

ACT PARISH MURDOCK-DEGRAFF CLUSTER NEWSLETTER

BETHESDA AND BUFFALO LAKE OF GRACE CHURCHES

MAY 2019

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FROM PASTORS . . .

Happy Easter! As Easter people, we get to celebrate the glorious moment of Jesus rising from the dead and conquering death every single day. As Easter people we are daily dying and rising and becoming new people through Christ our Savior!

The resurrection story is our story. It's our story of living hope, an everlasting, never changing, eternal hope which is given to us through Christ our Savior. We do not live apart from this hope, even in the ordinariness of our lives, even in the midst of struggle, pain, heartbreak, death. This living hope can shine through us because resurrection life and truth do not exist in spite of or in opposition to our life's circumstances but because of and in the midst of those circumstances. What an amazing gift of grace!

Jesus tells us, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." Jesus says this, not for his own sake, but for your sake, for my sake. It's a promise you can trust today, tomorrow, forever. It's not just some event down the road or off in the distant future. Jesus is your hope, your resurrection, and your life, today. Right now. You can trust it and believe him when he says I am your resurrection and life.

The tomb is empty and therefore you have the assurance of eternal life. Thanks be to God!

Sunday, May 5th at Mamrelund, three of our Act Parish teens will be affirming their faith and sharing what their faith means to them during their Confirmation Service. Join me in lifting Alise Staebell, Ashlie Staebell, and Caleb Kleene in prayer as they celebrate this special milestone on their journey of faith.

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!
Alleluia!

Pastor Michelle



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Ushers for May

May Ushers:

Stephanie & Jason Medalen
 Chad & Bobbie Jones
 Cheryl Froehlich

Usher/Alter Guild Guide and Duties are included in your Bethesda directory.

Please be sure to look at these carefully. **We have become a very busy church and there are duties that need to be done each week.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a board member or building committee member.

The Bethesda coffee dollars received each Sunday at the coffee hour will be designated to one specific area each month.

May coffee dollars will be given toward the "ACT Bible School" event.



ATTENTION: SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILIES

The last Sunday school session for this year will be Sunday, May 19th. The Sunday school will be singing during worship on that day.

IN THE WEEKS AHEAD, WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING OUR ACT VBS SESSION THIS SUMMER.



Bethesda Sarah Circle

Sarah Circle will begin again on Thursday, May 23rd at 2pm at the home of Sandy Thielke.



Women of the ELCA

Spring Event

"The Mamie Falk Historical Paintings"

Mamie was a local artist who belonged to Bethesda and was also known as "Minnesota Grandma Moses".



Come and learn more about this remarkable lady.

May 1st at 5:30pm

Free will donation

BETHESDA ESTHER QUILTING CIRCLE

May 2nd @ 9:30

Quilting followed by potluck and short meeting.

NO WORSHIP SERVICE AT BETHESDA ON MEMORIAL WEEKEND. Please check your May calendar for other worship opportunities.

The ACT website is maintained by Nancy Stredde of St. John's. If you have church announcements/pictures for the website, please contact Nancy at: firststep@charter.net

You can find the ACT website at: www.actparish.com.



Bethesda Women of the ELCA

Work night and potluck

Wednesday May 15th at 5:30

We will be cleaning the Sanctuary, Sacristy, Narthex, Library, bathroom and entry.

Please bring a dish to share!



Women of the ELCA Convention
“Embraced by the Winds of Grace“

May 3rd and 4th

First Lutheran Church, Marshall, MN

Friday, May 3rd:

Cost for 2-day registration is \$65.

Voting member registration at 1:30. Business session starts at 2:15 with devotion and prayer and 2:45 business session.

Any VISITORS that want to come and sit in on the business and enjoy the evening meal and entertainment are welcome. Displays will be available. Friday evening entertainment is Jett Skrien, Illusionist. The evening will then end around 8:00 p.m. with Closing Vespers

Saturday, May 4th

Registration opens at 8:00 a.m., with coffee/treat waiting for you! Cost for 1 day is \$50.00. You can come anytime after 7:00 a.m. to joyfully bring the In-Kind Offerings and visit Displays which open at 8 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Cindy McKittrick from Hope Harbor, Marshall

Opening Worship with Holy Communion will begin at 8:30 a.m. and we hope to be closing the convention by 3:30 p.m.

Closing Worship: The Hallelujah Hooligans are a group of musicians that enjoy sharing their talents with all that ask. They provide entertainment for fundraisers, special occasions, etc. They especially enjoy sharing the love of Christ with as many people as possible through music, word, and worship. There is never a shortage of enthusiasm and energy when the Hallelujah Hooligans are around. God is Good – all the Time!

Please remember that these times can change once the convention begins.

IN-Kind Offering:

School Kits for LWR with all LWR kits/quilts accepted (semi available morning of May 4th)


Christian Literature (van available morning of May 4th)

Hope Harbor: monetary donations; gift cards for Hy-Vee, Walmart or Amazon; toilet paper & paper towels (items accepted both Friday & Saturday)

Women of Worship (W.O.W.)
May 16th at Bethesda
5-7p
Child care needed. Please contact Carla if you can help out.

Bethesda New Member Sunday
May 5th during worship
 New members: Kate Frederickson, Stephanie & Tanner Hoff, Wyatt and Eli and Becky and Gary Helm. Welcome to Bethesda!!

Bethesda Senior Graduates Sunday
May 12th during worship
 KMS Graduates: Emelea Edberg, Morgan Lee, and Coy Norton.



Women of the ELCA
 Upcoming dates for your calendar:

** 2019 SW MN Women of the ELCA Convention Friday and Saturday May 3 & 4.

** 2019 “Fall Gathering” Thursday, September 26th at 5pm at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer.

Bethesda is looking for two representatives (1 male and 1 female) for the 2019 Synod Convention which is scheduled for June 7-8 in **Redwood Falls**.
 Please consider attending the convention and let one of the pastors know.

Bethesda April Mission of the Month

Our Mission for the month of May is bird seed for the **Gabriel House** in Murdock. Residents and staff watch and feed birds throughout the year.

Romans 12:8 *“If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.”*

Farmer's prayer poem

As I rise with the dawn, I drink in the morning.
 I taste the goodness of your creation and smell the crispness of new beginnings.
 I sense you beside me, my good shepherd watching over me as I care for the farm.
 I whistle a tune of praise as I go about my work.
 I feel blessed to walk in the long lived rhythms of sowing, feeding and reaping.
 Fill me anew today Lord with your Spirit.
 Give me strength and health when I feel tired or weary.
 I release my anxious thoughts to you,
 Knowing that you hear my prayer.
 Please bless my farm, my home, my family.
 Please bless the work of my hands.
 Please remind me each morning
 To give thanks to you anew, my Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

Reprinted from: <https://www.living-prayers.com/people/>



May 2019 Worship Schedule & Lessons

St. John's - 8am

Buffalo Lake – 8:15am

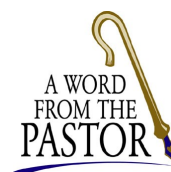
Bethesda and Monson Lake – 9:30am

Hope – 10:45am Mamrelund – 11am

Except May 26th:

8:15 Monson Lake

10:00 Hope



May 5th:	Acts 9:1-6	John 21:1-19
May 12th:	Acts 9:36-43	John 10:22-30
May 19th:	Acts 11:1-18	John 13:31-35
May 26th:	Acts 16:9-15	John 5:1-9

ACT PARISH ACTIVITIES



**** Caffeine & Conversation ****

CAFFEINE & CONVERSATION will be held on Tuesdays at 9:30 at the Bethesda and at 1:00 at Hope.

If you have not been able to join us yet, PLEASE consider coming- we have great conversation about Scripture and life, yummy goodies and wonderful fellowship (and coffee!)

**** MEN'S BREAKFAST ****

Men's breakfast will meet on Saturday morning, May 4th at 7am at Sherrie's Café in Kerkhoven.

Hope to see you then!




ACT PARISH
Council Meeting
 Wednesday, May 8th
 6:30pm at Bethesda

May quiz

1. What is the birthstone for May?
2. There are 2 birth flowers associated with May? What are they?
3. Most sources say that May was named after Maia. Who was Maia originally?
 - a. Caesar's wife
 - b. Norse goddess
 - c. Greek goddess
 - d. Caesar's daughter

JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE
MEMORIAL WEEKEND
 May 26th

8:15 worship at Monson Lake
 10:00 worship at Hope

Area churches together Summer schedule can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.

Copies are available to all ACT congregation members.

It will also be posted on the ACT websiste.



ANSWERS TO MAY QUIZ

1. emerald

2. Lily of the Valley; Hawthorne Blossoms (Mayflower)

3. Greek goddess

ACT Parish 2019 Summer Worship Schedule

	<u>8:15am</u>	<u>10:00 am</u>	
June 2	St. John's Buffalo Lake	Mamrelund Bethesda	
June 9	Monson Lake St. John's	Hope Mamrelund	NO BETHESDA WORSHIP
June 16	Buffalo Lake Monson Lake	Bethesda Hope	
June 23	St. John's	Mamrelund	Joint Service Kleene Wedding
June 30	Buffalo Lake Monson Lake	Bethesda Hope	
July 7	St. John's Buffalo Lake	Mamrelund Bethesda	
July 14	Monson Lake St. John's	Hope Mamrelund	NO BETHESDA WORSHIP
July 21	Buffalo Lake Monson Lake	Bethesda Hope	
July 28	Monson Lake St. John's	Hope Mamrelund	NO BETHESDA WORSHIP
August 4	St. John's Buffalo Lake	Mamrelund Bethesda	
August 11	Monson Lake St. John's	Hope Mamrelund	NO BETHESDA WORSHIP
August 18	Buffalo Lake Monson Lake	Bethesda Hope	
August 25	St. John's Buffalo Lake	Mamrelund Bethesda	
September 1	Buffalo Lake	Bethesda	Joint Service Labor Day Weekend

No Bethesda worship services on June 9th, June 23rd, July 14th, July 28th, and August 11th