

Bethesda Life-Line

Bethesda now has a YouTube channel!

Please check out last week's service

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpUJQAIIdOtq2rusQ4pY0wZg>), as well as on our facebook page.



Until further notice:

8:30 am Sundays on youtube.com

Weekly bulletins and links to services available at <http://blcmalmo.org/2020/03/28/online-worship-services/>

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

CANCELLED ACTIVITIES

Veggie Stand - until further notice.

Glen 4 th of July Parade

Annual Bazaar in October – stay tuned for other fund-raising ideas to fund WELCA's missions.

Recordings of every 8:30 a.m. Sunday Service are on facebook or youtube. Can't make it to church on Sunday? Missed last week? Catch up by watching the recordings. Want to see it again? Or pass it on.... Go to YouTube – Bethesda Lutheran Church - Malmo, MN enter and Scroll thru and search for the date you are looking for. Click on play. It's that simple.

**You are the church.
The building is not.**



BEWARE OF FAKE EMAILS! The below email appears to be from Pastor James, but it is not! If you receive one, **Do Not Reply!** It has been reported to gmail fraud department.

WARNING! FAKE EMAIL

From: Pastor James Muske <pastor2hetor@gmail.com>
Date: June 22, 2020 at 8:43:11 AM CDT
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Subject: Blessing Blessing Blessing

Hi, how are you doing?

I need a favor from you, email me as soon as you get this message.

God Bless,

Pastor James Muske
Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
21590 State Highway 47
Isle, MN 56342

Sent from iPhone
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Please remember to mail in your offerings or donate 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. We thank members for their continual Church Offerings needed to cover Church expenses.

Join the team!
Sign up to mow the church lawn! Call the church office to get on the schedule.





From the Pastor

Greetings, sisters, and brothers in Christ!

Several years ago, during my first call in Pennsylvania, I preached a summer series on the book of

Exodus – that journey of the Israelites from their homes in Egypt to their new homes into the Promised Land, back in Israel. Their time in Egypt had, for many years, been good. They were fruitful and multiplied. But a new Pharaoh came to power who grew greedy, jealous at their success, and saw in them a group that he could oppress for his own benefit.

So, God called Moses and God sent the plagues, and eventually they escaped through the Red Sea and out into the desert. I imagine scenes from the old movie are popping into your head (or maybe the newer cartoon version).

God was with them in this journey, in this time of great change and challenge. They were led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. When they were thirsty, God and his servant Moses produced water from a rock. When they were hungry, manna appeared each morning on the desert ground.

But it didn't take long for the Israelites to get a little cranky. Many grew tired of the manna, they longed for the meat, the fish, the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic of Egypt. Later, when they finally got close to entering the Promised Land and the spies that surveyed the land returned and issued warnings, a cry went up from the people. They were dismayed and they spoke of choosing a new leader to help them return to Egypt.

And so, the Lord punished them, and the people were to spend the next forty years wandering in the desert. God would not let them return to Egypt to suffer, but neither would he let those who clung to the past enter the promised land. Their children, after that wandering, would be the generation to enjoy the land of milk and honey.

Our journey these past months have been a bit different. "Journey" even feels like a strange word to use, much more a hunkering down. Yet, we too grow weary of all the changes. We are ready to get back to the familiar, even though we realize that to do so carries with it some significant risks. Even if these past few months have helped us see the old

and the familiar in a new light, and we recognize some things that need to change.

But the pull of the familiar is strong. Life in Egypt was no picnic, even if the food was better. It seems that every week brings news of a Covid-19 outbreak related to a church that reopened without the proper precautions (in the state's largest outbreak, a church in Oregon recently saw 230+ members contract the disease)... and still we long to get back to seeing our friends again. To worship together again. To sing and pray and share a meal together again.

The people of Israel needed time to learn how to be a people again, how to be God's people again. It is no coincidence that God gave Moses the 10 Commandments in the midst of their time in the wilderness. They had to relearn how to care for one another all over again. Something many of us have been doing during our time in quarantine.

Something that protestors are demanding in the wake of George Floyd's death.

We do well to deeply reflect on the question: "How do we best love one another?", as we move from the past and into the future. Allowing ourselves, hopefully, to not just fall back on old, comfortable answers, but making room for something new, as well.

God is leading us into a brighter, better world, but that does not mean that the journey is easy. A little grumbling isn't going to get us into too much trouble, as long as we don't lose hope, as long as we continue to trust in God and God's promises to us. As long as we don't let our frustrations spill out into how we view and treat others. God's community, no matter the time or place or shape or size, is formed by God's love. When we do not have that pillar of cloud or fire there to mark our path, may that love be there to guide us into whatever comes next.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor James Muske

2020 TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund	<u>MAY</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income Actual	\$13,215	\$149,310
Income Budgeted	\$15,998	\$143,981
Expense Actual	\$10,404	\$139,413
Expense Budgeted	\$15,200	\$148,183
Over/(Short)	\$2,811	\$9,897



Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

Minutes of June 15, 2020, Council Meeting

In attendance: Dennis Hennessey, Mary Braun, Pastor James Muske, Judie Birk, Cheryl Malotky and Sherry Whipple.

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

Secretary's Report:

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

Treasurer's Report:

Financial review and current month activity for May was presented by Mary Braun. Mary brought up that for the attendance report to the Synod, we can use online (virtual) attendance (unique attendance - new computer that has signed in to listen) times two for our attendance number. Motion was made by Sherry to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Cheryl and passed.

Pastor's Report – May 18 to June 15, 2020

Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ!

This past month has been another one for the history books, challenging both because of the continued quarantine restrictions and the protests in our state and country.

But here are a few items I have been involved with: Videos, videos, videos – your pastor's life seems to revolve almost entirely around the planning, filming, and editing of worship and other videos. Thankfully, it has been going well. We have been getting used to it, though it still presents its challenges.

Pastoral care idea – help area nursing homes watch our services online, we could even purchase streaming devices

Outdoor worship services – Faith Lutheran has purchased a radio transmitter, which we could borrow; we are currently looking at an outdoor Sunday service near the end of July, but are thinking we could host some “test runs” by offering an outdoor Holden Evening Prayer on a Saturday or Sunday night at the end of June or early July.

Based on an idea by Dennis, Mary and I have set up a little station by the front door where people can come and say “hi” and we can add that to our

worship videos for folks to see one another.

Video equipment update: as previously mentioned, we are currently borrowing both a camera and a tripod to use for our worship videos. I have looked into our options and have found some equipment we can purchase. Another item that would prove helpful would be a pair of wireless lavalier microphones. The recently purchased audio recorder device has been very helpful. Though this equipment is not inexpensive, I feel that it is likely that we will be recording and/or streaming worship services on into the future, likely even after fears around Covid have died down.

My days off have been a bit in flux with the new worship recording schedule. My hope is to try and realign it to Friday/Saturday over time, but, for now, I will occasionally take part or all of Mondays off.

As a little community connection, I have given some tech advice for the Isle Library, who had some questions about making audio and video recordings. After hearing about some of their tech challenges, I also invited a staff member from the Mille Lacs Indian Museum to come and use my laptop and software to make a video, which they have done once.

We are still discussing the possibility of creating some youth focused videos as a sort of online VBS option. I need to contact some of the other pastors in the area about working together on that idea. Thanks again for all your support and flexibility during this challenging time! I am so grateful that God has continued to surround us with love and to work that creative spirit in the midst of so much change. Yours in Christ

Old Business

Info on Estate of Ken Skogquist – No monies have been paid out of the Estate yet.

Stewardship Committee report was discussed. See report below.

Continue discussion to Open Church — See Task Force meeting notes below.

New Business

Committee Reports for Council. Most committees have not met.

Review/Approve purchase of additional equipment for continued online videos. Pastor James showed council a video camera, tripod and accessories that he would like to purchase for the online videos. We have received donations and memorials (\$2,200) in the past month that can be used towards these purchases. Sherry Whipple made a motion for pastor to purchase these items, but to

cap spending at \$3,500. Cheryl seconded the motion and it passed.

Pastor mentioned that they may film a service at Camp Onomia soon.

Talked about doing kids video amongst other churches. Camp Onomia has options that pastor will also look into.

Committee Reports Stewardship Committee

Notes from Stewardship meeting on Tuesday May 27:

The current members of the Stewardship Committee, Barb Forrester, Mary Braun, and Donna Ansell met with Pastor James; Mary Vukelich is currently on leave.

Mary Braun will post requests for new Committee members along with a Chairperson.

We reviewed the current Budget status and noted currently positive \$7,000 but giving has been smaller than usual, probably due to no in-house Services at this time.

Please remember to mail in your offerings or donate 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. We thank members for their continual Church Offerings needed to cover Church expenses.

Budget extension for 2020 was discussed. The extension is due to the Church Year Calendar changes made at the last Congregational meeting. The new Church Budgets will now go with the Calendar year, starting January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Currently the accepted Budget runs through August 31 so additional budget amounts will be needed to cover costs September 1 through December 31, 2020.

It was voted and approved to divide the current budget by 3, using that amount to cover the extended months until December 31st, 2020.

Budget 2021 discussions will begin early fall.

The Stewardship Committee had been reviewing the actions needed for a Congregational Audit that is encouraged by the ELCA. At this time, it was agreed upon to table the discussion.

Benevolence funds dispensing was reviewed. All accumulated benevolence funds for the food shelves were sent out at end of April due to the needs being so high at this time.

Funds will be distributed to local food shelves

(Isle, Garrison, Aitken) on a quarterly basis for now.

The Stewardship Committee will meet again in August or early September unless other items arise that need to be reviewed.

It would be nice to have a Committee Chairperson by then along with additional new members!
Respectfully submitted by Donna Ansell

Minutes of June 9, 2020, Task Force Meeting

In attendance: Mary Braun, Pastor James Muske, Ron Haugland, Cheryl Malotky, Sherry Whipple, George Smith, Shirley Gosselin, Joanne Stueven, Darlene Christensen, Dennis Hennessy, Lee Forrester.

Discussion regarding the reopening of the church meeting the State & Synod guidelines:

It was unanimously agreed that we will suggest to the Church Council that we do not open the church to worship services until the end of July 2020. We will re-visit the situation around the middle of July with updates and recommendations to the Council. Using the State guidelines of 50% we estimated the capacity of the church sanctuary is approximately 100 people. Therefore, attendance would need to be set at 50 people or less.

Parking Lot services, approximately once a month, are being planned for June & July.

Looking into borrowing or purchasing a FM transmitter for the parking lot services so parishioners can listen to the service thru their car radios. Cost approximately \$200.

Posted at the church entrance is a **Health Screening Checklist**. If employees or visitors answer "Yes" to any of the questions they should not enter the building.

Masks will be required in this facility. It is posted at the front door and there will be cloth masks available for those who do not have them. It is requested that if they take a mask that they keep the mask and re-use them after they disinfect them. Social distancing will be enforced – staff and visitors must be at least 6 feet apart. A plan will be developed regarding how to enforce that policy in the sanctuary once we do reopen. Cleaning and disinfecting of the church continues on a daily basis.

For Staff and Visitors, we have posted signs requiring "Regular Hand Washing". Hand sanitizer bottles are readily available at all entrances and throughout the building.

Before we reopen, we will have the water tested due to very minimal use during the past three months.

Building Ventilation protocols: Our heating and cooling system does recirculate outside air which eliminates indoor air recirculation. There was a discussion on the running of ceiling fans.

Certain areas of the building will be closed off to employee & visitor traffic to reduce the chance of contamination.

We request parishioners contact a member of the Task Force with any comments, concerns, or ideas concerning the reopening of the church.

The meeting closed with a prayer from Pastor James.

Motion was made to adjourn by Mary Braun, seconded by Cheryl Malotky, and passed.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting will be July 20, 2020 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.

RUBY'S PANTRY· Founded in 2003, Ruby's Pantry serves over 450,000 people each year and distributes over 18 million pounds of food. Pop-Up Pantry's are held on various days throughout the week including Saturday's in over 75 communities across Minnesota and Wisconsin. Each guest donates \$20 per food share and receives an abundance of grocery items. There is no income or residency requirement. Anyone that eats qualifies! Ruby's Pantry is a 501 C3 non-profit and has a rich heritage as a community outreach program. For more information, visit our website at:

www.rubyspantry.org.

If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer at one of the Pop-Up Pantry locations, visit our website and select Volunteer to complete an on-line application <https://www.rubyspantry.org/volunteer/>.

Next Pop-Up Pantry is Saturday July 04, 2020

810 2nd St NW, Aitkin, MN 56431, United States

DAYS AND HOURS

1st Saturday of the Month

Registration begins at 8:00 AM

Food bundles available 9:00-10:30 AM

Hosted by: The Journey North Church

Fare For All Preorder '20: Aitkin, July

8th* Dates listed are PICKUP dates. Orders must be placed in advance, no later than one week prior to pick up **

Fare For All is a community-supported, non-profit program that is open to ALL! We provide easy access to low-cost healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables and frozen meat packages.

Order and pay IN ADVANCE with Dolores (218-549-3158). Pickups occur one Wednesday per month at First Lutheran Church (107 2nd St. SE) from 3:30- 4 pm. Order cutoff is ONE WEEK before the distribution.

HOW TO ORDER:

Place your order in cash by contacting Dolores (218-549-3158). To order with EBT, call 763-450-4217.

Mega Meat packs (\$25), Mini Meat packs (\$11), Produce Packs (\$10), and Combo Packs (\$20) will be available, along with the Hot Buy item of the month. Check that out at fareforall.org there are no income or residential restrictions. Visit our page for more information or visit our website!



For all our book club fans who have been missing out during this time of quarantine, the Mille Lacs Indian Museum is hosting a new online book club starting June 30. Pastor plans to participate and

would love to have some more Bethesda folks join him. "Night Flying Woman" is the book.

If you are not able to afford the book at this time, there is a possibility to get a free e-book version, or give Pastor a call and there are some funds we could use to purchase some copies. You can also call Pastor if you need some help with the tech support, ha!

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/BLCMalmö/> and click on the donate button below the cover photo. Click and donate online.

Stay Home – Stay Safe – Watch Services online.

Activities & Events

July 2020

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

Ushers

by Skip & Lynn Hansen

8:30

10:00

July 5
July 12
July 19
July 28

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

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

Altar Care by Dianne Jones

July.....Dianne and Karen Elias

August....Winnie Zahradka and Judy Wuorio

Sept.....Elsa and Chuck Carlson and Sylvia Tapelt

Recycling – Dave & Joanne Stueven



Greeters

Lynne Meidlinger

July 5
July 12
July 19
July 28



July 5 Bev & Wally Swenson
July 7 Ardis & Harold Kendall
July 10 Patty & Ken Wanous
July 16 Barb & Lee Forrester
July 16 Jan & Ron Aho
July 21 Winnie & Randy Zahradka
July 23 Carolyn & Jerry Morris
July 29 Marilee & Kirk Swenson
July 30 Glenice & Dale Peterson



July	1	Dennis Meidlinger
July	5	Harold Kendall
July	6	Joanne Danielson
July	7	Jorome Schewe
July	8	Penny Sjoquist
July	9	Darrell Kelly
July	10	Donna Myhre
July	11	Barb Bray
July	11	Randy Tofteland
July	15	Gavin Fischer
July	16	Alene Lowe
July	18	Paul Meleen
July	21	Ron Heins
July	21	Craig Kullberg
July	22	Kathy Carlson
July	23	Sandi Elwood
July	24	Keith Munding
July	25	Ken Elwood
July	27	Marilyn Elling
July	27	Linda Hauglid
July	27	Annie Johnson
July	27	Joanne Mehlhop
July	29	Cindy Persson

Good Friends

Never Say Goodbye

They Simply Say


" See You Soon "



July 2020

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 
5 <i>Facebook or youtube service</i>	6	7 <i>9:00 Quilters</i>	8	9	10	11
12 <i>Facebook or youtube service</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 <i>Facebook or youtube service</i>	20 <i>10:00 Council meeting</i> <i>Newsline Deadline</i>	21 <i>9:00 Quilters</i>	22	23	24	25
26 <i>Facebook or youtube service</i>	27	28	29	30	31	

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	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