

May Bell Echoes

Bethesda Lutheran Church



- April 30** **9:00am Worship Service**
9:25am Sunday School
10:30am Contemporary Worship Service
- May 7** **10:00am Worship Service (ONLY SERVICE ONLY)**
10:25am Sunday School
- May 14** **9:00am Worship Service**
9:25am Sunday School
10:30am Contemporary Worship
- May 21** **9:00am Worship Service**
9:25am Sunday School (LAST DAY)
10:30am Contemporary Worship

Summer Worship
Begins May 28- Ends September 3

May 28 **9:30am Worship**

Wednesday Worship
Begins May 31 and continues through August 30

May 31 **6:30pm**

Pastor's Message
May, 2017

By the time you receive this issue of The Bell Echo, we here at Bethesda will have completed our first phase of the process of discerning the congregation's identity and mission. Thanks to so many of you who participated in at least one of the two History Events.

Coming up this month we will engage the second stage, which is to focus on the mission of the congregation. The conversation about mission centers on what the congregation is supposed to be doing, and the setting of priorities of how to get that mission done. All congregations are called to proclaim the gospel and to administer the sacraments. After that, however, each congregation must discern its unique mission. God is calling Bethesda to her specific mission, and we must prayerfully seek to identify that mission and unify around it.

To facilitate the dialogue about mission, we will have a series of house meetings. There will be signup sheets for each one, and everyone is invited to sign up and participate in the conversation. They are as follows:

- Sunday, May 7th at 3:00 pm at the church
- Monday, May 8th at 6:30 pm at Sharon and Gene Stenefski's home
- Monday, May 15th at 6:30 pm at Larry and Robin Ross' home
- Sunday, May 21st at 3:00 pm at Fred and Joy Grimsrud's home

May God bless us as we continue to clarify our identity and mission.

Blessings!
Pastor Ralph

Bethesda Lutheran Church Council

Name (position and end of term):

Theresa Staehnke (2019)
President

Ann Siegel (2018)
Vice President

Cheryl Hilber (2018)
Secretary

Rick Coursolle (2019)

Dianna Houska (2019)

Kate McCabe (2018)

Ryan Ihle (2020)

Mark Engen (2018)

Robin Ross (2020)

Ralph Baumgartner
Pastor

Gary Johnson
Treasurer

Pam Murray
Treasurer



MAY 2017

**GOD'S CONTAGIOUS LOVE
AS FOR US, WE CANNOT HELP SPEAKING ABOUT WHAT
WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD. ACTS 4:20**

GREETINGS WOMEN OF BETHESDA

Greetings,

It's always an amazing wonderful thing when Spring begins. Our Spring Breakfast in April was a lovely time to share how God continuously picks us up and sets us right. Once again this year we were blessed to share the meal with residents of Timber Hills Lodge. The residents so enjoy the breakfast and program. As always, thank you goes to Elsie Johnson for our partnership with Timber Hills Lodge.

Sisters in Christ,
Cheryl Hilber & Robin Ross

UPCOMING EVENTS

St Paul Area Synod Women's
May 5 & 6 Spring Convention, St Philip's Lutheran Church, Hastings. Details are the on women's board.

May event: Tuesday, May 9 6:30pm. Our May event agenda will be looking at the Women's Group bylaws, responsibilities, mission and how they fit with God's plans, how we love one another and show others the Jesus in us at the same time. We hope to have a good turnout and will have refreshments as well.

Picnic: Tuesday, June 13 at 6:00pm. Potluck sign up to be posted on Women's Board in the hallway.

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

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, Our book is "Our Souls At Night" by Kent Haruf. Jennifer McCabe has the books. We will meet for the discussion on Monday, May 8, 6:30pm. This will be our last book until Fall.

Our September book discussion will be "The Shack" by William Young. We anticipate many may attend as this has been a popular book! It's also a great time to invite others to join the discussion!

WHAT'S

Mark your calendars

May 8th
Book Club

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 Missions

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

Mission Focus for May **NEIGHBORS MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE** Donation Report

We did it!! We sent a \$1,822 check to Neighbors for Minnesota Food Share. We also delivered 351# of groceries, several small wheeled suitcases, over 50 reusable bags and countless paper and plastic bags. **Thanks to all for participating!**

Neighbor's Inc. strives to reduce poverty, promote self-sufficiency and build community. Last year with the help of 1,482 volunteers, Neighbors, Inc: served 1,482 people in the food shelf and 43,437 at the bakery shelf, distributed 979,647 pounds of food, provided clothing vouchers to 1,582 people, coordinated 2,122 rides to medical appointments and served 45,165 meals to students attending summer school in five different schools. **Join the team and help others!**

ILAG Guatemala Mission

Let's plan to support our Guatemala mission together.

The **2017 mission trip** is planned for July 28- August 5th. If you are interested in going on the mission trip see Cheryl Hilber.

Used Book Fund Raiser

Take a look at the new selection of books, from the library, which are displayed on the red rolling book shelf in the narthex!!! Find a book you would like to keep or place a book back on the round table in the library if you think we should keep it.

Save your no longer needed books for the **May Basement Sale**. Old books can be turned into cash!!! We will be collecting used books for the **Basement Sale to be held May 12&13**. 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?

Youth News at Bethesda

MAY 2017



Dates to Remember:

- ◆ *Confirmation
Ends—May 3rd*
- ◆ *VBS - June*
- ◆ *Mission Trip -
July*
- ◆ *Camp Week
July 23-28*
- ◆ *Relay for Life—
August 12th, 4:00
p.m. - Midnight*



Gerten's Plant Cards Fundraiser

Are you ready to start your Spring gardens? Ready to get some dirt under those finger nails?

Well the Youth can help you with that. Gerten's Gift cards will be available for purchase from our once again this year. Please stop and see us at the sales table in the Narthex between services the first two Sundays of May. Cards will be available through the beginning of June.

Profits from these sales allows our Youth to participate in Camp, Mission Trip, and other Faith Based events.

- ◆ 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- May

Happy Spring! Here is the schedule for the final month of the Sunday School year.

May 7th -- One worship service at 10 am Sunday School Class after the children's moment --Puppet Show during 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 09:25 to 10:15 am when there are 2 services and at 10:25 to 11:15 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.

The end of the year is the time for reflection and thanks. Thank you to our children for coming faithfully each week and for being willing to learn. Thank you to the parents for supporting the children and teachers also for getting the children from home to church each week. Thank you to the substitute teachers for pitching in when the regulars couldn't be there. Finally a thanks to the congregation as a whole for supporting our Sunday School program through prayer, financial support, musical support, extra hands support and all your words of encouragement through the year to keep going, for giving us energy and ideas. Thank you ! Thank you! Thank you!

Have a wonderful summer! Remember VBS in August, " A Mighty Fortress"

Blessings,

Jennifer McCabe

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

MUSIC

As choir winds down for another year I want to thank the choir members for their loyalty and commitment week after week and year after year. Our numbers are dwindling but mighty. It is a privilege to work with you.

I also want to thank the congregation for your support. Your words of encouragement keep us going.

With summer approaching there is room for special music every Sunday. Please share your talents with us, if not you perhaps have a relative that would like to make a guest appearance. There will be a signup sheet on the choir room door.

May music fill your heart and soul everyday.

Ann Siegel

SUMMER WORSHIP, 2017

Begins May 28 – Ends September 3

Sunday Worship will be at 9:30am (ONE SERVICE ONLY)

***Wednesday Worship begins May 31 at 6:30pm and
continues through August 30***

Treasurer's Report

March, 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	(\$36,866.05)
Capital	26,565.78
Parking Lot	123,915.45
Mortgage Reduction	3,218.69
Sunday School	682.37
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	1,666.67
Bethesda Resource Center	584.74
Bible Fund	150.00
Choir	2,056.81
Youth Mission Trip	899.97
Youth Faith Based Activities	1,936.42
Youth Camp Travel Fund	469.59
Hohle Scholarship	0.00
Timmy Autey Camp Scholarship	3,657.39
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	93,007.00
Missions	525.00
Tech Team	525.62
Mission Trip Scholarship - ILAG	3,692.97
Mission Trip Scholarship - Youth	2,465.48
Sidewalk Fund	423.88
Rain Gardens Fund	2,548.77
New Sign Fund	5,161.00
Total All Funds	\$ 246,931.28

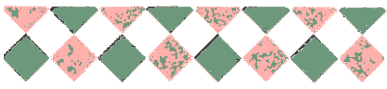
Statement of Activities	March	Year-To-Date
Income:		
Envelopes	\$ 13,795.00	\$ 40,398.50
Loose	317.65	1,016.40
Adopt-A-Bill	63.00	63.00
Other General Fund	60.06	318.27
Thrivent Dollars	200.00	841.00
Preschool Rent	825.00	2,655.00
Fund Raisers	915.00	915.00
Coffee Fund	84.00	276.26
Total General Fund Income:	\$ 16,259.71	\$ 46,483.43
Expenses:		
Salary Expense	\$ 10,018.90	\$ 35,316.70
Non-Salary General & Administrative	4,158.03	5,217.03
Property	6,366.53	15,321.04
Worship And Music	9.90	320.90
Education	46.00	257.50
Youth	137.38	137.38
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:	\$ 20,736.74	\$ 56,570.55

Liabilities	Balance
Payroll Withholding	\$ 1,681.72
Thrivent Financial Mortgage	436,726.66
Thoring Loan (Tax Assessment)	11,993.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 450,401.38



May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30pm Quilting B's 6:30pm Boy Scouts	2 10:00am Prayer Group 5:00pm Executive Mtg 6:30pm Property Team	3 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm Confirmation	4 10:00am NO Bible Study 6:30pm SMORES Mtg	5 St. Paul Area Synod Women's Event 6:00-9:00pm Lula Rue Sale	6 9:00am RFL Survivor Breakfast 10:30am MET Team Mtg 10:00am-1:00pm Lula
7 4th Sunday of Easter 10:00am Worship Service* 10:25am Sunday School 3:00pm Cottage Meeting at Church 6:00pm Girl Scouts	8 6:30pm—Cottage Mtg at Stanefski's 6:30pm Book Club 6:30pm Boy Scouts	9 10:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm Women's Event	10 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	11 10:00am NO Bible Study	12 Basement Sale	13
14 5th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship Service 9:25am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship Service 6:00pm Girl Scouts	15 1:00pm Quilting B's 6:30pm Cottage Mtg at Ross' 6:30pm Boy Scouts	16 10:00am Prayer Group	17 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	18 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Mtg	19 Synod Assembly	20 Synod Assembly
21 6th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship Service* 9:25am Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship Service* 3:00pm Cottage Meeting - at Grimsrud's 6:00pm Girl Scouts	22 6:30pm Boy Scouts	23 10:00am Prayer Group 5:30pm RFL Meeting 6:30pm MET Mtg Bell Echoes Articles DUE	24 9:00-10:30am Women's Bible Study 11:00am Mobile Meals 5:30pm Cub Scouts	25 10:00am Bible Study	26	27
28 7th Sunday of Easter 9:30am Worship Service 6:00pm Girl Scouts	29 Memorial Day	30 10:00am Prayer Group	31 9:30-11:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Worship Service			



May 2017 Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Garrett Heltne	3 Kylie Crowe Ryan Lowell	4 Mason Kupfer	5	6
7	8	9 Anna Nelson James Petersen	10	11 Kimberly Burress	12 Clinton McLagan	13
14 Kimberle Fischbach	15 Ashley Jonas Craig Jones	16	17 Thomas Kelly	18	19	20 Dennis Anderson
21	22	23 Jaime Ross	24 Lucas Anderson	25 Angela Rudquist	26	27 Cynthia Johnson Tyler Nelson Christian Delgado
28 Noreen Beckman	29	30 Renee Edmunds	31			

We wish to thank all again for your condolences in the loss of Dave's brother, Don. Although we knew his death was eminent, it happened much quicker than we were prepared for. Our Bethesda Family has met so much to us these last months. You are truly a blessing to us.

Dave and Ann Siegel

"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:

Eleanor Stephens, died April 20

Donald Siegel, died April 6 (brother of Dave Siegel)

Sue Linn, died March 28

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'Neill, Helen Schadegg, Dorothy Nelson, Lovina Gustafson, Tom Muraski, Marian Petersen

For those with health concerns:

Barb Roth, Paulette Brooks (friend Renee DeSchane), 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 Breitkruetz, 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:

Darleen Heltne

Prayers of Thanksgiving: