

October Bell Echoes

Bethesda Lutheran Church



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday, October 6th

Preparation for On the Road Again

Saturday, October 7th

On The Road Again

Tuesday, October 10th

12:00-6:00pm Blood Drive

Wednesday, October 11th

9:00am Women's Bible Study Begins

Wednesday, October 18th

6:30pm NO Confirmation (MEA Weekend)

Saturday, October 21st

9:00am SE Cluster Meeting—Lutheran Church of Peace

Wednesday, October 25th

6:30pm NO Choir Rehearsal

Pastor's Message

October, 2017

Ever since Pastor Terry Nordheim resigned his call to Bethesda over eight months ago, Bethesda has been in transition. It has been my privilege to have served you as your interim pastor during this time. Now the word is getting out that there was a congregational meeting on September 17th, and those present and voting voted to extend a call to Maggie Novak to serve as your pastor. As I write this article, Maggie has not officially accepted this call, but it appears that she is inclined to do so.

You have been in transition all this time, and now I feel that I am in transition as well. Soon I will be negotiating the date when my service with you will end. I feel good about our work together in this ministry. Thank you so much for having given me this opportunity. You have consistently treated me with respect and affection for which I am very grateful. I am in accord with the words of St. Paul:

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.” [Philippians 1:3-5]

Give your new pastor a hearty welcome, and get to work together on the mission to which Bethesda has been called.

Blessings!
Ralph Baumgartner

On Sunday September 17th Bethesda held a special congregational meeting for the purpose of voting to extend a call to Mathilda M Novak as our pastor. The vote passed with a 95% margin.

Maggie (as she goes by) has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Bethel University, a Master of Theology in Spiritual Direction from the University of Saint Catherine and a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary. Bethesda will be Pastor Maggie's first call however she has more than twenty years of work experience in the church. She was a youth director at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church for eight years, Minister of Parish Life at Salem Lutheran Church for ten years. She did her internship at Oak Grove Lutheran Church and was interim Pastor of In Reach at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church for one year. Her current position is with Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church as a Visitation Pastor.

Pastor Maggie feels strongly that young people have a place in the life of the church and enjoys working with them, as well as finding ways to make those who are not able to get around still feel connected to the community. She has led Bible studies and loves teaching all ages. She has many gifts to offer our congregation but believes one of her strongest gifts is her ability to form and maintain meaningful relationships. She believes that pastoral care is not only for crisis times but about walking with people in their journey of faith. She has a very energetic, enthusiastic and creative personality.

We look forward to Maggie joining with us in our journey of faith.

The call committee

Fred, Theresa, Nancy, Dawn, Pattie and Sharon

People of God at Bethesda,

Let me begin by saying that I am thrilled to be considered for call as your Pastor. I realize that voting on someone you have never met is challenging so let me briefly introduce myself.

My name is Mathilda Magdalen Weiblen Novak. I was named after my grandmother and I couldn't be more proud to bear her name. I know it is a mouth full; however, I go by my nick-name, Maggie. I was born and raised in Saint Paul but had close relatives that owned farms in Farmington, Wisconsin so I spent a good amount of time "on the farm". I realize how lucky I was growing up being able to be a city kid who also got to enjoy and understand the farming community. Consequently I enjoy and have a heart for the city and I am also an outdoor enthusiast.



I was raised in the Lutheran Church of America (LCA) but also attended a Baptist church every Sunday night with my best friend and her family. I also attended many Roman Catholic masses because one of my Mom's good friends was a nun. I married into a family whose church roots were Russian Orthodox. One could argue I am naturally ecumenical. I like to say that my theology is Lutheran but there are many things that I love, respect, and learned from other faith traditions that I have found useful for growing in faith and life.

I am certain that the Call Committee will fill you in on my education background, professional ministry experience and volunteer experiences outside the church so let me tell you the three most important things that inform how I do ministry.

First and foremost I love God with all my being, and desire that others know this amazing God. I am not afraid or hesitant to tell others about my relationship with God and God's great love for all but I also strongly believe in listening first and proclaiming second.

Second, I love people. I am devoted to my family, which in my world includes extended family as well as my husband Garry. I not only enjoy but need my friends. I love meeting new people of all ages and making new friends and acquaintances. Most of all I believe in the church; the church not being a particular building or denomination, rather it is all believers in Christ Jesus, the people of God. We are the body of Christ. We all have talents to share and have needs that only others can attend to. We need God. God needs us. We need one another.

Third, God calls each and every one of us to grow in faith and have a meaningful relationship with God. It isn't easy to have a relationship with a transcendent God, but it *is* possible. Let me be clear - once a child of God, always a child of God. God loves us no matter what choices we make but if we desire a close walk with God then we need to open ourselves to living intentionally into the opportunities that God gives us. Meaningful relationships don't just happen, they are developed.

I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you and developing our ministry together.

Yours in Christ Jesus, Pastor Maggie.



Bethesda Missions

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

Mission Focus for October **Feed My Starving Children** What makes us different?

The important elements which contribute to FMSC's heart and call to feed God's kids:

Our Christian mission



We believe Jesus Christ has called us to feed the hungry and serve those in need. Jesus is the reason that Feed My Starving Children exists. We strive to follow his calling every day in all that we do.

Food is the foundation

"Hunger is the world's biggest solvable problem." – World Food Programme. We believe that food is the foundation for all other progress. To a starving child, hope can only truly begin once a reliable source of nutritious food has been established. FMSC produces three special MannaPack™ meal formulas developed by food scientists to specifically stop malnutrition.



Developing Sustainability

Food assistance is a vital component in the process of transitioning individuals, families and communities out of chronic hunger and poverty and into self-sufficiency.

Volunteerism



We couldn't do this work without YOU. Volunteers pack all of our meals, and their donations pay for them. We don't receive free ingredients or government aid. It takes both packing and donating to feed kids!



OCTOBER 2017

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

GREETINGS WOMEN OF BETHESDA

Greetings,

We had a great turn out for the Fall Kick Off Event. Thank you to all who attended and what a blessing it was hearing stories of how people fell in love with Jesus. We pray that each event is filled with fellowship and an outpouring of Christ's love. Then we can reach out and share His love with the world.

Sisters in Christ,

Nancy Todd & Dianna Houska

UPCOMING EVENTS

SE Cluster of the Women of the ELCA, St. Paul Area Synod, will be held Sat. Oct. 21st from 9:00 am - noon at Lutheran Church of Peace in Maplewood (651-739-7094). The cost is \$4.00 per person which can be paid at the registration beginning at 8:45 am. Please call Naomi at 651-451-8126, if you are in need of a nursery. Amanda Allen from Camp Noah will be the guest speaker. Camp Noah is a nationally acclaimed preparedness and resiliency day camp for elementary children, hosted in communities impacted by natural disaster and other trauma.

Book Club: We will meet the third Tuesday of the month. Oct. 17th @ 6:30 pm. The book is "The Thirteenth Tale" by Diane Setterfield.

Coffee BREAK! Fair Trade Coffee is ordered by the Women of Bethesda and is used on Sunday mornings as well as at all other Bethesda events. If you would like to purchase some coffee it is available in the lounge.

Watch your emails for more information on future events.

Contact Information

Dianna Houska 651-493-0129 dianna.houska@gmail.com
Nancy Todd 651-455-2982 nancytodd19@yahoo.com
Womenofbethesda@gmail.com



REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

Wednesday Bible study begins on October 11th at 9:00 because of Mobile Meals. After this date we will meet from 9:30-11:00.

We will be studying "Galatians: Why God accepts Us".

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Movie Night
"The Shack"
Tue. Oct. 24th
6:30 pm

Boutique
Sat. Nov. 11th
9am-3pm

Advent Appetizers and Program
Tue. Dec. 5th
6:00 pm

Women's Ministry Board Members

Co presidents:

Dianna Houska & Nancy Todd

Co-vice presidents:

Jane Walker
Renee Deshire

Secretary:

Naomi Dorau

Treasurer:

Jennifer Tiedman

Bulletin board design:

Naomi Dorau
Sharon Stanefski

Boutique spaces:

Lynette Thorson

Cookies for Shut-ins:

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Danielle Courseille

Additional Advisors:

Marsha Morgan
Sally Muraski

Bell Echoes Editor:

Pattie Rooney

ReFresh & ReNew Chairs:

Cheryl Hilber
Robin Ross
Sharon Stanefski



OCTOBER 2017

Youth News at Bethesda



DUCT TAPE & FAITH

Duct tape is probably one of the best inventions out there. It serves a variety of purposes, from patching up a pair of ripped pants to keeping some boxes sealed, duct tape has many uses. Its also great that duct tape comes in a variety of colors. I was in a store the other day and I found Hello Kitty Duct Tape, cheetah print duct tape, neon colored duct tape, and of course the standard grey duct tape. All this duct tape got me thinking, about faith and how duct tape and faith have a lot in common.

Dates to Remember:

- ◆ **Oct. 18th**
No Confirmation
MEA
- ◆ **Oct. 25th**
Trick or Treat for
the Hungry
- ◆ **Nov. 8th**
Confirmation
Service Event.

Duct tape is like faith because it holds things together. For example, one day I was working on a farm and I ripped a hole in my pants. Thankfully, we had a roll of duct tape handy and were able to patch the seam of my pants up quickly. Thanks to duct tape, my pants were held together. In the same way, faith is kind of like the foundation that holds our lives together. Faith is like duct tape because faith is what holds the seams of our relationship with God together. Faith is what believes what the Bible says no matter what it looks like around you. Faith will help keep you together when you feel you're falling apart. Faith is trusting in God and knowing you can come out on top no matter what comes your way. So faith is like duct tape because it holds your life together.

Faith, like duct tape can be used in a variety of situations. You might be facing a problem. You can whip out your roll of faith and patch together that bad situation with what the Bible says. Faith can be used in any time and in any situation. Faith in God is always the answer to whatever situation you're facing.

"What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see." – Hebrews 11:1 (NLT)

Lastly, faith is like duct tape because you can rely on it. You know that when you need a patch or to hold something together you can trust the duct tape to do its job. Well, that's pretty much what faith is. Its trusting that God is going to go to bat for you. He's going to provide for you no matter what you're facing.

Faith is just choosing to believe what God says in spite of what you see or feel around you. Faith is trusting in and relying on God in every situation that comes to you. I encourage you to begin placing your trust in God and become a mighty young person of faith.

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**Our Youth
Wreath Sales
have begun!**

**Sales in the
Narthex will
be on Oct.
1st, 15th and
29th. Stop by
and see us!**

Contact the youth team with any questions!

Jacob Backman: jacob.backman@comcast.net
Kim Burress: kburress@msn.com or 651-457-7080 or 651-260-3922
Beth McCabe bmccabe088@gmail.com





Sunday School News- October

Registration went well we have 10 kids signed up for Sunday School! I hope you are all excited to come to Sunday School, I know I am! I am excited to teach you about God and I'm sure I will learn from you too.

I have not been a Sunday School Coordinator or a Sunday School Teacher. I did Crafts at VBS this year and had a blast! My mom owned and taught Preschool out of the basement of our home for many years. I sent much of my time downstairs helping her out. I hope that experience will help me in my new and exciting role here at Bethesda.

My sister Michele Schnaare has volunteered to teach the younger kids. She is a Math Teacher at Chaska Middle School. I know she is also excited to teach you about God.

Sunday School will be from 10 to 10:30am. I decided to change the time because most of the parents preferred the later time. I was also able to have 3 people willing sub if I changed it to the later time.

October 1st- 10:00 - 10:30 am
October 8th- 10:00 - 10:30 am
October 15th- 10:00 - 10:30 am
October 22nd- 10:00 - 10:30 am
October 29th- 10:00 - 10:30 am

Hope to see you all at Sunday School and your friends are welcome!

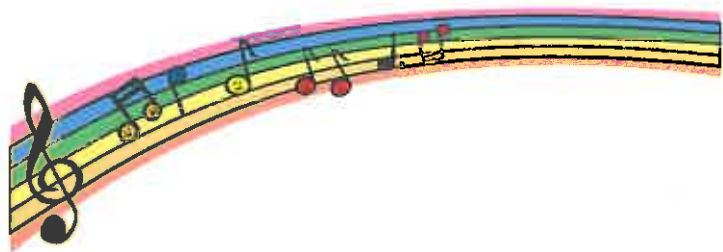
Blessings,
Mindie Schussler

If you are interested in teaching, helping out, or subbing please let me know.

Contact me at:

Cell: 612-875-6622 call or text

Email: mindie.schussler@gmail.com



Happy Fall to Everyone.

The church year is up and running and there is lots to celebrate. We are embarking on a new path with a new pastor. It will be exciting and different for all of us.

It was encouraging at this morning's 9:00 service to hear how appreciative people are of the choir. As you know our choir numbers have been stagnant for some time. And do you know how unusual it is to have double the men than women?

Can we make that change together? We would love to have you join us on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30. I try to stick to an hour as I know we are all busy. Sunday mornings we gather at 8:30 to warm up for the 9:00 service. Please consider joining us. If you discover it isn't for you, I will understand.

I also want to make you aware that I will be gone October 8, 15, and 22. I have arranged for a guest director those weeks so the choir rehearsals and Sunday mornings will go on.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to talk to me or any choir member.

Keep a song in your heart and soul always.

Ann Siegel

We need your help!!!! If you are interested in giving direction or have ideas for **CHRISTMAS SANCTUARY DECORATING**, we have a great opportunity for you! Christmas sanctuary decorating has always been important at Bethesda and we have always enjoyed a beautiful sanctuary at Christmas. If you are interested in continuing this beautiful tradition or have ideas to change what has been done, come give us direction and new ideas. Let's exchange thoughts and enthusiasm on Monday, October 16th at 6:30 pm in the lounge area. If you are interested in helping but can't make the meeting see Fred or Joy Grimsrud.

THE WALK TO END HUNGER

The Walk to End Hunger is a family-friendly 5K fun walk held on Thanksgiving morning, **November 26** in the Mall of America, is a great way to start your holiday off right - giving back before you give thanks!

We are registered as Bethesda Believers! To register go to <http://www.walktoendhunger.org>, click on "register", then choose "Neighbors Inc" for the hunger agency you are walking for, if you then scroll down you will find the "Bethesda Believers", click Join" next to Bethesda Believers, and then enter your participant information. There is a \$25 registration fee, which is not required. If you would like to register for the event but not pay the \$25 registration fee, you can register under the "Hunger Fighter Jr" registration. No registration fee will be charged if you register as a "Hunger Fighter Jr". There is no fee for children under 18, just register as a "Hunger Fighter Jr". Those who raise over \$100 will receive a free t-shirt.

If you are unable to attend you can also support our walkers by making a donation to the team.

Treasurer's Report

August, 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
General Fund	(\$27,236.37)
Capital	27,628.78
Parking Lot	122,235.45
Mortgage Reduction	5,504.69
Sunday School	682.37
Altar Flowers Fund In/Out	78.75
Dedicated Memorial	3,250.00
Undedicated Memorial	2,020.04
Garden Party	148.56
Special Appeals In/Out	2,303.52
Wedding	140.00
Vacation Bible School	0.00
Contemporary Choir	855.00
Thoring Income	1,666.67
Bethesda Resource Center	584.74
Bible Fund	200.00
Choir	1,531.81
Youth Mission Trip	456.94
Youth Faith Based Activities	1,518.17
Youth Camp Travel Fund	348.09
Hohle Scholarship	0.00
Timmy Autey Camp Scholarship	2,735.13
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	93,782.00
Missions	3,030.75
Tech Team	525.62
Mission Trip Scholarship - ILAG	2,110.59
Mission Trip Scholarship - Youth	1,976.11
Sidewalk Fund	423.88
Rain Gardens Fund	2,548.77
New Sign Fund	5,791.00
Total All Funds	\$ 261,659.02

Statement of Activities	August	Year-To-Date
Income:		
Envelopes	\$ 10,934.00	\$ 107,437.50
Loose	61.00	1,992.45
Adopt-A-Bill	0.00	63.00
Other General Fund	192.74	836.86
Thrivent Dollars	59.00	1,503.00
Preschool Rent	925.00	7,180.00
Fund Raisers	0.00	4,586.00
Coffee Fund	109.45	692.11
Total General Fund Income:	\$ 12,281.19	\$ 124,290.92
Expenses:		
Salary Expense	\$ 10,114.51	\$ 84,276.11
Non-Salary General & Administrative	368.56	9,787.91
Property	1,138.61	28,359.00
Worship And Music	25.33	1,397.41
Education	177.94	687.92
Youth	0.00	240.01
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:	\$ 11,824.95	\$ 124,748.36

Liabilities	Balance
Payroll Withholding	\$ 1,799.52
Thrivent Financial Mortgage	431,144.15
Thoring Loan (Tax Assessment)	11,218.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 444,161.67

Average monthly income needed to make 2017 budget:	\$ 17,551.25
Current month General Fund income:	\$ 12,281.19
Average actual Year-To-Date General Fund Income:	\$ 15,536.37
Average actual Year-To-Date General Fund Expense:	\$ 15,593.55



October 2017

November Events:
 November 11th HOLIDAY Boutique
 November 16th-18th Wreath Delivery
 November 17th&18th LuLaRoe

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Worship Service* 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship Service*	2 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Quilting B's	3 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Property Team 6:30pm Contemporary Band Rehearsal	4 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm SMORE Mtg.	6 Preparation for On the Road Again	7 On the Road Again
8 18th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship Service	9 6:00pm Boy Scouts	10 12:00pm Blood Drive 5:00pm Executive Team 6:30pm Contemporary Band Rehearsal	11 9:00-10:30am Women's Bible Study 11:00am Mobile Meals 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12 10:00am NO Bible Study	13	14
15 19th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Worship Service* 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship Service*	16 1:00pm Quilting B's 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Christmas Decorating Meeting	17 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Book Club 6:30pm Contemporary Band Rehearsal	18 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm NO Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Mtg.	20	21 9:00am SE Cluster Meeting
22 20th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship Service	23 6:00pm Boy Scouts	24 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Women's Movie Night—"The Shack" 6:30pm Contemporary Band Rehearsal	25 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm NO Choir Rehearsal	26 10:00am Bible Study	27	28
29 Reformation Sunday 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship Service	30 6:00pm Boy Scouts	31 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Contemporary Band Rehearsal				



October 2017 Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 <i>Yvonne Morency</i>	4	5	6 <i>Ardis Bratten</i> <i>Richard Bratten, Jr.</i>	7
8	9 <i>Kaelyn Harrison</i>	10	11	12 <i>Jack Rooney</i>	13	14
15	16	17 <i>William Bishop</i>	18 <i>Ethan Lowell</i>	19 <i>Alexandra Rosati</i>	20	21
22 <i>Oscar Heltne</i>	23 <i>Jody Geiselhart</i>	24	25 <i>Arlene Westphal</i>	26	27	28
29	30 <i>Katherine McCabe</i>	31				

Metro Dining Club

The Metro Dining cards are available again this year, the cost is \$25. 2 for 1 dining at 166 area restaurants—St. Paul/Western Wisconsin. Tell your friends about the cards also. They make great gifts too. Contact Sharon Stanefski 651-451-3062 with any questions.

"OUR PRAYERS"

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

Romans 12:12



"OUR PRAYERS"

Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church

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, Amazing Grace and Living Joy

We pray for the family and friends of:

Peggy Krovchuk, died August 25th

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

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, Tom Muraski, Marian Petersen

For those with health concerns:

Dianna Houska, Cheryl Hilber, Elsie Johnson, Lloyd Sachs, Donna Neubauer, John Sargent, Donna Johnson, Kim Burress, Brian Ginsbach (cousin of Ann Siegel), Christine Tarzia (friend of Renee DeSchane), Eileen Bohrer, Felisita Delgado, Tonia Becerra, Barb Roth, Paulette Brooks (friend of Renee DeSchane), Pastor Sue Gravelle (friend of Kim Burress), Amber Thorson, Jane Gustafson, Kay Roberts, Finley Doyle (great granddaughter of Sally Muraski), Yvonne Morency, Kelsey Breitkruetz, Emersyn Kay Johnson, Clementine Brown, Kyla Henderson (friend of Amber Thorson), Renee Edmunds, Larry Krech (nephew of Fran Della), Judy Carney (sister of Naomi Dorau), Kyle Galle, Jane Walker, Mary Jacobs, Julie Swedberg, Jerry Ohmann (friend of Jane McLagan), Kelly Dohmen, Kris Jore, Miranda McLagan (great niece of Jane and Clint McLagan), Mary Morness, Dale Knutson (nephew of Jane Gustafson)

Hospice:

Darleen Heltne

Prayers of Thanksgiving: