

Celebrating 100 Years

**Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
1919 — 2019**



**100th Anniversary Celebration
August 11, 2019**



Postcard of Bethesda



The parish purchased Clear Lake School in 1967 and established the Clear Lake Parish house and made an apartment in it for the pastor.



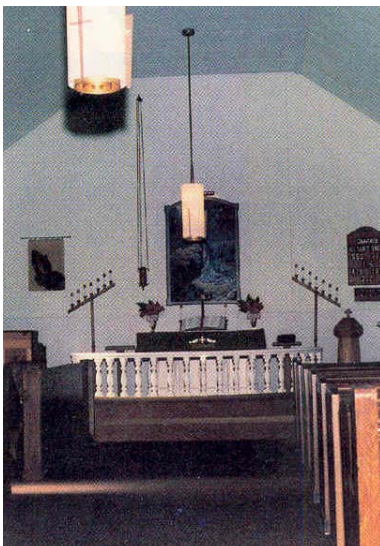
Seating in the first church was on wooden chairs.



Bell Tower constructed in 1984 by (from left) Eddie and Dawn Liljenquist, Ray Hawkins and Ron Kullberg.



1970s photo of the Lutheran Ladies Aid: (l to r) Dawn (Liljenquist) Kellen, Hazel Carlson, Esther Andren, Olga Larson and Lorena Swedberg.



Church interior 1986



Dedication Sunday 1986

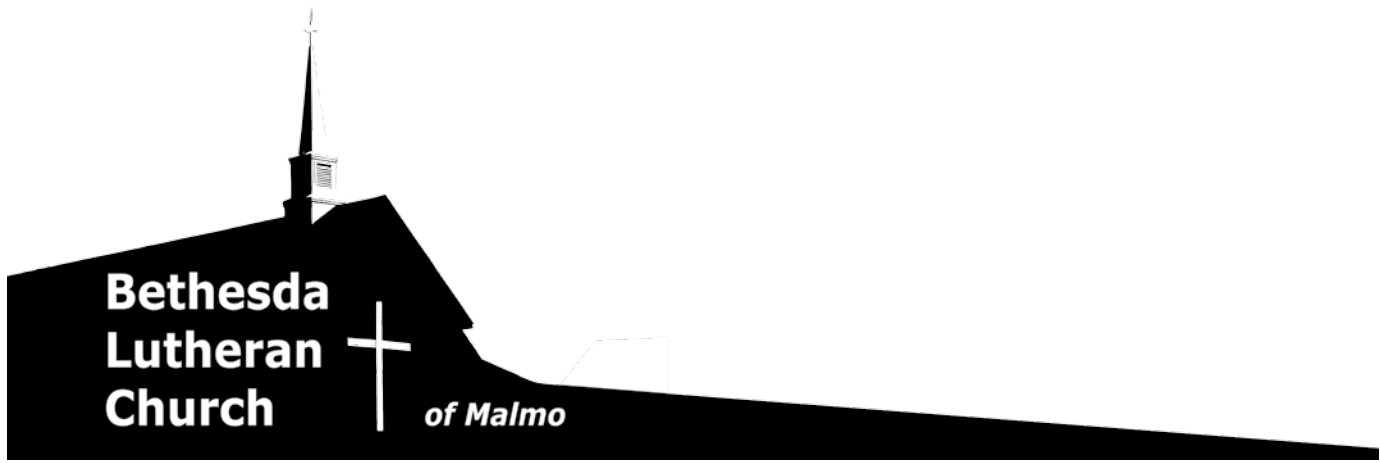
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The omission of facts or names is strictly unintentional. The content is based on past historical records. Additional facts, names and dates would be welcome and may be sent to Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo. Thank you to Thrivent Lutheran for donating money to help with printing.

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Greetings and blessings from your friends at Bethesda Lutheran Church!

On behalf of the Bethesda Centennial Committee, welcome to our 100th Anniversary year here at Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo! For all who are or have been part of this community of faith, we give thanks to God for reaching this milestone together. This year continues to be a wonderful time to celebrate, to look back and recall fond memories, and to also look ahead and envision what God may have in store for our community of faith on into the future.

Bethesda's roots stretch back to 1914, when a group of women in the Malmo area gathered to form a Sewing Society, and as they met, shared a common desire for a church where they could worship in their Lutheran faith as they had back in Sweden. As the Holy Spirit worked through these women and their families, they began to regularly meet and worship in the homes of members, the local schoolhouse, and other places as needed. Throughout the years, Bethesda has been blessed by the many gifts of our women, both from the modern-day WELCA group and individuals like Irene Long.

By 1919, these families formed the Bethesda Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church, holding services twice a month. It took 10 years for construction to begin on a church building and would indeed be a work in progress for years afterward. The first services were held while the building was little more than rafters and a rough floor, proper windows and an organ wouldn't be added until 1930, pews in 1941, and finally an electric line from the nearby Lundquist store a few years later. In time, of course, the congregation would build a new church, and it would see its own set of additions and renovations.

We often hear pastors reminding their congregations that a church is more than a building – that the presence and mission of God doesn't just exist within its walls. We may take comfort in the stability of buildings and the way that those buildings contain physical reminders of so many of the powerful experiences of our lives, but a faith community is not just a matter of where we gather, but how God sends us out. But buildings can offer powerful symbolism for a life of faith.

A centennial is a great time to step back to get that historical bird's eye view of our church. Not just to reminisce and over-indulge ourselves in nostalgia, but to also notice how God has guided our community of faith along the way. Our life as a community of faith continues to be a work in progress as well – bits and pieces added and changed over time and guided by the Spirit in a path that takes more twists and turns than we usually remember or realize.

It isn't hard to notice the physical changes, years of work that property committees have sweated and fussed over, and it isn't too difficult to see how new prayers and hymns have become a part of our worship. But, perhaps more than any of this, we notice the people. We think of all the lives that truly make and made up the congregation of Bethesda Lutheran Church.

This community of faith has been a welcoming home to many over the past century. We have shared together births and confirmations and weddings and funerals. We are a church used to greeting new faces, and so, whether you live here all year round or just when the fish are biting, we delight in forging new friendships, sharing a meal, and joining together in worship.

We aren't perfect nor a finished product – to quote from the service for Evening Prayer: “O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us.” A church which hopes to last another 100 years must keep its eyes, ears, and hearts open for where God may be calling it next.

And so, we keep all this in mind as we also remember to have fun! We have already experimented with some great new events – such as a game night and a movie night. We hosted a community Halloween party last year. We also engage in a variety of outreach efforts, including packing food for Feed My Starving Children and supporting local food banks. This year our big centennial celebration will culminate on Sunday, August 11, as we gather for a time of worship, music, and all kinds of fun activities.

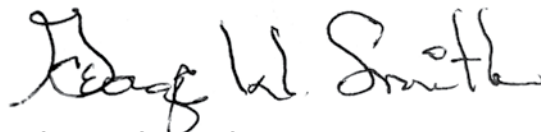
As much as this booklet helps tell the story of our congregation, we would also just love to hear from you! If you have any good stories from the past 100 years of Bethesda's history or copies of any old photos or bulletins and so on, please share! So too with any thoughts about where God might be calling us next – how we might best share God's love with our little corner of Minnesota and all of God's world.

Thank you so much for being a part of this wonderful community of faith!

God bless,



Pastor James Muske



George Smith, Council President

& the Bethesda Centennial Committee

The History of Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

In 1914, a group of families of the Malmo community gathered to form a Sewing Society. This later became the Ladies Aid group. These people had a common desire for a church where they could worship in their Lutheran faith as they had been taught during their youth in Sweden. They met in homes and worked diligently on projects to raise funds. The pastors, as well as families, attended these meetings.

With the organization of the Bethesda Lutheran congregation in 1919, it's members arranged to hold services twice a month. The meetings were held in the homes of members and the school-house. Gatherings usually numbered 15-25 people.

According to the records available, the Bethesda Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation held its first formal meeting after organization on January 12, 1920 with Rev. P.O. Hanson (1919-1921) presiding. This meeting was held in a log school three miles southeast of Malmo. This congregation was unique in that it had a forerunner in the organization of the Bethesda Lutheran Ladies Aid. The Reverends Ostrum and N. Almer (1917-1919) were the names of the pastors during this time. On June 11, 1920, the members voted to pay \$75 for five acres of land (about 2 miles east of Malmo) from Mr. Nils Anderson. This lot would be the site of their new church.

In a Ladies Aid report for December 31, 1922, an entry reads in Swedish:

Pengar in banken	\$385.24
Pengar pa hand	\$24.30
Summa	\$409.54

In a few years, their savings increased to over \$500. Student pastors Emeroy Johnson, Harry Lundberg and Wendall Olson were among those who served the congregation. The Rev. Gottfred Larson (1925-1929) also served and encouraged the people to start building. In 1927, the congregation voted to ask Mr. Nils Anderson to purchase back the lots. Pastor Larson and Abe Westerlund were put on a committee to find a more desirable location. A lot was purchased in Malmo from J.P. Carlson in 1928 for \$100 (per deed at courthouse).

Dr. P.A. Mattson, Conference President, and Rev. G. Carlson (1932-1934) appointed a building committee consisting of Abe Westerlund, Mrs. Frank Johnson, and Mr. and Mrs. Otto Johnson. All took part in church building meetings.

In the fall of 1929, the basement was dug with horses and a slip scraper. Concrete was poured for walls of the basement. The Ladies Aid treasury paid for lumber, which was cut and planed in the area. Ed Westerlund, Henry Larson and Sam Carlson were the carpenters with assistance of many others. A cornerstone was donated in 1929 by Rev. Rydell (1929-1930), the local pastor. A double barrel stove was built by Henry Larson. The first service in the new church was held in the basement.

Dr. P.A. Mattson and Rev. Carlson made a second visit in April 1930, when they approved the plans for the interior and placement of windows. A reed organ was received from another church. The first lights were kerosene lamps. Seating was on wooden chairs. Dr. P. A. Mattson dedicated the cornerstone that summer. No money was borrowed to finance the building. Rev. Olson, Rev. Westlund, and Rev. Carson were the first pastors to preach in the new building.

Abe Westerlund, Otto Johnson and Frank Johnson were elected as Deacons in 1930. Mrs. Frank Johnson was elected Treasurer with Minnie Johnson as Secretary. Otto Johnson was elected Janitor for one year and promised to serve without pay. The minister would receive \$6 a month.

The church exterior was stuccoed in 1932 at a cost of \$230.28. Pulpit, altar and altar railing were donated by a church in St. James, during the student pastorship of Ralph Johnson. Student pastors were provided room and board in family homes. Flooring was laid and wall paneling was installed while Pastor Crouner (1937-1941) and student pastor Lawrence Rydquist (1937-1939) served the congregation. Fourteen pews were purchased through the efforts of Rev. Swante Erling (1941-1942) and Mrs. A. Erling. The auditorium was completed, light fixtures hung, basement plastered and grounds landscaped during the pastorate of Rev. G.R. Grahn (1943-1951). The first electric lights ran on power from the nearby Lundquist store.

An active Luther League met the first Sunday evening of each month. They are always a very special program. This was a very important social function of the church and community for people of all ages.

During World War II, a Service Flag, hanging in the church, had more than 20 stars signifying the young men in service. Deep sorrow was felt when a Gold star was placed there for war casualty Dale Williams.

From about 1945, two worship services a month were held on every other Sunday evening. The building project covered a period of years. During this period, Alma Berger (widow of Nicholas Berger) bequeathed in 1952 the half acres west of Bethesda Lutheran Church with a life estate in the real estate. She passed away in 1952. Rev. Erling (1951-1952) made plans for the dedication by Rev. Vernon E. Holmberg (1953-1956), due to the sudden death of Pastor Erling in an auto accident. Dr. Emil Swenson of the Minnesota Conference, dedicated the Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo on June 21, 1953, referring to Bethesda mentioned in John 5:2.

In October 1954, the Board of American Missions sent student Dale Franzen. For the first time, Bethesda had its own student pastor. In the following year of 1955, he also started serving at Zion Lutheran in Isle. The potential strength of these two congregations enabled them to call a full-time pastor. Pastor Sherman Bohn (1956-1963) was installed in September.

Extensive improvements were made in 1960 to the building and more land to the north of the church was donated by Walter and Carrie Johnson for the purpose of additional parking. Olander Liljenquist and Don Archer did the landscaping. Henry Wilson donated snowplowing on a weekly

basis from 1955 to 1976. In 1977-1978, he was paid for plowing. During the period between 1962 and 1966 he did many hours of landscaping and also donated the sewer work. An organ was also purchased in 1960. Water for coffee and dishwashing was pumped by hand and carried down to the basement and again upstairs for dirty dishes. An outdoor biffy with toilet paper stored in a coffee can served as a bathroom. The outhouse was not used often in the winter due to cold and necessity of shoveling a path to it behind the church.

In 1962, when the three major Lutheran churches merged, this affected the affiliation with the Isle church. Bethesda needed a new affiliation. In October 1964, Bethesda and Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Route 1, Aitkin, came together in a parish alignment.

College and seminary students served these two churches during the next 10 years (1964-1974). Pastor A. Wallace Carlson was Vice Pastor from Aitkin. In 1967, the Parish purchased Clear Lake School located a mile north of Glen, and established the Clear Lake Parish house and made it into an apartment for the pastor. Dave Everett, who served the congregation three years, was the first student pastor to live in the Parish House. A Conn organ was purchased in 1973.

Pastor Larry Johnson served from 1975-80. In 1975, Helen Neese was the first woman elected to the Church Council. Intern Tom Nacey was here in 1978. Bethesda's 60th Anniversary was observed July 22, 1979.

Pastor Glenn Johnson and his wife Karen came to Bethesda on August 4, 1980. Membership increased to 181 baptized and 149 confirmed members. From 1980-1984, Arden Ray and others paneled the downstairs walls. Don and Rosemary Kraus carpeted the floor. Lincoln and Myrtle Thoreson donated a bell. The bell tower was built by Ed Liljenquist, Bert Lane, Ron Kullberg, Herb Hjort and Ray Hawkinson and was dedicated on August 5, 1984.

Lee Krueger organized a mixed voice choir in 1983 with the help of Karen Johnson serving as accompanist. It was made up of members of the congregation as well as visitors and friends in the area. By 1985, there were 18 members and a church in Minneapolis donated pre-worn robes. Rosemary Kraus made red and white liturgical stoles. The choir has added to the quality of worship on Sundays as well as other occasions.

In 1985, a new narthex and enlarged sanctuary was built with many people contributing their resources. Arden and Greg Westerlund donated work on a new septic system. Inside bathrooms were added. Running water was installed in the kitchen. The addition dedication service was held on August 11, 1985.

Ten acres of land just south of the intersection of Highways 47 and 18 was purchased for \$7,500 from the Swedberg family in June 1988 and was paid off in a year. In January 1988, Pastor Kermit Youngdale (wife Dotty) was hired as an interim pastor. Bethesda and Bethlehem decided to separate in December 1988 and sell the Parish House.

In May 1992, the parsonage and 6.5 acres were purchased for \$60,000 from Elton and Jean Jacobson. This parcel of land is next to the land previously purchased. Pastor Kermit had been encouraging parishioners to begin thinking about calling a full-time pastor.

In 1992, Pastor Paul Mattson and wife Jill came to serve, making him the first full-time pastor of our own! Membership exploded, vibrant Bible and Sunday Schools were established, an informal Saturday service was added, song and praise abounded and a great Gospel message was preached.

The 75th anniversary was celebrated in July 1994, the same month a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the new church site. The new church dream was brought to reality in less than a year. The final service at the original site was held April 14, 1996, with a solemn procession, walking and singing hymns on their way to the new church. Official dedication was Sunday, June 16, 1996, only the beginning for the congregation's continued building of people for the furtherance of Christ's work in this community. Greg Rosenberg of Brainerd, Minnesota, designed the stained glass windows in the sanctuary when our present church was built in 1996. Dave Andrews served as the general superintendant. Many donor hours kept costs to a minimum including the septic system materials and labor provided by Ed and Larry Liljenquist.

Pastor Paul left us a growing, active congregation in 1997. Pastor Jorge Soruco then served us — he remained only a short time; followed by Interim Pastor Bob Kleinke. We also had the great fortune to have amongst our members a retired pastor, Winfield Johnson, and his beautiful wife Marge. Pastor Winnie filled in many Sundays, still giving rousing sermons (never using notes) when he was well into his 80s!

Pastor Jim Raisanen and wife Karen joined the Bethesda congregation in July 2000. Bethesda seemed to take a deep breath and then throw itself headlong into an outburst of both inner growth and outreach to the community! Bible Studies and religious education flourished. Music continued to be a mainstay under Lee Krueger and then Darwin Bruesewitz, a man of towering talent, integrity and personality. Organists like Ingrid Trandahl and Marlys Beavers accompanied our services. The Ladies Aid became WELCA but continued the tradition of strong Bethesda women, holding an annual Bazaar to raise funds for community causes and almost every church project! A nature trail and beautiful Memory Garden were established by Jim McCollough, Roy Berg and Doug Kloss and maintained by Dianne Jones, Joanne Stueven and a green-thumb gardening group. A Veggie Stand was built and manned by volunteers selling baked goods and produce to raise money for local benevolence. Skip and Lynn Hansen spearhead an annual Beef and Corn Feed and use the profits to support a clinic in Biloxi, Mississippi and the church. We have been blessed by a succession of dedicated secretaries like Jane Humphreys, Evie Richter, Mary Long, Mary Braun and Jenny Schuett. We formed crafters, quilters, and a hardanger group; we founded a Thursday fun and games day. We built a substantial fellowship hall addition as well as an educational wing to the new brick church! Building improvements such as the automatic handicapped-accessible front doors were made possible by donations from generous contributors such as the late Dale Siems.

Plans for a new addition was presented to the congregation after months of research. To keep cost within a workable range, the congregation voted on October 9, 2005 to expand the educational wing, offices and fellowship hall. Groundbreaking took place in May 2006. The renovation and new expansion included three educational/multi-purpose rooms, a youth room, nursery, nurses office, enlarged offices for the pastor and general office, a large fellowship hall, enlarged kitchen, storage spaces and new restrooms.

An exploratory group visited many churches that had recently expanded. The committee was seeking guidance and advice to report back to the Bethesda congregation — which they presented at a church meeting. The members voted to enlarge our facility. Neil Westerlund was the general contractor for the project. Many hours of volunteer labor kept the cost of the project to approximately \$600,000. With a three-year pledge drive in place, a loan for the remainder \$306,000 was secured. The dedication of the new additions was held on April 29, 2007. The Burn the Mortgage celebration for the new addition was held June 22, 2014.

Since the building addition, we have added a Memory Garden with a fountain and benches to remember and meditate upon our loved ones. A nature trail wanders through the back of our property. Neighborhood care groups have been formed, little churches within the big church, that we might better help each other down the road of life. Bible Study has become a part of many of our member's lives. And we have a dream for a new performance-type sanctuary and a Senior High Rise that we will keep ever before us.

Pastor Jim Raisanen led us with charisma and humor, and when we released him from service after 14 years in September 2016, it was with an afternoon program involving much reminiscing and laughter, mixed with more than a few tears. After he left, we were blessed with Interim Pastor Terry Frovik who not only shepherded us with grace but in a very short time oversaw the raising of funds to build a brand new parish house, proving that the people of Bethesda are still committed to providing God's servants with the best we have to offer.

And God continues to send HIS best too as shown yet again when young Pastor James Muske answered our last call in November 2017. Pastor James is vibrant, patient and perceptive, and humorous with a self-deprecating charm. His love of children shines, as does his sincere compassion with the aged in nursing homes or grieving families in hospital waiting rooms. He has taken a leadership role with quiet confidence and we can only hope in some small way to serve and nurture him in return for his faith walk among us.

So as Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo celebrates its Centennial on August 11, 2019, we realize that each Pastor and every parishioner has been equally important and essential to our growth. We are thankful to all who have given of their gifts, time and talent to God's service. With monies donated for the Centennial celebration, we commissioned Greg Rosenberg to design a stained glass piece of art in honor of our 100th Anniversary. We know we were blessed by the labors of those who went before us in the faith, but we are a people who still keep our eyes on the future. We rest in Christ and hope to always remain His ever-growing, ever grateful people. Amen.

PASTORS SERVING BETHESDA

Rev. Ostrum (1914)	Rev. Gunnard Grahn (1943-1951)
Rev. P. O. Dahlberg (1916)	Rev. Swante Erling (1951-1952)
Rev. N. Almer (1917-1919)	Pastor Vernon Holmberg (1953-1956)
Rev. P. O. Hanson (1919-1921)	Pastor Sherman Bohn (1956-1963)
Rev. G. Ostergren (1921)	Pastor A. Wallace Carlson (1965-1975)
Rev. Ernest Ekstroom (1922-1925)	Pastor Larry Johnson (1975-1980)
Rev. J. Gottfred Larson (1925-1929)	Pastor Glenn Johnson (1980-1988)
Rev. Carl Rydell (1929-1930)	Pastor Kermit Youngdale (1988-1992)
Rev. Edward Olson (1930-1931)	Pastor Paul Mattson (1992-1997)
Rev. Westlund (1932)	Pastor Robert Kleinke, Interim (1997)
Rev. Carlson (1932-1934)	Pastor Jorge Soruco (Nov 1997-Sept 1999)
Rev. Arthur Pearson (1934-1935)	Pastor Robert Kleinke, Interim (Oct 1999-2000)
Rev. John Benson (1936)	Pastor James Raisanen (2000-2016)
Rev. Louis Crowner (1937-1941)	Pastor Terry Frovik, Interim (2016-2017)
Rev. Leonard Kendall	Pastor James Muske (2017-Present)
Rev. Swante Erling (1941-1942)	

COLLEGE AND SEMINARY STUDENTS SERVING BETHESDA

Emeroy Johnson (1925-1926)	David Everett (1667-1969)
Ralph Johnson (1936)	Paul Andell (1970)
Lawrence Rydquist (1937-1939)	Norman Luecke
Robert Cunningham	Howard Beutler
David Johnson	Kurt Hilden
John Klingman	Tom Nacey
Dale Franzen (1954)	John Ansell

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Ida Burman
Esther Oberg Richardson
Alice Larson
Lorena Swedberg
Marie Johnson
Lillian Marpe
Agnes Ely
Hazel Carlson
Leona Davis
Helen Neese

Irene Long
Helen Liljenquist
Mary Burman
Marcella Earsley
Arlene Westerlund
Cheri Miller
Frankie Thompson
Jean Bolke
Bonnie Mickelson
Susan Modrow

PIANIST OR ORGANIST

Esther Oberg Richardson
Alice Larson
Marie Johnson
Millie Larson
Lillian Marpe
Marilyn Williams Bergum
Marilyn Andrews
Glenice Falness Peterson
Elsye Groehler

Minnie Peysar
Karen Johnson
Audrey Wiebusch
Jan Wiersma
Marjorie Johnson
Lee Krueger
Ingrid Trandahl
Marlys Beavers

BETHESDA WOMEN

(Formerly Ladies Aid & currently WELCA)

The following have served as President:

Mrs. Otto Johnson
Mrs. Carl Dahlman
Mrs. Ida Burman
Mrs. Wm. Neumann
Mrs. Hazel Carlson
Mrs. Esther Waite
Mrs. Carl Johnson
Mrs. Lillian Marpe
Mrs. Minnie Peysar
Mrs. Marie Johnson
Mrs. Alice Larson
Mrs. Walter Johnson
Mrs. Herman Zantow
Mrs. Ruth Williams
Agnes Ely

Edith Myers
Helen Liljenquist
Arlene Falk
Marilyn Elling
Esther Andren
Gladys Wilson
Lorena Swedberg
Edna Andren
Marge Peterson
Edna Priebe
Virginia Hill
Millie Munson
Cleo Falck
Dorothy Christensen
Jane Humphreys

Arlene McNevin
Yvonne Nelson
Patty Kahnert
Jan Phillip
Cheri Johnson
Barb Bray/Jeannine Bruesewitz
Marlys LeClair
Barb Forrester
Elsa Carlson
Judy Forester
Sandy Pullen and Jeannine
Bruesewitz
Jeannine Bruesewitz and Sue
Samuelson

CHARTER MEMBERS* OF BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mr. Nels Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Gudim, Children: Ralph
Mr. & Mr. Albert Hagberg
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Hagberg
Mr. & Mrs. A. Hendrickson, Children: Oscar
Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Hill
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Johnson
Children: Edward, Alice & Clarence
Mr. & Mrs. Otto Johnson
Children: Carl, John, Minnie & Dagmar

Mr. & Mrs. Swan Nelson, Children: Emil
Mr. & Mrs. Emil Oberg, Children: Alvin
Mr. & Mrs. John Peterson
Mr. & Mrs. Elof Roseberg
Mr. & Mrs. John & Ingeborg Samson
Children: Ted, Dan, Joe, Carl, Leona & Eleanor
Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Westerlund
Children: Alf, Arnold, Edwin, Eden, Vernon, Alien,
Ainer, Esther, Eleanor & Beatrice

**Names were taken from a 1979 directory and 60th Anniversary book.*

CONFIRMED AT BETHESDA

Confirmed before 1930

Carl Johnson
Clarence Johnson
N.J. (Jack) Johnson
Minnie Johnson
Mabel Larson
Freda Larson
Edith Lindelof
Alvin Oberg
Ester Oberg
Ellen Roseberg
Swan Roseberg
Gunard Roseberg
F.W. (Fritz) Roseberg
Carl Sampson
Leona Samson
Daniel Samson
Eleanor Samson

1930

Clarence William Peterson

1932

Ida Burman
Irene Elizabeth Burman Long
Helmer Roland Larson
Herbert Alvin Larson
Mildred Tressie Larson
Walter Lawrence Long
Edith Neumann

Elmer William Neumann
Edna Irene Peterson Johnson
Irene Ruby Swanson Ahl

1933

Orlander B. Burman
Carlton Dahlman
Arless Hill
Henriette Otella Hill
Gustav Arvid Larson
Amy Margaret Long Erickson
Gottfred Theodore Long
Clarence Neumann
Pearl Ethel Swanson Loegering

1936

Anna Burman Jacobson
Loretta Burman Weiss
Marjorie Dahlman Johnson
Clayton Johnson
Ruby Neumann Husak
Ethel Peterson Oien

1938

Ruby Johnson Hanson
Carl Erick Long
Donald Edward Marpe
Violet Neumann English
Mary Peterson Sandberg
Violet Rasmussen Gorlock

Donald Lester Robinette
Myrl Williams Curtis

1939

Donald Clarence Curtis
Carl Gustaf Ekholm
Walter Edward Peysar
Chester A. Swedberg
Vernon Kermit Swedberg
Algot Leopold Williams
Dale Ellis Williams

1940

Clarence A. Burman
Ernest E. Burman
Edward Walter Jarson
Lloyd Melvin Jarson
Eugene Lincoln Lind
Margaret Lyman Peterson
Frances Peterson Bourgoine
Robert Willard Peterson
Allan LeRoy Westerlund

1941 – 1947

Carol Marpe Nelson
Warren Johnson
Florence Peterson Rueter

1948

Farolyn Johnson Gehring
Eddie Peysar

1950

Paul Fredrick Bailey
James Peter Herring
Ethel Neese Marsh
Philip Lowell Neese
Robert Oliver Neese
Roger Cecil Peysar

1952

Richard Liljenquist
Elsye Groehler
Gladys Wilson
Henry Wilson

1954

Diann David Hendrickson
Joann Davis Roeker
Ronald Falnes
Arlan E. Johnson
Dorothy Lassen Henderson
Marilyn Liljenquist Westerlund
Andrews
Meldon Donald Liljenquist
Wayne Richard Marpe
Alan Karl Swedberg
Jarold Edwin Swedberg
Russel Albert Wendorff
Frances Williams Bergum
LeRoy Henry Wilson
Roger Arthur Wilson
Annabelle Zantow Slette

1955

Ellen Burman
Leona Davis
Lloyd Davis
Irene Erickson
Edward Johnson
Richard Zantow
Ruth Johnson
Eleanor Marion Johnson
Leonard Frank Johnson
Iris Johnson

Walter Johnson
Edwin Liljenquist
Helen Liljenquist
Edith Myers
Jane Myers Thomas
Irene Sandell
Edwin Swanson
Russell Swanson
Vernon Westerlund

1956

Glenice Falnes Petersen
Beverly Liljenquist Lemm
Eleanor Neese Miles
Charlotte Westerlund Johnson
Helen Wilson Sharp

1957

Dawn Archer Liljenquist Kellen
Marilyn Olson Gulland
Barbara Peterson Phillips
Norman Walter Swedberg

1959

Donna Rae Curtis Asp
Robert Johnson

1962

Duane Warren Long

1963

Ellory Long Christenson
Oaklon B. Martin

1964

Colin Brodhead
Warren Burman
Carole Lassen Larson
Bonnie Liljenquist Mickelson
Sharon Liljenquist Nelson
Brenda Nyberg Chatelle
Joy Sandell Wilke
Steven Stapleton
Victor Swedberg
Sharon Williams Nelson

1965

Gilmore Atwater
Ruth Atwater
Olga Larson
Gordon Mickelson

1966

Darlene Curtis Turnock
Allie Martha Ray
Arden Ray
Arden Westerlund
Arlene Westerlund
Irene Holmquist

1967

Hazel Carlson
Solomon (Sam) Carlson
Theodore Larson
Lillian G. Markell
Rollin Markell

1968

Dwight Charles Burman
Bonnie Eklund LeCocq
Brent Gordon Elling
Sandra Kimball Dreysuss
Dennis Lee Liljenquist
Gary Lee Long
Susan Lynn Peterson Homan

1969

Catherine Burman Buhlmann
Lucille Eklund Foster
Mark R. Peterson

1970

Barbara Kuusisto Hite
Sheila Wilson Reich

1971

Marge Burnham
Denette Curtis Collins
Gregg Allen Johnson
Jackie Liljenquist
Elizabeth Lovell
Jack Lovell
Cynthia Slette Christenson
Sharon Swanson Reese
Debbie Westerlund Hunt

1972

Alfreda Brenon Hamilton
Lisa Carey Thomas
Edna Maehl Andren
Kevin Clarence Burman
Thomas Burman
Becky Eklund Brister
Clyde Wayne Eklund
Julie Eklund Hultman
Steven James Long

1973

James Edward Dougherty

1977

Deborah Liljenquist Lowe
Pamela Westerlund Ritter

1978

Bradley D. Carlson
Brian Rodney Carlson
Lisa Kay Carlson

1981

Linda Liljenquist

1982

Karen Liljenquist Timmers
Nancy Moore

1983

Frankie Linehan McDaniel
Billy Wolf

1984

Kelly Hite Hagestuen
Todd Johnson
Judy Moore

1985

Larry Liljenquist

1987

Amy Johnson Farness

1989

Charity Miller

1991

Vanessa Miller

1992

Michelle Elias
Marty Wold

1993

Jeff Emery
Brian Miller

1994

Kim Chichila
Krista Elias

1995

Joseph Emery
Sarah Hunt
Justin Falken
Matthew Miller

1996

Sarah Chichila
Eric Christensen
Hans Christensen
Kristy Lowe
Heather Rudd McNevin
Jeff Rambo
Nathan Stebbins
Samantha Westerlund

1997

Danny Elias
Amber Hunt
Mitchell Lowe
Jonathan Mickelson
Kayla Nelson
Ted Stoutenberg
Leaza Westerlund

2001

Sam Stay
Nate Christensen
Sally Stay

2004

Kristin Penoyer

2005

Mitchell White
Scott Nyberg

2007

Eve Christiansen
Kyle Lagerstrom
Nick Lagerstrom
Andy Nyberg
Alana Tibbetts
Anthony White

2010

Lyle Nyberg
Ronesha Keil

2012

Holly Grap
Mallory Hanson
Sam Hanson
Will Petersen
Eddy Simonson

2014

Thomas Petersen
Zachary Simonson

2016

Anna Westerlund

2017

Dale Petersen
Joseph Simonson

2018

Ellee Johnson
Emilie Vukelich

The Stained Glass Windows of Bethesda Lutheran Church

Greg Rosenberg of Brainerd, Minnesota in 1996, designed 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 100th Anniversary. Here is Greg's interpretation:

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we gain salvation from our sins and are members of the family of all believers in Christ. This window, celebrating 100 years of Bethesda Lutheran preaching and teaching God's Word, shows the bedrock of Lutheran belief with a cross, symbolic of Christ crucified, with roots deeply imbedded in rock, sliced and polished Agate. On the center of this cross is a butterfly symbolic of Jesus' resurrection. The dove coming down from heaven depicts the Holy Spirit leading us to salvation and the ray's of heavenly light are coming from God the Father. We rejoice always in this truth. The church is located just off Mille Lacs Lake so a lake is in the background and the church has a flower garden thus there are flowers embellishing this window. The bell at the top of the design rings out the truth taught at Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo.



Jesus and the Little Children

Jesus called the children to Him and said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God like a little child, will never enter it." Jesus is blessing little children and using them as a lesson to us that we need the pure and simple faith of a child. The dove at the top of the window is used because of its presence at Jesus' baptism and its symbolism of the coming of the Holy Spirit through baptism. The water lilies are like our faith in Christ rising up out of the water of baptism and bursting forth with the beautiful bloom of our visible life as children of God.

— In Honor of Olander & Margaret Liljenquist from the Children

Nativity Scene

When the angels left them and had gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord told us about." So they hurried off and

found Mary, Joseph and the babe. The star of Bethlehem shines down on Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. The lamb in the foreground is a subtle reminder of Jesus being the Lamb of God. The poinsettias at the base of this scene were chosen because of their association to the Christmas season.

— *Elroy & Virginia Lawrence*

The Crucifixion

This sad scene of Jesus' crucifixion is topped with the sign of the charge against him by mankind — "This is Jesus, King of the Jews." At the bottom of the window is the twisted crown of thorns which the soldiers pressed onto Jesus' head while they were mocking him.

— *In Honor of Parents from Skip & Lynn Hansen*

The Sermon on the Mount

Jesus is teaching the people of the will of God. Notice the one man behind Jesus turning away in apparent anger over Jesus' words, but the rest are listening intently. The coloring in the clothing of the people around Jesus encompasses the full spectrum of the rainbow, each color symbolic of different people and personalities . . . Jesus' teachings are for all Christians.

— *In Loving Memory of Our Little Country Church*

The Resurrection

Jesus is showing Himself to Mary Magdalene and she recognizes Him as the risen Jesus. The open tomb is in the background. The butterfly at the top symbolizes our own transformation from an ugly worm awakened to become the beautiful butterfly — our own awakening to faith through Christ. The lilies are symbolic of the Easter story.

— *In Loving Memory of Leroy Hahn by Bernice & Family*

Gethsemane

Jesus is praying in the garden of Gethsemane. The chalice at the top is symbolic of Jesus' prayer in Matthew 26:39-42. At the bottom of the window is a cluster of grapes and wheat as was served when Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples just prior to his going to Gethsemane to pray. This last supper is celebrated by Christians the world over for the forgiveness of our sins through Jesus.

— *In Memory of Ruth & Gil Atwater by Don & Arlene McNevin*

Narthex Window

We are reminded of our salvation through Jesus Christ's earth for our sins and his victorious resurrection. At the bottom center of the design is the Hold Word, our source of knowledge of God's will for us. Rising out of the center of the Book is the cross, symbolic of Christ's death. The Easter lilies proclaim His resurrection. The rainbow is of God keeping his promises to us. The artist gives a double meaning in the rainbow colors indicating our uniquely different personalities and yet a rich blending of all people making up the church. The window is bordered in vibrant hues of purple and mauve, jewel-like circles testifying to what a treasure God's Hold Word is to us.

— *In loving memory of Arthurs & Ester Andren from Ruth Westerlund and Lois Evans*

Alter Side Windows

The brilliant spring flowers are symbolic of mankind's hope in the glorious resurrection of Jesus.

— *In Memory of Arthur Christensen by Dorothy Christensen & Children*

— *In Memory of Leo Lindelof by Ray & Lyla Dooley*

Bethesda Today in 2019

Worship and Fellowship

Sundays, 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Winter Months (one service at 9:00 a.m)

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday.

Mission Statement

We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH. We will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS. We will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.

Music

We have a very talented congregation who love to sing praises to our Lord in many ways.

Praise Choir — performs on 2nd Sunday of the month. Choir practice is Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Choir — performs April-December on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Bell Choir — performs April-December on the 4th Sunday of the month

Jamboree — 3rd Friday in September

Christmas Cantata — 3rd Sunday in December

Education

Bible Study — Wednesday Morning, 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

R.O.M.E.O.S — Men's bible study, Thursday Morning, 8-9 a.m. at Church

Women's Devotions Group with Pat Becker — 2nd Monday of the month, 9 a.m. at Pat Becker's home

Sunday School — Sundays, 10:15 a.m. (Sept-May)

Vacation Bible School — Held third week of June for children ages 4-12. 6th graders and older are welcome as helpers. We encourage the congregation to invite their grand, great grand or neighbor kids to join us for the week.

Fellowship (Activities)

WELCA — Bethesda belongs to the Heartland Conference in the NE Synod. Meetings are held at 9:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the months of January, April, May, August, September and November.

Bethesda Quilters — Meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month to cut, sew and quilt. Quilts have been donated to local, state and world causes.

Stitchers — Meet on Wednesday Mornings at 10 a.m.

Crafters — Meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the Month beginning in May, from 9-11:30 a.m. Crafters work on projects that will be sold at the Holiday Bazaar in October.

Veggie Stand — A ministry in the summer months that sells veggies, baked goods and jelly with donations going to local charities.

Bethesda Holiday Bazaar — A yearly craft and bake sale with lefsa making, cookie walk, lunch, quilts, raffles that all raise monies for church needs, local and world charities.

Church Council

Meets once a month. Present members are:

President: George Smith

Vice President: Jenny Schuett

Secretary: Judie Birk

Treasurer: Mary Braun

Council Members:

Ron Haglund, Dorothy Munding, Cheryl Malotky, Sherry Whipple

Committees

Mission, Evangelism, Youth and Family — The primary function of the Mission and Evangelism Committee is to lead and challenge our congregation in their faith in Christ through fellowship and helping others in the church, community, and the world. This committee also oversees the youth programs such as Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Confirmation.

Faith, Health and Wellness — The primary function of the Faith, Health, and Wellness Committee is to have a ministry that gives encouragement, comfort, and a sense of belonging to people who are hurting, lonely, or simply in need of companionship.

Property — The primary function of the Property Committee is to oversee and care for the physical property (facilities and grounds) of both the church and parsonage.

Stewardship and Finance — The primary function of the Stewardship and Finance Committee is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of time, talents, and finances which God has entrusted to them.

Worship and Music — The primary function of the Worship and Music Committee is to enhance the worship service through a variety of music and liturgy. All aspects of worship should help facilitate the congregation's ability to worship God, and to be the one unifying event of the congregation each week.

Personnel — The primary function of the Personnel Committee is to assist the church council in personnel matters.

Strategic Planning — The primary function of the Strategic Planning Committee is to chart a road map for the church into the future. The focus should be on a body of work over a one to five year period of time which defines the sustainability and growth of our overall ministry.

Centennial Celebration Committee

Many thanks to the Centennial Committee — Sue Samuelson, Shirley Gosselin, Val Benton, Mary Braun, Penny Sjoquist, Darlene and Jim Christenson, Lee and Barb Forrester, Elsa Carlson, Joanne Stueven, Evie Richter, Jenny Schuett, George Smith, Marilyn Elling, Carolyn Morris, Dawn Kellen, Karen Carron and Pastor James — for making this a successful celebration. — Judie Birk, chairperson

To raise funds for our Centennial Celebration on August 11, 2019 and a commemorative art piece, we began our preparations early. Celebrating started in October 2017 with a Trunk or Treat in the parking lot. We had two movie/pizza nights with more planned later this year. A ‘Snow Day/Fun Day’ with snowshoeing and games inside was a big hit . We did a ‘Junk BINGO’ event with lots of interesting junk! Each month, the Fellowship Hall was decorated — Snowflakes for January, Hearts for February, Shamrocks for March, Crosses and Bunnies for April, Butterflies for May, Fish for June and Flags/Stars for July and more for the rest of 2019. This committee kept the 100th Anniversary Celebration alive with monthly raffles with wonderful donated prizes such as a hardanger piece, hanging flower plant, movie night basket, \$100 gift certificate and music CDs to name a few. A historical 2019 Calendar was created and sold. We had T-shirts and Sweatshirts made with our message “Rejoice Always” available for purchase. A special Centennial Jam (carrot cake) was made by our WELCA group to sell at the Veggie Stand and upcoming Bazaar. Parishioners were in the Glen Parade riding in a trailer or on bike with “Rejoice Always” message on Balloons to hand out to parade goers. A commemorative stained glass piece of art was commissioned to Greg Rosenberg of Brainerd (he also designed our stained glass windows in our present church). A celebration day event open to the community include a special service at 10 a.m., with a dedication of our commemorative art piece, visiting with past pastors, tour of the church and memory garden, along with some fun and games. A community meal with a pig roast and the fixings was served, along with a Praise Fest of local praise bands to entertain us in a large outdoor tent. The rejoicing will continue to the end of the year with more monthly raffles and events.





Groundbreaking in 1995 for our present church.



Fall of 2006 began the ground-breaking for the addition of our Fellowship Hall and the Office, Sunday School and other updates.



Dedication Sunday for our new addition was held in April 2007 with a grand celebration.

DEDICATION SUNDAY • APRIL 29, 2007
Worship Service begins at 10 am



Faithfully believing God would send a servant to answer our pastoral call, Bethesda undertook a parsonage building project in the Spring of 2017.



In November 2017, we welcomed Pastor James Muske. His dedication service was held on January 21, 2018.



A special place at Bethesda is the Memory Garden along with our Nature Trail.

The gardens and grounds around Bethesda are amazing with the help of many green thumbs!



**Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo • 21590 State Hwy. 47 • 320-684-2123
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