

# Bethesda Life-Line

## Worship Services\*

Sunday 8:30 & 10:00

Service of Holy Communion will be celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4th Sundays of this month.

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



Sept. 3 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM

Sept. 10 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM  
Communion

Sept. 17 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM

Sept. 24 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM  
Communion

### 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

Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> Jamboree 7:00

Sept 24<sup>th</sup> One 9:00 service only, Annual meeting @ 10:00 am following service

### COUNCIL MEMBERS WANTED

Please consider serving on your church council for the upcoming fiscal year. We will need 4 new council members beginning in Oct and we'd ask you to consider this opportunity. Please contact any of the current council members with questions, or to let them know of your interest to serve.

*God made you different  
so you can make a  
difference.*

September  
2017

### Annual Meeting Set

Our Annual Meeting has been set for Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am. We will worship at 9:00am – one service that Sunday and then gather to pass a new budget, elect four council representatives, and two representatives to the NEMN Synod meeting at Breezy Point on April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please put this congregational meeting on your schedules and join us as we move into the future serving our Lord.

### PASTORAL COVERAGE

With Pastor Terry's Interim Ministry ending you may be wondering about Pastoral coverage until our new Pastor has been called. We currently have made arrangements for pulpit coverage for all Sundays through the month of October.



Arrangements have also been made for emergency Pastoral Care with a local Pastor from a neighboring synod church. If an emergency arises that requires Pastoral attention, please contact the church office and either Mary or Jenny will contact the local Pastor. This process will help us be respectful of the Pastor's time in support of Bethesda.

**JAMBOREE –**

The 2017 Jamboree will be a country/western extravaganza with performances by Bethesda Choir, Praise Team, soloists, instrumentalists and skit actors. This year's show is one performance only on Friday, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm in the church fellowship hall. Admission is \$5 for adults; kids 12 & under gets in free! Refreshments will be available. Proceeds from the event are used by the Music and Worship committee to purchase music throughout the year for the Adult Choir, Praise Team and Bell Choir. So be sure to hit the happy trail over for a night of music, fun and fellowship. See ya all there, Partner.

These funds are dedicated for the parsonage and must be used only for the parsonage, so the council approved spending up to a total of \$207,310.63 to complete as many remaining open projects as those monies will fund. The Church property committee will prioritize the remaining open projects and recommend the projects they believe should be completed with the remaining parsonage pledge monies. Any uncompleted projects would need to be funded either through new parsonage gifts or general facility funds if they are approved by the Church Council.



### From the Interim Pastor

Dear Members of Bethesda:  
“Bless the Lord, O my soul. Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits!”

This past year has, indeed, been a blessing for me! I thank you sincerely for the kindness you have shown me and Pauline. Last Sunday's Farewell (Aug. 20) and congregational gift was way more than a fleeting Interim deserves – maybe Pauline – but not me! President Randy – thank you for your kind words and excellent leadership this past year. Bethesda is in our prayers for a great new beginning – just what you need and more than you ever expected!  
Pastor Terry and Pauline

### PARSONAGE UPDATE

Hopefully you had the chance to tour the new parsonage at our recent celebration event. And if you did, we're sure you are proud of the new home that is being readied for our future Pastors. Thank you again to the parsonage committee that worked so diligently on this project to deliver such a fine outcome.  
At the last Church Council meeting the Council learned that the parsonage building project had reached the \$200,000 limit, and as everyone can see a number of finishing projects remain. The Council then reviewed the current status of the parsonage fund drive and learned that a total of \$207,310.63 has been received and or pledged for the parsonage.

### Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo Minutes of August 8, 2017 Special Council Meeting

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

Budget revisions were discussed for the 2017-2018 budget. Pat Becker (chair for Stewardship and Finance Committee) attended the meeting for this discussion.

A review of our current (2013) Church Constitution was discussed. Rollie Bockbrader, Synod Constitution Review, sent us the new model church constitution that was approved at the 2016 ELCA Church wide Assembly. After review of changes within the new model constitution, the council agreed that before accepting the new constitution further consideration would be given to amending the constitution to accept vote by absentee ballot or proxy. The council then reviewed the process for voting on the acceptance of a new constitution that includes an amendment such as voting by absentee ballot or proxy. That process requires the church to hold a special meeting where a majority of a quorum of members present approves the new constitution. If approved the constitution is then again voted on at the next annual meeting where a two thirds majority vote is required by a quorum of voting members in attendance to ratify the initial majority vote. If passed, the modified constitution is then sent to the synod for their approval. After considerable discussion, the council believes that the absentee voting matter was important to

Bethesda and therefore the church should proceed with the process of amending the new model constitution before presenting to the congregation for approval. Given this will take longer than the amount of time available before our next annual meeting on September 24, 2017 this matter was tabled and agreed would need to be addressed by the 2017/18 Church Council.

The next council meeting will be August 15 at 5:30pm. Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.



**Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo**  
Minutes of August 15, 2017 Council Meeting

In attendance: Randy Tofteland, Mary Braun, Lee Forrester, Craig Kullberg, Pastor Terry Frovik, and Tom Christenson.

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

Secretary's Report:

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the July meeting by Lee Forrester, seconded by Tom Christensen, and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for July was presented by Mary Braun. Motion was made by Craig Kullberg to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Lee Forrester and passed.

Pastor's Report:

Interim Pastor's Report to the Church Council  
July 18 – Aug. 15, 2017

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Services	7
Sermons	7
Holy Communion	2
(Administered Privately)	5
Funerals	1
(Merrill Honnold)	
Baptisms	0

MEETINGS 10

Consultations 2

VISITATIONS

Home visits	4
Non Member	0

Hospital	0
Health Care Centers	3

CLASSES TAUGHT

Bible Study	
• ROMEOS	4
• Women's Bible Study	4
• Catechism	0

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Showing the movie, "The Shack", Aug 13
- Ron Hass 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party, Aug 5
- Beef and Corn Feed, July 29
- Luncheon by Synod for Retired Pastors, Aug 4
- Parsonage Celebration, Aug 6

VACATION DAYS TAKEN 0 (To Date 3)

Suggested that we provide a small prayer book for military personal.

Old Business:

**Parsonage Construction Update** – Parsonage in place, electric and water working. Appliances will be installed when floors, painting and carpet are completed. The council learned that the cost of the entire project has reached the \$200,000 approved limit. There are a number of items remaining that should be completed yet including landscaping, sidewalk, front steps, skirt siding for the foundation, etc. After much discussion, it was agreed that this finishing work will be prioritized by the Property Committee as to what can wait and what should be completed ASAP. Additionally, it was agreed to complete an analysis as to what the current amount of cash gifts received and outstanding 3-year pledge totals. The council will then review this information and update the congregation.

**Call Committee Status** – Mary Braun reported that four interviews have been completed, with one new interview scheduled next week, and one second interview scheduled the week after that.

**Council Member Recruitment** – We have four, three-year positions open and one, one-year position open for next year.

New Business:

**2017/18 Budget**

— Benevolence — after much discussion it was agreed by majority vote that we will not change the benevolence plans for 2017/18.

— Final Budget Approval - Motion was made by Craig Kullberg to accept the 2017-2018 budget, seconded by Mary Braun and was unanimously passed.

**Year End Close** – A meeting with Barb Forrester, Mary Braun and Randy Tofteland to do year-end closing is planned.

### **Annual Meeting Planning**

— Article Deadlines – End of August to Judie Birk

— Congregational Votes – New Council Members & Budget

— Presentation – power point document by next council meeting.

Council Member Transition Checklist - reviewed

Review Priority Tracking List – All

Articles for September Newsletter - reviewed

### September Meeting Topics:

Parsonage Mortgage

Finalize Council Member Transition Checklist

Approve Annual Meeting Presentation

### **Committee Reports**

#### Mission & Evangelism:

Members present at July 26, 2017 meeting: Pastor Terry, Sandy Pullen, Sue Samuelson, Judie Birk, Barb Macioch, and Joanne Stueven

1. Vacation Bible School had 24 children attend. Left over materials were shared with Glory Baptist or returned for refund. We did not have to spend the \$1000 budgeted as the donations from WELCA and individuals covered the cost.

2. We are continuing to explore Evangelism Training. The Stevens Training is not local and very expensive. Pastor Terry said we may get suggestions from the August 19 meeting with Pastor Amy from the Synod.

3. It will be suggested in an email to committee leaders that each committee send at least one representative to the August 19 Community Church event at St. John's at Cedarbrook. We have been asked to RSVP by Aug 14.

4. Mission and Evangelism will share information about how benevolence dollars were spent in 2016-17 and ask for suggestions for any changes to that list.

5. When the 2017-18 benevolence list is completed there will be an effort to have temple talk presentations from those selected organizations. Pastor Terry suggested the concept of a Temple Talk Fair where we invite the organizations to set up a display of information during coffee fellowship time.

6. Malmo Lions and Bethesda are considering a joint effort to provide a community Valentine's Day dinner at Bethesda. Sandy will present the idea to WELCA and Judie Birk will be a contact person as many members are gone South in February.

7. Judie is going to check the cost of creating some veggie stand banners to be used on Highway 47 during Veggie Stand hours.

Property Committee: Cement at front door is

heaving, will address the issue before the winter. Working on staining window sashes for replacement. Sound panels are scheduled for installation in the fellowship hall by the end of September.

### Stewardship & Finance:

#### STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE SUMMARY FROM AUGUST 9, 2017 MEETING

- Discussed church council additions/input concerning 2017-18 budget. Our recommendations are as follows: 1. Recommend that the \$6100 be reinstated for the lease of a copy machine. 2. Recommend that ELCA Synod benevolence (fund 760) be increased to 7% for next year, 9% for 2018-19 and to 10% for 2019-20. (The NE Synod requests that 10% of envelop and loose offering be shared with the synod to help support mission efforts, staff and facility cost and overall programming of the synod. After 15 years, the reasons for only sharing 5% with the synod do not seem any longer to be valid and our committee believes it is time to gradually increase our contribution to the ELCA.)
- Recommend that committees have input into designation of benevolence funds for next year and hopefully that information would be shared at the annual meeting. In the past committee chairs met to share suggestions from committee members and make a recommendation to council.
- Recommend that funds received in the Blessing Box for next year be distributed according to the following: First three months to Food Shelf, Second three months to Dara, Third quarter to Village of Hope Zambie, Fourth quarter to Feed My Starving Children. If approved by the council, stewardship would be responsible for putting notices in the bulletin and Lifeline and ask that the first Sunday of the month an announcement be made as to where the funds are going.
- The Edward Jones Vocational Scholarship is in the process of being moved to Aitkin Dollars for Scholars.
- The envelopes for giving for next year will include parsonage in the listing.

- Discussion on possible service projects for next year could include several trips to Feed My Starving Children
- Mission and Evangelism will be contacted and asked if pictures of new members could be posted.
- Discussion for the September meeting will be devoted to gathering information for Time and Talent. This would hopefully take place early fall.
- **Next meeting : Wednesday, September 6 1:00 PM** submitted by Pat Becker, chairperson

Worship & Music:

Members Present: Pastor Terry, Randy Tofteland, Carol Bakken, Tom Christensen, Paula Spetz, Jim Christensen, Sharon Whipple.

The meeting was held on August 3 and began with an opening prayer by Pastor Terry. Randy updated the committee that Pat Kullberg has resigned from the committee and that due to personal reasons Wally Swenson is taking a break from the committee. It was discussed and agreed to pursue at least one new member to replace Pat. The committee then reviewed plans for the upcoming August 6 Parsonage Celebration Service and confirmed all is ready to go. Randy updated the committee on status of pending projects including sanctuary painting and speaker replacement. The committee also reviewed the schedule for pulpit coverage for the Sundays of Aug 26 through September. It was discussed and agreed to move the September communions from the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays to the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays when Pastor Nathan Lundgren will be presiding. The committee then discussed and begin making plans to support the September Jamboree. It was agreed Paula & Tom would oversee the refreshments, Sharon advertising, Randy will check with Winnie on past needs and speak with Lynn Meidlinger about ticket sales, Gene Whipple will oversee the popcorn machine & that chair setup will be done by the jamboree participants following the final Wed evening rehearsal. Following a discussion of meeting topics for the September committee meeting and the reciting of the Lord's Prayer, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion was made to adjourn by Lee Forrester, seconded by Craig Kullberg, and passed.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, September 19 at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Braun for Judie Birk, council

**JULY 2017 TREASURER'S REPORT**

General Fund	MONTH	YTD
Income Actual	\$33,745	\$380,313
Income Budget	\$16,333	\$179,667
Expense Actual	\$16,954	\$321,756
Expense Budget	\$13,193	\$145,123
Over (Short)	\$16,792	\$58,557

**Women of the ELCA Meeting - Aug 15, 2017**

Chairwoman, Sandy Pullen opened the mtg with 15 members present. Refreshments were served by Lynn & Diane.

Devotions were given by Sandy Pullen. The purpose statement was read.

Secretary's report from the May 2017 mtg. was accepted as it appeared in the June newsletter. The treasurer's report was presented by Diane Jones. Bal on hand is \$6,427.76. Motion by Sue S. & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb F. to accept the report as printed. It was decided to keep the balance of money in the treasury until after the bazaar, then include some of it in the disbursement of the bazaar monies.

**Old business:**

Cheri Johnson was given a farewell gift & card as she will soon be moving. She has been a member of Bethesda since 1981. We will dearly miss you, Cheri.

Char gave an update on the craft preparations for the Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> bazaar. Sandy reported on the newly installed window shades in the fellowship hall.

Sue S reported on the new tablecloths. A day to iron them will be announced later.

Sandy & Sue reported on the Triennial Gathering held in June.

Next spring our Bethesda organization will send a box of projects to the Market Place at the Spring Gathering.

**New Business:**

From now on WELCA will be referred to as Women of ELCA.

Judy Forester has finished serving as buyer for the Women of ELCA kitchen purchases. She also has finished her work as a prayer chain leader. Darlene Christianson will take her place as prayer chain

leader. Barb F. & Elsa & Sue S. will take over as purchasers of the kitchen items. Thank you, Judy, for your years of service in these two jobs. A co-chairwoman is needed for the coming year for our chapter. Diane & Char will continue as treasurer & secretary respectively. The next mtg will be held Sept 13, 2017. Servers will be Barb & Elsa.

### **Benevolence Plan used 2016-17**

Global or NON-Local (comes from church envelopes or designated) Each gets 20%  
1. Dara in Mozambique 2. Zambia (Julie Swaggert's Organization) 3. Feed My Starving Children 4. Hope Lodge 5. Russian Ingrian NE Synod

Local Organizations:  
(Comes from veggie stand, blessing box, designated donations). 20% to each

1. Aitkin Co. Human Services
2. True Friends Camp
3. Camp Onomia
4. Bethesda Emergency Fund (gift cards from Malmo Store in Pastors desk)
5. Christmas Caring and sharing (food cards at Christmas)

The above list indicates where our benevolence dollars were sent this past year. WELCA also has many causes that they support. The Mission and Evangelism committee is open to suggestions from individuals who may want to recommend a deserving organization. Please contact Joanne Stueven or leave your suggestions in the Mission and Evangelism mailbox.

**Sunday, September 24th**  
**Congregation Meeting 10:00 am**  
**in the Sanctuary •**  
**Approving Budget**  
**Electing Officers**



**Military board** Do you have a relative or friend who is an active veteran? We would like to have a photo and short story to display on the military board in fellowship hall. I will be updating it soon, so if there are any corrections or additions. Please let me know. Dianne Jones

- *If God is your copilot, swap seats.*  
—Bumper sticker

### **WOMEN'S DEVOTIONS MONDAY, SEPT. 11**

Please consider joining us as we begin a new Bible study using the ELCA Gathering magazine for women of the Lutheran church. We meet once a month at 9:00 in the morning at the home of Pat Becker. It is a time for sharing, for prayer and for studying God's word.

### **Bethesda Scholarship**

Thomas Petersen, son of Dennis & Joan Petersen, has been awarded a \$500 scholarship from the Bethesda Church of Malmo scholarship fund. Thomas will be attending St. Cloud Technical Community College in St. Cloud. He will be majoring in Automotive Technology. Congrats to Tom as he enters the "world after high school."

**SAVE THE DATE** – The men's fishing trip is scheduled for January 22-24. This is a different week than usual, so make sure you mark your calendars. If you have any questions please contact Wally Swenson 218-678-2508 or Ron Mehlhop 507-276-0798. There is room for 26 men.

**Check out Bethesda's web site** to view Sunday digital bulletins, gospel and sermons, find or submit prayer requests, recent events and more! Check us out today, and bookmark this site to your favorites! [www.blcmalmo.org](http://www.blcmalmo.org)

**"Like us on Facebook!"**  
Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo



## Help! We need Coffee Servers for September and October

### POTLUCK & PRESENTATION

Sunday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am, at First Lutheran Church in Brainerd (424 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Brainerd, MN), there will be a discussion on the impact and response to “Sexual Exploitation & Sex-Trafficking in Minnesota”. Family Potluck: 11:30am - Presentation: 12:30 pm.

Sponsored by the Women of the ELCA, Thrivent Financial, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, & Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota.

### Women's Devotions & Bible Study Meets

#### Monday, September 11

"All Anew" is a three-session Bible study written by Kelly Fryer who lead a Bible study and workshop at the Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis this July. The study will challenge and cause us to reflect on what it means to follow Jesus.

**Session one:** Say goodbye to nice–Nice is not the same as good. Making nice is what you do to avoid upsetting people. But Good knows there are more important things than your reputation, your balance sheet and whatever else it is you count on to make you comfortable. Good does what matters.

**Session two:** Stand with the least of these–God requires of those who live in privilege and comfort to recognize what God is up to and join in. God is on a mission to love, bless and save the world. If we are going to be a part of that mission, here is where it begins: Among the poor and those who have been displaced and disenfranchised.

**Session three:** Upending the tables-What is our responsibility when the very systems that have been put in place to protect people and make sure justice is done become tools to oppress? Do we just stand by and allow injustice to continue?

If you are interested in joining this challenging Bible study, let Pat Becker know so that enough copies of the study will be available. We meet from 9:00- 11:00 AM



Join the team!

Sign up to mow the church lawn!

## Thank you

THANK YOU! To all the cooks and bakers of the church who so bigheartedly provide bars, cookies and other baked goods for Funerals, Veggie Stand and Special Events. Your selfless acts of kindness and generosity are truly appreciated.



THANK YOU – Deep, heartfelt appreciation is extended to all those who tended Bethesda’s lawn and gardens this summer. Thank you to the planters, weeders, waterers, mowers, etc. who kept Bethesda beautiful. God’s blessings to you all!  
Memory Garden Committee

## EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

### POLKA SUNDAY



Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> for Polka Sunday. There will be one service only that day at 10:00am with a live area Polka Band, The Johnson Chicks, providing the music. Come for a fun service and help us make a joyful noise.

Join us on Thursdays at 12:30 to play 500 or dominoes! Join in on the fun and potluck!



Double Pinochle has started at 1:00 p.m. at church on Monday’s. It is great fun! If you want to learn how to play, we’ll be happy to teach you how.



### The Loan Closet

Bethesda's Loan Closet has medical equipment such as walkers, crutches, commodes, toilet risers, wheelchairs, etc that is available to members who want to borrow them on a short term basis.

If you have medical equipment that is in a good workable condition that you would like to donate or if you need to borrow a piece of equipment contact the Parish Nurses.

## Peace in the valley

On May 2, 1976, 300 descendants of the feuding families known as the Hatfields and the McCoys gathered together in a cemetery at Hardy, Kentucky. Their goal was to end the feud which had caused numerous deaths and woundings in each family. Two ministers, one a Hatfield and the other a McCoy, were the catalysts for what they called "peace in the valley."

There have been many reunions of the two families since that date. There have even been several marriages between members of the two families. You never know what peace in the valley might bring forth.

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmö  
21590 State Highway 47  
Isle, MN 56342

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Permit No. 25  
Aitkin, MN 56431

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## 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



Church  
Fax  
Toll Free

Bethesda Telephone Directory

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