

Bethesda Life-Line

Worship Services*

Sunday 9:00

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.



**Jan. 7 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion**

Jan. 14 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM

**Jan. 21 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion**

Jan. 28 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. 4 Take Christmas tree down

Jan. 21 Pastor Installation

Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday



jänuäry
2018

Opportunity for Small Group Discussions

Stewardship will help facilitate small group discussions during fellowship hour following services in January. The small group discussions are a result of the results from the Time and Talent inventory that members filled out in September and October. There will be a special table set aside for those who signed up for these specific offerings. Others are welcome to participate in the discussion and or find out more about these programs. The purpose is to bring members together who have an interest and willingness to help in specific areas. Topics include: January 7- Feed My Starving Children, January 14- Nursing Home Outreach, January 21- Veggie Stand, and January 28 - Sunday Coffee Servers. Other small groups will be held in future months.

Come and participate in the discussions and volunteer efforts in service discipleship.



Faith, Health and Wellness

A meeting was held by the Faith, Health and Wellness committee. Present were Kathy Berland, Darlene Christensen and Carolyn Morris.

Discussions were: Blue Christmas Service, the visiting of members, cleaning and inventorying the loan closet, holding of Healing Services (tentatively scheduled for April, July and Oct on the 5th Sunday of the month), restocking the First Aid Kit, cleaning the nurses room, getting a blanket rack for the prayer shawls, doing a training on CPR again. Next meeting scheduled for the spring. A thank you to all the members who silently do their specific part of the duties of this committee. Carolyn Morris





Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo Minutes of December 15, 2017, Council Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order by council president Ron Mehlhop. Opening devotions were given by Pastor James Muske.

Secretary's Report:

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the November meeting by George Smith, seconded by Melody, and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Old Business:

- Administrative Tasks: Change Signature

Authority on:

Bank Accounts Safety Deposit Box — Mary Braun is going to get paperwork for Neighborhood Bank and Security Bank later today. Council suggested we only have one safety deposit box at Neighborhood Bank. She will also look into that.
Edward Jones – Done

- **New Copier** — Here and installed
- Pastor's new computer is here

New Business

- **Aitkin Grad Blast** — Council agreed to donate \$50 for this.
- Our church will be 100 years old in 2019, so we need to start thinking about that celebration. We will add this to our task list.
- Aitkin County Health & Human Services contacted Faith, Health and Wellness about a "National Disaster Inter-Faith Network" to see if our church is interested in participating. Kathy Berland will have the Faith, Health and Wellness committee look into this further.
- **House Blessing** — Pastor James suggested that as part of the Epiphany church season in January, we might see if members would want their houses blessed.

- **New members** — Pastor James has been in contact with a few people that are interested in joining our church.
- **New Picture Directory** — We will be looking at doing a new photo directory next year.

Pending Major Tasks to Accomplish

- **Install & On Board New Pastor** — January 21, 2018 9:00am -this would be a regular worship service with a representative from the Synod. Suggestion is to have several members of the congregation, along with a council member to give a blessing that day.
- **Meet with insurance agent in April to review coverage** — Ron Mehlhop and George Smith will plan to arrange this.
- **Revise & Adopt New Constitution** — George Smith has been in contact with Pastor Rollie Bockbrader, NE Synod chairperson, regarding changes in the Synod Constitution.
- **Update member rolls** — Pastor came up with a script that could be used for volunteers to use when calling members that haven't attended in awhile. In January, we will plan to go over the member roll. Council members, along with the Mission and Evangelism committee, will be asked follow up on this.
- **Advertising Christmas hours** — Information was sent to the newspapers, but unfortunately it didn't get in. Pastor has been interviewed by the Messenger/Age for an article on his new installation as pastor here at Bethesda.
- **Time and Talent Update** — Small group meetings will be taking place after the first of the year.

Committee Reports:

Mission & Evangelism:

Members Present: Pastor James Muske, Judie Birk, Sandy Pullen, Barb Macioch, and Joanne Stueven. We welcomed Pastor James and shared our job description as a means of letting him know the responsibilities of Mission and Evangelism. Since job descriptions are being updated, we made some additions for final review.

We reviewed the status of Temple Talks saying they will resume in spring when more members are home.

There may be a need to confirm a plan for keeping in contact with church visitors. After they visit they receive a welcoming letter. Then, Pastor will give a

follow up call and suggest a visit. As a need or desire for a visitation team arises Pastor will contact our committee and we will recruit volunteers. This is a work in progress as Pastor James gets acquainted.

Cross/Generation Education will be explored as we do have 5 elementary age and 2 confirmation age children. We shared the names of the students and will explore activities that may include all ages and maybe other churches.

Judie will work on an advertisement post card with upcoming events and dates to be shared next spring. The local paper will come to interview Pastor James sometime soon.

We will research vendors and plan to start work on a new directory after Bible School next June. (Vacation Bible School 3rd full week of June 18-22)

Our December projects are underway:

1 Aitkin Co. Christmas gifts will be taken in Dec. 11
2. ELCA Giving and Heifer International Giving displays will be put in Fellowship Hall. Pastor James will give information in announcements Dec 10

3. The Christmas Care \$ will be divided among names received in suggestion box. Food and gas cards will be mailed week before Christmas

Property Committee:

There were a couple people that applied to the new position.

Lee is checking on costs of electric heat.

Stewardship & Finance:

Worship and music will take the lead on the wording to go on cards for those who serve communion.

Approximately 85 Time and Talent forms were returned. Stewardship will help facilitate small group discussions during coffee hour in January. Topics include: January 7- Feed My Starving Children, January 14- Nursing Home Outreach, January 21- Veggie Stand, and January 28 - Sunday Coffee Servers. There will be a special table set aside for those who signed up for these specific offerings. Others are welcome to participate in the discussion and/or find out more about these programs. The purpose is to bring members together who have an interest in and willingness to help in these specific areas. Other small groups will be held in future months. Reminders of the coming

discussions will be posted in the Sunday bulletins and in the narthex.

Discussion on the program entitled The Daniel Plan to hopefully be offered during the Lenten season. Mary Vukelich will facilitate. More information in the February newsletter.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 10 at 1:00 pm. Agenda will include review of the budget, Time/Talent discussion and The Daniel Plan.

Submitted by Pat Becker, facilitator

Worship & Music:

Members Present: Pastor James, Randy Tofteland, Carol Bakken, Tom Christensen, Jim Christensen, Paula Spetz, Sharon Whipple and Julie Swaggert via phone.

The meeting was held Dec. 7 and began by the committee welcoming Pastor James and an opening prayer led by him. Skip Hanson joined the meeting to discuss recent feedback that he had received on how to better prepare communion assistants. After discussion, it was agreed that the church office will prepare some laminated cards that would be available at the altar with the preferred words to be spoken as the sacraments are served. Pastor James also agreed to serve the communion assistants before serving the congregation in order to better prepare the servers. Skip also presented an overview of all of the ushering responsibilities he and Lynn oversee which the committee appreciated so that it can be memorialized for future needs. The committee thanked Skip and Lynn for all they do in their oversight of the ushering. The committee discussed plans for hosting the coffee fellowship on Dec 17 and agreed each committee member would bring one dozen cookies. The committee reviewed feedback regarding the change to include one contemporary song during each worship service and agreed to continue that amount of contemporary music for now. The committee reviewed and discussed plans to move to one worship service beginning on Dec. 17, the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services and agreed that we will return to two services for Easter on April 1. The committee reviewed for Pastor James its job description, Bethesda's past major events the committee has typically led for the church and recent activities and priorities of the committee. The committee also held a round table discussion with Pastor James regarding his preference in matters such as; number of scripture readings,

reciting versus singing the liturgy, congregants versus pulpit supply for his absences, process for picking out hymns and audio visual technology. The committee agreed it made sense to give Pastor James some time to better understand the environment of the church before making too many decisions on these matters now and agreed to revisit these questions again in the spring. A question about the wooden sheep decorations that previously were in the sanctuary was raised by one of the members and a discussion was held as to where they could be best used. It was agreed that they could be best used in the fellowship hall to enhance the spiritual environment there and Randy agreed to suggest that to the property committee. The committee also discussed writing a short thank you article for the newsletter to thank all the volunteers that fulfill duties the committee is responsible for throughout the year and Randy agreed to do that. The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to planning our January meeting which will focus on winter planning. Randy suggested that would be a good time for a change of Committee Chair if someone was feeling called to take this responsibility. Following the reciting of the Lord's Prayer, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion was made to adjourn by Judie Birk, seconded by Mary Braun, and passed. The council closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next council meeting will be January 19 at 9:30 am.
Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.

Treasurer's Report

	November	YTD
Income Actual	\$17,116	\$58,241
Income Budgeted	\$17,021	\$51,062
Expense Actual	\$12,937	\$68,659
Expense Budgeted	\$16,369	\$49,107
Over/(Short)	\$ 4,179	\$(10,418)

We need coffee servers, please sign up

Thank you to Lynne and Denny Meidlinger for donating all the groceries needed to serve the lunch at our bazaar. !!!



Thank you to Tom Forester, Bruce Gingerich, Jim Lange and Dave Stueven for servicing the lawn mowers and snow blower so they will be ready for 2018. The property committee appreciates your dedication.

The Worship and Music Committee would like to thank the many volunteers who help us fulfill the many Church tasks required throughout the year. This includes all who assist in preparing the sanctuary, seasonal decorators, communion preparers, communion servers, musicians, office secretaries, ushers, greeters and lectors. We extend a special thank you to Skip & Lynn Hanson, Dianne Jones and Lynn Meidlinger for the leadership you provide in your areas of service. Neither the church nor our committee could function without you and we want you to know how much you're appreciated. Thank you good and faithful servants of Christ.

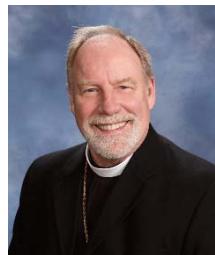
THANK YOU SUE STEBBINS

Do you enjoy reading the Life-Line newsletter every month? Ever wonder how all that work gets done to make it happen? Well if you didn't know, its Sue Stebbins who dependably puts it together month in and month out. Our Life-Line is an extremely important communication channel for our church and without Sue's hard work and leadership it wouldn't happen. So thank you Sue for all you do as you quietly go about your work to bring the Life-Line news and updates to us each and every month. Sue is also supported by the church office that assist in printing the newsletter each month including extra effort by Mary Braun to make sure the finished product is ready to go. Dianne Jones assembles workers to fold the bulletins and drives them into the Aitkin Post Office each month. So thank you Dianne, Mary & Jenny for your help on the Life-Line and for everything you do to make the church run smoothly.



A new small group is coming to Bethesda!! We will develop goals (you choose how many and what areas) around the following; *Faith *Food *Fitness *Focus *Friends! It is designed around The Daniel Plan! There will be preparing and eating of food, good food, involved!! Anyone can participate! Young or old! Single or hitched! Near or far! Guy or gal! Look for more information in the next month or contact Mary at mmvuke@yahoo.com; especially if you are a snowbird who might be interested in trying "remote attendance". Happy Holidays!





A Lutheran Understanding of Faith In the words of Bishop Aitken

1. Faith is a Gift. A gift of God's grace. It's not an achievement, and we don't pull ourselves up by our spiritual bootstraps. It's like "footie pajamas"; God gives us the faith clothes as a gift, and we get to grow into it!
2. Faith is a journey. Journeys have twists and turns, even wrong turns from time to time! Wherever we are on the journey, we are welcomed by God. (See Scripture stories like the woman at the well in the Gospel of John, or Joshua, Abraham, Sarah, Zacchaeus, Peter, Thomas, Simon the zealot, Mary Magdalene, etc...) All of these folks had their ups and downs, their good days and bad, their strengths and their weaknesses. All were invited to the faith journey—and never dropped for any reason.
3. God is not keeping a Report Card on us. This is true, even though we are to try to follow Jesus' way of life with our whole being. Lutherans know that each day is a new day of grace. Unlike "grades" God's relationship to us is not a matter of score-keeping. It's about simply trusting God; stepping boldly into faith and letting it propel us out into the real world. Grace trumps "grades."
4. God's love knows no limits. Jesus returned to the disciples after his resurrection, not to chastise or condemn them, but once again to empower them. From the cross, Jesus would rather die than condemn the ones who nailed him, or anyone else, including us.
5. Salvation is about wholeness. It involves our body, mind, and spirit and is about a transformation of our heart which is the center of our being.

6. Christianity is not "Believe now so I can go to Heaven later", but rather it is the abundant life God has in store for each of us right here, right now, in this life. And, of course, it extends into the life to come.

7. Though we sin, we are still made in the image of God. We have capacity for both destruction and goodness. Luther called this "saint and sinner" all wrapped into one, all at the same time, all the time, until the day we are face to face with our Lord.

8. God dares to trust us to share in God's work. (See Ephesians 2:10)

9. God is not embarrassed by our bodies. Jesus walked this earth like we do. We are not to try to escape life, but to embrace and steward it. God is reconciling and mending together God's creation, not destroying it. See the book of Ephesians, especially Ephesians 1:9-10

10. God Comes to us in the most ordinary ways: A Palestinian carpenter's son, and in bread, water, wine and word. (Luther also added that God works through the "communion of saints"; the fellowship and conversation of the sisters and brothers in Christ.)

11. God will use you: Not only use your strengths, but also your weaknesses. We are trained in this culture to believe only "winners" count and winning means those who dominate over others to rise to the top. The theology of the cross says God will work in ANY SITUATION, even in the most horrid, sad, and suffering places of our lives.

12. The Lord Jesus, the Son of God trumps all other "lords" no matter how compelling or appealing they may be. These Lesser "lords" today include:

- Any Government, King, or President
- Self-Reliance rather than trust
- Seeing faith as a transaction simply to "go to heaven"
- A set of doctrines
- An "infallible" leader or book of any kind
- My Country, My family, my ideologies, My Rights
- Faith that focuses only on the vertical dimension (me and God)
- The Military
- The false god of Materialism
- A theology that focuses only on "God up there" and not "God down here"

All Sunday services until April 2018 will be one service at 9:00 am

Activities & Events

January 2018

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

Ushers by Skip & Lynn Hansen

9:00

Jan.7 & 14 Ron, Joanie Mehlhop

Jan.21, 28 Nancy Hansen, Diane Sandberg

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 9:00 (Paula Spetz)

Jan.7 Pat Becker

Jan.14 Jeannine Brueswitz

Jan.21 Winnie Zahradka

Jan.28 Steve Lackner

Altar Care by Dianne Jones

January Lynne and Dennis Meidlinger

February is Dorothy and Keith Mundinger



Coffee Servers by WELCA

Jan.7 Chuck & Elsa Carlson, Lee & Barb Forrester

Jan.14 Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau

Jan.21

Jan.28

Greeters Lynne Meidlinger

Jan.7 Barry, Donna Ansell

Jan.14 Jerry, Pat Becker

Jan.21 Kathy, Maynard Berland

Jan.28 Char Berg, Bev Wedig



16-Jan Chuck & Elsa Carlson

19-Jan Richard & Linda Hansen

25-Jan Jack & Janice Feyo

25-Jan Ted & Ruth Jaszczak



January

1-Jan Dennis Bistodeau

1-Jan Hunter Westerlund

3-Jan Ardis Kendall

3-Jan Marilyn Samuelson

8-Jan Patricia Kullberg

8-Jan Wallace Swenson

9-Jan Alanna Tibbetts

10-Jan Holly Meleen

11-Jan Savannah Elliott

11-Jan Garet Meleen

12-Jan Joan Halvorson

14-Jan Michael Lofgren

14-Jan Eugene Whipple

16-Jan Corrine Becker

16-Jan Gloria Christensen

18-Jan Darlene Christensen

18-Jan Margaret Holmberg

19-Jan Carol Bakken

19-Jan Shirley Moe

20-Jan Audrey Bistodeau

20-Jan Warren Samuelson

21-Jan Keith Kellen

23-Jan Diane Calverley

23-Jan Will Petersen

23-Jan James Raisanen

24-Jan Patti Honnold

24-Jan Dave Stueven

26-Jan Bruce Gingerich

26-Jan Joanne Stueven

28-Jan Delano Jones

28-Jan Kristine Kral

28-Jan Kristin Penoyer

28-Jan Richard Seifert

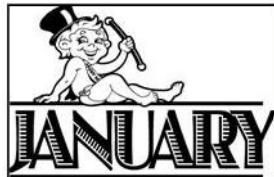
29-Jan Larry Liljenquist

29-Jan Janet Tousignant

29-Jan Winnie Zahradka

31-Jan Susan Darmer

31-Jan Katherine Larson



January 2018

Bethesda Calendar of Events



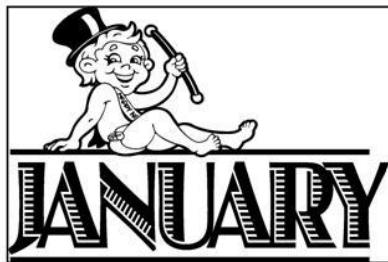
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2 <i>10-12 Pastor Text Study</i>	3 <i>8:00 Bible Study 9:30 Stitchers 6:00 Catechism 6:00 Praise Team</i>	4 <i>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 10:00 Take down Xmas tree 12:30 Fun Timers</i>	5 <i>10:00 Bones</i>	6 <i>Foot care 1-4</i>
7 <i>9:00 Worship & Communion</i>	8 <i>9:00 Women's devotion 1:00 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</i>	9 <i>9:00 Quilters 10-12 Pastor Text Study</i>	10 <i>8:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Stitchers 1:00 Stewardship 6:00 Catechism 6:00 Praise Team</i>	11 <i>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 10 Property com. 12:30 Fun Timers</i>	12 <i>10:00 Bones</i>	13
14 <i>9:00 Worship</i>	15 <i>1:00 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</i>	16 <i>10-12 Pastor Text Study</i>	17 8-12 WIC <i>8:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Stitchers 9:30 WELCA 6:00 Catechism 6:00 Praise Team</i>	18 <i>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 12:30 Fun Timers</i>	19 <i>9:30 Council Meeting 10:00 Bones</i>	20 Newstine Deadline
21 <i>9:00 Worship & Communion Pastor Installation</i>	22 <i>1:00 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</i>	23 <i>9:00 Quilters 10-12 Pastor Text Study</i>	24 <i>8:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Stitchers 6:00 Catechism 6:00 Praise Team</i>	25 <i>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 12:30 Fun Timers</i>	26 <i>10:00 Bones</i>	27
28 <i>9:00 Worship</i>	29 <i>1:00 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</i>	30 <i>10-12 Pastor Text Study</i>	31 <i>8:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Catechism 6:00 Praise Team</i>			

Men's Group fishing trip to Lake of the Woods

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

NON PROFIT ORG
Paid
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

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	https://www.facebook.com/BLCMalmo	
Pastor	James 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:
Sue Stebbins, Lifeline Editor
c/o Bethesda Lutheran Church