

Bethesda Life-Line

Worship Services*

Sunday 9:00 AM

Service of Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday of each month.

Coffee fellowship is held in the fellowship room following the Sunday Worship service. All are invited to share in conversation and warm fellowship.



Feb. 2 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
No Communion

Feb. 9 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

Feb. 16 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

Feb. 23 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

Feb. 26 Ash Wednesday 6:30 PM

Bethesda Mission Statement:

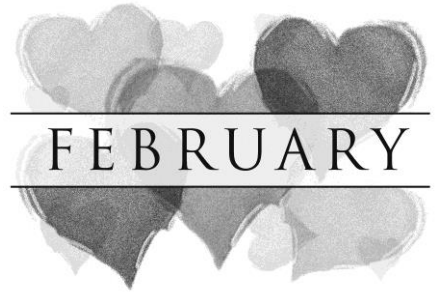
We will **LIVE** and **SERVE** through **FAITH**
we will **ACT** with **LOVE** and **KINDNESS**
we will **GIVE** hope and **SUPPORT** to all

Upcoming Events

9:00am only Sunday service until Spring.

Feb 26- Ash Wednesday 5:30 Potluck 6:30 Worship

Please pick up your 2020 Offering Envelopes and year end statements!



2020



“Sweetheart Dinner”

Malmö Area Lions would like to invite you to a “Sweetheart Dinner” on Saturday, Feb. 16th. Doors open at 3:30 with dinner at 4:00. Cost \$15. Reservations can be called into the church office, deadline is Feb. 10th



Soup and Cookie Ministry

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



We need coffee servers for fellowship time, stay and build relationships over refreshments, after the 9:00 service, please sign up!



From the Pastor

*Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,
Day 1: "Reconciliation: Throwing
the cargo overboard"*

Today's readings:

Acts 27:18-19,21 "We were being pounded by the storm so violently that on the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard and on the third day with their own hands they threw the ship's tackle overboard... Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul then stood up among them and said, 'Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and thereby avoided this damage and loss'."

Reflection:

As Christians from different Churches and Traditions, we have unfortunately, over the centuries, accumulated abundant baggage consisting of mutual distrust, bitterness and suspicion. We thank the Lord for the birth and the growth of the ecumenical movement over the past century. Our encounter with Christians from other traditions and our common prayer for Christian unity encourage us to seek mutual forgiveness, reconciliation and acceptance. We must not allow the baggage of our past to hinder us from drawing closer to one another. It is the Lord's will that we let go, in order to let God!

For over 50 years, the World Council of Churches has hosted an annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (a concept dating back to 1908), falling on the week of January 18-25, between the traditional Feasts of St. Peter and Paul. The Christian Churches in Malta developed this year's theme around the dramatic story of a shipwreck from Acts 27-28, which results in Paul and the rest of the crew washing up on the shores of the island country of Malta, south of Italy in the Mediterranean Sea. God saves their lives, but the ship is lost. The ancient Maltese, the book of Acts details, warmly welcomed them and built them a fire.

It is a story we rarely hear on a Sunday morning, which is unfortunate. It is the sort of Bible story that almost seems designed like a Hollywood blockbuster. But, more than that, it is the kind of a story that offers

plenty of symbolic connections to our own lives and the storms that we have and continue to face.

I especially love that the daily devotional opened the week with the passage and reflection above. With the storm raging around them and the sailors fearing for their lives and beginning to lose hope, Paul stands up to offer a stirring pep talk... though not after telling them "I told you so" for attempting the voyage so late in the season. But it is, *eventually*, a word of hope, not guilt, that he speaks to them. He tells them to have courage, an angel of God has come to him in a dream. Paul has faith that God will see them through, but it is not going to happen without letting go of cargo and eventually accepting the loss of the entire ship.

Of course, one has to be a bit careful not to ladle on the theological symbolism too thick, because it seems clear that this was a real event in the life of Paul, not something he necessarily tried to engineer to teach a lesson. Yet our minds do wander to all the other storms, all the other challenges, we have faced in our own lives, whether we were the ones that should have known better or the ones that get to say "I told you so", and we face those moments when decisions are forced upon us. At least if we don't want to drown.

The reconciliation God calls us to live out in our lives concerns our relationships with others, with the world more generally, but also with the truth. Paul maybe could have been a bit more generous as he started to speak, but he also wanted to make two truths clear – one, they were in trouble, and two, they still have hope, because God is with them.

Reconciliation requires honesty and good listening, so that we can openly share our joys and our suffering with one another. We have plenty of issues that work to divide us these days, whether on a personal scale or in the realm of national and international politics, but the goal rarely seems to be reconciliation. Instead, both personally and politically, winning the argument often becomes more important than actually creating health and happiness and community. We would rather be on the winning side on a sinking ship than finding new solid ground together.

As the devotionals continued during the Week of

Prayer, the Maltese Christians lifted up other themes from that story: Enlightenment, Hope, Trust, Strength, and Hospitality. God desires all these things for God's people, especially in the midst of all our storms. But I think the Maltese Christians have it right – before all these other gifts, God's love first seeks Reconciliation. To remember that beyond all the forces that might work to separate us from God and from one another, God is always working, always calling us back into relationship. So that whatever we face in this life, the good and the bad, we do not face it alone. God is always with us... and hopefully our sisters and brothers in Christ are with us too.

Blessings on you this month!

Pastor James Muske

2019 TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income Actual	\$29,343	\$74,754
Income Budgeted	\$15,998	\$63,992
Expense Actual	\$25,768	\$65,719
Expense Budgeted	\$16,046	\$64,182
Over/(Short)	\$3,575	\$9,036



**Bethesda Lutheran Church
of Malmo**

Minutes of January 20, 2020

In attendance: In attendance: George Smith, Judie Birk, Sherry Whipple, Ron Haglund, Dorothy Munding, and Pastor James Muske. The meeting was called to order by council president George Smith. George gave opening Devotions.

Secretary's Report:

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the December meeting by Dorothy Munding, seconded by Ron Haglund, and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for December was emailed to council members from

Mary Braun. She mentioned we had a large expense for the down payment for the equipment for the Multi-Media Expansion project and we also had a RMD come in in the month of December. Month- to-date and Year- to- date General Offering is down, partially because we didn't have church on Sunday, December 1st and very low attendance on Sunday, December 29th due to bad weather. Our Year- to-date bottom line is still in the black, so hopefully we will continue to be in positive numbers. But if the giving trend continues, we could be in trouble by late spring. Motion was made by Ron Haglund to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Dorothy Munding and passed.

Pastor's Report – Dec. 16, 2019 to January 20, 2020

Many thanks to all who helped us celebrate another wonderful Christmas! I am grateful for the good spirits and all the extra help people offer this time of year.

Along with Pastor Kate at Faith Lutheran, I will be attending the ELCA's youth ministry Extravaganza later this month – January 31-Feb 3. One of her lay leaders was planning to attend with her, but he had to drop out due to family health issues, so I will be going in his place. George Smith and Val Benton have agreed to cover worship leadership in my absence.

The confirmation class is starting to plan and lead a worship service at Faith, Sunday, Feb. 9. I previously discussed having them lead a Lenten evening service here, but I now think that I will try and get them to lead a Sunday worship service instead. It would be nice for more of the congregation see them use their gifts!

Thanks to the men's group for inviting me along for another ice fishing trip. This is a great chance to share some fellowship (and some tasty food!). The Together Here workshops are continuing up in Brainerd. The Monday, December 30 event with Kevin Kot, had to be postponed due to illness and bad weather. I did extend an invitation for our church to host a make-up date – I will let you know if we work something out. This month, Dr. Marsha Lue will discuss the concept of "implicit bias": what it is, how it impacts our abilities to form meaningful relationships, and its potential impacts on society. In February, Dr. Joseph Bauerkemper, a history professor at UMD, will speak on Treaties and Treaty Rights. He is very knowledgeable about this much

discussed issue in our area. All the meetings will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Brainerd, 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

2020 Bishop Election: The synod website has a helpful page covering the timeline and other materials, updated yet again with more materials: <http://www.nemnsynod.org/2020-bishops-election.html> . A few items:

Nominations are now closed for bishop candidates (until the Synod Assembly). Public notification of nominees should be posted by February 1.

On Feb. 9, 2020, all the conferences will host meetings where each will get the chance to select candidates to bring to the Synod Assembly. Pastor and voting members (George & Patti Smith) will attend this meeting.

Afterwards, nominated candidates are invited to 3 public candidates' forums: Calvary Lutheran in Mora on 3/12 at 7pm, St. Andrew's in Grand Rapids on 3/13 at 7pm, Grace in Hermantown on 3/14 at 2pm. The Bishop Election Committee (which I am a member of) has developed a helpful conversation guide for congregations. George and I will plan to host a coffee hour discussion some Sunday after the conference meetings.

Old Business:

Pledge to Gustavus Adolphus – Judie will check with Mary to see if she gave the information to M&E.

A meeting with Edward Jones is still being scheduled. It was suggested that we consider meeting with Trivent also.

Multi-Media update — TVs were being delivered and installed as of today, January 20th.

New Business:

Personnel Committee met and discussed salary for custodial. A motion was made by Ron Haglund that we increase the salary and was seconded by Sherry Whipple and passed.

Thank you note from Mary Braun was read.

Request by the Malmo Lions to use the Fellowship Hall on February 15 was brought to council and approved.

Committee Reports:

Faith, Health & Wellness Committee:

Visits (home, NH, and Assisted Living): 8

Phone contacts: 5

Home Communion: 3

Motion was made to adjourn by Sherry Whipple, seconded by Dorothy Munding, and passed. The council closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next council meeting will be February 17th, 2020 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk,
Council secretary.

Women of the ELCA Mtg. – Jan 21, 2020

Chairperson Sue Samuelson opened the mtg. with 10 members present.

Bev W. & Char served refreshments. Sue gave devotions. The purpose statement & luncheon prayers were read.

The secy's report was accepted as written in the Lifeline. The treasurer's report was given with a balance on hand of \$3,052.57. Motion by Sherry, second by Jeannine to accept the report. Motion carried. Old business:

We will continue to look at options re: future funeral luncheons. Sue will speak with Elsa re: these options.

We will continue to look for information on a portable ice maker.

Jeannine will deliver left over scarves, mittens, etc. to the Isle elem. school.

We went over a list of ideas for the 2020 bazaar. We will change the bazaar hours to 9am to 1 pm. The price per dozen cookies will be \$4.00. We will have a table of silent auction items. There will be no limit to the amount of lefse one person may buy. A mtg. will be held this winter to bring ideas for the Oct 2020 bazaar. Date is yet to be determined.

New business:

Spring Gathering is Sat, April 4th in Pequot Lakes.

The Sumer Convention is June 15-17th at Sugar Lake Lodge.

An article re: In Kind foster care bags will be in an upcoming Lifeline.

The rest of the carrot cake jelly will be donated to assisted living residences.

Sue showed pictures of the Elizabeth House in

Zambia where our Bethesda WELCA sent money.

The next WELCA mtg. is April 15th. Jeannine & Pat Becker will serve refreshments.

The mtg. was closed with the Lords Prayer.
Char Berg, secy.

2020 In-Kind Gifts-Foster Care Bags

Choose a child size and age and stuff the backpack with these items based on that size and age. Please label the outside of the back pack with the size and gender of the child you have chosen. These bags will be distributed to Human Service agencies in the counties in our Synod. A collection box will be put out for items. Deadline is May 1st.

Backpack	Blanket
Pajamas	Socks
Underwear	Toothbrush & toothpaste
Comb/brush	Stuffed animal
Toy	Book



STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE

After many years of faithful service to this committee, Pat Becker has retired. We wish to thank her for her dedicated service and would like to invite new members to join the group. Copies of the committee's description are available in the office. The task of this committee is the care, conservancy, planning, attention, upkeep, and management of the church's financial resources and distribution. Contact Donna Ansell, Barb Forrester, or Mary Vukelich if interested.

MAKE SOME PLANS FOR A GREAT

SUMMER EVENT! When you see your loved ones this winter season, invite the kids ages 4 – 5 th grade to Vacation Bible School June 15-19, 2020. Six graders and older are welcome as student leaders.

BLESSING BOX The first Sunday of every month we pass the "Blessing Box". If you feel blessed, please contribute to the Blessing Box today to help others. All donations will go to local area benevolences. Thank you! What a Blessing!

Newsline articles are due on the 20th, email to blnews@juno.com

The Loan Closet

Bethesda's Loan Closet has medical equipment such as walkers, crutches, commodes, toilet risers, wheelchairs, etc. that is available to members who want to borrow them on a short term basis. If you need to borrow a piece of equipment contact the Parish Nurses.



LENT

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26, this year. It lasts 40 days and 40 nights – the same amount of time Jesus prayed and fasted in the wilderness. It is a time to think about your relationship with Jesus. Is He your Lord? Is He your Savior? Does He mean anything in your life? Is your life changed because of Him?



Ash Wednesday

Take some extra time these days to pray. Or read the Bible. Or worship. Or give someone a hand. This Lenten discipline will give you new insight into your life.

February 14th!

St. Valentine's sacrifice

Every February 14, we celebrate the loved ones in our lives with cards, flowers and chocolate. But Valentine's Day has another meaning that's been lost.



First declared a holiday by King Henry VIII of England in 1537, it commemorates the beheading of St. Valentine on February 14, 270 A.D. His crime? Performing wedding ceremonies after Roman Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage.

Valentine was martyred for faithfully doing the work God had given him. Although it's good to celebrate love and marriage, let's also remember the courage of a man who gave his life following his convictions.

Activities & Events

February 2020

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

Ushers by Skip & Lynn Hansen

Feb. 9:00

Feb 2 & 9 Wayne, Janice Olson

Feb 16 & 23 Wally, Bev Swenson

Check list in office for when to light the Christ Candle*

Don't forget the blessing boxes the first Sunday of every month!!

Usher Reminder

With Communion every Sunday, ushers need to make sure 3 people are helping with communion at the first service Call Skip or Lynn Hanson with any questions.

Altar Care by Dianne Jones

Feb Lynne Meidlinger and Winnie Zahradka

March & April Shirley Gosselin and Gina Rosa

May Elsa / Chuck Carlson and Karen Elias

Recycling – February Chuck & Elsa Carlson



Coffee Servers by WELCA

Feb 2 Don & Donna Myhre

Feb 9

Feb 16 Bev Wedig (90th Birthday)

Feb 23



Greeters Lynne Meidlinger

Feb 2 Dennis & Lynne Meidlinger

Feb 9 Darrell Kelly, Kathy Larson

Feb 16 Wayne, Janice Olson

Feb 23 Paula Spetz, Bev Wedig



Feb	14	Dan & Cindy Persson
Feb	20	Paul & Holly Meleen
Feb	22	Jim & Judie Birk




Feb	1	Elizabeth Lagerstrom
Feb	2	Karen Carron
Feb	2	Lance Elliott
Feb	2	Eric Lagerstrom
Feb	2	Aleshia Lagerstrom
Feb	2	Violet Sorby
Feb	3	Cody Trotter
Feb	3	Isabella Westerlund
Feb	5	Ana Berry
Feb	7	Patti Smith
Feb	8	Gavyn Bruesewitz
Feb	8	Nicole Dzubay
Feb	8	Neil Westerlund
Feb	9	Svea Modrow
Feb	11	Ron LaFavor
Feb	11	Beverly Wedig
Feb	12	Sandi McGibbon
Feb	13	Margaret Garbo
Feb	22	Joyce Dressely
Feb	23	Judith Wuorio
Feb	24	Lisa Stay
Feb	25	Janet Aho
Feb	27	James Christensen
Feb	27	Raymond Dooley
Feb	27	Demetries Mickelson



February 2020

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 Worship Communion 10:15 Sunday school Ground Hogs Day	3 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mtg	4 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study	5 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitches	6 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 11:30 Fun Timers	7 10:00 Bones Builders	8
9 9:00 Worship Communion 10:15 Sunday school	10 9:00 Womens Devotions 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mtg	11 9:00 Quilters 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study	12 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitches	13 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 11:30 Fun Timers	14 10:00 Bones Builders 	15 Malmo Lions Sweetheart Dinner 3:30
16 9:00 Worship Communion 10:15 Sunday school	17 10:00 Council 11:30 Pinochle Presidents' Day 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mtg	18 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study	19 8-12 WIC 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitches	20 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 11:30 Fun Timers Newsline Deadline	21 10:00 Bones Builders	22
23 9:00 Worship Communion 10:15 Sunday school	24 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mtg	25 9:00 Quilters 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study	26 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitches 5:30 Potluck 6:30 Lent Wor- ship Ash Wednesday	27 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 11:30 Fun Timers	28 10:00 Bones Builders	29

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
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Isle, MN 56342

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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	bclmalmo@gmail.com	(320) 684-2123
Fax		(320)-684-2836
Toll Free		(877) 684-2123
Church Web site		bclmalmo.org
Facebook page		Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
Pastor	James A. Muske	(320) 684-2123
Council President	George Smith	(320) 537-1020
Vice President	Dennis Hennessy	(651) 247-2283
Parish Nurse	Darlene Christensen	(320) 279-0097
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: bllnews@juno.com

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