

Bethesda Life-Line



2017

Worship Services*

Sunday 8:30 & 10:00

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.



Dec. 3...Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM
Communion

Dec. 10 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM

Dec. 17 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Cantata

Dec. 24 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
3:30 & 5:00 PM

Dec. 25 Christmas Worship 10:00 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

Dec. 2 WELCA Christmas Party!
Dec. 3 First Sunday of Advent
Dec. 17 Christmas Cantata



Dec. 17 Cantata 9:00am
One service only until Easter

Christmas Day Potluck Dinner

If you find yourself alone this Christmas Day, why not join others in the same situation. Plan to participate in a Potluck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall following the Christmas Day Service. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex with a suggested menu or feel free to bring your favorite dish to share. Ham will be provided

Quilt Sale

On December 3rd between services there will be a quilt sale. The quilters have marked down their goods so you could have bargains for Christmas!

HOLIDAY BAZAAR 2017 RESULTS

A special thank you to all who attended the bazaar as well as provided goods & services. After a blustery day of wind & 5" of snow, the weather calmed & people came out in droves to see what the bazaar held in store for them this year. Monetary results are as follows:

Cookie walk	\$1,099.00
Bake sale/lefse	1,986.00
Fresh lefse	103.00
Kitchen counter	778.05
Crafts & quilts	7,125.50
Raffle (parsonage deck, etc.)	1,577.00
TOTAL	\$12,668.55

Credit card purchases of \$2,149.30 were the most ever made at our bazaar.

SNOWBIRDS Before you leave to head to **Warmer climates** please let Mary or Jenny in the office know your forwarding address and the dates you will be gone (Telephone No./e-mail too?) so that we may get your newsletters and any other information to you. If you can't find Mary or Jenny, just leave a note on the secretary's desk with the pertinent information.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS – The tree is up in the Narthex ready for donations for Aitkin County youth, ages 0-18 years. Help trim the tree with hats, mittens, scarves, or any other unwrapped gifts that are age appropriate. Dead line for donations is Sunday, December 10th.

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

Minutes of November 17, 2017, Council Meeting

In attendance: Mary Braun, Melody Lackner, Ron Mehlhop, Judie Birk, Kathy Berland, Ron Haglund, George Smith, Jenny Schuett and Pastor James Muske.

The meeting was called to order by council president Ron Mehlhop. Pastor James Muske gave opening Devotions.

Secretary's Report:

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the October meeting minutes by George Smith, seconded by Mary Braun, and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for October was presented by Mary Braun. Motion was made by Melody Lackner to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jenny Schuett and passed.

Pastor's Report:

We welcomed our new pastor, James Muske, to the council with introductions.

Old Business:

Parsonage Construction Update — Parsonage pretty much done, except for the storm doors and the landscaping which will be done in the spring.

Mortgage Loan payments — A recommendation from the Stewardship Committee (see their report below) on paying the mortgage loan off was discussed. A motion to pay \$30,000 from our savings account towards the parsonage loan and to continue our monthly payments was made by Mary Braun. The motion also states that after the mortgage is paid in full, pledges and gifts received for the parsonage will go to pay back the \$30,000 into our savings account. Motion was seconded by Kathy Berland and passed.

New Business:

Jerry Morris attending meeting — Jerry presented on the Bethesda Road Clean Up for mile markers 104 to 106 for our church. He wants someone to take over the responsibilities. Notice has been advertised in the newsletter. Mary Braun stated that there were ten names

on the time and talent sign-up that would volunteer. It was suggested we still keep this project and will hopefully get someone to organize it.

Hall Rentals for non-profits organizations. Charge or not charge? We reviewed the policies for the Building/Equipment Use Policy. It was decided that licensed non-profits with at least one church member would be considered member rate. The policy will also include a cost for the off-site rental of tables and chairs.

Administrative Tasks:

Change Signature Authority on:

Bank Accounts and Safety Deposit Box signatures still need to be done. Pastor Muske suggested that we take an inventory of our safety deposit box. Edward Jones – Signature change has been done.

New Copier — we have money in the budget for a new copier. A new one is needed as we are having weekly maintenance. It's possible to get a used one for \$1300. Council approved.

Pending Major Tasks to Accomplish

Install & On Board New Pastor — Mary will talk with Brenda at the bishop's office to figure out the procedure for installing our new pastor.

Revise & Adopt New Constitution — George Smith gave a review of what he's been looking at for the new constitution. There have also been some new changes that the synod has made to the constitution, as of November 2017, to review. He needs more time to go over the new changes before presenting to council.

Church wide focused vision — suggested that Pastor James meet with Mary Vukelich.

Meet the Pastor James and update membership rolls several suggestions were discussed. The membership roll still needs to review more closely. Contact non-active members with pastor along with members. Suggest an active member to bring a non-active or non-member to a church activity or small group gathering. Get them to know our new pastor. Discussed members that are a distance away that are elderly and need rides. Suggested that we put in the newsletter if any members need a ride to church to let us know. We could look for volunteers in our Time and Talent sheet.

Building Maintenance Coordinator — Ron Mehlhop presented a Building Maintenance Coordinator job description to the council. The purpose of this coordinator would be to maintain the church property in a working and safe condition. A

notice will be in the newsletter. A motion was made to accept the position of a building maintenance coordinator by Mary Braun and seconded by Ron Haglund.

Committee Reports:

Property Committee:

Ron Mehlhop reported that he got a report from Lee Forrester that the septic blankets and five window sashes were installed. Also the water heater relief valve was replaced.

Discussed rewriting loan policy and sign out sheet (table and chairs, etc.) Also discussed recycling procedures. A Building Maintenance Coordinator job description was created to send to the council.

Stewardship & Finance:

From meeting November 9:

- Discussion on the parsonage mortgage: Our mortgage will be \$65,381.40 with monthly payment of \$1,104. Our recommendation --to borrow \$30,000 from church savings fund 102 and pay toward the mortgage. This will reduce the amount of monthly interest. The monthly payment of \$1,104 will also be paid. After the mortgage is paid in full, pledges and gifts received for the parsonage will go to pay back the savings account.
- Discussion on Spiritual Gifts (Time and Talent): We received fewer than 60 returns with many active members missing. Because of the low turnout of returned forms, stewardship will be discussing a new approach to involving church members in service opportunities and discipleship. Responses received so far will be shared with respective groups.
- Mary Braun shared that the council will be discussing and adopting a policy for use of the church especially the fellowship hall and kitchen.
- Discussion on communion servers: We like the idea that more people are assisting in serving communion and we would like to encourage whoever is in charge of getting servers to continue to ask more people. We also recommend that servers be given the appropriate wording to use on a card and that they look at individuals when serving communion.

Next meeting Monday, Dec. 4 1:00 pm, submitted by Pat Becker

Worship & Music:

Members Present: Randy Tofteland, Carol Bakken, Paula Spetz, Sharon Whipple and Julie Swaggert The meeting was held on November 6 and began with an opening prayer by Randy. The committee discussed the recent music exchange with the Methodist church and agreed that this music exchange program was something that would be good to continue. The committee discussed the upcoming cantata and agreed that given it will only be held at one service a wide promotional effort was inappropriate given we want to ensure sufficient room in the sanctuary for our members. The committee agreed to host the coffee hour following the cantata on Dec 17. The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to planning our December meeting and the development an agenda for our first meeting with Pastor James. Following the reciting of the Lord's Prayer, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion was made to adjourn by George Smith, seconded by Mary Braun, and passed. The council closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next council meeting will be December 15 at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.

September Treasurer's Report

	September	YTD
Income		
Actual	\$24,399	\$41,125
Budget	\$17,021	\$34,042
Expense		
Actual	\$37,327	\$55,722
Budget	\$16,369	\$32,738
Over/Short	-\$12,928	-\$14,597

NEED VOLUNTEER to assume the job duties of the ditch clean up that is done twice a year. Please speak with Jerry Morris if interested.

*I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all year.
—Charles Dickens*

Women of the ELCA Meeting – November 15, 2017

Chairwoman, Sandy Pullen, opened the mtg. w/21 members present. The luncheon prayer was read. Refreshments were served by Carolyn M. & Jan O. Jeannine gave devotions. The purpose statement was read.

The Sept. secy's report was approved as written in the Oct. newsletter.

Dianne gave the treasurer's report with a bal. on hand of \$18,569.61. Motion by Sue S & 2nd by Barb F to accept the report. Motion passed

Old business:

Char gave an update on the bazaar.

The Women of the ELCA Christmas luncheon will be held Dec. 2nd at noon. Cheryl

Whitcomb will speak. Motion by Char & 2nd by Sheryl to give her \$100. Motion passed.

Setup for luncheon will be Dec. 1st @ 2:00..

Jeannine reported on the Fall Heartland Conference on Oct 12th at Cross Lake. A

Conference project for 2018 is to put together "newborn" kits. The spring gathering

Will be June 4-6 at Sugar Lake Lodge.

Jeannine & Sandy will continue on as co-presidents.

Also Dianne as treasure & Char as secretary.

Motion by Sue & 2nd by Cheryl to accept the slate of officers. Motion passed.

New business:

A list of suggested recipients of 2017 bazaar monies was made & will be voted on including the amounts of money that will be given to each at the Jan, 2018 mtg.

Motion by Pat Becker & 2nd by Bev Swenson to give \$3,000 to Hurricane Relief ELCA in America. Motion passed. We will request that \$2,000 go to Puerto Rico & \$1,000 to Texas & Florida.

The 2017 raffle money was designated for parsonage use, starting w/deck expenses.

Motion by Pat Becker & 2nd by Darlene C to give \$300 each for 4 children thru the Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry. Motion passed.

Sharon Whipple reported on the Lions' pancake breakfast held Nov. 11th. The Lions will work with Bethesda to host a Sweetheart party on Feb. 10th from 4-6 pm @ Bethesda.

The next mtg. will be held Jan 17th, 2018 @ 9:30. Lynn & Elsa will serve refreshments.

Mtg. was adjourned. Char Berg, secy.

Benevolence Updates December 2017

As you know Bethesda gives our benevolence dollars to 5 local and 5 global charities. The global dollars come from the benevolence line on your weekly envelopes. The local Dollars come from the veggie stand, blessing box donations and by writing local benevolence on "other" area on envelope. If at any time you want to specify your donations you can do so by indicating that on your envelope. In November you had an opportunity to learn about Village of Hope and Lutheran Global Partners as well as our local Christmas Sharing and Bethesda's Emergency Fund. In December you will hear about Dara's Mission in Mozambique.

During the first weeks of December there will be a suggestion box in the narthex. We ask church members to share names of local families who could use food or gas during the holiday season. 20% of last year's veggie stand and blessing box (or any \$ designated to local or Christmas Sharing) money is divided up and given in form of grocery/gas gift cards.

Another 20% of local benevolence is kept in the office for local emergencies. Those in immediate need of gas or food are offered a gift card from Malmo Market. These requests go through office personnel and / or the Pastor.

The remaining 3 local charities are Aitkin Co. Human Services, True Friends Camp McGregor, and Camp Onamia. They will be invited to share their stories. We will also invite the 2 remaining global charities Feed My Starving Children and Russian Ingrian Church NE Synod to make a Temple Talk presentations at a later date.



Thank You Wally

The Worship & Music Committee would like to thank Wally Swenson for all his years of service on the Worship & Music Committee. We will miss your humor and insights Wally, but we wish you the best and appreciate all you did for the church and our committee. Well done good and faithful servant of Christ.



**Quilters receive \$250
From Thrivent Financial**

The quilters have been awarded \$250 dollars as seed money to buy fabric for their next round of quilting. This money is from Thrivent Financial which is a member organization of Christians. Thrivent Action Teams are one of the ways they help strengthen the places we work, live and worship. There will be a quilt sale between services on December 3rd. Our quilters make more than 50 quilts a year. Many are sent to Lutheran World Relief, given to our graduates, baptisms, sold at our Holiday Bazaar and sent to our ELCA Gatherings.

The quilts have also been donated to the Aitkin County Sherriff's office for children in need, lap quilts to area nursing homes and baby quilts were sent to Rockport, TX following Hurricane Irma.

Operation Christmas Child

On Sunday November 5th shoeboxes were packed to be sent to needy children around the world. Along with the boxes that had been packed during VBS in June we had a total of 63 boxes. Thanks to donations from VBS and Ron and Carol Hass we had enough money for postage to send all 63 boxes and provide a follow up program called "The Greatest Journey" for 25 children. A big thank you to Emily, Will and Mary Vukelich, Natalie, Matthew and Joanne Stueven, Cole Trotter, Jeannine Bruesewitz and Judy Wurio for packing boxes.

Christingle

On Saturday, December 2nd the Aitkin United Methodist Church is presenting a Christingle program at 4:30pm. Christingle means "Christ Light" and is used to celebrate Christ's light in the world. This Christmas program originated in Germany and will consist of storytelling by Bill Kimes, retired Drama Department Head at Hamline University, Christmas carols and each participant will receive their own Christingle to take home. For more information contact Darlene Christensen. Sundays in January and February, one service only at 9:00, coffee hour to follow.

From the Parish Nurses

It is flu season so here are some important things to remember:

- Get your flu vaccine-it's the best way to help you fight the flu and it's not too late to get one
- Try to avoid contact with sick people
- Flu symptoms include fever of 100 degrees or greater, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, chills, headache
- If you think you may be getting the flu stay at home and avoid close contact with others. Drink plenty of fluids to keep hydrated
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue cough into the crook of your elbow or sleeve
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol based hand gel to clean your hands
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth-this is how the flu virus spreads
- Clean and disinfect areas that may be covered with the flu virus

The Bethesda Choir Cantata

The Bethesda Choir will be presenting the Cantata, **Bethlehem's Child** on **Sunday, Dec. 17th**, at **9:00 a.m.** This Cantata is a Story of Christmas - God becoming human with the most unlikely elements - an unlikely setting, the tiny Village of Bethlehem, an unlikely couple as supporting character, Joseph and Mary, an unlikely audience to broadcast the news of Christ's birth, common Shepherds & God chose a newborn Infant as the lead character in the life changing story of redemption, love and grace, Jesus, the Holy Child of Bethlehem!

Please come and hear this beautiful Christmas Story told thru wonderful music!

The choir is also doing a performance at **Aicota on Sat., Dec. 16th at 2:00 p.m.**, in the dining room, and we are planning on doing some Caroling on Sunday, Dec. 10th in the afternoon. I know this is a busy season, but it is also a very rewarding season celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ! Come and Celebrate with us!!



Activities & Events

December 2017

If anyone is unable to fulfill an assignment below, please find your own substitute or notify the coordinator

Ushers

by Skip & Lynn Hansen

	8:30	10:00
Dec. 3 & 10	Don & Donna Myhre	Dick, Sue Stebbins
Dec. 17	George, Kathy Larson	
Dec. 24	Early: Skip, Lynn H.	Late: Forresters
Dec. 25	Skip, Lynn Hansen	
Dec. 31	George, Kathy Larson	Darrell Kelly

Check list in office for when to light the Christ Candle
Don't forget the blessing boxes the first Sunday of every month!! If anyone is interested in ushering please contact Skip or Lynn

Lectors 8:30 (Paula Spetz) 10:00

Dec 3	Sue Samulelson	JoAnn Haglund
Dec 10	Darlene Christensen	Darlene Christensen
Dec 17	Cantata one service	9:00
Dec 24	Early Pat Becker	Late
Dec 25		
Dec 31	George Smith	

Altar Care by Dianne Jones

December & January Lynne and Dennis Meidlinger



Coffee Servers by WELCA

Dec 3	Bev, Wally Swenson, Lynne, Dennis Meidlinger
Dec 10	Jack, Paula Spetz
Dec 17	W & M Committee
Dec 31	

Greeters



Lynne Meidlinger

Dec 3	Wayne, Janice Olson
Dec 10	Ron, Joni Melhop
Dec 17	Rich, Marge Nelson
Dec 24	Chuck, Elsa Carlson
Dec 25	
Dec 31	Dennis, Lyne Meidlinger



ANNIVERSARIES

4-Dec	Ken & Penny Sjoquist
9-Dec	Dennis & Lucille Liljenquist
18-Dec	Larry & Kelly Liljenquist
27-Dec	Michael & Barbara Macioch
30-Dec	Mike & Ruth Parson



December

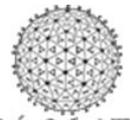
4-Dec	Judith Birk
4-Dec	Jean Bolke
4-Dec	James Falk
5-Dec	Elsa Carlson
6-Dec	Joan Niskanen
6-Dec	Anna Westerlund
8-Dec	Maynard Berland
9-Dec	Grace Iverson
11-Dec	Larry Darmer
13-Dec	Joseph Timmers
17-Dec	Dean Hanson
18-Dec	Dennis Liljenquist
18-Dec	Albert Samuelson
19-Dec	Roy Berry
20-Dec	Judith Forester
21-Dec	George Smith
23-Dec	Rollie Halvorson
23-Dec	Ronesha Keil
24-Dec	Carol Raymond
25-Dec	Laury Nyberg
26-Dec	Ruth Hamman
26-Dec	Edmund Simonson
28-Dec	Hanna Gordon
28-Dec	Neil Honl



December 2017

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>10:00 Bones 10:00 4H</i>	2 <i>Noon—WELCA Christmas lunch</i>
3 <i>8:30 & 10:00 Worship & Communion Quilt sale 1st Sunday in Advent</i>	4 <i>1:00 Pinochle 1:00 Stewartship 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</i>	5 <i>Noon: Pastor Text Study</i>	6 <i>8:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Stitchers 10:00 Property mtg 6:00 Cantata prac. 7:00 Praise Team</i>	7 <i>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 10:30 W & Music 12:30 Fun Timers</i>	8 <i>10:00 Bones</i>	9 <i>Foot care 1-4</i>
10 <i>8:30 & 10:00 Worship</i>	11 <i>9:00 Womens Devotions 1:00 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</i>	12 <i>Noon: Pastor Text Study</i>	13 <i>8:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Stitchers 6:00 Cantata prac 7:00 Praise Team</i>	14 <i>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 12:30 Fun Timers</i>	15 <i>9:30 Council 10:00 Bones</i>	16
17 <i>9:00 Cantata Worship</i> 	18 <i>1:00 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</i>	19 <i>Noon: Pastor Text Study</i>	20 8-12 WIC <i>8:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Stitchers 6:00 Praise Team Newsline</i>	21 <i>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 12:30 Fun Timers</i>	22 <i>10:00 Bones</i>	23
24 <i>9:00 Sunday Service</i> Christmas Eve <i>3:30 Early Service 5:00 Late Service</i>	25 10:00 Christmas Day Service Communion. Ham Dinner to follow Merry Christmas!	26 <i>Noon: Pastor Text Study</i>	27 <i>8:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Stitchers 6:00 Praise Team</i>	28 <i>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 12:30 Fun Timers</i>	29 <i>10:00 Bones</i>	30
31 <i>9:00 Worship</i>  <i>New Year's Eve</i>						

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmö
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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



Bethesda Telephone Directory

Church	blcmalmo@frontiernet.net	(320) 684-2123
Fax		(320)-684-2836
Toll Free		(877) 684-2123
Church Web site		blcmalmo.org
Facebook page		Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmö
Pastor	James A. Muske	(320) 684-2123
Council President	Ron Mehlhop	(320) 537-4948
Vice President	George Smith	(320) 537-1020
Parish Nurse	Darlene Christensen	(320) 684-2846
Parish Nurse	Kathy Berland	(218) 838-6181

To share articles and/or information, mail to:
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c/o Bethesda Lutheran Church