

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.



Oct. 6 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM
Communion

Oct. 13 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
No Communion

Oct. 20 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

Oct. 27 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

- October 10, Heartland Conference Fall Gathering
- October 13, Polka Service one service at 9:00am
- Oct 26th **Our annual bazaar 9 am to 2 pm**
- Oct 31st Trunk & Treat from 5:30-7:30 p.m



2019

2019 Holiday Bazaar Schedule & Notes

Mark Sat., Oct 26th on your calendar. Our annual bazaar hours will be 9 am to 2 pm.

Please note the following:

Raffle tickets are \$1 each. They may be purchased at the door or during Sun. morning coffee hour.

Each family is asked to bring 6 doz. cookies for the cookie walk. Leave them in the fellowship hall before 4:00 p.m. on FRIDAY, Oct. 25th.

Volunteers are needed to make lefse DURING THE BAZAAR. Contact Elsa Carlson if you will do this. Sign-up sheets for bazaar jobs & lefse making will be on a table in the fellowship hall during Oct.

Bazaar work schedule:

Mon. Oct. 21st Lefse making 8:30 a.m.
Tues. Oct. 22nd Lefse making 8:30 a.m.
Thurs. Oct. 24th Set up tables & move chairs 4:00 p.m.
Fri. Oct. 25th Set up merchandise from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 26th HOLIDAY BAZAAR 9:00 – 2:00. Cleanup follows.

Sun. Oct. 27th Sell remaining items during coffee hour. Move remaining items to be inventoried during the week for next year.





From the Pastor

From the Pastor - Since your pastor is about to go on vacation and is currently at a conference, I am going to rely on the wisdom of our bishop for this month's letter:

Things I've learned about

Controversial Subjects:

Bishop Aitken's *Tips for Talking about Tough Subjects*

Our church, the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran church in America) is a church I am proud to be a member of, and proud to serve and lead in as a pastor and Bishop. We aren't perfect, what sense does that even make to a Lutheran and to all Christians who understand we are both saint and sinner, fully intertwined, until that final day, when God will complete God's work and bring in the new heavens and new earth? I don't expect the ELCA to be perfect in order to belong to it, love it, respectfully and constructively point out flaws and growing edges, all the while serving it joyfully.

One thing we do that I am glad for – even when it brings some consternation to some – is that we don't duck and hide when real, down to earth, tangible, everyday problems in our world directly intersect with our faith and Christian values. Whether it is immigration, the environment, Middle East Peace, marginalized peoples, justice issues, human sexuality, poverty, sexism, etc... I am glad for those who are genuinely trying at least, to address both the evil around us, and the complex problems our society and church deals with. (You may want see ELCA Social Statements; <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements>) But the best way to engage in addressing these issues is through that powerful Christian word, "love." Here are some tips I've learned along the way:

1 - You and I don't know everything

From Scripture; I Corinthians 13:9-12

"For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways; For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will now fully, even as I have been fully known."

2 - Be curious, not furious Having been to a few basement meetings during the past 11 years as Bishop during some controversial seasons, I can tell you I have seen both the curious Lutheran, and the furious Lutheran. They both exist inside me as well. But being curious is better any day of the week. Curiosity seeks to learn, not remain ignorant.

3 - The people you will discuss/argue with are made in the image of God - just like you. Be careful with your words. I've learned that, and have to keep learning it. Words can give life and words can kill. Words chosen carefully will draw out more intelligent conversation. Our Lord never said be stupid – as one of my colleagues says regularly!

4 - Hurt and Anger are twins.

Keep that in mind when someone (or you) begins to speak loudly. I learned this while teaching "Death, Dying and Grief" at the Community College years ago. When someone lashes out in anger, beneath it is probably a hurt. It may be a recent one; it may be an old one we have never dealt with. Don't let your anger-jag keep you forever guilty, nor let it empower you to get louder and more self-satisfied. Take it to God in prayer; ask God what is going on inside you? One way I talk about this is to take your own inventory (flaws and gifts) often, so that you get to know yourself better. You will be a better communicator in the end. When someone else is yelling – ask yourself: I wonder what has hurt this person, I wonder if I can demonstrate empathy and compassion?

5 - Be Patient. Patience is already being formed in you, and it helps to know and trust this. The job of the Holy Spirit is to **form Christ** in you. And that is happening, all the time, Thank God! So use this patience in your dialog with others. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, *patience*, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22)

6 - Truth is many faceted. Recognize that while the other person has a different viewpoint, there may well be an element of truth in it. Find it. State it. See how the anxiety goes down and the thinking goes up! And when you are convinced of your truth, say it in love, not anger or one-upmanship.

7 - Love trumps everything else. I don't mean love as a mushy, innocuous, romantic sentiment. I

mean our Lord's love. Remember you are claimed as a Child of God, under God's reign and God's values. It was Christ, the 2nd person of the Trinity you were joined to in baptism by the Holy Spirit, and you received his grace, courage and love. You were grafted into the church in baptism as well, with all its goodness and all its flaws. And the greatest good in the church, is the power of love. A huge part of the strength of real love is the ability to also say, "I'm sorry, I made a mistake, I ask your forgiveness. Can we continue to talk, and learn together?"

Yours in Christ,
Pastor James Muske

2019 TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund	AUGUST	YTD
Income Actual	\$27,688	\$285,492
Income Budgeted	\$14,961	\$196,550
Expense Actual	\$57,514	\$268,590
Expense Budgeted	\$16,272	\$195,961
Over/(Short)	(\$29,826)	\$16,902



Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

Minutes of September 16, 2019, Council Meeting

In attendance: George Smith, Mary Braun, Jenny Schuett, Ron Haglund, Sherry Whipple, Cheryl Malotsky, 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 August meeting by Sherry Whipple, seconded by Jenny Schuett, and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for August was presented by Mary Braun. Motion was made by Jenny Schuett to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Sherry Whipple and passed.

Pastor's Report: (August 20 to September 16, 2019)

Another busy month here at Bethesda, so thank you

all who give so much of your time and energy! Lots of work getting ready for Sunday school and our new joint Confirmation program with Faith Lutheran. We have 4 students from our church participating in Confirmation. Laury Nyberg will continue to lead our Sunday School activities.

There is a new Christian Education facebook group within our church page for teachers and parents to share information and discuss.

The Together Here workshops are continuing up in Brainerd. The September 24th session will feature a video and discussion of the important history around boarding schools. The October 22nd workshop will feature a guest speaker, Dr. Melissa Walls, on the topic of Intergenerational trauma. All the meetings will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Brainerd, 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

I recently received a note from the Bishop that the leader of our Together Here team, Deacon Candidate Colleen Bernu, is working with the ELCA to receive a grant and work on a formal call to sustain and expand her current ministry within our synod. If this moves forward, hopefully we might consider supporting her vital ministry.

Lots of work preparing for the Jamboree, as I will not only be helping sing this year, but have been helping Val with the planning.

Been discussing with area pastors about a joint visit to Feed My Starving Children, perhaps on Saturday, November 2. This would be open to all, but also be encouraged as an activity for confirmation students.

We also discussed the possibility of signing up for two sessions, but we can have a sign up asking if people are interested in one or two times on the same day.

Planning to take a vacation near the end of September to early October. George and I have spoken to Susie Modrow and another pastor about providing leadership for Sunday worship that will be needed for September 29 and October 6 and 13.

There is also the 2019 Fall Theological Conference up near Grand Rapids, Sept 22-24 (Sun-Tues) that I plan to attend.

Old Business:

Isle Area Food Shelf & the Isle School PAW Pantry - Your food donations have been GREAT and are appreciated! Keep the food items coming.

Camp Onomia day retreat (Sunday October 20th) noon until 6. George Smith has a letter going out to

committee chairs and some others to join the council at this retreat.

September 22nd Annual Meeting. Discuss and vote on a calendar year instead of a fiscal year, discuss and vote on Multi-Media Expansion project, discuss and vote on the budget. These items will be on the agenda.

Concerning the lighting for the parking lot; the property committee is checking on the cost to install a pole on the south end of the parking lot somewhere near the middle (east and west). They will report to the council when they have the cost. We discussed the use of our parking lot for emergency helicopter landings and their need for lighting. George will look more into this.

New Business

Report on surveys received concerning our existing Mission Statement. I have received a total of 28 surveys returned as of today. Nine of these survey replies would like to see our Mission Statement change; one felt it was too wordy, another thought was to add something about being good stewards of the earth and one felt there should be mention of God in our Mission Statement. The other 19 surveys returned did not feel we should make any changes to our Mission Statement. We add this to our agenda for our retreat on October 20th.

Pastor’s upcoming vacation. Discuss pay for pulpit supply. Mary Braun has guidelines from the synod to follow for pulpit pay. This year it was budgeted out of administrative salaries. Next year, we will add pulpit supply to the budget.

Committee Reports:

Faith, Health and Wellness

Member Contacted	Date	Type of Contact
Contacted by		Phone (PH)/Visit (V)
Alphie Sandell Skip	August x 2 Home	V-Assisted Living Communion
Mel Liljenquist Skip	August x 2	V-Assisted Living
Mary Lynn Hass Kathy	August	V-Assisted Living
Frank/Joyce Dressley Char		AugustPH-Joyce
Marlyn Ecklund	August x 2 August x 2	V- AL Darlene Communion Skip
Joann White	August x 3	V- Home Merrily
Bev Simme	August	V- Nursing Home Darlene
Char made phone calls to the following members		

who had surgery or other medical issues: Alene Lowe, Marilyn Andrews, Dean & Cheryl Malotky, Joyce Dressley, Jerry/Carolyn Morris

Members with Health Concerns.

Jerry Morris. Dick and Judy Wozney-Dick has been in rehab and returned home on 9/12/2019.

Frank Dressley has been in rehab after a partial foot amputation and hopes to return home later this week.

Mission & Evangelism:

August 28, 2019 meeting notes

Members present: Barb Macioch, Sandy Pullen, Judi Birk, Joanne Stueven and Pastor James

The Centennial Committee’s activities were fundraisers as well as community outreach. Our committee would like to continue the outreach activities of Trunk or Treat, Snow Fun Day, Junk Bingo, and movie night. It was suggested that the fund raising activities like the raffles could be taken over by another committee who wants to raise funds. Judi is willing to create posters and help advertise the events. Since most of our committee is gone in the winter months, we will have to recruit help.

We are in the process of planning a possible Sunday School Kick off inviting parents and children to games, movie, fellowship and a light lunch. Sunday school materials have arrived and Cindy Persson and Laury Nyberg are willing to be teachers. Sunday School will be at 10:15 on Sept 15th for ages 3-12 . There are opportunities for church members to assist teachers or work one on one as needed.

Confirmation classes will start Sept. 11 at Faith Church in Isle. We have possibly 4or 5 students who will be attending. Pastor James will contact Faith Pastor to see if there are materials or Bibles that we can purchase for our students. Pastor James will join the instructional team when his choir obligations end in January.

One bag of supplies has been delivered to the Pearl Crisis Center. We will continue collect and deliver supplies for victims of domestic violence.

Sandy Pullen will share some updated information on Sept 8 about our Dara and Chad in Mozambique.

George and Patty will continue supporting the school back pack food program in Isle. Donations will be collected and delivered as school is back in session.

Our food shelf box collections will be going to the Isle food shelf. Judi Birk is volunteering at the food shelf and she will take the donations.

We discussed getting a date for Feed My Starving children. Pastor James will talk with confirmation classes and consider choosing a Saturday so children can attend. Pastor James is suggesting we consider placing the words “Go In Peace Serve The Lord “above doorway, (visible as we leave the church.) Also, consider a photo display of Faith In Action. Changes to the building may need to be discussed with the property committee. Our committee is willing to help with the art work. Submitted by Joanne Stueven

Worship and Music Committee Minutes

September 12, 2019

Members present: Pastor James, Jim Christensen, Carol Bakken, Ron Haglund, Sharon Whipple, Tom Christensen, Julie Swaggert Absent: Sheila Penoyer
Next meeting: October 3rd at 10:30 at the Beanery in Aitkin. Sheila can come!

Jamboree update and discussion:

The Centennial “decade” focused Jamboree is Friday, Sept. 20th. Practices are going well. Scott Klingelhofer has been hired to run the sound system for both the dress rehearsal and the Jamboree event. Jim is looking at possibly purchasing a new microphone that will do a much better job of picking up the choir and other groups. The committee agreed this is something needed.

Projector and technology system update and discussion:

The September 8th “tech” service went well but allowed us to see some issues that a new system would help solve and ways we could better present the slides for congregational participation and viewing. Pastor James utilized images as part of his sermon and Mary Braun did a great job getting the slide presentation in order. Julie will be available at the Sept. 22nd annual meeting to address congregation questions.

We discussed possible fund raisers including a pancake breakfast and sponsoring “musical” movie nights/afternoons. We have some folks who would also like to specifically donate to this project.

Other items:

The Carillon bells will be ringing again! When the electricity goes off, they need to be reset. Bells will ring at noon, 4 and 8pm. Jim and Pastor James will also have them ring 10 minutes before each service. Polka Service is set for October 13th with the Johnson sisters from Aitkin and the Praise Choir.

Pastor James will be taking vacation starting the last Sunday in September for 3 Sundays. Finalizing the pastor supply for those days is in progress. We talked about having another worship survey in the near future. The hymn plan for services is one older familiar hymn, one contemporary hymn with the third hymn to relate to the Bible readings and topics. Submitted by Julie Swaggert

Motion was made to adjourn by Mary Braun, seconded by Ron Haglund, and passed.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting will be Oct. 21 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.

Women of the ELCA Mtg. – Sept. 18, 2019

Co-chair Jeannine opened the mtg. with 18 members present. Linda & Sue served refreshments. Pat Becker gave devotions. The purpose statement & luncheon prayers were read.

The secretary's report was read & accepted. The treasurer's report was given with a bal. on hand of \$1,327.94. Motion by Pat to accept the report. Seconded by Elsa. Motion carried.

Old business:

Char gave report on upcoming bazaar preparations. Price of cookies will remain @\$3.50 doz. Lefse will stay at 4 pcs for \$4.00. Raffle tickets are ready to be processed. Mary is working on the raffle letter. Sign-up sheets for bazaar workers will be out in mid Oct.

New business:

Mary Braun will be secretarial support for Sue S. in lieu of co-chairwoman for this year. Dianne will remain as treasurer & Char as secretary for the next 2 years. Motion by Shari & second by Penny to accept those people in those positions. Motion carried. Fall gathering is Oct. 10th at Trinity in Milaca. WELCA Christmas luncheon is Dec. 7th. Suggestion was made for us to bring food shelf items to the luncheon.

Discussion re: purchasing an ice maker for the kitchen was tabled until the Nov. mtg. However; a motion was made by Pat & seconded by Mary B to get approval re: an ice maker from the property committee. We would like the cost of the item plus installation to not exceed \$1,000. Motion carried.

We are considering having a thank offering service some Sun. morning in Nov.

Sue presented materials for the in-kind project – 10 baby fleece quilts. Members will make them at a later date. Pat B reported on info. Re: a travel group. Mtg will be held Oct. 7th @ 10:30 am @ church. The Isle elem. school needs money, food, coats & other items. Sue is working on getting a speaker for the Christmas luncheon.

We will start a project called “Sock-Tober”. People are asked to bring new socks to put into a basket at church for missions. Darlene is working on getting a Thrivent grant for Pearl Crisis. We closed with the Lord’s Prayer. Char Berg, secretary

Thank you’s

Bethesda Malmo: Rockin' The House...



A talented cast laughed, sang and danced through the decades when Bethesda's 26th Annual Jamboree, "Centennial Swing," was performed Friday night to a packed house. Many thanks to our fearless leader Pastor James Muske and Choir Director / photographer Sheila Penoyer. Thanks to Sound Engineers Scott Klingelhofer & Jim Christensen, the beautiful Bethesda Bells and our fabulous Bethesda Choir, Praise Team and singers! Thank you to our incredible guest artists Becky Klingelhofer, Eric Emerson & Terry Bird. And thanks to Stage Manager Bonnie Mickelson, Stage Engineers/Designers Sue Samuelson & Laurina Tofteland along with the Lee Forrester & Jack Spetz Crew. Thank you to the Kitchen Crew, Ticket-takers Lynne Meidlinger & Bev Swenson, Tj's, the Worship & Music Committee and Malmo Lions. And as always thanks to Mary Braun for everything. And, of course, we thank our wonderful audience. It was the show of the century! May the Good Lord bless and keep you all 'til we meet again next year.... with gratitude, love & prayers from Val



SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, Oct. 13th,

Polka Service will be one service only at 9:00am.



This will be our live polka service with music provided by the Johnson Chicks, a band that has played locally for many years.



Trunk or Treat

Bethesda's Trunk or Treat event, sponsored by the Centennial Committee, is happening again this year! We had a scary good time last year with 16 trunks and about 30 children/family. So start thinking of your costume and trunk decorations as we are having a contest for the best decked out trunk along with costume. If you're not sure how this works, you decorate the trunk of your car and have yummy treats to pass out to children or adults! We plan to have some portable fire pits in the parking lot this year too. If the weather is bad, the event will be held inside the church. This will be on Halloween night, Thursday, October 31st from 5:30-7:30 p.m. We will have hot dogs, chips and soda, water and hot chocolate for \$5, plus Free S'mores! So get thinking of your scary costume and trunk decorations and join us this year! It's a howling good time!!

We need card players!

Join us on Thursdays at 11:30 to play 500! Join in on the fun! **Potluck On the 2nd Thursday ONLY.**



Double Pinochle is at 11:30 on Mondays

Caregiver Support Group

The Aitkin County Caregiver Support Group will meet on Wednesday, October 9th at 2pm. This group offers support to anyone currently caring for or who has cared for a loved one in the past.

USHERS NEEDED if you are interested in becoming an usher, please contact Skip or Lynn Hansen 320 684-2842 or hansenlynn@yahoo.com

Respite Workers Wanted Aitkin County CARE is also looking for people who would enjoy being a volunteer respite worker (or paid) for the Malmo/McGrath area. Respite is a break for caregivers and the worker does not do any medical tasks. They just give the caregiver a break away from their loved one. They provide all the training and do a background

check. Contact Terri Mathis at 218-927-1383 if you are interested.

Looking for someone to Prepare ham for Christmas day dinner after church service, ham provided. Please contact Carol Bakken for info.

Mille Lacs Homemakers are looking for new members to join our group. We meet the second Wednesday of the month September thru May at the Mille Lacs Snowmobile Club. We consider ourselves a service organization making items for Nursing homes, you do not have to be a sewer. You can cut; pin; organize material. There is always a simple task to do. Or bring an idea to do. Come join us at our first meeting on Wednesday Sept 11 at 11:30 am and check us out.

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

October 1 and October 15.

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



Cookies Needed!

Each church family is asked to donate 6 dozen **Christmas cookies** for the cookie walk. Please bring them to the kitchen by Fri., Oct. 26", by 4:00 PM.

Choir News

Wow! Where did Sept. go?? The choir has been so busy getting ready for our 2019 Jamboree the month just flew by. The 2019



Jamboree was a great time, with lots of great music, and of course lots of laughs! The choir and Praise Team are now looking at the music for the next few months. With Praise Team having a Polka Service on Oct. 13th, with a 9:00 Service only, and the Johnson Chicks coming again to provide wonderful Polka Music. We will have more info on this in the bulletins. The choir will soon be starting to practice for the Christmas Cantata that we will be performing on Dec. 15th, so mark your calendars! The month of Oct. the choir will be practicing back on Wed. nights at 6:00 p.m. on Wed., Oct 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th. We will be

singing on Oct 6th, "The Wonder of his Love & on Oct.20th, "This is for you". I once again want to thank everyone who came to the Jamboree, everyone who helped out in any way to make it the success it was! We do have a lot of great talent in our congregation and hope to continue this tradition in the coming years. Thank you to Val and Pastor for heading it up, for Jim setting up the sound system in the hall and then taking it back to the sanctuary. You ROCK!!! I praise the Lord for all the great people in the choir and our family at Bethesda. You really are talented in different ways but put us together and we really can make a difference.

Sheila Penoyer/Choir Director.



SNOWBIRDS Before you leave to head to Warmer climates please let Mary in the office. Know your forwarding address and the dates you Will be gone (Telephone No./e-mail too?) so that we may get your newsletters and any other information to you. If you can't find Mary, just leave a note on the secretary's desk with the pertinent information.

THANK YOU!



MILLE LACS LAKE
Saturday, September 7, 2019



A crew from Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo, MN gathered at Reddy Creek, Mile Marker 34 on State Hwy 18 to see what treasures and trash could be found. Each was given a big yellow State Approved plastic bag – hopefully not to fill. Fortunately, not too much was found – maybe because the Kite Wind Surfers had been enjoying the lake's breezy conditions earlier this summer and also did some cleaning as usual.

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
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	bicmalmo@gmail.com	(320) 684-2123
Fax		(320)-684-2836
Toll Free		(877) 684-2123
Church Web site		bicmalmo.org
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

Email address: blnews@juno.com

All articles due on or before the 20th of the month