

Worship Schedule!

Sunday Service Schedule

- 9:00 am – Traditional
- 10:30 am – Contemporary
- 10:45 am – Eleeo (Walker Hall)

refresh!
(-ments)



Sundays:

10:00–10:40 ❖ Walker Hall (Gym)

Stop in the gym before or after morning worship for delicious coffee, cookies and pleasant conversation.

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Sermons can be downloaded from our website at or purchased by calling the church office.



Growing Big and Strong

It's hard to believe that I have been in my new position as Connections Coordinator since November. I've had such an overwhelming response of support. I've been told by many that I will be really "good at that.". That statement got me thinking: what is "good" and what is "that"? The "that" is fairly easy to determine as I was given a job description and the purpose of my position is "to be an instrument of God's love through which new and existing people of Bethesda are brought more deeply into the fellowship, growth, service and mission of Christ's Body."



When my children were younger, we had a chart hanging on the wall behind a bedroom door, that whenever it caught their eye, they would run to the chart and slam their back against the wall and say "measure me Mom, how big am I?" I could hardly bear their disappointment when there was no change. I would then encourage them by giving a list of foods they should eat, that they needed to play in the sunshine more, and (my favorite) go to bed early to get more sleep!

My heart is to do for this congregation as I did for my children. Help you to be "big and strong" in your life as a follower of Christ, and give you encouragement and opportunities through Life Groups, bible study, serving and fellowship. And how do we measure that growth? An example is the blue binder that you are asked to fill out each week. I too have been guilty of not filling out the attendance sheet. My reason? If I am sitting alone in a pew, there is no one to pass it to! So I challenge you to picture a cute little growth chart hanging in the office and Arlene with a ruler. Filling out just your name each week allows us to "measure."

Now "good" has several meanings. The dictionary lists 28 definitions of the word as an adjective. The ones that jumped out at me were "of high quality," "suitable," "skilled," "ample," "helpful," "beneficial," "genuine," "producing result." I am in the process of developing a "system" to help me to be "good" at what I do. Each day as new ideas and opportunities are developed for us as a body of Christ, I am beginning to feel that excitement as my children did running to the chart to see progress.

I have been humbled by your support and encouragement and I ask that you not only pray for me, but for all of us to have excitement in seeing our "body" change and grow and be prepared to serve and bring glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Holly Hermann
Connections Coordinator

All Church Announcements



LENT

Time to Reflect and Repent

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

—Psalm 139:23–24

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. It is a rich season of spiritual reflection, honest confession, and repentance. Certainly we are invited to do this every day, but as we prepare for Easter, it's a great opportunity to acknowledge our desperate need for Jesus as our Savior and recognize all he has done for us. In the coming weeks, we plan to offer devotional resources/recommendations that you can use during the 40 days of Lent. Children's Ministry is developing tools that families can use together. We also invite you to participate in our Lenten services on Wednesday evenings. Whether you have familiar Lenten traditions or not, we invite you to consider how this season of Lent could be a rich and meaningful time in your relationship with God.

Thanks Nick!

As many of you know, Nick Shoemaker resigned his position as our Custodial Assistant. We want to publicly thank him for his years of hard work at Bethesda and ask that you thank him, too. We wish him all the best in his new venture!

Something new for Bethesda!

LENTEN SUPPERS

Wednesday nights during Lent can be wild trying to do it all. This Lent, come enjoy your family with a meal that you don't have to prepare! Dinner will be served buffet style from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Free will offering will be received.

Do you want to be a part of a great team to help plan and prepare the meals! Nothing is better than fellowship in a kitchen! Join me at a planning meeting Wednesday February 8 at 6:45 pm in the Library.

Please RSVP your interest to Holly Hermann, Connections Coordinator: holly@bethesdalutheran.org

Pictorial Directory!



It's here! Not only do we have the hard copy but we now have the directory on line! So no matter where you are, at work or at friends, with access to a computer you can go on line to www.connections.lifetouch.com/?orgLogin=6726 or go to the link on the church's website: www.bethesdalutheran.org to access the site. Even if you didn't have your picture taken you are still in this on-line directory and you can update it yourself with any changes to address or phone numbers. You can even add a personalized note, perhaps your life verse! Everyone has their own password protected log in that you will get when you pick up your directory. Log on and you can edit your information as well as change your log on and password to something easy for you to remember. You can also add your hobbies and interests. This would be a great way to find others that enjoy what you do!

All Church Announcements

Salsa

(Salt and Light Single Adults)



**Connect and Fellowship with other Single Adults
(30s–50s+)**

This small group is designed to provide Christian fellowship and the opportunity to experience community with other Bethesda single adults.

Join us on Sunday February 19th at 12:15. We'll meet at church for a light lunch followed by snowshoeing (weather permitting). Snacks or dessert to share would be welcomed. Let us know if you need snowshoes or have extra snowshoes to lend.

Any questions or to be added to the SALSA email group please contact: Carin at carin-rae@hotmail.com or Mary at mary.robinson@ahss.org

Women of Bethesda

Thank you for your thoughtful gif of money at Christmas. Reading the card you all signed made me homesick as I read the familiar names as well as some new ones. Thank you for holding us up in prayer. God is so good and faithful. We think of our Bethesda family so often and are filled with gratefulness and are humbled by your faithful support of us and God's work in Chad.

Pray that we remain in Jesus daily seeking his guidance and to do what he has called us to. As you may have heard, we are also helping out with the Welcome Center in N'djamena for this year as well as continuing as much as possible our ministry to the Fulbe and the national church.

*Gratefully Yours,
Dan & Rachel Venberg and Family*

2012 Phone Directory



It's that time of the year again! Time to make a new phone directory. We will have copies of the current directory in the foyer for the next few Sundays. Please check your listing to make sure all the information is accurate. If the information is correct, please initial the book by your listing. If any of the information needs changing, do not make the corrections in the book. Instead, please complete a Family Information Form and put it in the basket at the Welcome Center. Also, if you're not currently listed in the directory and would like to be, please complete a Family Information Form and put it in the basket. Thanks so much!

Dear Bethesda Family

It is with heartfelt thanks, and great appreciation, that the Martin family would like to thank all of you for your prayers, assistance, and gifts of love that you have showered upon us in the two months since Ben fell and "shattered" his ankle/leg. Like Humpty Dumpty, he was "put back together again" by a wonderful surgeon at Mayo, and should be returning home soon after spending several weeks at Dove West in rehab.

Specifically, I would like to thank Pastor Rodney and Helen, Pastor Paul, Arlene Dittner, Dr. Jacoby, Todd Lenz, Mandy Heard, Rod Ruesch and all those who gave up their Sat. the week before Christmas to help make our dwelling place a home, Circle of Friends, Dennis Peterson, Liz Redmann and all of our youth leaders, those who made us food, and the "anonymous angels" whose gifts of love put gas in our car, food in our fridge, and gave our kids a Christmas they otherwise would not have had! If I have left anyone out, my sincere apologies.

Through this difficult time, the Lord has blessed us in more ways than we can count, by our being a part of the Body of Christ called Bethesda. May He richly bless each one of you!

*In Christ's Love,
Karen, Ben, Rachel, Elizabeth, and David Martin*

All Church Announcements

Stephen Ministry

Sometimes Valentine's Day isn't Happy



For some people, Valentine's Day is a painful reminder of a broken relationship, the death of a loved one, a recent relocation, a chronic illness, or another life challenge. If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring Jesus' love (God's "ultimate Valentine") back into your life. Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your struggle.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with: 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!

We will continue our training of new Stephen Ministers to serve you by studying:

February 6 — Process vs. Results in Caregiving

Feb 13 & 20 — Assertiveness part 1 & 2

February 27 — Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving

Check it Out!

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God . . ." I John 4:7. God's love is expressed in His Word. His Word is the inspiration for the banquet of edifying media offered in Bethesda's church library. Here are a few to savor:

- *Love Dare (book)* by Stephen and Alex Kendrick. This is a forty-day guided devotional experience that will lead your heart back to truly loving your spouse while learning more about the design, nature, and source of true love. (242.64, KEN)
- *Happy Trails: Our Life Story (book)* by Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. Roy was a man who unashamedly loved his God, his family, and his country. This is an inspiring story about the Hollywood couple who were just the same on screen as off. (791.43, ROG)
- *Matchmaker Mary (DVD)*
This story illustrates how the lives of six people can be changed with a little help from a pre-teen matchmaker and three adorable puppies. (F, MAT)



HomeStars

A Homeschool Support Ministry of Bethesda Lutheran Church

2012 has gotten off to a great start! Our first semester of classes concluded with a well-attended science fair in January. The kids did an amazing job and lots of dads came and participated in the fun! Our moms enjoyed time together with crafts or cooking. February is filled with more fun family activities. We will have our annual Valentine's Day party at the Eau Claire Sports Center on February 13th from 9:00 to 11:30. The next day, on February 14th, our second semester classes (12:30-3:10) will start with something for everyone. Since our monthly meeting falls on Valentine's Day, we will have a marriage-themed parent support meeting. Our monthly devotional will be on contentment.

Middle school activities are planned for February 10th at Bethesda (details will be at our website). Our after school club continues every other Tuesday afternoon (7th and 21st) with activities related to the *Odyssey of the Mind* competition in March. Also, our annual used book and kids craft sale will be March 24th from 9:00-noon at Bethesda. Everyone is welcome to come and check out the deals!



If you are homeschooling, join HomeStars and take part in all the activities and encouraging fellowship. If you have any questions, contact Linda Swenson at 715-834-0713, or check out our website at www.homestars.me.



touched twice united[©]

Our Touched Twice United Clinic 2012 will be Saturday, April 21 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. We have added an extra hour so we will be able to serve more guests. Please mark your calendar for this very special serving opportunity. You will show the love of Christ to those in need in our community by providing free services, a hot meal, food and clothing and most of all Christ's Love.

In Matthew 25: 34-36, Jesus says,

Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

In verse 40, Jesus tells us that whatever we do for the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for Him. These verses describe what we are accomplishing with Touched Twice.

We can definitely use you. There will be many serving opportunities available and all are equally important. Some that are available to sign up for are:

Advocates — You will be a friend and guide to a guest who attends. You will meet them in Registration and help them fill out their paperwork. You will take them around to their service area of choice. You will make sure they get their free hot meal and that their needs are met. There is an Advocate Training night on Friday, April 20 at 7:00 in the Sanctuary. You will receive all the information necessary to know how to serve in this vital area. You can partner up with a friend or family member too and do it together. We are in need of men and women ages 16 and up to be Advocates. If you have younger children they are welcome to serve with you.

Food Coordinator — You will coordinate the food that will be given out in grocery bags to each family or individual. Many donation opportunities are available. Other choices would be just providing items needed like laundry soap, toilet paper and paper towels.

Photographer — We are in need of 1-2 photographers who would be willing to come and take photographs of the guests who attend our clinic. You need to be able to give them a photograph or a CD to take home with them. The photography area this year will be the toddler nursery with many prop choices and backdrops.

Follow-Up Coordinator — We would like to have some type of opportunity to invite the guests back to Bethesda. It could be something as simple as pizza and a movie.

Runners — We need people who would be willing to come and run messages back and forth to different areas or maybe run errands. We need a Runner who would be assigned to the office and spa area; one assigned to Lisa MacKenzie Anderson our Gatekeeper Coordinator and one to be assigned to Registration. More opportunities will be available.

Telephone Monitor — We are in need of 2 people willing to answer our phones during our clinic hours of 9-2.

Other areas to help are: set-up and clean-up, registration, kitchen, prayer team, evangelism team, medical, optical or dental team, spa doing haircuts, oil changes, parking lot attendants, bag check area, personal shoppers, sorting, folding and displaying clothes for giveaway and appointment scheduler assigned to a specific service area.

For more information please contact Karen Biel at: ckbiel@gmail.com or 715-577-6865.

We are also beginning to collect clothing, shoes, baby items and housewares. Please organize with like items and label boxes or bags. (This is not the opportunity to clean your house of anything you want to toss out. We are looking for gently used or new items. Goodwill and Hope Gospel will take many of your other items.)

Also, we are looking for anyone willing to donate space to store these items until the event on April 21st.

Please contact Brittney Malone with any questions: 715-878-4366 or malone.brittney@gmail.com.

Remember we need YOU!

Pray Now For the Touched Twice Ministry On April 21st

The Touched Twice Ministry plans are in full swing, and the time is flying by. The first "order of business" for everyone of us (for this is an all church event), is to be praying.

- Thank the LORD for this opportunity to be His ministers to others. Ask Him to be totally in control of all.
- Pray that all the volunteers will come forth, that all plans would proceed smoothly and completely.
- Pray that we all open our hearts to donate. We need your time, clothes, and various specific items.
- Pray that God will prepare and open hearts of our guests to receive all that God wants to give them.

Be alert for the sign-up sheets for specific prayer assignments. We need many of you.

The Lord loves to answer our prayers. He has and He will. And you will rejoice and serve the Lord with gladness.

Youth Ministries

Winter Camp

February 17–19th
Camp Forest Springs
(www.campforestsprings.org)



Join other high school and middle school students for a fun-filled weekend with special guest speaker Kyle Glenn, Youth Pastor at Door Creek Church in Madison, WI. Kyle will be talking about “Signs: Where are you headed?” focusing on the choices we make that impact our lives.

Fun activities include broomball, tubing, skiing, snowboarding, ice skating, snow shoeing, board games, and more (Skiing and snowboarding cost extra).

Cost: \$120 (scholarships are available). More information and registration forms are available online and on the Youth Bulletin Board.

Haiti 2012 Update

We had a great first meeting and plans are being set! Our group is 10 adult leaders (including a doctor, a cop, and one who’s been to Haiti 7 times recently!) and 23 students. There’s still time for more to join us! Our flights may be as cheap as \$500 each — this means our trip cost will be about \$1100/person! At this point we only have about \$20,000 left to fund-raise, and we’ve got several fundraisers planned throughout the next few months. God is so good in providing ways and means for our trip already! Our hope is that this is a whole group effort — that those who are “sending” are just as excited and involved as those who are “going”.

Weekly Schedule

One23: High School Youth Group: NEW START TIME, Sundays 7:00–8:30 pm, beginning in January.

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

Chad Shiffer
Director Youth Ministries
chad@bethesdalutheran.org

Ryan Rico
Middle School Youth Director
ryan@bethesdalutheran.org

GAMEDAY

Fri/Sat Feb 24–25
Cost: \$60

Training is a huge part of students’ lives. Whether they’re in basketball, soccer, football, gymnastics or even choir, ballet or band . . . they’re committed. They spend hours practicing, training, rehearsing, and pushing themselves to the limit. While all these activities are great, there’s another game to get ready for. At GameDay students will face the reality and the urgency of the “competition” they are a part of everyday in the grand Kingdom conflict for the souls of their friends.

Through powerful training, worship, drama, and outreach opportunities your teens will pour into 2 Timothy 4:1-8 and come away motivated and equipped to follow the Apostle Paul’s three powerful charges to young believers: Go, Fight, Win! Contact Chad for more details

Middle School and High School Ministries combined to do the 30-Hour Famine once again this year, and once again it was a huge success! Over 60 students and adults were a part of it this year, staying at church for 24 hours playing games, doing activities, and learning about hunger, it’s causes, and what God has to say about it all.

We brought in guest speakers again this year, so thanks to Michelle Kooiker (Haiti), Sandi Wiebe (Papua New Guinea), Miriam Ratering (Ghana), and Kristin Craker (Eau Claire) for sharing your experiences with us! We also raised about \$2,000 to fight world hunger, and the MSM beat the HSM so I (Chad) had to shave my gotee off (first time in 10 years).



High School Calendar

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Sunday, Feb. 5 | — Superbowl Party at Florens, 5:00–10:00 pm |
| Sunday, Feb. 12 | — One23: “Mate-ing” |
| Fri-Sun Feb. 17–19 | — Winter Camp, Camp Forest Springs |
| Sunday, Feb. 19 | — No One23 |
| Sunday, Feb. 26 | — One23: “Evangophobia” |

Children's Ministries

Bible Camp

We will be arranging for transportation to Inspiration Point Bible Camp during the following weeks:

- **Pioneer 2** (incoming 3rd/4th graders) — June 24th–28th
- **Explorer 2** (incoming 5th/6th graders) — July 8th–13th



If your child is planning on attending camp please register them as soon as you can. We'll have a few camp brochures on the table by the resource room and you can also print off a registration form from camp's website at www.ipoint.org. If you pay in full by April 2nd you get the best rate.

If your child is earning camp credit through our verse memorization program please turn in the recording sheets to us by March 21st so we can let camp know how much they earned before the April 2nd date. If you have not started with the verse memorization and you need the verses and recording sheets please contact Dawn or print them off from the bottom left of the Children's Ministry page on Bethesda's website (www.bethesdalutheran.org).

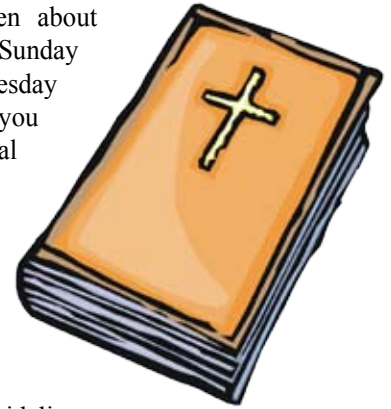
You will also need to pick up a transportation packet from the table by the resource room if you are interested in your child traveling along with other Bethesda children to camp. Please note, transportation is only possible provided we have enough willing parent drivers.

Learn More!

You have a chance to learn more about Bible Camp when Greg Anderson, Executive Director of Inspiration Point, visits Bethesda on February 26th. He'll share about camp during our worship services and also with the Sunday school kids during their Sunday school hour. He'll also be available after the services in the foyer to answer any questions you may have about camp.

What are your kids learning?

Please take a few minutes each week to ask your children about what they are learning on Sunday mornings and/or Wednesday nights. I also encourage you to check out the Spiritual Development Guidelines on pages 16-19 in the Children's Ministries Parent and Volunteer Handbook (if you've lost or misplaced your handbook please contact Dawn for a copy). These guidelines for the different ages were developed 3 or 4 years ago and are designed to be a helpful tool for you and for us in monitoring the ongoing process of your child's spiritual life. We strive to cover the knowledge and skills through our teaching and pray that the heart attitude follows. We also pray for you, their parent, as you seek to reinforce biblical truths at home.



Wednesday Night Meals!

We are excited to announce that meals will be served FOR YOU during Lent. Starting on Wednesday, Feb. 29th, and continuing each Wednesday until March 28th you can join with others in the Fellowship hall between 5:30 and 6:30 for a nutritious meal. The kids can then go to their activities (see "Program" box on this page) and parents are encouraged to attend our Lenten services in the Sanctuary from 6:45 to 7:30. If you would like to help with the preparing and/or serving of meals please contact Holly Hermann at holly@bethesdalutheran.org.

Programs

Sunday School Bethesda offers two hours of Sunday School, during the 9:00 am and 10:30/45 am services.

Wednesday Night Activities

Children's Choir: 6:00–6:45pm

Kids of the Kingdom: (K–3rd Grade) 6:45–8pm

Bible Explorers: (4th–5th Grade) 6:45–8pm

Please Note: There will be no Wednesday Night Activities on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22

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

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



LEARN
FROM GOD'S WORD

APPLY
IT TO LIFE

CONNECT
WITH ONE ANOTHER

LIFEgroups? What is that?

All this past month you've been hearing the term "LIFEgroups," you've been encouraged to sign up, and maybe it's left you wondering what LIFEgroups are all about.

Simply put, LIFEgroups are small groups of people who meet regularly to grow in their relationship with Christ, discuss how their faith intersects with their daily lives in caring community, and encourage one another as they find ways to serve Jesus' cause.

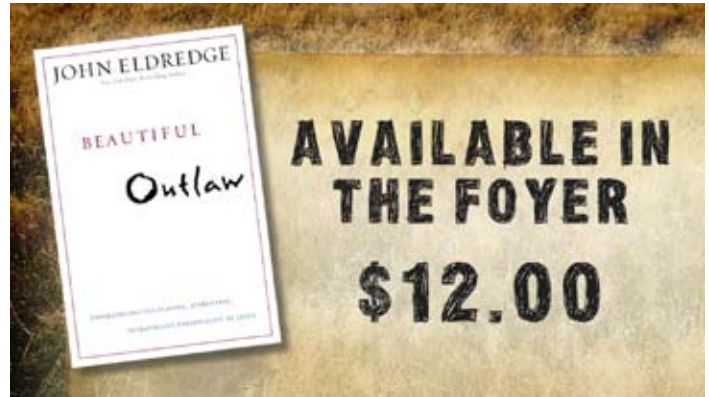
LIFEgroups is an expansion of Bethesda's current small group ministry. With our kick-off this month, we will have nearly doubled the number of small groups at Bethesda.

The plan is for LIFEgroups sessions to have clear starting and ending dates each spring, summer, and fall. Participants are asked to commit one session at a time, but groups are encouraged to continue meeting season after season. This 3-season or "trimester" approach creates flexibility for people's lives and schedules to change and convenience for new people to find groups at these key times throughout the year.

What do LIFEgroups study?

The curriculum for LIFEgroups varies from group to group, season to season. We want to help leaders find a curriculum that fits their goals and passions, as well as the group's needs, as they pursue Christ, Community, and Cause. As often as once each year we will invite most of our groups to follow the same curriculum, often coordinating with a sermon series.

To compliment our Spring 2012 sermon series about Jesus, we will be drawing from the book *Beautiful Outlaw*



by John Eldredge, using the videos and our own discussion materials, which invite us to learn more about the personality and work of Jesus by studying events recorded in the Gospels.

This curriculum is easy to follow, easy to use, and is designed to help group facilitators lead discussions that focus on applying Scripture to our lives.

The goal and purpose of our LIFEgroups is spiritual and personal growth in Christ. We are confident that participants and leaders alike will be transformed, as we learn and process together, serve together, pray together, and support each other in our journeys with Christ.

We have so many current and new LIFEgroups it is impossible to list them all in the space of our Newsletter. You can find the latest "Catalog" of all our LIFEgroups at the information desk in the foyer, or visit the LIFEgroups page on our website (www.bethesdalutheran.org/ministries/small-groups) and download a PDF of the Catalog.

You can sign up for any LIFEgroup at the table in the foyer, or at www.surveymonkey.com/s/6FCSYDC



**Groups begin the week of February 5th!
New participants are welcome all through February!**

Adult Bible Fellowships



connect | serve | grow

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.

To Be Determined

Room 204c

20s–40s

We will kick off this new ABF with a study of John Eldredge's book *Beautiful Outlaw*

Contact: Mike and Alissa Amundson, mna95@hotmail.com

Sundays • 9:00 AM

Branches

Room 204c (Fellowship Hall)

Variety of ages.

Branches will gather in room 204a to study John Eldredge's book *Beautiful Outlaw*. Join us for coffee, treats, friendship and study.

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

iLess

Fireside Room, Room 102

Ministry for 18+.

iLess is an ABF designed to meet the needs and help in the spiritual growth of young adults in our Bethesda community.

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

Sojourners

Room 305

Variety of ages.

Please come and join us as we look into God's word as the apostle Paul refutes the Colossian heresy as we study the book of Colossians.

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

Sundays • 10:30 AM

Kingfolk

Room 204c (Fellowship Hall)

Retired, or nearing retirement.

Join us Sunday mornings for lively discussion and encouragement! We also schedule several activities and other times for meeting with our fellow believers for fun and fellowship.

Contact: Augie Wirkus, 715-831-0460

A.C.T.S.

Room 305

Variety of ages

This year we are taking a look at what it means to be honest, moral, and a person of conscience, using the book *Honesty, Morality and Conscience* by Jerry White.

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

As a sequel to last spring's study of the life and times of Elijah, we will study the prophet Elisha. This mixed-age group meets at 10:30 am, Sundays in the Fireside Room.

Contact: Beth Smith, 715-875-4553, or Dennis and Diane Peterson, 715-839-8648.

Bethesda World Missions

Praise and Prayer for Bethesda's Family Around the World



Venbergs:

- Praise the Lord for the Jacoby medical mission trip. The team spent time in five different communities. Many people were cared for medically, and hundreds saw and heard a clear Gospel presentation through the Jesus film.
- Pray for a ministry retreat for women missionaries serving in Chad, scheduled for February 3rd–5th, that Rachel is helping to organize. Pray that it will be a rich time of fellowship and encouragement.
- Pray for Dan as he travels from February 20th–28th, visiting and encouraging Chadian Lutheran Brethren missionaries, and for Rachel and the children while he is away.
- Pray that Dan and Rachel will know what to do for Gabe, Sylvia, and Tevi's education next year.
- Pray for wisdom and perseverance, as Dan and Rachel juggle a ministry of running the Welcome Center in N'djamena, a ministry to the Fulbe people, and a ministry of training and encouraging Chadian missionaries.

Gronseths:

- Praise the Lord that the code issues with the fire department appear to be taken care of! John and Betsy have hired a reputable design company that has the certification to represent them in this matter, now and in the future, should the need arise. This came at a cost, because they chose to proceed according to the law rather than 'play the game' (i.e., rely on bribes).
- Pray that the Coffee House renovations would proceed smoothly after the Spring Festival (celebration of Chinese New Year), and finish by the end of February.
- Pray for enough staffing for the Coffee House so that John, Betsy, and the boys can return to the United States for several months this summer, for daughter Jenny's wedding and Stephen's start of college.
- Pray for Darryl, a New Zealander who is raising support in order to join John and Betsy as a long-term staff person.
- Pray that the Lord will provide funds for the completion of the Coffee House. Praise Him for how He has faithfully provided what is needed for each 'next step'.
- Pray that Jenny will stay healthy, finish her very busy junior year of nursing school well, and that the July wedding preparations will go smoothly.

Contruccis:

- Pray for Kent as he leads three Safety Workshops during a February 20th-23rd conference for Overseas MAF Chief Pilots and Chief of Maintenance Technicians, who train and mentor all of the MAF pilots overseas. Pray the Kent will be sensitive to what God wants to communicate to these men.
- Praise the Lord for daughter Sarah's new job in Jinja, Uganda, as Production Manager with a Christian non-profit organization for women. The women make jewelry beads from strips of paper, and use the money they earn to pay school fees for their children (average number per family is 7-8!). Pray for safety, health and the completion of Sarah's last two courses for her master's degree in International Development.
- Pray for increased monthly support (\$700 more per month is needed).

Wiebes:

- Pray for Brent and Sandi's plans to use various media (e.g., MP3 players, Bible texts and videos to view on cell phones, tracts, and Bible studies) to get the Bola Scriptures to the Bola people.
- Pray for Brent and Sandi's plans to serve as trainers and consultants for translation work among the last 12 language groups on New Britain Island.
- Pray that God will use His Word to bring many Bola people into His kingdom.
- Pray for increased monthly support (\$2000 more per month is needed), so that the family can return to Papua New Guinea this July.

Wiles:

- Pray for John and Kathy, who are in Thailand until February 7th, serving missionaries gathering from all over East Asia. They are leading workshops and pastoring about 150 adults. It's great time for this group to celebrate, worship, learn, share friendship, and speak freely.
- Pray for emotional, spiritual and physical strength for their time in Thailand. It is a very dark country spiritually.
- Pray for John and Kathy's trip to Japan immediately after their time in Thailand, February 8th-15th, to teach and pastor the Lutheran Brethren missionaries there.
- Pray for John and Kathy's time in Florida for Barnabas Leadership Team meetings, February 18th-24th.

Marriage Connection

Date Night Challenge

Friday, February 10, 7–9 pm
Bethesda Lutheran Church

Research shows that dating at least once a month significantly improves relationships. The Date Night Challenge is a two-hour simulcast event featuring comedian Jeff Allen, singer/songwriter Michael O'Brien and best-selling authors Dr. Greg and Erin Smalley via webcast. During the event, the Smalleys will explain the power of dating your mate and encourage couples to take the "Date Night Challenge": go on three dates in three weeks. This is part of a national "date night movement" where the goal is for 5 million dates to take place across the country during the month of February.

This event is the first date of the challenge! Focus on the Family will then provide free, downloadable materials and content for their next two dates. Then, each month for the next year, couples can download a new, free date night guide that provides content and ideas for their dates

This is a free event. There will not be childcare available.



Marriage Weekend

March 2-4, at Inspiration Point

www.ipoint.org/adult-family/marriage-weekend

In order to encourage marriages and family, IPoint will be hosting the FamilyLife retreat "The Art of Marriage." Greg and Janet Anderson along with Tony and Cindy Rogness will be facilitating this event. Please encourage couples from your congregation to come away and be strengthened in their relationship! We can host 32 couples, so pass the word quickly.

Service Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities with Special Needs Kids!

If you have a desire to care for children with special needs then we may have a place for you! Last year we were able to offer a place for a couple of children while their parents were in church, but have not been able to offer that this year because of a lack of volunteers. Please contact Dawn Rico (dawn@bethedsalutheran.org) for more information about this very important ministry position.



BETHESDA

LUTHERAN BRETHREN CHURCH

123 W. Hamilton Avenue

Eau Claire, WI 54701

715-835-5073

www.bethesdalutheran.org

C³ CHRIST + COMMUNITY + CAUSE

A vision for clarifying who we believe God is leading us to become.



Connections Team

Do you have a passion for entertaining, making people feel welcome, giving directions, helping someone that is lost? Then I need you on my team! Please join me to discuss and plan the year for making our church feel like home for members and new attendees alike!

Have you been on the team in the past and want to pass on some ideas and knowledge? I would like you to come too!

Join me Sunday, February 12 at 12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch? Of course! Need you ask?

An RSVP would be great to plan for food. Contact Holly Hermann, Connections Coordinator: holly@bethesdalutheran.org



Crafting & Scrapbook Retreat

Ladies, young and old, mark your calendars for February 4th! Do you have a crafting activity you enjoy doing? Sewing? Knitting? Scrapbooking? Jewelry? Come join us for a Craft & Scrapbook Retreat on Saturday, February 4th. Moms bring your daughters to join you and enjoy working on crafts together.

Potluck lunch will be served. More details to come. Contact Brittney Malone with any questions: 715-878-4366 or malone.brittney@gmail.com.