

Bethesda Life-Line

Worship Services*

Sunday 8:30 & 10 AM

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

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



April 1 Easter Sunday Worship

Communion 8:30 & 10 AM

April 8 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10 AM

April 15 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10 AM
Communion

April 22 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10 AM

April 29 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10 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

April 1 Easter Sunday-
8:30am & 10:00am Service (Communion)



Be sure and mark your calendars for
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
the week of **June 18 -22**



2018

Jelly/Jam making

It's time to start thinking about our annual jelly making again. The date has not been set but it will be sometime in May. The jelly will be sold at the veggie stand and all proceeds go to the benevolence fund. It's an important part of the veggie stand's income. We make about 400 jars of jelly/jam so many supplies are needed and we're asking for the congregation's help. We especially need 8 oz. jelly jars, Sure Jell, Certo, and sugar. Also needed are rhubarb and hot peppers. We ask that any donations be marked "jelly making" and brought to the kitchen by the end of April, so we can take inventory for buying any supplies that will still be needed. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

Isle High school food shelf donations

We will be collecting items for the Isle High School Food Shelf. These are non-perishable items that the school can have in stock to hand out to those unfortunate students who may be going home to a house that is short on food for the day or for the weekend.

Each month, we will be focusing on collecting 5 items from the below list of suggested items. We plan to deliver the items to the School at the beginning of each month.

APRIL

- Soup
- Oatmeal Packets
- Granola or Protein Bars
- Saltine crackers / Flavored crackers
- Cheez it or Cheez Wiz





Christ is risen, alleluia! He is risen indeed, alleluia!

Easter blessings to all of you! Whether you were able to worship with us in Malmo or spent the day elsewhere, I hope you had a wonderful day!

As we all have realized by now, this year Easter falls on April Fools' Day – a coincidence that no doubt worked its way into many pastors' sermons. Given Easter's status as the most important of all Christian holidays, perhaps this quirk of the calendar seemed a bit frivolous at best, and downright sacrilegious at worst. How can a holiday based around jokes and pranks ever compare with Jesus' death and resurrection and the salvation of the world?

Yet Easter is first and foremost a joyous occasion! Both Easter day and the season that follows highlights God's great act of love given to us in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and how that love changes the world. How could we do anything but smile on such a day?

But I think the connections might run even deeper. Our faith is meant to be transformative, and humor can be an important tool in inspiring change. Humor, at its best, tells a truth. More than just a vehicle for insults and innuendo, humor has the ability to reveal something about what it means to be a human being.

Even if we think back on the humor of our childhood, that brand of humor that is so often focused on bodily functions of one kind or another, even that kind of humor tells a truth. For a kid, as much as the enjoyment of that humor comes from watching our parents squirm, it also provides some comfort, some measure of catharsis. Kid's own bodies can be incredibly stress-inducing. Not that it entirely goes away as we get older, but the human body rapidly goes through all kinds of drastic changes in our youth. Humor found in burps and farts helps kids bring that stress to light and helps them to realize that they are not alone in their fears. We all deal with these "gross" and embarrassing realities, even though most adults learn to keep it to themselves as much as possible in polite company.

More adult kinds of humor work similarly – whether the joke concerns relationships or politics or matters of life and death, humor helps us see reality more clearly. It can poke fun at our fears, it can mock the powerful and those who might be a source of our stress, but it also connects

us to other people. Humor fights that tendency to hide our fears and put on a brave face. Humor deflates our ego and keeps us from pretending that our... well, you know what, doesn't stink. Humor, when misused, can be hypocritical and cruel, but the best humor delights in bringing our shortcomings into the light of day, so that it can say something true about what it means to be a human being. It is a great comfort to learn that we are not alone in even our most spectacular and creative screw-ups.

Communities of faith, at our best, are places of truth telling. In our churches, we learn about our God and we go out and share with others the truth about what kind of Creator we have that gave and continues to give us life. We also come to learn about ourselves and our place in God's world, and what that means for our relationship with God. We come to be honest about ourselves, finally and fully. We try to bring our fears and our shortcomings into the light, not to just dismiss them in an easy hand-wave, but to deal with them,

We tell truth about the unpleasant so that it no longer has a hold over us. Confess it before God and neighbor so that the fears, the nervousness, and our own guilt and shame no longer controls us. If good humor provides a taste of that freedom, so does good faith – combined with the Easter gift of Jesus Christ, good faith does that a thousand times over.

Jesus frees us from sin, knowing that we will still probably struggle with doing things we shouldn't and not doing things we should, but also knowing that, freed from having to win God's love, we will be free to more fully love God and all that God has created – ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.

So, don't be afraid to enjoy both Easter and April Fools – as the Psalmist sings: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth." The psalmist may have had singing and horns and lyres and clapping hands in mind, but probably wouldn't begrudge a good, hearty laugh.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor James Muske



TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income Actual	\$26,004	\$134,416
Income Budgeted	\$17,021	\$102,125
Expense Actual	\$12,467	\$121,230
Expense Budgeted	\$16,369	\$98,214
Over/Short	\$13,537	\$13,186



Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
Minutes of March 16, 2018, Council Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order by council vice president George Smith. Pastor James gave opening Devotions.

Secretary's Report:

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the February meeting by Mary Braun, seconded by Melody Lackner, and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for February was presented by Mary Braun. One concern was the church phones, but Mary has been working with Frontier to correct this. Mary also passed out the accounting for the costs of the parsonage. We will look over this more when Lee Forrester is back. Motion was made by Judie Birk to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jenny Schuett and passed.

Old Business:

Picture Directory is scheduled for August 15-18, 2018 through Lifetouch. We are waiting for them to connect with us. We are also planning a large church congregation photo to be included in the directory. A Sunday date will be planned for that.

Blessing Box to Feed My Starving Children for Feb & March then it will go back to Local Benevolence. Mary Vukelich will take a check down to Feed My Starving Children when the group goes there in April.

Bishop's Convention scheduled for Saturday, March 17 at Zion Lutheran in Grand Rapids. George & Patti Smith, Mary Braun & Pastor Muske are attending.

A form letter for visitors that will welcome them has been created and will be ready to send out. Jenny Schuett will keep track of the list.

Council approved an Application for scholarship submitted by Melody Lackner.

New Business:

Communications — Pastor James asked if we could consider doing e-blasts for special alerts or information to members that have given us their emails.

Council discussed the Unrestricted Memorial Funds and what should we be spending the funds on? A wall mounted TV for nursery was purchased and installed for members wishing to view the service while attending to their children in the nursery. Suggestion for a large screen TV or large screen projector for Fellowship Hall was discussed. Pastor James will look at options for the large screen projector vs. a large TV and present at next meeting. He will also talk with Jodi from Stewart Enterprises and present to the Worship and Music Committee.

Gift Certificates – how often should we be giving them out to the same person? Council discussed but did not have an answer. We could possibly give that same person a bag of food rather than money for one month and a gift certificate the other. We have decreased gift certificates from \$50 to \$25 to hand out. Mary also includes a list of other agencies that can help with each handout.

The Lenten shared ministry has been successful. Future shared opportunities should be considered. Pastor shared that W&M discussed other joint service worship with Faith Lutheran.

Facebook

Try to get more people that are on Facebook to like us! A poster was suggested. Pastor has been updating useful information on Facebook and our plan is to continue.

Pending Major Tasks to Accomplish

Ron Melhlop and George Smith will talk with insurance agent to review coverage in April.

Church's 100th Anniversary Celebration 2019 — organize a committee this summer.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship & Finance:

Attendance: Patti Smith, Pastor James Muske, Donna Ansell, Mary Braun

1. Financial reporting on Parsonage was discussed. Mary B. will continue discussion with Mary V. prior to next meeting.
2. Patti Smith presented Isle High School Food Pantry list of items needed. The list will be published in next month's newsletter. For now

we will focus on 5 items needed for March. The items and their purpose will be presented in the weekly bulletin through March with a collection basket located in the Narthex.

3. Nursing Home Visits: Pastor and Mary B. will assemble a list of names and places to visit and put them on a centrally located calendar for the parishioners to view and record participation.
4. Time and Talent names should be distributed to appropriate chair persons or people responsible for volunteer jobs.
5. Table Talks will resume in mid-April.
6. Note to congregation: If you are 70 ½ years old and have to take your MRD (minimum required distribution), if donated to the church, you won't be taxed on the distribution. Mary B. will confirm that before published.
7. Next month's meeting will be Wednesday, April 11th, at 1:00pm.

The Lord's Prayer was said and meeting was adjourned. Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Braun. Motion was made to adjourn by Mary Braun, seconded by Melody, and passed.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next council meeting will be April 20 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.



Thank you

Thanks to all of you that donated greeting cards for our Faith, Health, and Wellness monthly birthday greetings to our church members and those that are ill. Our bucket is full so please don't donate anymore for the time being.

Thanks Ruth



Our Prayers go out to the family of Marvin Berry who passed away on Friday, March 23rd. Also remembering the family of Ivan Peterson who passed away on March 4th.

NE MN Convention June 4th thru 6th 2018



Sugar Lake Lodge, Cohasset. Any ladies from Bethesda that are interested in going, please contact Dianne Jones and I can get you registered. The early bird registration deadline is

April 15th, last deadline is May 4th. Our WELCA meeting is not til April 18th. Think about going with a friend.



Help! We need Coffee Servers for April, May and June.

Please sign up so we may continue to have coffee in between the services, the sign up sheet is now on a board mounted in fellowship hall. We hope everyone serves at least once a year if not twice.



As spring cleaning gets under way, Lions clubs are asking people to donate their used hearing aids to the Lions Hearing Aid Recycling Program. To donate used hearing aids, carefully wrap

them and place in the basket for Lions hearing aid or eyeglass in the Narthex. Any questions contact Dick Stebbins



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is coming fast; June 18 thru 22.

SHIPWRECKED ---- rescued by Jesus
Day 1 We meet Melda who has moved here from Kenya, she meets a 'family' of friends.

Day 2 Shiloh is worried about starting a new school. Watch how Jesus rescues by providing warm new friends.

Day 3 When Hudson struggles in the water, Gunnar jumps in to rescue his buddy.

Day 4 Keizo forgot to return a video game to the library, ending up with a huge fine. The librarians showed grace and forgiveness.

Day 5 When Seth got sick, he could not run and play. He had to trust Jesus' power to get him through a hard time.

Memory Garden

The first day of spring has passed...it's time to order Memory Garden paver bricks! For those new to Bethesda, the Memory Garden is located in a quiet corner of our parish property, a beautiful meditation spot for prayerful summer hours. It connects to the Jim McCullough Nature Trail should you prefer a mini-walk in the "wildwoods".

The garden patio is comprised of paver's which can be purchased and inscribed to honor anyone who is or has ever been important in your life. You may choose to dedicate a paver with a Bible verse, hymn quote or any expression of praise to the Creator.

Happily, we have reached a preferred customer status with our paver company. All prices are subject to change, as of this writing, we can now offer small paver's up to 3 lines for \$25.00, large pavers up to 5 lines for \$35.00.

We hope to have all orders collected by mid-June. Orders forms are located in the narthex. Please submit orders to a church secretary or to Val Benton. They may also be placed in the office Memory Garden/Nature Trail mailbox.

God's blessings and "Happy Spring" to all!



Update on the upcoming Choir Season. We will be starting Choir Practice on April 4th at 6:00 pm, and will be singing "Jesus Messiah" on Sunday, April 15th. The Choir Practice dates for April are April 4th, April 11th, April 18th & April 25th at 6:00 pm and Praise Team at 7:00 pm following the Choir Practice.

I have been busy working on the Calendar for the Choir Season which goes from April to Dec., and have found a mixture of old & new songs to sing. I will be putting the choir schedule for each month in the Newsletter, along with what we will be singing, in hopes of keep us all on track on dates and times. Remember if there is anyone who loves to sing, and would like to join us on Wed. nights at practice please do so we would love to have you sing with us.

What is an RMD?

Once you hit age 70½, the IRS requires you to start withdrawing from—and paying taxes on—most types of tax-advantaged retirement accounts. You will also need to take RMDs from any retirement accounts you inherit. In most cases, RMDs are treated as ordinary income for tax purposes.

Can I donate my RMD to charity and avoid the taxes?

YES. These "qualified charitable distributions" (QCDs) will not be added to your taxable income for the year. ***They must go directly to a charity*** designated as qualified by the IRS. Making QCDs can be a great strategy for anyone who is charitably minded and does not need his or her full RMD. In many cases, it is more advantageous than taking the withdrawal and then donating it, because cash donations have deductibility limits. (Information taken from the website:

<https://investor.vanguard.com/investing/taxes/required-minimum-distributions>)

Making a QCD as opposed to a normal charitable gift has two main advantages. First, a QCD counts toward satisfying the individual's required minimum distribution for that year. Second, the distribution is excluded from the taxpayer's income. (Information taken from the website:

<http://www.investmentnews.com/article/20180103/FREE/180109989/new-tax-law-favors-charitable-giving-from-iras>)

Is Bethesda Lutheran Church a QCD?

YES! A charity must be a 501(c)(3) organization in order to receive tax-free IRA charitable contributions. Bethesda is a 501(c)(3) organization.

As always, consult your tax advisor or accountant to see if this is to your advantage.

As the Praise Team has been singing thru winter we have decided to take the month of April off, and work on new songs we will be singing in the next few months. Soon April 8th there will be regular church services, and then the Praise Team will be back on the second Sunday in May (May 13th). We hope all of our Snowbirds make it home safe and sound we hope to see you at Practice!!
Sheila Penoyer/Choir Director

Activities & Events

April 2018

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

Ushers

by Skip & Lynn Hansen

April 1 Easter Early: Skip, Lynn Hansen
Late: Chuck, Elsa Carlson

April 8 & 15 8:30 Rich Nelsons
10:00 Dick, Sue Stebbins

April 22 & 29 8:30 George, Patti Smith
10:00 Darrel 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



April 1 Tom & Gloria Christensen
April 1 Bill & Bonnita Turner
April 11 Richard & Judy Seifert
April 14 Keith & Dorothy Munding
April 24 Denny & Lynne Meidlinger
April 27 Wayne & Janice Olson

Lectors 8:30 (Paula Spetz) 10:00 Carol Bakken

April 1	Jeannine B.	
April 8	Val Benton	Val Benton
April 15	Winnie Z.	George Smith
April 22		George Smith
April 29	Darlene C.	Dick Stebbins



April 1 Ted Jaszczak
April 1 Heather Brummer
April 3 Scott Fox
April 4 Bev Swenson
April 4 Shirley Gosselin
April 4 Matthew Modrow
April 5 Samantha Turner
April 6 Merilee Swenson
April 8 Lee Forrester
April 8 Mitchell White
April 9 Patti Bradash
April 9 Barry Ansell
April 9 Renee Hanson
April 10 Betty Wagner
April 11 Richard Southworth
April 14 Jacqueline Neese
April 14 James Olsen
April 15 Jim Magedanz
April 15 Pam Norlander
April 16 Warren Rolek
April 20 Lyla Dooley
April 20 Lois Johnson
April 20 Curtis Lindberg
April 21 Donna Metteer
April 21 Michelle Elias
April 23 Paige Dressely
April 24 Marty Dressely
April 24 Dale Petersen
April 25 Audrey Kullberg
April 25 Mark Korngable
April 25 Lucille Liljenquist
April 26 Craig Bradash
April 26 Val Benton
April 27 Joyce Keil
April 28 Kristine Grap
April 29 Ron Keil
April 29 Shane Miles

Altar Care by Dianne Jones

April Chuck and Elsa Carlson
May Shirley Gosselin



Coffee Servers by WELCA

April 1 Donuts provided by the Church
April 8 Chuck, Elsa Carlson, Jerry, Pat Becker
April 15 Sylvia Tapelt, Jenny Schuet, Merrily Jones, Mary Braun
April 22 Bev, Wally Swenson
April 29 Bruce G. & Carol S., Dennis & Lynne Meidlinger

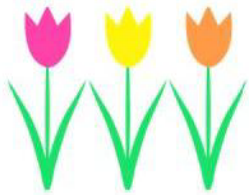


Greeters Lynne Meidlinger

April 1 Kathy, George Larson
April 8 Barry, Donna Ansell
April 15 Charlie, Jackie Follner
April 22 Pay, Jerry Becker
April 29 Ron, Joni Melhop

Recycling

April..... Chuck and Elsa Carlson
May..... Ron and JoAnn Haglund
June..... Ray Piispanen
July..... Lee and Barb Forrester



April 2018

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 </p> <p>8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship</p> <p>Easter Sunday Communion</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1:00 Pinochle</p> <p>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10-12 Pastor Text Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitches</p> <p>6:00 Praise Team</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 10:30 W & M</p> <p>12:30 Fun Timers</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 Bones</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1-4 Footcare</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 Women's Devotions 1:00 Pinochle</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 Quilters 10-12 Pastor Text Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitches 1:00 Stewardship 6:00 Choir 7:00 Praise Team</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s</p> <p>12:30 Fun Timers</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 Bones</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship</p> <p>Communion</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1:00 Pinochle</p> <p>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10-12 Pastor Text Study</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8-12 WIC 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitches</p> <p>6:00 Choir 7:00 Praise Team</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s</p> <p>12:30 Fun Timers</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 Council 10:00 Bones</p> <p>Newsline Deadline</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1:00 Pinochle</p> <p>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 Quilters</p> <p>10-12 Pastor Text Study</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitches</p> <p>6:00 Choir 7:00 Praise Team</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s</p> <p>12:30 Fun Timers</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00 Bones</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1:00 Pinochle</p> <p>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</p>					

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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 Malmo
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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