

# **January 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**

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Monday, January 1st</b>    | <b>New Year's Day</b>                       |
| <b>Sunday, January 6th</b>    | <b>10:00am Worship (ONE Service ONLY)</b>   |
| <b>Saturday, January 12th</b> | <b>Youth Lock-In</b>                        |
| <b>Sunday, January 13th</b>   | <b>Camp Sunday at both Worship Services</b> |
| <b>Sunday, January 27th</b>   | <b>Youth Tubing at Green Acres</b>          |

From Pastor Maggie

Happy New Year! Well actually it is not the new year as I am composing this – but it will be soon. New beginnings are exciting but if we are honest they also carry with them a sense of apprehension. What will the new year bring? We want to imagine only blessings and good things for ourselves and our loved ones in the year ahead but we also know there is a very good chance that there will be some challenges and difficulties as well. As Christians, the blessing we can always count on is that no matter what the new year brings God's constant love and care will be part of it.

It is hard to believe that I have been a part of the Bethesda church family for one year now. We all know that it was a rough start with the death of our custodian Lee. He is greatly missed and many of you are still wondering how he could have felt so alone when he was loved by so many. The disease of depression did not allow him to acknowledge the truth that we were better with him than without him. I will never forget the show of grace and support you gave his close friends and family and I will never forget your grace and support of guiding me through officiating at my first funeral here after one week on the job.

Although it is true that we have had some challenges this year, what you showed me those first days of my ministry among you still holds true today. You are a congregation of grace that supports one another with love and care and I feel extremely blessed to be called as your Pastor.

I have discovered so many wonderful things about you and brag unashamedly about all of you often. I still cannot get over the fact that we have over 40% of our congregation in ongoing bible studies. Did you know that 20% is considered a high statistic for a Lutheran congregation?

Our camp and mission trip participation for youth also far exceeds the number of averages for Sunday School and youth groups our size. The support for local and global mission is amazing and how you step in and provide for one another when in need is also impressive.

Our church council is not only a solid functioning governing body but consists of members invested with their whole heart in ensuring that Bethesda will continue to be a thriving faith community. It is mindboggling the commitment and work people are willing to do to make ministry happen here.

I could go on and on about bible school, neighborhood party, the women's refresh and renew retreat, prayer group, boutique, booyas, fundraisers, working with feed my starving children, Neighbors volunteers, youth activities, choir, etc. The point being is how fortunate I feel to work with such an engaged and healthy congregation.

There is no question that God is on the move within the walls of our building and outside in the community through all of you. Thank-you for making my first year here a good one. Thank-you for forgiving my mistakes, supporting me in some difficult decisions, blessing me with words of encouragement and most of all trusting me to be your faithful Pastor.

My prayer for this new year is that as a congregation we will continue to grow in faith through the power and love of the Holy Spirit and that we will heed God's call to continue and grow in the mission of God's kingdom here in our communities of Inver Grove and South Saint Paul.

## Worship Information

As a Pastor of the ELCA I received a letter of call from you. This call says

*“We call you to exercise among us the ministry of Word and Sacrament which has established and which the Holy Spirit empowers: To preach and teach the Word of God in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; to administer Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; to lead us in worship; to proclaim the forgiveness of sins; to provide pastoral care; to speak for justice on behalf of the poor and oppressed; to encourage persons to prepare for ministry of the Gospel; to impart knowledge of the Evangelical Lutheran Church...to equip us for witness and service; and guide us in proclaiming God’s love through word and deed.”*

Planning worship and preparing sermons happen prior to worship but many of my duties have their grounding in conversations that take place on Sunday mornings between or after worship services.

Most of you are aware that we have not had a musician to lead the contemporary worship service since Jacob left in September. We have not been able to find a replacement although we have been diligently looking and praying. I do believe we will find the right person at the right time if that is in God’s plan. However, until that person arrives I have been and will continue to provide music leadership so we can have a contemporary worship service.

I am a decent enough musician to fill this role but it does take a fair amount of practice ahead of time and running through the music just before the worship service to accomplish this. What this has meant during our fall season is that I have not been able to visit with people between the 9am worship service and the 10:30 worship service. As people have coffee or are leaving the church they often tell me about personal concerns that lead to Pastoral care. During Advent we had only had one service and this has allowed me to see clearly what I already suspected; having time between worship is imperative in order to do good Pastoral care.

For this reason, we will be moving the contemporary service from 10:30am to 11:00am so we can have a contemporary service and still allow for me to connect with people between worship services. I realize this later time will be inconvenient for some of you but it is the only solution for now. In this new year we can have conversations and look at what will work well in the future.

There is one added benefit for this time change. It will allow for our Sunday school to meet for one hour instead of a half an hour. Sunday school is one of the foundation blocks for a thriving congregation and a half an hour does not allow teachers to do what they need to do. The added time for faith formation will indeed be a blessing for the youth.

It is always my hope and prayer that worship is a blessing and edifying for all who participate no matter what service they attend. If you would like to discuss this further know that I would be happy to meet with you. Pastor Maggie Novak

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

We had a good turnout to discuss women's leadership moving forward as well as discussion regarding the garbage disposal installation fee and the church sound system. Dawn Sargent as the women's group council liaison started our meeting off.

We voted to pay \$1,125 for a portion of the installation as well as \$1,125 toward the church sound system. We are excited we can help with both of these needs.

Regarding leadership we discussed how many of our events are lead by different groups of women and that is working well and we will continue with this.

Pattie Rooney will email all women prior to the Bell Echoes newsletter deadline. Anyone with information should email her the details and she will put it on the women's page.

We are also looking at how best to track paper products usage and future purchases as things are needed. If you've got ideas please share them.

#### Some upcoming events

- A movie night organizer possibly in January
- Lenten dinner organizer
- Spring breakfast program

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

[Womenofbethesda@gmail.com](mailto: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 has not been chosen yet, but should be available the first week of January. Please see Beth McCabe if you are interested in joining. More information to come once the book is chosen.

#### 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.



### 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

### Contact Information

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

### REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

#### Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Wednesday morning Bible study has been going since October 10th studying "Revelation The Triumph of God." A 14 week *LifeGuide* Bible study. For more information contact Sharon Stanefski.

#### Women's Evening Bible Study

January date has not been set at this time.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

January  
Book Club starts  
Movie Night

February  
Book Club meets  
ReFresh & ReNew

April  
Spring Prayer Breakfast



## **Bethesda Missions**

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

**Thank you, Bethesda, for your  
mission donations!**

***“A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water.” Proverbs 4:25***

**We thank all who contributed Memorial  
Lights donations to the missions of Bethesda.**

**A huge thank you is extended to all who  
“decorated” our Giving Tree with gifts and donations.**

*What an opportunity we have had to demonstrate Christ's love by sharing with others. Gifts given include a bike and helmet, children's literature books, puzzles, outdoor jackets, sweaters, scarves, cosmetics, jewelry, school and art supplies, gloves, board games, many gift cards, and much more.*

**Monetary donations were also given to our  
Guatemala partner church at Los Rosas, Neighbor's  
Inc. and Feed My Starving Children.**

**Thanks so much!**

# BETHESDA YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS



## **Green Acres Tubing**

Do you love snow tubing and pizza? We will be going to Green Acres for some tubing fun on January 27th from 1-4pm. Please sign up in the youth hallway. \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers.

## **January Camp Sunday!**

Youth will be celebrating the joys of outdoor ministry through this fun worship service on January 13th, at both 9:00 and 10:30. **LOCK-IN** the night before starting at 6:00pm. 4th-8th graders come to help plan Camp Sunday and play some games from 6:00 - 10:00, 9th grade and up, stay all night for a fun **LOCK-IN!**

## **Michigan Trip Participants**

Please lift our trip participants up in prayer: Scott and Jenny Burress, Alysha Holmgren, Alison Krech, Beth and Kate McCabe, Laura and Heidi O'Donnell, Augustus Schussler, and Anna Watt

## **Stay Tuned for an Applebee's Fundraiser in January!**

**High School Youth Group Moving to Sunday Evenings  
6:00 - 7:30pm**

## **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 - 11:00am**

## **Thank You!**

Thank you everyone for your help with the Youth and Children's Christmas Program this year! We could not have done it without all the love and support from this wonderful congregation.

### Special Thanks to:

Mentor Mary – <i>Heidi O'Donnell</i>	Wise People – <i>Andy Courselle</i>
Mary – <i>Becky Courselle</i>	<i>Christian Delgado</i>
Mentor Joseph – <i>Augustus Schussler</i>	<i>Evelyn Johnson</i>
Joseph – <i>Griffin Schussler</i>	<i>Benny Roth</i>
Mentor Shepherd – <i>Daniel Delgado Jr</i>	Narrators – <i>Olivia</i>
Shepherds – <i>Grant Doyscher</i>	<i>Jason Rooney</i>
<i>Wyatt Schussler</i>	<i>Robert Torres</i>
Mentor Angel – <i>Kate McCabe</i>	Directors – <i>Danielle Courselle</i>
Angels – <i>Felisita Delgado</i>	<i>Beth McCabe</i>
<i>Cherelle Roth</i>	<i>Mindie Schussler</i>
Mentor Wise People – <i>Gwen Courselle</i>	Screens – <i>Jenny Burress</i>
<i>Jackson Torres</i>	Extra Help – <i>Laura O'Donnell</i>
To the Choir, for their song	Reader - <i>Fred Grimsrud</i>
	Pastor Maggie

## **Upcoming Sunday School Schedule**

January 6th: Sunday School and 6th/7th Grade Confirmation from 9:00 - 10:00am, before one worship service at 10am

January 13th: Special Camp Sunday themed Sunday School!

January 20th: Regular Sunday School from 10 - 11:00am

January 27: Regular Sunday School from 10 - 11:00am  
Green Acres Tubing Event after Church!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> <i>NEW YEAR'S DAY</i>	<b>2</b> 9:00-10:30am Women's Bible Study 11:00am Mobile Meals 6:30pm ND 8th/9th Grade Confirmation	<b>3</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm SMORE Mtg. 6:3pm Cannon Brass	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 Epiphany of Our Lord Sunday</b> 10:00am Worship Service* 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am 6th/7th Grade Confirmation 6:00pm H.S. Youth Group 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>7</b> 6:30pm Quilting B's 6:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>8</b> 10:00am Prayer Group	<b>9</b> 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm 8th/9th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Cannon Brass	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Youth Lock-In
<b>13 Baptism of Our Lord Sunday (Camp Sunday)</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am 6th/7th Grade Confirmation 11:00am Contemporary Worship Service 6:00pm H.S. Youth Group 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>14</b> 6:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>15</b> 10:00am Prayer Group	<b>16</b> 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm 8th/9th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Mtg 6:30pm Cannon Brass	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20 2nd Sunday of Epiphany</b> 9:00am Worship Service* 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am 6th/7th Grade Confirmation 11:00am Contemporary Worship Service 6:00pm H.S. Youth Group 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>21</b> 1:00pm Quilting B's 6:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>22</b> 10:00am Prayer Group  <i>Bell Echoes Due</i>	<b>23</b> 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm 8th/9th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Cannon Brass	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27 3rd Sunday of Epiphany</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am 6th/7th Grade Confirmation 11:00am Contemporary Worship Service 1:00pm Youth Tubing 6:00pm H.S. Youth Group 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:00am Prayer Group	<b>30</b> 9:00-10:30am Women's Bible Study 11:00am Mobile Meals 6:30pm 8th/9th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>31</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Cannon Brass		





# 2019 Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Harry Thomsen	<b>2</b> Ryan Munkholm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Mervin Munkholm	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Linda Peterson	<b>7</b> James Bishop	<b>8</b> Randy Thorson	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Ann Siegel	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Darlene Esko Sharon Nelson Brian Tiedman	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Taylor Heltne Jayne Munkholm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Donna Holmgren	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

**"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:**

***Vance Grannis (friend of Sally Muraski), Sharon Nelson***

**Hospice:**

***Lorna Hohle, Carol Evenson***

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**