

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.



Sept 2 Sunday Communion 8:30 & 10 AM

Sept 9 Sunday Worship Communion 8:30 & 10 AM

Sept 16 Sunday Worship Communion 8:30 & 10 AM

Sept 23 Sunday Worship Communion 9:00 AM

Sept 30 Sunday Worship Communion 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

Sept 21 Jamboree 7:00 pm

Sept 23 10:00 Annual Mtg

Oct. 9 Polka Service 9:00 service only

September
2018

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on September 23rd at 10:00am. We will only have one service that day at 9:00am. Printed Annual Reports will be available two weeks prior to the meeting in the office



Jamboree

Be sure to join us for the Jamboree on Friday, Sept. 21st in the Bethesda Fellowship Hall. This "Through the Years" production will look back on our 25-year history with performers presenting great music from past shows. We have also pulled some fan favorites from the skit archives. We promise a night of song and smiles for everyone... not to mention Pastor James Jamboree debut! The show begins at 7:00 PM; tickets are \$5.00 for adults, admission for children 12 & under is free. See you there!



PHOTOS FOR DIRECTORY

If you were unable to get your picture taken from Lifetouch for the directory, contact Melody Lackner (218 232-7424 or mlackner912@gmail.com). For \$10 she will professional take your picture, give you an 8x10 color photo and submit your photo to the directory. Deadline for Melody to submit photos for the directory is September 30, 2018.



From the Pastor

“I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God.”

Even those of us who have never spent time in a courtroom

have probably heard this phrase on innumerable TV shows and movies. One hand in the air, the other on the Bible, reciting the words with utter seriousness before the judge, the jury, plaintiffs, defendants, all the lawyers, and all those listening with rapt attention. Despite how common this scene has become both in our real world and in our entertainment, we can forget that this concern for truth, the whole truth, is also clearly found in the Bible.

The sin of bearing false witness doesn't just reside in the 10 Commandments alone but appears multiple times in both the Old and New Testament. In Psalm 27, David laments that false witnesses have risen against him, seeking to destroy him. The twenty-fifth chapter of Proverbs preaches that bearing false witness against your neighbor is nothing less than an act of violence against your neighbor, the words wound as much as any club or sword or sharp arrow. Of course, we should also not forget that even Jesus heard false testimonies offered against him in his trial.

This commandment may sometimes seem the odd man out, and yet, more than ever, it is needed in our modern-day society. We live in an age where we have (rightly) developed a healthy skepticism and have begun to challenge long-held beliefs and practices, ingrained patterns that benefit some but cause suffering for others. However, sometimes our skepticism and cynicism goes too far, and we inadvertently set ourselves adrift. We get to this point where we so expect someone to be taking a side, promoting an agenda, and blindly reciting a set of talking points that we don't expect to ever hear the truth and don't even see breadcrumbs leading us to it. “Everyone is biased,” we think, and so we just pick the bias that feels right to us.

As a people of God, we endeavor to be truth-tellers, the-whole-truth-tellers, and nothing but. The truth of Jesus Christ, son of God, stirs this up in us. And the truth is not always pretty. Speaking the truth so often moves us to repentance, asking God's

forgiveness for all that we have done and all that we have failed to do. But we also get to speak the truth of God's love *for* us and the way that God's love can work *through* all of us, working to mend and build up where sin has broken and beat us down.

Assuming there isn't a massive wave of negative feedback in the Worship & Music survey regarding our summer series, we will join several area churches in using the Narrative Lectionary this Fall. This set of readings focuses on one main reading each Sunday, beginning in the book of Genesis and choosing selections through the whole Bible, ending in the New Testament epistles in the Spring. Though I am fond of the previous schedule of readings, I especially appreciate how much easier it is to observe the whole story of God's relationship with his people. All the ups, all the downs. All the times that God blessed them abundantly. All the times when the abundance went to their heads and they forgot God, forgot to be just and generous to all. All the times when they sowed the seeds of their own punishment. And all the times that God saw them through their suffering and brought forgiveness and renewal.

This is our story too. God's truth is out there, even when we struggle with the concept. We should be nervous when humans offer claims of absolute truth – when their view is unquestionably the right one and everything else is a lie. But neither should we be so jaded that we no longer care and just accept that might makes right.

Christ teaches us another path. We all sin and fall short, and so speaking the full truth of God's love requires that we speak even those uncomfortable truths about ourselves. Truth demands humility. The full power of God's love is only shown when we see that it comes in forgiveness and unmerited grace. And then, as we are loved and forgiven, we are moved to love and forgive others.

So, when the world seems chaotic and meaningless, take heart my friends – as Jesus said to those who believed in him: “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teaching. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Yours in Christ, Pastor James Muske

GOD'S WORK-OUR HANDS will be held on Sunday, September 9, 2018. Meet at Reddy Creek Beach for clean up at 11:00am. See Joanne Stueven if you have questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund	JULY	YTD
Income Actual	\$22,453	\$234,699
Income Budgeted	\$17,021	\$187,229
Expense Actual	\$16,522	\$222,082
Expense Budgeted	\$16,369	\$180,060
Over/(Short)	\$5,931	\$12,617



Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmö
Minutes of August 17, 2018, Council Meeting

In attendance: Mary Braun, Melody Lackner, Ron Mehlhop, Kathy Berland, Judie Birk, George Smith and Jenny Schuett. Guest were Jerry Morris and Stacy Durgin

Secretary's Report:

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

Treasurer's Report:

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

Pastor's Report:

- Led worship service at Aicota and Aitkin Health services
- Considering doing self-guided Continuing Ed for creative computer software (for example video production)
- Took a few days of vacation time when family was up visiting
- Participated in the new centennial committees (main & monthly)
- Continuing to help with praise band; Praise Team offered to pay for Pastor Terry providing coverage on 8/12
- Continuing work with synod committee for building better relationships with our native neighbors ("Together Here"); they recently sponsored a presentation by a history professor in Duluth, considering a possible event in October in our area
- Thank you for those working on the parsonage's new back deck, and for those who donated

- I will help promote and organize a community garden committee, if there is enough interest

Old Business:

Mutual Ministry Committee — Mary Braun printed out a copy of the Synod's description of the role for the Mutual Ministry Committee. Council members are to review and will discuss at next meeting. Randy Tofteland has volunteered to chair when committee is defined.

Job Descriptions for committees should have been submitted.

New Business:

Disaster Relief — Jerry Morris introduced Stacy Durgin from Health and Human Resources of Aitkin County. She toured our facility with Jerry a few weeks ago and they believe our church would be a good fit for disaster-type emergencies that occur in our area. We would have a memorandum of understanding with Aitkin County and would not be committed if our church was unavailable. We would be on a list that the county would call and ask if we are available. If our facility would be needed for overnight, the county would provide cots and provide any overnight help. She suggests that we let our congregation know that this is available. We would need a list of volunteers to be here if we would need to open the doors. Jerry believes this is a community commitment that our church should be committed too. Mary Braun made a motion that Bethesda Lutheran Church be open for emergency disaster assistance when needed. Motion was seconded by George Smith and passed.

Stewardship Committee proposed a Project Request Form Expense sheet to be filled out for any large purchases. They will need to record where the money come from and if it is it their budget. This is to have the council accountable for the monies spent. It was suggested by council to add a dollar amount on the large purchase line to the form.

Revised Budget worksheets were reviewed by council and will include a pastor pay increase. A motion was made by Ron Mehlhop and seconded by Melody Lackner to accept the revised budget suggestions.

Judie Birk reported on the Church's 100th Anniversary Celebration plans which are underway. A picnic/pig roast is being planned for August 11, 2019 with Praise choirs from other churches to be invited. A monthly calendar with historical facts is being created and will be available for year 2019. Monthly activities to engage our congregation throughout next year have been planned. Fundraising was discussed.

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:

Worship & Music:

Members Present: Pastor James, Randy Tofteland, Jim Christensen, Tom Christensen, Paula Spetz, Sharon Whipple

The meeting was held on August 2 and opened with prayer by Pastor James.

The committee reviewed and discussed the poor attendance at the recent Dakota Road concert. The committee felt the number of other events and activities occurring in the area that evening was the main cause of the poor attendance and agreed we need to research this before selecting dates for future events. Pastor James also updated the committee on the plans for sung liturgy over the coming year.

In new business:

- Pastor James informed the committee that he would be joining the Praise Choir at First Lutheran on August 12 and that Pastor Terry Frovik would be leading services at Bethesda
- The committee finalized plans for the upcoming congregational survey and agreed the topics would be Narrative Lectionary, weekly communion, the current mix of hymns and contemporary music and possible future technology additions to the sanctuary. Jim & Carol will oversee the survey with assistance from Pastor James. The survey will run from Aug 19 through Sept 9
- Plans for the upcoming Jamboree were discussed. Randy will oversee arranging ticket takers and start up cash, Jim will oversee setup including chairs and the sound equipment and committee members not participating in the Jamboree will oversee intermission refreshments. It was agreed we will ask choir members to bring cookies and they will be served with either coffee or lemonade for \$1

Following the reciting of the Lord's Prayer, the meeting was adjourned. The next committee meeting is scheduled for September 6. Motion was made to adjourn by Jenny Schuett, seconded by Mary Braun, and passed.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting will be September 14 at 9:00. Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.

Women of the ELCA Mtg – August 15, 2018

Chairwoman Jeannine B opened the mtg with 18 members present. Refreshments were served by Cheryl M & Lynn M. The purpose statement was read. Pat Becker gave devotions.

The May 2018 secy's report was accepted.

Dianne gave the treasurer's report with a bal on hand of \$1,395.77 Motion by Pat B, second by Elsa to accept the report. Motion passed.

Old business:

Comments re: the summer convention were made by Sue S & Jeannine. The idea to put together hospice kits came from the convention.

Thank you were expressed to those who helped clean the kitchen & work at VBS.

New business:

Update on bazaar was given by Char Berg

The Fall Gathering is Thurs, Oct. 4th at 1st Lutheran in Brainerd.

Officers for the Sept. mtg are needed.

There is an invitation to a retreat at Camp Onomia, Tues, Sept 4th from 9:30-2:30 from First Lutheran Churchwomen in Aitkin.

We will be looking at replacing some vinyl tablecloths with bazaar raffle money.

The mtg was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The women assembled 56 hospice kits to be dispersed globally.

Next mtg is Wed., Sept 19th at 2:00. NOT 9:30 a.m. as usual. Servers are Darlene & Marilyn A. Char Berg, secy.



The women had fun putting together 56 Hospice Kits to be used by Global Health Ministries. Their ministry based in Minneapolis and will send the kits wherever they are needed. This project was sponsored by Thrivent Financial and Global Health Ministries. They helped us Live Generously."



Thank you's



Aitkin Praise Team was great to have you at our services!

THANK YOU! Judy Wuorio and Daisy Beth would like to thank you for your donations towards vet bills. It is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for all your thoughts, prayers, cards, visits, calls, food and support as I greatly appreciate my church family and what it means in times of illness. I have MDS which hopefully can be brought into submission in the coming three months. God Bless you all. Jerry Becker

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



GOD'S WORK-OUR HANDS

will be held on Sunday, September 9, 2018. Meet at Reddy Creek . See Joanne Stueven if you have questions.

Bazaar needs:

We are in need of old doors to hang wreaths & wall hangings on. If you have any, please call the church office or Char Berg.

Bethesda Outreach Program

If you know of someone who may be homebound, has medical issues or recently suffered a loss and would benefit from short or long term visits from someone on Bethesda's visitation team contact Pastor James, a parish nurse or the office.



Choir News

Wow, I can hardly believe that Sept. is almost here. The choir has started practicing their songs for the Jamboree. Val and I are in the process of getting the show song order in place. **It is going to be a fun filled evening of songs from the last 25 years. Put the date on your calendar. One night only "Thru the Years" 25th Anniversary show of the Jamboree, Fri., Sept 21st at 7:00 pm**

The choir will continue to practice on Wed. nights, Sept 5th & Sept.12th at 5:30 for Jamboree, 6:00 choir & 7:00 Praise Team. Wed., Sept. 19th will be Dress Rehearsal at 6:00 until done, with Jamboree on Fri., Sept. 21st at 7:00. Choir will be singing on Sunday, Sept. 2nd, "Down to the River to Pray" & Sept. 16 "Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone". I have ordered a new Christmas Cantata this year and so we will be starting to learn the new Cantata in Oct.

The Praise Team had a great time at First Lutheran in Aitkin, and we hope you enjoyed having the Praise Team from First Lutheran at our church services.

Praise Team is again planning on doing our "Polka Service" on Sunday Oct. 14th at 9:00 am with the Johnson Chicks from Aitkin. Please put this on your Oct. calendar! It is always fun praising our Lord in song, even if it is in Polka style!! We do have a lot of fun and exciting things going right now. The Jamboree, Polka Service & Cantata! If you want to try out the choir or Praise Team, just come to a practice and see what we are all about!

Your Choir Director, Sheila Penoyer

Sunday, September 23rd

Congregation Meeting

10:00 am

In the Fellowship Hall •

Approving Budget

Electing Officers

Activities & Events

September 2018

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
Sept. 2, 9	Don, Donna Myhre	Darrell Kelly
Sept. 16, 30	Ron, Joanie Mehlhop	Marilyn Anderson
Sept. 23	Annual Mtg - Lee, Barb Forrester	

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

Altar Care by Dianne Jones

Sept.	Linda Southworth, Judy Wuorio
Oct.	Elsa Carlson, Barb Forrester
Nov.	Kathy Larson, Judy Wuorio



Coffee Servers by WELCA

Sept. 2	Jerry, Caroline Morris, Del, Diane Jones
Sept 9	Julie Swaggert, Dennis Hennessy, Jenny Schuett
Sept. 16	
Sept. 23	Quilters
Sept. 30	Mike, Barb Macioch, Judy Wuorio



Greeters Lynne Meidlinger

Sept. 2	Barry, Donna Ansell
Sept 9	Keith, Dawn Keller
Sept. 16	Paul Spetz, Bev Wedig
Sept. 23	Dick, Sandy Pullen
Sept. 30	Dennis, Lynne Meidlinger



Sept	3	Randy & Laurina Tofteland
Sept	4	Dennis & Joan Petersen
Sept	4	Phill & Barb Bray
Sept	7	Barry & Donna Ansell
Sept	8	Bob & Kathy Carlson
Sept	8	Steve & Melody Lackner
Sept	15	Ron & JoAnn Haglund
Sept	17	Ron & Carol Hass
Sept	20	Ian & Nicole Dzubay

(Anniversaries continued)

Sept	23	Warren & Marilyn Samuelson
Sept	24	Larry & Susan Darmer
Sept	25	Joseph & Karen Timmers
Sept	26	Jim & Darlene Christensen
Sept	27	Ron & Arty Heins
Sept	29	Elwin & Val Benton



Sept	1	Charles Follmer
Sept	1	Linda Lundahl
Sept	3	Ronald Aho
Sept	4	Marlyn Eklund
Sept	4	Norm McGibbon
Sept	4	Lynne Meidlinger
Sept	6	Patricia Wanous
Sept	7	Charles Carlson
Sept	10	Dorothy Munding
Sept	11	Loretta Westerlund
Sept	12	Ian Dzubay
Sept	12	Rosemary Olsen
Sept	13	Jeff Fredrick
Sept	14	Dawn Kellen
Sept	15	Gene Miller
Sept	15	Kirk Swenson
Sept	16	Minnie Gilbert
Sept	16	Carol Hass
Sept	16	Nancy McCracken
Sept	16	Karen Raisanen
Sept	17	Mallory Hanson
Sept	18	Christie Peterson
Sept	19	Steve Lackner
Sept	19	Doug Trandahl
Sept	21	Bill Turner
Sept	22	Elwin Benton
Sept	22	Eric Emerson
Sept	23	Eileen Dickinson
Sept	24	Greg Westerlund
Sept	26	Melody Lackner
Sept	26	Douglas Penoyer
Sept	26	Brian Simonson
Sept	27	Robert Neese
Sept	27	Samantha Rassier
Sept	28	Meldon Liljenquist



September 2018

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7:30 Last Veggie Stand
2 8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship Communion	3 Happy Labor Day 7:00 p.m AA &	4 9:00 Crafters 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study	5 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitches 10:00 Centennial. Committee mtg. 5:30 Choir 7:00 Praise Team	6 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 10:30 W & M 12:00 Cards Pot luck 12:30 Fun Timers 6:00 Bells	7 10:00 Bones Builders	8
9 God's Work-Our Hands 8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship Communion 11:00am Beach cleanup at Reddy Creek	10 1:00 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	11 9:00 Quilters 9:00 Crafters 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study	12 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitches 5:30 Choir 7:00 Praise Team	13 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 12:00 Cards Pot luck 12:30 Fun Timers 6:00 Bells	14 9:00 Council 10:00 Bones Builders	15
16 8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship Communion	17 1:00 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	18 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study	19 8-12 WIC 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitches 12:30 Stewardship 2:00 WELCA 5:30 Choir 7:00 Praise Team	20 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 12:00 Cards Pot luck 12:30 Fun Timers 6:00 Bells Newstine	21 10:00 Bones Builders 7:00 Jamboree	22
23 9:00 Worship Communion 10:00 Annual Mtg	24 1:00 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	25 9:00 Quilters 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study	26 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitches 6:00 Choir 7:00 Praise Team	27 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 12:00 Cards Pot luck 12:30 Fun Timers 6:00 Bells	28 10:00 Bones Builders	29
30 8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship Communion						

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmö
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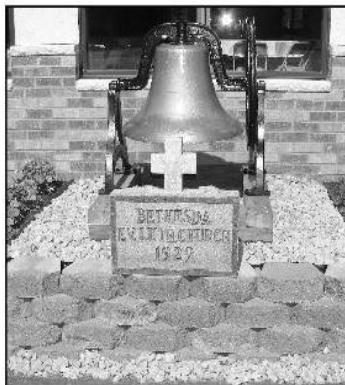
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The *Lifeline* Mission

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Bethesda Telephone Directory

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Fax		(320)-684-2836
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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:
Sue Stebbins, *Lifeline* Editor
c/o Bethesda Lutheran Church