

Bethesda Life-Line

Worship Services*

Sunday 9:00AM

Service of Holy Communion is celebrated on the First and Third Sundays of each month.

Coffee fellowship is held in the fellowship room following the Sunday Worship service. All are invited to share in conversation and warm fellowship.



Jan. 1 Sunday Worship Communion	9:00 AM
Jan. 8 Sunday Worship	9:00 AM
Jan. 15 Sunday Worship Communion	9:00 AM
Jan. 22 Sunday Worship	9:00 AM
Jan. 29 Sunday Worship	9:00 AM

Bethesda Mission Statement:

We will **LIVE** and **SERVE** through **FAITH**
we will **ACT** with **LOVE** and **KINDNESS**
we will **GIVE** hope and **SUPPORT** to all

Upcoming Events

Jan. -1 Happy New Year!
Jan. -17 Council meeting
March 1- Ash Wednesday



January 2017

Call Committee Process

You will find an insert in this newsletter explaining the Five Steps of our Pastoral Call Process. You will see we are well into step two of the process and are beginning to formulate our plans for selection of the Call Committee.

We would encourage you to read the material included in the insert to consider whether you feel called to volunteer to serve on the Call Committee.

The Personnel Committee will be overseeing the formation of the Call Committee and communicating the timing and steps of that soon, but the insert materials will allow you to begin to carefully and prayerfully consider if you would like to self-nominate to serve on the Call Committee.

Ultimately the Call Committee will be selected by vote at a special congregational meeting, but consider this the first step towards that end. Please watch for further information from the Personnel Committee regarding the Call Process.

Regina Johnson's 100th Birthday!

Please help celebrate Regina's 100th Birthday on January 15th with coffee and cake being served by her family! A card may be sent to her at

Lighthouse at Barnum #2
3725 Horizon Dr
Barnum, MN 55707



From the Interim Pastor

The First Service – “A Blue Christmas”

On December 21, 2016, The Longest Night of the Year, we gathered for worship and support. A little over thirty people attended. The sanctuary was softly lit by candlelight and meditative music greeted our

worshippers. After several lessons were read, the congregation was invited to come forward and place a written prayer request in a basket on the altar or light a candle in memory of a loved one or receive a blessing by laying on of hands. This first ever “Blue Christmas” service was well received.

Pr. Terry

Parishioner: The “Blue Christmas” service was very nice. It gave me an opportunity to sit quietly in the presence of the Lord in a very serene setting to listen to His word to me. Pr. Terry gave an encouraging sermon letting us know that God is intimately with us in our issues. The opportunity for personal prayer requests, lighting of candles in memory of loved ones and a personal blessing through laying on of hands was especially heartfelt.



Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

Minutes of December 13, 2016

In attendance: Randy Tofteland, Mary Braun, Lee Forrester, Craig Kullberg, Melody Lackner, Pastor Terry Frovik, Ron Mehlhop, Tom Christenson and Judie Birk.

The meeting was called to order by council president, Randy Tofteland.

Secretary's Report:

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the November meeting by Lee Forrester, seconded by Mary Braun, and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for November was presented by Mary Braun. Motion was made by Melody Lackner to accept the treasurer’s report, seconded by Tom Christenson

and passed. Recommendations from the Stewardship and Finance Committee to create two accounts to properly reflect endowment and scholarship balances on our financial statements were discussed. Randy Tofteland provided additional information supporting these recommendations. Craig Kullberg made a motion to accept the recommendations and Lee Forrester seconded. It was accepted by the council.

Pastor's Report:

Interim Ministry Update & Next Steps — The Interim Committee meeting is this coming week. Would like to do another round table discussion around interim question “What does it mean to be on a call committee and what do they do”. Went to a meeting at First Lutheran in Aitkin on cooperative ministry. Blue Christmas is on Dec. 21st, and Christmas services are set with a Christmas potluck dinner following the Christmas Day service. Pastor asked for council permission to have off January 8, as he has global mission Sunday at his home church. He plans to go on the men’s fishing trip and is looking forward to it, but please pray for him!!

DATES: November 27 – Dec. 13

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Morning – 4

Holy Communion Services – 2

Sermons – 4

MEETINGS – 7

VISITATIONS

Health Care Centers – 2 Home Visits – 2

CONSULTATION – 1

CLASSES TAUGHT

Bible Study – 4 Confirmation – 3

SPECIAL EVENTS

Interim Conversation (5 Functions of the Church)
Dec. 4

Old Business:

Hospitality Assessment Preliminary Results — Randy Tofteland shared these results with copies for the council to look over.

New Business:

- Building Committee Update & Next Steps – three new members on committee. Craig Kullberg is getting quotes on site-built buildings. Craig has contacted three companies. Today the committee visited Midway Homes in Grand Rapids, to look at modular homes. They

gave them specifications that they wanted in a modular home to be sent into the factory to get us a price. They will give us a floor plan from the ideas the committee gave. They will also supply a person (contractor) to come out and look at our site. Discount is only \$2,000 by Jan. 15. We would need 10% down. That gets us a build date, so it could get done by April or May (delivered to Grand Rapids). Total cost would need to be paid by June 1st. We need to go out and get a line of credit. With interest rates going up, it would be wise to do soon.

- Phoebe Hospital's Solar Panel Project Donation — looking for donations. WELCA has planned to include this as part of the fall bazaar funds.
- Call Committee Planning — Brenda Tibbits from the synod had left some materials when the interim committee met last July. Craig Kullberg discussed the information with the council. A call committee should consist of at least five voting members per our constitution. It was suggested we find five to nine members. Advertising the opportunity to why members want to be on the call committee was suggested. It was also suggested that two interim ministry committee members should be on the call committee. Forming the call committee needs to be done soon, so candidates can be voted on by April.
- Organ Plans — Worship and Music asked about this. What do we want to do with it? The Praise Choir would like the space where the organ is. Can we move it to the fellowship hall or a back room? Council agreed that the W&M could handle this, in concert with the building committee as to where.
- Action List — Randy Tofteland revised the action list from a Word document to an Excel Work sheet for tracking the action items. The list is more organized by priorities. Council liked new format.
- June 4 Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry (LPGM) Worship — Randy Tofteland reported that he asked Mission and Evangelism if they would support the idea during Mission Sunday, to have a speaker come in from the LPGM, who would lead the service.
- Communication Updates – Randy Tofteland will write communications for the newsletter on

attendance and giving. Including an update on the organ.

- Interior Decorating — Melody Lackner reported her ideas. It was suggested she present her ideas to the appropriate committees — for the sanctuary (Worship and Music); elsewhere (Building Committee).

Committee Reports:

Mission & Evangelism:

Dec 7, 2016 meeting —Members present: Pastor Frovik, Randy Tofteland, Judie Birk, Sandy Pullen, and Joanne Stueven

1. Reviewed progress on Christmas projects. After Dec 18, a small committee will send out Caring and Sharing food and gas cards.

2. We discussed the lack of people willing to sign up for coffee on Sundays. It was suggested that the church provide cookies/treats but ask for donation in coffee line. Our committee does not feel responsible for this hospitality hour although we know it is very important. This will be an ongoing discussionother groups can make suggestions also.

3. Committees and some random individuals completed hospitality surveys evaluating our image in the community. These results will be evaluated and used as part of our site profile as well as give our committee an area to work on next spring.

4. Randy shared some information about Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry. Pastor Terry and Randy will confirm a possible Mission Sunday event with a speaker. Possible date is June 4th.

5. Randy, Pastor, and Joanne were able to meet with a church-planning group, Area Lutheran Consultation, at First Lutheran in Aitkin. It was great to meet people from nearby churches. Randy and Pastor will share the possibilities of Bethesda joining this effort and even hosting the meeting here at some point. First Lutheran welcomed our 4 confirmation youth to join outings or events.

Many of us will be gone the winter months so no regular meetings planned. We can keep in touch via emails.

Property Committee:

- Replaced four lights in Fellowship Hall

- Tabled lights for Sign until spring
- Furnace replaced in entry utility room
- Training was given on timing for outside security lights
- Old fluorescent bulbs taken into Battery & Bulb in Brainerd at cost of 89¢/48 inch bulb. Thank you Pastor Terry!
- Request to purchase new chair rack at cost of \$319
- What is purchasing limit before Council approval necessary? Council suggested under \$500 to be a guideline. Respectfully submitted by Lee Forrester

Building Committee:

Members: Pat Becker, Ron Heins, Sue Samuelson, Jerry Morris, Lee Forrester

New Members: Craig Kullberg, Kathy Berland, Merrily Jones

- Planned trip to visit Midway Homes to select option that would affect house footprint. Get cost and house surface plan.
- Craig is getting estimate of on-site building, including site prep.
- Get firm bids on site prep for modular home

Respectfully Submitted by Lee Forrester

Worship & Music:

Members Present: Pastor Terry Frovik, Randy Tofteland, Sharon Whipple, Carol Bakken, Tom Christensen, Jim Christensen, Pat Kulberg
 The meeting was held on Dec. 1 and began with an opening prayer by Pastor Terry. The Chairperson role for this committee remains open and a discussion on who would fill this role was held. Randy will again chair the Jan meeting, but the committee agreed it must either select a permanent chairperson at the January meeting, or assign an interim chairperson for the months of Feb & Mar. Sharon Whipple has agreed to champion a review/edit of the committee job description and Randy agreed to work with her. The Hospitality Assessment was handed out to each committee member and participation was encouraged to complete ASAP. A discussion was held regarding setting up a process that would easily allow anyone in the congregation to sign up to provide special music at the Sunday worship services. After discussion the topic was tabled and will be revisited again at the January meeting. A working group was established to work with Pastor Terry on planning

special services for 2017. In addition to Pastor Terry, the suggested working group was Jim Christensen, Sheila Penoyer and Wally Swenson. Paula Spetz will schedule the December & January readers. After a discussion around adding some banners to the sanctuary, the committee agreed Pat Kulberg would order one banner for the Christmas season. The committee agreed it needed to communicate with the team that leads the sanctuary decorating to inform them of this and then gather feedback from the congregation is this is something that should be considered for each season of the church. The committee selected hymns for the month of December and adjourned the meeting after praying the Lord's Prayer.

Personnel Committee:

Mary Kramer left on Dec. 8. We are advertising in the bulletin for a part time secretary. Jenny is filling in until a person is hired.

Stewardship & Finance Committee

Met on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016

- Discussion on how to share and receive information about our church, committees, how people would like to be involved, use of the gifts/talents people have, what things they have an interest in..... looking at small group discussions at tables once a month with one or two questions that would be addressed and/or the sharing of information on a specific topic... may fit in conjunction along with work being done by transition team or as a follow-up to their work.
- Randy shared that WELCA will discuss the coffee fellowship...how to run dishwasher, make coffee, serving or purchase of snack, donation basket
- Greeters could encourage people to wear name tags as they enter...could be way of identifying non members and provide a name tag for them
- The Memorial Restricted and Unrestricted money will remain as a Liability in the Financial Position Statement. At this time, there is \$1,882.00 in restricted and \$4,457.69 in unrestricted
- Our recommendation is to move \$2,424.10 out of The Edward Jones General Fund and establish it as an Endowment Fund under Liabilities

- Our recommendation is to move \$3,225.25 out of the Edward Jones General Fund and establish it as a Scholarship unrestricted Fund under Liabilities.
- An insert will go into each of the new envelope boxes giving examples of what could be included under the OTHER (specify) listing on their envelop. Examples will include: parsonage, food shelf, and local benevolence. For 2018 envelopes will not be ordered before the annual meeting.
- Scholarship guidelines were handed out for discussion at the January meeting.
- As we move forward in understanding the accounting system, we want to be able to track income and expenditures within some funds from year to year. We will discuss this in more detail in January.

Members present: Donna Ansell, Carolyn Morris, Barb Forrester, Dick Norlander, Wally Swenson, Pat Becker and Randy Tofteland, council president
 Next meeting: January 12, 12:30

The next council meeting will be January 17, 2017 at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.

Excerpt from Monthly Treasurer's Report

NOVEMBER 2016

General Fund	Month	YTD
Income Actual	\$14,375	\$84,950
Income Budgeted	\$16,333	\$49,000
Expense Actual	\$14,073	\$62,524
Expense Budgeted	\$13,793	\$41,379
Over/(Short)	\$302	\$22,426

COUNCIL UPDATE

As we turn the calendar to 2017, the council wanted to share the following updates:

GIVING: On the positive side, the church has received two generous gifts toward the parsonage building project of \$30,000 and \$6,000. On the not so positive side, general giving is running behind budget and behind this time last year. Through November the church is approximately \$7,000 behind budgeted giving and \$3,000 behind this time last year.

ATTENDANCE: Through November, attendance is running 20% less than last year.

CALL PROCESS: With the Interim Ministry Team well underway with their work, planning has begun for the kick off of a Call Committee. Please be watching for information regarding the Call Committee process and prayerfully consider if this is something you feel called to participate on.

PARSONAGE PROJECT: An expanded building committee has been extremely busy since the church approved the parsonage building project. Detailed work is being completed on both a modular home project and an on-site build. The goal is to have final bids secured and a recommendation to the council for approval as early as mid-January.

FINANCING: A committee will be formed to secure long term financing for the parsonage building project. Please consider participating on this important committee and let any of the council members know if you're willing to serve.

SANCTUARY DECORATING: The advent banners in the sanctuary are the first of a series of minor redecorating changes you will see occur in the coming months. The Worship & Music Committee will oversee these changes, including the removal of the organ to open up that space for other use. If you are interested in participating in these decisions please consider joining the Worship & Music Committee.

Obviously there is a lot going on at Bethesda. Change is hard and can cause anxiety and disengagement, but the church needs you and your involvement now more than ever. Thank you for your continued gifts of time, talents and giving and don't let this time of change quiet your engagement within the church. Bethesda needs and loves you.

God Bless, Your Church Council



This is another in a series of articles to inform you of the groups that receive local and global benevolence from Bethesda.

Hope Lodge

Over 23,000 people across Minnesota are diagnosed with cancer each year. Many patients spend weeks or months away from home while

undergoing required lifesaving treatment at cancer centers in the Twin Cities area. In December 2007 the Richard M. Schulze Family American Cancer Society Hope Lodge® opened its doors and became the 25th Hope Lodge location in the country and the 2nd Hope Lodge location in Minnesota.

The Richard M. Schulze Family American Cancer Society Hope Lodge® in Minneapolis provides 41 private guest rooms, free of charge, to cancer patients and their caregiver who reside at least 40 miles away, and who are undergoing active cancer treatment. Fostering a home-like environment, the Hope Lodge facility is equipped with a community dining room, six fully equipped kitchens where guests prepare their own meals, four television lounges, library, meditation/chapel room, fitness room, game room and outdoor patios. There are also on-site laundry facilities. The Hope Lodge community also offers guests a wide variety of center programs and services that provide information, resources and support to ease the cancer journey.

Residency at a Hope Lodge facility is a courtesy extended at the sole discretion of American Cancer Society. All individuals who meet the Hope Lodge eligibility requirements will be welcomed regardless of race, creed, citizenship, physical disability, gender, color, ethnic heritage, veteran status, economic status or sexual orientation.

Guests have described Hope Lodge as being compassionate, having a friendly and professional staff, and the cheerfulness of it. The care is unconditional and many lifelong friendships have been made at the Hope Lodge.

In addition to benevolent donations, Bethesda also has a container in the Fellowship Hall where members can donate items to Hope Lodge such as tissues, napkins, laundry detergent, dish soap, paper towels, DVD's, hard cover books, copy paper, stamps, etc. Welcome bags of sandwich-sized Ziploc bags containing travel size shampoo, conditioner, small toothpaste, 2 small soaps, dental floss, deodorant, lotion and wrapped tissues are also being collected.

Dear Aitkin area church community,

You are invited to participate in a local Aitkin March for Life on Sunday, January 22, 2017 from 1:00-3:00 pm to help us demonstrate our greater community's respect for human life, especially

unborn life. That day will be the 44th anniversary of the Supreme Court's devastating Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion throughout the United States.

While this March for Life will focus on the need to end abortion, we also promote and support respect of all human life. Not only all ages from conception to natural death, but also all genders, races, colors, national origins, handicaps and religions. All human life matters.

Why hold this event in Aitkin? Locally, awareness of life issues needs to be raised. We need to remind ourselves of the issue, to get involved, and that we can all make a difference. It can also be difficult for people to attend distant Marches for Life, like those at the State Capitol or Washington, D.C. Our outreach is being focused on local churches like yours because respect for life is an issue that unites people of faith.

This year will be the third local March for Life. The first was spur of the moment with three participants. Last year, it was promoted at St. James Catholic Church and March numbers grew to the mid-twenties. This year we hope to expand even more though broader promotion.

The March will begin by gathering at St. James. We will walk to the Courthouse for a brief program (no more than 15 minutes), and walk back to St. James for refreshments and fellowship. We will work with the City to ensure a safe walk, especially where there is not sidewalk and where we will cross highway.

If interested, your church's participation would include identifying a lead contact person in your community, assistance in promoting the event (such as through a bulletin, announcements, or flier we will share), and of course joining us in the March and fellowship.

We welcome your participation and will call you in the next couple weeks, or feel free to contact me.

Most importantly, we ask for your prayers. Prayers both for this event's success, and for respect for the dignity of human life given by God.

Sincerely yours in respect for life,
Jodie Provost, St. James parishioner
218-838-3553, jodie.provost@yahoo.com
Catholic churches of Aitkin,

Resolutions

American theologian Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) became focused on his life's purpose at age 19. The result was 70 resolutions, or commitments, he wrote down and then read every week for 35 years until his death.

Some of those resolutions include:

- To live with all my might while I do live.
- To study the Scriptures steadily, constantly and frequently.
- Never to lose one moment of time.
- Never to do anything which I should despise or think meanly of in another.
- Never to do anything out of revenge. .
- Never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

GREETINGS FROM BISHOP AITKEN AND SYNOD STAFF



Top row: Kathy Wimer, Deacon Brenda Tibbetts, Tammy Segel-Crilly, Catherine Anderson Bottom Row: Bishop Thomas Aitken, Pastor Amy Odgren

As your Bishop, I am grateful for your faith and witness this past year. You are precious and important. Out and about our synod, especially on Sunday mornings, I know firsthand how God's gift of faith has worked in your lives as a blessing to others. God made a commitment in sending Jesus to the world and to you. To love, live, die and rise for you and the world. I thank you for your commitment to Christ, to our synod ministries, to our church's wider ministries and to the love and discipleship that the Prince of Peace, Jesus himself, has called you into. Keep this faith – share this faith!

+Bishop Thomas M. Aitken

But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people... Luke 2.10

It seems like so much of our world reacts and responds to one another with fear and uncertainty – with

anxiousness and distance placed between us. But God has come near to all people in Christ. The gift of love has been given to all the earth! May you be blessed by the gladness of Christmas which is hope; the spirit of Christmas which is peace; the heart of Christmas which is love. And may you find great joy – the joy of our God of love who is with us now and always, **Pastor Amy Odgren**

Down through the years that include a myriad of life experiences - both joyful and sorrowful, I have come to appreciate the depth of promise given in the gift of Jesus as Emmanuel,

God is with us. God is indeed with us in all of life's situations in our personal lives as well as in the lives of our congregations. We are not alone when facing difficult decisions, empty pews or empty chairs at the table. ***God is with us.*** In this holy season, may you be blessed by the presence of Jesus, our Emmanuel, gifting us with strength, new life and a well-spring of hope.

A blessed Christmas to all, **Deacon Brenda**

My faith is constantly stretched, renewed, and strengthened by the unexpected ways in which young people live out their faith. At the Middle School Gathering in November, youth wrote “text messages” to God. You might expect messages asking for things or wondering “why” about any number of issues in their lives. But by far, the notes shared a version of, “Thank you God for all you do!” ***Thank you.*** An unexpected message, in an unexpected way, from an unexpected group of teenagers. This Christmas, may you be stretched, renewed and strengthened by the unexpected message of love from God...sent in an unexpected way in the baby Jesus...and shared by unexpected messengers starting with shepherds and continuing through you and me. **Catherine**

Merry Christmas to all, and wishing you a blessed New Year! As I look back over the past 20 years serving on synod staff, I am grateful. It gives me JOY to see firsthand the gifts that are given from congregations and individuals through Mission Support and other various gifts that come into the synod office. Another part of my work is to receive and file the Annual Parochial Report from congregations. I look forward to receiving them again for 2016 and I pray for 100% participation this year! Peace, **Kathy**

I have been blessed to be a member of the Synod Staff this year, updating the website and being in communication with everyone has brought me great joy. I am also happy to have met so many of the church leaders in the synod this year. I pray you and your families have Peace, Love, Comfort and Joy throughout the holiday season and into the years that follow.

Merry Christmas to all, **Tammy**

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmö
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Isle, MN 56342

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

january 

The Lifeline Mission

We will **LIVE** and **SERVE** through **FAITH**
we will **ACT** with **LOVE** and **KINDNESS**
we will **GIVE** hope and **SUPPORT** to all
Bethesda Telephone Directory



Church	blcmalmo@frontiernet.net	(320) 684-2123
Fax		(320)-684-2836
Toll Free		(877) 684-2123
Church Web site		blcmalmo.org
Pastor	Terry Frovike	(320) 684-2123
Council President	Randy Tofteland	(612) 501-6777
Vice President	Tom Christensen	(218) 251-4894
Parish Nurse	Darlene Christensen	(320) 684-2846
Parish Nurse	Patti Honnold	(320) 216-5092
Parish Nurse	Kathy Berland	(320) 291-6165

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