

Bethesda Life-Line

Worship Services*

Until further notice, all worship services will premiere on youtube.com at 8:30am on Sundays. You will have the option to participate in Holy Communion every Sunday while viewing the online services.



June 7 Sunday Worship	8:30am Youtube.com
June 14 Sunday Worship	8:30am Youtube.com
June 21 Sunday Worship	8:30am Youtube.com
June 28 Sunday Worship	8:30am Youtube.com

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

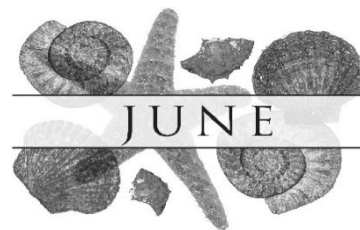
Upcoming Events

Weekly bulletins and services available on our website: <https://blcmalmo.org>

Visit our YouTube channel for weekly services at (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpUJQAIIdOtq2rusQ4pY0wZg>), as well as on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/BLCMalmo/](https://www.facebook.com/BLCMalmo/)

CANCELLATIONS

- Veggie Stand - until further notice.
- Vacation Bible School - we are putting together an online session that will be available later this summer. Please email us if you are interested in receiving the information.
- Glen 4th of July Parade



2020

Thank you for your continued financial support during this time.

You can mail in your offerings or submit your offerings, online, from our Facebook page. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/BLCMalmo/>

and click on the donate button below the cover photo. Stay Home – Stay Safe – Watch Services online. Thank you!



OPPORTUNITY

Would you like a chance to get out of the house, enjoy some fresh Minnesota air and get rid of that pesky mask (if you wish), then we have an opportunity for you. We need your help to maintain and mow the church grounds. This year we would like mowing to take place later in the week (Thursday-Saturday). This would give the Property Committee time to service and sanitize the equipment. If other equipment is used (weed whip, rake, shovel, etc.), please lean them against the tractors so they can be sanitized too.

If you would like to help in the mowing, please contact Mary at the church (320-684-2123) to get on the sign up sheet. We can use your help. The tractors and equipment will be ready each week (serviced, sanitized, and gassed) for your enjoyment.

Please do not mow if not needed. If you have any questions call Lee Forrester at 651-271-2186.



Join the team!
Sign up to mow the church lawn!



From the Pastor

Usually, when someone asks me to name my favorite movie, I struggle. It's complicated. Too many choices. Too many variables. But there is a category of movie that holds a special place in my heart. Not genre, mind you, category, and that category is... "movies to fall asleep to."

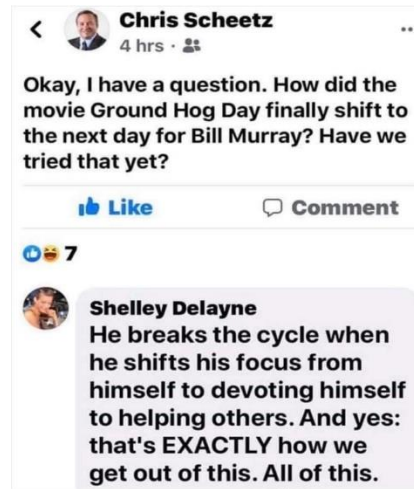
When I plop down on the couch early on a Sunday afternoon, ready for my post-worship nap, one movie regularly in the rotation is the 1993 Bill Murray classic "Groundhog Day." It is the perfect movie for napping - just interesting enough to be rewatchable, but not so fast paced that you hang on every scene. And not some action movie filled with gun fire or explosions (with one exception).

It also feels appropriate to rewatch this particular movie over and over. For those that have seen it, Bill Murray, or rather his character TV weatherman Phil Connors, is stuck in a time loop. He is trapped in the same day, Groundhog Day, in Punxsutawney, PA, home to one of the most well-known groundhog traditions.

Over and over he cycles through the same day. The only differences resulting from the choices he makes during the course of that day. Besides being quite funny, it is actually a pretty profound film. Phil transitions from being crass and self-centered to despair to eventually finding meaning in improving the lives of others. The initial joy that he experiences in the movie when he realizes he can do whatever he wants with no repercussions quickly turns to depression as he realizes the emptiness of those pleasures. Only when he begins to look beyond himself does his seemingly eternal Groundhog Day finally end.

One social media post I saw making the rounds recently referenced Groundhog Day, and, in particular, this shift that happens for Phil during the course of the film. Good movies, like music and art, offer that gift of speaking a truth that can be applied for even the most unexpected events that may come, even years later.

In this case, Groundhog Day might speak to our time and these challenges that we are facing. We may feel that we are stuck in a rut right now. Trapped, beyond



our control. We have fallen into new rhythms and we may be longing to break free from them.

But Christ calls us to always look beyond ourselves and to care for the wellbeing of all creation. To find a deeper meaning, no matter what circumstance we may find ourselves in.

Our church leaders have been wrestling with this question of whether and when to reopen for in-person worship. We have decided to hold off for now, but we are considering holding another drive-up communion and perhaps even outdoor worship services.

We all miss gathering together on Sunday morning, sharing bread and wine, passing the peace, joining together in song, eating cookies and drinking coffee and enjoying time for fellowship. Yet we are mindful of how risky it would be to engage in those activities in the era of Covid-19, and we would be heartbroken if our members were to become ill or pass away if we pushed to open too early.

So, for now, we will continue to live out these moments in new ways. Online worship certainly isn't perfect, but I continue to be amazed how well some of us are adapting. There is a regular group of folks who gather as soon as our worship video premieres on Sunday morning, say good morning to each other, pass the peace, offer prayers, and share bread and wine remotely.

And we will continue to imagine new ways of connecting and rely on some of the old, familiar ones too. I have heard from several folks how they are keeping in touch through phone calls and cards and enjoying some fellowship across the driveway.

This is how we get ourselves out of the rut - to look to our neighbor. We may have to share fellowship and love in new ways, we may still miss our old familiar rhythms, but God's love can be shared even in the time of Covid-19.

And remember, if you need to hear a friendly voice, Mary and I are still hanging the office most days and would enjoy the chance for little time to catch up!

God bless, Pastor James

2020 TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME	APRIL	YTD
Actual	\$17,442	\$136,095
Budgeted	\$15,998	\$127,983
EXPENSE		
Actual	\$14,948	\$129,011
Budgeted	\$15,200	\$132,983
Over/Short	\$2,494	\$7,084

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

Minutes of May 18, 2020, Council Meeting

In attendance : Dorothy Munding, Mary Braun, Pastor James Muske, Ron Haugland, Judie Birk, Cheryl Malotky, Sherry Whipple and George Smith. 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 April meeting by Sherry Whipple, seconded by Ron Haglund and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial review and current month activity for April was presented by Mary Braun. Council agreed to not participate in the payroll protection plan. Motion was made by Dorothy to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Sherry Whipple and passed.

Pastor's Report – April 20, 2020

This has been our second month in the midst of the quarantine, and we do seem to be adjusting to a new rhythm, as much as it is possible, anyway.

Like last month, most of my time this past month has been spent working on planning, filming and editing online worship service and other videos. My deep gratitude to our folks (especially Mary) and to Pastor Kate and the people of Faith Lutheran for working with us during this difficult time. As I noted last month, partnering with Faith Lutheran and Pastor Kate has been helpful in terms of sharing the workload. My plan is to continue recording worship services together, but certainly, when we begin to make the switch back to more in-person worship services,

we will need to reevaluate. I would imagine we would then just stream the service live, rather than pre-record. But, obviously, there are still a number of unknowns.

I have also been working on the equipment side of the online options. Currently, most of the recording has been done through my iPhone. While it has done a pretty good job so far, it is not exactly ideal. We have also been relying on some borrowed equipment. In particular, I have been very grateful for the extended loan of a nice tripod from Melody Lackner, but I assume at some point she will want it back. I have already purchased a couple items, including a new audio recording device, which I have yet to use, but I hope it will remove some of the frustrations in trying to get good quality audio into the iPhone. However, I would suggest we also consider purchasing a nicer camera. After researching, it seems that one of the most highly recommended cameras for video photography is a Panasonic GH5 or GH5S. With a lens, it would run about \$2600. A nicer tripod would be an additional \$300. Speaking with Darlene, Praise Band funds could help with expenses.

I realize this is not cheap (though certainly not the fanciest option either), but if we do imagine that we will be recording or streaming videos for the foreseeable future, I think it would be a wise investment. I think I have figured out how to stream with our existing sanctuary camera, but, as it is attached to the wall, that limits its uses somewhat. Especially for the other, non-Sunday worship videos that we record. We are also discussing an online VBS this year. We could even consider making our equipment available to other churches, nonprofits or even individuals.

That being said, I do want to try doing the drive through communion again, as it went quite well the first time. I also think we should try hosting outdoor worship services this summer. I have also heard from John Koziol that because his church in the Cities is recording worship, he will be up here fishing more often this summer and would likely be regularly available. So that is another option to consider.

In addition to all these tech considerations, we have also seen, sadly, a couple of our members pass away – Ellen Burman and Gene Whipple. Our prayers go out to their families. We will let everyone know when and if there are plans for public services.

And again, please know (and let others know) that I am happy to arrange pastoral care over the phone or online or however else works safely. Continued thanks to all those in our congregation who have been reaching out to fellow members and neighbors, it means so much!

Thank you all for your flexibility and faithfulness during this time of quarantine!

Old Business

Stewardship Committee Update — no meetings. It's still on hold.

Electronic sign information Update — tabled for now.

Payroll Protection Plan Tabled — Council decided to not to participate.

New Business

Committee Reports for Council. No reports
Info on How to Reopen the Church. Mary sent out info to the council from the synod on guidelines for returning to gathering-in-person for our congregation. We will be looking at how to sanitize the church prior to gathering, if the governor decides we can open. Also considering outdoor service options. It was decided we may do parking lot communion again soon.

Motion was made to adjourn by Ron Haglund, seconded by Cheryl Malotky, and passed.
The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.
The next council meeting will be June 15, 2020 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.



There are a couple of positions open in the Personnel and Stewardship Committees. Below are the committee description and responsibilities. If you would be interested in "sitting in" on one of the committee meetings before making a commitment, check the calendar for the next meeting times. All are welcome.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

The primary function of the Personnel Committee is to assist the church council in personnel matters. The committee will consist of 5-7 members (including the Council rep) and will select a chairperson from their membership.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Review and revise staff job descriptions on an annual basis.
2. Assist the church council and the respective committee in hiring employees for paid positions. This includes job posting, position description

determination, interviewing and salary/budget recommendations.

3. Provide annual salary/wage proposals for budget or as requested
4. Conduct performance reviews for paid employees on an annual basis.
5. Administer background checks for employees as needed.
6. Present reports to the council as requested.
7. Update the congregation as needed or appropriate through the monthly newsletter and annual report.
8. Give support and direction to all paid and volunteer personnel
9. Understand and practice confidentiality.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

The primary function of the Stewardship and Finance Committee is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of time, talents, and finances which God has entrusted to them.

DUTIES / RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Access the gifts of each member of the congregation and their interest in helping the church, and then distribute the findings to our council, respective committees, and individuals.
2. Establish and recommend (with input from committees) the yearly budget to council.
3. Review the monthly financial report of the church and make recommendations to the council as needed.
4. Oversee the yearly recommendations of the benevolence funds, distribute funds at end of church year.
5. Keep church members updated/informed on various aspects of stewardship/finances.
6. Oversee the functions and activity of the church financial secretary position.
7. Work with scholarship person on distribution of funds and guidelines.

Thank you



Thank you to my church family for the prayers, cards, condolences and offers of help, and beautiful cards in the loss of Gene. It was greatly appreciated. Sherrie Whipple.

Thank you to those that helped Wednesday afternoon on May 27th, picking garbage along highway 47 for the two miles that Bethesda has adopted.



Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the following church members who have passed away last month.

♥ Gene Whipple, 69, passed away at home, on Sunday, May 3, 2020.

♥ Ellen M. Burman, 88, Glen, died Sunday, May 10, 2020 at Aitkin Health Services, Aitkin, MN.

May they both be at peace with our Lord.

LSS Behavioral Health Meets Community Needs Now and in the ‘Next Pandemic’

During these days of the stay-at-home order caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, LSS Behavioral Health is as busy as ever. Our clinicians continue to see clients in a variety of ways. Some use online technology for virtual counseling sessions. Others use the telephone to reach clients. Still others have risen to meet the need and continue to see clients face-to-face in a limited number of crisis situations, observing social distancing guidelines as best they can in order to respond to the trauma and very difficult circumstances faced by our neighbors.

As can be expected, these days of stress and heightened anxiety bring with them increased depression and other mental health challenges. Additionally, the stressors we are facing due to this pandemic can exacerbate preexisting or latent conditions (such as addictions) and can augment domestic violence issues. The most vulnerable are the ones who experience this the worst, such as children, individuals with disabilities, those struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other mental health challenges.

LSS is ready and in a position to respond to this crisis with the highest level of care available. Predictions are that once the worst of the COVID-19 health crisis has passed, the ‘next pandemic’ will be mental health fallout. LSS will be there, ready to care for neighbors in need.

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo supports these ministries and more!

Lutheran World Relief — Works with local partners to provide lasting solutions to poverty.

Solar Power for Phoebe Hospital — Supports supplying solar power for Phebe Hospital in Liberia.

DARA — Actively promotes humanitarian principles, learning and accountability and supports innovative approaches.

Village of Hope – Zambia — This charitable

organization bringing hope to orphaned children in Zambia. They provide education, nutrition, shelter, and healthcare.

Feed My Starving Children — Is a Christian non-profit that provides nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children.

Ingrain Church Russia (NE Synod)

Hope Lodge — The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge® in Minneapolis offers private rooms for the comfort of its guests and their caregivers during treatment.

Teen Challenge — A Christ-centered, faith-based solutions for youth, adults and families struggling with life-controlling problems, such as addiction.

Sharing and Caring Hands — Houses the homeless, gives hope to children, and serves low-income families in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Aitkin County CARE — Connects seniors and disabled adults with services to help them continue to live independently.

True Friends Camp — A nonprofit organization that provides camp and respite experiences to children and adults with a variety of disabilities, along with their family and friends.

Camp Onomia — A place where we can gather to hear the Word of God in a different setting.

AADA — Advocates Against Domestic Abuse

Develop programs that aid battered women who seek assistance and addresses the immediate safety needs of women experiencing domestic violence.



Bethesda of Malmo: “Flower Power”... Using green thumbs and lots of elbow grease, this lovely group spent a Spring morning planting, ensuring that our church gardens will be beautiful, serene and welcoming havens for all to enjoy this summer. Pictured l-r (and practicing safe social distancing) are Sue Samuelson, Shirley Gosselin, Jeannine Bruesewitz, Dianne Jones & Penny Sjoquist. Thanks to Joanne Stueven for snapping a great shot. And thanks, ladies, for all your hard work. Job well done!

Activities & Events

June 2020

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

Ushers (Pending) by Skip & Lynn Hansen



	8:30	10:00
June 7	Shirley Moe, Diane Sandberg	Barry&Donna Ansell
June 14*	Shirley Moe Diane Sandberg	Darrell Kelly
June 21	Chuck&Elsa Carlson	Ron&JoAnn Haglunds
June 28	Chuck&Elsa Carlson	Ron&JoAnn Haglunds

June 4	Cheryl & Dean Malotky
June 8	Susan & Albert Samuelson
June 9	Joanne & Dave Stueven,
June 12	Mary Kramer & Steve Long
June 18	Sandra & Kevin Skow
June 20	Sheila & Doug Penoyer
June 26	Lucinda & Jonathan Mickelson
June 28	Laurie & Norman Westerlund

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 (Pending)

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

June..... Linda Southworth and Kathy Larson

July.....Dianne and Karen Elias

August....Winnie Zahradka and Judy Wuorio

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

June Recycling - Dave & Joanne Stueven

Coffee Servers by WELCA



June 7	Cancelled even if we re-open
June 14	Cancelled even if we re-open
June 21	Cancelled even if we re-open
June 28	Cancelled even if we re-open

June 1	Lois Falk
June 1	Sandra Pullen
June 1	Paula Spetz
June 2	Dennis Petersen
June 3	Alex Lebens Koncilja
June 4	Bruce Carlson
June 4	Sharon Whipple
June 9	Kalvin Becker
June 12	Lyle Nyberg
June 13	Kyle Lebens Koncilja
June 14	Dorothy Gordon
June 17	Glenice Peterson
June 19	George Larson
June 20	Wayne Danielson
June 21	Craig Dressely
June 21	Dean Malotky
June 22	Edward Grap
June 29	Ruth Jaszczak



Greeters (Pending) Lynne Meidlinger

June 7	Maynard, Kathy Berland
June 14	Chuck, Elsa Carlson
June 21	Charlie, Jackie Follmer
June 28	Lee, Barb Forester



June 2020

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Facebook or Youtube service</i>	8 <i>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mtg</i>	9 <i>9:00 Quilters 10:00 Task Force Meeting</i>	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Facebook or Youtube service Flag Day</i>	15 <i>10:00 Council 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mtg</i>	V. B. S. Cancelled			19	20 <i>Newstine Deadline First day of Summer</i>
21 <i>8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion Father's Day</i>	22 <i>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mtg</i>	23 <i>9:00 Quilters</i>	24	25	26	27
28 <i>8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion</i>	29 <i>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mtg</i>	30	Unknown if Postponed			30

Check out our Facebook page or Website for the most current updates.

A "parking lot" service is being planned for sometime in June

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