

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.



Jan. 6...Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

Jan. 13 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

Jan. 20 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

Jan. 27 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 service starts until Spring.

Jan. 20 Bethesda Snow Day celebration

March 6- Ash Wednesday



january

2019

Join the fun! Support our Centennial activities in 2019

Each month you have the opportunity to win a fabulous prize by purchasing a \$1 chance, while also decorating the fellowship hall.

All funds raised will be used for our Centennial Celebration on August 11, 2019.

We will kick off the raffle in January with a snowflake theme. The prize for that month will be donated by our Quilters. The winner will be drawn the last Sunday of the month between worship services.

We hope you participate each month for a chance to win a different prize each month. Thank you for your support.

If you are a snow bird, mail your money or prepay to participate for each month you are gone. You don't want to miss out on the fun!

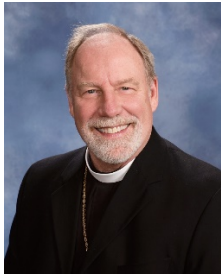


Snow Day

Join us for a winter fun Snow Day to begin our 100th Year Celebration — January 20, 2 p.m. at Bethesda. There is fun for all ages — Snow shoeing (bring your own, or we'll have a few extra pairs), bonfire, explore our Nature Trail, make a luminary, games inside if too cold out. We are providing chili with all the fixings and hot chocolate.

Humor to break up the winter blahs

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.



Bishop Aitken’s Pastoral Christmas Letter - 2018

In Jesus, God “invaded” creation and heaven’s goodness broke through to this earth. For the Gospel writers, it is clear that God was in a ‘re-claiming the whole creation’ mode in the events of that first Christmas. Through Jesus, human beings were confronted with a God whose dream was to meet us face to face and then reconcile the hurts and sin, the mismanagement and abuse of the goodness God made, and to open the hearts of all people to new life centered in God.

Christmas is the focus of this gracious invasion of God into our lives. I wonder how many were in fact not ready for it, that first Christmas. Especially by the way he came: Not, as we know, through the plans of the Emperor, nor through the Emperor’s puppet kings or politicians, nor through military might or manipulative domination. I wonder how many were prepared for this child, this nascent Prince of Peace, this challenger of the dominant culture. I wonder if you could even really be prepared.

We sometimes forget that we can’t manipulate God or restrict God’s presence to our personal schedule or preference, or only to those times when we have whipped up pious feelings. The Christmas story is filled with twists and turns and unpredictable events; shepherds caught off guard, magi who were mesmerized suddenly by a strange glowing star, and blatant interruptions during normal sleep in the middle of the night for both the believer and unbeliever.

I wonder whether we understand that our Lord comes to us in our time, in our situation and context. The Spirit who woke Joseph and then Herod’s spouse from sleep with a startling message, who announced to Mary that she would give birth to a Holy Son who would save the world also wants Jesus to be re-born in us: Just where we are, right where we live, in the middle of our school studies, our grocery shopping,

our daily work, our care for our family, our arguments with our neighbor, our kind deeds, our boredom and our fears. Jesus, the One whom we celebrate and adore, will be seeking you and me in the ordinary events of our life. Luther said something like this about Christmas: If the Infinite, could be embodied in a little baby, God can work through you!

Gather with your congregation this Christmas. Oh come, let us adore him, and like Mary and Joseph, like the Shepherds and Magi, let him work through us as well.

+Bishop Thomas M. Aitken

TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund	NOVEMBER	YTD
Income Actual	\$18,200	\$54,059
Income Budgeted	\$16,379	\$49,137
Expense Actual	\$19,310	\$46,222
Expense Budgeted	\$16,395	\$49,184
Over/(Short)	(\$1,110)	\$7,836



Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
Minutes of December 13, 2018, Council Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order by council president George Smith.

Secretary's Report:

A correction to the ‘Update Long Range Planning Committee’ from the November minutes to include Darlene Christensen and Dennis Hennesey on that committee was made. Motion was made to accept the corrected minutes of the November meeting by Mary Braun, seconded by Ron Haglund, and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for November was presented by Mary Braun. Motion was made by Ron Haglund to accept the treasurer’s report, seconded by Judie Birk and passed.

Pastor's Report –November 16 to December 13, 2018

Merry Christmas! Holiday time is always busy for churches, even as we see folks starting to head off to warmer climates. Here a few highlights from the past month: Kozoil

- Lots of worship and music planning for Advent and Christmas worship. Special thanks to Jim Christensen and Mary Braun for all their help!
 - Contacted John Koziol for helping lead a “Lessons and Carols” worship service on Dec 30 – a good way for us to sing all our Christmas favorites
 - Participated in caroling last Sunday, helped bring some holiday cheer to folks; we also hosted an impromptu concert for the Memory Care wing at Lakesong in Onamia
- Continued to work with *Together Here*, our Synod’s committee to help build understanding of and relationships with our Native American neighbors
 - Local Mille Lacs/Brainerd Lakes area group met at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum on Monday, 11/19, talked with Travis Zimmerman, site director and staffer Kaitlin Thompson about possibilities for educational opportunities
 - Attended another synod-wide group meeting on 11/20 in Duluth
- Among other fun activities, plan to write a fundraising letter for the Centennial Committee to send out around the first of the new year
- 5 pastoral care visits and calls
- All the usual odds and ends – committees, choir and praise band, bible studies, etc
 - Thanks to some of our new Facebook page helpers – Darlene, Val, and Joanne; adding lots of nice photos and posts

Old Business:

A motion to accept Dorothy Munding as a council member to fill the remaining term for Kathy Berland for this year was made by Jenny Schuett and

seconded by Mary Braun and passed.

Julie Swaggert is the new chairperson for the Personnel Committee with Ron Haglund as council rep. Additional committee members consist of Lee Forester, Pat Becker, Patti Smith and Mike Macioch. See the Personnel Committee report below.

Judie Birk reported on the Centennial Celebration committee. A few things noted were:

- A kickoff in January with opportunities to buy snowflake raffles (to support our Centennial celebration in August) and win a quilt (a monthly raffle is being planned with various prizes).
- A Snow Day event is being planned for Sunday, Jan. 20 (see info elsewhere in the Lifeline).
- A historical 2019 calendar for Bethesda is being printed and will be available for purchase for \$10. Unfortunately it will not be available by Christmas. But look for it right after the holiday.

Mary Braun reported that the Church Pictorial Directory is at the printer and will be delivered to the church early January.

Council discussed the action the Stewardship and Finance committee regarding an in-house audit. They need to gather the policies and procedures that exist from anyone that uses the church tax-exempt number. (See their report below). Dorothy Munding suggested that we create a form that whoever uses the tax number fill out.

New Business:

Radio ad — KKIN Radio (94.3) has a special going to broadcast Christmas services/news. A motion was made by Mary Braun to try the 15 ad spots for \$90. Mary will send the information to the radio station.

A motion presented by personnel committee to pay our digital technician \$225 a month (a \$25/month increase) retroactive back to September 2018 was made by Ron Haglund and second by Mary Braun and passed.

George Smith talked about the Isle School Paw Pantry and the Isle Area Food Shelf. There’s a real need for helpers, food and money. They have appreciated the support and donations given by Bethesda. Five quilts along with donations were given to the Paw Pantry and much appreciated. The Food Shelf is open on the first Tuesday and the

fourth Thursday of the month. George will gather more information and give to the Mission and Evangelism Committee. A council retreat was discussed and shelved to next month.

Committee Reports:

Worship & Music:

Minutes from Dec. 7 meeting. Members present: Pastor James, Jim Christensen, Tom Christensen, Paula Spetz and Julie Swaggert. Pastor James opened the meeting with prayer

We discussed Sanctuary Banners and what (if any) additional Banners we could use. After looking at all of the Banners, we inventoried them and determined we could use more with Pentecost, Epiphany or general church year themes. The Banners are a great addition to the Sanctuary and there is interest in donating more Banners.

The Narrative Lectionary themes will be the Gospels beginning in January and other New Testament Books starting in May.

Musician John Koziol will be at Bethesda for the Sunday, December 30th Service. We will have a Service of Lessons and Carols. A stipend will be provided for John in addition to a free will offering.

We will be looking for Special Music and musicians for the Christmas to Easter time period where the Choir will not be singing. We welcome the congregation to suggest musicians or volunteer to be that special music!

Lent 2019 begins in March. Tentative plans will be for the Pastor exchange for Lenten Service (similar to last year) along with the Holden Evening Service music.

January meeting will be at 11:00am on Thursday January 10th.

Stewardship & Finance Committee:

Meeting DECEMBER 10, 2018

1. Recommendation as presented by the personnel committee to pay Digital Technician \$225.00 a month retroactive back to September 2018.
2. Pastor James will check with some pastors in Isle regarding our discussion concerning homelessness

3. Committee reviewed budget updates and will discuss more in detail at the January meeting.
4. Mary Vukelich reported on the in-house audit and the recommendation to start with policies and procedures. Discussion items included:

- Gathering the policies and procedures that exist at present from each committee and/or group that uses the church tax-exempt number. This includes WELCA and the Memorial Garden. Groups not having a policy and procedure need to develop a plan to follow in determining financial requests or expenditures. For example, stewardship will develop written procedures for how the church budget is prepared and recommended to the council. It will also include budget review procedures for the financial church year and financial requests and expenditures specific to Stewardship/finance as outlined in the policy and procedure document.
- A request will be made via the Lifeline and an announcement at church concerning what stewardship needs from groups regarding procedures they follow in financial matters. Groups will return their information to Donna Ansell (dansell25@gmail.com).
- Gather job descriptions for each of the committees and employees
- The in-house audit is an ongoing effort to bring clarity and a better understanding of how financial matters and expenditures are handled. We have not undertaken this venture before so for everyone, this is a learning process.

Next meeting is Monday, January 7 at 1:00 PM

Property Committee:

Lee Forrester reported that the plow sticks are in, the drain field has been covered, and the Centennial sign by the highway is up.

Personnel Committee:

Meeting: Monday, December 3rd at 10:00am

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

Meeting summary:

- We discussed committee membership for the Personnel Committee. We hope to meet on a regular basis as needed to accomplish our

goals. Two additional members are Mike Macioch and Patti Smith.

- We revised the Personnel Committee Job Description and have a “Draft” for Council approval (draft is attached to this email)
- Julie will bring a draft for a new employee job performance review to our next meeting. We will look at creating a form that is usable and employee friendly.
- Lee (I think it was you Lee) will collect the employee job descriptions.
- We currently have 5 employees (not counting Pastor James) representing 6 positions. (Judy, Mary, Jenny, Sheila and Jim). Mary is a Church Admin. Assistant and the Treasurer. All employees will receive a copy of their job description.
- Employees will be notified that they will have the opportunity to discuss their position with Personnel Committee members in January or February. This will be conversational and the aim is to uplift and value our staff while gaining greater understanding of the work our employees do.
- No discussion was held about Pastor Performance reviews. This is a separate topic and may not be our role as Personnel (???)
- Julie volunteered to chair the Personnel Committee
- **NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 10th at 10:00am**

Motion was made to adjourn by Ron Haglund, seconded by Jenny Schuett, and passed.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.
The next council meeting will be January 17 at 1 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.



THANK YOU! Doris Reinhard would like to thank all the people who helped celebrate her 95th birthday. Either by sending cards or visiting her in the hospital.

We need coffee servers, please sign up

Thank you's

Many thanks to all the kind folks who left treats, cards, and other gifts in my office. My family, who helped me enjoy all the treats, also thanks you! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the fine people of Bethesda!

Pastor James

Thank you to everyone for the 90th birthday card! It is beautiful and what a pleasant surprise. All you people are the best of friends and helped make our 30 years at Mille lacs a paradise. No other church compares to Bethesda! Our love and May God Bless. Lee and Bob Kruger



Join us on Thursdays at 12:30 to play 500!

Join in on the fun! **Potluck On the 2nd Thursday ONLY at noon**

Double Pinochle is at 1:00 on Mondays



If anyone has empty ice cream pails please drop them off at church to be used for making the luminaries for the Snow Day.

BETHESDA QUILTERS need donations of clean used mattress pads and blankets to make Lutheran World Relief quilts. Please leave in the Fellowship Hall by the Quilter's Door. Many Thanks.

The Stewardship & Finance committee is looking for policies and procedures from all committees, chair persons or parishioners responsible for special events. This is part of an annual “In-House” audit. Any committee or person using the church's tax exempt number for purchases needs to send Donna Ansell (dansell25@gmail.com) a copy of your policies and procedures. If you don't have anything written down, now is the time to start.

This is an ongoing effort to bring clarity and better understanding of our financial matters and how expenditures are handled. We have not undertaken this venture before, so please assist us in any way possible.

Operation Christmas Child

During the month of January we will be collecting children's T-shirts for the shoe boxes that will be packed by the VBS kids in June. We need shirts for boys and girls of all sizes and colors. They can be placed in the large wrapped box in the narthex. Each month a different item will be collected.

From the Parish Nurses

Just a reminder that we have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at the church in the narthex hanging on the south wall next to the double doors into the Fellowship Hall. An AED is a computerized device that delivers electrical shocks to a person in cardiac arrest when the ECG rhythm is one that is likely to respond to a shock. It can be used by a lay person until medical personnel arrive in an emergency. It is easy to use an AED. You turn on the device and there are clear concise voice prompts advising you exactly how to use the AED as well as perform CPR. So check out where the AED is located at church and go online and watch "2017 Hands-Only CPR Instructional Video" and "AED Demonstration" on YouTube. These one minute videos may help you save a life.

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>)



Choir News

Wow! I can hardly believe that Christmas is all over with already!! I want to thank the choir for all of their hard work the last couple of months on the new Cantata. I am so proud of our choir. They did a wonderful job singing the Morning Star Cantata. Our hard work paid off. I got so many compliments!

They also did a great job at Aicota in Aitkin on Sat. afternoon. We had a full house in the dining room. It was a great day. I want all of my snowbirds to have a great winter and I will be in touch when we start the new season in 2019. It has been a great year and looking forward to what will be a busy summer with the 100th Anniversary Celebration.

I just want to thank all of my choir members and church members for all of your support you have given to me throughout the year and look forward to 2019 season! Have a good winter and God's Blessings to all! Sheila Penoyer

Fun for all ages!

SNOW DAY

Sunday, January 20, 2019
2 pm - 5 pm
Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmö
21590 State Hwy. 47



Fun indoor outdoor activities:
Snow Shoeing • Bonfire
Explore our Nature Trail
Make a Luminary
Games inside
(including giant Jenga)
Chili & fixings
Hot Chocolate
FREE!

A Winter Fun Day to begin our 100th Year Celebration!



Please check out the new solar lights in the gardens! Pastor James served welcomed warm java to ladies who performed a little lighting magic at Malmö Bethesda. The whole Memory Garden gang prays the Lord Himself illuminates your pathways this happy holiday season. Merry Christmas!

**2019 Bishop's Convocation on Mental Health
and Faith
"Names Free, Labels Bind"**

This Convocation is open to all people; you may invite friends who are asking questions about Faith and Mental Illness. Please register or call the synod office: 218-724-4424

**Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Hollie Holt-Woehl,
Professor, Luther Seminary
Saturday, January 19, 2019 - 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
418 8th Ave NE, Brainerd, MN**

The Rev. Dr. Hollie Holt-Woehl holds a Ph.D. in Pastoral Care and Counseling with particular emphasis on the congregation. She will utilize Jesus in her presentation that combines faith and science about Mental Illness. Her dissertation, "Congregations as Trinitarian Communities: Accepting, Welcoming, and Supporting People with Chronic Mental Illness," explores congregations who have welcomed people with mental illness into the life of the congregation. She teaches the course "Ministry with Persons with Mental Illness and Their Families."



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

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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 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	(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