

Gather Committee:

This committee is focused on gathering all people into a living relationship with Jesus. Its focus is on the organization of components of worship, the support and promotion of congregation-wide events and the necessary subcommittees that allow an efficient administration.

Worship, Music, and Arts Subcommittee

The purpose of the WMA Subcommittee Cultivate music and the arts in service to God and for the enrichment of the congregation's worship life. Support and sustain the worship life of the congregation. Encourage and equip worshipers to fully participate in worship both corporately and privately. Partner with the Pastor(s) and other Committees and their teams in developing a vision for the congregation's worship life.

Worship Music & Arts Ministry Teams:

A/V Production – needs description

Altar Guild – The Altar Guild cares for and changes the paraments, banners, and decorations in our two worship spaces as the seasons of the Church change. Their busiest times are during Lent and Advent season as they prepare for Christmas and Easter.

Saturday Hosts – People in this group help prepare communion and other aspects of Saturday evening worship as well as greeting people as they arrive for the service. You will be trained before beginning and then put on the calendar as your schedule allows.

Sunday Communion Assistants – volunteers willing to serve communion on Sunday

Visual Arts—needs description/not in Shelby

Worship Planning – staff?

Congregational Life & Care Subcommittee

Provide ongoing congregational care and support through opportunities including soup suppers and meals, Living Water Wednesday meals, Chili/BBQ cookoff, Older Wiser Lutherans (OWLS), New Members, Welcome and Hospitality, Small groups, Prayer chain, Café Bethesda, Sunday Morning Coffee and Fellowship, Lay Visitation, Funeral meals, Wedding Coordinator. The Congregational Life subcommittee prays for the congregation, ministries, and events and helps foster special events to help build community.

Congregational Life Ministry Teams

Soup Suppers/Meals —needs description/not in Shelby

LWW Meals (Wednesday Night Kitchen Helpers) – Wednesday night kitchen helpers will serve on teams of about 4 people to prepare, serve, and clean up the Wednesday night

meal. The menu and planning is all done for you and anyone is welcome to come help one week to see if they are interested in being a regular volunteer. This is a great way to serve the congregation, especially the young families who are in attendance for Living Water Wednesday activities.

Café Bethesda – Cafe Bethesda is a monthly potluck before the Saturday evening worship service held on the first Saturday of each month. Members bring in various things like cheese and crackers, tortilla wraps, finger sandwiches, cookies, kringla, you name it. We've even had people bring in pizza before! The Cafe Bethesda coordinators take turns working in groups to set out the food ahead of service and prepare water, lemonade, and coffee to enjoy, and then clean up after service.

Sunday Coffee – Volunteers arrive before the service to make coffee, set up serving area in Commons, and clean up coffee service after Fellowship Time.

Chili/BBQ Cookoff – staff

OWLS – needs description

New Member Care – This group meets periodically to determine ways to make new members feel welcome and get them involved. The group plans other events as fellowship opportunities.

Welcome and Hospitality —needs description/not in Shelby

Small Groups—needs description/not in Shelby

Lay Visitation – Bethesda volunteers who bring community and communion to those who cannot regularly attend worship.

Grief Share – Bethesda hosts a 13-week group each fall using GriefShare curriculum.

GriefShare support groups are a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. You'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. The organizers also organize other one-time meetings, such as Loss of a Spouse and Surviving the Holidays. More information is available at <https://www.griefshare.org/>.

Book Club – more than one club (Know Thy Shelf is the only one in Shelby) Know Thy Shelf book club will discuss a different book each month in The Crossroads. Everyone is welcome to join the informal hour-long discussion. We love seeing new faces (and the regulars, too!).

Puzzle Club – needs description/not in Shelby

Administration and Finance Board Subcommittee

The general purpose of the Administration and Finance Board is to support, guide and implement the daily operations and governance to achieve the congregation's mission, vision, and values.

Administration & Finance Board Ministry Teams: (the standard duties of each Admin & Finance Ministry Team is spelled out in the Bylaws)

Facilities, Grounds, Rentals – From bylaws: The purpose of the Facilities, Grounds and Rentals Ministry Team is to enhance the congregation's mission and ministry by means of the buildings and grounds. The membership of the Facilities, Grounds and Rentals Ministry Team shall consist of members with a passion and skills for this ministry. *From Shelby “The Facilities Ministry Team will be contacted as needed whenever interior or exterior work needs to be done. Members will have the opportunity to select which tasks they want to work on.”*

Memorials, Gifts, & Endowment – From bylaws: the purpose of the Memorials, Gifts and Endowment Ministry Team is to coordinate the process of accepting and designating all gifts in cash or kind, memorials, and bequests. It is the responsibility of the Ministry Team and the Congregation Council to make certain that all gifts, memorials, and bequests are disbursed as designated. The membership of the Memorials, Gifts and Endowment Ministry Team shall include three or more members. *From Shelby: “Admin & Finance Board affiliated group that send thank you notes for memorials or gifts and coordinates with gift givers and memorial families to make sure gifts go to the desired designated fund.”*

Financial Oversight - the purpose of the Financial Oversight Ministry Team is to provide fiduciary oversight to all financial operations of the congregation. The membership of the Financial Oversight Ministry Team shall consist of at least three members, named by the President. (Same description bylaws & Shelby)

Budget – From bylaws; the purpose of this ministry team is to prepare the annual budget in order to enable the ministries of the congregation to function within budget parameters, base on the Estimates of Giving provided by the Annual Stewardship Campaign. Membership consists of the Treasurer, plus at least four additional individuals appointed annually by the president. *From Shelby: “Meets regularly in the Fall to compile budget requests from the Gather, Grow, Go Committees and prepares a budget for the Congregational Council to adopt and later present at the annual meeting in January. Number lovers are welcome here! Chaired by the Council Treasurer.”*

Contributions – the purpose of the Contributions Ministry Team is to be responsible for the accurate counting, recording, and depositing of all contributions, fees and receipts for whatever purpose. The membership of this ministry team shall consist of the Financial

Secretary, who is appointed by the President, to serve as team leader. Other individuals, selected by the Financial Secretary, will serve as Counting and Recording Assistants. This may include office staff. Neither the Financial Secretary nor the assistants shall concurrently, or for three years thereafter, serve on the Financial Oversight Ministry Team. **Not in Shelby**

Governing Documents – From bylaws: the purpose of the Governing Documents Ministry Team is to maintain the Constitution, By-Laws, and Continuing Resolutions of the congregation. The membership of the Governing Documents Ministry Team shall consist of the President-elect, the Past President, and the Secretary; along with up to three members of the congregation appointed by the President. *From Shelby: “Admin & Finance Board Ministry Team that review changes from church wide assembly and act as a resource for the council when changes are suggested in the constitution and bylaws.”*

Personnel – the purpose of the Personnel Ministry Team is to provide oversight of the personnel and human resource functions of the congregation. The membership of the Personnel Ministry Team shall consist of up to six members of the congregation appointed by the President. *Shelby – closed group, not in groupfinder “Admin & Finance Board affiliated group made up of past council members so no volunteers are needed.”*

Stewardship – From bylaws: The purpose of the Stewardship Ministry Team is affirming Biblical principles of stewardship, expanding Bethesda’s mission through increased support, and enabling individual members and the corporate community to become more effective servants and stewardship. The Annual Stewardship Campaign Ministry Team shall consist of at least five members with a passion for this ministry and the President-elect. *From Shelby – “Ministry Team leaders within the Stewardship Board. The committee helps plan, organize, and carry out the fall stewardship event. Members meet to share ideas, secure a venue and a speaker, do temple talks, and work with staff to prepare mailings.”*

Grow Committee:

This committee is focused on helping each individual of our congregation to grow as a disciple through worship, prayer and study of God’s Word. Its focus is to facilitate Christian education for all ages and to support intergenerational events.

Education Subcommittee

The general purpose of the Christian Education Subcommittee is to interpret and implement the congregation’s ministries to, with and for the education of children, youth, and families; as well as growing adult disciples who are spiritual leaders in the church and in the world.

Education Ministry Teams

Splash Children’s Church – SPLASH volunteers lead the lessons in various capacities.

Shepherds are present each week of programming and are guides to their group of students, building relationships with the students throughout the year. Shepherds are a yearlong commitment. Workshop Leaders teach the scripted lessons/workshops during each theme. Workshop leaders may volunteer for one month or an entire year.

Oasis Confirmation – Staff

Mentor Program **Not in Shelby? Graduating Senior Prayer Buddies?**

Flood High School –Staff

River Young Adults **needs description**

Voyagers Adult Forum – Staff

Men’s Bible Study – The Men's Bible Study meets Tuesday mornings from 7:00-8:00am.

The first Tuesday of the month is held at The Cafe and the rest of the time the Bible Study meets in the Conference Room at Bethesda. Individuals volunteer each week to either lead the study discussion or bring food to go with coffee.

Library – Norma Sisson handles on her own right now

Youth and Family Subcommittee

The general purpose of the Youth and Family Subcommittee is to interpret and implement the congregation’s ministries to develop and support a wide-ranging array of faith formation opportunities. To incubate the developing faith of children, youth and family; equip and empower children, youth, and adults to live faithfully in daily life; and strengthen intergenerational ministries through intentional spiritual direction. To empower congregational participants to envision themselves as called and sent disciples of Jesus Christ.

Youth and Family Ministry Teams

Living Water Wednesday Worship – Staff

Vacation Bible School – Plan, help organize, and assist with annual Vacation Bible School, usually held the last week of June.

National Youth Gathering – staff?

Children’s Christmas Program – staff?

Youth Retreats – staff?

Youth Summer Camps – staff?

First Communion – staff?

Ministries Subcommittee

needs description

Ministries Ministry Teams

Scandinavian Coffee

Bethesda Sew-ers – The Bethesda Sew-ers get together each Monday afternoon and sew together blankets and quilts to support groups dedicated to fighting poverty like Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train. After sewing, they enjoy coffee and treats together. Coordinated by Jeanne Rieck.

Benevolence Funding – staff?

Funeral Coordination – staff + Funeral Meal Coordinators: Funeral coordinators work with family and staff to plan a meal or coffee after the funeral. Coordinators recruit volunteer servers from an established group, order food, and work with volunteers to serve and clean up after the event.

and Funeral Meal Servers: This group of volunteers assists the funeral meal coordinators in serving and cleaning up from a funeral lunch or coffee. This is a 3 to 4 hour time commitment on the day of a funeral.

Wedding Coordination – Denise Wheeler handles in coordination with pastors

Friendship Mailing Not in Shelby

Lutheran World Relief Not in Shelby

Prayer Chain – Individuals in this group will receive periodic emails with prayer requests that members have shared with the church staff but do not want published in the weekly Living Current newsletter or Current bulletin.

WELCA (Women of the ELCA) – to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

Go Committee:

this committee is focused on fulfilling our obligation to go into the world to share the Gospel in word and deed. Its focus is to highlight and support the multiple team efforts which reach out to the community and the world.

Community Outreach Subcommittee

The purpose of the Community Outreach Subcommittees is to interpret and implement the congregation's Christian ministries of service, mission, and outreach, seeking to give balanced expression to ministries of mercy and justice, enable persons to engage the Gospel through acts of compassion and advocacy, and enable persons to envision how they might be a blessing to the world and empower them to do the same.

Community Outreach Ministry Teams

Saving Suds – Saving Suds volunteers go to the laundromat 1 Thursday afternoon a month to give out snacks, detergent, and pay for laundry.

Food Pantry – In response to the needs of our community at large, the Bethesda Community Food Pantry Ministry Team will sponsor and provide direction and support for this ministry of the congregation who's mission is "to demonstrate Jesus' love for others by providing supplemental food to all who ask." (more details in bylaws) *Shelby contains volunteer group, but no oversight committee*

Clothing Closet – *Shelby contains volunteer group, but no oversight committee*

Reconciling in Christ – from bylaws: The Reconciling in Christ Ministry Team's purpose is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions; to work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work and to financially support the national program. *From Shelby: This group helps ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Activities include an interfaith meeting four times per year to help design the yearly Pride Worship Event held in September, occasional Zoom meetings depending on the topic, the adult forum has featured discussions on racism and LGBTQIA issues. Bethesda hosts a booth at the Ames PrideFest event held on a Saturday in September from 11:00 AM -6:00 PM.*

Beer and Carols/Beer and Hymns – Staff

Easter Egg Hunt **Not in Shelby**

Halloween Carnival **Not in Shelby**

A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy (AMOS) – A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy (AMOS) believes in the inherent dignity of each person, and every person's ability to take action. We seek to channel individual action into a responsible and powerfully organized force for the common good. Bethesda is one of about 40 member organizations that make up AMOS. Meetings vary based on interest and opportunities that arise.

Benevolence Partners Not in Shelby

Bethesda-Ames Schools Garden – Needs updated description as still refers to Beloit Learning Garden

World Outreach Subcommittee

The purpose of the World Outreach Subcommittee is to interpret and implement the congregation's Christian ministries of service, mission, and outreach, seeking to give balanced expression to ministries of mercy and justice, enable persons to engage the Gospel through acts of compassion and advocacy; and enable persons to envision how they might be a blessing to the world and empower them to do the same.

World Outreach Ministry Teams

ELCA – Staff

CROP Walk – The CROP Walk Ministry Team organizes and facilitates Bethesda's participation in the Ames CROP Walk.

Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners (ASIP) – needs description

Bethesda – Tanzania Covenant – from bylaws: The Companion Congregation relationship exists for the purpose of strengthening one another for life and mission within the body of Christ. It offers us the privilege of participating in the life of another church through prayer, study, communication, and exchange of persons and resources. It opens our eyes to the global challenge that Christ offers us today and calls us to deepen our commitment discipleship as individual persons and as a community of faith. The Congregation Council voted to establish a Tanzania Ministry Team that will be responsible for facilitating the building of companionship relations with Shighatini Lutheran Parish and the PARE Diocese in Tanzania. *From Shelby: "Go: World Outreach Subcommittee affiliated group. Part of the Synod Companionship program, we work to improve the understanding of each other's role in the community and church. We also have a charter that outlines our duties and responsibilities."*

Bread for the World – from bylaws: The purpose of this team is based on the following statement: Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Our mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. All members are invited to join this team. We meet most months with the culmination of our work being the Offering of Letters to the Iowa members of Congress. *From Shelby: "Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Our mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. Among other things, Bethesda engages in an annual offering of letters where we write letters to our*

governing representatives to advocate for those facing food insecurity. Members of Bethesda's Bread for the World group participate ecumenically with other congregations in the area, meeting as needed to discuss opportunities.”

Many Hands Sewing – currently archived but can be reactivated if new projects emerge.