

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.



May 3 Online Service Premiere at 8:30am
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

May 10 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM
Communion – Pending State Regulations

May 17 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM
Communion – Pending State Regulations

May 24 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM
Communion – Pending State Regulations

May 31 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM
Communion – Pending State Regulations

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

Weekly bulletins and services available at
<http://blcmalmo.org/>

Bethesda now has a YouTube channel! Please check out our online worship services (<http://blcmalmo.org/2020/03/28/online-worship-services/>), as well as on our Facebook page.



2020

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo does Zoom Meetings!

Does your church committee need to meet during this time of social distancing?

Contact Pastor James or Mary Braun in the office with a date, time, and email addresses of the people you want to include in the meeting, and we can set it up for you.



If one or your attendees does not have a device with a camera, we can set them up to join in via telephone. They can listen to the meeting, hear everyone from the meeting, and be heard also.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

We invite new members to join the Stewardship & Finance Committee. 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.

Always check our webpage for any
worship service & activity updates.

<http://blcmalmo.org>



From the Pastor

Then Moses called out to Joshua in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you will accompany these people to the land that the LORD promised to give their ancestors, and you will enable them

to inherit it. The LORD is indeed going before you—he will be with you; he will not fail you or abandon you. Do not be afraid or discouraged!"

Deuteronomy 31:7-8

Grace and peace to you!

I hope these words find you well, and that everyone is managing to stay safe and sane during these trying times! There is certainly no shortage of passages in the Bible that proclaim God's promise of love and protection in times of trial. Now would be a great time to read through the Psalms, for example. Yet, it was this passage from Deuteronomy that recently caught my attention.

Moses spoke these words – part blessing, part promise, part pep talk – to Joshua as the people of Israel were nearing the end of their time of wandering in the desert. They are on the cusp of crossing the Jordan and entering the promised land. And yet the Lord has made it clear to Moses that he will not be able to join them in seeing the end of their journey. In fact, in only a few chapters, Moses dies and is buried in the land of Moab, and then Deuteronomy ends, and the story continues in the book of Joshua. Joshua will be the one to lead them the final step of their journey and in the battles that will soon result from their arrival.

In one sense, they are facing the opposite problem from us. They are wandering, seeking to find a new home, while many of us are stuck at home. They are together in a one big group, while we are isolated. However, we both share a fear over an uncertain future. We both have our plans, and we both do our best to trust that everything will eventually work out. But still, we get nervous. It's hard to avoid.

While Moses' advice is technically for Joshua, I think it is telling that he calls out to him when he is surrounded by the whole community. Perhaps this pep talk was meant as much for the people of Israel as for Joshua's ears alone. Right after this moment, the Lord appears as a pillar of cloud to Moses and Joshua in a tent, so God can commission properly, but it is Moses' blessing that is the big public

announcement.

Both leaders and the community as a whole need these reassurances. We need to be reminded, again and again, that God is with us. That God does not fail us or abandon us. To hear, as Joshua and everyone else heard, that we can trust that God goes before and beside us through whatever may come.

We need these reminders so that we do not build our lives around our fears but instead build a world shaped by God's love and the vision God gives us for the future. We especially need this reminder in these moments of great change and uncertainty.

This time of Covid-19 continues to reveal some difficult truths about our society. About how we care for our caregivers, about how we care for those who work all kinds of essential but less than glamorous jobs, about how we ensure that all the hungry are fed. Hopefully we don't lose sight of these people when things begin to feel more normal sometime in the future.

I have been so grateful for how well so many of you have handled the changes so far. We have a good group of folks that show up and say "hi" as soon as our worship video debuts Sunday morning. Those that came out for the drive-in communion helped things go smoothly. Our council even managed to hold an online Zoom meeting this month! Not to mention all the hands that have been busy sewing facemasks and all the folks calling and checking in on one another. Thank you all so much!

But please, if you haven't been able to figure out this online stuff, give our office a call. We will be happy to offer what tech support we can or send you an audio CD, if that is what works best for you. We also have devotionals that can be picked up or mailed. And if you just need to hear a friendly voice, please give us a call!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor James Muske

VIRTUAL COMMUNION

I recently read reflections by Bishop Tom that allows for churches to do virtual communion in our weekly online service. The minister would offer the blessing and words of institution, and people could then partake of their own bread and wine at home. We will be including a communion blessing in this coming Sunday's worship video. We would also film a short video to explain the idea and post that online.

2020 TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund	MARCH	YTD
Income Actual	\$14,098	\$118,632
Income Budgeted	\$15,998	\$111,985
Expense Actual	\$14,955	\$113,460
Expense Budgeted	\$15,200	\$117,783
Over/(Short)	(\$857)	\$5,172

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

Minutes of April 20, 2020, Council Meeting

In attendance: Dorothy Mundinger, Mary Braun, Pastor James Muske, Ron Haugland, Cheryl Malotky, Sherry Whipple and Dennis Hennessey.

The meeting was called to order by council vice president Dennis Hennessey.
Dennis Hennessey gave opening Devotions.

Secretary's Report:

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the March meeting by Mary Braun, seconded by Sherry Whipple, and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for March was presented by Mary Braun. Our offerings are down, especially "Loose Cash", but we have gotten some online donations from members via Facebook. \$925 for the month of April so far. We also have almost \$48,000 in stocks and saving accounts. YTD we are still on the positive side of our budget. Mary will be keeping virtual attendance for those listening to Sunday services online. Mary made a motion to take the Parsonage Pledge income, after payments were complete, and to move it to Parsonage Maintenance for accounting purposes. Seconded by Ron Haglund. Motion was made by Cheryl to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Sherry Whipple and passed.

Pastor's Report – April 20, 2020

Talk about a hectic month! Adjusting to the new quarantine reality has kept your pastor plenty busy. Much of my time this past month has been spent working on planning, filming and editing online worship service and other videos. As much as we try to make it seem familiar, we have definitely had to learn some new skills.

However, partnering with Faith Lutheran and Pastor Kate has been helpful in terms of sharing the workload. For example, when Pastor Kate writes the sermon and helps plan the service that allows me to spend more time editing the video.

Right now, with the equipment we have, it works better for us to record a service, rather than stream the service live. It also means we can use YouTube as the primary place for our videos (which is open to everyone), rather than rely only on Facebook (which requires an account).

We also benefitted from partnering with Bethlehem Lutheran for our first drive-in communion.

Bethlehem's piano player was able to play live music over our carillon system, which was quite lovely. I hope we can continue to offer communion this way, but maybe only once or twice a month.

We might even be able to expand on outdoor options during the summer, but, of course, everything depends on the guidelines that come from the government.

However, as busy as time on the computer has kept me, please feel free to give me a call if you need help or just need a friendly chat. I also encourage everyone to help provide a little mental and spiritual care with one another. Check in with those that may be stuck at home, trying to keep safe. And if you hear of bigger needs out there, please let us know if we can help gather support. And I know that many of you have already been doing this, so thank you! Setting up a Zoom meeting with confirmation kids soon.

So, thank you all for adjusting to this challenging new circumstances! And keep watching our website and Facebook for the latest info!

Old Business:

Stewardship Committee - needing new members. Job description is available at the church office.

Electronic sign information is being worked on with a quote in a week or so.

Input on Gustavus Adolphus. This belongs to M&E and they have not had a meeting. Ken Skogquist Estate – check should be coming soon.

New Business

Committee Reports for council. None have been received because there have been no meetings. If individual committee's want to do a Zoom meeting, please check with the church office.

Payroll Protection Program Discussion (Loan/Grant). Council discussed if this is needed. We can apply though they have run out of money at the moment. It will either be a loan or a grant if we do apply. We don't really need the money to make our payroll yet and if we don't apply, it may be more beneficial to others that are more in need. We will table this and look at it next month if needed.

Input on Facebook and U-Tube church services and drive up Communion. - Another drive-up communion is being considered for May. In the pastor's report, he mentions the Facebook and U-Tube church services. We are looking at other options like outdoor services and utilizing other community partners.

Veggie Stand - Concerns about no jellies being made early May for Veggie Stand brought up a few ideas that Judie will bring to the Mission and Evangelism committee. Council thought that some of these ideas would give opportunities for parishioners to do something for our community.

Thoughts on CD renewal 4/22/2020 – The rate of interest will be .95%; it was 1.93%. There is a 10-day grace period. Mary made a motion that we leave the CD at MN Credit Union and revisit it next year. Ron seconded the motion and it passed.

Mary made a motion to allow the quilting ladies to continue their bi-monthly routine of quilting at church following hygiene and cleaning afterwards. Cheryl seconded the motion and it passed. If other groups feel they can meet safely, please check with the church office.

Cheryl made a motion for Mary to purchase a handy/dandy thermometer to check people when they come into the office. Motion was seconded by Ron and passed.

Committee Reports:

Faith, Health & Wellness Committee:

Because of the coronavirus shelter in place order our visits to members have been hindered. In early March prior to the shutdown we did have visits made to three people. Until things get opened up our focus will be on making phone calls to members, both those who are on our current list, but also to any other members who are sheltering in place and would benefit from a call.

Motion was made to adjourn by Dorothy, seconded by Cheryl, and passed.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next council meeting will be May 18th, 2020 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk,
Council secretary.



Thank you

We want to thank everyone for the sympathy cards, phone call and prayers after the loss of our daughter Jennifer. We feel blessed to be part of the Bethesda family.

Jack and Paula Spetz

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 have medical equipment that is in a good workable condition that you would like to donate or if you need to borrow a piece of equipment contact the Parish Nurses.



May 10th

- *“If you have a mom, there is nowhere you are likely to go where a prayer has not already been.”*
—Robert Brault

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

You can submit your weekly offerings, online, from our Facebook page.



Go to <https://www.facebook.com/BLCMalmo/> and click on the donate button below the cover photo. Click and donate online.

Stay Home – Stay Safe – Watch Services online.
Thank you.

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!

ELCA presiding bishop announces Covid-19 response

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has announced the launch of a comprehensive Covid-19 response across the ELCA beginning today. The three approaches named are:

Daily Bread Grants

“ELCA World Hunger is announcing the immediate launch of Daily Bread Matching Grants,” the announcement read. “Through these grants, ELCA congregations can raise funds for their feeding ministries using an online fundraising platform and will receive a grant of \$500 from ELCA World Hunger. Up to 100 Daily Bread Matching Grants are available for ELCA congregations on a first-come, first-served basis, with the possibility of more grants becoming available in the future. Apply or donate here.”

Here to Serve “The ELCA churchwide organization is inherently a resource in support of the members, congregations, synods and partners of the

ELCA. During this time, Domestic Mission will pivot to a project-based, service-oriented structure so this church knows we are here to serve. By the first week of April, we will launch a chat function on elca.org, along with an 800 hotline for prayer, support and questions that will be answered by our staff. As soon as these channels are live, we will let you know.”

Covid-19 response appeal “It’s more important now than ever to support our church across the country through these difficult times. We will begin to raise funds to support our congregations, ministries and synods. This effort will launch the week of March 30 via email and social media with a special form online to donate.”
The ELCA will continue to provide and update resources at elca.org/publichealth. “We are also still at work in the world,” the announcement read. “Our global mission work continues and grows in this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are working with our global companions to provide support where we can.”

Bethesda Sewers Support Local Hospital



Thanks to Bethesda sewers for another shipment of homemade masks that are going to Riverwood nurses. Riverwood thanks you! They use them daily saving on the supply of official personal protective equipment. Also, anyone who comes to clinic without a mask is given one. 🙏 God Bless our workers

Activities & Events

May 2020

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

Ushers

by Skip & Lynn Hansen

May **8:30** **10:00**
 May 3* Online
 May 10* PENDING on State Regulations
 8:30 Skip, Lynn Hansen
 10:00 Chuck, Elsa Carlson
 May 17* & PENDING on State Regulations
 24* 8:30 Mhyres
 10:00 Ron Haglunds
 May 31 PENDING on State Regulations

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

April Shirley Gosselin and Gina Rosa
 May Elsa / Chuck Carlson and Karen Elias

Recycling Haglunds



Coffee Servers by WELCA

May 3
 May 10
 May 17
 May 24
 May 31

Greeters Lynne Meidlinger

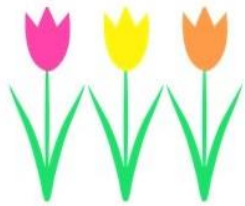
May 3
 May 10 PENDING on state rules
 Lee, Barb Forester
 May 17 PENDING on state rules
 Wayne, Janic Olson
 May 24 Del, Diane Jones
 May 31 Charlie, Jackie Follmer



May 1 Neil & Myra Honl
 May 10 Dick & Sue Stebbins
 May 13 George & Patti Smith
 May 24 Sheldon & Lisa Stay
 May 24 Ron & Joyce Keil



May 2 Thomas Westerlund
 May 4 Reily Lagerstrom
 May 5 Jonathan Mickelson
 May 8 Charlotte Berg
 May 8 Jeannine Bruesewitz
 May 8 Dick Nelson
 May 11 Wayne Olson
 May 12 Donna Ansell, Gerald Morris
 May 13 Jeanne Anderson, Jamie Trotter
 May 14 Vada Sorby
 May 15 Tom Christensen
 May 16 Ellen Burman
 May 17 Janice Olson
 May 21 Jacquelyn Follmer
 May 21 Laurina Tofteland
 May 21 Martin Wolf
 May 22 Marilyn Andrews
 May 22 Ray Piispanen
 May 24 Kris Fredrick
 May 27 Ellee Johnson
 May 28 Richard Hansen
 May 29 Eldon Mitchell, Gaylard Westerlund
 May 30 Michael Brucciani
 May 31 Theresa Berry
 May 31 Gale Rolek



May 2020

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Check our website for worship service & activity updates! http://blcmalmo.org</p>						
 <p>Stay home except for essential needs #StayHomeMN Extended until May 4</p>					<p>1 Happy May Day</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 Facebook or Youtube service</p>		<p>5 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study</p>	<p>6 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitchers 6:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>7 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 11:30 Fun Timers</p>	<p>8 10:00 Bones Builders</p>	<p>9 Opening of Fishing! </p>
<p>Unknown if Postponed</p>						
<p>10 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion Mothers Day</p>	<p>11 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mtg</p>	<p>12 9:00 Quilters 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study</p>	<p>13 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitchers 6:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>14 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 11:30 Fun Timers</p>	<p>15 10:00 Bones Builders</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>Unknown if Postponed</p>						
<p>17 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion 10:15 Sunday school</p>	<p>18 10:00 Council 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mtg</p>	<p>19 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study</p>	<p>20 ^{8-12 WIC} 9:00 Bible Study 9:30 WELCA 10:00 Stitchers 6:00 Choir Practice Newsline Deadline</p>	<p>21 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 11:30 Fun Timers</p>	<p>22 10:00 Bones Builders</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>Unknown if Postponed</p>						
<p>24 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion</p>	<p>25 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mtg Memorial Day</p>	<p>26 9:00 Quilters 12:00-2 Pastor Text Study</p>	<p>27 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Stitchers 6:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>28 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 11:30 Fun Timers</p>	<p>29 10:00 Bones Builders</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion</p>	<p>Unknown if Postponed</p>					

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
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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	blcmalmo@gmail.com	(320) 684-2123
Fax		(320)-684-2836
Toll Free		(877) 684-2123
Church Web site		blcmalmo.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: blnews@juno.com

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