

# Bethesda Life-Line

## Worship Services\*

Sunday 8:30 & 10:00 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.



July 7 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM  
Communion

July 14 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM  
Communion

July 21 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM  
Communion

July 28 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 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



July 4<sup>th</sup> – Glenn Parade

July 27 - Beef & Corn Feed

Listen to past Sundays Service on at this link.

<http://blcmalmo.org/category/sermons>



## Veggie Stand Opens

Welcome the return of the “Veggie Stand” at Bethesda. Our success greatly relies on help we receive from the generous Bethesda family. We will have our jellies, syrup, Corn, cook books and baked treats. We need your help in the bakery department. Anything you can share is appreciated by our customers. Also, come join us on Saturdays to help out and meet great people.

## Beef and Corn Feed



Our yearly corn feed is set for Saturday, July 27th from 4:30 – 7:00. The corn will be the sweetest of the season. Adult’s \$10 kids, under 10 are \$5. We need your help to make this successful. Would you please sign up to help serve and clean up if you are available on this day? As they say, “Many hands make a light load.” Invite your friends and relatives, and let’s make this a successful venture.

This will be the last year that Skip & Lynn Hansen we will be doing the corn feed. They would like to ask for volunteers to take over this popular fundraising event. If you are interested let Skip & Lynn know so you can be included in this year’s planning and to see how and what is done to keep the Beef & Corn Feed going! It’s always the last Saturday of July. A big thank you for all the work Skip & Lynn have done over the years, you are appreciated!



## **From the Pastor**

### **Past, Present, and Future:**

With our big Centennial Celebration fast approaching (August 11!) and with the natural human tendency to dwell on both our memories of the past and on our hopes for the future, it is understandable that our sense of time is a bit in flux this summer. We give thanks for all those generous people that have helped us get to where we are today and to the God whose loved flowed through them. We hope, for our part, to continue their legacy and share that love with new generations, new people, and neighbors far and near.

Because, of course, this chronological juggling act should be nothing new to faith-filled Christians, not just those celebrating centennials. We hosted yet another successful VBS last month (and many thanks to all those who helped make it possible!), and what is VBS, if not a ministry with eyes to the future? Intensive, communal programs like VBS and camp experiences have tremendous, life-long impacts on those who attend them. Though they may need to catch up on some sleep after it is all over, it probably benefits all those on the staff too!

Creation care is another growing aspect of ministry that has an expansive view of time. We have been entrusted with a world that is far, far older than any of us, and our Creator calls us to ensure that it lasts for a good long while into the future. Even with the occasional swarms of bugs, most of us enjoy living in this area precisely because of its natural attractions.

Beginning last month, some of our area pastors have also arranged a creation-focused pastor exchange on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. Our synod also has an active Creation Care team, which is more than willing to help congregations brainstorm ideas for their own ministries. Perhaps something for our many gardeners and outdoorsy folks to consider.

I would also include in this time-shifting sense of ministry the efforts of the Together Here team on which I serve. As much as the group helps educate folks on Native American history and culture, the goal is not to overwhelm people with an often-painful past, but to build stronger relationships into the future. We can see in our own neck of the woods that if a community is split by tensions, neither can truly grow to their full potential.

There are several cross-cultural opportunities this summer that we can explore. First, there is the series that I mentioned last month, and which will continue until next April. Every fourth Tuesday of the month there will be a different program at Trinity Lutheran in Brainerd, from 6:30-8:30pm. I would also like to schedule a time for us to hold our own Blanket Exercise, which does not involve any sewing (ha!) but is powerful interactive history presentation. In August, the Mille Lacs Band will also have their annual powwow, and it would be nice if we could get a group to go together. The Museum across the lake also offers a variety of special events and classes and I would encourage you to check them out.

I am excited for our centennial celebration in August, it should be a great time! But as we warmly reflect on the past, let us remember that our predecessors didn't build something final that we now just need to dust and polish and preserve unaltered, but that they started a community, a way of life that we are called to live into, an ongoing ministry that draws from the past but might also reach out in new and unexpected ways. What a wonderful gift to celebrate and what a wonderful God that gave it!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor James Muske



Northeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA  
1105 E. Superior St., Upper Suite  
Duluth, MN 55802  
<http://www.nemnsynod.org/>

## **ELCA Mission**

Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered and sent for the sake of the world



## Minutes of June 19, 2019 Council Meeting

In attendance: George Smith, Mary Braun, Jenny Schuett, 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 May meeting by Mary Braun, seconded by Sherry Whipple, and passed.

### Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for May was presented by Mary Braun. She updated us on the centennial spending. Motion was made by Sherry Whipple to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Dorothy Munding and passed.

### Pastor's Report:

Lots of summer planning this past month: getting ready for VBS, which began today

- starting to plan for confirmation class next fall; several possible students, intend to partner with Faith Lutheran in Isle
- Centennial planning, including a visit to the artist working on our new stained-glass piece
- summer pastor exchange, one Sunday a month in June, July, August - creation theme; there are more pastor's preaching than Sundays, so may explore ways to print or create online audio/video
- Shared God's Work Our Hands activities with Aitkin-area churches on Saturday, Sept 7?
- Shared Creation Care meeting, Tuesday, Sept 17? will ask if our gardeners and nature lovers would like to form a local team
- As part of Together Here, will be leading the first in a series of educational programs on Native American history and culture in Brainerd (4 sites total around the synod, Brainerd programs held on 4th Tues of the month)
- "Healing Circle Run" between various Ojibwe reservations during August, I volunteered us to be a water bottle

- Will be leading senior housing worship services next month and (later in July and August) pastor's reflections in *Mille Lacs Messenger*.

### Old Business:

- Update from Stewardship Committee — Meeting this coming week and will go over the budget requests.
- Update 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration August 2019 — Judie Birk reported that centennial planning is underway. Discussed basic schedule for Celebration day on August 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Update Isle Area Food Shelf – Patti and I delivered food to the senior's at the Isle apartment building on the 4th of June. Still a need for cereals, individual packets of oatmeal and volunteers once a month for three hours. Please call George if you have an interest.
- Sunday school Update — nothing this summer.

### New Business:

Update from Personnel Committee on Custodial position opening at the church. A recommendation from the Personnel Committee to hire Shirley Gosselin was made by Jenny Schuett and seconded by Dorothy Munding and passed.

Discussion on Worship and Music possible proposal on Church Projection System. This is in progress and will be a part of the 2019-20-budget request.

### Committee Reports:

#### Mission and Evangelism

Meeting June 5, 2019 — Members present: Pastor James, Judy Birk, Sandy Pullen, Barb Macioch, and Joanne Stueven

- We completed the budget request form for year 2020.
- We increased our budget to cover Sunday school expenses.
- Pearl Crisis Center will come on June 23 to give a Temple Talk about their organization. Pearl Crisis will be receiving a percent of our local benevolence dollars.
- 500 advertisement post cards have been ordered and will be circulated at Bethesda events.
- Students going into 7th grade will be invited to start confirmation on Wednesday evenings. There

are 4 students in the Malmo area. Pastor James is making arrangements to join with Faith Lutheran in Isle to combine classes and share resources.

- Pastor James shared some information on the Native Neighbors Training sessions. Suggestions include: organizing a group from Bethesda to attend the August Pow Wow on Mille Lacs, a book study on Native issues, being aware of the Healing Circle Run going past our church.
- Our committee is very active with Vacation Bible School and the 100-year celebration. All plans seem to be underway as we pray for guidance from above.

Worship & Music:

Meeting, Thursday June 6, 2019, 10:30am —  
 Members present: Pastor James, Jim Christensen, Carol Bakken, Ron Haglund, Sharon Whipple, Tom Christensen, and Julie Swaggert

- The outdoor worship service with the Praise Team leading the service is scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>. Weather will dictate if this will be an outdoor event! We hope to be able to enjoy the beautiful outdoor venue at Bethesda! If the service is rained out we may try later in the year (possibly September) for another outdoor service.
- The Centennial Service on August 11<sup>th</sup> will include the choir at the morning service. The afternoon Praise Band Festival has musical groups from Faith in Isle, First Lutheran in Aitkin and Immanuel Lutheran in Crosby (former Pastor Paul Mattson’s church) planning to attend and participate.
- Jim will be recruiting for additional volunteers to help on Sundays by running the digital organ. Anyone interested should contact the church office. Jim will also research the possibility of adding a new remote system so the digital organ could be run from the front of the church.
- The 2019-20 Budget was discussed in detail. The large expenditure we discussed was proposing to complete the sanctuary project including a mounted projector, remote control screen, digital amplifier, installation and training. Julie has been in contact with Jody at Stewart Sound Systems in Crosby for an updated estimate (of our June 2018 estimate). We will bring this to the Finance Committee and the Church Council. The

Worship and Music Committee was unanimously in favor of proceeding with this request.

Next meeting Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am at Bethesda.

The next council meeting will be July 15 at 11 am. Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mary Braun, seconded by Jenny Schuett, and passed. Meeting was closed with a prayer.

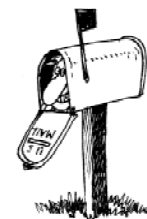
Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.

**2019 TREASURER'S REPORT**

General Fund	MAY	YTD
Income Actual	\$15,013	\$192,758
Income Budgeted	\$16,767	\$147,210
Expense Actual	\$14,885	\$164,906
Expense Budgeted	\$16,272	\$147,146
Over/(Short)	\$128	\$27,852

**Thank you**

Thank you to all of you who sent Jerry cards, called him on the telephone and continue to pray for him.



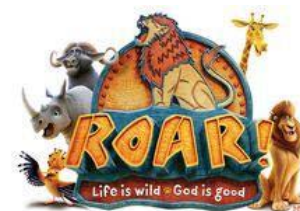
Most of all we both thank this congregation for the deep and abiding friendship we have shared over the years. May God continue to bless this congregation as we share Gods love.

Jerry and Pat Becker

*The Malmo Area Lions would like to thank all that participated, donated cookies and stuffed animals, and for coming to the Community Free Picnic. Hope you all had a good time.*

**WE ROARED!!!!**

I am writing this Thank You while I am still high on the smiles , the memories, the learning,





and great snacks that were a part of the June 17-21 Vacation Bible School experience. 44 students, 9 youth and 21 adults visited Africa learning that no matter how wild our life may seem GOD IS GOOD!

Each morning Dianne Jones and Penny Sjoquist greeted students. Randy and Laurina Tofteland started and ended the day with music and a fun skit. Laurina got them singing well enough to give a great performance Wednesday evening in Malmo. Val Benton and Pastor James lead students through Wild Bible stories using drama and adventure through the desert. They crossed the sea and found manna and quail to help them survive and lots lots more!! Charlie Follmer, Jackie Follmer and Judy Seifert supervised the snack and video hut where students learned about life in Africa and enjoyed a snack. The kitchen crew of Lynne Meidlinger, Bev Swanson, and Shirley Gosselin served up the best snacks ever. The Imagination Station was taught by Sandy Pullen and Jeannine Bruesewitz where students experience some science and art learning GOD IS GOOD! Our kid to kid mission lessons were taught by both Julie Swaggert and Lyle Nyberg. They both have spent time in Zambia so were able to share experiences and photos that made the African experience come alive.



Cindy Persson helped 5 youth leader boys manage games and playground fun. We divide the children into 4 age groups each group has leaders to help manage the materials and move them from class to class. Our most valuable leaders were Sue Samulson, Sheila Penoyer, Kris Kral, Darlene Christensen, Gloria Christensen, Joyce Dressley, Mary Scott, Myra Honl, Lucy Dunn, and Melanie Boyd.

There were 4 youth class helpers who helped the adult leaders hold hands and manage materials as needed. The stage set crew of Dave Stueven, Dick Pullen, and Jack Spetz, and Del Jones brought in the set and helped install the backdrop. Keith and Dawn took photos and had them printed for each child.



Darlene Christensen organized the students to fill shoe boxes to be sent as part of the Operation Christmas. Sue Samuelson invited everyone to play on her beach Tuesday afternoon. Rain threatened the fun but everyone enjoyed the afternoon.

So....everyone mentioned deserves a GIANT...Thank You for giving their time and talents to make a difference in lives of our precious children.

Thank You,  
Joanne Stueven  
(If you are able to check Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo on Facebook, Val Benton has Great photos of all action)



## Centennial News

### Glen 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade — Centennial Support



At this year's Glen parade, we are hoping to get at least 100 — Yes, 100 — participants to bike, walk or ride the parade route (mostly blacktop now) with everyone wearing their "Centennial Rejoice Always" t-shirts. What a statement we can make! We will hand out balloons and candy with our Centennial Date and message of 'Rejoice Always'. A sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall soon. Ride, walk or bike with us this day.

### Centennial Monthly Drawings

The Centennial committee would like to thank everyone for participating in these monthly raffles. Monies raised will go to our August 11 celebration and a commemorative stained glass piece of art that will hang in the Fellowship Hall. Please continue supporting this effort in the coming months! July's drawing will be donated by the Adult Choir. The prizes include a \$100 VISA gift card, religious CDs and other musical themed items.

## Centennial Historical Display



We are looking for items to display in our historical display for the Centennial. If you have any items or photos that can be loaned to the display, please contact Val Benton or bring to church.

### The Stained Glass Windows of Bethesda Lutheran Church

Greg Rosenberg of Brainerd designed, in 1996, the stained glass windows in the sanctuary when our present church was built. The Centennial Committee commissioned Greg to design a stained glass piece of art in honor of our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Greg's interpretation is of a "tree growing up from the ground that forms a cross with flowering blooms around the bottom. A crown of thorns will be hanging on the cross as rays from heaven shine down depicting God's love and a dove flying down. On the inside border will be "Rejoice Always - 1919 - 2019.

The piece will be 3ft. x 4ft. and will hang from the ceiling, centered in front of our large windows in the Fellowship Hall.

There is donation information on the table in the Narthex if you wish to contribute to this work of art.

## We need card players!

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

Join in on the fun! **Potluck On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month ONLY, at noon**



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

The Crafter schedule for the 9:00 am meetings in the church fellowship hall is as follows:

July 2, 16                      August 6, 20  
September 3, 10              October 1, 15



The bazaar is Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. For more information, call Char Berg @320-684-2102.



## Mission trip to Zambia in 2020 includes Bethesda members

In January of 2020, three Bethesda members, **Mary Braun, Dennis Hennessy and Julie Swaggert** will be travelling with 13 folks from Zion Lutheran in Buffalo Minnesota to the **Village of Hope** in Zambia, Africa.

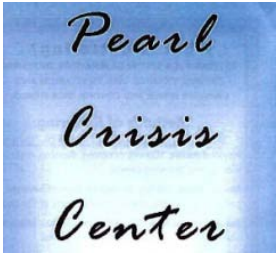
The **Village of Hope** began in 2008 as a Christ centered orphan village, serving the most vulnerable and poor children in a very poor country. Benedict and Kathleen Schultz, friends of Julie and Dennis, started the **Village of Hope** with 8 orphans living in a cottage with a housemother. There are now 110 children with many of these being toddlers and pre-school age. The **School of Hope** began with just those 8 children and now has over 600 students in preK-grade 12 serving students in rural Zambia where good schools are very rare.

The focus of the Mission trip will be to provide help with many projects including building, agriculture, education and working with the Village children. In the next few months, we will be providing more information in newsletters, bulletins and in Temple Talks about the **Village of Hope** including how Bethesda members can help.

The recent VBS week had the title "**ROAR**" and focused on Zambia children and how "GOD IS GOOD" no matter where you live and what you do! Julie spent time each day sharing with the VBS students about the **Village of Hope** and how children at the Village worship GOD just like we do. They also had the opportunity to learn about the Playground Project our Mission Team will be building in January 2020. The children raised **over \$185** towards this project with their daily offerings. We thank God for their efforts and will bring back pictures and stories to share with VBS and the Bethesda congregation.

Here is a link to the Village of Hope web site: <https://www.akclivillageofhope.com>

Thanks and God Bless! Julie, Dennis and Mary



Thank you to the staff from Pearl Crisis Center for your informative Temple Talk on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The donations from Sunday will be sent to this worthy organization.

## BLANKET EXERCISE



### CALL PEARL CRISIS CENTER IF YOU ARE . . .

- ☞ A victim of domestic abuse or sexual violence
- ☞ A family member or friend of a victim
- ☞ A professional in contact with a victim
- ☞ Looking for—or in need of—more information

ALL HELP IS FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL



*Office Line:*

320.982.2901

*24 Hour Crisis Line:*

1.800.933.6914

*Fax:*

320.982.2814



*Pearl Crisis Center*

P.O. Box 42,  
Milaca, MN 56353

Beginning, June 25, is the first in a series of educational programs led by our synod's Together Here team, helping us better understand Native American culture and history and form better relationships with our native neighbors. Pastor James will lead the first event - an interactive educational experience called a "Blanket Exercise." The event will be held in Brainerd at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1420 S 6th St, from 6:30-8:30 PM. A different program will be held on the 4th Tuesday of the month from now until next April. For the entire schedule and more information, check the board in the Narthex.



### Help! We need Coffee Servers for July and August

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

We are pleased to welcome Shirley Gosselin as Bethesda's newest staff member. She has accepted the position of Church Custodian.

Shirley has been filling in for the last several weeks and has been doing a great job! Welcome Shirley!





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

NON PROFIT ORG  
Paid  
Permit No. 25  
Aitkin, MN 56431

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	<a href="mailto:blcmalmo@gmail.com">blcmalmo@gmail.com</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 Malmo
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**