

Bethesda Life-Line

Worship Services*

Sunday 8:30 & 10 AM

Service of Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday of each month.

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



August 5 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10 AM
Communion

August 12 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10 AM
Communion

August 19 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10 AM
Communion

August 26 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10 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

August 12 1st Lutheran Church of Aitkin Praise Choir will be playing here.

August 15 -18 LifeTouch photos

August 17 Council meeting at 9:00 am.



LIFETOUCH PHOTOGRAPHY will be here on August 15-18 to take pictures for our new church directory. To schedule an appointment go to our web site (blcmalmo.org) and find the link to schedule your appointment time. You may also call one of the secretaries during normal working hours (M-F 11:00am -3:00pm). If you have your photo taken by Lifetouch, you will receive a single complementary photo and 1 picture directory per family that will be free. If you miss the scheduled times with Lifetouch, you can still be in the directory, but the cost of the directory to you maybe \$10. So be sure to schedule your appointment with Lifetouch! There are special discount coupons available in the Narthex that you can use if you wish to purchase additional photos from Lifetouch.



Be sure to visit the Memory Garden and view the lovely diamond willow cross/trellis designed, constructed and installed by Troy Nyberg. What a beautiful addition...thanks Troy!



From the Pastor

“This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24

Like parasailing or ballroom dancing or knitting my own sweaters, while I am not opposed to the concept, I must admit that I am not a regular reader of poetry. Reliably, however, over the last several summers I have found myself pulling down one of the few books of poetry I own from the shelf – an anthology of the poems of Mary Oliver.

Mary Oliver's poems frequently feature observations from nature or touch on matters of spirituality, or both at the same time. A poem published back in 1990 is one of her most famous:

The Summer Day
Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean-
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up
and down-
who is gazing around with her enormous and
complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly
washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the
fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

It is perhaps most famous for its final sentence, and it is easy to see why. We often waste so much time in our lives on empty and meaningless gestures. On petty jealousies, on grudges, on stubbornness and anger and judgment. A simple and straightforward reality check, when we find ourselves in these dark mental states, is to ask ourselves why, in my far-

too-short life, should I waste my time on anything that does not bring more love into this world?

But I am also fond of that bit near the beginning - “Who made the grasshopper? This grasshopper, I mean- the one who has...” It reminds me of Psalm 118 (and the song based on it) - “this is the day that the Lord has made!” The psalmist may have originally had some apocalyptic day of judgment in mind, but I don't think it is too much of a stretch to take comfort not just in that day, but in this day. In this literal day. Similar to our series in 1 John last month that talked about how faith is meant to be lived out, not just lived in our heads, so too does faith concern itself with specifics.

So that when we think upon this day, whenever that day is, today is a day that the Lord has made, just like how God made this grasshopper. This specific one that has fluttered into my life as I stroll through my garden. So too God made us, not just “us” in a generic sense, but God made you and me, in all of our specificity. God watches over and speaks a word of love to each and every living thing in all of creation.

And when Jesus preaches in Matthew: “for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me,” this wasn't just a generic concept or some vague goal to aspire to, it is meant to be something lived out among real people. When Joe is hungry, we are to feed Joe. When Jane is thirsty, we give Jane a drink. When Jorge is a stranger in our land, we welcome him. When Jasmine needs warm clothes, we raid our closet. When Jamal is sick, we bring over some hot soup. When Jaime is in prison, we visit and listen and pray. And, of course, with people whose names start with letters other than “J” too.

So, may we all give thanks for this day, this summer, all this time we are blessed to spend together. Whether you happen to cross paths with more people or bugs this summer (in Minnesota either is possible), I hope you may experience and share love of God in this life and this world.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor James Muske

TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund	JUNE	YTD
Income Actual	\$30,108	\$211,561
Income Budgeted	\$17,021	\$170,208
Expense Actual	\$25,039	\$204,977
Expense Budgeted	\$16,369	\$163,691
Over/(Short)	\$ 5,069	\$ 6,584



Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
Minutes of July 20, 2018, Council Meeting

In attendance: Mary Braun, Melody Lackner, Ron Mehlhop, Kathy Berland, Ron Haglund, and George Smith, Pastor James Muske, Jenny Schuett and Judie Birk. Guests were Pat Becker & Jerry Morris.

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

Secretary's Report:

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

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for June was presented by Mary Braun. She spent quite a bit of time with our accounting software help desk "cleaning up" old checks and credit card charges from up to two years ago. That is why some expenses show as negative numbers on the Statement of Activity reports. These were double entries and some checks that just weren't cashed after 2 years. Motion was made by George Smith to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Ron Haglund and passed.

Pastor's Report:

June 16 to July 20, 2018

Thank you all for your hard work and leadership and helping make this a great month!

- Vacation Bible School kicked off this past month. It was a great week, thanks to all who helped and all the great kids that attended. I led a storytelling portion and offered prayers.
- Provided leadership for two funerals – Kimiko "Jackie" Liljenquist, and Rose

Pedersen (together with Rev. Dale Clifton, chaplain at Elim in Milaca)

- Attended community meal at Malmo town hall – thanks to the Lions for helping host that great event; good to meet some other people in our community!
- All the above was in the same week, whew... and I got sick the following week and took several sick days.
- Rode in the Bethesda float and threw candy during the Glen July 4th parade; thanks to Jim, Darlene (and their granddaughter), and Val for their help making that possible; I also helped set up for the Dakota Roads concert
- Led two worship services at Black Rock and Golden Horizons last week, will lead worship at Aicota and Aitkin health services next week
- Ongoing work with committees, men's and women's bible study, choir, praise band, tech support, etc. Will be helping with the Centennial Committee
- Will probably take a little time off this next month or so; 2-3 days during the week of July 30 (some family coming up for a visit), perhaps a few more in mid-August to go visit friends.
- Pastor brought up handing out cards to people in need of food. Suggesting WIC and sending some to local food banks.

Mary made a motion to accept the pastor's report and Ron seconded and passed.

Old Business:

Future Expenses for Parsonage — Lee got bids, we have volunteer help, received money from WELCA and will take the balance out of the parsonage maintenance fund for a deck.

New Business:

Disaster Relief - Jerry Morris presented a request from the county to see if our facility would be considered for a Disaster Relief area. He will pursue more information from the county.

Pat Becker (representing the Stewardship and Finance Committee) presented the budget

worksheets which were reviewed and discussed by council.

Job Descriptions are in each Committee Reps "In Box". Review for next month.

Church's 100 Anniversary — Judie reported on the first Centennial planning meeting. Various committees are looking at ideas. Meanwhile, a date for the big celebration has been set for **August 11, 2019**.

Judie Birk reported on the picture directory which is in the works. Kathy Berland suggested asking the nursing home and homebound people to see if they need a ride for an appointment or if a photo could be taken to be included in the directory. Jenny Schuett said she would contact Sandy Pullen or help with this. It was also asked if historical photos would be included.

George made a recommendation to council to accept the Synod's amendments to Model Constitution for Congregations as approved by the 2016 churchwide assembly. This motion was seconded by Mary and passed.

Mutual ministry is supposed to be a sounding board for the pastor. It will be a confidential committee that he can go to. He will organize this.

Council member election and terms were discussed. We will be looking for two 3-year term council members at this year's annual meeting. We encourage council members to look for recruits.

Committee Reports:

Mission & Evangelism:

Mission and Evangelism Meeting Notes for July 12, 2018

Members Present: Pastor James, Barb Macioch, Sue Samuelson, Sandy Pullen, Judie Birk, and Joanne Stueven

The June 3 New Member sessions during fellowship seemed to work well. Our committee members will continue to check base with new members concerning opportunities to volunteer. The Walrod's have been busy and have not been formally introduced to congregation at this time. Dennis Hennesy is interested in becoming a member and Pastor James will keep us informed as to the date that will happen. Judie Birk will check with Melody and get photos of new members up on bulletin board.

Vacation Bible School 2018 ended June 22. I have written a "Thank You" to all volunteers that will be in next Life Line. I will give the attendance report of 35 students, 4 youth and 26 volunteers to the office.

Judie has created Veggie Stand Fliers that will go to local campgrounds and businesses.

Pastor James suggested that we explore outreach to WIC families who visit our church monthly. Pastor will ask Skip about donating some corn feed tickets to be used as outreach to younger families.

Our committee spent time in a lengthy conference call with a LifeTouch representative getting the details on how to manage the photo sessions coming up Aug 15-18, 2018. Sandy Pullen will be asking volunteers to be host and hostess during the photo sessions. Mary and Jenny will put materials in the bulletins each week as well as help people who want to go online to select a photo time slot. Information about automated phone calls and emails reminding people of their time will be shared in the bulletin and Life Line newsletter. Judie Birk will be doing the layout pages, including a 100-year celebration page. If we are able to complete all the suggested timelines, the whole process takes about 12 weeks.

Submitted by Joanne Stueven

Property Committee:

Meeting from June 27, 2018

In attendance: Lee Forrester, Jerry Morris, Darrel Kelly, Dianne Jones, Dick Pullen, Dave Stueven, Pastor James and Ron Mehlhop

1. Federated checked out our gas lines, etc.
2. Fire extinguishers have been serviced or switched out.
3. Looking for volunteer to stain the two sets of steps at the parsonage. Jerry Morris could do it in August.
4. Fill system water filter has been installed in the church.
5. Spotlights in the sanctuary need to be changed. One is burnt out.
6. Jerry Sudbeck has volunteered to foreman the deck building project on the parsonage. He will need 3 or 4 volunteers to help build it. The cost should be around \$2,000 for materials. Jerry is one of our non-members that come to Romeos weekly. Jerry is working out the details with Lee.

7. Next meeting is scheduled for July 25 at 10 a.m.

Stewardship & Finance:

Stewardship met on Monday, May 7. The following items were discussed:

1. Char Berg met with committee and a revised scholarship form was recommended. A motion from the council to adopt application with the new revisions is requested.
2. Update on Veggie Stand with a special thank you to all those who are working to make this community service program a success. Stewardship will make bulletin board with items needed for individuals who are baking each week. This will be available mid June.
3. Budget requests from committees are due June 15. A brief discussion was held on the financial condition of the church.
4. Barb Forrester will have information on the parsonage pledges for the next meeting on June 14 Pat Becker, chairperson

Worship & Music:

Members Present: Pastor James, Randy Tofteland, Carol Bakken, Jim Christensen, Tom Christensen, Ron Haglund, Paula Spetz, Julie Swaggert
The meeting was held on July 5 and opened with prayer by Pastor James.

Most of the meeting was centered on finalizing the logistics of the Dakota Road concert scheduled for July 7.

In addition to concert planning, Pastor James updated the committee on the status of implementing sung liturgy. Although progress has been made, more work is required. Additionally the committee was informed that the Church Council has decided to delay purchasing any new technology for the sanctuary. The Council is interested in adding the improved video technology, but elected to not include it in the 2018/19 budgets. The Committee will revisit this again next year.

Topics for the August meeting will include Congregational Survey, Jamboree and remaining 2018 planning.

Following the reciting of the Lord's Prayer, the meeting was adjourned. The next committee meeting is scheduled for August 2.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by George Smith, seconded by Ron Haglund, and passed.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.
The next council meeting will be August 17 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.



This year the crafters are working on a tree theme. Any items having a tree design are welcome. So far we have tree paintings, jewelry, Christmas tree cones, ornaments & tea

towels. We don't want to overwhelm the public with a forest look, but will sprinkle the tree items throughout the bazaar tables.

Bethesda Outreach Program

The Faith, Health and Wellness Committee is organizing a new program with the goal that homebound members, those with a chronic illness or those who have recently been hospitalized will receive home visits or regular phone calls from members of a visitation team, a parish nurse and/or the pastor.

The following opportunities will be available:
Volunteer at care centers to do activities with the residents. This can be done individually on a regular weekly or monthly basis or as a group that assists with an activity three to four times a year. Partner with a homebound member and provide weekly or every other week phone calls and visit with the member on a regular monthly basis. Other things that could be done for the member include assist with grocery shopping or running errands, take to medical appointments, take out to lunch or help with other tasks.

Work with one or two other people and provide regular visits to members as a team. Bring communion to homebound residents.

An information/training meeting will be held Tuesday, August 7th at 3:30 pm for anyone interested in participating in this program. Contact Pastor James or one of the parish nurses for more information.

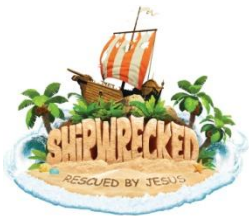


Join us on Thursdays at 12:30 to play!
Join in on the fun and potluck at noon!
Double Pinochle is at 1:00 on Mondays

Women, mark your calendar!

Wednesday, August 15th at 9:30 all women of Bethesda are invited to the Women of the ELCA meeting. We will gather together for refreshments and devotions before a short business meeting. Then we will pack Hospice Kits to be delivered to Global Health Ministries based in Minneapolis. This is a critical need for terminally ill people in countries where there are few resources. Both Global Health Ministries and Thrivent Financial have granted \$250 to help us in making a bigger impact. Supplies are ready to pack 50 Hospice Kits. Please consider adding to that number by bringing what you can of the following list. See you on August 15th.

- 1 regular-size bath towel (approx. 48 X 52)
 - 1 wash cloth
 - 1 bath-size bar of soap-wrapped, unscented such as Dove
 - 1 toothbrush in original packaging
 - 1 nail clipper
 - 6 Band-Aids
 - 1 jar or tube of petroleum jelly-4 oz with
 - 1 pair heavy duty household gloves -size medium
-



Shipwrecked in Malmo Vacation Bible School 2018

The Best Week of Summer was June 18-22 when 35 children, 4 youth, and 26 adults were shipwrecked in Malmo. Jesus rescued all of us leaving us with smiling faces, happy hearts and wonderful memories.

Each morning students were greeted by Dianne Jones and Penny Sjoquist as they helped them find their groups. (And all kinds of other jobs) The opening and closing activity was Laurina and Randy Tofteland with wonderful music and Randy putting his all into an awesome skit! Oh yes, he had their attention!! They also shared information and involved our children in the Global Partners Mission project. The children donated \$160.00 (some of it their own money) to help support the boarding schools in India.

After the opening, students went to 4 learning stations: Pastor James and Kathy Larson make

Bible stories come to life during Bible Discovery. Jeannine Bruesewitz and Sandy Pullen had Jesus Rescues lessons using science and crafts during the Information Station. Carolyn Morris, Nicole Dzubay, and Charlie Follmer showed a video, discussed the video, served snack, and read a story in a castaways hut.

Joanne Stueven, Cody Trotter, and Ari Dunn played games, chased bubbles, rescued water balloons and built a boat outside. Our groups travel class to class with special leaders: Sue Samuelson and Sheila Penoyer kept the cutest 4 year olds ever moving station to station. The 5-6 years traveled with Joyce Dressly, Gloria Christensen and Mary Scott (a friend of Joyce's). Kathy Mjelde, Myra Honl led the 7-8 year olds to their activities. The oldest group ages 9-11, Cindy Persson and her grand-daughters Lily and Lucy Dunn kept them moving.

Darlene Christensen helped with groups but also made all the arrangements to use Thrivent donations to fill shoe boxes for Operation Christmas. The students met with Ron and Carol Hass to fill the boxes after classes on Thursday. The helpers received tee shirts and an ice cream treat!

Wednesday afternoon Sue invited us to a great beach party at her home! Great weather! Now, that was fun!!! On Wednesday evening Laurina lead the students singing at the Malmo Lions picnic. Great food and games providedfun for all!!

Our kitchen helpers Lynne Meidlinger, Bev Swenson and Shirley Gosselin made the very best snacks. Thanks to those who donate the snack groceries.

The background set needs to brought in from storage and set up each year. Jerry Becker helps organize Dick Pullen, Dave Stueven, Jack Spetz and Denny Meidlinger to get that job done. Jenny Schuett made a cute little hut where the wild monkey could hide. Mary Braun helps order and return materials and all kinds of odds and ends.

Dawn and Keith Kellen take each child's photo and place it in a memory frame. Pat Kullberg took random shots of the action and beautiful faces giving them to the families also.

Every name mentioned deserves a big **THANK YOU!!** Please know that your efforts during the Best Week of Summer are so appreciated. I mentioned that the whole experience left us smiling

with happy hearts. If you want to be a part of this awesome week.....put the 3rd week of June, 2019 on your calendar. (Especially if you are lucky enough to have young grand children who can come visit.) Thanks for all the help, Joanne Stueven



Join the team!
Sign up to mow the church lawn!

Signup sheet in the Narthex



Help! We need Coffee Servers for August.



Summer is going by so fast! It is hard to believe it is going to be August already. We have a few things happening in Aug for the choir and the Praise Team.

The choir will be singing on Aug. 5th, "Reach You" & Aug. 19th, "How Great is our God". On the 5th of Aug. Randy Tofteland will be the fill in director, I will be at my hometown church, Faith Lutheran in Avoca, MN. It will be their last service as they have decided to close their doors. It will be a hard day for all of my family as this was the church we went to growing up, and where we all were confirmed. Also, it is the church Doug and I were married in 37 years ago. I want to thank Randy for filling in so I can be there on the last service.

The Praise Team will be on the move this month as we will be singing at First Lutheran Church in Aitkin on Aug. 12th at 10:00 and First Lutheran's Praise Team will be singing at Bethesda that day. Jim Christenson has been busy getting this

exchange to happen. Because of this we need to change some practice times around. The choir will be practicing on Wed., Aug. 1st at 6:00, Thurs Aug. 9th at 6:00, Wed. Aug. 15th, 22nd & 29th. We will start practice at 5:30 so we can work on Jamboree music before the choir practice.

Speaking of Jamboree, we are presenting the 25th Anniversary of the Jamboree! The theme will be called "THRU THE YEARS". We will be singing songs from the last 25 Jamborees and hope to have old photos from past jamborees. I am not saying it will be the last one, but Val Benton will be stepping down as the emcee. So, if there is anyone who would be willing to step in and fill her shoes, in planning and emceeing the Jamboree for next year, we will continue on. Val and I are working hard at getting the line up for Jamboree. If there is anyone who would like to participate in this, either by playing an instrument, singing or participating in anyway, just let us know and we will get you in the lineup.

Thanks again to Randy for stepping in directing the choir, so I can be with my mom, brothers & sister for a very sad day of our home church closing. I appreciate all of my choir members & praise team, for their dedication, love and support!

Your fearful, oops I meant fearless, Choir Director,
Sheila Penoyer



August 11, 2019

Centennial Celebration Day

"Rejoice Always" — 100 Years of God's Work at Bethesda. Bethesda Centennial Celebration is underway.

If you want to get in on the fun of helping with this special occasion, please contact Judie Birk at 320-684-2127 or contact the church office. More information coming soon in your local bulletin and future newsletters!

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

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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

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c/o Bethesda Lutheran Church