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**Upcoming Events with Bells of the Lakes**

**2015-2016**

**Seminar for Handbell Ringers and Directors**

**Saturday, August 22nd 9am-4pm**

**Hennepin Ave UMC in Minneapolis**

Before we know it a new season of handbells will begin, join us this summer for our seminar full of classes to encourage and educate new and existing handbell ensemble directors and ringers. There are three tracks to choose from; Director’s Institute, Ringer’s Toolbox and Handbells 101 along with two break out sessions.

Step 1- Choose a track:

**\_\_\_\_Director’s Institute**: Whether you have been directing for a few years or for decades, this class is for you. Join us as we discuss music selection, score analysis, conducting, bell assignments, teaching difficult rhythms and growing your handbell program.

**\_\_\_\_Ringer’s Toolbox**: Get ready for a new year of ringing and increase your skills in this hands on course. Topics include: learning & refreshing our treble, battery, and bass technique, handbell notation, rhythm, sightreading, and increasing musicality.

**\_\_\_\_Handbells 101:** Are you new to handbells, and not sure where to get started? This class has everything handbells from A-Z. Topics include: warmups & stretches, making the bell sound, damping styles, care of the bell, handbell notation and more. Beginning ringers & directors welcome.

**Step 2-** Choose your electives: (one in each section)

Morning**:** \_\_\_Up in the Tower; history of bell towers & change ringing

 **\_\_\_**Processionals & Belltrees

 \_\_\_Seminar Choir\*

Afternoon: \_\_\_After the Prelude (Bells in worship)

 \_\_\_Conducting for Ringers

 \_\_\_Seminar Choir\*

\*Seminar Choir is a 2-part elective for those who just love to ring and want to work on hard pieces. Those who choose this class must be able to ring at least Level 3 music.

**What else?**

Also included in your registration is a box lunch and an open instructive concert from Bells of the Lakes introducing the music for Bellfest 2016. Instructors for Seminar are members and the director of Bells of the Lakes.

**Early Bird Discount?**

Yes! Sign up before June 1st and reserve your place at Seminar for only $40 (including lunch). Registration after June 1st is $60 per Ringer or Director.

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**Upcoming Events with Bells of the Lakes**

**2015-2016**

**Youth Handbell Masterclass**

**Saturday, September 26th Noon- 5pm**

**Hennepin Ave UMC, Minneapolis**

New this year! A special ringing opportunity for High School and College students. Come for an afternoon masterclass with clinician, Carolynne Mathis, to hone your skills and learn new & challenging music. This massed ringing event also includes two break out sessions.

First, mark your calendar. Then gather your friends from your church or college ensemble and come for an afternoon of ringing. Sign up to ring in your favorite section of the ensemble.

What do I bring? A great attitude and a willingness to expand your handbell skills. Don’t worry about equipment or music, we will have everything onsite.

Registration is $12 per Ringer.

For more information and to register visit www.BellsoftheLakes.org

**Bellfest 2016!**

**Saturday, February 27, 2016 8:30-4:00pm**

Save the date to join us for Bellfest2016! This annual massed ringing event brings together handbell ensembles from across the upper Midwest to work with conductor, Bill Mathis, and perform a concert together. Repertoire will be announced July 1st on our website and Facebook page.

**Audition Opportunities**

Have you wondered how you become a member of Bells of the Lakes or our youth ensemble, Northern Lights Ringers? Join us for auditions and increase your skills with these ensembles in addition to your weekly ringing with your home ensemble at church or school.

Bells of the Lakes: Monday, August 10th 5:30-7:30pm Hennepin Ave UMC

 Bill Mathis, director

Northern Lights Ringers: Saturday, October 3rd 9:30-11:00am Hennepin Ave UMC

 Christy Gotzman, director