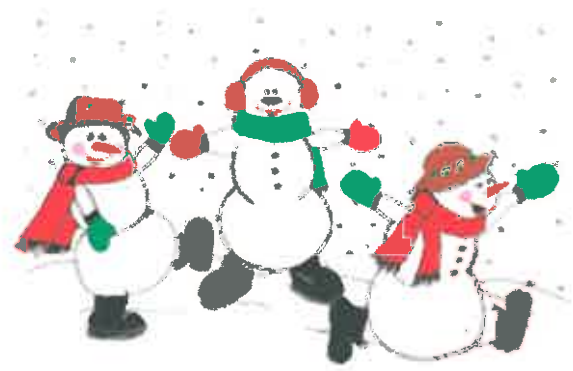


# **January Bell Echoes**

## **Bethesda Lutheran Church**



### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

<b>Monday, January 1st</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 14th</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins</b>
<b>Sunday, February 18th</b>	<b>Annual Budget Meeting</b>
<b>Saturday, February 24th</b>	<b>Refresh and ReNew</b>

## Newsletter Article for January

<sup>3</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself..." <sup>16</sup> Live by the Spirit; ... <sup>22</sup> the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:3, 14-16, 22-23

Happy New Year! Several years ago I gave up doing News Year's resolutions (that I seldom kept) and began a practice of choosing to focus on a particular fruit of the Spirit for the New Year. The "fruit" of the Spirit are those characteristics that Christians who are filled with God's presence of the Holy Spirit are expected to exhibit as they live out their faith in their day to day life.

The first year I choose to hurry up and get *patience* out of the way. Never, and I mean never, pray for patience if you want a year that goes exactly how you want it to go. Patience is only learned through experiencing resistance to having your own way. I am only half kidding about praying for patience. Patience is God's gift to helping us appreciate community and slowing us down in order to make thoughtful choices but it can be challenging learning to be a patient person.

Over the years I have prayed for *love, generosity, peace* and for the last two years I have been working on *kindness*. I worked on kindness for two years because I did not get it down the first year. It was easy to be kind to those people I liked. A little trickier for people I found difficult to be around and almost impossible for those who were cruel in their behavior towards me or others. I have been changed and shaped into a different person as I have been praying with intentional emphasis on one of the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit per year. This is the amazing thing about God. God always, at any time and at any age, gives us the opportunity to become more and more whole.

If you would like to try choosing a fruit of the Spirit to intentionally to work on for 2018 this is how I go about choosing. I read Galatians 5 and then I copy vs. 22 and put the print out of that verse where I will see it several times a day. I ask God to show me what quality would be good for me to work on for the year. Over the next couple of weeks I let the fruit/attribute choose me by seeing which one stands out as I look over verse 22. There is nothing special about the way I choose, it is just the way I have done it. If you just decide to try and work on the first one in the sentence that would work as well. I have enjoyed doing this each year.

I pray that 2018 will be a good year for each of us to grow closer to God, to get to know one another better and that as a congregation we will grow in the grace and mission God intends for us. Pastor Maggie

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

## GREETINGS WOMEN OF BETHESDA

Greetings,

Thank you to all the women who attended our "Baking Up Christmas" night. It was a blessed evening of wonderful food, friends and fellowship. A very special thanks to all the women who shared stories about different Christmas cookie shapes. Now as we step into the New Year let's be ready with open hearts and minds to be renewed by the Love of our Lord Jesus.

Sisters in Christ,  
Nancy Todd & Dianna Houska

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Refresh and Renew: Saturday February 24th, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm.** Do you need a "faith" lift? The morning will feature a Christian comedian and motivational speaker. Cost is \$15 and scholarships are available.

For more information call:  
Cheryl Hilber (651) 428-8949  
Robin Ross (651) 210-5472  
Sharon Stanefski (651) 226-3062

**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](mailto:dianna.houska@gmail.com)  
Nancy Todd 651-455-2982 [nancytodd19@yahoo.com](mailto:nancytodd19@yahoo.com)  
[Womenofbethesda@gmail.com](mailto:Womenofbethesda@gmail.com)



## REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

**Wednesday Bible study**  
9:30-11:00 am. We are finishing up our study on "Galatians: Why God accepts Us".

A new study will begin on January 10th on the book of "Ephesians: Wholeness for a Broken World." All are welcome.

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

**Book Club**  
We will resume Tuesday, January 16th @ 6:30 pm.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**Refresh and Renew**  
Feb. 24th, 2018

**Watch your e-mails**  
for future events

### Women's Ministry Board Members

Co presidents:  
Dianna Houska &  
Nancy Todd

Co-vice presidents:  
Jane Walker  
Renee Dashane

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





## **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 bikes and helmets, sleds, books, a basketball, a football and a soccer ball, puzzles, an outdoor jacket, scarves, cosmetics, school supplies, gloves, board games, 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!**

**Feed My Starving Children** is a Christian non-profit, that has tackled world hunger since 1987 by sending volunteer-packed, nutritious meals to 70 countries. These meals are specifically designed to assist in preventing and reversing malnutrition and are used in schools, orphanages, clinics and feeding programs. In 2016, FMSC welcomed more than 1.1 million volunteers to pack nearly 284 million meals through its permanent sites and nationwide Mobile Pack program. The Minnesota-based charity spends more than 90% of total donations directly on feeding the hungry and has earned the highest 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for 12 consecutive years. Visit [fmsc.org](http://fmsc.org) for more information.

***“He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.”  
Psalm 146:7(NIV)***

We would also like to acknowledge the Thrivent Action Team donations (\$250 each) for: Relay for Life, Vacation Bible School, Women’s Boutique, and Feed My Starving Children.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Program!

The youth did an awesome job!

January 7th- 10:00 - 10:30 Sunday School

January 14th- 10:00-10:30 Sunday School

January 21st- 10:00-10:30 Sunday School

January 28th- 10:00-10:30 Sunday School

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope to see your smiling faces and hear all about what you did during your Christmas Break.

Mindie Schussler

Sunday School Coordinator

612-875-6622

[mindie.schussler@gmail.com](mailto:mindie.schussler@gmail.com)

## ***SUPER DUPER SOUPER BOWL***

As most everyone in the civilized world is aware, Super Bowl 52 is going to be played in Minneapolis in February. (That is Super Bowl "El-eye-eye for those who are not fluent in the Roman language). In keeping with this event we will again collect soup for the Neighbors food shelf. [Because of the Minnesota connection we will call ours SUPER DUPER SOUPER BOWL](#)" Beginning January 21st and continuing on January 28th and February 4th the Souper Bowl will be in the narthex to accept donations of canned or packaged soup, chili and beef stew. Last year 160 items were donated. Can we do better? I think we can. Will we do better? We will have to wait and see. GO TEAM GO!! RAH! RAH! RAH!



# January 2018

February Events: February 14th  
February 18th  
February 24th

Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins  
Annual Budget Meeting  
8:30am-1:00pm Refresh and ReNew

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> HAPPY NEW YEAR'S	<b>2</b> 10:00am Prayer Group 5:00pm Executive Mtg 6:30pm Property Team	<b>3</b> 9:00-10:30am Women's Bible Study 11:00am Mobile Meals 5:30pm Contemporary Band Rehearsal 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm SMORE Mtg	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Baptism of Our Lord Sunday</b> 9:00am Worship Service* 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship Service*	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Quilting B's 6:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 10:00am Prayer Group	<b>10</b> 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Contemporary Band Rehearsal 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>12</b> 3:45pm Cub Scouts	<b>13</b>
<b>14 2nd Sunday of Epiphany</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship Service	<b>15</b> 1:00pm Quilting B's 6:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Book Club	<b>17</b> 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Contemporary Band Rehearsal 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Mtg	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21 3rd Sunday of Epiphany</b> 9:00am Worship Service* 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship Service*	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>23</b> 10:00am Prayer Group  Bell Echoes Articles DUE	<b>24</b> 9:30-11:30am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Contemporary Band Rehearsal 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 4th Sunday of Epiphany (Camp Sunday)</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship Service	<b>29</b> 6:30pm Boy Scouts	<b>30</b> 10:00am Prayer Group	<b>31</b> 9:00-10:30am Women's Bible Study 11:00am Mobile Meals 5:30pm Contemporary Band Rehearsal 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal			



# January 2018 Birthdays

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



# Treasurer's Report

November, 2017

**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>(\$13,287.08)</b>
Capital	29,418.78
Parking Lot	0.00
Mortgage Reduction	4,875.69
Sunday School	682.37
Altar Flowers Fund In/Out	78.75
Dedicated Memorial	3,300.00
Undedicated Memorial	0.00
Garden Party	148.56
Special Appeals In/Out	6,869.73
Wedding	140.00
Vacation Bible School	0.00
Contemporary Choir	855.00
Thoring Income	0.00
Bethesda Resource Center	584.74
Bible Fund	200.00
Choir	1,501.88
Youth Mission Trip	951.42
Youth Faith Based Activities	1,103.26
Youth Camp Travel Fund	748.09
Hohle Scholarship	0.00
Timmy Autey Camp Scholarship	2,671.13
Christian Care Fund	836.23
Men's Club	54.00
Parish Nurse	692.00
Pastor's Trip	0.00
Smores (Outreach)	3,033.77
Financial University Fund	201.96
Paul & Agnes Thoring Endowed Fund	64,986.39
Missions	2,224.00
Tech Team	525.62
Mission Trip Scholarship - ILAG	2,348.08
Mission Trip Scholarship - Youth	2,321.62
Sidewalk Fund	423.88
Rain Gardens Fund	0.00
New Sign Fund	6,026.00
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 124,515.87</b>

Statement of Activities	November	Year-To-Date
<b>Income:</b>		
Envelopes	\$ 13,685.75	\$ 149,079.09
Loose	526.00	2,945.45
Adopt-A-Bill	0.00	1,055.00
Other General Fund	4.66	886.56
Thrivent Dollars	0.00	1,980.00
Preschool Rent	1,163.50	10,670.50
Fund Raisers	0.00	11,225.50
Coffee Fund	57.00	925.11
<b>Total General Fund Income:</b>	<b>\$ 15,436.91</b>	<b>\$ 178,767.21</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Salary Expense	\$ 9,007.19	\$ 112,663.39
Non-Salary General & Administrative	1,330.87	13,705.90
Property	2,320.91	35,358.09
Worship And Music	0.00	1,604.20
Education	0.00	1,095.09
Youth	101.66	748.69
Smores	100.00	100.00
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>\$ 12,860.63</b>	<b>\$ 165,275.36</b>

Liabilities	Balance
Payroll Withholding	\$ 1,624.14
Thrivent Financial Mortgage	426,921.76
Thoring Loan (Tax Assessment)	10,753.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 439,298.90</b>

Average monthly income needed to make 2017 budget:	\$ 17,551.25
Current month General Fund income:	\$ 15,436.91
Average actual Year-To-Date General Fund Income:	\$ 16,251.56
Average actual Year-To-Date General Fund Expense:	\$ 15,025.03

**"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 Pastor's office, 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:**

**Lee Matejka**

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

**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, Helen Schadegg, Dorothy Nelson, Lovina Gustafson, Marian Petersen**

**For those with health concerns:**

**David Johnson, Kaelee DuFrane (Ray Morency's niece's granddaughter), Dianna Houska, Cheryl Hilber, Elsie Johnson, Lloyd Sachs, John Sargent, Donna Johnson, Kim Burress, Brian Ginsbach (cousin of Ann Siegel), Christine Tarzia (friend of Renee DeSchane), Felisita Delgado, Tonia Becerra, Barb Roth, Pastor Sue Gravelle (friend of Kim Burress), Amber Thorson, Jane Gustafson, Kay Roberts, Finley Doyle (great granddaughter of Sally Muraski), Emersyn Kay Johnson, Clementine Brown, Kyla Henderson (friend of Amber Thorson), 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, Dale Knutson (nephew of Jane Gustafson)**

**Hospice:**

**Darleen Heltne**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

**Kelsey Breitkruetz, Jerry Ohmann (friend of Jane McLagan), Miranda McLagan (great niece of Jane and Clint McLagan),**