

July Bell Echoes

Bethesda Lutheran Church



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS 9:00am Worship Service

WEDNESDAYS 6:30pm Worship Service

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Wednesday, July 3

NO Women's Bible Study

NO Worship Service

Saturday, July 6

Youth Leave on Mission Trip

Friday, July 12

Youth Return from Mission Trip

Friday, July 19

9:00am-12:30pm Vacation Bible School

July 21-26

Camp Week

Upcoming Events (Mark Your Calendars)

Wednesday, August 7

Neighborhood Parking Lot Celebration

Friday, August 16

9:00am-12:30pm Vacation Bible School

Saturday, September 14 Bethesda Booya

From Pastor Maggie-

Happy Fourth of July! On Sunday July 7th our worship theme will focus on what it means for United States of America to Bless God. We will sing some of our favorite national hymns/songs and praise God for the gift of living in a nation that allows us freedom of religion. My guess is, that most of us, take our freedom to express our beliefs in God for granted. As Christians in the USA we have never experienced persecution for believing and expressing our faith in the Triune God. That is not the case around the world.

A report from Open Doors and also from Aid to the Church in Need, two organizations that report on persecuted Christians around the world, claim that in 2019 one out of nine Christians experience high levels of persecution worldwide. Each month 345 Christians are killed, 219 Christians are detained without trial and are imprisoned and 105 church buildings are intentionally damaged or destroyed. Each month! Each year 245 million Christians in the world experience high levels of persecution for their choice to follow Christ. The numbers are staggering.

Our freedom of expression of faith is not something to be taken lightly. I have always found it interesting that in countries where persecution is rampant Christian believers still witness about salvation through Christ and tell others about the amazing love and faithfulness of God. Would I be that brave? I would like to think I would but I don't know for sure.

What I do know for sure is that I can do several things as a Christian in the USA. I can witness to the love of God without fear. I can speak up and stand up for others when their belief systems are ridiculed. I can pray for my brother and sisters in Christ around the world who are suffering because of their beliefs in God. I can support organizations that help persecuted Christians and people of other faith traditions who are being persecuted because of their religious beliefs.

This fourth of July as we celebrate independence day let us thank God for the blessing of living in a country that allows us so many freedoms!

Prayer Experience –

List all the things that you are thankful for about the USA. Ask God to reveal to you where as a citizen God wants your participation at this time in your life.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

Ecclesiastes 3

TIME TO REORGANIZE




WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Summer session will begin June 19th through July 31st. There will be no meeting on July 3rd.

We will be looking into what it means to "Have the mind of Christ". Each week we will take time to focus and concentrate on God's word and our relationship with the One who loves us and longs to spend time with us.

We welcome all women. If you haven't come before, this would be a good time to join us. Hope to see you on the sometime.

For more information contact Sharon Stanefski.



The reorganizing of women's ministry is to create teams. These teams will plan the year's events. There is a sign up sheet on the women's bulletin board where you can sign up to be on a team that will organize one of our year's events.

If you have any questions, please see me, the team leader, Naomi Dorau.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Book Club

The next book club meeting will be on July 22nd at 5:30 pm. We will be discussing the book "Kitchens of the Great Midwest" by J. Ryan Stradal.

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

JULY

Book Club
July 22

Women's Ministry Board Members

Team Leader:
Naomi Dorau

Treasurer:
Jennifer Tiedman

Bulletin board design:
Naomi Dorau
Sharon Stanefski

Boutique spaces:
Lynette Thorson

Cookies for Shut-ins:
Dawn Sargent
Dannielle Coursolle

Other Advisors:
Women at Large

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 July **Neighbor's Summer Meals Program**

Serve breakfast or lunch at neighboring schools! Please help by signing up for one or more days. Serving is easy. Just hand out breakfast or lunch items to students or families all while being given direction by full-time cafeteria personnel.

Call Neighbor's Inc. at 651-306-2153



Bethesda Neighborhood Parking Lot Party and Picnic

Save the date- Wednesday, August 7th 4:00-7:00 pm!

Come join us to celebrate our neighbors, our parking lot and our mission of extending God's love. Plan to share the fun: grilling food, playing games, riding in the bike and wagon parade, and enjoying each other.

Bring your children or grandchildren for bouncy fun in an inflatable bouncy house, dodge ball in the gaga pit and creative decorating in the "Wheels Parade".

THIS IS A CHURCH WIDE EVENT!

Sign up to help!!! We need help in both setting up and cleaning up! Help is also needed in sending out invitations, serving food, monitoring the various activities, and greeting and welcoming our neighbors.

Food For Friends

Meals are ready and can be signed out for giving whenever there is a need. The meals are in the Caring Corner in the library (freezer and cupboard). Meals could be given to anyone who could use a thoughtful gesture or a little extra help and encouragement.

VBS 2019: Wild Bethesda

Join us for a wild adventure as we learn more about God's awesome creation! VBS runs each day from 9am - 12:30pm. Everyday will include skits, songs, classroom time, crafts, games, and a snack!

July 19th: Sea
August 16th: Sky

Register for any of the three days on the Bethesda Facebook page!

Please let Beth know if you are interested in helping on any of the remaining days.

BETHESDA YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS



Keep Our Summer Ministries in Your Prayers

We have a busy summer ahead of us at Bethesda! Keep us in your prayers as we go on our mission trip to Grand Rapids, MI (July 6th - 12th), as we go to Ox Lake and Wapo Bible Camp (July 21st - 26th), and we participate in VBS (June 28th, July 19th, August 16th).



Thank You from the Graduates!

We would like to say a big thank you to the congregation for the beautiful bracelets that we received for our high school graduation.

Also, thank you for your constant support throughout these past years. Whether that be supporting us through fundraisers for mission trips and camp, or through prayer. Again, we are so very grateful for everything that you have done for us!

- Jenny, Kate, Anna

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



2019

August Events:
 August 7 Neighborhood Parking Lot Celebration
 August 16 Vacation Bible School (9:00am-12:30pm)

| 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 | 3 9:30-11:00am NO Women's Bible Study 6:30pm NO Worship Service | 4  | 5 Youth leave on Mission Trip | 6 Youth leave on Mission Trip |
| 7 4th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Worship Service* | 8 6:30pm Boy Scouts | 9 10:00am Prayer Group | 10 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Worship Service | 11 10:00am Bible Study | 12 Youth return from Mission Trip | 13 |
| 14 5th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Worship Service | 15 1:00pm Quilting B's 6:30pm Boy Scouts | 16 10:00am Prayer Group 4:00pm Executive Team | 17 9:00-10:30am Women's Bible Study 11:00am Mobile Meals 6:30pm Worship Service | 18 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Mtg | 19 9:00am-12:30pm VBS | 20 |
| 21 6th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Worship Service* | 22 5:30pm Book Club 6:30pm Boy Scouts | 23 10:00am Prayer Group | 24 9:00-10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Worship Service | 25 10:00am Bible Study | 26 | 27 |
| Bell Echoes Articles DUE | | | | | | |
| Camp Week → | | | | | | |
| 28 7th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Worship Service | 29 6:30pm Boy Scouts | 30 10:00am Prayer Group | 31 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Worship Service | | | |



2019 Birthdays

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|----------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------|
| | 1 | 2 Amber Thorson | 3 | 4  | 5 | 6 Grant Doycher |
| 7 Tom Brennan, Sr. | 8 Dale Jore | 9 | 10 Mark Bratten Kristin Todd | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 John Sargent | 15 | 16 Mindie Schussler | 17 | 18 Hannah O'Donnell | 19 Christopher Johnson | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Andrea Sonju |
| 28 William O'Neill Griffin Schussler | 29 | 30 | 31 Larry Ross | | | |



Council Corner

Council Corner Highlights from June Meeting

During our June meeting we discussed the July 3rd Wednesday night worship and voted to cancel this service due to the July 4th holiday.

Nate Schussler resigned from council effective June as he will be getting ready for deployment in October. We will miss Nate's knowledge, input and humor at our meetings but certainly understand his priority is getting himself and his family prepared for deployment. We hope to have a new council member appointed asap.

We spent much of the meeting asking and answering these questions: Where are we, Who are we, Why are we. We will continue to do this next month working toward our whole congregation joining in discussions next fall/winter as it is vital we continue to seek God's guidance as we move forward with missions, programs and worship.

As always, please see any council member for more information or concerns you have.
Robin Ross, Cheryl Hilber, Dawn Sargent, Laura O'Donnell, Robert McCabe, Jim Petersen, Ryan Ihle, Renee Zamora, Pastor Novak

Treasurer's Report

May, 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 expense exceeded income by \$1,907.32. Receipts to the mortgage reduction fund no longer cover the mortgage payment resulting in a negative balance of \$3,054.81.

| All Funds | Balance |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| General Fund | (\$35,209.86) |
| Capital | 30,184.41 |
| Mortgage Reduction | (3,054.81) |
| Sunday School | 682.37 |
| Altar Flowers Fund In/Out | 14.71 |
| Dedicated Memorial | 5,151.00 |
| Undedicated Memorial | 2,186.23 |
| Garden Party | 241.59 |
| Special Appeals In/Out | 11,880.21 |
| Wedding | 140.00 |
| Vacation Bible School | 0.00 |
| Contemporary Choir | 855.00 |
| Bethesda Resource Center | 584.74 |
| Bible Fund | 200.00 |
| Choir | 558.20 |
| Youth Mission Trip | 522.96 |
| Youth Faith Based Activities | 1,336.92 |
| Youth Camp Travel Fund | 1,394.56 |
| Timmy Autey Camp Scholarship | 1,874.67 |
| 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 | 67,776.39 |
| Missions | 1,463.00 |
| Tech Team | 344.65 |
| Mission Trip Scholarship - ILAG | 4,495.16 |
| Mission Trip Scholarship - Youth | 881.92 |
| Sidewalk Fund | 423.88 |
| New Sign Fund | 7,231.00 |
| Sound System Fund | 6,575.00 |
| Youth Room Repairs | 6,165.19 |
| Lenten Supper | 0.00 |
| Total All Funds | \$ 118,471.65 |

| Statement of Activities | May | Year-To-Date |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Income: | | |
| Envelopes | \$ 10,053.64 | \$ 60,580.18 |
| Loose | 174.00 | 1,654.25 |
| Adopt-A-Bill | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Other General Fund | 176.66 | 354.19 |
| Thrivent Dollars | 0.00 | 655.00 |
| Preschool Rent | 2,450.00 | 11,800.00 |
| Fund Raisers | 2,569.00 | 2,869.00 |
| Coffee Fund | 116.85 | 652.51 |
| Total General Fund Income: | \$ 15,540.15 | \$ 78,565.13 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Salary Expense | \$ 12,084.76 | \$ 60,023.36 |
| Non-Salary General & Administrative | 1,276.72 | 6,564.66 |
| Property | 3,512.39 | 22,186.19 |
| Worship And Music | 573.60 | 1,487.94 |
| Education | 0.00 | 51.25 |
| Youth | 0.00 | 396.85 |
| 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: | \$ 17,447.47 | \$ 90,710.25 |

| Liabilities | Balance |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Payroll Withholding | \$ 1,855.24 |
| Thrivent Financial Mortgage | 400,935.14 |
| Thoring Loan (Tax Assessment) | 7,963.00 |
| Total Liabilities | \$ 410,753.38 |

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Average monthly income needed to make 2019 budget: | \$ 19,018.33 |
| Current month General Fund income: | \$ 15,540.15 |
| Average actual Year-To-Date General Fund Income: | \$ 15,713.03 |
| Average actual Year-To-Date General Fund Expense: | \$ 18,142.05 |

"OUR PRAYERS"

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

Romans 12:12



"OUR PRAYERS"

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church

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:

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

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

For those with health concerns:

Dr. Jerry Larson, MD (Friend of David and Tim Johnson), Sharon Nelson

Hospice:

Carol Evenson

Prayers of Thanksgiving: