

# Bethesda Life-Line

## Worship Services\*



**Bethesda has a YouTube channel! Please check out all our previous services (<https://www.youtube.com/c/bethesdalutheranchurchmalmomn/videos>), as well as a link from our Facebook page.**

**February Sunday Worship YouTube or Facebook**

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

**\*Want an audio CD of the Weekly Service? Give us a call we will deliver or mail you a CD.**

### **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

### UPCOMING DATES

Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday  
Feb. 28 Tentative Plan for In-Person Worship Service  
(watch our website for updates & schedules)

### **Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday**

Lenten Services: As of now, YouTube video worship services will be available online, Wednesdays around 4:00pm.

Ash Wednesday: We are working on a way to distribute ashes before or after the worship service (either drive up or pick up).

**Snow Birds, have fun in the sun!**



## 2021

### LENT

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, this year. It lasts 40 days and 40 nights – the same amount of time Jesus prayed and fasted in the wilderness. It is a time to think about your relationship with Jesus. Is He your Lord? Is He your Savior? Does He mean anything in your life? Is your life changed because of Him?

Take some extra time these days to pray. Or read the Bible. Or worship. Or give someone a hand. This Lenten discipline will give you new insight into your life.



### “ZOOM COFFEE HOUR”:

Coffee and conversation will continue to meet every other Tuesday if interest continues. Next meeting is February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00am. Please email the church office if you are interested so we can email you a Zoom invite.



### Risking Love

To love is to risk not being loved in return. To hope is to risk pain. To try is to risk failure, but risk must be taken because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing. Love comes to those who still hope even though they've been disappointed, to those who still believe even though they've been betrayed, to those who still love even though they've been hurt before.

## **DEVOTIONAL: IDENTIFICATION** **BEYOND BINARIES**

Posted on January 12, 2021 by ELCA Advocacy  
by Larry Herrold, ELCA Hunger Advocacy Fellow



Believer and non-believer. Educated and uneducated. Rich and poor. Democrat and Republican. Male and female... How numerous are the binaries with which we live!

In many ways 2020 was the year of binaries. The election, the social unrest around racial injustice and a worsening pandemic revealed how

deep our divisions have become. Gridlock ensues in governments, insults fly online, and protesters clash on the streets. Our world seems to be turning-in on itself. Yet we know we are inextricably connected.

***Proverbs 22:1-9 – A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold...***

It is in challenging times that Scripture can provide comfort and context. Proverbs 22:1-9 shows the continuity in the binaries that we witness, particularly between rich and poor. The rich yield power and possess gold and silver, yet the author makes clear that the humble are blessed and receive honor and life. This passage seemingly depicts a binaried society, yet the second verse lays out: “The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all.”

The events of 2020 underscore how important it is to keep our interconnectedness in mind in more than just this moment. People lost their homes and jobs, and many went hungry. Countless have lost a loved one to COVID-19. In my own community I’ve seen churches, food banks, shelters, and any person of goodwill take on the weight of supporting those in need, but the response only goes so far.

In my management of my church’s community garden, the produce we donate is nourishing, but it will not sustain the hungry indefinitely. Not only is it not enough, but people often need information and tools to prepare it to eat. Food drives face similar issues, and temporary housing is just that... temporary. The institutions and organizations of my already economically depressed slice of Pennsylvania cannot alone meet needs.

While some struggle and others struggle to care for them, our leaders are slow to act. Aid is minimal and mismanaged. Yet we know that while this is happening, the most powerful have expanded their own wealth and security to unprecedented levels. Our advocacy, as church together, needs to take place. Immediate need must be met, yes, but long-term solutions to the systemic causes of homelessness, hunger, and violence must be made. Our leaders must be held accountable and pressured to act.

Proverbs 22:6 passes along the wisdom: train children in the right way and when old they will not stray. I have fond memories of my grandmother including me in her service to the community. Her faith, which she passed on to me, led her to serve the most vulnerable. That faith compels me to do the same. Yet I, like many before me, live in a turbulent moment. I am called to not only serve in the presence of immediate need, but to also use my voice, inspired by the active faith instilled in me at a young age, to be an advocate for systemic change that brings new and abundant life to people in my community and beyond.

The passage in Proverbs acknowledges binaries of the world and also guides us in considering our identifiers. While the rich are comfortable and powerful, they will lack blessings, honor, and life if they are not humble and “fear the Lord” (Proverbs 22:4). Calamity comes to those who perpetuate injustice, especially as it pertains to the poor.

All people deserve care, justice, and respect from one another, because we all come from the same Creator. In this new year, with new policy makers, and with the hope of an end to the pandemic, let us be strong advocates so that all know “they share their bread with the poor” (Proverbs 22:9).



**Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo  
Council Meeting**

Minutes of January 18, 2020

In attendance: In attendance: Judie Birk, Mary Braun, Ron Haglund, Dorothy Munding, Pastor James Muske, Dennis Hennessy, and Sherry Whipple

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

Secretary's Report:

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

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for December was presented by Mary Braun. This was also the end of our now fiscal year. Motion was made by Dorothy Munding to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Ron Haugland and passed.

Pastor's Report –December 22, 2020 to January 18, 2021

Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ!  
Still spending much of my week planning, recording, and editing videos for worship. As we move into 2021, I want to try and reduce my work load in regards to creating worship videos. So that may mean simplifying some aspects or finding volunteers for parts of the service.

Confirmation classes took a little break over the holidays, but we intend to continue over Zoom for the time being, though a couple parents from Faith have begun to ask about when we plan to move to in-person classes.

Thanks again to Darlene and all those that helped make phone calls to fellow church folk over the holidays.

Thanks again also to Pastor Terry Frovik for offering the guest sermon. I am also grateful LeSueur Lutheran Church for hosting the funeral service for George Smith. I was glad I was able to record the service.

Obviously, another ongoing consideration will be to consider when and how will want to resume in-person worship services. I still urge caution, but as

more and more people get vaccinated, the risk will continue to drop. Blessings to you in this New Year!

Old Business

- Annual Meeting — January 31, 2021. We need at least 25 people at the meeting for a quorum. Parishioners can call Mary to reserve a spot. We could do 60 people in the Fellowship Hall. Ron made a motion that we do a parking lot service first followed by annual meeting inside; Mary seconded and passed.
- Annual Budget Report – When you look at the budget report, it's the current year starting Jan. 1st. Any adjustments for the budget can be changed at the annual meeting if necessary. Reports are available in the entry way of the church, on Facebook and website.
- C10.08 Constitution Amendment (remote meetings) — We need to bring this amendment at our annual meeting up to include doing a remote annual meeting for the future.
- Committee Reports — no reports

New Business

Farewell to retiring members — George (who left too early!), Ron and Dorothy. We thank Ron and Dorothy for their years of service.  
Welcome to new members, next month  
Updated Church Phone Directory available after February's council meeting. It will then have the new council members and assignments listed.  
Information on becoming new members - We will look at info we have on the website and update it. We want to make it easier for people to access programs, especially in trying to get new members.  
Aitkin pastors have been discussing a pre-recorded round robin sermons for Lent.  
We did put an ad in the Guide advertising our church.  
Isle grad blast — A motion was made by Mary Braun to make a \$50 donation to the Isle grad 20-21 blast, seconded by Ron and passed.  
Audit — we should look into doing an audit this year. Mary will look for a CPA in the area to do this.

Motion was made to adjourn by Ron Haglund, seconded by Mary Braun, and passed.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next council meeting will be February 15 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.

**TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR DECEMBER 2020**

| General Fund    | Month    | YTD       |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|
| Income Actual   | \$16,415 | \$202,090 |
| Income Budget   | \$12,942 | \$171,085 |
| Expenses Actual | \$16,969 | \$205,314 |
| Expenses Budget | \$13,234 | \$172,271 |
| Over/(Short)    | (\$554)  | (\$3,224) |



**Christmas Day Dinner**

A big thank you to the following people for helping with the Christmas Day dinner either by cooking, working in the kitchen, delivering meals or donating food. Meals were made for 47 people. Thanks to: Shirley Gosselin, Cleo O'Brien, Tom and Gloria Christensen, Jim and Darlene Christensen, Sheila Penoyer, Donna Ansell, Sandy Miller, Mary Braun and the Vukelich family. Those receiving meals gave a free will offering totaling \$415. These donations were sent to area food shelves on behalf of Bethesda.



**Parish Nurse Notes Calling Ministry**

The Faith, Health and Wellness Committee wants to continue to make monthly calls to keep in touch with members. If you can help by making a monthly call to 5-8 people, contact Darlene Christensen or the office.

**Newsline articles are due on the 20<sup>th</sup>, email to [blnews@juno.com](mailto:blnews@juno.com)**

**PRAYER & CARE LIST:** Shirley Eklund, Lynn Hansen, Mary Kramer, Cheryl Malotky



**WELCA Meeting  
on Jan 20, 2021**

Chairwoman Sue Samuelson opened the meeting with 13 members present.

Pat Becker gave an opening prayer. The purpose statement was read.

The secretary's report was read & accepted as written in the newsletter. The treasurer's report was given with a balance on hand of \$7,428.85. Motion made by Mary Braun & seconded by Judi Birke to accept the report. Motion carried.

**Old business:**

Sue read the visitor health screening list of items re: Covid-19 precautions.

A parking lot worship service will be held at church on Jan 31<sup>st</sup> with the annual congregation meeting to follow in the fellowship hall. Our no bazaar-bazaar was deemed successful with income of \$5,000.

**New business:**

The no bazaar "bazaar money plus some other was discussed for disbursement. A motion was made by Pat Becker & seconded by Judi Birke to allocate exactly half of the 2020 disbursements for disbursement this year. The motion passed. They are as follows:

|                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Lutheran World Relief            | \$500          |
| Solar power for Curan            | 250            |
| Aitkin food shelf                | 250            |
| Garrison food shelf              | 250            |
| Isle food shelf                  | 500            |
| Elem school meals - Isle         | 350            |
| Elem school meals Aitkin         | 150            |
| Aitkin County Care               | 250            |
| Vacation Bible School            | 250            |
| Teen Challenge                   | 250            |
| Dara- palliative care Mozambique | 500            |
| Russian Ingrian church           | 250            |
| Freedom Ranch                    | 250            |
| Hope Lodge                       | 500            |
| McGregor Camp for military       | 500            |
| Pearl Crisis Center              | 250            |
| NE Synod in-kind foster project  | 250            |
| Zambia Village of Hope           | 250            |
| Together Here                    | 500            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>\$6,000</b> |

Motion to adjourn by Mary B, second by Sue S. Motion carried.

Next WELCA meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.  
Char Berg, secy.

### 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 need to borrow a piece of equipment contact the Parish Nurses.



*Christ is our supreme example for life in this world.*

During His time on earth, He taught His disciples to care for the whole person, in both body and soul. In His death and resurrection, He took on the sins of the whole world so that all might be saved. Lives that have received this great mercy (grace!) cannot but be merciful toward the neighbor (love!). That's why members of the LCMS extend Christ's mercy to those in need.

This month, please join the LCMS in lifting up a few of the ministries that embody mercy in action: ,, Deaconess Ministry — [lcms.org/deaconess](http://lcms.org/deaconess) ,, Disaster Response — [lcms.org/disaster](http://lcms.org/disaster) ,, Gospel Seeds — [lcms.org/gospelseeds](http://lcms.org/gospelseeds) ,, Health Ministry — [lcms.org/health](http://lcms.org/health) ,, Life Ministry — [lcms.org/life](http://lcms.org/life)

To learn more, go to: [lcms.org/focus/mercy](http://lcms.org/focus/mercy)

## **UPDATE REGARDING THE 2021 YOUTH GATHERING**

After much prayer and consideration, we have decided to postpone next summer's ELCA Youth Gathering to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis, with the two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the tAble, scheduled for July 21-24, 2022.

To learn more about the postponement and the 2022 Gathering, please visit: [elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19](http://elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19).



**The 2021 Synod Assembly** will be sometime during the weekend of April 30 – May 1. Because of COVID concerns the assembly will be held remotely, similar to the one we had in August 2020. Please mark your calendars for this assembly. Voting members include rostered leaders, SAMs and lay voting members from each congregation. Registration and agenda information will be sent in mid-February.



### St. Valentine's sacrifice

Every February 14, we celebrate the loved ones in our lives with cards, flowers and chocolate. But Valentine's Day has another meaning that's been lost.

First declared a holiday by King Henry VIII of England in 1537, it commemorates the beheading of St. Valentine on February 14, 270 A.D. His crime? Performing wedding ceremonies after Roman Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage.

Valentine was martyred for faithfully doing the work God had given him. Although it's good to celebrate love and marriage, let's also remember the courage of a man who gave his life following his convictions.



# Activities & Events

February 2021

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

Ushers by Skip & Lynn Hansen



Altar Care by Dianne Jones

February.... Elsa and Chuck Carlson

March..... Shirley Gosselin and Gina Rosa

April..... Lynne Meidlinger and Sylvia Tapelt

Recycling

Greeters  Lynne Meidlinger

- |      |    |                      |
|------|----|----------------------|
| Feb. | 1  | Elizabeth Lagerstrom |
| Feb. | 2  | Karen Carron         |
| Feb. | 2  | Lance Elliott        |
| Feb. | 2  | Eric Lagerstrom      |
| Feb. | 2  | Violet Sorby         |
| Feb. | 3  | Cody Trotter         |
| Feb. | 3  | Isabella Westerlund  |
| Feb. | 5  | Ana Berry            |
| Feb. | 7  | Patti Smith          |
| Feb. | 8  | Gavyn Bruesewitz     |
| Feb. | 8  | Nicole Dzubay        |
| Feb. | 8  | Neil Westerlund      |
| Feb. | 9  | Svea Modrow          |
| Feb. | 11 | Ron LaFavor          |
| Feb. | 11 | Beverly Wedig        |
| Feb. | 12 | Sandi McGibbon       |
| Feb. | 13 | Margaret Garbo       |
| Feb. | 22 | Joyce Dressely       |
| Feb. | 23 | Judith Wuorio        |
| Feb. | 24 | Lisa Stay            |
| Feb. | 25 | Janet Aho            |
| Feb. | 27 | James Christensen    |
| Feb. | 27 | Raymond Dooley       |
| Feb. | 27 | Demetries Mickelson  |



ANNIVERSARY

Feb. 14 Cindy & Dan Persson


Feb. 22 Judie & Jim Birk



# February 2021

## Bethesda Calendar of Events



| Sun  | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu | Fri | Sat                                    |
|--|---|--|---|-----|-----|--|
|  | 1   | 2<br>10:00 Zoom<br>coffee hour<br><br><b>Ground Hogs<br/>Day</b> | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6                                      |
| 7<br>Facebook or<br>YouTube service  | 8<br>9:00 Women's<br>Devotional Bible<br>study<br><br>7:00 p.m AA &<br>Alanon mg                        | 9<br>9:00 Quilters   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13                                     |
| 14<br>Facebook or<br>YouTube service<br><br>                  | 15<br>10:00 Council<br>Meeting<br><br>7:00 p.m AA &<br>Alanon meeting<br><br><b>Presidents'<br/>Day</b> | 16<br>10:00 Zoom<br>coffee hour                                  | 17<br>Ash Wednesday<br>Facebook or<br>YouTube service | 18  | 19  | 20<br><br><b>Newsline<br/>Deadline</b> |
| 21<br>Facebook or<br>YouTube service   | 22<br><br>7:00 p.m AA &<br>Alanon mg  | 23<br>9:00 Quilters  | 24<br>Lent Service<br>Facebook or<br>YouTube service  | 25  | 26  | 27                                     |
| 28<br><b>Tentative In Per-<br/>son Worship with<br/>YouTube service<br/>later in the day.</b><br>(Check website for<br>updates & sched-<br>ules) |   |  |   |     |     |  |

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            | 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 | Dennis Hennessy                   | (651) 247-2283 |
| Vice President    |                                   |                |
| 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](mailto:blnews@juno.com)**

All articles due on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month