

April Bell Echoes

Bethesda Lutheran Church



- April 2** **10:00am Worship (One Service Only)**
10:25am Sunday School
- April 9** **Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion**
9:00am Worship Service
9:25am Sunday School
10:30am Contemporary Worship Service
- April 13** **Maundy Thursday**
6:30am-6:30pm Prayer Vigil
6:30pm Worship Service
- April 14** **Good Friday**
6:30pm Worship Service
- April 16** **Easter**
9:00am Worship Service (One Service Only)
10:00am Continental Breakfast
- April 23** **9:00am Worship Service**
9:25am Sunday School
10:30am Contemporary Worship Service
- April 30** **9:00am Worship Service**
9:25am Sunday School
10:30am Contemporary Worship Service

Pastor's Message
April, 2017

The Mission Exploration Team (MET) of Bethesda met for the first time on March 20th, and I am excited by the commitment and love for our congregation that they represent. The members of that team are Kim Bures, Fred Grimsrud, Dianna Houska, Jennifer McCabe and Larry Ross. I as the interim pastor will be involved in leading this team. The task set before the MET is to help the congregation clarify the identity and mission of the congregation in anticipation of entering into the call process for a new pastor.

The first phase of the MET's activity is to have two identical sessions of "Celebrating Our Foundations: A History Event". One of those will be Tuesday, April 18, starting at 6:30 pm, and the other will be on Sunday, April 23, starting at 11:30 am. Each of these sessions will take about 90 minutes, and everyone in the congregation is invited to participate in either one of those. The purpose is to hear the stories about the congregation, which is one way of articulating its identity.

In the second phase we will have cottage meetings where in small groups will discuss the mission of the congregation. Already we have three people who have stepped up and volunteered their home to host one of these cottage meetings. Wow! Thanks!! As we nail down locations and dates, probably in May, we will publicize those so that you can sign up for one of the cottage meetings.

The bottom line is that we want to listen to the members of the congregation in order to hear your ideas and concerns for the congregation in anticipation of entering into the call process. Please plan to become involved and give your input. May God bless us as we journey through this period of discernment.

In Christ's Name,
Pastor Ralph



Bethesda Missions

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

Mission Focus for April

ILAG – Iglesia Luterana Augustina de Guatemala

The Guatemala Gala is set for Sunday, April 23, 2017!!!

This elegant and fun event takes place at nearby Southview Country Club and costs \$60. Reserve this date. Let's plan to support our Guatemala mission by filling one or two tables. The **mission trip** for this year is planned for July 28- August 5th. If you are interested in going on the mission trip or to the Gala see Cheryl Hilber.

NEIGHBORS MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE

Last year, Neighbors Inc. raised 347,639 pounds/dollars during this campaign, which placed them third in the state. In 2017 the goal is 350,000 pounds/dollars to feed our neighbors in need. **Will you help stock the shelves? We have only a little bit more time to stock the shelves and be a part of this year's Minnesota Food Share Drive.** Bring food items or check to Bethesda before April 10th.

Feed My Starving Children *Help pack meals for hungry children!*

We have reserved 25 spots for **Tuesday, April 11th from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm.** Sign up on the sheet in the lounge hallway. We will pack at the Eagan site (990 Lone Oak Road). Please meet us at the site. Call church if you would like to have a ride set up for you.

Used Book Fund Raiser

Save your no longer needed books for a Bethesda fund raiser!!!! Old books can be turned into cash. We will be collecting used books for the **Basement Sale to be held May 13-15.** Starting with the books that have been taken out of the church library, we will be collecting used books to be resold and recycled.

Food For Friends- Meals are available in the Caring Corner in the library (freezer and cupboard). Do you know of a need?



APRIL 2017

GOD'S CONTAGIOUS LOVE

AS FOR US, WE CANNOT HELP SPEAKING ABOUT WHAT

GREETINGS WOMEN OF BETHESDA

Greetings,

We served Lenten Dinner on Wednesday, March 8 and received an offering of over \$300 which will be used to support the Sign project. Thank you everyone for making the chicken casseroles, for all of the pies and for everything else that you brought and did to make another meal happen at Bethesda.

We had our Rescheduled Movie Night on Tuesday March 14. We watched Anita Renfroe's movie "I'm Not High Maintenance Just Low Tolerance" and had popcorn, candy and lots of laughs! If you weren't able to attend but would like to borrow the DVD talk to Robin. Thank you all for coming together for a night of sisters in Christ fellowship.

Cheryl Hilber & Robin Ross

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring event: Please join us on Saturday April 1, 2017 at 9:00 am for our Spring Breakfast at Timber Hills Lodge. Our theme is "Upsy Daisy". See the attached flyer in the Bell Echoes.

May event: Tuesday, May 9th. More details to come

Picnic: Tuesday, June 13

St Paul Area Synod Women's events
May 5 & 6 Spring Convention, St Philip's Lutheran Church, Hastings

Watch for more details provided on women's board when it arrives.

Contact Information

Cheryl Hilber 651-428-8949 hilber24@aol.com
Robin Ross 651-210-5472 robin.ross@icloud.com
Womenofbethesda@gmail.com

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

Wednesday morning Bible study 9:30-11:00
"John's Letters"

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

Book Club, April 10, 6:30pm our book is "Sweet Forgiveness" by Lori Nelson Spielman. Dawn Sargent has the books.

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.

WHAT'S

Mark your calendars

May 5 & 6 - St. Paul Area Synod Women's Events

May 9th
Women's Event

June 13th
Women's Picnic

Women's Ministry Board Members

Co presidents:
Cheryl Hilber &
Robin Ross

Co-vice presidents:
Dianna Houska,
Nancy Todd

Secretary:
Jane Walker

Treasurer:
Jennifer Tiedman

Bulletin board design:
Renee DeSchane

Boutique spaces:
Lynette Thorson

Cookies for Shut-ins:
Dawn Sargent
Danielle Courselle

Additional Advisors:
Marsha Morgan
Sally Muraski

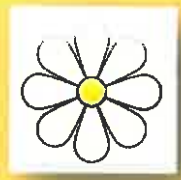
Bell Echoes Editor:
Pattie Rooney





Bethesda Women's Group

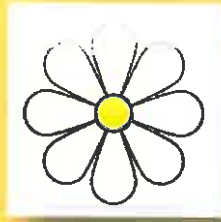
"Upsy Daisy"



2017

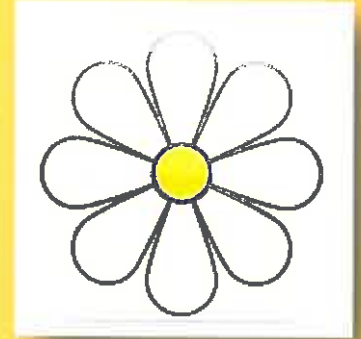
Annual Spring Breakfast

SATURDAY APRIL 1, 2017



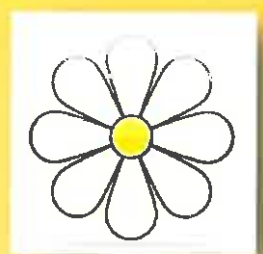
9 am

Price: \$9.50



LOCATION:

**Timber Hills Lodge
6307 Burnham Circle
Inver Grove Heights, MN**



Tickets now available!!

Cheryl Hilber Phone: 651-428-8949 or
Robin Ross Phone: 651-210-5472

Youth News at Bethesda

APRIL 2017



Sky Zone Outing 9th - 12th Grade

We are having a High School Sky Zone event on Friday, April 7th for their Glow event.

"We're different after dark. Lasers, music and black light transform the whole park and even your party into a crazy jumping dance club. Flips are limited to Foam Zone during Glow."

We will meet at Bethesda at 6:30 and will return at around 10:30. The cost is \$17 for church members and \$22 for non-members. Bring all of your friends!



Upcoming Events:

◆ *Gerten's Gift Cards - May*

◆ *Sky Zone April 7, 6:30 pm*

◆ *Camp Week July 23-28*

◆ *Lenten Dinner—
Camp bus
(pancakes)
April 5th*



Youth Sponsored Lenten Dinners

The April 5th Lenten dinner will be Fred's World Famous Pancakes!

We need ALL of the Youth to come help with set-up, serve, bus tables and then to stay and help with dishes and clean-up afterwards.

Please see the youth board to sign up for items to donate for the dinner.

Gerten's Plant Cards Fundraiser

- ◆ Cards will be available after Easter and can be purchased cards from one of our youth, from Kim Burress or during one of the sales times between services during May.
- ◆ Increments of \$25, \$50, & \$100 (Other amounts available upon request)
- ◆ Redeemable for plants at Gertens - not available for use on gift shop or other items.

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 emccabe@gustavus.edu

Sunday School News -April

Happy Spring! Here is the schedule for the next 2 months as we near the end of the Sunday School year.

April 2nd-- One worship service at 10 am. Sunday School class after the children's moment-- Puppet Show during the children's moment.

April 9th-- Palm Sunday, Sunday School Class after the children's moment during 9 am worship

April 15th, Saturday-- Easter Egg Hunt from 10 - 11 am, Sederstrom Hall

April 16th --Easter Sunday, NO Sunday School--Happy Easter!

April 23rd--Sunday School class after the children's moment during 9 am worship

April 30th --Sunday School class after the children's moment during 9 am worship

May 7th -- One worship service at 10 am Sunday School class after the children's moment-- Puppet Show during the children's moment.

May 14th-- Sunday School class after the children's moment during 9 am worship--Mother's Day Craft/Gift

May 21st --Sunday School class after the children's moment during 9 am worship -- LAST Sunday School with BIBLE BINGO!

Our class time is approximately 9:25 to 10:15am when there are 2 services and at 10:25 to 11:15 am when there is one service.

Last year the children held 3 noisy offerings. The final touches of that offering are finally being put into place. To recap, the children planted annuals in the front gardens of the church to brighten the gardens and welcome people coming to church. The children also voted to spend the money on a shelving unit for the cry room that can hold baby and small children friendly toys and books. This unit will be on wheels so can be moved if needed. Lastly, the quiet bags in the narthex will be getting all new items, crayons, books, drawing pads. Thank you to the congregation for your financial support with these noisy offerings.

Blessings,

Jennifer McCabe

Phone 651-552-7232 Email jsmccabe2003@hotmail.com

Treasurer's Report

February, 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 only the monthly payroll withholding and the renovation mortgage balance. Please contact Gary Johnson with any questions.

All Funds	Balance
General Fund	(\$32,389.02)
Capital	25,995.78
Parking Lot	124,515.45
Mortgage Reduction	5,545.69
Sunday School	911.37
Altar Flowers Fund In/Out	(23.25)
Dedicated Memorial	1,805.00
Undedicated Memorial	2,020.04
Garden Party	148.56
Special Appeals In/Out	0.00
Wedding	140.00
Vacation Bible School	180.42
Contemporary Choir	855.00
Thoring Income	1,866.67
Bethesda Resource Center	584.74
Bible Fund	150.00
Choir	2,056.81
Youth Mission Trip	1,482.47
Youth Faith Based Activities	1,936.42
Youth Camp Travel Fund	469.59
Hohle Scholarship	97.25
Timmy Autey Camp Scholarship	3,560.14
Christian Care Fund	536.23
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	92,852.00
Missions	1,971.50
Tech Team	99.62
Mission Trip Scholarship - ILAG	3,602.34
Mission Trip Scholarship - Youth	2,574.86
Sidewalk Fund	423.88
Rain Gardens Fund	2,548.77
New Sign Fund	4,398.00
Total All Funds	\$ 254,698.06

Statement of Activities	February	Year-To-Date
Income:		
Envelopes	\$ 12,332.50	\$ 26,578.50
Loose	27.75	698.75
Adopt-A-Bill	0.00	0.00
Other General Fund	226.22	283.21
Thrivent Dollars	0.00	641.00
Preschool Rent	1,005.00	1,830.00
Fund Raisers	0.00	0.00
Coffee Fund	85.06	192.26
Total General Fund Income:	\$ 13,676.53	\$ 30,223.72
Expenses:		
Salary Expense	\$ 11,636.50	\$ 25,297.80
Non-Salary General & Administrative	383.92	1,059.00
Property	3,965.90	8,954.51
Worship And Music	291.00	311.00
Education	211.50	211.50
Youth	0.00	0.00
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:	\$ 16,488.82	\$ 35,833.81

Liabilities	Balance
Payroll Withholding	\$ 1,517.76
Thrivent Financial Mortgage	439,497.76
Thoring Loan (Tax Assessment)	12,148.00
Total Liabilities	\$453,163.52



May Events: May 5 & 6 St. Paul Area Synod Women's Event
 May 5 & 6 Lula Roe Sale
 May 6 Relay for Life Survivor Breakfast
 May 12 & 13 Basement Sale

April 2017

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1 9:00am Women's Spring Breakfast
2 5th Sunday in Lent 10:00am Worship Service* 10:25am Sunday School 6:00pm Girl Scouts	3 6:30pm Quilting B's 6:30pm Boy Scouts	4 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Property Team 6:30pm MET Meeting	5 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal 5:15pm Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Worship Service 7:30pm Band Rehearsal	6 10:00am NO Bible Study 6:30pm SMORES Mtg.	7 6:30pm Sky Zone	8 Concordia Choir Concert
9 PALM SUNDAY 9:00am Worship Service 9:25am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship	10 6:30pm Book Club 6:30pm Boy Scouts	11 10:00am Prayer Group 5:00pm Executive Team	12 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13 Maundy Thursday 6:30am-6:30pm Prayer Vigil 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Worship Service	14 Good Friday 6:30pm Worship Service	15 10:00am Easter Egg Hunt
16 EASTER SUNDAY 9:00am Worship Service* 10:00am Continental Breakfast	17 1:00pm Quilting B's 6:30pm Boy Scouts	18 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm MET Session	19 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting Bell Echoes Due	21	22
23 2nd Sunday after Easter 9:00am Worship Service 9:25am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship 11:30am MET Session 4:00pm Guatemala Gala 6:00pm Girl Scouts	24 6:30pm Boy Scouts	25 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm RFL Meeting	26 9:00-10:30am Women's Bible Study 11:00am Mobile Meals 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27 10:00am Bible Study	28	29
30 3rd Sunday after Easter 9:00am Worship Service 9:25am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship 6:00pm Girl Scouts	31 6:30pm Boy Scouts					



April 2017 Birthdays

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
2	3	4	5 Erwin Johnson Nancy Todd	6	7 Rosie Atkinson	8 Charles Tiedman
9 Janet Huston	10 Abbey Atkinson	11	12	13	14 Robert Esko	15
16	17 Jane McLagan	18	19 Jennifer Burress	20	21 Dawn Sargent	22
23	24	25 Karen Jones Ariel Beckman	26 Darleen Heltne Lynette Thorson	27 Melinda Hoelscher Cheryl Petersen Bob Jones	28	29 Gary Johnson
30	31					

As of May 31, 2017, Renee DeSchane will withdraw as Funeral Coordinator for our church. Also, Chet DeSchane will relinquish his position as Property Manager. Both decisions based on health issues and other considerations. For a short period of time both Renee and Chet will be available for instruction, mentoring and guidance to any replacements for both of the positions.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts; for the prayers, cards and hugs when our little Beau went home to Jesus. He was with us just a short little 4 months but will be loved and remembered forever.

Tom and Sally Muraski

"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 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:

Wayne Otto, leader in community

Beau William Doyle, died February 13 (great grandson of Sally Muraski)

Marilyn Johnson, died February 9 (sister of Dave Siegel)

Glenn Nelson, died February 4 (father of Ann Siegel)

Josh Edwards, died February 2 (nephew of Dawn Wilson)

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

Donald Siegel (brother of Dave Siegel), 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, Greg Walker, Ardie Bratten, Gloria Johnson, Ronald Willerton, Bill O'Neil, Helen Schadegg, Dorothy Nelson, Lovina Gustafson, Eleanor Stephens, Tom Muraski, Marian Petersen

For those with health concerns:

Pastor Sue Gravelle (friend of Kim Burress), Amber Thorson, Fred Grimsrud, Kay Syverson, Steve Heltne, Jane Gustafson, Loren Neubauer, Kay Roberts, Finley Doyle (great granddaughter of Sally Muraski), Yvonne Morency, Kelsey Breikruetz, Emersyn Kay Johnson, Clementine Brown, Sarah Engedal (great-niece of Renee DeSchane), Kyla Henderson (friend of Amber Thorson), Renee Edmunds, Larry Krech (nephew of Fran Delia), Judy Carney (sister of Naomi Dorau), Kyle Galle, Donna Johnson, Jane Walker, Mary Jacobs, Julie Swedberg, Jerry Ohmann (friend of Jane McLagan), John Sargent, Kim Burress, Joleen Leier (friend of Lynette and Randy Thorson), Kelly Dohmen, Kris Jore, Miranda McLagan (great niece of Jane and Clint McLagan), Mary Morness, Dale Knutson (nephew of Jane Gustafson)

Hospice:

Sue Linn, Darleen Heltne

Prayers of Thanksgiving: