

# **December Bell Echoes Bethesda Lutheran Church**



## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY**

**9:00am Traditional Worship Service**  
**10:00am Sunday School**  
**10:00am 6th/7th Grade Confirmation**  
**10:30am Contemporary Worship Service**

**ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00am THE MONTH OF DECEMBER**

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Saturday, December 1 9:30am Putting Up the Lights**

**Sunday, December 2 11:00am Community Meal,  
served by Youth/SMORE**

**Monday, December 3, 10 and 17  
6:30pm Advent Spirituality Adventure Group**

**Saturday, December 8 10:00am Sunday School Christmas  
Program Rehearsal**

**Sunday, December 16 10:00am Sunday School Christmas Program**

**Tuesday, December 18 5:00-7:00pm Youth Fundraiser @ Culvers-WSP**

**Monday, December 24 (CHRISTMAS EVE)**  
**4:30pm Worship Service**  
**10:30pm Worship Service**

From Pastor Maggie-

So. How did you do on Black Friday? Did you get all the 'good deal' presents you were shopping for? Are you hoping you will receive some of the presents you have itemized on your wish list? 'Tis the season for presents. Or is it the season for presence? Although there may be many things we want for Christmas my guess is most of us are truly looking for the gift of presence with one another and most certainly with God.

During this pre – Christmas frenzy comes the churches gift of Advent. A time of waiting, watching and hoping for a glimpse of God and fulfillment of God's promises to us. A time, when just as society is ramping up consumerism enticement, the church asks us to slow down, pause and think about what it is we need to be spiritually grounded and what we have to offer to those who are hurting in this world. A time to acknowledge we are yearning for God's presence, the world is in need of God's presence.

If you have learned anything about me in this past year I hope you know how important God is in my life, how I believe in healthy relationships and that I like to have fun! This means you will not hear me grousing about the secularism of Christmas. In Minnesota as we experience the stark dark cold we need a little glitz. Bring on the colored lights, the animated twenty-five-foot-high blow up Santa Claus, the constant holiday music in the shopping malls and the ridiculous holiday movies! But – don't forget that even in the midst of all the silliness God is present and God calls us to be present in the building up of God's kingdom here on earth.

In this season of "let's pretend to be happy all the time" let us be people of the truth and bring real joy to the table. Let us take time out to have fun but alongside of the fun let us take time to be grounded in our faith that proclaims God loved us so much that God became one of us in Jesus. Not only did God *come* through the person of Jesus but God has *never left*. The Holy Spirit is with us now and always, that is what I call an amazing present!

Have a blessed Advent and holiday season and may you experience the presence of the Holy spirit as you celebrate Christmas.

#### Prayer and spiritual exercises for the Advent Season

\*As you make your Christmas shopping list visualize each person being held by God and ask God to bless and keep them in God's love.

\*Make a "wish list" to give to God. What is it you desire or need from God? Set a timer for two - three minutes and list as many things as you can nonstop. No judging yourself, just write. Go back over your list. Are there things that surprise you? Do this for several days in a row. Talk with God about what you desire or need.

\*Sit by your lit Christmas tree in the dark and ask God to reveal how God has been a light in your darkness this past year.

\*Make God a Christmas present.

\* Spend time going through the lyrics of one of your favorite Christmas carols. How is God speaking to you through this song today?

\* Invite a friend to accompany you to Advent Spiritual Adventure group

## **Advent Spirituality Adventure Group**

When we speak of Advent in the church we talk about a season of waiting. However, in the world in which we live no one is waiting for much of anything as they prepare for Christmas celebrations. If you would like to take some time out to enter more thoughtfully and prayerfully into the Advent season join Pastor Maggie for a time of opening up our hearts together. Over the next three Monday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00pm we will breathe and thoughtfully explore the meaning of God coming among us in the flesh in the person of Jesus.

**Who:** Men and Women

**When:** Mondays, December 3, 10 and 17 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

**Where:** Bethesda in the Lounge

**What:** Exploring the Christmas Scriptures, storytelling, hands on prayer experiences, meditation and just maybe a little desert.!



And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn *Luke 2:7*

*Women's Advent Tea, Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.  
Program: "A Christmas Celebration"  
a play involving the characters of the nativity*

You are invited to join us for a special women's Christmas Appetizer and Dessert Potluck. Please sign up on the Women's Ministry Bulletin Board for the food item you wish to share. The potluck buffet will be followed by a short inspirational play featuring our own women as actors. It will be a very special treat!



**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  
Sharon Stanefski

*Cookie Collection- Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>*

Please bake cookies for Bethesda members who can't get out and need a little Christmas cheer. Bring cookies wrapped by twos to the library by 10:00 AM on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Holiday Heritage Boutique*

The boutique was a great success due to the great amount of work of a great number of people. Thanks so much!!! Over \$4,400 was raised for the ministry projects of the Women of Bethesda.

*Women's Meeting*

All women are welcome to join us Sunday, December 9th, following the service, for a meeting where we will be discussing the cost of the garbage disposal, upcoming women's events and leadership going forward.

**ONGOING EVENTS**

**Book Club**

We will be off until after Christmas

**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**

[Womenofbethesda@gmail.com](mailto:Womenofbethesda@gmail.com)

**REGULARLY  
SCHEDULED EVENTS**

**Wednesday Morning  
Bible Study**

The Wednesday morning Bible study will start up on October 10th. We will be studying "Revelation The Triumph of God." A 14 week *LifeGuide* Bible study. For more information contact Sharon Stanefski.

**Women's Evening  
Bible Study**

Off until after the Holidays

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS:**

**December  
Advent Event**

**January  
Book Club**

**February  
ReFresh & ReNew**



## Bethesda Missions

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

### *Mission Focus for December* **Giving to Others**

## **Advent Memorial Tree-Lighting Service** **December 2, 10:00 am**

**Memorial Lights donations are given equally to Bethesda's four missions!**  
*Come celebrate the light of Christ and help share this light with others as we remember loved ones.*

*Thank you to all who participated in Memorial Lights. The warmth of the lights matches the warmth we feel in our hearts as we remember our family and friends. This warmth will touch many in our neighborhood because of the donations you have given to our church missions.*

*You are invited...*

### ***Advent Congregational Appreciation Dinner***

following the Tree Lighting Service, Sunday, December 2nd  
Sponsored by Bethesda Youth and the Smore Committee  
*featuring special Christmas specialties*

## **The Giving Tree**

Please stop by The Giving Tree in the narthex to choose an ornament tag (or 2 or 3) which will state a way you could give a specific gift to our missions for this Christmas season. The Giving Tree will be filled with mission gift ideas for Bethesda's community and global mission projects. (Neighbor's Inc, FMSC, ILAG). Take an ornament tag from The Giving Tree and purchase the named items or give the donation listed by Sunday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. Checks can be placed in the offering plate with the ornament tag attached. Children and adult gift donations can be placed in the baskets or box next to the Christmas tree.

Thanks so much to all who give to others during this Christmas season!

**Sundays, 10:00 - 10:30am**

## **Youth and Children's Christmas Program**

The Christmas Program this year will have the combined talent of the High School, Confirmation, and Sunday School programs! Join us for a fun re-telling of the Christmas story on December 16th, at the combined 10am worship service.

Students will be rehearsing every Sunday during Sunday School time, and on December 8th from 10:00 - 11:30am.

Please note the rehearsal schedule below.



### **Upcoming Rehearsal Schedule**

December 2nd: No Rehearsal, Advent Meal

December 8th: Rehearsal from 10:00 - 11:30am

December 9th: Rehearsal from 9:00 - 10:00am

December 16th: Christmas Program during 10am Worship.  
Be at church by 9am!



# BETHESDA YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

## Youth-Hosted Advent Meal

The Bethesda Youth are partnering with Smores to host a meal for all the Bethesda Family!

All are invited to this event immediately following the 10am worship service. Come to enjoy a great meal and a meaningful Advent event.



## December Christmas Fun!

December 14th, 5:00 - 9:00pm. Meet at Bethesda for an evening of sledding, pizza, and a Christmas movie! Open to youth ages 4th grade and up. Cost is \$5 to cover the cost of pizza. Bring a friend for a fun night!

## We're Going to Michigan!

The 2019 Youth Mission Trip will be to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Trip will run from July 6th - 12th. We will be attending a Group Week of Hope, which focuses on lasting community partnerships in Grand Rapids.

## Support the Youth at Culver's on December 18th

Join the Bethesda Youth at WSPCulver's on December 18th from 5:00 - 7:00pm. 10% of proceeds from the evening will go towards the youth mission trip to Michigan.

## No High School Youth Group on December 26th

## Contact the Youth Team!

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

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

**JENNY BURRESS**  
(651) 964-5375  
jenny.burress19@gmail.com



## **Council Corner**

**(Members: Pastor Maggie; Theresa Staehnke (Pres), Robin Ross (VP), Cheryl Hilber (Sec), Nathan Schussler, Rick Coursolle, Dawn Sargent, Ryan Ihle, Jenny Burress)**

**MiFamilia:** Last Spring we began working with MiFamilia on a new lease. We are happy to share we have worked with Sandra to create a fair lease for all. The new lease includes additional footage for school aged before/after program to be in Sederstrom Hall – if there are any congregational events MiFamilia will relocate for that event. This lease includes a percentage of utilities and in total is an increase of \$15,000/year.

**Annual Meeting:** We set Annual Budget/Council Elections date for February 10<sup>th</sup> following second service. More details to come.

**Damage to youth room:** We received our first check for the Youth room water damage and we will begin the process of looking at bids.

As of now we will not have enough money to cover the November mortgage payment, the difference will need to be paid from the Thoring Fund.

Over the last month the Council has been holding many extra meetings to resolve conflicts with some members. This issue has been resolved.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact any Council Member.



# Treasurer's Report

October, 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
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>(\$24,596.31)</b>
Capital	27,097.82
Mortgage Reduction	499.69
Sunday School	682.37
Altar Flowers Fund In/Out	0.00
Dedicated Memorial	3,406.00
Undedicated Memorial	2,166.23
Garden Party	148.56
Special Appeals In/Out	<b>(519.52)</b>
Wedding	140.00
Vacation Bible School	0.00
Contemporary Choir	855.00
Bethesda Resource Center	584.74
Bible Fund	200.00
Choir	1,026.20
Youth Mission Trip	<b>(260.00)</b>
Youth Faith Based Activities	393.13
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)	3,033.77
Financial University Fund	201.96
Paul & Agnes Thoring Endowed Fund	66,691.39
Missions	4,700.00
Tech Team	344.65
Mission Trip Scholarship - ILAG	3,777.68
Mission Trip Scholarship - Youth	302.26
Sidewalk Fund	423.88
New Sign Fund	7,076.00
Lenten Supper	0.00
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 102,302.35</b>

Statement of Activities	October	Year-To-Date
<b>Income:</b>		
Envelopes	\$ 12,561.39	\$ 135,782.90
Loose	261.00	2,720.40
Adopt-A-Bill	0.00	143.10
Other General Fund	45.00	1,985.27
Thrivent Dollars	0.00	939.00
Preschool Rent	1,163.50	11,725.00
Fund Raisers	1,875.00	7,210.76
Coffee Fund	67.00	913.78
<b>Total General Fund Income:</b>	<b>\$ 15,972.89</b>	<b>\$ 161,420.21</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Salary Expense	\$ 11,991.86	\$ 122,435.31
Non-Salary General & Administrative	993.47	11,534.97
Property	1,924.56	39,719.59
Worship And Music	210.93	1,549.76
Education	0.00	392.42
Youth	140.00	1,079.69
Smores	0.00	214.59
Stewardship	0.00	0.00
ELCA Mission Support	0.00	0.00
Camp Wapogasset	0.00	0.00
<b>Total General Fund Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 15,260.82</b>	<b>\$ 176,926.33</b>

Liabilities	Balance
Payroll Withholding	\$ 1,803.44
Thrivent Financial Mortgage	411,175.43
Thoring Loan (Tax Assessment)	9,048.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$422,026.87</b>

Average monthly income needed to make 2018 budget:	\$ 18,320.25
Current month General Fund income:	\$ 15,972.89
Average actual Year-To-Date General Fund Income:	\$ 16,142.02
Average actual Year-To-Date General Fund Expense:	\$ 17,692.63

# December 2018

January Events:  
January 2nd 9:00am Women's Bible Study

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 9:30am Putting Up the Lights
<b>2 1st Sunday of Advent</b> 10:00am Worship Service * 11:00am Community Meal 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>3</b> 6:30pm Advent Spirituality Adventure Group 6:30pm Quilting B's 6:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>4</b> 10:00am Prayer Group 4:30pm Executive Team 6:30pm Property Team	<b>5</b> 9:00-10:30am Women's Bible Study 11:00am Mobile Meals 6:30pm 8th/9th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm 10th-12th Grade Youth Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm SMORE Mtg. 6:30pm Cannon Brass	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:00am Sunday School Rehearsal
<b>9 2nd Sunday of Advent</b> 10:00am Worship Service 9:00am Sunday School Rehearsal 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Advent Spirituality Adventure Group 6:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>11</b> 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm Women's Advent Tea	<b>12</b> 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm 8th/9th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm 10th-12th Grade Youth Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Council/Staff Christmas Party 6:30pm Cannon Brass	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16 3rd Sunday of Advent</b> (Sunday School Christmas Program) 10:00am Worship Service* 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>17</b> 1:00pm Quilting B's 6:30pm Advent Spirituality Adventure Group 6:30pm Boy Scouts  Bell Echoes Due	<b>18</b> 10:00am Prayer Group 5:00-7:00pm Youth Fundraiser@Culver's	<b>19</b> 6:30pm 8th/9th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm 10th-12th Grade Youth Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Cannon Brass	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23 4th Sunday of Advent</b> 10:00am Worship Service 10:00am NO Sunday School 10:00am NO 6th/7th Grade Confirmation	<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 4:30pm Worship Service 10:30pm Worship Service	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30pm NO 8th/9th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm NO 10th-12th Grade Youth Group 6:30pm NO Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 10:00am NO Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30 1st Sunday after Christmas</b> 10:00am Worship Service 10:00am NO Sunday School 10:00am NO 6th/7th Grade Confirmation	<b>31</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>					



# 2018 Birthdays

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						<b>1</b> Darla Munkholm
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Joseph Bratten	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Jodi Lowell	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Kristin Bishop	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Nathan Schussler
<b>23</b> George Pankonin	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Jonathan Murray	<b>26</b> Dianna Houska	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Laura O'Donnell
<b>30</b> Rozlyn Wilson	<b>31</b>					

Bethesda, How do you say thank you to a lovely family like Bethesda. It was a total surprise to me what you did for me on my birthday "Nov 21". Thank you for all you do for Carol and myself.

In Christ

*David C. Johnson*

**"OUR PRAYERS"**

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

*Romans 12:12*



**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***

***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:**

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

***Claudia Steiner (sister of Sharon Stanefski), Jill Lewis, Jane Walker, Donna Johnson, Kim Burrell, John Sargent, Jane Gustafson, Tom Muraski, Tom Classen, Emily Willette, Clarence and Lucille Sharrow, Ardie Bratten, Gloria Johnson, Ronald Willerton, Bill O'Neill, Dorothy Nelson, Kris Jore, Julie Swedberg, Emersyn Kay Johnson, Larry Krech (nephew of Fran Delia),***

**For those with health concerns:**

***Cheryl Petersen, Ara Elizabeth Schmidt (granddaughter of Donna Neubauer)***

**Hospice:**

***Carol Evenson***

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**