

# Bethesda Life-Line



## Worship Services\*

Sunday 9:00 AM

Service of Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday 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.



Feb. 3...Sunday Worship 9:00 AM  
Communion

Feb. 6 Wednesday Worship 6:30pm

Feb. 10 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM  
Communion

Feb. 17 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM  
Communion

Feb. 24 Sunday Worship 9:00 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

9:00 only one service until Spring.

March 6- Ash Wednesday

Please pick up your 2019 Offering Envelopes and year end statements!

Snow Birds have fun in the sun!



**Holden Evening Prayer around the World**  
Feb. 6, 2019. We will be having a Service at 6:30pm on that Wednesday night. Fellowship afterwards.

### Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection

During February, hygiene items will be collected to be packed in shoeboxes by VBS kids in June. Items needed include: toothbrushes, bars of soap, washcloths, combs/small brushes, necklaces, bracelets, hair ties/barrettes. These individual items can be brought to the church or put together in a packet. To make a packet, wrap a bar of soap in a washcloth and put it in a ziplock bag with a comb and toothbrush so it will be ready to be packed in a shoebox. Cardboard shoeboxes are no longer needed as more sturdy plastic boxes are being used and these can also be donated.

### Soup and Cookie Ministry

Bethesda's Outreach program continues to bring soup and cookies to members that are visited. If you make soup or a batch of cookies and have some extra it can be brought to church and placed in the pantry freezer in the kitchen. These are always welcome items to those that are visited.



### "Sweetheart Dinner"

Malmo Area Lions would like to invite you to a "Sweetheart Dinner" on Saturday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 4:30 with dinner at 5:30. Cost \$15. Reservations can be called into the church office, deadline is Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>





Were things a little too quiet around Bethesda’s halls for a few days toward the end of January? So quiet, in fact, that maybe the thought crossed your mind something fishy was going on? If so, your instincts were correct because immediately following our wildly successful first fun Snow Day on Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, the “Pastor James Gang” packed up their gear and headed north for the men’s annual fishing trip.

I realize that only Christ could stretch two small fish to help feed 5,000 hungry folks, but I’m willing to wager that if you ask our guys when they return how many *they* fried up over the campfire, they’ll do a little multiplying of their own! And don’t forget “the big one that got away”... no doubt that will turn into a *whale* of a tale!

Though I have often wondered, I’ve never seriously asked those who ice troll just what actually goes on during this yearly all-male expedition. I figure some things should just be allowed to remain a mystery—let what happens at Lake of the Woods stay at Lake of the Woods. But I decided to take advantage of Pastor James’ absence to say a few words that probably aren’t said often enough around here. The men of Bethesda—not just those who brave the annual arctic outing—but *all* the men of Bethesda are too often the unsung heroes of our parish. And they are our heroes! There’s nothing they can’t do whether it involves a head for business, the physicality of property maintenance or thinking with “outside the box” creativity.

Perhaps, however, what’s most to be admired about our Bethesda men is their generosity, and I don’t just mean the free sharing of their finances, time and talents. More important than all of that is their generous sharing of *Spirit* and heart as they warmly welcome everyone who enters our House, instantly making them feel like family. Here’s a big ‘Thank You!’ to every single Bethesda guy from the oldest

right on down to the very young; and a special nod to Pastor James whom Christ sent in our centennial year to breathe a fresh breath of His eternal life and make us feel like a young church again. Glad you’re back, guys. Will you get the occasional jokes and teasing regarding your fishing & fellowship adventures? Of course you will—the lure of it is just too tempting! But please believe me when I say (and I’m not just throwing out a line here) that we do admire, appreciate and love each of you.

In accordance with Christ’s great commission, you are all truly fishers of men. In this community, you are the King’s men for sure. Welcome home!

Your friend in Christ, Val Benton.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund	DECEMBER	YTD
Income Actual	\$27,645	\$81,703
Income Budgeted	\$16,379	\$65,517
Expense Actual	\$17,747	\$64,923
Expense Budgeted	\$16,367	\$65,467
Over/(Short)	\$9,898	\$16,780



### Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

Minutes of January 17, 2019, Council Meeting

In attendance: George Smith, Mary Braun, Jenny Schuett, Ron Haglund, Sherry Whipple, Dorothy Munding, Pastor James Muske and Judie Birk.

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

Secretary's Report:

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the December meeting by Sherry Whipple, seconded by Mary Braun, and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for December was presented by Mary Braun. Ron Haglund suggested we look at a Capital One certificate of deposit that has a good interest rate. Sherry Whipple suggested that the church apply for a grant application (for benevolence monies) from Mille Lacs Electric. Motion was made by

Ron Haglund to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jenny Schuett and passed.

Pastor's Report: (Dec. 14, 2018 to Jan. 17, 2019)

The New Year has begun and although life gets a little quieter around here in the winter, there is still plenty to keep us busy! Here a few highlights from the past month:

Christmas celebrations went well! Thanks to all who helped make our Advent and Christmas season such a joyous time. Special thanks to Sheila and the choir for pulling off a tricky Cantata.

Thanks also to John Koziol for his wonderful piano playing at our hymn sing. I have heard nothing but positive comments.

In addition to working with Together Here, our Synod's committee to help build understanding of and relationships with our Native American neighbors, I also agreed to serve on the Synod's Bishop Election Committee. In 2020, our synod will select a new bishop, as Bishop Tom is not eligible to run again. This committee helps guide congregations in their prayers and discernment, but also help make the more technical considerations run more smoothly.

I took a couple days of vacation after Christmas, along with some comp time.

4 pastoral care visits and calls

All the usual odds and ends – committees, choir and praise band, bible studies, etc.

Making hot chocolate for Snow Day! I have also agreed to demonstrate my bread baking technique at some point, ha.

I am also looking forward to attending the men's ice fishing trip again this year. My father will also come along this year.

If anyone would like to join me, the Heartland Conference "Spring" Assembly will be on Sunday, Feb. 10th at 2 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 6190 Fairview Rd N, Baxter, MN 56425.

There is also a Lakes Area Men's Retreat on Feb. 22-23 at First Lutheran in Brainerd that might be a good option for some of our men.

We did get word that there is a pastor in our area currently between calls that is available for pastoral coverage – Pastor Beth Pottratz.

Old Business:

Update on Stewardship Committee (Year-end review) — the committee is working on the audit.

Update on Personnel Committee — A few reviews has been done.

Update 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration August 2019 — Judie Birk reported on activities planned — Snow Day, January's raffle, and Save the Date postcards to be sent out. Planning is going smoothly!

Update Isle School Paw Pantry — George Smith reported that 5 quilts were donated to the Isle school and they were much appreciated. They also brought hygiene and food items. Continued support is appreciated.

Update Isle Area Food Shelf — George and Patti Smith have been volunteering when available. They still need cereals (not sugary kind), instant oatmeal packets, breads and buns (that will be frozen). A list is by the giving basket.

New Business:

Request to quote Church Property and Liability by Church Mutual Insurance — George Smith will talk with rep from Church Mutual to get a quote. Our policy renewal with Oberfeld Insurance is in April.

Bethesda's 2019 Plan for ELCA Mission Support — Mary Braun will submit and handle.

Aitkin High School 'Grad Blast 2019' donation request — \$50 will be donated.

"Nuts and Bolts and a Few Loose Screws" NE Minnesota Synod @ Zion Lutheran Cloquet, March 16 — anyone who would like to go, let George know. Judie Birk let the council know that WELCA will be hosting the Spring Gathering for the Heartland Synod in April.

Committee Reports:

Worship & Music: Thursday, January 10, 2019

**Members Present:** Pastor James, Carol Bakken Paula Spetz, Sharon Whipple, Ron Haglund, Jim Christensen, Tom Christensen, Julie Swaggert. Pastor James opened the meeting with prayer.

We discussed the Advent and Christmas season services with positive comments.

The Choir Cantata was a huge success and we thank all of the choir members and Director Sheila for their efforts!

The December 30<sup>th</sup> Carols and Lessons service with John Koziol was very well received. We will consider doing this next year or possibly mid-year as well if the opportunity arises.

March 6<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday. The Lenten services will feature the Holden Evening Prayer and pastors from area churches will rotate each week similar to last year. We will have a potluck prior to the services.

Pastor James would like to hold a special service on February 6<sup>th</sup> as part of the International Holden Evening Prayer Service event. Details will be coming in the bulletin.

We had some initial discussion concerning possible Campfire Worship service(s) this summer to utilize our beautiful outdoor worship space.

We discussed reviewing our Worship and Music Committee Job Description and will be doing this at the next meeting. We will also be working on our procedures for determining our budget requests and our fund dispersal processes. Next meeting is scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. Respectfully submitted — Julie Swaggert

Personnel Committee:

**Meeting:** Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am

**Members present:** Ron Haglund (Council Rep), Lee Forester, Pat Becker, Patti Smith, and Julie Swaggert

**Meeting summary:**

We welcomed a new member to Personnel, Patti Smith. We reviewed and approved the Employee Performance Review form. The employee reviews will be done with 2 committee members sitting in on each review. The reviews will be completed before our February meeting.

Church Council President, George Smith and Personnel Committee Chair will meet with Pastor James for his review. Lee provided the Employee Job Descriptions to committee members and each employee will also receive their job description before their review. The job descriptions will be updated, as needed though input and discussion with employees during their reviews. Lee provided the current Committee job descriptions and the Church Council job descriptions. We will discuss these at our next meeting. Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 am

Stewardship & Finance:

Stewardship/Finance did not meet in January.

The audit is proceeding. Mary and Mark V. are reviewing the constitution and by-laws.

Procedure reports have been received from some people but not all. Contact is being made to secure procedure guidelines from other committees.

Envelopes will arrive within the week.

The chairperson reviewed the budget and items of question have been discussed with Mary Braun.

The next meeting will be February 11 at 1:00. The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

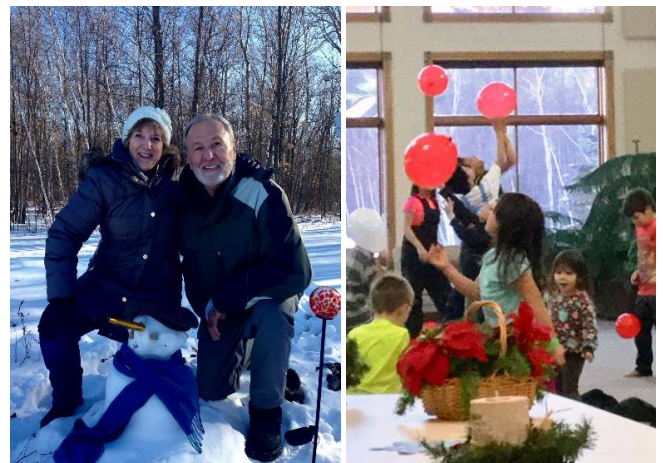
The next council meeting will be Monday, Feb. 18 at 10 am. Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.



The new sign commemorates the old and the new Bethesda church building. We are gearing up to celebrate 100 years of being a church in our corner of the lake. @Thrivent Financial helped pay for the sign. We are encouraged to #livegenerously.

We need coffee servers, please sign up

**Thank you**



Thanks everyone that attended the Bethesda Snow Day!



Join us on Thursdays at 12:30 to play 500! Join in on the fun! **Potluck On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday ONLY at noon**

**Double Pinochle** is at 1:00 on Mondays

## Women of the ELCA Mtg Jan 23, 2019

Chairwoman Sue Samuelson opened the mtg with 12 members present. Refreshments were served by Barb F & Elsa C. The purpose statement was read. Pat Becker gave devotions.

A correction to the treasurer's report in the Nov, 2018 minutes was made. Motion by Char, second by Barb. Motion passed.

Linda Southworth gave the treasurer's report with a bal on hand of \$4047.94. Motion by Pat B, second by Elsa to accept the report. Motion passed.

### Old business:

- The Dec. Christmas luncheon was discussed. Next year we will cut down on the number of salads. A suggestion was made to bring food for the food shelves.
- Sue read thank yous.

### New business:

- We will host the Heartland Spring Gathering on Thurs, April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- We are to ask for uses for our used white tablecloths.
- We may host a food safety class at Bethesda in May. Elsa will make a call to the person in charge.
- WELCA is donating a basket of items for people to buy \$1 tickets for during the month of Feb. Money will go toward the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.
- A mtg of members working the Spring Gathering will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> @9:30 am.

The next WELCA mtg will be April 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am. Servers are Pat B & Darlene C.

The Malmo Lions will hold their Sweetheart dinner on Feb 16<sup>th</sup> at Bethesda.

The mtg. closed with members saying the Lord's Prayer.  
Char Berg, secy.



### Love gauge

In a ship's engine room, it's impossible to look into the great boiler and see how much water remains. But running up beside it is a tiny glass tube that serves as a gauge. As the water stands in the little tube, so it stands in the great boiler. When the tube is half full, the boiler is half full; when the tube is empty, the boiler is empty.

Do you ask, "How do I know I love God? I believe I love him, but I want to know." Look at the gauge: Your love for other people is the measure of your love for God.

### Real-life sacrifice

"I love to help the people who need it most. ... Seeing people who are needy motivates me to help." Amazingly, these aren't the words of a wealthy or comfortable person but of a teenager who, herself, is among the world's poorest. Her family lives in a Chilean slum and is assisted by a Christian human-services agency.

When fire broke out near the 16-year-old's home, leaving 220 already-destitute families homeless, the girl and her mother donated their own blankets, towels and other supplies to people who'd lost the little they had. Her mother even gave away clothes she'd planned to sell for much-needed household income.

I was humbled to read of this girl and her mom. So often I "have contributed out of [my] abundance"; but this pair, "out of [their] poverty ... put in ... all [they] had to live on" (Mark 12:44, NRSV).

### Love gauge

In a ship's engine room, it's impossible to look into the great boiler and see how much water remains. But running up beside it is a tiny glass tube that serves as a gauge. As the water stands in the little tube, so it stands in the great boiler. When the tube is half full, the boiler is half full; when the tube is empty, the boiler is empty.

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***JOIN IN THE FUN! Support our Centennial activities in 2019.***



For the month of February, you have the opportunity to win a fabulous prize by purchasing a “Heart” for \$1.00 that we will use to decorate the fellowship hall. The winner will be

drawn the last Sunday of the month after worship service.

The prize for February is donated by WELCA (a basket of crafty items!). Buy tickets after Sunday services or find the can on the secretaries’ desk during the week.



**Sunday, August 11, 2019**

**Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo’s  
Centennial Celebration!**

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**Thursday, April 11, 2019**

Bethesda Lutheran Church will be hosting the 2019 Women of the ELCA Minnesota Heartland Conference Spring Gathering this year.

**Guest Speaker | Brunch | Worship**  
More information to follow

# Activities & Events

February 2019

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

## Ushers by Skip & Lynn Hansen

\*Light the Christ Candle

9:00

Feb 3 & 10 Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau

Feb 17 & 24 Wayne & Janice Olson

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

February. Lynne Meidlinger, Kathy Larson

March. .. Lynne Meidlinger ,Judy Wuorio

April Gina Rosa, Dianne Jones



## Coffee Servers by WELCA

Feb 3

Feb 10 Praise Team

Feb 17 Jerry & Pat Becker

Feb 24



## Greeters Lynne Meidlinger

Feb 3 George and Kathy Larsen

Feb 10 Chuck and Elsa Carlson

Feb 17 Marge Garbo and Bev Wedig

Feb 24 Wally and Bev Swensen



Feb.	1	Elizabeth Lagerstrom
Feb.	2	Karen Carron
Feb.	2	Lance Elliott
Feb.	2	Eric Lagerstrom
Feb.	2	Aleshia Lagerstrom
Feb.	2	Violet Sorby
Feb.	3	Cody Trotter
Feb.	3	Isabella Westerlund
Feb.	5	Ana Berry
Feb.	7	Patti Smith
Feb.	8	Gavyn Bruesewitz
Feb.	8	Nicole Dzubay
Feb.	8	Neil Westerlund
Feb.	11	Ron LaFavor
Feb.	11	Beverly Wedig
Feb.	12	Sandi McGibbon
Feb.	13	Margaret Garbo
Feb.	22	Joyce Dressely
Feb.	23	Judith Wuorio
Feb.	24	Lisa Stay
Feb.	25	Janet Aho
Feb.	27	James Christensen
Feb.	27	Raymond Dooley
Feb.	27	Demetries Mickelson



Feb. 14 Dan & Cindy Persson

Feb. 22 Jim & Judie Birk



# February 2019

## Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 10:00 Bones Builders	<b>2</b> <b>Groundhogs Day</b>
<b>3</b> 9:00 Worship Communion  10:30 Praise team practice	<b>4</b> 9:00 Womens Devtions @Beckers  1:00 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	<b>5</b> 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study	<b>6</b> 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitches  6:30 International Holden Evening Prayer Service	<b>7</b> 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 10:00 Personel 11:00 worship & music 12:30 Fun Timers Cards	<b>8</b> 10:00 Bones Builders	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00 Worship Communion  10:30 Praise team practice	<b>11</b> 1:00 Pinochle 1:00 Stewardship  7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	<b>12</b> 9:00 Quilters  12:00-2 Pastor Text Study	<b>13</b> 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitches	<b>14</b> 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 12:00 Pot luck & Fun Timers Pastor 1:45 Black-Rock 2:30 Golden Horizons <b>Happy Valentines Day!</b>	<b>15</b> 10:00 Bones Builders	<b>16</b> <b>Malmo Lions Sweetheart Dinner</b> 4:30
<b>17</b> 9:00 Worship Communion  10:30 Praise team practice	<b>18</b> 10:00 Council mtg 1:00 Pinochle  7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	<b>19</b> 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study	<b>20</b> 8-12 WIC 9:00 Bible Study  <b>Newsline Deadline</b>	<b>21</b> 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 12:30 Fun Timers	<b>22</b> 10:00 Bones Builders	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 Worship Communion  10:30 Praise team practice	<b>25</b> 1:00 Pinochle  7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	<b>26</b> 9:00 Quilters 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study	<b>27</b> 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitches	<b>28</b> 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s  12:30 Fun Timers Pastor 1:45 Aicota 2:30 Aitkan Health services		



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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	<a href="mailto:blcmalmo@frontiernet.net">blcmalmo@frontiernet.net</a>	(320) 684-2123
Fax		(320)-684-2836
Toll Free		(877) 684-2123
Church Web site		<a href="http://blcmalmo.org">blcmalmo.org</a>
Facebook page		Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmö

Pastor	James A. Muske	(320) 684-2123
Council President	George Smith	(320) 537-1020
Vice President	Jenny Schuett	(651) 245-8532
Parish Nurse	Darlene Christensen	(218) 839-8193
Parish Nurse	Kathy Berland	(218) 838-6181

To share articles and/or information, mail to:  
**Sue Stebbins, Lifeline Editor**  
**c/o Bethesda Lutheran Church**