

# Shepherd's News

Latest information from the Bethesda Auxiliary  
supporting Bethesda Lutheran Communities

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## From the President

*This Little Light of Mine*, text by Harry Dixon Loes, 1920, public Domain

### (Chorus)

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine  
Let it shine, shine, shine  
Let it shine!*

### Traditional Folk

Greetings!

I keep singing this traditional folk song whenever I think about our Auxiliary theme this year based on Psalm 24:4-5, summarized as "Guide us and teach us so that our light will shine." Many of you probably sang this song as a child, as a Sunday school teacher, as a parent/grandparent. Some of you may have changed the first part of the first three lines of the chorus to "This little gospel light of mine." This indeed is what the Auxiliary mission is all about- letting our light shine by sharing the love of Jesus to and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Funding for our projects for fiscal year 2018-19 will soon end. Our light was shining by:

- Enabling the Religious Life team to train those we support to become leaders who share the good news of Jesus with others
- Providing \$30,000 in scholarships to 10 undergraduate and postgraduate college students
- Reaching out to the community by providing "My Faith to Action" booklets to those not supported by Bethesda
- Providing grant funds for the Resource Team to develop year-round disability awareness programs for Christian elementary schools
- Supporting Bethesda staff with scripture in September 2019

Auxiliary supporters have been shining their lights by graciously using their time and talents this year to provide prayer cloths for Bethesda staff and those we support, birthday boxes for those we support, organizing and leading Bible studies and social events and completing many other acts of love for those we serve. **Supporters, thank you for your prayers, volunteer hours, donations and for letting your lights shine.**

We wish our sisters in the LWML God's richest blessings as they hold their national convention in Mobile, Alabama in June. The Auxiliary and Bethesda will have side by side booths. Please stop and say "Hello."

Praying for God's guidance as the Auxiliary continues to let our light shine, reaching forward in faith and serving in love,

*Karen Carter*

# PASTORAL ADVISOR

## Honoring God's House

Bethesda Auxiliary's summarized theme verse for this year is "Guide us and teach us so that our light will shine," taken from Psalm 24:4-5. We know how to do this for we sing, "Let us ever walk with Jesus; follow His example pure" (Hymn #685 in LSB). We know the way. Jesus is the way! (John 14:6). Jesus is our example. "I have given you an example, that you also should do [to one another] just as I have done to you" (John 13:15). ... "Leaving you an example so that you might follow in His steps" (I Peter 2:21). What was His way? "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:3-5). "Outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10). With respect to these "others" and "one another," to whom are we to honor?

Let us consider those among us with intellectual and developmental disabilities, especially those supported by Bethesda Lutheran Communities. Jesus says to all of us: "We [God the Father and God the Son] will come and make our home with him" (John 14:23). St. Paul echoes this: "Do you not know that you are God's temple and the God's Spirit dwells in you? ... God's temple is holy, and you are that temple" (I Corinthians 3:16, 17).

We must confess that we are most unworthy to have such honored housemates as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

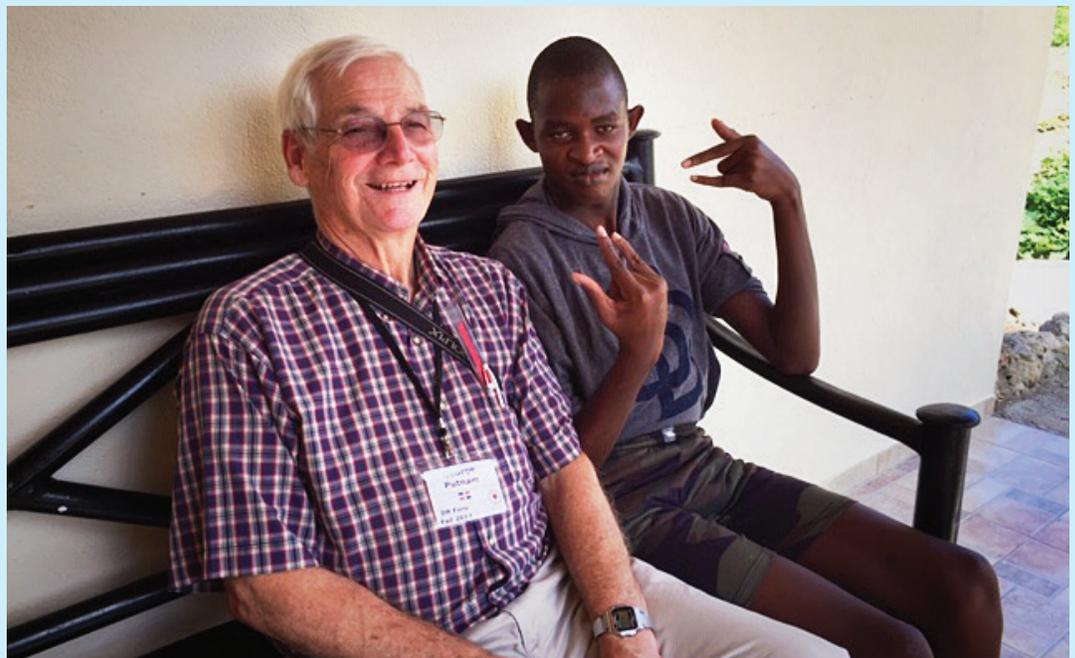
Martin Luther has this to say about these "homes" and "temples" where God desires to dwell: "We must regard one another highly and gloriously for the sake of Christ who is in us. This does not allow me to despise anyone because of his weakness; rather, I must think that my Lord dwells in that weak vessel [see also 2 Cor. 4:7] and honors him with His presence. If Christ regards him as

worthy, to whom He is wholeheartedly gracious and favorable, so that he has just as much in Christ as I do, then I must bow before him and honor him as the living temple of my Lord and His seat. What does it matter if the seat of the Lord sits on is insignificant? If it is not too insignificant for Him to sit on it, why would not you, His servant, honor it"? [*American Edition of Luther's Works*, 76:222-223].

"Again Jesus spoke to them [the Pharisees], saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'" (John 8:12). He has made us His examples, saying, "You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:14, 16).

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works" (Heb. 10:24)... "Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith" (Heb. 12:2). "Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up" (Rom. 15:2). And with these words of Hymn #685, we continually sing: "Let us do the Father's bidding. Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide."

- Rev. George Putnam, *Pastoral Advisor*



Pastor George Putnam is sitting with Francis, one of the young men living in the group home in the Dominican Republic where their daughter Danielle is a missionary.

## California/ Nevada /Hawaii Unit

### Greetings from our CNH Unit of Bethesda Auxiliary.

I am pleased to let you know that we have a good partnership with Bethesda's Ministry Consultants, Pastor Getabicha (Geta) Dirasse and Pastor John Halakhe. Please let me know if you would like to have a speaker visit your congregation. I can be reached at <nhall.blca@gmail.com> or 650-740-1871

Also, please call me if you would like to become an active representative on our board. Many changes are taking place in our unit and your time, energy and enthusiasm are needed more than ever. Prayerfully consider how your talents might be used to support the Bethesda Auxiliary in our area and contact me.

Reaching forward in faith and serving in love,

### Nancy Hall

CNH Unit Membership Chair

## Colorado Unit

After taking a break for Christmas, the ladies of the Colorado Unit are hard at work making crafts and holding activities.

- The Zion group and the Northeast group have not set dates for their fairs and bazaars.
- The Redeemer Denver Workshop has gained a couple new members. Dee Paulson, the Redeemer Coordinator, continues to visit area churches with the crafts.
- Members from Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Loveland have formed a group to work on crafts for the Bethesda Auxiliary. Following a Bible Study the first Friday of the month, the Bethesda Craft Party will meet to work on crafts.

The "Blessing Bethesda at Christmas" gift card program was a success again this past Christmas. Thrivent's 5280 Associates highlighted Bethesda at their Christmas Open House. They donated \$500 in gift cards and encouraged those in attendance to donate as well. Thank you to several Auxiliary members who volunteered at the Open House.

Our Membership Chairman, Yvonne Wernet has retired as of April 13. We thank her for all her work! She kept the membership records and kept in contact with various churches and members in the unit. Our new Membership Chairman is Kathy McFall.

We thank God for and pray for the staff of Bethesda and the people we support.



At the March meeting of the Colorado Unit, some women are holding signs showing their desire to CONNECT ALL ABILITIES

## Idaho Unit

As I write this, we are preparing for the 57th Annual Meeting of our Idaho Unit to be held at Grace Lutheran Church in Caldwell this year. We look forward to hearing from Josh Galgan, Corporate Director of Ministry Consulting.

- Raised \$11,500 this year.
- Major fundraisers this year were: a sale in Twin Falls, a holiday bazaar in Mountain Home, a bake sale in Nampa, a Bingo Bash in Eden, and coffee & dessert prior to a Lenten Service in Twin Falls.
- Mountain Home also has a Sunday school class that is a faithful donor to the Auxiliary. We thank all our members who are such faithful workers.
- Bethesda Disability Awareness bracelets were distributed at: the Bingo Bash in Eden, a soup supper at Beautiful Savior in Boise, the coffee & dessert at Immanuel Twin Falls. They also went to students of Immanuel School and will be available at our annual meeting.
- Please remember to take photos of your events. We love to see what you are doing.



Barbara Matson is an inspiration and motivator for many of the crafts done for Mountain Home's Holiday Bazaar.



Sharon Block (Contact Chair of Immanuel, Twin Falls), Arlene Jones (Treasurer) and Marilyn Kramer (President) display Bethesda Disability Awareness bracelets at Immanuel's coffee & dessert prior to their Lenten service.

# Oregon Unit

Have you ever wondered how many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities there are in your community? Are you sharing the love of Jesus with them? If you answered, "I don't know!" and "No!" ...we have good news for you!

**Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, the good news for you is that Bethesda and the Bethesda Auxiliary are here to support you and your ministry!**



Bethesda Ministry Consultant, Rev. Philemon Ngare, spoke at the LWML Interstate Zone rally at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Vancouver, WA. The in-gathering items will benefit the group homes in the area.

## How Can I Volunteer?

- Lead devotions in the homes and apartments
- Visit and spend time with people supported by Bethesda Lutheran Communities
- Help Bethesda staff with chores
- Pray for staff and the people we support
- Support a specific home and those who live there sending cards and gifts on special occasions or providing other needs

## The Oregon District LWML supports Bethesda!

The Oregon District LWML has a plan - a vision to educate and support its members within the district. This includes Bethesda and Bethesda Auxiliary as well as Lutheran Latino Ministries, the Vietnamese ministry, Parish Nurse ministry, and others. The LWML Zones are planning their programs around these ministries to carry out this plan.

Part of the plan includes disability awareness and support! Bethesda Ministry Consultants and Bethesda Auxiliary Pastoral Advisors are speakers at Zone rallies, and in-gatherings of needed items are being collected. LWML members enjoy hands-on activities such as sewing clothing protectors, making prayer cloths, and putting together birthday boxes to support Bethesda. Bethesda Auxiliary's Oregon Unit also has a gift table of donated home-crafted and home-made edibles which travels to these events and to Bethesda Sundays at congregations throughout the OR LWML district. This gives everyone the opportunity to be part of Bethesda's Auxiliary ministry.

- Bethesda provides training and resources for you and your congregation, so you can reach out to your community and welcome and include those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families into the Body of Christ. You can share the love of Jesus in Word and Deed with them.
- Bethesda Auxiliary gives you opportunities to support the religious life programs and projects of Bethesda. This is so important because government funding cannot be used for religious purposes. We need people to pray, donate and volunteer.



A dozen Birthday Boxes for Bethesda's Oregon homes were assembled at the LWML Rally

## Pacific Northwest Unit

What a great day on the course! Our nine Bethesda guests with staff were ready in their Thrivent T-shirts to go and enjoy the amazing weather, delicious lunch, time on the driving range and a few cart rides. Opportunities to get to know them were a blessing and a highlight of the day for many.

Enthusiastic golfers, generous tee sponsors and donors, along with our hard-working volunteers made the event another successful fundraiser to meet our pledge amount of \$15,000 toward the many projects of the Auxiliary, to enhance and spiritually enrich the lives of those we support.

A "Thank You" luncheon for the golf volunteers was held on April 5, providing a wonderful time to visit and seek the Lord's wisdom concerning unit officers and our pledge for next year.

To God be the glory!



## Washington Alaska Unit

Washington/Alaska Unit leadership has been working to recruit new people to fulfill various board positions. The two remaining acting officers are financial secretary, Janet Broadus, and Colleen Schafer, president. Both have far exceeded their term limits. Please contact [Janet.Broadus@BethesdaLC/org](mailto:Janet.Broadus@BethesdaLC/org) for more information on involvement in the WA/AK Unit of the Auxiliary. We are thankful that we still have two appointed chairs: Joyce Scramlin, membership, and Kristy Webster, gift table.

- We exceeded our 2018/2019 pledge goal of \$10,000 by \$3,000 and are now suggesting renewing the pledge of \$10,000.
- We encourage you to continue to send in your memberships to Joyce Scramlin and to call Kristy Webster for the lovely handmade items on the gift table.
- We praise the Lord for all He has indeed led us to accomplish through all your prayers and support over all the years, especially our members from Alaska.
- We still serve 40 people in Renton who live in both homes and apartments, as well as those supported by Bethesda in various other states.

Blessings to all of you as we “Reach Forward in Faith.”

## Wisconsin Unit

60 attendees at LWML Zone 15 Spring Rally in the North Wisconsin District support Bethesda by wearing Bethesda Disability Awareness wristbands.



## MISSION

Reaching Forward in FAITH, WORD, and DEED by sharing the love of Jesus with people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities in partnership with Bethesda Lutheran Communities.

## VISION

Create greater awareness of the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in partnership with Bethesda Lutheran Communities.



600 Hoffmann Dr.  
Watertown, WI 53094

## Join Today!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Renew my support

I am a new member

### Check the auxiliary unit you are interested in:

**CNH Unit**  
(California/Nevada/Hawaii)  
Nancy Hall  
2337 Winged Foot Road  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

**Colorado Unit**  
Yvonne Wernet  
800 S. Warley  
Holyoke, CO 80734

**Idaho Unit**  
Natalie Hopkins  
932 Robertson  
Buhl, ID 83316

**Oregon Unit**  
Terry Putnam  
4140 Sandy Way  
Tillamook, OR 97141

**Pacific Southwest Unit**  
(formerly California South)  
Pam Fechner  
300 Juel  
Hemet, CA 92544

**WA/Alaska Unit**  
Joyce Scramlin  
23757 - NE 134th St,  
Redmond, WA 98053

**Wisconsin Unit**  
Karen Carter  
W18054 Stuve Rd.  
Whitehall, WI 54773



Mail completed form with the suggested donation of \$10 made payable to Bethesda Auxiliary to unit of choice.

If you do not live in an area supported by a unit, send your form to:

Bethesda Auxiliary Financial Secretary: Nancy Hall, 2337 Winged Foot Rd, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019