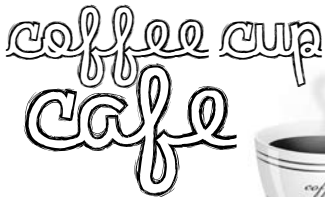


Worship Schedule!

Sunday Services

- 9:00 am – Traditional
- 10:30 am – Contemporary
- 6:00 pm – Contemporary



Sundays:

9:30–12:00 ❖ Room 204a

Visitors! Please join us in the Coffee Cup Cafe for cookies, coffee and conversation! We would love to meet you!

This Month's Cookies!

- April 3rd – White Chocolate Macadamia Nut
- April 10th – Ginger Snaps
- April 17th – Chocolate Chunk
- April 24th – Easter Breakfast Bar

Evangelism@Work

I have it easy! When I go to work people expect me to talk about Jesus. They expect me to share my faith. I am guessing it's not as easy for you though. Do you wish it was? Do you wish you could just walk up to a person at work and share with them their need for the Savior?

It is definitely hard to share Jesus with people at work. For example, when you are at work, you should be at work. Working your hardest and bringing glory to God through your work. On the other side of that, when you are at work you build relationships. I can't really think of anyone who has a job and isn't relating with co-workers or customers.

So my question to you is, "How can you live out your faith in Jesus at work in a way that brings glory and people to God?"

Steps to living out your faith in the work place: First, be a person of prayer. (Col. 4:2) You might have just read this and thought, "Duh!" But I am serious about this. Start praying for people individually. Pray that God would help you to find favor in this person's eyes. Pray that the favor you find with this person would open doors of trust. Pray that this person's heart and mind would be being softened before you ever have a serious conversation. Pray that God would give you the words to share with this person.

Second, listen! Stop and listen to people when they are talking to you, especially when it is about them. Especially when it is personal to them! Listening isn't always the easiest. One website states, "We talk at 200–250 wpm (words per minute) but can listen at 300–500 wpm. Thus when the other person is talking, we get side-tracked by our own thoughts (which may well be triggered by one thing that the speaker says). When we come back into the room, we find that we have lost track of the conversation. Rather than lose face and become embarrassed by this, we nod, smile and hope nobody will notice." Does this sound familiar to you? There are times when I really have to stop and listen because my mind is lazy and wants to drift! No! No! No!

Third, have compassion. Think back to the story when Jesus feed the 5,000. He was hurting (John the Baptist was just beheaded) and yet people were coming to Jesus. He looked at them and the Scriptures say, "he felt compassion for them." He took time to take care of their needs. The people we work with have physical and spiritual needs. And as His "sent people" we are called to meet the physical and spiritual needs of those around us. I believe if we start with these steps doors will open!

One last comment: be willing to take your "calling" away from work. Ask your co-worker to go out for coffee, grab some lunch, or even have them (and their family) over for dinner. It will be easier and more comfortable to build a relationship and share Jesus with people if you can move the relationship beyond the work place!

I would really like to build on this subject. Would you please write to me about positive or negative times where you have shared your faith at work? Or maybe you could share road blocks to sharing Jesus at work. I would really like to do a work shop on this topic in the fall so I would appreciate any input on this subject you are able to share with me.

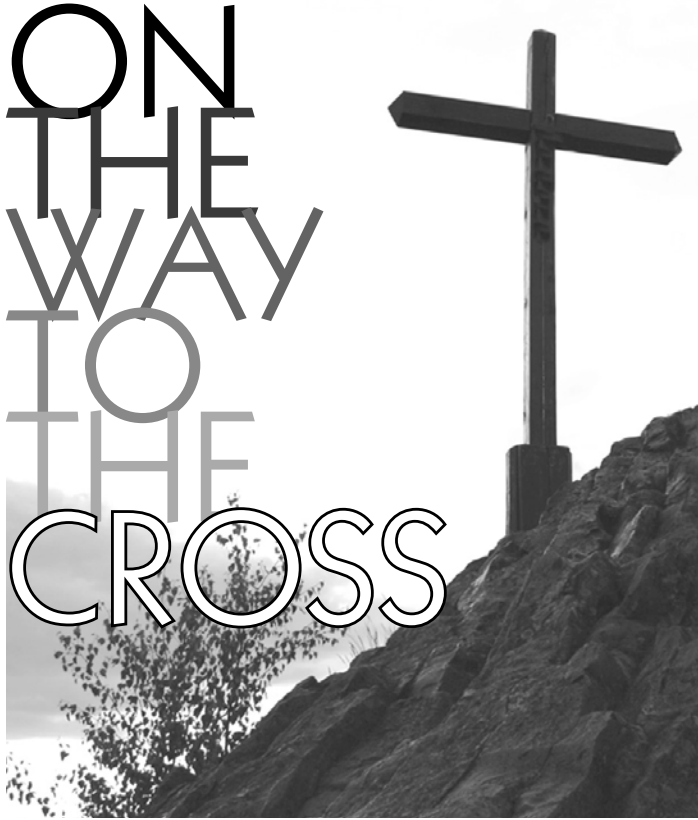
*Because Of His Great Love For Us,
Pastor Brandon*



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All Church Announcements



This Lenten season, we invite you to attend our Wednesday Evening services where we will focus our study on some of the people Jesus interacted with on His way to the Cross. We trust that God will use these personal encounters from biblical history to refresh and renew us on our own journey to meet our Savior at His cross.

- **March 30**, 6:45 PM — Caiaphas
- **April 6**, 6:45 PM — (Speaker: Don Pardun)
Barabbas
- **April 13**, 6:45 PM — Peter

Passion Week Services

- **Maundy Thursday**, April 21, 7 PM
(Communion service)
- **Good Friday** Tenebrae Service, April 22, 1 PM
Pastor George Schweitzer from Bethany LBC in Colfax, Wisconsin
- **Easter Sunday**, April 23 – 9:00 am, Classic Service;
10:00 am, Contemporary Service (in Walker Hall);
11:00 am, Classic Service

Bola Scripture Dedication Mission Team

Bethesda is thrilled to be sending a ‘Bola Mission Team’ this summer to Papua New Guinea. They will take part in the celebration to dedicate the completed Bola scriptures — a translation project that Brent & Sandi Wiebe (Bethesda missionaries) have been working on for nearly 18 years! They will also be working with outreach in local villages, including sharing testimonies, showing the Jesus film, and taking part helping with Wycliffe’s “SALT Project” (“Scripture Application & Leadership Training”), an educational outreach to help people who are receiving God’s Word in their own heart language to read, study, and apply God’s Word. We are excited that Bethesda’s mission team will be intergenerational! Team members are: Jenny Gronseth, Mandy Heard, Bee Larson, Paul Larson, Cody Rico, Jared Rico, Ryan Rico, Roy Rico, Terri Ruesch, Chuck Rupnow, and Bruce Strangfeld. Plans call for the team to depart on June 18th and return the first week of July.

Here’s how you can support this mission:

- **Pray!** Pray that lives would be touched with the love and truth of Jesus, that revival would come to the Bola people, and that many spiritually lost would be found. Pray for the team members, and how God wants to work in their lives. Pray for the challenges of preparation and financial support for the extensive trip, and for the needs of the families left back home. Pray that the team members would be a blessing

to the Wiebes and the Bola homes in which team members will be staying. Pray for team members to prepare in advance to better understand the Bola culture, and be able to give their spiritual testimonies in ways that will speak meaningfully to the Bola people.

- **Support financially!**

Bethesda’s mission committee and the Bola team have several mission trip fund-raisers. The first is an **all-church dinner on Saturday, April 9th**. The menu is spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, tossed salad and various drinks, all for \$7.50 adults / \$5.00 children. Deserts will be auctioned during the meal. Limited numbers of tickets will be on sale in the foyer between services or available at the door.

We will also be providing a fund-raiser **breakfast in the Fellowship Hall on Easter Sunday** from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Come enjoy a breakfast bar including PANCAKES! Make plans now to invite the whole family. Celebrate this wonderful day with others from Bethesda as well as support a great cause at the same time. Donations given to the Bola team members will help with the expenses for the trip in June.

Watch for more information on this exciting trip over the next few months.

All Church Announcements

Stephen Ministry

Does the Joy of Easter Seem Far Away?

For those who have suffered a loss or who are going through the difficult time, Easter can be a time of painful loneliness and emptiness. If you are smiling on the outside, but full of pain on the inside and the joy of Easter seems far away, help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one, Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, and pray with and for you. Stephen Ministers have been specially trained to meet your emotional and spiritual needs; male Stephen Ministers are always matched with men, and female Stephen Ministers are matched with women. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Paul & JoDea Green at (715) 839-9468, Judy Draper at (715) 831-0189, or Pastor Venberg at the church office, (715) 835-5073. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

On April 25th our Stephen Ministers will be watching the 1st in a series of videos on "Ministering to Those Experiencing Depression."



From the Deacons . . .

One of the duties of the Deacons is the privilege of being able to serve the Lord's Supper to our fellow believers. Regarding the serving of the elements, we've come to understand that within any large group of people there will be some individuals that can't tolerate in their bodies a protein found in wheat called gluten (a condition known as Celiac's).

In an effort to be able to serve ALL, we as Deacons want to learn how many people in our congregation would benefit from a non-gluten bread being offered during communion. If you are such an individual or know of someone who is (child, elderly relative, etc.), please contact the church office so we can get a count. Thank you.

Faithfully
Your Bethesda Deacons.

PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH

New this year: 2 Teams x 2 Homes = 4 Blessed Pastors Start the day with a hearty breakfast at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Signup in the Foyer today; first come, first served!

Questions? Contact Bruce Strangfeld at 715-456-2082



Easter Flower Memorials

You are invited to provide flowers for the Easter service as a memorial to a loved one. The cost is \$8.00 for either an Easter Lily or Tulips. Please give the church office your name(s), the name of the person(s) this is in memory of, and the type of flower you would like. Include your money for the flowers along with your request. Checks should be made out to Bethesda. The memorials will be listed in the Worship Folder on Easter Sunday. You can take your flower(s) home with you after the 11am service on Easter. Orders cannot be made after April 10th.

Check it Out!

Hop into Bethesda's church library and be refreshed and renewed while pondering the precious and true story of Easter. Here are a few of many resources available:

- *What Wondrous Love Is This* (Bk 3, Great Hymns of Our Faith) book by Joni Ereckson Tada and others. The authors present the inspiring histories and Biblical framework of 12 Lenten favorites. (264, TAD)
- *Faith Lessons Vol. 4: Death and Resurrection of the Messiah* (DVD) by Ray Vander Laan /That The World May Know series. This DVD focuses on the last week of Jesus' life, His death and resurrection, and the Holy Spirit's visit on Pentecost. (220.9, FAI)
- *Very Veggie Easter* (Audio CD) by Veggie Tales, Big Idea Productions, Inc. Join Bob, Larry and their Veggie friends for a delightful Easter experience! (JM, VEG)

Our library needs volunteers.
Flexible hours and great benefits!
If you have just a little time, we can use your help.
Training provided.

Contact Sandy Hanson at
715-839-7995, or
Elsie Paulan @715-839-9329



Adult Bible Fellowships

Adult Bible Fellowships (ABFs) are groups that meet in order to help us grow in our relationships to God and with each other. ABFs are committed to deepening our relationships, as well as growing new relationships. Bethesda has a number of ABFs available. Although ABF goals are similar, each group has its own identity. We're sure there is one just right for you!

Sundays • 9:00 AM

Branches

Fellowship Hall, 204c — Variety of ages.

We have been using "*The Truth Project*," an in-depth Christian worldview experience. This *Focus on the Family* curriculum will help us direct our thinking with regard to four fundamental issues: Truth, God, Man and the Social Order. We want to see God and be transformed in the process.

Contact: Deb Hubbell at 715-839-0594 or dahshop@yahoo.com

Koinonia

Walker Hall, Room 304b — Variety of ages.

Koinonia consists mostly of young families, and families with children in grade school into high school, focusing on Bible study and prayer for each other as we go through life together.

Contact: Ross and Michelle Kooiker 715-833-9760 or Mike and Alissa Amundson 715-858-9457

iLess

Fireside Room, Room 102 — Ministry for 18+.

The iLESS Bible Study on Sunday Mornings is for anyone 18+. Maybe you are in college, maybe you just finished, maybe you are of the college age group but college isn't for you, but what *is* for you is to study GOD! Come to iLESS as we have been studying God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. So many people have ideas of who God is and what He does; come to iLESS and study the Living God as He reveals himself in His Word!

See you at 9am (Breakfast Provided) on Dec. 5, 12, 19!

Contact: Pastor Brandon at 715-835-5073 or brandon@bethesdalutheran.org

Sojourners

Room 305 — Variety of ages.

Come and make a journey with us as we look into God's word to find out just what a Christian world view is. We will be using "*Put your beliefs to the test*" by Brannon Howse. Hundreds of scripture references are used so we know we are on solid ground.

Contact: Allen or Jeanne Sternke at 715-597-3526 or jeannesternke@yahoo.com

Sundays • 10:30 AM

Kingfolk

Room 305 — Retired, or nearing retirement.

April 3 — A longtime member of Bethesda and a mentor to many women, Beatie Hill, will share her walk with the Lord when she shares talks of faith. Preceding her presentation will be musical duets by Tim Anderson and Tom Nelson.

April 10 — Bev Clemons, Sally and Dave Winters will share their experiences and insights as both tourists and worshippers in the Holy Land on a recent trip.

April 17 — A delight is in store for Kingfolk when they will hear the beautiful voice of Sharon Hahn. We will also hear and learn how, through the years, the Lord has strengthened her faith through her experiences.

April 24 is Easter Sunday and there will be no ABF classes on that day.

Contact: Augie Wirkus, 715-831-0460

A.C.T.S.

Fellowship Hall, Room 204c — Variety of ages

In ACTS, most of us aren't in our twenties. Most of us aren't in our seventies. But there's a lot of life to live between 25 and 75. We have jobs and mortgages and parents who need our help. We have young children, teenage children or out-of-the-house children. We look forward, and we look back.

Contact: Steve or Jodi Flaten, 715-832-8312, or Steve Loudon, 715-835-6064 / b4ubuy1217@sbcglobal.net.

Seekers of God

Fireside Room, Room 102 — Variety of ages

We are a small Bible study group who will be looking into the topic "Standing Strong for Truth" through the life of Elijah. In Hebrew thought, Moses represented the Law and Elijah the Prophets. In the New Testament, Jesus pointed to Elijah as an example of God's heart for the Gentiles. We will see that he remains a dominant figure in the Jewish past and present. We welcome you to be with us as we are guided by the scriptures along with a discussion guide entitled "A Walk Through the Bible" published by Baker Books.

Contact: Beth Smith, 715-875-4553, or Janet Nuenke, 715-874-6103.

Small Group Opportunities

God Sightings Small Groups

If you are looking for a small group or are interested in starting one, God Sightings is a great opportunity to get started! Each week (typically by Friday morning) we are posting discussion questions to our website to help groups discuss the text from the sermon. If you are leading a group that is discussing God Sightings, please contact Pastor Brian at brian@bethesdalutheran.org, so we can include you when we have additional resources, support, and encouragement.

Women's Studies

Solid Rock Café

Monday Nights, 6:30–8:00 pm
Rms. 311 & 313 (Bethesda)

We are currently doing a Bible study of 1 & 2 Peter, and Jude. Join us as we learn more how to live out our lives as Christians in a non-Christian world. All are welcome!

Contact: Jane Loudon, 715-835-6064 or janelouden@sbcglobal.net

Solid Rock Café

Tuesday Nights, 5:15–6:45 pm
Room 313 (Bethesda)

We are continuing with "Simplify Your Life," featuring Marcia Ramsland. Contact Susanne Elgar (coffegirl1@hotmail.com or 831-1036) to order a book.

Contact: Sue Henneman, 715-552-1378 or suehennemann@att.net; Pat Murphy, 715-839-1219 or patree@cvol.com.

The Rachel Circle

First Tuesday of the Month, 1:00 pm
Fireside Room (Bethesda)

Tuesday, April 12, we will continue studying 1 & 2 Peter with Lesson #7, JOYFUL SERVICE, 1 Peter 4:1-11 from the Max Lucado's Life Lesson series. All are welcome..

Contact: Joan Albricht, 715-830-0221 or Louise Koxlien, 715-552-3873

Moms Study

Wednesday Nights, 5:45 pm–8:00 pm
Bethesda Library

We are studying a Women of Faith study titled, *Living A Life Of Balance*. Let us know if you need childcare.

Contact: Brittney Malone, 715-878-4366 or bmalone.cm@gmail.com

Lydia Bible Study

Second Thursdays, 10:30 am
Fireside Room (Bethesda)

In April we are continuing in our study of "Finally in the Lord."

Contact: Grace Bailey, 715-214-4344

Truth B Told

Thursdays, 12:30–2:00 pm
Fireside Room (Bethesda)

Looking for a group of women to do life and study God's Word with? We'd love to have you join us! This month we will be finishing our "*Living a Life of Balance*" study.

Contact: Kris Quade, 715-830-0713, or quadekids@charter.net
Childcare available

Rise Up!

Friday Mornings, 6:30–7:45 am
Fireside Room (Bethesda)

We are studying the book of Ezekiel. All ladies are welcome to join us.

Contact: Jackie Vold, 715-834-5775 or mjvold@gmail.com

Circle of Friends

Friday Mornings, 9:00–11:15 am

We are continuing in a study of the Psalms. To order a book, contact Mandy Heard or Chris Strasburg at the numbers below. This is an excellent time to invite a friend.

Contact: Mandy Heard, at 715-834-5246 or mandyheardu@gmail.com, or Chris Strasburg at 715-835-0721

Adult Studies

Empty Nesters

First and Third Mondays, 7:00–8:00 pm
Fireside Room (Bethesda)

We are studying the book of Philipians.

Contact: Brian & Janet Amundson, 715-835-0521

Wednesday Evenings

7:00–8:00 pm

Fireside Room (Bethesda)

On Wednesday evenings, we are studying the life and teachings of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke. This Bible Study will restart after Lent.

Contact: Pastor Venberg, 715-835-5073

Equipment

An Apologetics Bible Study
Thursdays, 5:45 pm,

Fireside Room

Answering the questions of our age with a Biblical world view. "I am sending you out like sheep among the wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves." (Matt. 10:16)

Contact: Nathan Dietsche, 715-577-5534

Common Ground

Wednesdays, 6:00–8:00 pm
Room 204a

6pm potluck dinner; Bible Study at 7pm. We have many young families with children, and childcare is made available!

Contact: Jay and Andrea Anderson, 715-836-9358

Men's Studies

Monday Mornings, 6:30–7:45 am
Fireside Room (Bethesda)

We are continuing our discussion of J.I. Packer's *Knowing God*. This is a great time to get plugged into this early morning study to start off your week right!

Contact: Mark Miller, 715-456-8293 or mamaflac@yahoo.com

Tuesday Nights, 5:30–6:30 pm
Room 305 (Bethesda)

Come and relax in laid back environment, learn more about the Bible and how to apply it to a man's daily life. We are studying Romans from Max Lucado's *Life Lessons*.

Contacts:

Stuart, 715-720-7771, snsbt@charter.net
David, 715-828-6156, dverhaagh@hotmail.com

Band of Brothers

Friday Mornings, 6:30–7:30 am
Room 305 (Bethesda)

We currently doing a study of the Gospel of Mark. Dive in deep with us and enjoy God's Word.

Contact: Robert Bandolii, 715-529-0106

Women's Ministries

Ladies' Night Out

March 31st, 7pm

Ladies, enjoy a night out! Bring a friend and enjoy fellowship, dessert, music, and a special guest speaker. Mrs. Kathy Wile will be joining us to share about her life as a pastor's wife and now a missionary to missionaries overseas with Barnabas International. You are sure to be blessed! Child care will be provided. Sponsored by the Women's Ministries Committee

"Mother, Daughter, Sister, Friend"

Sunday, May 1, 2011

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Walker Hall

Women, ladies, and girls ages 3 to 103: Please mark your calendars for this May Day Event.

Bring your mother, daughter, sister or friend to tea. We will have a program of a Bible story teller and beautiful music. There will be photographers for pictures of you and your mother, daughter, sister and friend! Wear your finest attire and don't forget your hat and gloves. We will be making May baskets to take home and share. Child care provided for the little boys! Make a memory!

Men's Ministries

Men of Bethesda!

Time to wipe the dust off your clubs! Bethesda's annual men's golf retreat will be May 21-22, 2011, just 90 minutes away in Lake City, MN! Golf at the Hale Irwin designed "The Jewel" golf club (www.jewelgolfclub.com), one of Golf Magazine's Top Ten New Courses in 2006! Your registration of \$165 provides two rounds of golf at this beautiful course overlooking the Mississippi river, double room lodging, hole prizes, a Saturday evening banquet, and Pastor Brandon speaking on Saturday evening and Sunday morning (two rounds of golf at the normal price would cost more than the entire retreat weekend!)

Early bird registration price of \$165 (\$125 junior rate) is due by May 8th, but the \$165 is only guaranteed for the first 40 registrants (lodging costs go up after this). So, get together your foursome; invite a friend!



Remembering those in Service to our Country

With all that is happening in the world today, I don't think anyone has not thought of or prayed for those serving our country. But there are those of us that this hits a little closer to home and we have learned more about the military than we ever thought we would. If you have a loved one currently serving our country we would like to honor them. Could you please send me a photo of them (preferably in uniform), their branch of service, rank and where they are based. If you have someone in basic training, we want their information too and send any current photo. Please include your relation with them, names of family members and ages of children.

Send information to: Holly Hermann (Holly.hermann@charter.net)

Hospitality: An Easy Way to Show You Care

The social committee here at Bethesda has many ways to show we care, especially by providing food for people. One of these opportunities is serving at funerals. Many churches as the family to pay for some or all of the food served. However, we provide all the food, so the family isn't burdened down with that responsibility. We have had many families share with us how much they appreciate that. Also, we have been told that our luncheons are the best in town. The ladies that work in the kitchen do not get paid in any way, but a donation is given to the church kitchen fund in appreciation for their work and the food provided. Anything that we need to purchase for a funeral is taken from that account.

For you that didn't return the green hospitality sheet a few months ago, you will find one in your mailbox. We encourage you to fill that out and return it as soon as possible. There are many ways listed where you can help. We could use many more names for bringing food for funerals. The more people we have, the fewer times one would have to serve.

Thank you for being a messenger of God's love in this way.

Lois Johnson

Bethesda World Missions

Praise and Prayer for Bethesda's Family Around the World

Venbergs:

- Praise the Lord for Dan and Rachel's ongoing progress in language school, and the children's continued good progress in French schools.
- Pray for Dan and Rachel as they consider sending Gabe, Sylvia and Tevi to a new American mission school in N'djamena next year. Because it is not a boarding school, the family would have to live in N'djamena during the academic year. This would take them away from Doh.
- Pray for Dan and Rachel, who upon returning will become more involved in ministry with the Chadian church, training and encouraging Chadian missionaries who are or will be working with Muslims. This will take them away from Doh.
- Pray that the Lord will give them wisdom and direction to know how to balance ministry in Doh, ministry with the Chadian church, and their children's/family's needs

Wiebes:

- Praise that the printer in Korea reported that the Bola Bible should be finished by mid-April. Shipping to Kimbe, the nearest village, could take 3–5 weeks, and then the Bibles must clear customs. Pray that the Bibles arrive before June 25th!
- Pray for a revival among the Bola Church leaders during the SALT Bible course, which will take place after the dedication.
- PTL for the encouragement of having 11 representatives from Bethesda come and minister after the dedication.
- Pray for wisdom as they seek to import a replacement vehicle for their old truck. They need it in time for the dedication, and will use it for continued work in the area after their furlough.
- Pray for the Lord's provision for their furlough. They will need a house to rent and a vehicle to drive from August 2011–July 2012.
- Pray that the Lord will increase their support level, which has fallen lately.

Contruccis:

- Pray for Kent as he is presenting the Inside-Out Safety Seminar at four MAF bases in Congo and Uganda now through April 10th.
- Pray that the Inside-Out Safety program will positively impact the lives of the MAF pilots/mechanics and their spouses in Africa.

- Pray that Kent will be an encouragement to the MAF teams serving in difficult circumstances in Africa.
- Pray for strength and safety for Nancy while Kent is away.

Gronseths:

- Praise the Lord that the approval process for bringing investment funds into the country is complete, which will enable them to sign a lease. (They have at least 70% of the funds needed for the start-up of the coffee house.)
- Pray for approval of their proposal to rent a large wooden ship looking out over a lake as the site for the English Forum Coffee House. The ship has been unoccupied for over 5 years, but was built at the end of a special street of shops in the apartment complex where the Gronseths live. Since it is very unique, the property management company will probably ask for a higher rent than they can afford. They are excited about the possibility, but desire that the Lord's will be done.

Wiles:

- Pray for rest, and the Lord's guidance as they look ahead to balancing trips overseas with their responsibilities as part of the Barnabas leadership team.

Volds:

- Pray for Justin and Melissa's marriage and children.

College Ministry

Our iLESS Sunday Morning class starts at 9:00 am on Sunday Morning. If you need a ride the church van will pick you up on campus. Call the church office for pick-up locations: 715-835-5073.

We will be starting a new study this week. The series will focus on helping with the doubts that our friends and family members may have.

We will also have a game night this month, lunch at the Cedarblades' on the 17th of April, and a bowling night. Go to "iLESS" on Facebook for more information on any of these events.

Youth Ministries

Family Movie Night

Saturday April 2nd, 6 pm, Walker Hall

Pizza and dessert will be served, soda available for purchase, and movies will be shown for nursery toddlers (VeggieTales), young children in Walker Hall (Tangled - new release!), and all ages of teens and adults (Amazing Grace). There will also be a special showing of the men's Final Four game for those interested in college hoops. Donations desired — this is a fundraiser for YC11 (Youth Conference for Middle and High Schoolers) and students will be serving food and providing the childcare. All are welcome — bring your neighbors too!



YC11 Meeting

All families who will be sending students to Youth Conference 2011 in Estes Park, CO, must attend an informational meeting on Sunday, April 10th right after the second service in the youth room. We will be discussing travel arrangements (vans), additional activities, fundraisers, and cost. If you are unable to attend, please contact Chad or Ryan to get the information. Information sheets are also available on the middle and high school church website page.



We are also looking for parents and other adults who are interested in traveling with the group as chaperones. If you are interested, please talk with Chad.

Un.Tour Update

It was an amazing conference! We experienced great musical worship times led by Shane and Shane, moving dramas, and engaging speakers. But most importantly was learning how to naturally share the GOSPEL story with others, and then doing it! Pray for continued conversations with our friends who don't know Christ.



Fundraisers and service projects

All students who are going to YC 11 must help out with at least two out of the four fundraisers offered, including Touched Twice and/or VBS. Students not attending the conference this summer are more than welcome to volunteer at these events too and give back to the church and community.

Touched Twice is rapidly approaching (April 16th, from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM). We are in need of high school students to serve as advocates and middle school students to serve as runners. This is a great opportunity to serve those in our community who are facing difficulties. Please contact Chad or Ryan to receive more information and sign up.

Weekly Schedule

Sunday School: classes for 6/7th grade, 8th grade, and High School at 9 and 10:30am

High School Youth Group: Sundays 7:30–9:00 pm

Confirmation: Wednesdays 6:00–6:45 pm (8th Grade) 6:45–7:30 (9th grade)

The Bridge: Middle School Youth Group: Wednesdays 6:45-8pm

High School Small Groups: Wednesdays 7:00–9:00 pm

Chad Shiffer
Director Youth Ministries
chad@bethesdalutheran.org

Ryan Rico
Middle School Youth Director
ryan@bethesdalutheran.org

High School Calendar

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Saturday, April 2 | — | Family Movie Night
6–9 pm (YC11 Fundraiser) |
| Sunday, April 3 | — | Wounded — Bullied and Depressed |
| Sunday, April 10 | — | Wounded — Lonely and Rejected |
| Sunday, April 17 | — | Wounded for You |
| Sunday, April 24 | — | No Youth Group |



Children's Ministries

Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord; Lift up your hands to Him for the life of your little ones... Lamentations 2:19b

VBS in NYC!



Vacation Bible School is right around the corner (June 13–17, 9 a.m.–noon each day) in The Big Apple! That's right, this year the kids will be going on an adventure in New York City. They will learn about connecting in faith, love, trust, others and life through the daily Bible stories and reinforcement in their small groups and various areas of VBS. They will make crafts in the craft district, have worship rally at Times Square, enjoy treats at Midtown Snacks and much more!

At this time, we have many, many opportunities open for you to serve in at VBS. Especially needed, are those who would like to be a part of our leadership team in areas such as crafts, playground, nursery, missions, group guides/helpers, missions and decorating. We would also greatly appreciate one or two individuals to help divide the load up with Dawn and Karen in the general overseeing of VBS. Of course, many guides and helpers, craft room, kitchen, playground, nursery and registration helpers will be needed in order to make our VBS week possible.

We typically have 200 kids or more attend VBS and over half of them do not call Bethesda their church home. This is a tremendous outreach opportunity! We ask you to please pray about where you could step in and serve this year. Check out the sign-up sheets and job descriptions on the table by the resource room near the gym. You can also contact Dawn or Karen for more information.

See you in New York!

Bible Camp

Make sure you get the transportation forms to Dawn by May 15th. Please refer to the camp information on the back of the calendar insert for details about summer camps.

Easter Calendar

Parents: an Easter calendar will be coming home soon with your children. Please use this as an opportunity to plant seeds of faith in their hearts as they participate in each day's activity. This is a fun and interesting way to help your children understand more deeply what Easter is all about and what it means to them personally.

Programs

Sunday School

Sunday School programs are held during Sunday morning and Sunday evening services. Sunday school classes will not be meeting on Easter Sunday – April 24th

Wednesday Night Activities

Children's Choir: 6:00–6:45pm

Noah's Ark: Bible Stories in Action! (PreK–K) 6:45–8pm

Kids of the Kingdom: Learning Christian Virtues (1st–3rd Grade) 6:45–8pm

Bible Explorers: The Bible and ME! (4th–5th Grade) 6:45–8pm

The 5th grade Bible Explorer children will have a "graduation party" on May 6th from 6–10 p.m.

Note: April 20th is the last night of our Wednesday Night programs until the fall.

Dawn Rico
Children's Ministries Director
dawn@bethesdalutheran.org

Karen Ratering
Children's Ministries Assistant
k.ratering@sbcglobal.net

www.bethesdalutheran.org
(715) 835-5073

Serving Opportunities

Touched Twice Clinic — 3 Weeks Away!

Our next Touched Twice United Clinic at Bethesda is on Saturday, April 16th from 10:00 am–2:00 pm. We praise God that many of the needs have been met but there are still areas where you can serve this great ministry. Some areas of service are:

Drivers Needed — We are looking for a driver to drive the church van to pick up families wanting to come to the clinic. You will pick up and drop off at the same location. You will need a valid driver's license and a chauffeur's license. If you don't have a chauffeur's license you will be required to see a video on how to drive a 15-passenger van.

Advocates — You will be a guide and friend to an individual who attends our event. You will meet your family in Registration and help them fill out their paperwork. Then you will take them to their first service of choice. You will be with your individual or family during their whole stay at the clinic. You will make sure that their needs are met, that they get their free meal, clothing and food bag. **There will be an Advocate Training Class on Friday, April 15 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.** You will learn everything you need to know about being an Advocate, including how to share your faith if you get an opportunity to do that. Our goal is 200 Advocates. At this time we have around 145. Fifty-Five more are needed!

Follow-up Coordinator — You will be in charge of planning a follow-up of the families who attend our event and a celebration service.

Photographer — We are in need of one photographer who would be willing to take pictures of the guests and provide them with a CD or printed photo.

Promotions — We are looking for people who work in offices, factories or other businesses who would be willing to take posters for display in the building.

Clean Up — We are in need of 3–4 more people who would be willing to help clean up after our clinic is over.

Clothing — We are having a clothing and toy drive. Please save your gently used clothes and toys and donate them for our Touched Twice event. There is a table outside the choir room and one next to the Infant Nursery.

Food — We are also be having a food drive, and donated food will be given to needy families. So many families have already donated groceries, but we still need more! If you haven't brought a donation yet, here are the foods we'd love to have more of (so that one can go in each bag): Canned Meat, Peanut Butter, Dinner Kits/Mixes, Canned Fruit, Cereal, Condiments, Rice. Please bring *medium* or *small* packages so we can fit a great variety into each bag! Donations of non-perishable food can be dropped off at the clothing tables.



Cash Donations — We are also accepting cash donations for our clinic. Items to purchase will be oil for the oil changes, food for the meal and many miscellaneous items. Just make your check payable to Bethesda and put “Touched Twice” in the memo line.

Runners — We will need people to just be available in case we need someone to run errands or to get information to other areas.

For more information or to volunteer in any of these service areas, please contact Karen Biel at ckbiel@gmail.com or call 715-577-6865. If you filled out one of the volunteer slips but have not been contacted, please contact Karen right away!

Lastly, perhaps the most important need is in the area of PRAYER! “. . . *my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*” But He loves to be asked!

Please continue to pray for all preparations, supplies, and people needed for the Touched Twice event. Ask God to bring forth more advocates—those who will guide our guests. We are still short of the 200 needed, and we are preparing for the possibility of 600 guests. More food and supplies are also needed. Ask God what He wants you to do. Thank God for all the blessings He will give to ALL who participate. And thank you for praying.

Touched Twice “Moving Day”

We have a lot of items for our Touched Twice event stored in Altoona. We're looking for volunteers with big vehicles and/or trailers to help move items from Altoona to Bethesda on Thursday, April 14th, prior to the Touched Twice Clinic. We will need many helpers! We are also looking for hanging racks, no matter the size, for clothing that we could use the weekend of the event.

As items arrive on-side, we will also need help organizing everything. This is one area where your help would really be appreciated. We will be organizing many areas, including clothing, on Thursday, April 14th and Friday, April 15th.

Contact Brittney Malone at 715-878-4366 or bmalone.cm@gmail.com if you have any questions.

More Opportunities

APPLE celebrates 30 years

APPLE Pregnancy Care Center is so happy to invite you to join us as we celebrate 30 years of ministry in the Chippewa Valley.

Saturday, April 30th
Dinner served at 6:30 pm

Peace Lutheran Church
501 E. Fillmore, EC

Special Guest: Mary Pierce, "The Laugh Lady"

Reservations necessary: www.friendsofapple.org, or call 715-834-5254



Host Families Needed

Six years ago, we hosted a student from Spain for the first time. We met Blanca Marchesi. It was fun to learn about her and her culture, which was very different from ours. Our daughter Jamie, who was close in age to Blanca, had had some Spanish, but the rest of us had not. It was challenging at first, but by the end of the four weeks, we had no problem communicating. Since that first year, we hosted Blanca two more years and then Blanca came on her own. Now she is more a part of the family than a guest. So it is my pleasure to assist my friend Shelby Klein finding the additional host families for this year's group. She is still looking for homes for two 13 year old boys, one 14 year old boy, two 15 year old boys and three girls age 16.

—Holly Hermann

Here is a note from Shelby:

My name is Shelby Klein. I grew up in Eau Claire, but now live in Spain. This summer I will be bringing a group of Spanish students to the Eau Claire/Durand/Chippewa Falls area for four weeks and am looking for families who would be willing to host a student. The dates of the program are June 25 to July 23.

The students range in age from 12 to 17. The purpose of their visit is to better their English speaking skills and to be part of an American family. The students will have full medical and liability insurance and their own spending money.

What would be expected from you as a host family? I hope that you would treat the student as another member of your family, including him/her in your daily activities, responsibilities and conversations, and at the same time, explain some of our customs that may seem quite different. We will have a weekly excursion or activity that host siblings are encouraged to join in on.

If you think you may be interested in hosting, please contact me at: shelby.klein@rosewind.net so that I can give you more information. I will be happy to put you in contact with other families that have hosted in the past. If you know of other families that might be interested in hosting, please give them my e-mail address.

Bethesda Softball Teams Forming Now

We have a few openings on one of our Men's Slow Pitch Softball teams. There are also openings for the Co-ed Slow Pitch team. Openings include both men and women, ages 16 and older. There is a small cost to cover team fees.



The regular league season has 11 games with at least one playoff game or more. The deadline to finalize the roster is May 8th. Contact Robert Bandoli, 715-529-0106

"Hope Behind the Walls"

Good News Jail and Prison Ministry Spring Banquet

You are invited to the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry "Hope Behind the Walls" Spring Banquet. It will take place at the beautiful Florian Gardens on 2340 Lorch Avenue in Eau Claire. It is on Tuesday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m. This delicious dinner is free of charge because of donations by local businesses, churches, and individuals. There will be music and testimonials by ex-inmates and volunteers. Chaplain Tom Herro and Chaplain Margi Meis will speak about their ministry. Come and you will be amazed at what God is doing behind bars. Call Chaplain Tom Herro for tickets at 715-839-6296.

Mommy Meals on Wheels

We have a handful of moms expecting in the next couple months. Would you like to help them by delivering a meal to them after the baby is born? If you like being in the kitchen, or shopping at the grocery store, this is a great opportunity to serve members of the Bethesda community.

I am also looking for Meal Coordinators to help organize meals and delivery to families.

Contact Brittney Malone if you would like to help with this ministry – 715.878.4366 or bmalone.cm@gmail.com.

YOUTH CAMPS 2011 "Built 2 Last"

We want to LEVEL with you...the SPECS are in, so BRACE yourself!

CONSTRUCTION on this summer's theme is underway and it's all about CONCRETE teaching that will FRAME your faith, LAYING a SOLID FOUNDATION throughout life's LANDSCAPE. The CONTRACTOR PAVED the way, gave us the necessary TOOLS, and offers us a LIFETIME WARRANTY. So, come ready to study the BLUEPRINTS DRAFTED by The Master ARCHITECT, BOND with fellow LABORERS, and see yourself as the incredible WORKMANSHIP that you are!

Days at Inspiration Point are led by our top-NOTCH CREW of staff members and include: our HIGH-VOLTAGE Gaslight Theater that is sure to fill you with SIDE-SPLITTING laughter, food that will FLOOR you, a memorable Christ Hike, campfires that BEAM, ACCESS to highly-APPRAISED recreation, Adventure Course events that you do KNOT want to miss, singing that will raise the RAFTERS, and loads of other opportunities that will send you through the ROOF...all in a Christ-centered atmosphere...and the PLANS continue! If you'll PERMIT, everyone is invited to take up RESIDENCE at Inspiration Point and make it their DWELLING. We've taken an ASSESSMENT, SURVEYED past attendees, and our ESTIMATION is that this summer will be BEDROCK solid!

So, DEMOLISH the normal routine for a week and set your SITES on Inspiration Point. Don't wait to HAMMER out a week on your calendar...a summer just isn't summer without camp! And this summer is one that is BUILT 2 LAST! (*all puns intended)



Bible Camp!

Camp Dates

Jr. High Camp (7th/8th):	June 19–24
Explorer 2 (5th/6th):	July 10–15
Pioneer 2 (3rd/4th):	June 26–30
Sr. High (9th–12th):	July 3–7

Information packets must be picked up if your child is going to camp. They are on the table outside the Resource Room. You can also download them at www.bethesdalutheran.org. (Click on the Children's Ministries or Middle School pages, then click on Bible Camp.) Please return the transportation request forms by May 15th. Camps listed below will have church transportation available. They are based on the grade your children will enter in the fall. This is made possible by willing parent drivers!

Early Registration Discounts

If registrations are postmarked and paid in full on or before May 1st, a \$10.00 discount may be applied.

Family Camp Dates

June 30–July 3
July 28–31

For more information or for registration forms contact Inspiration Point at 218-998-4572 or go to www.ipoint.org. These camps fill quickly so get your registration in soon.

Spring Choir Concert

"Thine Is the Kingdom"

April 17, 4:00 PM

The over riding theme of the choir concert is the sovereignty of a holy God and His love and mercy for sinful mankind. Brass and percussion will add to several numbers and the brass prelude will prepare concert-goers for the gripping message of the season that promises to impact each individual in the sanctuary. This will be a great opportunity for your own personal worship in the Easter season and to invite others to join you. The freewill offering received at the concert will be given to the the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry and the Transition Houses (for folks released from jail). Child care provided.

Visit the Welcome Center

Bethesda Family, most all of you are familiar with the Welcome Center located in the foyer. You have probably been greeted by those behind it many times as well as had questions answered. You know how nice it feels to be truly recognized. The main reason for the Welcome Center is to encourage those who are new or visiting Bethesda. This time together allows us to put a face with a name, give them a copy of our monthly newsletter, answer any questions they may have and offer them the choice of one of the several gifts we offer a Bethesda coffee tumbler, Gordy's pie coupon or a sermon CD. Unfortunately we don't have too many visitors coming up to the Welcome Center on their own, so we can use your help! All it takes is introducing yourself to someone you think may be new or visiting and walk them over and, introduce them to us, and we'll do the rest. If everyone met someone new each Sunday and introduced them to someone else, we would have an amazing "Welcome" system in place, but it takes all of us to step up.

Nursery News

Thank you to all who willingly volunteer in the Nursery. You are greatly appreciated and a true blessing to the children and families of Bethesda. The nursery is available to *all* children, ages newborn through preschool age, attending any one of the services at Bethesda. You do not have to be a member or even a regular attendee, to take advantage of this opportunity.

Thank you also to those who returned the “Nursery Volunteer Questionnaire”, otherwise seen as the purple half sheet in your mailbox, that information helps me update my contact list to give the most accurate information about your preferences. If you have not filled one out, please do so.

We are currently seeking volunteers for the upcoming Easter services (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day); please contact Brittney Malone if you are available and willing to help in this capacity. E-mail to: brittney@bethesdalutheran.org or call 715-878-4366.



Become a Bethesda Facebook Friend!

It's hard to imagine that there's anyone who uses the internet and doesn't know about Facebook. Facebook is an enormously popular “social networking” website, and provides an easy way to communicate with and keep in touch with others. Many of you probably already spend some time on



it. Well, if you haven't already, join our Bethesda Facebook page. It's a great way to keep informed as well share together and encourage each other as a body of believers. You can find information for recent events as well as see what's coming up. Post your recent “God Sighting” or be inspired by others. We would love to hear from you!

You can find Bethesda's Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/bethesdalbc

If you have any questions, just call the office at 715-835-5073