



Bethesda Lutheran Church
"Welcome One Another"

The Visitor

May 2011

Reminder: The 8:45am Chapel Service on Sundays is no longer offered at Bethesda.

Please join us on Sundays at 9:45 in the Sanctuary.

Find this newsletter also on the web at bethesdanewhaven.org

305 Saint Ronan Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511 • (203) 787-2346

Music Sunday is May 15



On Sunday, May 15th, the Bethesda sanctuary will reverberate with the sound of trumpet and oboes, bassoons and strings, organ, and of course, singing! At the 9:45 a.m. worship service, we will celebrate our annual Music Sunday, where choir and orchestra – all led by Music

Director Lars Gjerde – will inspire our worship with Franz Schubert's glorious Mass in G. Also featured will be Tchesnokov's "Salvation is Created," J.S. Bach's "Sheep May Safely Graze," and a newly orchestrated accompaniment for Bethesda's own hymn, "Our Music Plumbs, then Lifts and Bears."

In addition to celebrating the power of music to praise God, our annual Music Sunday constitutes the main fund-raising event for the Bethesda Music Series, a major social ministry of our congregation. Inaugurated in the fall of 1991, the Music Series presents high-quality concerts throughout the year and through free-will offerings taken at each concert, it raises money for excellent social agencies in our community. This past season, with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans providing matching funds, the Music Series was able to raise thousands of dollars in support of Lutherans in Mission, Immanuel Baptist Shelter, Resurrection Day Camp, and Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven.

On May 15th, as we celebrate our annual Music Sunday with instruments and voice, all will be invited to continue their support of the Music Series as we look to a new season of great concerts supporting great causes!

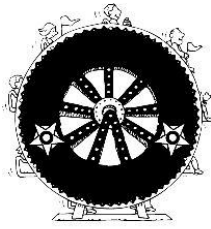
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Knowing that the support of our congregation makes the Music Series possible, many thanks to these generous supporters of the 2010-11 season:

Maureen Anderson, in memory of Karl Anderson • Margaret Astrup • Robert Balay • Susan Berube, in honor of Almira Muschamp & Margaret Berube • Jim & Molly Dinneen • Charles Dupre, in memory of Arline & Richard • Robert & Judith Evenson, in memory of our parents • Richard Ford & Dianne Witte, in memory of Kermit Ward • Martin & Katie Gehner, in honor of Bill Speed • Joan Gibney • Anibal Gonzalez & Priscilla Melendez • Chloe Helene Groth • Barry & Jennifer Hall, in honor of Karyn, Lynda, and Jennifer Hall • Kristin Huffman, in memory of Philip Huffman • Joanne Kimball • The Labadia Family • Chris & Nora Lee • Becky Lerud • Kay and Leon Linquist • Greg & Carlen Mandas, in honor of Michael & Susan Merkel • Gregory Mandas, in honor of Carlen Mandas • Adam Marchand & Ellen Doon • Michael and Sue Merkel • Henry E. Morris, in honor of Fred Neumann • Fred Neumann, in honor of Margaret Astrup and the Bethesda Choir • The Neumann Family, in memory of Ethel Neumann • George & Pat Patrick • Carolyn Proctor • Thomas & Alice Reitz, in honor of Rev. Phares O. Reitz • Oscar & Barbara Roos, in memory of Beda and Oscar G.A. Roos • Richard and Donna Slater, in memory of William Persak and Judith Slater • Bill and Cindy Strickland • Paul Stuehrenberg & Carole DeVore, in memory of Marian Amundson • Thrivent Financial for Lutherans • Janis Underwood, in honor of Laurel Underwood Price • Richard & Barbara Veleber • Donald & Clarissa Youngberg, in memory of Verdela Carlson Youngberg

Bethesda Nursery School Fair is May 7th



**SPRING
FAIR**

Join us on Saturday, May 7th at our annual Spring Fair - a very special and longstanding tradition at Bethesda that raises funds for the school's financial assistance program. The Fair is a day full of family activities including games, musical performances, a magic show, face painting, arts and crafts, and a bounce house. We have a huge tag sale and a concession stand with the popular favorites (hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza and cotton candy) as well as some gourmet items prepared by Bethesda families (sushi and crepes). The bake sale has lots of treats and beautiful items suitable for mother's day brunches and gifts.

The Spring Fair runs from 10 am - 2 pm at Bethesda rain or shine. The tag sale opens at 9 am.

We hope you can stop by this great event and please invite your family, friends, and neighbors too!

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Church World Service "Gift of the Heart" Kits



We would like to thank everyone who participated in the recent "Gift of the Heart" Kits campaign. The young children of the Sunday School and their parents and teachers, Sarah Circle, and other members of the congregation made 85 kits (including 39 Hygiene and 46 School Kits!)

Thank you to all those who contributed a total of \$231.00 for Church World Service from an offering collected on April 3rd.

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Peterson Interim Caretaker

Please take a moment to introduce yourself to, or be reacquainted with, Lorraine Peterson, who is serving as our caretaker while she awaits her first call to parish ministry.

Lorraine came to Bethesda as a girl with her mother Mary, and we now regularly pray for her in support of her work toward ordination.

She will live in the small apartment in the parish house until the new resident moves in June 1. If you need access to the building when the church office is not open, you may contact Lorraine on her cell phone at 203-623-7443 or by email at lepeterson46@gmail.com. There will be an article in the June Visitor about where Lorraine and other members seeking ordination are in their processes.



Meet Paul Stuehrenberg:

Bethesda's Adjunct Pastor, Paul Stuehrenberg came to New Haven in May 1982 to work as a cataloger at Yale Divinity Library, and joined Bethesda shortly thereafter. In 1991 he was appointed Divinity Librarian. He also directs the Lutheran Studies Program at Yale Divinity School. He is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and is married to Carole DeVore.



A Letter for Fools Bible Study -- Tuesdays in the Parish House Living

**Room from 7 pm to 8 pm
May 10th through June 14th**

"God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom," Paul writes to the seaport community brimming with diverse cultures.

I invite you to weekly conversation about this letter to a wonderful and wacky congregation in the first century. We will ask what wisdom can be shed on our wonderful and wacky congregation. We will wonder what's going on in a Christian community that has so many different practices and opinions, and see how the apostle Paul offers faith, opinion, and counsel.

Bring your interest in learning and sharing. Wear a joker's hat if you dare. But just come!

Indicate your interest in coming by emailing me at pastor@bethesdanewhaven.org, or phone me at 203-787-2346.

From the Pastor:

The Amazing Followers of the Way

Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor...Romans 12:10

Before “church” became common in the New Testament (*ecclesia*), one designation for those who called Jesus Messiah was the followers of the Way (*hodos*).

Of course, we are known and defined by our worship.

Of course, Bethesda’s building plays a big part in our mission.

But more than anything, more than we probably realize, Christians are known by their way of life.

As the risen Jesus appears to the “frozen chosen,” his disciples, he encourages Peter to “feed my sheep.”

And he eats with them on the beach, at a fish fry!

As we will hear throughout the Fifty Days of Easter from the First Reading in worship, the baby church in the Book of Acts becomes known for its tremendous commitment to the good news, sharing its material possessions in common, and developing communities that would shape the society around them.

For years, Kari and I have been supporters of the Lutheran Deaconess Community at Valparaiso University. Deaconesses serve the world and the church in a role of service. Their root story is Jesus’ footwashing. And a statue outside their building shows Phoebe, quoted in the Book of Acts in this way I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae, so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well. Phoebe was an amazing follower of the Way. You can more read about the movement of The Way in Acts.

Now, after seven months as your pastor, I am a big fan of Bethesda. Our contribution towards and participation in local agencies and organizations are tremendous. Our “friendly” competition toward “Tons of Food” was hilarious.

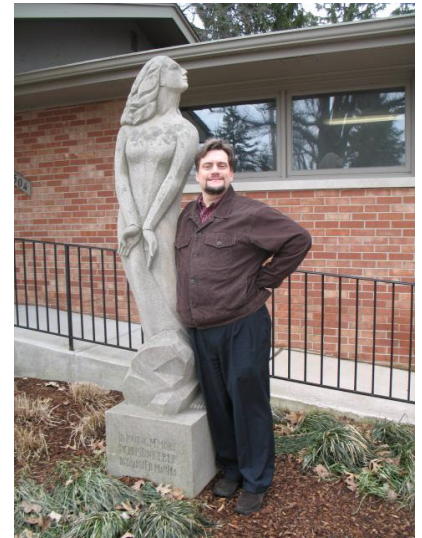
I encourage you to give generously in your weekly offerings, and in the ways you are invited to be a follower of the Way here at Bethesda and wherever you live. Invite your friends to be a part of Bethesda. Be a part of something you’ve never tried before, whether it’s a Bible Study, a shelter meal, youth ministry, or start something new.

We are already growing in numbers by our worship attendance and those who joined Bethesda on May 1. Let us continue to grow in our life in the Spirit, and our generosity.

Peace of the Risen Christ! Alleluia!
Pastor Keyl

Back where I come from there are men who do nothing all day but good deeds. They are called phila... er, phila... er, yes, er, Good Deed Doers.

–The Wizard of Oz



Pastor Keyl in front of the statue of Phoebe



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

In May and June, our study will center on Gifts and Calling - how we are God’s instruments, how we invest our abilities, how we hear God, and how we live daily in God’s promises. Dates for these sessions are May 11 and 25, June 8 and 22.

You are invited to join us from 8:00 to 9:00 am as we gather for light breakfast followed by readings and lively discussions. Let God’s Word grow in every heart.

Please join us.



News from the Sunday School Program

Awesome is an understatement to describe the many and fun activities enjoyed by the Sunday School children during the month of April!!

At the end of March the children brought back their coin boxes, which they received last November, and together with the congregation collected money on behalf of ELCA God’s Global Barnyard. We were profoundly moved by the children’s enthusiasm for this project and for the congregation’s unconditional support. It is truly important that we continue encouraging our children to pray for those less fortunate and to share whatever they can with others.

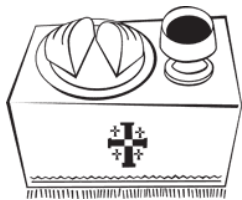
In early April we celebrated our second Super Saturday gathering. It was a sunny day—thanks be to God—and the kids played outside while members of the youth group helped entertain them. My favorite scene was watching Dan Cortright throw a ball to the kids while they tried to catch it as they slid down the giant slide. Parents had a relaxing time, though some youth and adults were engaged in intense ping-pong playing. Stay tuned for a rivalry match between Gabriel, Kari, and Priscilla, and for a second round of card games between Seth and Alex Labadia.

The Sunday School children added to one Lenten worship service by singing “Peace Like a River,” and they treated the congregation to an additional round of “Hosannas” on Palm Sunday.

We are very excited to see our 7-to-9-year-old children actively participating in worship. They have been trained by Pastor Keyl to serve as acolytes. So if you have a chance, thank them for their tasks and commitment.

Intergenerational Sunday was also lots of fun as we all prepared for Holy Week and for the celebration of Easter. Kids and adults were all involved in craft making: paper butterflies, banner making, palm crosses, among other fun activities. After enjoying crafts, we did what we do best: had a potluck!!! Thanks to everyone who participated in this activity and who brought something to share. Food was succulent and abundant.

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Congratulations to our Children: On May 1st we celebrated a very special occasion with some of the Sunday School children and their families: 6 of our children received Holy Communion for the first time on Easter Sunday. All the children from our Sunday

school program received Communion formation for three consecutive Sundays; the younger ones (4-to-6-year-olds) with Gail Labadia, and the older kids (7-to-8-year-olds) with Pastor Tim Keyl and Pastor Kari Keyl. Bethesda rejoiced in this special occasion and continues to pray for the spiritual well-being of these our children

and their families. Welcome Christopher and Matthew Labanara, Clara Cortright, Alex Labadia, Eleanor Lee, and Matthew Judd in joining us at the table, and to Ruth Cortright, Jack Marchand, Sara and Emma Davies, and David Judd in their continued study of the Sacrament of communion.

May 22nd Picnic: Don’t miss our end-of-the-year congregational picnic. Burgers and hot dogs will be provided, so bring a dish or dessert to share!!

Youth were awesome at the Easter Vigil. They also worked hard during the day to prepare for this special celebration and for Easter: Mike Wimmer helped with food on Saturday morning, Bethany sang with the choir, Chris Wimmer and Brendan Randall served as acolytes, together with the younger kids (Ruth Cortright and David Judd), and Nick Marmor, Seth Bjorkman and Andrés González played a rousing (and rocking!) rendition of “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.”

Youth traveled to Milford, New Hampshire the last weekend in April to share in a “Youth Lock-In” overnight retreat, featuring fellowship with other youth in the New England Synod and a fun concert by Captive Free.

Qi Tapestries' Story



The tapestries that have hung in the chancel for the season of Lent and Easter are the designs of Dr. He Qi. He Qi was a professor of Christian Art at Nanjing Theological Seminary before moving to St. Paul, Minnesota in 2004. His art can be seen as a reinterpretation of sacred art within an ancient Chinese art idiom. Chinese religious art, being an expression of Buddhism, was historically typified as a tranquil and utopian portrayal of nature, often painted with black ink and water. He Qi is especially influenced by the simple and beautiful artwork of the people in rural China. Within that framework, he seeks to redefine the relationship between people and spirituality with bold colors, embellished shapes and thick strokes. His work is a blend of Chinese folk art and traditional painting technique with the iconography of the Western Middle Ages and Modern Art.

The tapestries were woven by people from the Tujia ethnic minority from Hubei Province in China using traditional weaving techniques. He Qi designed a whole series of tapestries that use the traditional Tujia weaving technique but depict Biblical scenes and stories. The tapestries were used to generate income for an economically deprived and socially depressed ethnic minority group and to raise awareness of the distinctive qualities of the Chinese Church.

Carole DeVore and Paul Stuehrenberg first saw He Qi's tapestries while visiting the Tao Fung Shan Christian Centre (originally a Lutheran mission station) in Hong Kong. They and several anonymous donors donated these tapestries to Bethesda. For more examples of his art, see <http://www.heqigallery.com/>

The submission deadline for the next issue of
The Visitor is
Sunday, May 15

Please e-mail your submissions to Nora Lee at
bethesda.visitor@gmail.com *Thank you!*
Nora Lee, Editor, Clare Couture, Production Manager (bethesda@snet.net)
Visit our Web page: www.bethesdanewhaven.org



Bethesda Tops "Tons"!

TONS OF FOOD

Bethesda came out the 'heavyweight' in "Tons of Food 2011!" Our participation in the annual friendly competition among New Haven congregations to collect food and money for area pantries yielded 5,049 pounds - over two and a half tons for Christian Community Action's grocery ministry! For three Sundays (March 27, April 3, and April 10), many generous members lugged 469 pounds of nonperishable foodstuffs to fill the grocery cart, or wrote checks or came up with cash totaling \$1,790. With \$1 equal to 2 pounds in the tally, and our contributions matched with \$500 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, we came out ahead of Trinity Episcopal on the Green (4,101 lbs), Metropolitan Community Church of New Haven (522 lbs) and St Paul/St James Episcopal (368 lbs). Those served by CCA were the real winners, even more so because our support garnered them a match from the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation of Rhode Island, multiplying the impact of our gifts! A HUGE thank you to everyone who participated, with special gratitude to Richard Ford, the "Weighmeister" who tallied the pounds each week, and to Robert Balay, the "Haulmeister" who got the groceries to CCA, as he does so diligently throughout the year.

Dianne Witte, for the Social Ministry Committee.



Council Corner – from the April meeting

The Executive Committee reported that there were people interested in residing in the small apartment in the parish house. The Council thanked Richard Ford for taking the lead in the effort to renovate the apartment and to show it to potential residents.

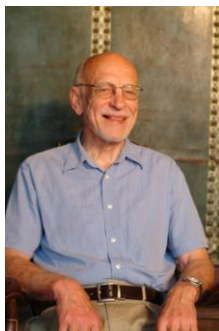
Treasurer Ian Bjorkman reported that giving to date was currently 8% ahead of budget but reminded us that we have challenged ourselves to a budget that is 10% greater than the congregation pledging provided. The bequest anticipated from the estate of Lillian Anderson will likely come to Bethesda by the end of June.

Pastor Keyl reported that the only family that had been attending the 8:45 a.m. service had contacted him to say they felt they did not feel the service should be continued just for them. After discussion, the Council voted to end the 8:45 a.m. service.

Facilities Committee coordinator Doug Gray offered the group’s recommendation to change the church’s cleaning service, noting an unbudgeted increase in cost. The Council weighed the desire for a cleaner facility against the added cost and voted, amid some dissent, to engage the new service. The group also addressed the \$3,600 bill due for snow removal above the church’s contract, and Ian offered to negotiate with the snow removal service provider to arrange to pay the bill over time.

Reports were received with gratitude from the Altar Guild and Social Ministry, Evangelism, Communications, Youth and Family Ministries, and Worship and Music committees.

The Council continued planning for a congregational leadership retreat on May 7.



Leon Linquist -- Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry

Leon Linquist was born on a farm in southwest Iowa. He attended Augustana College and Augustana Seminary in Rock Island, Illinois. During summers he worked at Camp Augustana in Wisconsin where he met Kay Spong. They were married in 1960. Leon’s first call was to Augustana Lutheran Church in

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada followed by a call to a team ministry in Kenora, Ontario, Canada. The next 23 years in Canada were in Winnipeg, Manitoba at Epiphany Lutheran Church. Leon also served as Campus Chaplain at the University of Manitoba during some of that time. The next 6 years were spent in Michigan serving parishes in Covington and Trout Creek. During that time a retirement home on a lake near Iron River was purchased where now the family spends time from May - September. Leon has been studying as he audits classes at the Yale Divinity School and attends lectures at Yale and chapel services at the Divinity School.

Leon and Kay have 3 children – Son Aaron (Nadine) lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; daughters Ione White (Chris) whose sons are Brisman, Nolan, and Kutuk are in Salcha Alaska; and Leah O’Callahan (Clifford) whose sons are Lukas, Aidan and Brendan live in Guilford, Connecticut. Leon has two brothers. Merrill is also a retired pastor who lives in the state of Washington as well as a brother Leland, living in Florida. His sister Corinne died in 2009 in Moline, Illinois.

Bethesda’s Pastor for Outreach

Leon Linquist has been named Bethesda’s Pastor for Outreach by the Bethesda Congregation Council. He will be especially concerned about welcoming visitors, including people in the East Rock neighborhood, and seniors at Bethesda.

Leon and Kay will be leaving New Haven early in May and will return in September. Their summer address is 857 Baumgartner Road, Iron River, MI 49935 Telephone is 906 265-2637



Clean-up, clean-up, everybody, everywhere!

(Altar Guild spring cleaning.)

Thanks to all who participated!



Bethesda is growing!

Have you noticed that it is harder to find a “good” pew on Sunday mornings? That there are lots of hands to pass the peace with? That there are sometimes as many new faces as familiar ones? That there are more bottlenecks in the Narthex? Alleluia! The data corroborates your inkling: look!

Monthly Average Attendance Figures

	2009	2010	2011
January	75	83	104
February	77	77	99
March	77	82	98

Bethesda is growing. What a happy sentence to type. And proclaim! Say it with us: Bethesda is growing, Alleluia!

--the Evangelism Committee

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Direct Deposit

Or

Have you considered on-line banking for your offering?

It is now possible to offer your thanks to God in a simple and convenient way. If your bank offers online bill pay service you can now have your offering sent directly to Bethesda at an interval and time that's convenient for you. It's quite simple, especially if you are already familiar with your bank's on-line services. All you need to do is establish Bethesda as a payee using your bank's on-line bill pay service. Upon your authorization, your bank will send a check to Bethesda Lutheran Church at 305 Saint Ronan Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511-2389. Don't forget to include your envelope number in the memo field. Some banks will also give you the option of making that direct payment "recurring"—meaning that the bank will send a check every week, month, etc., at your direction. Makes it even simpler to be a regular contributor!

Facilities Has Major Milestone

The Facilities Committee has been very hard at work since last fall. After several months of searching and negotiating, we have finally found (and hired) a new CLEANING SERVICE which will begin June 1, 2011. Until then, we still have the present company and the assistance of Lorraine Peterson.

After two crash Saturday work sessions, the small apartment in the parish house was treated to a thorough cleaning, a fresh coat of paint, new blinds and a new stove and air conditioner. At the time of this writing, I thank ALL who participated in this undertaking. I was greatly impressed at the turnout of members to help us make a distasteful job almost fun.

As you can see, a lot has taken place at Bethesda since last fall, but the task before us is still a daunting one. There are many other areas that will demand our attention, and we cannot let these issues accumulate. They will not go away by themselves, so WE NEED YOUR HELP. The more the merrier. We meet as a committee on the second Tuesday of the month in the Muhlenberg Room at 7:30 P.M., and try to keep our meetings relatively short. If you are interested in supporting the facilities crew, please see me (Doug Gray) or send me an email at dgray30@comcast.net. See you in Church....

Peace,
Doug Gray



Meet Bethesda's Newest Members

Jean and John Thompson of Trumbull have transferred their membership to Bethesda from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Fairfield. Married 31 years, they have

two daughters, Laura and Diana. Laura lives and works in Chicago; Diana is a freshman at Bentley University near Boston. Jean is a medical social worker at Norwalk Hospital. John works as a fellow software engineer at Northrop Grumman, also in Norwalk, making it easy to carpool to work with Jean.

Alissa Wendelschafer has served as an instrumental music director in Westbrook since moving from Minneapolis to New Haven in 2008. Alissa also accompanies for the Madison branch of the United Girls Choir. She has a degree in music education and piano performance from Luther College and a master's degree in music theory from the University of Minnesota. Alissa's membership transfers from Our Savior's Lutheran, her hometown church in Cleveland, MN. She lives in the East Rock neighborhood with her fiancé, Chris (a PhD candidate in music theory at Yale), and her cat, Vladimir.

Kassandra Riley, a Wisconsin native and graduate of Wartburg College, moved to New Haven from Minnesota to undertake postdoctoral training in research and undergraduate education. A lifelong member of various ELCA congregations, she is thrilled to be so warmly welcomed at Bethesda.

Spencer Young grew up in a Lutheran home in Oklahoma. He met **Kari Brumback Young**, a native Texan, when the two were freshmen at The University of Tulsa. After graduation in 2008, Kari moved to New Haven to pursue a PhD in chemistry at Yale University. Spencer followed soon afterward, and now works as a mechanical engineer for Walz & Krenzer in Oxford, CT. Spencer and Kari have been hanging around Bethesda for a while now but are happy to call it their official church home.

Beverly Fries has lived the past 38 years in Woodbridge, CT with her husband Robert and their four children. Robert left this life in November 2010, and their adult children live in California, Georgia, and Connecticut.

Her husband felt God's leading to come to Bethesda after seeing a childhood friend that went to this church. Bob had come here as a young adult to the activities being offered, back in the 1950's. They started to come to the services when Pastor Preuss was interim pastor. They felt very welcomed by the congregation and were able to make friends with many. They began to go to the Wednesday Bible Study and found another warm welcome.

Beverly's whole life has been one of searching and knowing that she was a child of God and that Jesus Christ is her Savior and Lord. She grew up on Long Island, went to Geneseo College, NY where she earned a degree in Library Science and Elementary Education. She

taught two years in Deer Park, LI, NY. After meeting Bob at a Young Adult Retreat on Shelter Island, NY, she came back to CT to teach in Bridgeport. They married June, 1973 and moved to Woodbridge where he taught in the elementary school. They became members of First Church of Christ, where I have been involved in many programs.

Beverly has continued to feel God's leading to be a part of the Bethesda Lutheran Church family. As such, she is becoming an associate member of Bethesda Lutheran Church.

Mike and Meg Carnaroli came to Bethesda because Mike's college professor at Western Connecticut State University, Maggie Astrup, recommended that they interview to lead Youth and Family activities beginning in the fall of 2009. They happily accepted and have been having a blast at Bethesda ever since! Outside of church, Mike directs the choirs at North Branford High School and St. Martin dePorres Academy in New Haven. He also directs both the Choral Club of Clinton and the Branford Chorale. Meg works at Ansonia Middle School as a Reading Intervention teacher. They live in Branford with their crazy dog, Tilly. Through working with the Youth Group they have gotten to know some great kids and an awesome congregation. Mike and Meg are so happy to be officially joining as members. Thank you for all of your support of their ministry here!

Bethesda's Prayer List:

For Healing and strength: John D. Mouland, son of Carol Mouland; Oscar Roos; Bob Lehet; Ruth Beaumont; Rita Wissink; Nancy Bailey, cousin of Lisa Randall and Leslie Dunn; Verna Carlson; Adele Larson, mother of Doreen Larson Oboyski; Ed Abeling; Ray Anderson; Linda Salisbury; Betty Neal; Betty Henrickson; George Lindbeck; Robert Evenson; Aina Smith; Len DeNardis; Sylvia Dunn; Ruth Mood; Jeanette Tykson; Ruth Jacobson.

For those serving in the military: including members and friends of Bethesda ***and the chaplains of our churches who serve them.***

For our partners in the Gospel: the congregations and schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Jordan & The Holy Land (ELCJHL); Luther House; our mission partners, Resurrection Lutheran Church in New Haven, and the Pangani Children's Centre, Nairobi, Kenya, in its ministry to those living with the impact of AIDS and hunger in Africa.

For Bethesda: that God continues to guide us into the future with ministries of witness and service while building up our community in all of its diversity.

For those preparing for ministry: Tracy Swan Tuite, Lorraine Peterson, Abby Ferjak, and Ben Groth.