell2965@gmail.com

The 6th annual Guatemala Gala is being held on May 5, 2019, at Southview Country Club! What is this about? This is the annual fundraiser in support of the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG), a companion relationship with the Saint Paul Area Synod of the ELCA. Bethesda Lutheran's sister church of Milagro de Dios, Las Rosas is a member of ILAG, as is the Colegio Luterano Agustino School, El Mirador in Guatemala City that was one of three schools that our mission team visited in 2017, and brought school supplies to them. I specifically mention this school because they are now facing a difficult situation.

Currently, the school resides near a steep ravine that is crumbling away. With each heavy rainfall, chunks of rock and soil fall from the cliff. The government has told everyone in this neighborhood to move, including the school. We hope to help provide needed funds to purchase a lot with a structure that can be retrofitted for classrooms, an office and a play area for the children, and that is in the same area to continue serving this population without the need for bussing.

This Lutheran school has served children in this marginalized area since 2000, keeping them out of gangs and offering opportunities for the future. The four teachers and 100 students are doing great things and were recently recognized for excellence by the Guatemala Department of Education. 75% of the funds raised from this gala will go toward the school, with the remaining 25% to ILAG for their continued ministries.

Individual tickets are \$75 each, with a table sponsorship of \$1000. The Gala starts with a social hour including a Marimba band performance, then silent auction, raffle tickets and Textile Market. The meal is an authentic Guatemalan Buffet dinner and keynote speakers Pastor Esther Echeverria and Beatriz Castillo.

Please see David Hohle or Cheryl Hilber for more information and tickets.

Treasurer's Report

February, 2019

Report explanation: This report is split into 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 box below that lists the current liabilities and corresponding balances. The box below that shows the average income needed to meet budget as well as the average monthly income and expense to date.

The general fund expenses exceeded income by \$4,939.38 in February.

Receipts to

the mortgage reduction fund no longer cover the mortgage payment resulting in a negative balance of \$1,361.81.

All Funds	Balance
General Fund	(\$33,565.70)
Capital	27,169.41
Mortgage Reduction	(1,361.81)
Sunday School	682.37
Altar Flowers Fund In/Out	0.00
Dedicated Memorial	2,871.00
Undedicated Memorial	2,166.23
Garden Party	241.59
Special Appeals In/Out	(7.11)
Wedding	140.00
Vacation Bible School	0.00
Contemporary Choir	855.00
Bethesda Resource Center	584.74
Bible Fund	200.00
Choir	396.20
Youth Mission Trip	410.78
Youth Faith Based Activities	1,235.14
Youth Camp Travel Fund	1,394.56
Timmy Autey Camp Scholarship	1,786.29
Christian Care Fund	0.00
Men's Club	54.00
Parish Nurse	692.00
Smores (Outreach)	2,624.60
Financial University Fund	201.96
Paul & Agnes Thoring Endowed Fund	67,311.39
Missions	1,674.75
Tech Team	344.65
Mission Trip Scholarship - ILAG	4,248.04
Mission Trip Scholarship - Youth	772.65
Sidewalk Fund	423.88
New Sign Fund	7,116.00
Sound System Fun	6,350.00
Youth Room Repairs	5,288.09
Lenten Supper	0.00
Total All Funds	\$ 102,300.70

Statement of Activities	February	Year-To-Date
Income:		
Envelopes	\$ 10,913.63	\$ 20,767.26
Loose	257.00	488.25
Adopt-A-Bill	0.00	0.00
Other General Fund	40.74	74.80
Thrivent Dollars	353.00	353.00
Preschool Rent	2,000.00	4,000.00
Fund Raisers	100.00	100.00
Coffee Fund	132.00	266.50
Total General Fund Income:	\$ 13,796.37	\$ 26,049.81
Expenses:		
Salary Expense	\$ 11,621.58	\$ 23,835.27
Non-Salary General & Administrative	1,041.99	2,375.04
Property	5,807.53	9,951.96
Worship And Music	40.65	65.65
Education	0.00	0.00
Youth	224.00	322.85
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:	\$ 18,735.75	\$ 36,550.77

Liabilities	Balance
Payroll Withholding	\$ 1,739.06
Thrivent Financial Mortgage	405,341.49
Thoring Loan (Tax Assessment)	8,428.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 415,508.55

Average monthly income needed to make 2019 budget:	\$ 19,018.33
Current month General Fund income:	\$ 13,796.37
Average actual Year-To-Date General Fund Income:	\$ 13,024.91
Average actual Year-To-Date General Fund Expense:	\$ 18,275.39



April 2019

MAY Events—May 5

4:00pm Guatemala Gala—Southview Country Club

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30pm Quilting B's 6:30pm Boy Scouts	2 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Property Team 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	3 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 5:15pm Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Worship Service	4 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm SMDRE Mtg 6:30pm Cannon Brass	5	6 9:00am Women's Breakfast at TimberLodge
7 5th Sunday of Lent 9:00am Worship Service* 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am 6th/7th Grade Confirmation 11:00am Contemporary Worship Service* 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm H.S. Youth Group 6:30pm Girl Scouts	8 6:30pm Boy Scouts	9 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	10 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 5:15pm Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Worship Service	11 10:00am Bible Study 4:30pm Executive Mtg 6:30pm Cannon Brass	12	13
14 Palm Sunday 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am 6th/7th Grade Confirmation 11:00am Contemporary Worship Service 12:00pm Youth-MN Zoo 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm H.S. Youth Group 6:30pm Girl Scouts	15 1:00pm Quilting B's 6:30pm Boy Scouts	16 10:00am Prayer Group 5:30pm Book Club 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	17 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study	18 MAUNDY THURSDAY Prayer Vigil 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Worship Service	19 GOOD FRIDAY 6:30pm Worship Service	20 9:30am Easter Egg Hunt
21 Easter Sunday 9:00am Worship Service* 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am 6th/7th Grade Confirmation 11:00am Contemporary Worship Service* 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm H.S. Youth Group 6:30pm Girl Scouts	22 6:30pm Boy Scouts	23 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal Bell Echoes Articles DUE	24 9:00-10:30am Women's Bible Study 11:00am Mobile Meals 6:30pm 8th/9th Grade Confirmation	25 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Mtg 6:30pm Cannon Brass	26	27
28 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am 6th/7th Grade Confirmation 11:00am Contemporary Worship Service 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm H.S. Youth Group 6:30pm Girl Scouts	29 6:30pm Boy Scouts	30 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal				



April 2019 Birthdays

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

"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. Feed My Starving Children and Mobile Meals.

For our sisters and brothers in the *Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala* and for our companion partner congregations *Milagro de Dios*, and *Living Joy*

Prayer concerns (other than the long term care and hospice list) for the bulletin will be updated every two weeks. If you have added someone to the list and want them to remain on the list, please let Kay know during office hours.

We pray for the family and friends of:

Lorna Hohle, died March 24th

Larry Krech (nephew of Fran Delia), died March 13th

Dorothy Nelson, (mother of Ann Siegel), died March 9th

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

Tom Muraski, Jill Lewis, Jane Walker, Donna Johnson, Kim Burress, John Sargent, Tom Classen, Emily Willette, Clarence and Lucille Sharrow, Ardie Bratten, Gloria Johnson, Ronald Willerton, Bill O'Neill, Kris Jore, Julie Swedberg, Emersyn Kay Johnson,

For those with health concerns:

Hospice:

Carol Evenson

Prayers of Thanksgiving: