

March Bell Echoes

Bethesda Lutheran Church



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- February 26
9:00am Worship Service
9:25am Sunday School
10:30am Contemporary Worship
- March 1
ASH Wednesday (Lent Begins)
12:00pm Worship Service
6:30pm Worship Service
- March 5
10:00am Worship Service
(ONE SERVICE ONLY)
- March 8
5:15pm Lenten Dinner
6:30pm Worship Service
- March 12, 19, 26
9:00am Worship Service
9:25am Sunday School
10:30am Contemporary Worship

Pastor's Message

In the Book of Exodus we read, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob" (3:6). Very early on in the Bible, God reveals to his chosen people his identity, that is, he reveals who he is. When our spiritual ancestors became clear about God's identity, they also became clearer about their own identity, that is, who they are as the people of God. The same principle applies to us today. As we become clear about who God is, we also become clearer about who we are both as individual Christians, but also as the church. From identity follows mission. God has a mission, and we have a mission as well.

During this transition time in the life of Bethesda Lutheran Church, we will enter a process of reflecting on our identity and mission. Getting clearer about identity and mission will assist the congregation, especially the call committee, to be clearer of the kind of pastor that will be needed to support the congregation's mission.

Consequently, for our midweek Lenten services, we will reflect on our identity as individual Christians and as a congregation by reflecting on Luther's *Small Catechism*. The overall theme is "I Believe". To believe is much more than to agree to certain doctrines or teachings. As Martin Luther used that term, ***to believe is to trust in God***.

Here is the schedule:

March 1/Ash Wednesday	Confession and Forgiveness
March 8	First Article of the Creed
March 15	Second Article of the Creed
March 22	Third Article of the Creed
March 29	Baptism
April 5	Holy Communion

In addition, we have a copy for each household attending a midweek service of the Lenten devotional book "Free Indeed", which also has daily meditations on the *Small Catechism*.

May the 40 days of Lent be a blessed journey for you and your loved ones.

Pastor Ralph

This plan of discernment was approved by the congregational council on February 16, 2017.

Discernment of Congregational Identity and Mission Bethesda Lutheran Church

Identity

Wednesday Lenten services – reflections on the *Small Catechism*
and our identity as Lutherans.

Celebrating Our Foundations—A History Event

Postings on a wall

Both church events and societal events

Hearing stories

Discerning what these events and stories tell us about who we are,
both as how we perceive ourselves, and how the community
perceives us.

Write a narrative of the congregation's history.

To be done in March.

Mission

Cottage meetings,

with Bible study,

and conversation about the congregation's mission.

Four cottage meetings, either in people's homes or at church,
some in the daytime and others in the evening.

These should be done in April.

A summary of the conversations in the four cottage meetings
will be gathered together in a written report.

External/community audit

Meetings with community leaders, e.g. the mayor, school officials, police, business owners, charities, other non-members.

This is a time to listen and assess what we will hear will affect our understanding of the community that we serve.

These should be done before the summer.

Mission Exploration Team (MET) – I would like to gather a team of four to six persons to assist me in engaging the congregation in this discernment process. They would help to facilitate the History Event, the cottage meetings, and the external/community audit. They would also help to collate the findings and write a final report. The Mission Exploration Team is not the call committee. However, one or two members could also be on the call committee in order to make sure that the conclusions of the discernment process are reflected in the work of the call committee. The MET will also prepare the Mission Site Profile (MSP), and when finished, they will pass that on to the Saint Paul Area Synod.

Call Committee -- The call committee will begin its work as the discernment process about identity and mission concludes. That will likely be towards the summer. They will need to review the documents produced by the discernment process, and then begin to prioritize what attributes and skills will be needed in a new pastor to support the mission of the congregation. As the interim pastor, I will help the call committee to get started, along with synod staff. Having done that, then I will step back and let the call committee do its work. It is unethical for an interim pastor to try to influence a call committee as they seek to identify and recommend a pastoral candidate to the congregation.

- a. Use social media (Facebook) for specific event or item. Using FB the expanded social group could be used to generate donations.
 10. SP – Online giving verses Mobile giving. Look into switching into a different method for electronic giving. With cell and iPhones ability increasing it may have an improved success in providing opportunities for giving opportunities.
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Here are the actions we are taking at this time.

1. On July 24, 2016, in a Special Congregational Meeting it was voted unanimously to transfer our existing mortgage from ELCA Mission Investment Fund (MIF) to Thrivent in order to reduce the interest rate from 5.125% to approximately 3% on a 20-year mortgage with a 5-year ARM. A lower interest rate will definitely help in reducing the deficit. We encourage the congregation to continue with their giving to the mortgage reduction and general fund.
2. Gary is working on refining designated and undesignated me
3. We are still searching for a youth director. We are absolutely thrilled that Beth McCabe is doing that job for the summer. She is busy connecting and developing relationships that will strengthen and increase the youth ministry. She is working with the youth during Wednesday night Bible study. She is the chairperson for VBS.
4. The SALT groups are in the planning stage with the God's Contagious Love items.
5. Under the land management item, a team has been formed with Dave Hohle, Chet DeSchane, and Nathan Schussler to pursue the ideas and possibilities for the land development questions.

Sincerely,
The Bethesda Church Council



Bethesda Missions

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

Mission Focus for March

NEIGHBORS MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE

Get ready for a different kind of food fight!

Throw some food (or funds) our way this March as we try to collect more than other food shelves across the state during the annual Minnesota Food Share March Campaign. You'll not only be helping to stock our shelves for the busy summer months ahead, but you'll also be helping us secure funding distributed later in the year. So that means a donation now goes even further. Neighbor's Inc. placed third among Minnesota food shelves during last year's campaign and this year we aren't pulling any punches – our goal for 2017 is a combined total of 350,000 pounds of food and dollars.

Will you join us in the fight to feed our neighbors? Each Sunday we will be bringing a different type of grocery product to stock the shelves at Neighbors Inc. Watch for details so you can be a part of the great Food Fight to fight hunger in our community.

Feed My Starving Children

COME JOIN US- pack meals for hungry children!

We have reserved 2 packing dates. **Our daytime date is Tuesday, March 14th from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm and our evening date is 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.

Guatemala Mission Trip- July 28-August 4

Gala- Sunday, April 23 at Southview Country Club

If you are interested in going on the mission trip or to the Gala see Cheryl Hilber.

Used Book Fund Raiser

Save your no longer needed books for a Bethesda fund raiser!!!! We will be collecting used books during the week of the **Basement Sale May 7-15**. Starting with the books that have been taken out of the church library, the books we collect will be recycled by an independent company who will pay us for the bulk collection.

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

Youth News at Bethesda

MARCH 2017



Youth Sponsored Lenten Dinners

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ *Gerten's Gift Cards - May*
- ◆ *Camp Week July 23-28*
- ◆ *Lenten Dinner—Mission Trip March 15th*
- ◆ *Lenten Dinner—Camp bus (pancakes) April 5th*



Come on out to help at the Youth Sponsored Lenten Dinners. These dinners will benefit the youth who participate in the Summer Mission Trip and also those who attend camp in helping pay for the bus ride to Wapo.

On March 15th the Youth will be serving up something good that has not yet been determined.

On April 5th, come one, come all to devour Fred's World Famous Pancakes!

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

Please watch the youth board to sign up for items to donate for each of these dinners.

See you all soon!

IT'S CAMP TIME

The time is coming soon to register for Camp. This year our youth will be experiencing camp a little differently.

Due to some changes being made with Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp Inc., Luther Dell will not be offering camp and retreat or summer programs in 2017.

So this year our youth grades 4th—8th (completed this year) will be attending Wapo Bible. Our the 9th—12th grade youth will participate in a program called TIM Team (Teens in Mission). They will have cabins at Ox Lake, just a short jaunt from Wapo but their days will be spent at both Ox Lake and at Wapo where they will get to work with the younger kids. Many of the same activities and programming they experienced at Luther, just a different location.

Bethesda Youth must sign up before **March 15th** as our spaces are limited. After this date, there is no guarantee a space will be available. More information will be coming soon.

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



March 2017

April Events: April 1
April 9
April 13
April 14
April 16

Women's Spring Breakfast
Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday – Worship 6:30pm
Good Friday – Worship 6:30pm
EASTER
Worship – 9:00am and 10:30am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Ash Wednesday 9:00-10:30am Women's Bible Study 11:00am Mobile Meals 12:00pm Worship Service 6:30pm Worship Service 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	2 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm SMORES Mtg.	3	4 Relay for Life Boutique
5 1st Sunday In Lent 10:00am Worship Service* 4:00pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm Girl Scouts	6 6:30pm Quilting B's 6:30pm Boy Scouts	7 10:00am Prayer Group 5:00pm Executive Team 6:30pm Property Team	8 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 5:15pm Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Worship Service 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9 10:00am Bible Study	10 6:00-9:00pm Lula Roe Multi Consultants Sale	11 10:00am-1:00pm Lula Roe Multi Consultants Sale
12 2nd Sunday In Lent 9:00am Worship Service 9:25am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship	13 6:30pm Book Club 6:30pm Boy Scouts	14 10:00am Prayer Group 12:00-2:00pm Feed My Starving Children 6:30pm Women's Movie Night	15 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 5:15pm Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Worship Service 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	16 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Mtg	17	18
19 3rd Sunday In Lent <i>Council Installation</i> 9:00am Worship Service* 9:25am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship	20 1:00pm Quilting B's 6:30pm Boy Scouts	21 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm Food for Friends	22 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 5:15pm Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Worship Service 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	23 10:00am Bible Study	24	25
26 4th Sunday In Lent 9:00am Worship Service 9:25am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship	27 6:30pm Boy Scouts	28 10:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm RFL Meeting	29 9:00-10:30am Women's Bible Study 11:00am Mobile Meals 5:15pm Lenten Dinner 6:30pm Worship Service 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	30 10:00am Bible Study	31	

During Lent Confirmation students are asked to attend mid-week Lenten Services



March 2017 Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Tyler Lowell
5	6 Ruth Okeson	7 Andrew Coursole Loren Neubauer Jane Walker	8	9 Austin Bernier Andrea Simons	10 Anne Kaldun Dave Rosati	11
12	13	14	15 Jane Gustafson Lorna Hohle	16	17 Jean Johnson Kristin Roberts	18 Kennedy Rieke
19	20 Diane Anderson Greg Pearson	21	22 Joyce Tufte	23 Andy Seliga	24 Carol Evenson	25 Kay Roberts
26 Regan Wilson Cooper Roberts	27	28	29 Pattie Rooney	30	31 Kaelee DuFrane	

Dear Bethesda!!

I just want to say Thank You, "Which is inadequate". The visit from Pastor Terry and Cathy before they left and sharing Holy Communion with us, that is Carol and Dave. Also the bag of cookies from the Women of the church. Oh yes, the lap blanket from Gloria and girls that make them plus in Christmas colors, I use it daily.

In Christ,

Carol J. Evenson and (Dave)

Dear Bethesda Friends

Our heartfelt thanks to all of you for your kind words, cards, memorials and expressions of kindness these last few weeks. Losing my Dad and Dave's sister within a week has been hard, but knowing we have your support helps.

Ann and Dave Siegel

"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:

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):

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:

Fred Grimsrud, Donald Siegel (brother of Dave Siegel), Kay Syverson, Jeff Geiselhart, Steve Heltne, Jane Gustafson, Loren Neubauer, Kay Roberts, David Sonju, Finley Doyle (great granddaughter of Sally Muraski), Yvonne Morency, Kelsey Breikruetz, Emersyn Kay Johnson, Clementine Brown, Ethel Naslund (aunt of Cathy Nordheim), Jane Gegel (friend of Pastor Terry), Sarah Engedal (great-niece of Renee DeSchane), Kyla Henderson (friend of Amber Thorson), Renee Edmunds, Addy Nordheim (mother of Pastor Terry), Edie Klineboehl (co-worker of Chet DeSchane), 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, Sue Linn, Kim Burrell, 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:

Darleen Heltne

Prayers of Thanksgiving: