

Bethesda Life-Line

Worship Services*

**Bethesda now has a YouTube channel!
Please check out last week's service**

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpUJOAIdOtq2rusQ4pY0wZg>), as well as on our facebook page.



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/>

*The God who gave us life, gave us liberty
at the same moment. -Thomas Jefferson*

CANCELLED ACTIVITIES

Veggie Stand - until further notice.

UPCOMING DATES

August 2, Parking lot Service at Faith Lutheran Church Isle-9:30am

August 17, 2020 at 10 am council meeting.

August 19th, 2020 9:30 am WELCA mtg

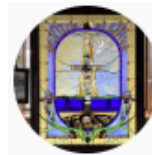
**You are the church.
The building is not.**



2020

Operation Christmas Child

A big thank you to whoever brought the two bags of beanie babies for the shoe boxes. Because of COVID 19 we're not really sure how we'll get boxes packed this year. We have a lot of school supplies and now stuffed toys so hopefully something can be worked out to get some boxes packed.



Bethesda Lutheran Church

<https://www.youtube.com/>

Recordings of every 8:30 a.m. Sunday Service are on facebook or youtube.com. 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.



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!



From the Pastor

³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me

something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ... ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ... ⁴⁵ ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’

Matthew 25:34–45

I will let you all in on a little secret (that many of you have probably already figured out) – whenever your pastor feels called to address some controversial topic, one of my go-to strategies is to try and break it down into its most basic form. Not just to help us better understand the topic, but to try and get past all the baggage that can weigh it down.

I believe that even in some of the most contentious issues, people on opposite sides often have the basics in common. Call me naïve. Of course, how we *apply* those basic beliefs can lead us in vastly different directions. When I look at our congregation, I believe we all aspire to live out the Great Commandment – to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We may have our blindspots, we may have our prejudices, but young or old, man or woman, left or right, we try to live up to this fundamental calling.

The issue of hunger is a perfect example. Sharing our food with those who hunger is possibly the most frequent command in the Bible. Deeply tied to the Great Commandment, it is one of the most basic ways we can love our neighbor. And I have little doubt that if a starving, dehydrated person showed up on our doorstep that any of us, even in our most crotchety moments, would send them away with only an insult or some lame platitude about bootstraps... 99% sure.

But hunger is a problem far bigger than our front porch. In 2018, it was estimated that that 11% of households in the US faced food insecurity, representing over 30 million people, with hundreds of millions more around the world. It is a huge, complicated challenge, and we are going to disagree the best ways to live out this command.

Yet Jesus, in the parable above, doesn’t give us any loopholes that would excuse us from this command. Only feed those that we feel deserve to be fed? Only visit the sick that ate their vegetables and regularly exercised? Only visit those in prison that we are convinced are innocent? Nope. No such luck.

In our country, as the government has cut back on food programs, churches have been a major force for picking up the slack. In my previous congregation in Pennsylvania, what began as a few bags of groceries in the previous pastor’s closet, grew to a ministry that occupied half of our church basement. Here at Bethesda we regularly donate money and canned goods to area food pantries, including a large pantry at First Lutheran in Aitkin.

The need, unfortunately, is likely to surge soon, due to the economic disruption of the pandemic. If pandemic precautions keep schools closed that will also increase demand, as many children rely on school lunch programs.

Meeting this challenge will be difficult to say the least and people will likely disagree on the best solution. But whether you believe that this is a challenge handled best by the government or done through churches and other organizations, Jesus may offer us grace and forgiveness, but not an easy out. No matter the “how,” Jesus calls us to respond.

Loving God and loving neighbor is inextricably linked. Serving Christ means serving our neighbor. Which, in this complex world of ours, means hearing from experts and debating policies. Which means spending time listening to those who hunger. Which means weighing a thousand other considerations. And on and on.

If you are feeling a little overwhelmed, I hate to break it to you, but this is only one of the ways that God’s love may challenge us. But God does not stand high above us, waiting for us to fail, God walks with us, showing us the way.

Sometimes we face that call on a small scale, but, more often than not, God calls us as part of a larger community. So sometimes we love and serve that hungry person that shows up at our doorstep and sometimes we, as a church, as a state, as a country, are called to tackle the big, complex challenge of loving and serving those who may never set foot on our front porch. Through it all, God is with us. May you experience God’s love this month, and may you continue to share that love with others!

Yours in Christ, Pastor James Muske

2020 TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income Actual	\$21,828	\$171,756
Income Budgeted	\$15,998	\$159,979
Expense Actual	\$16,475	\$155,520
Expense Budgeted	\$15,200	\$163,384
Over/(Short)	\$5,354	\$15,901

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

Minutes of July 20, 2020, Council Meeting

In attendance : George Smith, Dennis Hennessey, Mary Braun, Pastor James Muske, Judie Birk, Cheryl Malotky, Sherry Whipple, and Dorothy Munding. 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 June meeting by Sherry Whipple, seconded by Dennis Hennessey and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial review and current month activity along with a bill listing for June was presented by Mary Braun. Motion was made by Cheryl to accept the treasurer’s report, seconded by Dorothy and passed.

Pastor’s Report –June 15 to July 20, 2020

Even while there are moments when it feels like we are settling into a new rhythm, there are still certainly many moments that require flexibility in managing life as a church in this challenging time.

A few items from this last month:

- Videos, videos, videos – Same as last month, your pastor’s life continues to revolve around

the planning, filming, and editing of worship and other videos. While the novelty has long since worn off, the new equipment has been extraordinarily helpful. Beyond just offering higher quality, it makes the filming process far less stressful and decreases the amount of editing time.

- Outdoor worship services – borrowing a radio transmitter from Faith, we have now held two outdoor services at our church. It seems to be working well as a worship option. However, I would still only recommend holding this kind of a service only once or maybe twice a month. It is a lot of setup to handle in a single morning.
- Darlene mentioned that some nursing homes and senior facilities have started allowing visitation. I plan to work with her on trying to set up some visits to our members, while being mindful of health concerns.
- (still need to follow up on this idea from last month) Pastoral care idea – help area nursing homes watch our services online, we could even purchase streaming devices
- I am planning to take a little time off this week to visit my mother. Though I will be doing some work remotely as I need to film my sermon, and edit and upload Sunday’s video.
- At this point, I don’t think it is likely we will have an official online VBS option, but I do think the area pastors will continue to chat about youth ministry in the era of Covid-19. But I will reach out to some of our education folks to discuss this upcoming year and what we might be able to accomplish.
- As much as many activities have been put on hold, I do continue to touch base with the two synod committees I serve on. Together Here just started an online book study, and the first session went well. Details around the Assembly and Bishop’s election are still being worked out, but it sounds as if the synod is considering an online synod assembly for this fall. The W ND Synod recently held an online assembly with a bishop election, so I know our synod staff was watching that closely.

As I said last month, thank you so much for all your support and flexibility during this challenging time! I am truly grateful that we haven't let the stress of these past few months divide our church. May grace continue to abound!

Old Business

Stewardship Committee will meet soon to review the abridged budget.

Task Force meeting — Council feels it will be awhile before we open the church. The task force committee could meet via email. Council agrees we should continue with online services.

Payment for the equipment for video/audio - Monies will be taken from Memorial Funds to pay for this. Thank you notes will be sent to relatives of the people whose name the memorials were given in so they know where the memorial money went too. A motion was made by Dennis Hennessey to use the unrestricted memorial funds for Worship and Music expenses such as the video/audio equipment. Motion was seconded by Mary and passed.

A suggestion was made to buy a FM transmitter which costs around \$200. Pastor will do this.

Weddings/funerals - Pastor was wondering how we would want to handle having weddings or funerals. They would have to follow the protocol of the Task Force Guidelines. Suggested to add a Covid19 surcharge cleaning fee.

New Business

- No Committee Reports for Council. Most committees have not met.
- Free Library has been installed. It is located right outside by the pastor's windows.
- Annual Meeting - Planned for the first Sunday in December. Suggested the task force could meet about how the annual meeting should be held ... spacing chairs, wearing masks, etc.
- Three council positions need to be filled at the end of this year. We will post these in the newsletter.
- People staying home this winter. Will there be additional benevolence needed for these people? This was brought up from the meeting Mary and one other church in the community had with the county social worker from Aitkin County. Something to think about. We may want to be mindful of food ministries.

- Voting for the fall. Pastor brought up that we could offer our Fellowship hall as an option for the Malmo town hall, as our facility is larger. Council members thought that many of the townships will be voting by mail. Need to find out who is on the election board. Just a thought from pastor.

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 August 17, 2020 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.



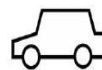
Ladies of Bethesda Lutheran, With our Bazaar being cancelled this year, we need ideas on how to raise money to fund our many worthy missions supported by the Annual Bazaar.

There will be a meeting on Wednesday, August 19th, at 9:30 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. Social distancing practices will be required.

Hope to see you and hear your ideas. Please wear your masks.

Susan Samuelson - WELCA Chairperson

PARKING LOT SERVICE PROTOCOLS



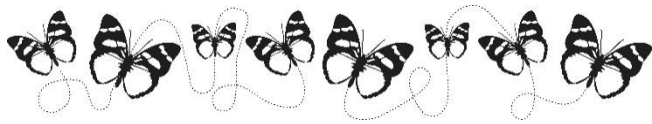
WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE
WE MUST ABIDE BY ALL 6 FOOT SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES



PLEASE TURN WIFI OFF ON YOUR PHONES
WE ASK YOU KEEP OUR WIFI FREE TO ALLOW US TO SEND OUR LIVESTREAM



THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC ACCESS TO BATHROOMS
IN THE CASE OF EMERGENCY ONLY WE WILL ALLOW ONLY TWO IN A FAMILY AT A TIME.



- *“Are you spending your time on the right things? Because time is all you have.”*

THOUGHTS ON RETURNING TO SANCTUARY WORSHIP

(Permission to reprint from First Lutheran church in Aitkin)

I am asked often when First Lutheran will be opening our doors again for worship. I get it. I do. Like most people, I can't wait for the day when we can open up the doors of our churches once again. I miss the community, the opportunities to connect with my brothers and sisters in Christ, and worshipping together as a united body of believers. We long to return to the worship we know and love.

But, please understand, if we were to invite members into our sanctuary now, with the precautions required at this time, our worship experience would look nothing at all like the worship we know and love.

Worship in person won't be worship in person. Worshipping that requires reservations to attend, your temperatures taken, forms filled out, and masks worn before you can enter, and upon entering, limited bathroom access, 6 feet of social distancing enforced by assigned seating, but no greeting, bulletins, singing, communion, offering, sharing of the peace, children's nursery and fellowship hour, is going to be different than normal worship; not different by a degree or two; it will instead will be a completely different kind of worship all together.

To illustrate this, Pastor Erik Parker wrote an article called, **“SO YOUR CHURCH IS OPENING UP AFTER COVID-19 CLOSURES? IT WON'T BE WHAT YOU ARE HOPING FOR.”** Below are some excerpts. Finally, the big day comes. You wake up excited to get back to this important part of your life, to something that feels little bit like normal, seeing familiar faces, hearing familiar music, being in familiar community.

You hop in the car with your spouse and make the well-worn drive to church. When you arrive at church there are few cars parked around building. You go to your normal parking spot. You start walking up to the building, but before you get too

close, a masked volunteer stops you. They are standing on the side walk.

“Please stay there.” they stop you about 6 feet away from where they are standing. Okay... you think you know who this is, but they have a mask on their face and you aren't totally sure.

“Have you had any of the following symptoms recently:

Cough, fever, body aches, difficulty breathing?”

“No, not that I know of,” you say.

“Are you over the age of 65 or have underlying health conditions?”

“No,” you say. Technically, you and your spouse are 67 and you take blood pressure meds. But it's no big deal.

“Have you been travelling recently, or spent any time with someone who has travelled recently?”

“No,” you answer again. You don't mention the socially distanced backyard BBQ you had with your neighbors the other night, including one neighbor who is a long haul trucker. “Have you been in contact with anyone who has been exposed to COVID-19, such as healthcare workers?”

“I don't think so,” you murmur. The babysitting you do for your son and daughter-in-law, who is a care-home nurse, doesn't count. Family doesn't count, right?

“Please maintain social distance while you wait in line here.”

The volunteer gestures ahead, where you see a few dozen folks lined up – all spaced out according to markers along the side walk. Usually when you arrive at church, you come early to visit with folks before the service, but as you stand in line, people just whisper amongst households. Even though you can see many familiar faces ahead, you cannot help but feel suspicion and fear when you look at the others. You try to shake the feeling, but this pandemic world has affected you more than you want to admit.

Another couple lines up behind you and then you hear the masked volunteer turn another family away. “Sorry, we are at the max group size we are allowed. Maybe try again next week.” The church stays closed right up until the time of the service. Then finally with 5 minutes to go, the door opens and households begin entering, one at a time. Another masked volunteer is letting people in.

Slowly, you shuffle up to the door. When it gets to your turn, the volunteer waves you in. There are two surgical masks and some hand sanitizer laid out on a table. "Please clean your hands and then put these masks on." You comply. "Please follow the taped line to pew number 23 and take your seat. Please don't stop to talk to anyone, and please remain seated for the duration of the service."

You follow the taped line into the sanctuary, everyone is sitting down in spaced-out pews by household. The church is eerily quiet, kind of a like a funeral with a masked pianist playing quietly. Finally, when everyone is inside, the doors to the church are closed.

Instead of processing in from the back, where the pastor is usually visiting with people before church, the pastor slips in from the front of the church through a side door. The pastor then greets you from behind a mask... which makes them hard to understand. The pastor then explains that there will be no singing in worship, and no praying together or communal responses to the liturgy. You then notice there are no hymnbooks, offering envelopes or welcome cards in the pews. They are just empty. You also didn't get a bulletin on the way in.

Listening to the pastor, they don't sound like their normal self... forced, stressed, tense? You can't quite put your finger on it.

Worship begins. The pianist plays the hymns, but no one can sing. So you just sit and listen. It felt awkward to sing along with the hymns at home, but this feels even stranger. The pastor then begins worship, and every time you want to say "And also with you" or "Amen" you have to stop yourself. Instead, there is just silence while the pastor imagines how long it would take the folks watching online to give the responses.

The first masked volunteer goes to a mic and music stand on the other side of chancel to read the lessons. You can't say join in the psalm responsively, so again you just sit quietly and listen. Finally it comes time for the sermon. It doesn't really feel like the pastor is preaching to you, but mostly to those still at home.

After listening to the hymn of the day, the creed and the prayers, it comes time for the peace. The pastor offers the peace, but tells you that today it has to be virtual sharing only. The pastor uses their iPad to share with the folks online, and talks a bit to the

phone again saying hello to people watching at home and commenting.

Then it comes time for communion. Something you have missed for months now. You notice that the pastor doesn't lift the bread or the wine. After the Lord's Prayer, which you say along with the pastor in your head, one of the masked volunteers steps up to the mic to instruct you on how to receive communion. And household by household you go forward. You have to hand sanitize again at the front. The pastor is using a set of kitchen tongs to put the wafers in the hands of each person. "The bread of Christ given for you." you hear from behind mask and shield.

This is not like communion you have ever received before. You aren't allowed to eat until the pastor has moved away, and then after you put the wafer in your mouth, you have to hand sanitize again (also knowing that pulling off your mask has compromised it, because your daughter in-law gave you a lecture in mask wearing).

The service concludes with another hymn that you listen to and a blessing. And then just like you came in, you have to follow the tape straight out of the building, one household at a time.

The pastor isn't greeting people on the way out, in fact there is no one? Just the voice of the masked volunteer in the PA system announcing pew numbers. There are signs that tell you to leave the church straight away, no lingering.

You walk back to your car with your spouse. You get in for the drive home.

You have no idea what you just experienced. You were at church, there were other people there, there were hymns and prayers, the pastor preached, you received communion (kind of...) but that wasn't church, and it certainly wasn't what you imagined when you thought of things opening back up again.... You drive home in silence... realizing that just maybe the world has changed more than you figured before now.

With all this in mind, I think our current online worship is much closer to "normal" worship than what we'll experience when we first return to in person worship.

At this time, we at First Lutheran do not intend to rush ahead and create a bad experience for our worshipping community. Our hope is to bring people back into the church when the experience in the

sanctuary is better than the experience online and on the radio. Until we can sing and speak in unison again, until we can share a time of fellowship again, until we can bring our children to worship and the nursery, until we can come and be safe in our church building, we will continue to strive to create the best online worship experience possible. See you soon on your screen or radio.

Pastor Reggie & First Lutheran Church Council

Staying Connected in Spite of Covid 19

(Permission to reprint from the First Lutheran church newsletter in Aitkin)

The Corona virus continues to rage through our country and around the world, with more people being infected and more deaths every day. Recently the Johns-Hopkins Hospital published a good article describing the virus and how soap and water, alcohol, and chlorine bleach work to destroy it.

The virus is not an independent living organism. It is a protein molecule surrounded by a protective layer of fat. It can be absorbed by the cells of the soft tissues in our nose, mouth or eyes where it aggressively hijacks the cells genetic code to produce more virus. It is extremely tiny, about one-thousandth of the diameter of a human hair. It can be breathed in or transferred to the face by our hands.

Since it is not a living organism it can't be killed; and antibiotics have no effect on it. But it is fragile, protected only by a relatively thin layer of fat. That fat can be cut and dissolved by soap or detergent and warm water, 77 degrees or more for hand washing, laundry, or cleaning surfaces. The recommended 20 seconds for handwashing is because it takes that long to build up enough soapy foam to dissolve the fat and cause the protein molecule to break up. Plain rubbing alcohol, or a liquid mixture that is at least 65% alcohol, like Listerine mouth wash or a good hand sanitizer will dissolve the fat.

A solution that is one part water to five parts chlorine bleach, or stronger, dissolves the protein.

The virus cannot go through healthy skin, but if you must wash your hands frequently, be sure to use a moisturizing hand lotion. Dry skin may have micro cracks where the virus could enter.

If you work away from home, you should wash your hands after touching any commonly used surface, such as locks, handles, knobs, switches, phones, computers, desks, etc. In buildings, cars, or on surfaces, the virus is very stable in a moist, dark space at cool temperatures. It breaks down more quickly in a dry, warm, brightly lit environment.

Wearing a face mask while out and about is primarily to prevent you from spreading the virus to others in case you have unknowingly been exposed, but are not having any symptoms. It could also protect you from much of the virus load exhaled by carriers without a mask near you. This virus is not going away any time soon, and numbers of cases are rising in several states now.

Even though local businesses are opening up, many of us who are older or have some health concerns, may prefer staying home as much as possible to avoid the virus, but it is getting tiresome.

Here are some ideas of ways to stay connected to others.

Phone or write to an old friend or cousin that you haven't seen for a while. They may be just as tired of staying home as you are. Volunteer for our churches; calling ministry.

A young grandchild might really enjoy getting a letter or personal call from grandma or grandpa. Write a story about an interesting event from your childhood or school years. The world has changed a lot since we were young, and grandchildren (or even your children) might be surprised by the stories you could tell. Write something about your parents or grandparents. What work did they do? Where did they live? Did they emigrate from another country? Why? Passing on family history is important.

First Lutheran Church

Parish Nurses

Susan Landsverk, Rebecca May, Jean Prickett



Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria

Pastor Pekka Palosaari continues to keep us updated on the work of the Lutheran Church in Sodder, Russian Karelia. He wrote this letter in May after the Russian borders were closed because of COVID-19. The Word continues to be

preached and taught in this remote village and our prayers for the Ingrian Church continue to be lifted.

My thanks to a special friend who translates these letters so that this news reaches those of us who aren't fluent in Finnish. This friend's gift of language is a ministry that reaches us in distant places.

Stay safe; stay healthy.

Jane Lepisto

May 2020

Dear Friend of Karelia,

Has the bad virus avoided Karelia? The borders of Russia are closed. I phone Sodder from time to time. As of the middle of May, the congregation of Sodder had not had any Corona virus infections. Isolation has worked: buses don't run, students stay at home, meeting people is not allowed, offices are closed, workers are on vacation and salaries are probably not being paid. In other parts of Karelia there have been about two hundred cases of the disease.

We are being expected. Our arrival is being anticipated. The children are growing, new children are being born, and clothing is needed. There is hunger, and there are other illnesses. Medicines are expensive. Many people were assisted before the borders closed. A collection was made for dentures for Ljova. The required amount was collected, the money was exchanged to rubles and delivered to the director of the seniors' home before Ljova's 50th birthday. The gift was received with many thanks. I now phoned, and Ljova was cheerful. She has been to the dentist twice and will get her dentures on the third visit.

The congregation is alive. Fortunately, the Sodder congregation is not on vacation. With local help, food has been made available to the hungry. Medicines have been bought for the poorest, and clothes have been recycled. Indoor gatherings are not allowed. Bible study groups, worship services, Sunday school and youth gatherings are on hold. Children may be disappointed to find out that summer camps cannot be held. We still need to look ahead. We met in the church yard to chop wood for heating. The past winter was mild, but next winter may be cold.

Healthy lesson. A difficult situation may turn out for the best. We wonder whether the present situation is

intended to wake up people. "Have we forgotten God?" We hear of grasshoppers in Africa. The Bible tells us about them. God's wish is for good health: Jesus healed the sick.

When we are not present in Sodder, the local people have to find their own way forward. A good piece of advice is "May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." How can God's will be done on earth through me? "We love, because he first loved us." "Search first for the Kingdom of God."

I am thinking of the future of the big and mighty Russia. Do the leaders start their day with the Lord's prayer? Did they attend Sunday School when they were little? Did they attend Confirmation classes? Do they aim to fulfill God's will today? What are their aims? What would be the best thing that could happen to them?



Baabushka Irina teaching the children

The answer is that it would be best if God's will were to be fulfilled in their lives. It would result in benefits to the whole nation. It is therefore important to learn what is God's will, so that they could try to make it happen.

Do you see the importance of mission work? You have an important role in mission work, dear friend of Karelia. We help people from a young age to make right decisions. This is how our little Sunday School children become important decision makers. Even one Christian among decision makers can influence the future of the nation. Every member of the дума (parliament) could have been a Sunday School student at some point. When he or she as an adult Christian testifies about God's will through his own life and own words, a lot of good can happen. Through courageous words, even wars can be avoided.

Fruits of the Spirit. Spiritually, the Sodder congregation has grown during 25 years onto a strong foundation. The Bible has become a familiar and an important book for many. Christian ways are valued. People attend worship enthusiastically. People meet to work together. They recycle, help each other. The sight of a sober man is now no longer rare.

What do they wish to have from us? Financial aid is still needed. Our young pastor, Fjodr (Fedja) Sidorenko – father of six children – answered: “the church at Jessoila needs prayers and financial support.” (I noticed a small footnote that indicated ... “and the sinner pastor, a larger car.”)

Sincere thanks. You have given a lot, dear friends. It may give us comfort to remember our Lord’s words (Luke 18:28-30):

Peter said: “We’ve left our homes to follow you.” “Yes”, Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the Kingdom of God will be repaid many times over in this life, and will have eternal life in the world to come.”

Our hope is our treasure. As Christians our hope is for eternal life. This hope we want to share with others.

With cheerful greetings and thanks for your prayers and assistance.

Pekka Palosaari senior pastor of the Sodder congregation



FACEMASKS we have homemade cloth facemasks available in the church entry way if you need them. They are machine washable and dryable.

Notes from Stewardship meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2020:

The current members of the Stewardship Committee, Barb Forrester, Mary Braun, and Donna Ansell met to discuss the budget extension to be presented to the Church Council at their next meeting on August 17, 2020.

The extension will cover the months of Sept – Dec of 2020 to enable us to convert to a calendar year verses our current fiscal year. It was voted on and approved at our last Congregational meeting in September of 2019. The budget extension plan is to divide the current fiscal year budget by 3, using that amount to cover the extended months until December 31st, 2020.

We reviewed the Budget Extension plan and noted that several adjustments were needed to consider the current COVID-19 status.

Revisions were made to income and expenses based on year to date figures.

Once the Council approved Budget Expansion Plan it will be published in detail and available in the church office, online, or via email.

Committee Budgets for calendar year 2021 will be due from committee chairpersons around the end of October for presentation to the Church Council at the November Council Meeting.

The Stewardship Committee will meet again in early October to begin the process of compiling budget worksheets for 2021 Calendar Year Budget.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Braun



CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS WANTED

Please consider serving on your church council for the upcoming calendar year. We will need 3 new council members beginning in January of 2021 and we would ask you to consider this opportunity. Please contact any of the current council members with questions, or to let them know of your interest to serve.

*No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.
Join the Church Council; see what a difference you can make.*

Activities & Events

August 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

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

August....Winnie Zahradka and Judy Wuorio

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

Recycling Ron & JoAnn Haglund

Greeters



Lynne Meidlinger



Aug 8 Shirley & Roy Gosselin
 Aug 13 Evelyn & Ronald Richter
 Aug 13 Laury & Troy Nyberg
 Aug 16 Susan & Curtis Lindberg
 Aug 20 Karen & Richard Carron
 Aug 21 Sherri & Michael Lofgren
 Aug 22 Donna & Greg Westerlund
 Aug 23 Dawn & Keith Kellen
 Aug 26 Sylvia & Charlie Tapelt

Aug	1	Bonnie Mickelson
Aug	1	Sandra Skow
Aug	3	Vienna Sorby
Aug	3	Barbara Westerlund
Aug	4	Sue Stebbins
Aug	7	Zachary Simonson
Aug	8	Emily Trotter
Aug	9	Vicki Magedanz
Aug	11	Roy Berg
Aug	11	Sherri Lofgren
Aug	12	Ron Haglund
Aug	17	Marylyn Hass
Aug	18	Nancy Hansen
Aug	19	Richard Stebbins
Aug	20	Abby Miles
Aug	20	Sophia Westerlund
Aug	21	Sheldon Stay
Aug	22	Cheryl Malotky
Aug	23	Myra Honl
Aug	23	Dianne Jones
Aug	23	Dianne Sandberg
Aug	26	Barb Forrester
Aug	27	Charles Anderson
Aug	27	Donald Myhre
Aug	27	Judy Seifert
Aug	28	Dan Persson
Aug	29	Linda Southworth
Aug	30	Stacy Westerlund
Aug	31	Karen Timmers



August 2020

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>Parking lot Service Faith Lutheran. Live stream on Facebook or youtube later in the day</i>	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 <i>Service on line: Facebook or youtube</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 <i>Service on line: Facebook or youtube</i>	17 <i>10:00 Council meeting</i>	18	19 <i>9:30 WELCA</i>	20 <i>Newsline Deadline</i>	21	22
23 <i>Service on line: Facebook or youtube</i>	24	25 <i>9:00 Quilters</i>	26	27	28	29
30 <i>Service on line: Facebook or youtube</i>	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