

February Bell Echoes

Bethesda Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY



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, February 2	SWO Soup Luncheon—Luther Memorial
Sunday, February 10	9:45 am Annual Meeting
Saturday, February 16	4:30pm Inter Generational Ski Trip
Saturday, February 23	SPAS Tool Kit for Congregation
Saturday, March 2	8:30am-1:00pm ReFresh ReNew ReBoot
Wednesday, March 6	ASH Wednesday
	12:00pm Worship Service
	6:30pm Worship Service

From Pastor Maggie --

February is the month that Bethesda, along with many other churches, set their budget for the 2019 congregational expenditures. For many congregations this causes much angst. I was pleasantly surprised at how quickly the budget was passed at our last annual budget meeting. However, the real delight and encouragement for me as your new Pastor was the respectful and positive conversation that proceeded the vote. It told me a lot about you as a body of Christ that has proven tried and true throughout this year.

This is a solid healthy congregation and you genuinely care for one another and for the needs of others around the world. This is reflected in your willingness to step out in faith and not become anxious about money. So often congregations get paralyzed with anxiety and are unable to move into future ministry opportunities. Thank-you for being wise about expenditures, generous in your giving and open to the Spirit moving us in new ways.

What a gift it has been to live into this first year of learning and becoming a part of this body of Christ. Now that I know you a little I look forward to getting to know your hopes and dreams for Bethesda. I will be contacting one family a week to have a conversation about what your needs are and where you feel God is leading Bethesda. This will begin after the annual budget meeting and will take some time so be patient and don't feel forgotten if you don't hear from me for a while. I will be randomly selecting who to call each week. If everyone is open to having a conversation with me, it will take about a year and a half to get to everyone. I know that sounds like a long time but it will be worth it to have genuine one on one conversations about where we experience Gods movement at Bethesda.

I also want to thank-you for the generous Christmas gift. I have been in need of a new Alb and they are very expensive. Mine has been glued together since November because it is so frayed I am unable to have it repaired. I am having one made as you read this so I should be looking pretty spiffy in the near future. Once again thank-you so very much.

Prayer Experience: God Sightings

What you will need – quiet space for two – five minutes at the end of the day; paper and a pencil

For at least five days in a row spend 2-5 minutes writing down where you experienced God's presence. Don't judge your own sightings; sometimes God shows up in the most unexpected places and in unexpected ways.

The more days you do this, the more you will begin to recognize that God shows up more often than we think.



Guatemala News

What's new? Well, in 2018, changes were made to the Guatemala task force, as we know it. At the synod level it is now two different entities. (1.) The Guatemala Committee was formed with 9 elected member. I was elected as one of those members and it is my honor to serve. It is now a formal committee and is covered under the Constitution of the ELCA Saint Paul Area Synod. It will have meetings at least four times annually. It will consult with the Bishop and have an annual budget. The budget will be made up of funds from the synod and from three (3) percent of all donation given to the synod for ILAG.

(2.) The second entity is called The Friends of Guatemala group. They will be having get together meetings and everyone is welcome to attend. Each church has a Guatemala coordinator and I was appointed the one for Bethesda, but I am looking for someone willing to do it. Please talk to me if you are interested.

Thank you for your continued support of the ILAG mission in Guatemala. The church in Las Rosas wants us to come visit for Ascension Day this year but we have not yet made a plan. The next visit to Guatemala will be Bethesda's turn to lead the delegation. There are three people from Living Joy that can go in 2020 but not 2019. More news on that as we get it.

SAVE THE DATE: Last but not least, the Guatemala Gala is at the Southview Country Club again this year. It is on Sunday May 5, 2019 at 6pm. More information to follow.

Thank you again for all your prayers and for all your support. God is good.

Cheryl Hilber





Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

Due to an ELCA Synod event on February 23rd we will be moving our ReFresh ReNew, ReBoot to the following Saturday, March 2. The time will remain the same. If you have already registered and will not be able to attend, please let us know.



The Women's Group will be hosting the first Lenten Dinner on March 13th. The menu has not been decided on at this time, nor have we decided as to where the offering will be dedicated to go.

Would you like to plan an event?

Some upcoming events that need organizers:

- A movie night organizer possibly in March
- Spring breakfast program in April

Feel free to email the women's group email with questions or suggestions or what you might like to assist with.

Womenofbethesda@gmail.com

SPECIAL EVENTS

Book Club

The next book club will be meeting for discussion on Tuesday, February 12th at 6:30. The book for the March book club will be available at this time. Our March book club date is March 19th.

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.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Waiting for God:

We spend a lot of our life waiting. Sometimes the waiting can cause us to feel forgotten by God.

Starting February 6th, for 8 weeks, we will discover that waiting time is not wasted time and learn to hear Gods call to rest in his timing.

For more information contact Sharon Stanefski.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

February

Book Club, Feb. 12th

March

ReFresh, ReNew, ReBoot
Mar. 2nd

Lenten Dinner, Mar. 13th

Book Club Mar. 19th

April

Spring Prayer Breakfast
TBD



Women's Ministry Board Members

Go 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

Contact Information

Womenofbethesda@gmail.com



Bethesda Missions

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

The SMORE'S Look forward to 2019!

The SMORE Committee looks forward to being involved in service to our church and community. We look forward to increasing mission involvement and supporting our missions in prayer and in donations. We also look forward to reaching out to others in help and in love. The SMORE Committee invites other Bethesda members to join them in the planning and organization, of the various projects and activities Bethesda takes part in, during the year. The next meeting is Thursday, February 7th, at 6:30 pm.

Memorial Lights and Giving Tree Totals

Thank you for your generous giving for the missions supported by Memorial Lights and The Giving Tree. A total of \$1,505 was collected. Memorials Lights totaled \$ 805; Feed My Starving Children totaled \$190; ILAG (Guatemala Partner Congregation) totaled \$180; and Neighbor's Inc. totaled \$330. A huge collection of wonderful gift items was donated and displayed under the tree. Total Giving Tree monetary donations totaled \$700.

Food For Friends

Food for Friends is a care giving ministry which has been developed to provide a comforting meal to someone or some family that could use a little support. The need could be because of illness, death, a new baby, loneliness or just a need for a break in routine or a little conversation. Thrivent has donated seed money to purchase needed groceries and packaging containers. We can all watch for opportunities to **uplift others by signing out and delivering a meal**. Our whole congregation can be involved in either the preparation or in the awareness and delivery of strength giving nourishment and love to others. Frozen meals can be found in the freezer in the library. Sign out a meal when you see a need. The key to the freezer is in the upper cupboard.

Neighbor's Inc.

Great American Burger Battle- February and March

Area restaurants compete for the "best" title. Purchase a Food Fight Card, redeem it for featured **burgers** and then vote for your favorite. We receive a lower price and Neighbors' gets the proceeds. A great win for everyone!!! Watch for Burger Battle Cards to be sold later this month.

Get ready for March Food Share Month!

ReFRESH & ReNEW
A Day for Women Connecting in Faith
REGISTRATION



The Women's Ministry of Bethesda welcomes you to our 5th Annual Retreat!
Saturday, March 2nd, 2019
8:30 am - 1:00 pm
Ladies! Now is a perfect time to reboot.

The day will include a continental breakfast, lunch, skits, music, worship and amazing fellowship.

Cost: \$15 (scholarships available)
Bethesda Lutheran Church:
2855 47th St. E., Inver Grove Heights, MN
Phone: 651-451-1355
www.bethesdalutheranchurch.org
womenofbethesda@gmail.com

Registration deadline: Tuesday, February 26th, 2019



Women of all ages, from surrounding congregations and neighborhoods are welcome! Bring a mother, daughter, or friend!

Schedule

8:30-9:00 Registration and Continental breakfast
9:00-9:45 Opening
Break
9:50-10:40 Session
10 min Break
10:50-11:40 Session
11:45-12:30 Lunch
12:30-1:00 Closing Worship

Name _____ Address _____

Email _____

Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions _____



QR Code if you prefer to register online

Opportunity for Lent

Our Congregation will be creating a devotional for use during Lent and Holy Week (March 6—April 21).

I am looking for people who would be willing to write a devotion or two. The theme for this devotion is "Journey with Jesus". Each devotion will be a 100-300 word reflection on what it means to you to walk with God. Let me know if you would be willing to do this. Deadline is

Sunday, February 10. Pastor Maggie

WRITING A DEVOTION FOR LENT

Theme - Our Journey of Faith: Walking with God through Lent

Ask yourself How do I experience God's presence in my life?

What is helpful for me in my daily faith life?

What is one thing that has encourage my faith in God?

What do I want others to know about God?

Choose a bible verse that is meaningful or has been continually helpful for your faith.

Write a short paragraph, essay, poem or story that reflects something about your faith journey that could be helpful and inspiring to others. You could also draw something and give a brief statement for reflection.

Try to keep your writing to no more than 300 words.

Deadline if February 10th.

(To give some perspective on the length of the devotion the above announcement is approximately 200 words)

Annual Soup Luncheon 2019

February 2, 2019, Saturday 10:30

a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Luther Memorial Church

315 15th Avenue North, South St. Paul

The Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) will sponsor its annual Soup Luncheon. We are excited to have **Rev. Nancy Nord Bence, Executive Director of Protect Minnesota**, join us to share her insight about gun violence prevention.

Are you uncomfortable talking about gun violence?

Want to speak out about the need to prevent gun violence but don't know how? Afraid that you will alienate friends and family if you bring up a "political" topic? Interested in championing gun violence prevention at the Capitol but nervous about meeting with your legislators? If so, this event is for you.

You can learn how to speak with confidence to anyone about gun violence prevention as a public health issue by attending this workshop, led by Protect Minnesota's Executive Director, Nancy Nord Bence.

At this interactive event you'll:

- Learn how to speak about gun violence as a public health issue—in a way that won't alienate hunters and responsible gun owners.
- Learn about good and not-so-good gun-related bills we expect to see introduced at the Capitol this legislative session.
- Develop your personal 1-minute message to lead the conversation about gun bills that would save lives.
- Learn the difference between dialogue and debate and some important dialogue skills.

The day's offering will go to ProtectMN.

Great food, great fellowship, an opportunity for learning-- sounds like a great day doesn't it? Please consider inviting friends and family. We look forward to seeing you on February 2nd.

BETHESDA YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS



February Welch Village Skiing!

Join our annual inter-generational ski trip on February 16th. Meet at 4:30pm for a fun night of skiing at Welch Village.

Lift Tickets: \$5/members, \$35/nonmembers
Equipment: \$28, \$25/12 and under, \$10/helmet
Online release forms are required. Sign up with Beth to be emailed the link for the release form.

Camp Wapo and Ox Lake

Youth and friends who have completed 4th through 12th grade are eligible to attend. Our week at camp is July 21st through July 26th. Cost is \$455. Grades 4 through 8th will attend Youth Camp at Wapo. Grades 9th through 12th will attend Senior High Camp at Ox Lake.

Sign up by March 1st! \$100 deposit is due to Kim or Beth at time of sign up. See Kim or Beth for more information about online registration, deposits, and fundraising.

Feed My Starving Children Packing Event

Youth and Smores are partnering together for a packing event on President's Day! We need to fill at least 20 spots, so be sure to sign up. Meet at church on February 18th at 1:45pm, we pack at the Eagan location from 2:30-4:30pm.

Panera Fundraiser: February 19th, 4 - 8pm

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

Sundays, 10:00 - 10:45am

Cold Winter, Warm Fun!

Winter can sometimes seem cold and endless, especially around this time of year. Remember to take joy in this time of year with fun activities for the family! Here's just a small list of ideas that you can do to make the rest of winter pass by in a flash!

- Hot cocoa and story time
- Make paper snowflakes
- Come skiing with Bethesda (February 16th)
- Make cards for shut-ins
- Take a walk in the fresh snow
- Visit the local library for books
- Set out pine cone bird feeders
- Visit the warm, indoor Como Conservatory
- Pack meals at Feed My Starving Children with Bethesda (February 18th)



Upcoming Sunday School Schedule

February 3rd: Israelites Out of Egypt

February 10th: Fun Games during Congregational Meeting

February 17th: Ten Commandments

February 24th: The Golden Calf

Sunday School



Council Corner

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

Majority of January meeting was spent discussing budget and other items for the February 10th Congregational meeting.

**Congregational Meeting
February 10
9:45 a.m.**

We encourage everyone to attend.

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

Treasurer's Report

December, 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	(\$23,067.74)
Capital	25,569.41
Mortgage Reduction	670.19
Sunday School	682.37
Altar Flowers Fund In/Out	109.00
Dedicated Memorial	2,871.00
Undedicated Memorial	2,166.23
Garden Party	241.59
Special Appeals In/Out	(107.11)
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	90.00
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	67,001.39
Missions	750.00
Tech Team	344.65
Mission Trip Scholarship - ILAG	4,093.92
Mission Trip Scholarship - Youth	618.52
Sidewalk Fund	423.88
New Sign Fund	7,106.00
Sound System Fun	4,410.00
Youth Room Repairs	5,288.09
Lenten Supper	0.00
Total All Funds	\$ 109,425.88

Statement of Activities	December	Year-To-Date
Income:		
Envelopes	\$ 17,175.40	\$ 167,852.69
Loose	1,080.50	4,127.90
Adopt-A-Bill	0.00	143.10
Other General Fund	245.80	2,274.64
Thrivent Dollars	0.00	1,163.00
Preschool Rent	1,163.50	14,052.00
Fund Raisers	(576.00)	7,491.76
Coffee Fund	130.25	1,166.28
Total General Fund Income:	\$ 19,219.45	\$ 198,271.37
Expenses:		
Salary Expense	\$ 11,277.18	\$ 145,358.03
Non-Salary General & Administrative	1,009.35	13,935.96
Property	2,201.65	47,223.24
Worship And Music	269.70	1,819.46
Education	245.95	638.37
Youth	73.56	1,306.27
Smores	0.00	214.59
Stewardship	0.00	0.00
ELCA Mission Support	1,000.00	1,000.00
Camp Wapogasset	750.00	750.00
Total General Fund Expenses:	\$ 16,827.39	\$ 212,245.92

Liabilities	Balance
Payroll Withholding	\$ 1,642.18
Thrivent Financial Mortgage	408,267.26
Thoring Loan (Tax Assessment)	8,738.00
Total Liabilities	\$418,647.44

Average monthly income needed to make 2018 budget:	\$ 18,320.25
Current month General Fund income:	\$ 19,219.45
Average actual Year-To-Date General Fund Income:	\$ 16,522.61
Average actual Year-To-Date General Fund Expense:	\$ 17,687.16



February 2019

March Events: March 2nd (DATE CHANGE)
 8:30am ReFresh ReNew ReBoot
 March 6th
 Ash Wednesday
 12:00pm Worship Service
 6:30pm Worship Service

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 11:00am SWD Soup Luncheon
3 4th Sunday of Epiphany 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	4 6:30pm Quilting B's 6:30pm Boy Scouts	5 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Property Team	6 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm 8th/9th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm SMORE Mtg. 6:30pm Cannon Brass	8	9
10 5th Sunday of Epiphany 9:00am Worship Service 9:45am Annual Meeting 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	11 6:30pm Boy Scouts	12 10:00am Prayer Group 4:30pm Executive Team 6:30pm Book Club	13 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm 8th/9th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	14 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Cannon Brass	15	16 4:30pm Inter Generational Ski Trip-Welch Village
17 6th Sunday of Epiphany 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	18 1:00pm Quilting B's 2:30pm Feed My Starving Children (Youth/Smore) 6:30pm Boy Scouts	19 10:00am Prayer Group 4:00pm Youth Fundraiser (Panera)	20 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm 8th/9th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Mtg. 6:30pm Cannon Brass	22	23 SPAS Tool Kit for Congregations
24 7th Sunday of Epiphany 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	25 6:30pm Boy Scouts	26 10:00am Prayer Group	27 9:00-10:30am Women's Bible Study 11:00am Mobile Meals 6:30pm 8th/9th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	28 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Cannon Brass		



2019 Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Rebecca Cousolle	4 Fran Delia	5	6	7 Gregory Hoffmeyer	8	9
10 Gregory Todd	11 Jason Rooney	12 Gail Rosati	13	14	15	16 Nadia Lewis
17	18 James Morgan	19	20 Kimberly Pearson	21	22	23
24	25	26 Fred Grimsrud Pastor Maggie	27	28		

Members of Bethesda,
Thank you for your generous Christmas Gift. Wishing you a blessed and Happy New Year.
Kay Syverson

Thank you so much for the generous gift of money I received for Christmas. Wishing you all God's blessings in 2019!
Barb Brennan

"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):

Jill Lewis, Jane Walker, Donna Johnson, Kim Burress, 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:

Sharon Nelson, Dave Johnson, Vance Grannis (friend of Sally Muraski),

Hospice:

Lorna Hohle, Carol Evenson

Prayers of Thanksgiving: