

Shepherd's News

Latest information from the Bethesda Auxiliary
supporting Bethesda Lutheran Communities

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From the President

Dear Auxiliary Members and Friends,

Our theme this year is **"Thanks be to God"** taken from 2 Corinthians 2:14 NIV

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him.

The Governing Board of the Bethesda Auxiliary is so thankful to God for each of you. You help spread the knowledge of Him to those Bethesda supports by your prayers, volunteer time and donations.

At the Governing Board meeting in September 2019, the projects outlined on page two were approved for 2019-20. The total budget is \$133,000 which includes the \$9,000 budgeted in 2018-2019 for the Future Leaders Project.

The Governing Board approved holding a membership vote by mail for bylaw changes and officers this year. The bylaw changes add a new position to the board, Information Coordinator (IC). The changes can be viewed on our website at BethesdaLC.org/Auxiliary.

This year the Auxiliary Governing Board is asking our membership to vote for bylaw changes and officers by mail rather than at Annual Celebrations. Please vote and mail in your ballot by Feb. 20 using the enclosed ballot and return envelope.

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This year members and friends are encouraged to involve your congregation in Bethesda's mission by holding a Bethesda Sunday. Please help us reach our goal of speaking to 300 churches this March! See page 3 for more details.

If you know of any young adults attending colleges or post graduate schools who are planning a career in a disability related field, use this link for scholarship information BethesdaLC.org/Scholarship. The deadline for applications is **May 15, 2020**.

We appreciate your support of these projects which enhance the lives of those Bethesda supports.

Wishing you God's richest blessings in 2020.

Reaching forward in faith and serving in love,

Karen Carter

Bethesda Auxiliary Projects, 2019-2020

\$30,000

Bethesda Auxiliary Scholarships, five \$3,000 scholarships for junior and senior college students and five \$3,000 scholarships for seminarians or post graduate students in a field related to disability ministry/professions

\$10,000

Dominican Republic, supporting the needs of 6 young adults in their group home

\$10,000

Grief and Loss Workbook, written for internal and external audiences, digital download capability, unique to the industry and Christ-focused

\$10,000

God's Word Booklet for DSPs and others, written for Bethesda staff, donors, volunteers, Auxiliary and other supporters

\$10,000

Digital Outreach Equipment, equipment to supply staff with technology to create live streamed devotions for internal and external audiences

\$10,000

Leadership Project, training materials, mentoring, equipping, travel and registration costs for staff and people we support to co-present workshops and provide booth staffing at conferences

\$25,000

Religious Life Staff Travel, travel to support the people we support, staff, and congregational connection of Bethesda; costs include mileage reimbursement, car rental fees, airfare, hotel costs and other fees associated with travel

\$9,000

Operational Technology, 12 (wi-fi based) iPad tablets for Bethesda College students; 6 (cellular based) iPad tablets to facilitate the rollout of Focus360 for the purposes of providing enhanced supports for people we support

\$10,000

Podcast Series Development, professionally written, produced, recorded and distributed to a national audience; will include interviews with people in the disability community on a variety of helpful issues

\$9,000

Future Leaders Project, budgeted from 2018-2019, three schools will be granted \$3,000 each upon successful completion of the project during school year 2019-20

BETHESDA SUNDAY

When was the first time you heard about Bethesda and its mission? What went through your mind? Who shared this message with you? Do you remember?

To enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through services that share the good news of Jesus Christ.

This March, **YOU** could be the person who introduces someone to Bethesda's mission and its passion.

March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month. It is a month focused on learning more about developmental disabilities and how to include people into communities, giving a sense of belonging. Bethesda strives to do this every day of the year by supporting people at home, work, and with their faith. We encourage and support Christ-centered homes.

March 2020, we are challenging everyone in our Bethesda family to tell others about Bethesda.

We are hoping to reach 300 churches. Will you take the challenge? Will you present to your home congregation about Bethesda? Can you share Bethesda's story in other congregations in your area?

If your answer to one of the questions above is **YES**, we will provide you with all the tools necessary for success; kits will be available. This is an opportunity to work together as Team Bethesda and spread the joy of Bethesda's mission and passion with others.

Contact Karen Carter at **Karen.Carter@BethesdaLC.org** for more information.

Thank you for your continued support of Bethesda and for partnering with us in this **300-Church Challenge** for March 2020. Be the one who makes the difference.

Serving together,
Deaconess Kim Trombley,
Vice President of Religious Life

BETHESDA AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Thank You responses from the those who received the Scholarships that we funded for \$30,000 are given below:

Scott Hedtke: ***Seriously thank you all so much!***

Hannah Zoller: ***I am beyond grateful for this honor. This scholarship is a tremendous blessing. I am feeling beyond blessed; thank you.***

Amy Tuttle: ***I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to you and everyone involved in the Bethesda Auxiliary! Thank you very much for the honor of receiving this scholarship. In another email she continues. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to you for awarding me a Lutheran Student Scholastic and Service Scholarship. I am honored to have been selected for this award! The Bethesda Auxiliary will be incredibly helpful in financing my education. I am excited to resume my studies in the fall while continuing my work with individuals with disabilities. I am grateful for the services that Bethesda provides, and I look forward to a future career in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities!***

Mary Buddenberg: ***That's great news! Thank you so much for the generous donation and all that you do for Bethesda.***

Brittany LaCourt: ***Thank you so much for the wonderful news! I appreciate this opportunity and I am extremely grateful.***

ANNUAL CHRISTMA BAZAAR - ALASKA

The 35th annual Christmas Bazaar benefiting the Bethesda Lutheran Communities Auxiliary was held November 15 and 16 at Zion Lutheran Church in Fairbanks, Alaska. The members of Good Shepherd Fairbanks annually create a unique marketplace featuring a warm, Christian environment filled with seasonal foods and gifts.

This year was no exception. Shoppers were treated to a large selection of delightful handcrafted items, many Christian themed gifts and an irresistible assortment of homemade foods, baked goods, and candies. The aroma of delicious homemade soups, donated by Zion congregation members, made the entire shopping experience an especially pleasant one. Many shoppers took the opportunity to relax and enjoy a bowl of warm soup.

Unique to this year's bazaar was a huge collection of Cherish Teddies figurines and Muffy Vanderbear Bears, made available for sale through a very generous donation to Good Shepherd. Many Good Shepherd members dedicated hours to sorting, pricing and preparing this lovely collection for sale. The presence of this bear collection, in every form from jewelry to very large Teddy Bears, added to the festive spirit of the bazaar.

Following the two-day bazaar, remaining items were moved to the church narthex where they will be on display and for sale until Christmas, providing additional opportunity for church members to shop, adding to the proceeds from the bazaar. The community of Zion Lutheran Church has, for 35 years, generously supported Bethesda's mission to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Thanks be to God!



The tables were full of items for sale that were done by many loving hands



Bazaars are awesome!



Soup's on!

COLORADO

The Colorado Unit Annual Celebration was held April 13 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Colorado. Chad Wietrick, regional director, gave an update about what is happening on the national level for Bethesda. Area director, Dawn Julius, talked about the different settings (homes) for people served by Bethesda. She also talked about the challenge of keeping the homes staffed.

Sue Hart, Ministry Leader, talked about a new year long program- Changing Lives, *One Heart at a Time*. This is a program for Christian elementary schools. It will encourage children to be accepting of all people, as everyone is wonderfully made by God. Zion Lutheran School in Brighton, Colorado will be one of the three schools to pilot this program.

Sue also introduced the *My Faith in Action* Book that Bethesda Staff uses to plan faith supports for those Bethesda serves. The Auxiliary paid for the first printing of this book. Vice President of Religious Life, Kimberly Trombley, talked about seeing growth in faith of those served by Bethesda, and their becoming part of a faith community.

The Bell and Cross recipient this year is Kathy Paulson. She is an active member and a talented banner maker and quilter. She encouraged the organization of the Mt. Olive Craft Party group. Congratulations Kathy!

The Colorado Unit met the 2018-2019 pledge of \$25,000. The 2019-2020 pledge will also be \$25,000. LaVon Watson was reelected as treasurer.

Bethesda Auxiliary received \$20,000 from the estate of Wayne Ball. Gladys and Wayne Ball were very supportive of the Colorado Auxiliary and were members of Redeemer, Denver. The Colorado Auxiliary Board approved three projects to benefit Bethesda clients in Colorado in the area of communication.

1. Nine iPads were purchased to be used by the clients for positive behavioral support so they can be included in their communities. Five additional iPads were purchased for nursing staff to assist in completing reports and assessments.
2. Video conferencing for staff as they communicate with other staff members. This limits the time they have to spend away from the clients.
3. Smart Board will be used for praise time and for teaching.

These projects were implemented in August.

The members of Bethesda Auxiliary have been busy completing crafts. The Northeast Zone Fair was held in Sterling at Trinity Lutheran Church on October 19. The Zion, Brighton, salad luncheon and bazaar was held October 25. Dee Paulson is taking the Redeemer, Denver, workshop crafts to many churches in the Denver area.

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

Kathy Heitschmidt



Kathy Paulson & Dee Paulson

OREGON

Bethesda's Oregon area staff and the people supported enjoyed a wonderful picnic in the orchard at McMenamins' on Cornelius Pass Rd. A number of Oregon Unit Auxiliary members also attended and enjoyed lots of hugs from our friends. It was a lovely, sunny day so everyone enjoyed the sun for a while and then the shade of a big tent. The picnic food was great, and there was plenty for the approximately 200 people attending. Activities included face painting and dancing, and of course visiting with friends. Regional director, James Arciniega welcomed



Picnic photo with Terry and Rev. George Putnam and friends

everyone, and introduced special guests, including long-time supports, Doug and Sue Minson, presenting Sue with a lovely bouquet and thanking them for hosting the picnic. Doug's sister, Rebecca, is supported by Bethesda in a Cornelius group home. Everyone thanked the Minsons, and all continued to relax and have a wonderful day.

The Oregon Unit Traveling Gift table has really been traveling this fall, and we are thankful for each congregation and their members for their contributions and purchases. The lovely homemade gifts and tasty goodies continue to be a major source of our funds to support the projects the Auxiliary's Governing Board has selected.

At Redeemer Lutheran Church in Tillamook, the 6th Annual Bethesda Auxiliary Tea/Luncheon was

enjoyed by 35 attendees. Smells of fresh baking scones, and beautifully fall decorated tables welcomed everyone. Fun shopping at the gift table for Fall and Christmas gifts added to the donations given for the wonderful lunch of soups, savory and sweet scones, and a large variety of desserts. Church members invited family and friends who heard the Gospel message presented in the devotion based on the Scripture from I Samuel 16:7: "People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the Heart." Attendees received bookmarks with this verse on one side and Bethesda Auxiliary mission statement on the other. We are thankful for other generous donors who gave, even though they could not attend the tea, and for all the assistance of members, friends, and neighbors. \$1,200 was raised.

Congratulations to Lindy Tysor, the congregational contact for Trinity Lutheran Church in Hillsboro, who was surprised at worship this summer when she was presented with the Auxiliary's Cross and Bells Award, but even more surprised when she received the National Points of Light Award (for outstanding volunteering), being nominated by Bethesda Lutheran Communities. Lindy conducts Bible study regularly at a group home and has built loving relationships with the people living there. She also has involved the children at Forest Hills Lutheran School in making cards for all of the people Bethesda supports in Oregon.



At Christmas time, Lindy heads up the large Christmas gathering held at Trinity for all of the people supported living on the Westside of Portland, and their staff. The local Kiwanis club and Key Club members from Hillsboro's three high schools are also involved in welcoming, interacting with, and helping with crafts, serving refreshments, and passing out

gifts to Bethesda's staff and the people they support. The OR Unit of Bethesda Auxiliary provides these gifts. What joy lights up the faces as gifts are opened. The Christmas story is presented by Pastor "K" Kachmarek, former Chaplain at Good Shepherd Lutheran Home of the West, and everyone enjoys singing Christmas Carols. Christmas gatherings are also held for Bethesda's people and staff at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Gresham, OR, and Living Savior Lutheran Church in Tualatin, OR. Thank you all for the special joy you bring to welcome in the Advent-Christmas season.



Trinity Key Club and Kiwanis Club members from Hillsboro's three high schools distributing gifts

We were greatly saddened by the sudden death of Karen Gehrke, a faithful Auxiliary member for years. Karen had just been installed as secretary of our OR Unit on May 4th when it was discovered that she had cancer. She went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus



Kathy Green heads up the Christmas Gathering at Living Savior Lutheran Church

three weeks later. Our prayers continue for her family: husband Rev. Wil Gehrke, 3 daughters, 1 son, and 1 grandson, and all of those who were the recipients of her gracious hospitality and love, and who love her so very much.

PASTORAL COUNSELOR

Every once in a while, I come across a sentence or paragraph of Martin Luther or of our Lutheran Confessions that causes me to write in the margin next to the statement, "This is a Wow!" The latest "Wow" for me is an appeal addressed to Emperor Charles V by Philip Melancthon in the closing paragraph of Article XXI of the Apology [Defense] of the Augsburg Confession. Here, Melancthon appeals to the emperor on the basis of what God demands of the officials of state. Melancthon writes on behalf of the Lutheran theologians and princes: "Gracious Emperor Charles, for the sake of the glory of Christ, which we know you want to extol and advance... it is your special responsibility before God to maintain and propagate sound doctrine and to defend those who teach it. God demands this when He honors kings with His own name and calls them gods (Ps. 82:6), 'I say, "You are gods."' They should take care to maintain and propagate divine things on earth, that is, the Gospel of Christ, and as vicars of God they should defend the life and safety of the innocent." Wow!

More than any other, Psalm 82 is the psalm against those who oppress the weak and the fatherless, the afflicted and the destitute (Vs. 3), and the needy (V. 3). It is the psalm for the plight of the intellectual and developmentally disabled. Psalm 82 rebukes the officials and heads of church and state and home and school for the way they judge and rule their respective charges. All these "foundations" of the earth are "shaken," unstable, because they "have neither knowledge nor understanding; they walk about in darkness" (Ps. 82:5). Yet God calls them "gods, sons of the Most High, all of them!" (Vs. 6).

We need to appeal to the authorities and officials of our land and remind them of their God-given name and their responsibility as "God's servants" and "ministers of God" (Rom. 13:1-7), "and as vicars of God they should defend the life and safety of the innocent," since the ones they serve and defend are the brothers and sisters of Christ (Matt. 25:40).

And this is our God's promise to us and all who serve and minister to God's holy people: "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge" (Ps. 46:7, 11). Is this not a wonderful "Wow?"

With joyous thanksgiving,
Pastor George Putnam

IDAHO

The Idaho Bethesda Auxiliary held its annual celebration at Grace Lutheran in Caldwell on April 6. Josh Galgan, Corporate Director of Religious Life, was our speaker. We had 2 recipients of the Cross and Bell Award: Janet LeFergey, former contact chairperson of Gooding, and Kathy Long, current long time contact chairperson in Nampa. Officers reelected to their jobs were Recording Secretary Janet Camin and Treasurer Arlene Jones. We appreciate these ladies for being willing to continue to serve. The new pledge was set at \$10,000 with hopes of surpassing that goal. The sale of projects at our annual meeting brought in \$447.

Our annual sale held in June in Twin Falls brought in \$2,485. At the end of September, we had sent \$3,647 toward our pledge. Upcoming events in November and December include a bazaar at Faith Mountain Home, this year expanded to a 2-day event to be held Nov 9, and 16, and an Advent soup supper at Immanuel, Twin Falls, on Dec 18. Members, I encourage you to take the time to vote in the Auxiliary election and change of by-laws as explained in this issue. It is your chance to have a say in our Auxiliary. Results will be announced at our Annual Meeting to be held in Jerome on April 4.



Idaho President Marilyn with Cross and Bell recipients Kathy Long and Janet Le Ferge



Holiday Benefit Bazaar for Bethesda. This year we made pillowcases, wall plaques, and crosses. Barb Matson was again our leader in both ideas and effort.



Josh Galgan speaking at Idaho Annual Celebration Event

CALIFORNIA

As we move into the holiday season, we are making plans for our annual Christmas sale on December 15 at St. John's, in Hemet, California. Favorite goodies, soups and snacks along with many handmade items will be enjoyed, giving us a continuing opportunity to share Bethesda's ministry.

February 29 is Leap Day and also the return of our unique Parking Lot Sale at St. John's, Hemet. Parking spaces are for rent at \$40 each which goes to Bethesda Auxiliary. You then set up your space(s) to sell whatever you like, stuff from around the house, your business product, cookies for your scout group, etc. It's a win for all.

After eight tournaments, we are having a No-Golf Golf Tournament this year, seeking continued donations to Bethesda as we explore new opportunities for fundraising in our unit. Incentives from Goose Creek Golf Course will be available for donors. We pray the Lord guides us as we seek His will.

We say goodbye to Nita Hallmann as she returns to family and friends in Illinois. She has been such an integral part of our Auxiliary unit and a joy to know. We pray God will bless her richly in her new home surrounded by family and friends.

Janet Cramer reporting

BETHESDA BIRTHDAY BOX SUGGESTIONS

Bethesda Auxiliary has received grant money for the Birthday Box Project. Guidelines are listed below.

Individuals and groups interested can contact Joyce Schultz, Joyce.Schultz@BethesdaLC.org

This \$150 grant is supplied to get you started. It will cover mailing expenses for 10 **medium size** Flat Rate USPS shipping boxes. Shipping for each box will be around \$14.50 per box. All purchased items should fit nicely in the boxes.

You can get these boxes free from the postal service. Stop by your local post office or order them online and they will be delivered to your door.

We suggest you apply for a Thrivent Action Team to help finance filling the boxes for shipment or ask for donations.

Grant recipients will be expected to report back to Bethesda Auxiliary on how the project went with your group. Pictures are greatly appreciated.

Suggested box items:

- Birthday Candles
- Plates and napkins
- Hats
- Balloons
- A small birthday gift for honoree
- Party favors for guests

It is a party in a box, you be the host.

Twiddle Muff Pattern

Fleece Sewing Instructions:

- Cut 2-3 pieces of fleece 13" by 13".
- Sandwich the fleece pieces together; with the pattern facing out, sew a ½" seam allowance down the two opposite sides of the square.
- Fold square in half, bringing the two unsewn edges of the square together and sew ½" seam allowance along the raw edges of the fleece. This forms the Muff.
- Embellish one side of the fleece with safe, blunt objects to be Twiddled. Safely secure items with string or yarn.
- Suggested items, but not limited to:
 - Buttons, bracelets, curtain rings, ribbons, stringed beads, keychains - anything you can attach to the Twiddle Muff
- Turn Twiddle Muff with embellishments inside and it's ready to use.

Knit, Crochet, Loom Instructions:

- Knit, Crochet or Loom a roughly 12" by 12" square using any variety of yarns and stitches
- Fold square in half and stitch together the long side to make a 12" by 6" hand muff
 - Consider Adding:
 - Stripes by using different colors and yarn textures
 - Variegated yarn colors
 - Texture stitches on one side of the square; the other side will receive add- on embellishments
 - With the inside facing out, securely add embellishments to the inside of the Twiddle Muff:
 - Any item that is safe and smooth, nothing sharp or pointy
 - Items you received as give- away items: plastic bracelets, key chains
 - Dollar Store items strung together: pencil grippers, beads, plastic curlers, hair ties
 - Strips of colored Tulle netting
 - Yarn covered curtain and shower rings
 - Rick Rack, Pom Poms
 - Think items you have around your home or office - Be creative

Hands are placed on the inside of the Twiddle Muff and the person can Twiddle with the items found inside

If texture stitches are used on the outside of the Twiddle Muff, these also can be Twiddled



Example of some Twiddle Muffs

ARTS AND CRAFTS TOTES

There's an artist in everyone! Help us provide the tools for activities and art projects to each of our program locations. This is a fun gift gathering project meant to inspire the people we support. Collect some of your favorite creative items.

Ideas:

- Cardstock
- Colored Pencils
- Glue
- Scissors
- Pipe Cleaners
- Yarn
- Wood Craft Sticks
- Acrylic and Watercolor Paints
- Activity Books
- Stickers
- Word Search Puzzles

The sky is the limit. Work with your congregation, school, family, and co-workers to collect items. Close to a program location? Arrange a time to visit, and you can work on projects with us! You can participate from anywhere. We can help you ship items direct. Support our organization even further through programs like AmazonSmile that give back. Contact Volunteer.Services@BethesdaLC.org to start a collection today.



An example of an Arts and Crafts Tote

2020 CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Office: **President (2 year term)**

Candidate: **Gail Nicolaus**

Gail Nicolaus has been nominated for the office of President of the Governing Board. Gail has served as the First Vice-President for two terms. Gail has been active on the Governing Board as Colorado Unit President and served as Treasurer for 6 years before becoming First Vice-President. Gail is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Julesburg, Colorado, where she is active in LWML, Sunday School and serves as an organist.

Office: **Vice-President (2 year term)**

Name: **Linda Koeller**

Linda Koeller from Robertsville, Missouri, has recently been appointed Assistant Editor of "Shepherd News". Linda comes to the Auxiliary with a master's degree in special education. Her master's thesis was on the topic of confirmation of people with developmental disabilities in the LCMS. She has taught for 20 years in elementary and high school in both regular and special education. She has also worked as a caregiver for Agape and Bethesda group homes. Linda is active in LWML. Her husband, Rev. Dr. Martin Koeller, recently retired after 40 years in the pastoral ministry in the LCMS. He will also be joining the Governing Board as our Pastoral Counselor. They have two granddaughters (ages 8 & 6) with developmental disabilities.

Office: **Treasurer (2 year term)**

Name: **Joyce Voss**

Joyce Voss has served as her church treasurer from 2015-2018. She has been very active in LWML as a member and as the LWML North Wisconsin District President and zone president. She has also served LWML on the structure committee (bylaws). She enjoys singing in the choir, the handbell choir and serves as organist. Joyce is a member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Mandan, North Dakota. Joyce is looking forward to learning more about the Bethesda Lutheran Communities Auxiliary.

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

Montana
Barb Schneidenbach
PO Box 1036
Manhattan, MT 59741

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