



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2019 – December 2020

Sunday, January 31, 2021; 11:00am

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
Annual Congregational Meeting
January 31, 2021

Call to order
Devotions

Approval of Minutes

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2019-2020 Updates

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New Business

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Closing

Adjournment

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
Annual Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2019

Council Members in Attendance: Mary Braun, George Smith, Jenny Schuett, Ron Haglund, Dorothy Munding, Sherry Whipple and Cheryl Malotky.

With a quorum confirmed, President George Smith called the meeting to order at 9:55 am.

Pastor James Muske shared an opening prayer.

Secretary's Report:

There were no corrections. Dorothy Munding made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2018 Annual Meeting. Jenny Schuett seconded the motion and it passed.

Written Reports: George thanked all who had submitted reports. A motion to approve the committee reports was made by Cheryl Malotky and seconded by Sue Samuelson and approved. These are good summaries of the excellent work and ministries performed within our church. Mary Braun thanked the leaders of the committees and those that are on them.

Election:

Council Members

Three Year Terms

- 1. Dennis Hennessy**

Jenny Schuett made a motion to accept Dennis Hennessy as council member. Mary Braun seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Nominating Committee

- 1. Lee Forrester**
- 2. Julie Swaggert**

Synod Convention Delegates:

- 1. George Smith**
- 2. Patti Smith**

Mary Braun made a motion to accept the Synod delegates. Jenny Schuett seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Mary Braun thanked everyone for his or her generosity, especially with the parsonage, and continued support.

Year/Year Financial Activity Comparison:

	2017/18	2018/19
General Envelope and Plate Offerings -----	\$155,271	\$159,215
Total Income-----	\$252,154	\$285,492
Total Expenses -----	\$248,207	\$268,590
Net -----	\$3,947	\$16,902

Major Projects Completed and Paid for in 2018/19:

- Parsonage Loan Payments & Garage Roof - \$27,470
- Centennial Celebration - \$12,108
- New Office Computer - \$1,000

Year End Cash & Investments

Checking -----	\$92,190
Savings/CD -----	\$26,112
Edward Jones -----	\$23,423
Total Year End Cash and Investments Aug 31, 2019-----	\$145,725

Year End Designated Funds (Reserved)

Facility Accrual -----	\$12,654
Parsonage Accrual -----	\$306
Worship & Music Accrual -----	\$4,835
Office Equipment Accrual -----	\$161
Christmas Care Accrual (Secret Santa) -----	\$1,900
Veggie Stand Accrual (Start Up Funds)-----	\$450
Centennial Accrual-----	\$4,300
Emergency Benevolence Funds Accrual -----	\$4,387
Operation Christmas Child-----	\$1,011
Tax Withholdings Payable -----	\$3,824
Memorials Accrual - Restricted -----	\$3,212
Memorials Accrual - Unrestricted -----	\$7,761
Total Designated Funds August 31, 2019 -----	\$50,801

Year End Operating Cash Balance

Total Year End August 31, 2019 Cash and Investments-----	\$145,724
Total Designated (Reserved) Funds August 31, 2019-----	(\$50,801)

YEAR END CASH & INVESTMENTS NET OF DESIGNATED FUNDS \$94,923

Proposed Budget

	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Budgeted
Total Income	\$285,492	\$191,975
Total Expenses	\$268,590	\$192,297
Net	\$16,902	(\$322)

Motion to approve the budget was made by Dorothy Munding, seconded by Pat Becker and the motion passed.

Discussion on the media expansion project proceeded and followed approval of the budget. Lee Forrester made a motion to table the project until next year when there would be more information. Don Myhre seconded the motion. It did not carry. Pat Becker proposed an alternative. A motion was made to table spending the funds for the media project until more information, including a salary, is brought to a special congregational meeting. Dorothy Munding seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Old business

2018/19 Benevolence Summaries

1. World Benevolence Total:\$3,890

Recipients: Dara Mozambique, Village of Hope Zambia, Feed My
Starving Children, Lutheran Partners in Global Missions,
Ingrian Church Russia

2. Local Benevolence Total.....\$6,793

Recipients: Aitkin Co Human Services, BLCM Emergency Fund,
Christmas Joy, Camp Onomia, Pearl Crisis Center

3. ELCA Synod Total\$7,961

4. World Hunger\$3,389

5. Dedicated Other Benevolence Total\$6,806

Recipients: Local Food Shelves, Feed My Starving
Children, Dara Mozambique

GRAND TOTAL\$28,839

George thanked Skip and Lynn Hansen for their continued help and work with the Beef and Corn Feed.

Parsonage

- **Parsonage:**
- **As of August 31, 2019, balance on the principal of the loan is: \$306. Projected Pay Off Date: 10/1/2019**
- **Upcoming Parsonage Projects**
 - **Driveway**

- **Landscaping**

Facility Updates:

- **Recycle program has continued**
- **New Refrigerator Purchased**
- **Dishwasher Service & Repair**

Dick Stebbins will talk to Property Committee about replacing the heavy long tables in the Fellowship Hall.

- **New Business:**
- **2019/20 Benevolence Recipients:**
 - **World Benevolence:**
 - **Dara Mozambique, Village of Hope Zambia, Feed My Starving Children, Lutheran Partners in Global Missions, Ingrian Church Russia**
 - **Local Benevolence:**
 - **Aitkin Co Human Services, BLCM Emergency Fund, Christmas Joy, Camp Onomia, Pearl Crisis Center**
- *(There is a basket in the Narthex for suggestions for additional Benevolence Recipients. If you know of a worthy local or global cause, let us know your suggestions.)*
- **Change Fiscal Year to Calendar Year**
 - ***To align our financial reports to match Synod's financial reporting year***

Jenny Schuett made a motion for our financial reports to match the Synod's and calendar year. Seconded by Ron Haglund and passed.

Sue Samuelson motioned for our annual meeting to be the end of November. Pat Becker seconded and passed.

George Smith thanked all the committee, bible study groups, veggie stand, memorial garden volunteers, mowers and everything else done by volunteers here at Bethesda. He also thanked the work of Jenny Schuett, the only council member leaving this year. And the continued work of the present and new council members.

Ron Haglund made a motion to adjourn. Lee Forrester seconded the motion and it carried.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, Council Secretary — (with thanks to Jeannine Bruesewitz for taking notes at the meeting)

2019-2020 UPDATES

FROM LAST YEAR'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

- **Change Fiscal Year to Calendar Year**

- *To align our financial reports to match Synod's financial reporting year*

Jenny Schuett made a motion for our financial reports to match the Synod's and calendar year.

Seconded by Ron Haglund and passed.

Sue Samuelson motioned for our annual meeting to be the first Sunday in December. Pat Becker seconded and passed.

Our annual congregational meeting was currently scheduled for Sunday, December 6th at 10:00am. Currently, we are uncertain of the logistics of the meeting. If we are worshipping in person at that time, we will have one service that Sunday at 9:00am with the meeting to follow. If we are still living with social distancing guidelines, we will be following those regulations (masks, 6 feet apart, no coffee hour, etc.). Due to State Restrictions at that time, the meeting was re-scheduled for Sunday, January 31, 2021.

ABRIDGED BUDGET

An abridged budget was developed to bridge the months between our Fiscal Year to Calendar Year. Below is the 4-month budget developed by the Stewardship committee and approved by the Church Council:

PROPOSED ABRIDGED BUDGET

	2019/20 Actual*	2019/20 Abridged Budgeted**
Total Income	\$225,525	\$ 51,768
Total Expenses	\$220,542	\$ 53,268
Net	\$4,983	(\$1,500)
	<i>*Thru August 31, 2020</i>	<i>** Four months (Sept-Dec)</i>

GUIDANCE for SAFELY REOPENING

A COVID-19 Preparedness Plan has been developed and is posted at the front door of the building, on our website and Facebook pages.

STAFF PROTECTIONS & PROTOCOLS

- Ensure sick workers stay home
- Social distancing – Staff & Visitors must be at least six-feet apart. Facemasks required.
- Staff hygiene and source controls – Cover your cough & wash your hands often (signs are posted).
- Work and gathering space cleaning and disinfection protocols – Routinely clean & disinfect all areas.
- Hymnals & religious text will be removed from sanctuary.
- Building and ventilation protocols – Keep building in good working order (ventilation, water-supply, sewer, gas, etc.) Maximize fresh air into the building and eliminate air recirculation. Minimize airflow from blowing across people.
- What this organization and facility will do to minimize possible transmission
 - Self-Check and Stay Home if you have symptoms of COVID-19
 - Persons who are at higher risk for illness are strongly encouraged to stay home.
 - Staff & Visitors are encouraged to regularly wash and/or sanitized their hands. Hand sanitizer available throughout the building.
 - Limit access of equipment or spaces while in the building.
 - Staff & Visitors are required to wear facemasks. Masks are available at the front door.
 - Continue virtual Sunday services online from Facebook and youtube.com
 - Follow Occupancy Limits: 50% of total occupancy for sanctuary is 50.

2020 BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

End of Present Term

President: George Smith	December 2020
Vice-President: Dennis Hennessey	December 2022
Ron Haglund	December 2020
Dorothy Mundinger	December 2020
Sherry Whipple	December 2021
Cheryl Malotky	December 2021
Treasurer: Mary Braun	
Secretary: Judie Birk	
Pastor James Muske	

MISSION STATEMENT

We will **LIVE** and **SERVE** through **FAITH**,

We will **ACT** with **LOVE** and **KINDNESS**,

We will **GIVE** hope and **SUPPORT** to all.

2021 BALLOT

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council members may serve only two consecutive terms

Vote for three: (three-year term)

Karen Carron

Joanne Stueven

OPEN _____

SYNOD CONVENTION DELEGATES (1 year term)

OPEN _____

SYNOD CONVENTION ALTERNATES (1 year term)

OPEN _____

ADOPT CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

C10.08 This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

2020 Annual Report of the Pastor to Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmö

Pastor's Annual Report – 2020

“Finally, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 4:8–9)

I trust it will not be a particularly shocking statement, if I note that I hope that 2021 will be a better year than 2020. Even here in quiet Malmö, MN, we were not immune to all the challenges that this past year brought to our world. Between Covid-19 and its many disruptions to how we normally live our lives and work, socialize, educate, and worship, this past year also has seen upheaval in national politics and renewed conversations about racial and social justice.

And it is not as if any of these have, as of yet, come to any final resolution. There are signs of hope, but we still need to stay alert and engaged. Through it all, though, I have been grateful for this community and, of course, for the God whose presence surrounds and sustains us.

I am thankful for the many gifts and support of our church staff, council, and other leaders, and for the flexibility and understanding that so many in our congregation have demonstrated. One of the big, overarching challenges of 2020 was not one singular obstacle to overcome, it was that we had to constantly adjust to new information and guidelines. We had to experiment and adjust (and readjust and readjust...) until we found out what worked best and what kept us safe.

I especially want to thank Mary in the office and our worship and music folks, as well as Pastor Kate Mensing and all our brothers and sisters in Christ at Faith Lutheran Church in Isle. The switch to online worship services has been no easy task, but we have been blessed by all their gifts and good humor. Your pastor has poured countless hours into this new means of worship, and I couldn't have done it without all these people's help.

I also want to thank Darlene Christensen and all those who have helped reach out to those in our congregation and community in these difficult times. Even just the gift of a phone call to folks social distancing at home can mean a great deal. Thanks also to Cheryl Malotky for help start an online fellowship hour.

This past year has demonstrated the wisdom of those words of the Apostle Paul quoted above. Life is a process of change, and although sometimes it comes a bit too fast for our liking (2020 was a bit like drinking water through a fire hose – ha!), the key is to learn to be flexible and adapt, while also holding on to that which is good. So that, no matter what comes, we might remember the love that gives birth to all good things. The love of God which continues to flow through us and all of God's creation.

May we also continue to demonstrate grace and forgiveness this year. This past year has put a lot of stress and strain on everyone, not to mention that people are just exhausted. It is not easy task to balance the needs of ministry with the desire to keep people safe. It also usually takes *more* time to do *less* than we used to. But please don't be afraid to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns. And, as always, I firmly believe that one most Christian questions you can ask is “How can I help?”

So, thank you again to all those that stepped up and helped in ways both old and new. Thank you to all of you who have been willing to learn new things and shown grace and flexibility. Thank you to those who have helped others adapt, especially with helping others figure out new technology! May God continue to bless us with such a loving community!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor James Muske

Letter from Council President

Friends in Christ,

What a year!! We have experienced some unusual challenges this year. Some of those challenges will be with us into the coming new year. We have been dealing with the coronavirus for most of this year. We have had to grow into a technology that very few of us have ever used or heard of before. Our church has been blessed to have Pastor James Muske leading us into this new way of having church. Zoom meetings, You Tube church services, Updates through Facebook, Drive up Church services with Communion, Limited use of the Church, and now we will be having Live Recordings of our Church services as we carefully prepare to begin church in the Fellowship Hall trying to follow the Minnesota Department of Health guidelines and the direction of Governor Walz. Now that was a mouthful! But not very funny.

It has been difficult for our committees to meet, WELCA was not able to hold a normal Bazaar, the Choir has not been able to gather together, the Veggie Stand was not able to operate as normal, nursing home visits were limited, Sunday School and VBS had to be cancelled, church donations have been on the decline, fellowship after church has been brought to a halt, the NE Minnesota Synod cancelled their scheduled convention in Duluth and finally in August a Zoom meeting was used to vote on a new Bishop (Bishop Amy Odgren) and next years budget. These are only some of the disruptions that affected the life of our church.

And still the lawn and gardens were kept manicured, the church was kept clean and sanitized, the office was staffed and ready to handle any problems that might pop up, the Bethesda Life-Line continued to be sent out, the Praise Team was able to provide us with wonderful music, the Pastor still provided us with God's Word every Sunday, Confirmation continued in a new way but the students still had sermon notes to turn in, and members of the congregation took it upon themselves to call their church neighbors and chat. A new and encouraging way of doing church and it worked.

But now, where do we go from here? By being careful, we will slowly begin to bring things back to a new normal. The church has now moved to a calendar year from a fiscal year for our reports going to the NE MN Synod. This was done to bring us in line with the way the Synod was handling their reports. This will now make it easier for Mary B. to report to the Synod, complete her payroll reports to the government and the workman compensation reports that are based on a calendar year. So, our church year end went from August 31st to December 31st. There are three council members that have served 3 years and 4 months and will be leaving the council at the of this year (Dorothy Munding, Ron Haglund and myself). I want to thank Dorothy and Ron for all the advice that they have given to me during our time on the council and the input they provided at our council meetings. I also want to thank all the council members for their work on the council.

I now ask God's Blessing on each and every one of you. Stay safe and keep up God's work.

George W Smith, Council President

Mission and Evangelism

Committee Members: Sandy Pullen, Sue Samuelson, Barb Machioch, Judie Birk, Pastor James, and Joanne Stueven

We met in person only once all year — although we try to keep in touch by email.

Most of the events or projects that we would normally report on, did not happen this year.

We do use Facebook and the church website to promote Bethesda as much as possible.

Our committee did participate in God's Work Our Hands Sunday by cleaning the local beach. Thanks to those who helped.

We plan to use items purchased for advertising at the 4th of July Parade at the Halloween Trunk or Treat event. Children will receive a gift bag with school supplies in a Bethesda Bag and adults will be given a Bethesda Mug with a packet of hot chocolate.

The November and December mission projects were displayed and promoted in fellowship hall last year. This coming season's opportunities to donate will be promoted on line.

Our committee is responsible for deciding on 5 local and 5 global organizations to receive benevolence dollars. We have used a procedure where we get input from church committees and church members asking for suggestions. We did not make any changes this past year, but will be looking to update that list coming year.

Respectfully Submitted, Joanne Stueven

Stewardship and Financial Committee

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

Our main task during the past year, was to begin the process of an in-house audit. This is an ongoing project and will continue into the next calendar year. We recommended the budget to the council for the abridged year (Sept-Dec 2020) and for the coming 2021 Calendar Year. There was a decision to lower the amount expected in overall giving. We did this recognizing that not only have several families left the church (and new members have not been added) but Covid19 has significantly reduced our Loose Cash Plate Offerings due to not meeting in person. The church's financial picture currently is stable due to the dollars we have in Savings and Stock, but we will continue to monitor expenditures and the amount of financial gifts we receive, so that Bethesda will remain an active and fiscally sound congregation.

We realize that continuing your monthly donations is not as easy as it was before. This is a great time to sign up for automatic donations using the "Simply Giving" forms available from the office. Give us a call, we will email or mail the form to you.

Last year we listed the following ideas for you to consider in your daily life. This year, it looks a little different. If you adopt one or two, maybe this year you can help the environment and fellow parishioners with your stewardship service.

- Bring your own grocery bags when you go to the store. Plastic is destroying our oceans and wildlife. We have colorful grocery totes available in the Narthex

- Recycle - recycle - recycle
- Install a rain barrel and use to water plants in the summer
- Do one kind act for a stranger once a month
- Purchase a Bible, devotional book, or pick up the monthly devotional provided by the church, and read it each day
- Remember the local food shelves
- Call someone who may be feeling alone during this time of quarantine
- Look for ways to put a smile on people's faces

Currently we are looking for people to join the Stewardship & Finance committee. Typically, we meet once a month to review the monthly financial report of the church and make recommendations to the council as needed. We also oversee the yearly recommendations of the benevolence funds and distribute those funds at the end of the church year. If you would be interested in joining this committee, please contact one of the members or Pastor James.

Members: Donna Ansell, Mary Braun, Barb Forrester.

Faith, Health and Wellness/Parish Nurse Program

The Faith, Health and Wellness Committee covers the following programs:

- Loan closet-medical equipment such as walkers, crutches, wheelchairs, shower chairs, toilet risers and other medial supplies can be loaned out
- Cookie and Soup ministry-soup and cookies are kept in the pantry freezer and can be brought to members who are visited (this is on hold until we can resume visits)
- Card ministry-hand-made birthday, anniversary, sympathy and get well cards are made by Ruth Hamman and Marylynn Hass and sent to members
- Prayer Shawls and Prayer Squares-these are available in the narthex and can be given to those facing health related issues or who have suffered a recent loss
- Baby bundles-gifts wrapped in quilts made by Bethesda quilters are given to the family at the time of a baptism
- Care Notes-pamphlets covering multiple health related topics are in a display case in the narthex
- Grief Support-the "Journey Through Grief" series is given to those who have suffered the recent loss of a loved one

The Outreach Program was started to ensure homebound, nursing home/assisted living residents, those with health concerns and those experiencing recent loss are visited or contacted by phone on a regular basis. Home communion can also be offered by those who visit. However in March the visitation portion of this program had to be discontinued because of the COVID-19 pandemic as we were no longer able to provide person to person visits. The following are part of the program and are encouraged to continue making telephone contact with members of the congregation instead of doing

in person visits: Carolyn Morris, Merrily Jones, Kathy Berland, Pastor James, Gloria Christensen, Char Berg and Jenny Schuett.

The Parish Nurse Program at Bethesda seeks to promote health and wellness of body, mind and spirit in the members of the congregation. Kathy Berland and Darlene Christensen are available for telephone consultations for health related concerns and work with Pastor James to meet the needs of homebound and hospitalized members with health related issues. They can assist with such things as completing advance directives, medication and nutrition questions and blood pressure checks.

Submitted by Darlene Christensen

Worship and Music

The Worship and Music Committee met monthly for the first 3 months of the year and now are back to meeting this fall virtually via ZOOM. Our big project for 2020 was to work on the Multi-media expansion project for the sanctuary and for creating and recording worship services. The first phases of the project were completed by early February and we were able to utilize the screens as a worship enhancement until COVID shut down our in-person church services. Additional items such as microphones, tripods and other specific technology items were purchased so our services could continue.

Pastor James has done a stellar job navigating how to record and edit online services. Jim Christiansen, Sheila Penoyer, Mary Braun and the Praise team have also been instrumental in maintaining a steady force of help and support for the online and parking lot services. We are considering options for how to make sure ALL Bethesda members and friends have access to worship services and hope to hear names of those folks who need this option.

Our plan for the spring and summer was to run several fund raisers to help defray the expense of our multi-media project. Our movie nights, Jamboree, pancake breakfast and other ideas have been put on hold. We are looking at creating a Bethesda music CD as a possible fund raiser and hope to be able to continue fund raising efforts in the future. In the meantime, we have received some funds via designated gifts to the Worship and Music projects, and hope we can complete our fund raising within the next several months.

We send blessings to all of our church family and thank God for keeping us together during these very difficult pandemic times.

God Bless, Julie Swaggert, Chairperson of Worship and Music digital organ volunteers and all who help in anyway with music and sharing their time and talents.

In addition, worship services rely on so many volunteers; ushers, greeters, communion assistants and altar care leaders. We are blessed to have faithful members for these important services!

Respectfully submitted: Julie Swaggert

Personnel Committee

The function of the Personnel Committee is to assist the Church Council in all staffing matters including the updating of committee and individual job descriptions, conducting annual staff performance reviews, interviewing and hiring staff as needed, making salary recommendations and conducting background checks as required. The Personnel Committee did not meet for much of the 2020 pandemic year but are meeting now remotely to discuss salaries and performance reviews.

The Personnel Committee will conduct staff performances reviews for all staff personnel as we close out the 2020. Church Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Music, Digital Music Coordinator, Custodian and the Pastor will all be reviewed. We will also update and revise all of the job descriptions utilizing staff input to reflect current job position responsibilities. There were no personnel changes this past year. We thank God for our staff, Secretary and Treasurer Mary Braun, Music Director Sheila Penoyer, Digital Music Coordinator Jim Christiansen, Custodian Shirley Gosselin and Pastor James Muske that have served us so well throughout the pandemic. The job responsibilities have altered during this time but our employees have been determined to continue to serve Bethesda and for that we are grateful.

We are in the process of updating and revising all of the Church Committee job descriptions and this will be an ongoing effort during the next year.

Personnel Committee members include: Lee Forrester, Pat Becker, Council Rep Ron Haglund, Patti Smith and Julie Swaggert, Chair.

Respectfully submitted, Julie Swaggert

Bell Choir

We did not meet this year. However, the Bell Ringers need new members. All interested parties should Chime in by giving them a Ring!

Submitted by Dianne Jones

Altar Care

Members prepare the altar for communion. Each month, two members are responsible for preparing the bread, wine and juice for Sunday Services and any special days during the year.

At Christmas and Easter, we decorate the sanctuary. When there is a baptism, we affix the name on a special banner for the font. A large banner is used also for funerals and some other events. New members are always welcome.

Current committee members are Elsa and Chuck Carlson, Barb and Lee Forrester, Kathy and George Larson, Lynne and Dennis Meidlinger, Linda Southworth, Judy Wuorio, Sylvia Tapelt, Shirley Gosselin, Gina Rosa, Winnie Zahradka, Karen Elias and myself.

We want to thank Karen and Gene Miller from TJ's Liquor for donating all the communion wine.

Submitted by Dianne Jones

Praise Team

Mission Statement: We seek to thank, honor and praise God through the gift of music as we teach and lead the congregation in contemporary worship songs.

The Praise Team began its ministry in April of 2008 with a vision to offer contemporary Christian music in addition to the more traditional music during worship. On the second Sunday of each month from September 2019 through March of 2020 we lead a contemporary worship service at 8:30 and 10:00am. We introduce and teach new contemporary songs to the congregation as well as incorporating more familiar songs into the service.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic Bethesda had to shut down its in person worship services and transition to online worship services. The Praise Team was able to assist with providing some of the music for those taped services. On July 19th and August 30th we led the music at these outdoor parking lot services.

As we look forward we are hopeful for an end to the pandemic when we can resume our practices and be able to once again share our music at worship services. We would then welcome new singers/musicians who have a love of contemporary Christian music to join us.

Members: Pastor James Muske, Val Benton, Sheila Penoyer, Sherrie Whipple, George Smith, Jim and Darlene Christensen.

Property Report:

What a challenging year! We miss not meeting at church, but church maintenance is still required.

Septic tanks were pumped, septic issues taken care of as needed, furnaces serviced, water system maintained, range hood cleaned of critters, faucet replaced in men's bathroom, toilets repaired, spring clean-up sand removed from parking lot, charging station installed for new vacuum, two new TV's installed in Fellowship Hall, Exterior door in Sanctuary painted.

The Parsonage driveway was replaced. The grass keeps growing even when we are not meeting. Thanks to all who helped mow this summer.

We want to thank the property committee members and volunteers who help maintain God's property. The committee members are Jerry Morris, Dianne Jones, Dick Pullen, Dave Stueven, Don Myhre, Darrell Kelly and council member, Dennis Hennesey. We would like to thank all the women who take care of the flowers and plants on the church property. They do a fantastic job!

Submitted by Darrell Kelly and Lee Forrester

Quilters

Made and donated before Covid-19:

- 4 Baptisms
- 7 Pearl Crisis Center
- 1 Camp Onomia
- 14 LWR

\$844 worth of quilts sold at the outdoor quilt sale on Sept. 7th. No Bazaar, but 3 or 4 gals are working on quilts for, hopefully, 2021. Submitted by Bethesda Quilters

Bethesda Women of the ELCA

“As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our calling, engage in ministry an action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, in society and the world.”

Bethesda is in the Heartland Conference in the NE Synod and WELCA includes all of us women.

Meetings are held at 9:30 on the third Wednesday in the months of January, April, May, August, September and November. But because of Covid, we only met in January.

In November of 2019 money was distributed after another very successful Bazaar. Once again thank you to all the women that organize, prepare, create and bake for the event. A special thanks to Char Berg for her outstanding leadership. Also thanks to Judy Forester and Linda Southworth for keeping track of the inventory. The donations included Lutheran World Relief, Solar Power for Curan, Aitkin, Isle and Garrison food shelves, Elementary school meals for Isle and Aitkin, Aitkin County Care, Vacation Bible School, Teen Challenge, Dara for palliative care in Mozambique, Russian Ingrian Church, Freedom Ranch, Hope Lodge, McGregor Camp for Military, Pearl Crisis Center, Zambia Village of Hope, NE Synod in kind foster child project, and Together Here.

In December we had our Christmas Luncheon with about 50 ladies. Our speaker was Susan Bushard. Also mittens, hats and scarves were distributed to the schools from the Tree.

In March, COVID decided to be a part of our life, so our Heartland Spring Gathering, the Summer Convention and the Fall Gathering were all cancelled. These gatherings are a great way to connect with other women from across the NE synod and share in the workings of our church and renew ourselves through fellowship and music.

In June, a general consensus was reached that we would not be having our Annual Bazaar. So in August, 18 women gathered and shared ideas as to how to raise some Mission \$\$'s. It was decided to have a raffle on October 31st. We also sold Wild Rice that was donated to us, had a No Bazaar/Bazaar donation envelope, created a Jelly Cookbook of *Marge Garbows recipes (which is for sale for \$5.00 at the church)* and held a quilt sale in September. It was quite successful so we are hoping to meet in December to distribute the money.

So we pray in 2021, that we will be able to meet again regularly and follow our mission statement. "To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ."

God's Peace to all!

Respectfully submitted, Susan Samuelson; co-chair, Mary Braun; co-chair, Char Berg; secretary and Dianne Jones; treasurer

Bethesda Women of the ELCA

BETHESDA WOMEN OF THE ELCA FISCAL YEAR END REPORT AUGUST 2019 TO OCTOBER 2020

BALANCE ON HAND AUGUST 2019..... \$1,540.28

DEPOSITS/CREDITS

MEETING OFFERINGS.....116.50
FUNERALS DONATIONS.....815.75
BAZAAR 201914,583.78
NO BAZAAR SALES 2020.....2,700.00
MISC.....86.07
TOTAL.....18,302.10

CHECKS/DEBITS

WELCA.....221.07
SYNOD DONATIONS.....2,750.00
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON.....230.06
BAZAAR EXP.798.89
FUNERAL FOOD.....\$840.07
KITCHEN ITEMS160.73
DONATIONS9,634.74
TOTAL.....14,635.56

BALANCE ON HAND CURRENT \$5,206.82

DIANNE JONES, TREASURER

Holiday Bazaar – 2019 Results

The parking lot was full! The weather magnificent! The bazaar was a success in many ways — new faces, new workers, more money taken in than last year. Result are as follows:

Raffle \$1,492.00
Lunch counter708.03
Hot lefse.....143.00
Quilts, crafts, cookie walk, baked goods, jelly, lefse9,345.00
Credit card sales2,771.75
TOTAL.....\$14,461.78

Raffle money was used for Bethesda projects including the possible purchase of an ice maker for the kitchen. Other proceeds were distributed as noted in the WELCA minutes.

WELCA No Bazaar – 2020 Results

Because of COVID-19, there was no Holiday Bazaar this year. We are still accepting donations to WELCA's fundraising efforts for their many worthwhile causes. You can send your donations to the church and make the checks out to "Bethesda WELCA"

No Bazaar Donation.....	\$2,370
Raffle	\$1,245
Wild Rice Sales	\$360
Jelly Books	\$140
Quilt Sales	\$885
TOTAL.....	\$5,000

BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO 2020 Benevolence Summary

- **Global & Non-Local Total: \$4,828**
 - Recipients (\$965.60 each): Dara Mozambique, Village of Hope Zambia, Feed My Starving Children, Lutheran Partners in Global Missions, Ingrian Church Russia
- **Brainerd Lakes Local Total: \$6,218**
 - Recipients (\$1,243.66 each): Aitkin Co Human Services, BLCM Emergency Fund, Christmas Joy, Camp Onomia, Pearl Crisis Center
- **Local Food Shelves Totals: \$4,520**
- **ELCA Synod Total: \$8,197**
- **World Hunger: \$1,444**
- **Dedicated Other Benevolence Total: \$4,643**
 - Recipients: Dara Mozambique, Ingrian Church, Isle Paw Pantry, Pearl Crisis Center, Villages of Hope, Multi-Media Expansion, Christmas Joy

Treasurers Report 2019-2020 (Calendar Year Reporting)

Year to Year Financial Activity Comparison

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
General Envelope & Plate Offerings	\$150,920	\$136,521
Total Income	\$262,721	\$202,090
Total Expenses	\$248,015	\$205,314
NET	\$14,706	(-\$3,224)

Major Projects Completed and Paid for in 2019/20: Multi-Media Expansion - \$20,175

Year End Cash & Investments

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Checking	\$93,611	\$91,591
Savings	\$ 26,306	\$26,502
Edward Jones	\$ 24,960	\$27,501
Total Year End Cash and Investments – Aug 31, 2020	\$144,877	\$145,594

Year End Designated Funds (Reserved)

Facility Accrual	\$12,654	\$11,692
Parsonage Accrual	\$ 0	\$ 0
Worship & Music Accrual	\$713	\$713
Office Equipment Accrual	\$161	\$161
Christmas Care Accrual (Secret Santa)	\$100	\$341
Operation Christmas Child	\$408	\$149
Veggie Stand Accrual (Start Up Funds)	\$450	\$450
Emergency Benevolence Funds Accrual	\$4,187	\$4,470
Sabbatical Accrual	\$6,000	\$12,000
Centennial Reserve	\$4,300	\$4,302
Memorial Accrual – Restricted	\$3,212	\$3,137
Memorial Accrual – Unrestricted	\$3,761	\$546
Tax Withholdings Payable	\$5,403	\$8,387
Total Designated Funds as of December 31	\$41,350	\$46,348

Operating Cash Balance as of

	Dec. 31, 2019	Dec. 31, 2020
Total Year End Cash & Investments	\$144,877	\$145,594
Total Designated (Reserved)	(\$41,350)	(\$46,348)

Year End Cash & Investments

Net Assets of Designated Funds	\$103,527	\$99,245
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2020 Worship Attendance

January 2020			June 2020			October 2020		
5-Jan	9:00	80	7-Jun	8:30	106 *	4-Oct	8:45	86 *
12-Jan	9:00	68	14-Jun	8:30	108 *			
19-Jan	9:00	60	21-Jun	8:30	102 *	11-Oct	Synod YouTube Service	76 (# of Facebook links x 2)
26-Jan	9:00	<u>80</u>	28-Jun	8:30	104 *	18-Oct	8:45	84 *
January Totals:		288	28-Jun	5:00	39 Actual			
			(Holden Evening service w/communion)			25-Oct	9:30	70 *
February 2020						(In Person Worship)		
2-Feb	9:00	82	June Totals:		459	October Totals:		<u>346</u>
9-Feb	9:00	59						
16-Feb	9:00	79						
23-Feb	9:00	72	July 2020			November 2020		
26-Feb	Ash Wed. 6:30	35	5-Jul	8:30	102 *	1-Nov	8:45	74 *
February Totals:		327	12-Jul	8:30	84 *			
			19-Jul	9:30	58 Actual	8-Nov	8:45	118 *
			(Parking Lot Service w/communion)					
March 2020			19-Jul	9:30	46 *	15-Nov	8:45	110 *
1-Mar	9:00	66	26-Jul	8:30	90 *			
4-Mar	Lent Serv. 6:30	25	July Totals:		380	22-Nov	8:45	210 *
8-Mar	9:00	57				29-Nov	8:45	<u>128</u> *
11-Mar	Lent Serv. 6:30	30				November Totals: 640		
15-Mar	9:00	47	August 2020					
18-Mar	Lent Serv. 6:30	0	2-Aug	9:30	52 *	December 2020		
22-Mar	9:00	82 *	(Parking Lot Service w/communion)			6-Dec	8:45	140 *
25-Mar	Lent Serv. 6:30	0				13-Dec	8:45	226 *
29-Mar	9:00	<u>230</u> *	9-Aug	8:30	106 *	20-Dec	8:45	158 *
March Totals:		537	16-Aug	8:30	84 *	4:00pm		
						24-Dec	Parking Lot Service w/communion	57 Actual
April 2020			23-Aug	8:30	86 *	24-Dec	YouTube:	110 *
1-Apr	Lent Serv. 6:30	0				25-Dec	website music only	
5-Apr	Palm Sunday 9:00	192 *	30-Aug	9:30	42 *	27-Dec	Synod YouTube Service	(# of Facebook links x 2)
9-Apr	(Maundy Thur) 9:00	154 *	(Parking Lot Service w/communion)			December Totals: 719		
10-Apr	(Good Fri) 9:00	146 *						
12-Apr	(EASTER) 8:30	246 *	August Totals: 450					
	Drive Thru Communion 10:00	50						
19-Apr	8:30	156 *	September 2020					
26-Apr	8:30	142 *	6-Sep	8:45	70 *			
April Totals:		1086	13-Sep	8:45	96 *			
			20-Sep	9:30	28 *			
May 2020			Parking Lot Service (with communion)			2020 Calendar Year to Date: 6265		
3-May	8:30	162 *	27-Sep	8:45	80 *			
10-May	8:30	156 *						
17-May	8:30	132 *	September Totals: 325					
24-May	8:30	134 *						
31-May	8:30	124 *						
May Totals:		708						

* virtual on line service attendance based on NEMN Synod calculation recommendations. (Unique visits x 2)

**Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo Annual Report
Member Statistics September 1, 2019 – December 31, 2020**

Weddings:

Baptisms:

October 27, 2019	Vienna Renee Sorby	October 27, 2019	Lola Kay Wagner
October 27, 2019	Caspian Mason Wagner	October 27, 2019	Waverley Reign Westerlund

Confirmation:

Funerals:

September 25, 2019	Kenneth Skogquist (M)	October 12, 2019	Meldon Liljenquist (M)
December 2, 2019	Judy Wozney (M)		

Deaths:

October 30, 2019	Frank Dressely (M)	November 28, 2019	Audrey Kullberg (M)
December 19, 2019	William Cierzan (M)	January 14, 2020	Dick Wozney (M)
May 3, 2020	Gene Whipple (M)	May 10, 2020	Ellen Burman (M)
May 31, 2020	Alfie Sandell (M)	September 28, 2020	Jody Knudsen
November 28, 2020	Margaret Holmberg (M)	December 9, 2020	George Smith (M)

Transfer Out:

December 19, 2019	Richard & Marjorie Nelson
December 15, 2020	Marge Garbo

Transfer In:

New Members:

Memorials Given 2019/2020

In Memory Of:

Ron Hass
Romeos, Centennial

Ron Hass
Ron Hass
Ron Hass
Ron Hass
Shirley Lilienthal
Shirley Lilienthal
Shirley Lilienthal
Shirley Lilienthal
Shirley Lilienthal
Shirley Lilienthal
Shirley Lilienthal
Shirley Lilienthal
Shirley Lilienthal
Shirley Lilienthal
Shirley Lilienthal
Jerry Becker

Mrs. Lepej (Patti Smith's mother)

Mrs. Lepej
Ken Skogquist
Ken Skogquist
Judy Wozney
Audrey Kullberg
Audrey Kullberg
Alfie Sandell
Ken Skogquist

Eugene Whipple
Eugene Whipple

Given By:

Carol Hass

Lois Johnson
Wally Swenson
Carol Bakken
Jeanine Eggerman
Lois Johnson
Sharon Dukinfield
Helen Cox
Nancy Stepan
Mary Nygaard
Barb & Lee Forrester
Elaine Giebenhain
Allen Lilienthal
Carol Collins
Chuck & Elsa Carlson
Pat Becker & various donors

Carol Has
Carol Bakken
Marge Garbo & others
Carol Bakken
Lois Johnson
Beverly Schroeder
Doug & Tera Winjam
Dale Fendell
Robert Skogquist
(rep of Ken's estate)
Jim & Darlene Christensen
Lois Johnson

Given For:

Memory Garden, choir,

Church Choice
Church Choice
Centennial
Choir
Memory Garden
Church Choice
Church Choice
Church Choice
Church Choice
Church Choice
Church Choice
Church Choice
Church Choice
Church Choice
Church Choice
Church Choice
Church Choice
Parsonage, Choir
Holden Village, Church
Choice, Feed My
Starving Children
Music
Music
Scholarship Fund
Music
Church Choice
Church Choice
Church Choice
Church Choice
General Fund

Praise Team
Praise Team