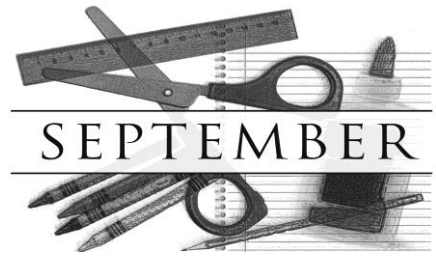


Bethesda Life-Line



2020

Bethesda now has a YouTube channel!
Please check previous week's services at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpUJQAIdOtq2rusQ4pY0wZg>, as well as on
our Facebook page.



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

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

Quilt Sale - Saturday, September 5 – Outdoors near
the Veggie Stand. 10am-2pm. Cash, Check & Credit
Cards accepted.

Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday,
December 6th at 10:00am.

CANCELLED ACTIVITIES

Jamboree – we may do video entertainment to put
on YouTube, stay tuned. If you want to share your
talent via video, please contact Pastor James.

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



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



Aitkin County has asked our
congregation to make some
masks for our neighbors.
Adult and children sizes are
needed. The Isle School
District has requested children
size masks. We have child
themed cotton material, elastic cord, and nose bridges
available in the church office if you need it. Please label
the completed masks as adult or child size. You can
drop off completed masks at the church office and we
will deliver them to Aitkin County or Isle Schools.



On Wednesday, **August 19th, 18** women of Bethesda
and Pastor James met to share ideas on a way to raise
Mission \$\$'s as the Bazaar for this year has been
canceled due to Covid-19.

Many great ideas were shared, and the general
consensus is the month of October we will be for
accepting donations for these Missions and naming it a
"NO BAZAAR - BAZAAR". Envelopes will be
enclosed in the October Life-Line. Instead of baking or
crafting consider donating the money you otherwise
would have spent on those activities to the "NO
BAZAAR – BAZAAR". We are praying that we can all
contribute in some way. We will have "fresh wild rice"
for sale and details for purchasing will be in the Life-
Line. We also are putting a "Jelly Recipe Book"
together of all the jellies that have been made and
dedicating it to Marge Garbow.

The beautiful quilts that our quilting ladies have been
making will be sold on Saturday, September 5th, from
10:00am – 2:00pm, outdoors by the veggie stand.
We are hoping that Spring of 2021 we may put together
a mini bazaar, but that is in the thinking stage now.
A big "Thank You" to all that attended and lets pray for
the Covid-19 to end and we can all gather together
again as the family that we are.

Gods Peace,
Susan Samuelson-WELCA Chairperson



From the Pastor

As a preacher, it is a common sentiment to feel that you are in a rut. That you basically preach the same dozen sermons over and over. (And it's not just me, I've checked!) You maybe dress them

up a little differently, a different opening story here and there, highlight a different word or verse, but in the end, basically the same set of messages.

Which feels particularly strange when the repetitious topic is "change" and "newness". But there is a logic to it – it is not as if we have one new thing happen to us and then we are done. We might wish it, but rarely does life work that way. Change keeps happening, which means stress over change keeps happening, which means any preacher worth their salt keeps preaching on change.

In my first call out in Pennsylvania, I preached on change a lot. That church faced a number of challenges and eventually discerned a call to combine with another congregation. Lots of change. Lots of adjustment. Lots of difficult decisions. Lots of stress.

When I moved here to Malmo, things were a bit calmer. Bethesda is a healthier congregation, in several respects, but even quiet Malmo and its (somewhat) calm residents still face change. So, this preacher still preached on it... just maybe not as much as before.

But then came Covid-19, a renewed national discussion around race and inequality, and now we have an election season, and nearly every moment of our lives is filled with debates about what needs to change and what doesn't. Even here in quiet Malmo, among the lakes and the trees, where people so often come to get away from stress, to just relax and spend time with family, friends, and the beauty of God's creation, we are not immune. We, along with everyone else, find ourselves in a world swirling with change.

Though a pandemic is not new in the history of humanity, it certainly is a new and unexpected reality for most of us. 2020 is not the year we expected back when we were making our New Year's resolutions. Yet sometimes I feel like I am preaching the same old messages... and maybe that is okay.

How do we get through this difficult time in our lives? Love one another. Listen to one another. Be truthful and open – about the good and the bad – in our conversations with God and our neighbor. Look out for those who are most vulnerable. Call out suffering and the sin that may be causing it. Be willing to move outside our comfort zones, while also being mindful of caring for oneself, etc., etc., etc. None of this is new advice, even if we adapt and apply it in new ways.

We have been reading our way through Paul's second letter to the Corinthians lately, and one of the real gifts of the letters in the New Testament is that they were generally written in the moment, or close to it. Many other books in the Bible seem to have been written well after the events they describe. But Paul and the other letter writers are in the thick of it. Change is happening now, and it is happening as much to the writer as the recipient.

Faced with change swirling around all these new Christian communities, all their struggles from within and without, what does Paul recommend? Basically, the same old advice. A few new bits here and there. Some different metaphors thrown in. But, basically, love one another. Seek reconciliation. Repent and ask for forgiveness. Be generous. Serve one another and show compassion to those who suffer. And remember, it is Christ's gift of grace that sustains us, empowers us, and unites us.

YouTube videos, drive-in worship with FM transmitters, and Zoom meetings and synod assemblies in undoubtably new for us and many others. But the reason behind it is as old as the Bible.

That should give us hope. We are not the first to face difficult times, and, thankfully, we have a roadmap for how to make it through. Not by retreating inward and hoping to just tough it out until things get back to normal (as if "normal" ever really exists like we think it does), but by actively following the example of Christ, and Paul and all the other faithful women and men throughout the generations. Adapt where necessary but be constant in love. We have done it before, and we can do it again... with God's help, as always.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor James Muske

2020 TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund	<u>JULY</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income Actual	\$25,987	\$196,649
Income Budgeted	\$15,998	\$175,977
Expense Actual	\$22,738	\$178,593
Expense Budgeted	\$15,200	\$178,584
Over/(Short)	\$3,249	\$18,057

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

Minutes of August 17, 2020 Council Meeting

In attendance: In attendance: Judie Birk, Mary Braun, Ron Haglund, Cheryl Malotky, Dorothy Munding, Pastor James Muske, Dennis Hennesey, Sherry Whipple, 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 July meeting by Sherry, seconded by Dennis, and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for July was presented by Mary Braun. Motion was made by Cheryl to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Sherry and passed.

Pastor's Report: (July 20 to August 17, 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.

As we have settled, somewhat, into a new rhythm, this month is similar to last month:

Still spending most of my time planning, recording, and editing videos for worship. As you have likely seen, Faith Lutheran has decided to return to holding in-person worship, so we will not be partnering as much as we have the past few months. We might still share some preaching duties, but that might not always be practical. This will also mean that our music folks will need to help out more too.

Outdoor worship services – we will hold another drive-in worship on August 30, and hopefully will continue to hold them into the fall. I believe we can still borrow Faith's FM transmitter, as they don't currently have plans to use it regularly. I led a graveside service for Ken Skogquist and got to visit

with Marge Garbo this past month. It was nice to reconnect with her, and to provide some pastoral care in a safer manner. Any additional policies we need to discuss about funerals or weddings?

I did manage a little vacation time, but still ended up doing a bit of work. I will try to find some more time this fall.

Pastor Kate and I have been discussing confirmation, and the currently plan is to hold classes only once (or maybe twice) a month for a longer period of time, perhaps on a Sunday afternoon. This could be combined with online or take-home materials.

The Synod Assembly will be held online this year - August 28 and 29, with practice times on Aug 20 at 11am and 7pm. I was thinking I would offer to host a synod assembly viewing site for a few of our neighboring churches with poor internet, such as Bethlehem and St. John's/Bethesda. We could set up similar to our council zoom meetings with people socially distanced in our building.

Thanks again everyone for your helping our congregation be a community of faith, even in the midst of this challenging time!

Old Business

Stewardship Committee Update. Committee met last month to revise some of the abridged budget. Ken Skogquist Estate has been settled and a memorial was received.

Discussion on opening church. We are hearing that people are enjoying the online service. We will be doing a drive-in church service on Aug. 30. There is concern for parishioners who do not have access to our online service and how we can help. A survey will be included in this newsletter to see how we can best serve parishioners during this time of social distancing. Council was in agreement not to open church yet.

"As agreed at last year's annual meeting", this year's annual Congregational meeting will be Sunday of December 6th. **We need new council members.**

People leaving the council in December are George Smith, Ron Haglund, and Dorothy Munding. We will look at how we can do the annual meeting - inside with people spread out between Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary with social distancing, streaming online along with Zoom.

Abridged budget was discussed. George Smith made a motion to accept the abridged budget as looked at. This was seconded by Dennis Hennesey and passed.

The Synod has guidelines for any waivers needed for people coming into our church.

New Business

We received letter from Edward Jones to update what type of risk we want to take with our money. George and another council member will go visit them.

Request from WIC to use the building starting in October. They would schedule and monitor so only one family would come in at a time if and when they would begin opening. AA is currently using. George made a motion we accept WIC's use of our building and was seconded by Mary Braun and passed.

TV's in Fellowship Hall. One TV does not work. We feel we need a new one prior to annual meeting. And when we eventually open up, we would need it.

Pastor would like to see us get two new larger TVs for the Fellowship Hall and transfer the working one in the Fellowship Hall to the educational room.

Cheryl made a motion to purchase two new large TVs for the fellowship hall with the unrestricted memorial money from the Ken Skogquist estate.

Mary Braun seconded and passed.

Update on Quilt Auction at the Synod meeting. It will be an online auction this year for the quilts at the Synod meeting. A quilt has been donated and Patti took photos of the quilt. Instead of just the delegates and pastors bidding on it, everyone can bid on a quilt. Ours will be in the auction.

Dorothy let us know a quilt was donated to Camp Onomia.

Corn Feed at Malmo corner has been cancelled. Skip said not enough time to set this up.

Motion was made to adjourn by Sherry, seconded by Dennis, and passed.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting will be Sept. 21 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.

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.



“God’s work. Our hands.”



Sunday — Service in the time of COVID-19. On Sunday, Sept. 13, congregations will observe “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday. Our church — and our world — are living through the COVID-19

pandemic. Physical distancing has changed the way we worship and serve. But the need is great, and God’s church is at work. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton offers ideas and encouragement for your day of service.



Acts of service can happen anywhere: you might contribute to an online project from your home or volunteer in person keeping a safe physical distance

and wearing a mask. In this special tool kit, you’ll find service project ideas and considerations for safely supporting your community during a pandemic. Get ready at ELCA.org/DayOfService

“Wrapping our Quilts around Hunger 2020”



The Auction will begin on Wednesday, September 9th and end on Saturday September 12th.

- The name for our auction is **“Wrapping our Quilts around Hunger 2020”**

THANK YOU to everyone who is participating in our "first ever" NEMN Synod on-line quilt auction! Our site is still a bit of a work in progress, but be sure to check back regularly for new quilts and updated information on the event.

<https://e.givesmart.com/events/iaK/> All proceeds from this virtual auction support World Hunger.



Check out Bethesda’s web site to view Sunday digital bulletins, links to YouTube services, gospel and sermons, find or submit

prayer requests, recent events and more! Check us out today, and bookmark this site to your favorites! www.blcmalmo.org



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.

ELCA commemorates 500th anniversary of Luther's *The Freedom of a Christian*

8/5/2020 3:10:00 PM

CHICAGO — This year marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's treatise *The Freedom of a Christian*. To observe this milestone, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), invites the church to read, study and reflect on this Lutheran witness of the Christian faith.

In his work, Luther spoke of how God liberates us in Christ to live generously and courageously in service of our neighbor's liberation, confident that God's mercy will free us all.

"Christian[s] ... do not live in themselves but in Christ and their neighbor, or else they are not Christian," Luther wrote. "They live in Christ through faith and in the neighbor through love. Through faith they are caught up beyond themselves into God; likewise through love they fall down beneath themselves into the neighbor — remaining nevertheless always in God and God's love."

To commemorate the anniversary, the ELCA has developed a study guide and other resources, available at elca500.org, to deepen readers' engagement with the 500-year-old text. As a partner in this project, Fortress Press has generously made available a complimentary download of the treatise, available through 2020.

In her introduction to the study guide, Eaton writes, "In this treatise, Luther describes a 'happy exchange' wherein Christ sets us free by taking upon himself humankind's sin, pain and judgment, and in return giving us his liberating life. ... We are empowered in turn to use our freedom to serve our neighbors, whoever they may be. This message remains timely when voices that marginalize certain people, or

preach contempt, hatred and violence, dominate our public discourse. How do we hear and trust this word from God today, and continue to serve God's life-giving work?"

Luther's purpose in writing *The Freedom of a Christian* was to present the core of his teaching about the Bible and the Christian faith to Pope Leo X. With an impending split between Luther and the official church, the treatise was a last attempt at reconciliation to prevent the fracturing of the church. "*The Freedom of a Christian* is such a beautiful, deep and simple exposition of the Christian faith that it is no surprise that, 500 years after Martin Luther first wrote it, we are still learning from it," said the Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos, director for ELCA theological diversity and engagement. "I pray that this study guide and case studies representing a wide diversity of perspectives will help many to rediscover the awesome freedom that we have in Christ and the joy of using that freedom to serve our neighbors. We also hope that people will feel inspired to contribute their own reflections inspired by *The Freedom of a Christian*."

"Today, as in Luther's day, our faithful response to the uncertainty and death-dealing forces in our world is to proclaim that which is sure and life-giving for all," Eaton writes in her introduction. "Freed in Christ, we resist the temptation to turn inward in despair by turning outward in love and service to the world. Siblings in Christ, rejoice! We are no longer captive, but free."

The *Freedom of a Christian* treatise, study guide, case studies and information about submitting contributions are available at elca500.org.

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.

Activities & Events

September 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

Pending

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

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

Recycling – Del & Dianne Jones

Greeters



Lynne Meidlinger

Pending



Sept 1	Charles Follmer
Sept 3	Ronald Aho
Sept 3	Dolores Block
Sept 4	Marlyn Eklund
Sept 4	Norm McGibbon
Sept 4	Lynne Meidlinger
Sept 6	Patricia Wanous
Sept 7	Charles Carlson
Sept 10	Dorothy Munding
Sept 12	Ian Dzubay
Sept 13	Jeff Fredrick
Sept 14	Dawn Kellen
Sept 15	Gene Miller
Sept 15	Kirk Swenson
Sept 16	Minnie Gilbert
Sept 16	Carol Hass
Sept 17	Mallory Hanson
Sept 19	Steve Lackner
Sept 24	Greg Westerlund
Sept 26	Melody Lackner
Sept 26	Douglas Penoyer
Sept 26	Brian Simonson
Sept 27	Samantha Rassier



Sept 3	Laurina & Randy Tofteland
Sept 4	Barb & Phil Bray
Sept 4	Joan & Dennis Petersen
Sept 7	Donna & Barry Ansell
Sept 8	Kathryn & Robert Carlson
Sept 8	Melody & Steve Lackner
Sept 13	Sara & Steven Lebens
Sept 15	JoAnn & Ronald Haglund
Sept 20	Nicole & Ian Dzubay
Sept 24	Susan & Larry Darmer
Sept 25	Karen & Joseph Timmers
Sept 26	Darlene & Jim Christensen
Sept 27	Arty & Ron Heins
Sept 29	Val & Elwin Benton



MEMORY GARDEN

Come sit and enjoy the peace and quiet while you meditate. Bring a friend and pack a lunch to view the flowers. You will see monarch butterflies and a cardinal flying around. The water fountain is set to run between 11am and 4 pm everyday. Let us use this beautiful place on the church grounds.!

COMMITTEE REPORTS for

the annual congregational meeting booklet are due Sunday, October 25th. Please email them to jbirk5152@frontier.com or put in Judi's in-box at church. Mary Braun will distribute Budget Request forms by the end of Sept. to all committee chairpersons. Budget request forms are due by Oct. 25th also.



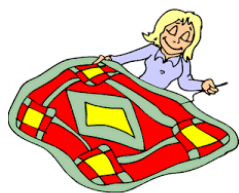


September 2020

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Quilt Sale Outdoors near Veggie Stand 10am-2:pm
6 <i>Facebook or YouTube service</i>	7 Labor Day <i>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</i>	8	9	10	11	12
13 <i>Facebook or YouTube service</i>	14 <i>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</i>	15	16 <i>9:30 WELCA</i>	17	18	19
20 <i>Facebook or YouTube service</i> Newsline Deadline	21 <i>10:00 Council meeting</i> <i>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</i>	22	23	24	25	26
27 <i>Facebook or YouTube service</i>	28 <i>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</i>	29	30			



QUILT SALE

Saturday, September 5, 2020 - 10:00am – 2:00pm
Outside by the Veggie Stand

Great Gift Ideas for:

Anniversary-Wedding-Babies-Birthday-Christmas-Mother's & Father's Day-Graduation
Cash - Check - Credit Cards accepted

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

HAPPY SEPTEMBER!

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	bicmalmo@gmail.com	(320) 684-2123
Fax		(320)-684-2836
Toll Free		(877) 684-2123
Church Web site		bicmalmo.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

Worship Service Survey

We are here to serve you. Please let us know how best we can serve you during this time of social distancing.

1. How anxious are you to get back to worshipping in person in the church?
 - a. Very Anxious – open the church as soon as possible
 - b. Not too Anxious – let's wait and see
 - c. Not Anxious at all – keep the online worship for now.
2. If we don't meet in person, which method do you prefer to view/listen to Sunday worship services?
 - a. YouTube videos
 - b. Parking Lot Services
 - c. A combination of Online Worship and Parking Lot Services (*see procedures below*)
3. When we do meet in person*, which method would you feel the most comfortable with?
 - a. Mask required, sit every other pew in the sanctuary and limit the attendance to a total of 50 members each service.
 - b. Mask required and use the Fellowship Hall to better obtain social distancing and limit attendance to a total of 100 members.

* **Synod guidelines:** Once your county/municipality has had 42 days of declining cases without resurgence, you may resume in-person worship. **State guidelines:** reduce occupancy to accommodate required social distancing of at least 6 feet between people who do not live in the same household and occupancy must not exceed 50% of total occupancy. **Singing, hand shaking, and Coffee Fellowship will not be allowed.** No printed bulletins, content will be shown on TV screens.

4. What precautions, if any, do you expect our church to take for worship gatherings? Select all that apply

- Limit handouts of any kind (e.g., bulletins, notes pages, hymnals, etc.)
- Use a new method for distributing communion
- Use a new method for collecting tithes and offerings
- Encourage social distancing in sanctuary seating
- Prop doors open so people do not have to touch handles
- Set up one-way foot traffic entering and exiting the building and sanctuary
- Provide hand sanitizer stations
- Discourage shaking hands
- Allow a longer period of time between worship service hours for cleaning.
- Other _____
- None of these

5. If you do not have access to Online Worship Services, how can we best serve you?
 - a. Mail, deliver, or pick up a CD with the audio from the weekly Worship Service
 - b. Deliver or pick up a tablet with audio & visual recordings of the Worship Service downloaded on the tablet. (Limited supply would be available)
 - c. Other suggestions: _____

Procedures for Outdoor Worship Services in the parking lot:

- Each household should be in a separate car; carpooling does not comply with social distancing.
- Make it clear that people with COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath, etc.) should not attend.
- Attendees should remain in their cars.
- If attendees are in cars with the windows up, cars may park immediately adjacent to one another.
- If attendees are in cars with windows down, cars should park 6 feet apart.
- Do not serve food or beverages at the event.
- There should be no passing of objects or physical contact between households.
- Do not provide public or portable bathrooms; this creates a risk of transmission.

Please mail, email or call the office with your survey answers

