

# 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.



March 1 Sunday Worship Communion	9:00 AM
March 4 Wednesday Lent	6:30 PM
March 8 Sunday Worship Communion	9:00 AM
March 11 Wednesday Lent	6:30 PM
March 15 Sunday Worship Communion	9:00 AM
March 18 Wednesday Lent	6:30 PM
March 22 Sunday Worship Communion	9:00 AM
March 25 Wednesday Lent	6:30 PM
March 29 Sunday Worship Communion	9:00 AM

### Bethesda Mission Statement:

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

### Upcoming Events

9:00 only service until Spring.

**March 8 daylight savings time starts**



Watch for Easter Lily  
Signup sheet!



## 2020

### Lent Continues on Wednesday's

We invite everyone to our Pot Luck at 5:30pm and worship will be held at 6:30pm on Wednesdays, with Lent ending on Maundy Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup>. Representing the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. This is an opportune time to practice those Christian disciplines like prayer, Bible Study, meditation and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Please join us!



### First Day of Spring March 19<sup>t</sup>

In The Story of the Easter Robin (Zonderkidz), Dandi Daley Mackall retells an old Pennsylvania Dutch tale of the robin's compassion as he witnessed Jesus' death.

On Good Friday, a plain brown robin flying over Jerusalem was curious about the "nest" atop Jesus' head. When the bird realized it was a crown of thorns, he tried to dislodge it. As the robin pulled out a long thorn from Jesus' forehead, a drop of blood landed on the bird's breast, staining it red. Now the robin's red breast is a symbol of Jesus' loving sacrifice, and the robin's early-spring song is a reminder of Jesus' joyful resurrection.



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



## From the Pastor

Pastor's Newsletter Article – for March 2020

Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ! Welcome to Lent and our 40 day journey towards the Resurrection of our Lord.

Of course, the big event of this past month at Bethesda wasn't connected to any holiday or festival, but concerned the arrival of our technological improvements in our sanctuary. After months of discussion and planning and fine tuning, the TVs are up and wires and cables snaked their way through our walls. Many thanks to those that helped with all the planning and the electrical work and who provided feedback.

On one hand, we hope this will help enrich our worship service and make us a bit more ecologically friendly by reducing the amount of paper we use, but,

in another sense, this is just another tool we have added to our toolbox. The heart of our faith is still the same. We still preach the Good News of Jesus Christ. We share water and the Word. We offer bread and wine and



forgiveness for all. We bring our gifts to be shared with others. We come together and share our joys and our sorrows. These new tools should help support that ministry, not change it.

As much as Christians pray prayers and sing songs that may be hundreds or even thousands of years old and read scripture that is even older, we also have a long history of adapting to the latest technological advances. One of the first radio stations in the US, KDKA in Pittsburgh, broadcast a worship service as part of their programming lineup. Listeners back in 1921 could tune in and hear the evening vespers

service of the Calvary Episcopal Church choir every Sunday night.

The 50s and 60s saw the rise of television evangelists. Oral Roberts and Billy Graham became household names thanks to this new medium. Robert Schuller in the 1980s became well known for his Crystal Cathedral broadcasts. Now, the internet is an indispensable tool for congregations of all kinds. Younger generations would find it downright suspicious if a church didn't have an online presence. And, of course, perhaps the most significant moment



of religious adoption of technology was Martin Luther and his fellow reformers and the invention of the printing press. I would like to tell you that Luther was only busy printing prayer books and hymnals and the Bible in the language of the people, but, frankly, Luther and his compatriots had a lot in common with those social media friends of yours who are always posting highly charged political comments and memes (or perhaps you are that person to your friends!).

A couple years ago when Lutherans were celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, I visited an art museum that had an exhibit featuring various prints and paintings from that time. Among them were some of the various pamphlets and posters printed both by the reformers and the Catholic defenders.

Even though the printing press had barely just been invented, Luther and other reformers quickly figured out how to connect with the average person on the street. Rather than print big books stuffed with all their theological insights, they churned out small pamphlets to be handed out for next to nothing on street corners.

They were direct, to the point, and if the idea didn't grab you, the illustrations definitely would.

In case you are trying to figure it that strange looking print, circa 1535, this nuanced bit of theology features a demon playing a monk like a bagpipe. Of course, the Catholic counter-reformers would quickly learn to respond in kind.

And maybe this all seems like an argument against technology. Like any tool, it can be misused. It can be set to build up our world or to create instruments to destroy it.

Because, in the end, what matters is sharing the Gospel – the message of love and compassion given to us in Jesus Christ. So, we use tools both old and new to share that message with those inside our church walls and those outside of them,



and since different people often connect to their faith in different ways, we need to be flexible and creative. Blessings to you this Lent, whether you take time for prayer by reading an online devotional on your smartphone while streaming some meditative music or if you have a printed booklet to lead you through your reflections, or if you go completely old school and just take a walk out into the woods and enjoy some silence and listen to God speak.

Yours in Christ, Pastor James Muske

### 2020 TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund	JANUARY	YTD
Income Actual	\$16,043	\$90,297
Income Budgeted	\$15,998	\$79,990
Expense Actual	\$17,636	\$83,354
Expense Budgeted	\$17,200	\$85,382
Over/(Short)	(\$1,593)	\$6,942



**Bethesda Lutheran Church  
of Malmo**

Minutes of February 17, 2020,  
Council Meeting

In attendance: George Smith, Dorothy Munding, Mary Braun, Pastor James Muske, and Dennis Hennessey (via phone).

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 January meeting by Mary Braun, seconded by Dorothy Munding, and passed.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for January was presented by Mary Braun. Motion was made by Dorothy Munding to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Dennis Hennessey and passed.

#### **Pastor's Report**–January 20, 2020 to February 17, 2020

We have definitely settled into 'winter mode' here at Bethesda, which means that some things slow down, as people head to warmer climates, and yet we still manage to stay plenty busy.

Along with Pastor Kate at Faith Lutheran, I attended the ELCA's youth ministry Extravaganza. This was my first time to attend this conference for pastors and other youth ministry workers and it went well... except for the fact that I got sick just as I arrived in California. But it was good to connect with people and learn about what other churches are doing to connect with youth. The worship services also gave me some good ideas to share with the Praise Team. Many thanks to George Smith and Val Benton for covering Sunday worship in my absence.

The confirmation class helped plan and lead a worship service at Faith, Sunday, Feb. 9. I previously discussed having them lead a Lenten evening service here, but I am now looking at a possible Sunday worship date in mid-March.

Been working hard with Mary, Jim, and Julie to work with our new technology in the sanctuary. This should be a great tool to enrich our worship services. The Aitkin area pastors are going to participate in a Lent preaching 'round robin' again. The pastors will rotate among their churches for the Lenten Wednesday evening services, with a theme based around Jesus' "I AM" statements in the Gospel of John.

The Together Here workshops are continuing up in Brainerd. 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 March, Kevin Kot has been rescheduled to speak on his ministry (from the canceled January date). All the meetings will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Brainerd, 4<sup>th</sup> 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:

On Feb. 9, 2020, our Heartland Conferences met to select candidates to bring to the Synod Assembly. After 8 or so ballots, those gathered (incl. Pastor and George and Patti Smith) nominated Pastor Amy Odgren and Pastor David Carlson. When combined with the nominations of the other conferences, Pastor Liz Cheney and Pastor Liz Davis were also nominated.

Everyone is invited to 3 public candidates’ forums to meet and ask questions of the nominees: 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.

As a member of the Bishop Election Committee, I will be helping create candidate videos to be shared online. This should be another way to get to know our nominees.

#### Old Business:

Pledge to Gustavus Adolphus – Mission & Evangelism — Mission & Evangelism has not met lately. They will resume meetings in April and will discuss the pledge then.

Meeting with Edward Jones and decision on Thrivent.

Leave things as is.

Camp Onomia Membership and attendance at Annual meeting 2/23/2020 2PM Trinity Lutheran Church in Princeton.

Letter sent requesting membership to Camp Onomia along with check (\$2.50 per baptized member)

Multi-Media Expansion update.

Additional microphones added to replace choir microphones that weren’t working. Fundraising

activities are planned in the future to cover additional costs.

#### New Business

Committee Reports.

Stewardship Committee Update.

An “abridged” budget will need to be created for Sept 2020 thru Dec 2020 to convert our current fiscal year to calendar year.

Request for a covering for the front entry.

Make as an item in annual meeting.

Church safety meeting for rural churches put on by the Aitkin County Sheriff 2/20/2020 at 2PM Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Update on Bishop Selection – four Nominees at this point. Bios are available on NE MN Synod website.

#### Committee Reports:

##### Faith, Health & Wellness Committee:

Visits (home, NH, and Assisted Living): 9

Phone contacts: 10

#### Worship and Music Committee Meeting

**Thursday, February 6th at 10:30am at Bethesda.**

Members present: Jim, Tom, Carol, Ron, Sherry and Julie (Pastor James was ill but connected via phone)

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

We will be doing the Holden Evening Service as we did last year. The Lenten services will be at 6:30 pm with a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm. We will once again be having a Pastor rotation with various Lutheran churches in the area.

The new video system was installed at the end of January. We are using the system and are realizing the many possible uses available. Mary Braun has created templates for services including pictures, announcements, readings, hymns, sermon and special presentations.

Jim Christenson, Mary Braun and Pastor James are being trained in on how to use the system and will be able to train others.

Utilizing the video system will be an evolving process and will become more and more part of the Sunday service. We welcome comments and suggestions!

The Worship and Music Committee will be doing fund raisers this spring to add additional funds to this project. A raffle basket and Movie night (or afternoon) are in the works.

New microphones were purchased and installed (hanging in the front of the sanctuary) as they were not working. The Praise Team will be paying for the microphones. The service recording will be much better quality with working microphones.

Respectfully submitted, Julie Swaggert

Motion was made to adjourn by Dorothy Mundinger, seconded by Mary Braun, and passed.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting will be March 16, 2020 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

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



### Thank you

*Thank you to my Bethesda family for all the cards, well wishes, gifts and for enjoying with me delicious cake that made my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday so special, so fun, so appreciated. I am truly blessed in so many ways. Blessings always, Bev Wedig*

Our sincere Thank You for your cards, phone calls, offers of help driving to appointments, and most of all your prayers as we are going through

this time of recovering from our bouts with cancer. Our lives have been changed, but, the concern all of you have expressed has really made a difference. God bless the Bethesda Family. Winnie and Randy Zahradka



## Heartland Conference Spring Gathering is April 4

“And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” John 13: 34-35

Dear Heartland sisters in Christ,  
The Spring Gathering will be on April 4th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church at 30985 Front Street in Pequot Lakes. Take Patriot Ave. off of 371 to Main Street and then to Front St. Registration begins at 8:30 with coffee served by Maple Hill Lutheran. The cost is \$8.00 which includes lunch. Put the date in your calendar and plan to attend. It will be a good day.

Pastor Stephen Blenkush from Our Savior's will do the communion service. Dee Dee Frahm from Salem Lutheran in Deerwood will be our speaker for the day. She is the manager and director of both Salem West and The Mustard Seed in Deerwood. Her theme verses are John 13:34-35. There is a need for pillows, toasters and dishcloths. All new and used in-kind items are cleaned when they arrive. Feather pillows can't be used.

There will be a Silent Auction and Buy it Now tables. Please bring items you think will be enjoyed by others. Consider practical and consumable items. The forms are being sent to your church so that you can fill the form out before you arrive. Please price any items for the Buy it Now table.

As is our custom, there will be three offerings that day. They can all go in one envelope, but our treasurer needs them to be in separate checks. The

Gathering Offering will go half to the synod and the other half to Salem West. The Love Offering goes to leadership training and for women in ministry. The Penny Offering this year goes to Pearl Crisis Center in Milaca. Next spring, the Penny Offering will be split between Bridges of Hope and Salem West. The business meeting will be before lunch. Our Fall Gathering will be at Light of the Cross in Garrison.

Registration forms for the Summer Convention/Gathering at Sugar Lake Lodge Monday June 15th to Wednesday June 17th are available in the Northeastern Lights. Esther will be the focus with the theme “All the Faithful Women.” The color theme is red, so pack some red to wear and join us at Sugar Lake Lodge. Triennial is July 16-19 in Phoenix, AZ.

Please plan to spend the morning with us at Our Savior’s in Pequot. It will be a good time of learning and sharing. We need each other. Please keep Vicki Kopplin in your prayers. Consider sending her encouragement at 33777 Dancing Bear Drive, Crosslake, MN 56442.

Blessings to you,  
Jeannine Bruesewitz djbruesew@gmail.com  
320-630-4785 Heartland Conference Coordinator

**PLEASE PICK UP** your yearend statements and envelopes if you have not done so. They are in the Fellowship Hall.

**Newsline** articles are due on the 20<sup>th</sup>, email to [blnews@juno.com](mailto:blnews@juno.com)

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

### **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.



**BIBLE & BREW** Camp Onomia is hosting “Faith Conversations with Bishop Tom” on Friday March 20 – March 21. One-night lodging, 3 meals with program and bible study led by Bishop Tom Aitken and Pastor Dean Olfke. See flyer on bulletin board in the Narthex if interested.

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** Weekly Grief Support Group meetings at Faith Lutheran Church in Isle. Meets Mondays, Feb. 24th thru May 18th from 6:00 – 7:30pm. Contact Michelle at 218-821-4703. Cost: \$15 per person for 13 week session. See poster on Bulletin Board in Narthex for more information.

### **Stop, look and listen**

Lent, the season of the church year that’s associated with repentance, begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year). While some people deny themselves by giving up something for Lent, others prepare for Easter through special Bible studies or devotions.

Christians observe Lent for these reasons:

- It causes us to STOP. Lent says, “Stop and rest awhile,” as well as “Stop doing wrong.”
- It tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ offering healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.
- It tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words aren’t only important for our safety in travel; they’re also helpful for our journey through the 40 days of Lent.

**March 8th**



# MUSIC News

Dear Singers,

I hope this finds you healthy and ready to sing another Lenten Cantata. The music is lovely. The CD's are set up to emphasize each section while being able to hear the whole choir. If you know anyone else who would like to join us, please invite them and encourage them to participate. I expect it will be a meaningful experience spiritually and musically. I'll attach the "please join" and "come listen" posters, and the rehearsal schedule in case it will help as you plan. Feel free to forward them to anyone who might be interested or whom I might have missed. If you know you have to miss the first rehearsal and want your music early, or sent with someone, please, let me know.

Isle Community Lenten Cantata  
"Sacred Places; A Pilgrimage of Promise"  
Good Friday, April 10, 7:30 pm At Faith  
Lutheran Church, Isle

## REHEARSALS:

3:00 pm-4:30 pm Sundays in Lent plus one  
Feb. 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5

Here's how the music catalog describes it. "Sacred Places: A Pilgrimage of Promise by Joseph Martin is based on early American folk songs and hymns and intended for use during Lent and Holy Week. *Sacred Places* explores the story of Christ's ministry, passion and resurrection, all emphasizing the locations where these great moments occurred: the Sea of Galilee, the Wedding at Cana, the Sermon on the Mount, Jerusalem, the Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, Calvary, and the Garden of Resurrection. With poignant narrations and scripture, along with creative orchestrations by Brant Adams, this is a memorable telling of the life of Christ."

I'm looking forward to seeing you. I hope you are able to participate in this year's cantata.

Nancy Hendry 612-236-  
6003 [nab3hens@outlook.com](mailto:nab3hens@outlook.com)



(Laury and Troy Nyberg)

## Happy Hearts"...

The Malmo Lions' Sweetheart Dinner at Bethesda Lutheran Church was a night of fun and fellowship for families, friends and sweethearts alike. There was fabulous food, roses for the ladies, complimentary portraits by photographer Tom Sandelands, music, door prizes and, of course, the famous flowing chocolate fountain. Light, love and laughter filled the room. Thanks to the Malmo Lions for this truly sweet event!



(Marilyn Elling gets a kiss from  
Daughter Val and Granddaughter)

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	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: [blnews@juno.com](mailto:blnews@juno.com)**

All articles due on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month