

Bethesda Life-Line

Worship Services

Sunday 8:30 & 10:00 AM

Service of Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday of each month.

Coffee fellowship is held in the fellowship room following the first Sunday Worship service. All are invited to share in conversation and warm fellowship.

Bethesda now has a YouTube channel!

Please check out our weekly services

(<https://www.youtube.com/c/BethesdaLutheranChurchMalmMN/videos>) as well as on our Facebook page



June 6 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM
Communion – Outdoor Worship (weather permitting)

June 13 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM
Communion

June 20 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM
Communion

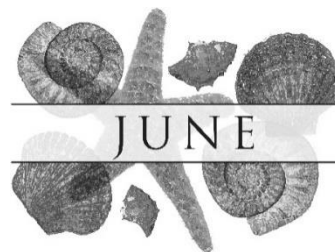
June 27 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM
Communion

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

Newsline articles are due on the 20th, email to blnews@juno.com



2021



We will be returning to the Sanctuary!

Effective Sunday, May 30th, 2021 we will begin with two services at 8:30 & 10:00am. Communion officiants will use hand sanitizer and be masked and will hand you the host. The wine/juice will be served in individual cups which will be consumed and then thrown away at the front of the church. The collection plate will not be passed yet and will be at the back of the church to drop off your offerings before or after services. There will be Fellowship between the services.

People who are not fully vaccinated are required to wear face coverings indoors.

For those not comfortable in the sanctuary, there will be optional seating in the Fellowship Hall using the TV.

Bethesda Holiday Bazaar Is On!

At the recent WELCA meeting, it was decided to continue our annual holiday bazaar in October. This year it will be on October 30th. Judie Birk has volunteered to head up the bazaar, but we are looking for someone to co-chair with her. To prepare for this event, we are having a brainstorming meeting on Monday, June 7th at 9 a.m. So bring your ideas (samples if you have them) to show the group. We will also discuss dates when we will meet to create and work on crafts. We welcome everyone, crafty or not, to join this fun group.



Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo Council Meeting

Minutes of May 17, 2021 Council Meeting

In attendance: Judie Birk, Mary Braun, Ron Haglund, Joanne Stueven, Karen Carron, Pastor James Muske, Cheryl Malotky, Sherry Whipple and Dennis Hennessy.

The meeting was called to order by council president Dennis Hennessy

Pastor James gave opening Devotions.

Pastor's Report (April 19-May 17, 2021)

Not much to report since I was on vacation for two weeks, but a few items to note:

Confirmation will be on Pentecost Sunday, May 23 at 9:30am. Our three youth affirming their baptisms are Savannah Elliott, Will Vukelich, and Mark Vossen.

In the middle of my vacation, I remotely attended the online Synod Assembly.

As more of our members transition back to attending worship in person versus online, we will continue to provide a video recording of the service, but without as much editing. I also plan to switch to editing and uploading the video on Monday morning instead of Sunday afternoon. If there is a mass outcry, perhaps we can revisit options, but this should make for a more manageable work schedule.

I also plan to begin restarting our Bible studies.

Now that Pastor Kate has ended her time at Faith Lutheran in Isle, they are going to have a period of time where they are without a pastor, until an interim pastor can be assigned. They have asked if I could fill in perhaps once a month, so that I could preside over communion. My thought is that I could leave after the first service once a month and then go down there, with one of our lay members covering the second service. My sermon from the first service could be recorded and played at the second. I will discuss this idea with them some more. They would likely only need this assistance for a couple months.

Secretary's Report:

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the April meeting by Sherry Whipple seconded by Karen Carron, and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for April was presented by Mary Braun. Mary noted that we have more 'in-person' attendance. Motion was made by Cheryl Malotky to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Sherry Whipple and passed.

Old Business

- **VBS has been cancelled in house —**
Alternative plans: Joanne Stueven reported that an email will be sent to grandparents and/or parents that are interested in at home VBS. A email with a link to a site can be used to teach the littles. A packet will be made up to use to be picked up at the church. The thought is that when grandkids visit, to use an hour of their/your time to go through the VBS session (about 1 hour) and would run three days of your choosing. Either call the office or contact Joanne Stueven for more information.
- **Data-Link to begin audit — Linda** from Data Link came last week to pick up material to review our process. A few tagline may be needed and she will supply them where needed. She also suggested we need to add the church building/property values to our assets. Mary will work with Linda on this.
- **Lion's Club Car Show —** this event is in honor of the veterans. Monies raised will support veterans locally. This will be a car show with food booths and maybe more!!

New Business

- **Return to Sanctuary for worship services —** Mary Braun made a motion to open our Sanctuary for two services beginning Sunday, May 30. Motion was seconded by Sherry Whipple and passed. For those not comfortable in the sanctuary, there will be optional seating in the Fellowship Hall using the TV. And it was agreed that we will have Fellowship time after the first service. See notice for signup for serving. As for wearing masks, Mary will look at the MN State restrictions and will post at the church. We also discussed communion and will have masked officiants.
- **Outreach —** Council discussed opportunities to get more attendance such as possibly having a monthly Saturday nite service with a Food Truck. A

cute slogan from pastor is “Holy Smokes” — come to our service to enjoy a few songs, sermon and prayers. We are open to other ideas!
Another outreach opportunity is the Glen 4th of July Parade. We need a trailer, driver, and people to ride in the trailer, walk or bike. We have bags to hand out with info on our church.

- And a reminder about the Random Acts of Kindness Challenge to pick up a Bethesda business card and pay it forward.
- **Restart ROMEOs** — Now that Marty’s is open, ROMEOs will start up on Thursdays 8 a.m.
- Property Committee Request — Council reviewed request (see below) and approved.

Committee Reports:

Worship & Music:

The Worship and Music Committee met at 5pm on Tuesday, May 18th at Bethesda. Members present included: Jim Christianson, Sherry Whipple, Carol Bakken, Sheila Penoyer, new member Patti Smith, Pastor James and Julie Swaggert.

The committee wants to thank Pastor James for his creative and excellent work to record and produce services over the past 14 months so Bethesda members and friends have been able to participate virtually in Sunday worship.

We discussed where we are as a church on our worship service **re-opening journey**”. The following are some of the major discussion points:
First Sanctuary Sunday is Memorial Day, May 30, 2021. We will have an 8:30 and 10:00 service. We will have Coffee Fellowship following the service.
Communion assistants will wear masks
State mandate says masks should be worn by those NOT vaccinated.
You must wear masks when singing hymns (subject to possible change end of May)
Option to view service in Fellowship hall on the TV Monitor.
Service will continue to be recorded and on our YouTube channel on Monday morning
Praise Team will lead OUTside services on June 6th.

Other discussion on the topics of music included:

Hymns

Hymns picked by Pastor and Jim.

Hymns will not all need recording. Using digital organ again

Utilize hymn suggestion basket

Start using more familiar hymns (now that we can really sing along again)

Praise Team

Will do June 6th outdoor service

Monthly Praise Team going forward

Choir/Special Music

Sheila talking to folks about choir...still waiting to start up

Possible additional special music for next weeks/months

Before COVID hit in winter 2020, the Worship and Music Committee was in the midst of organizing fund raisers to help off-set some of the costs of our technology systems. We had a lively discussion on the topic and will be continuing this topic at our next meeting with great hopes for implementing our ideas over the summer and fall!

Next meeting will be at 5pm on Tuesday, June 15th.
New members welcome!

Respectfully submitted, Julie Swaggert

Property Committee:

The Property Committee requests funds to repair three doors.

The Veggie Stand door has been leaking and is difficult to open. The floor in front of the door is rotted and needs to be repaired, plus the door frame and threshold.

The side door of the Parsonage Garage is rotting and the bottom of the brick molding and should be replaced.

The east entry door of the Church Garage is rotting at the bottom and will need to be replaced.

The total cost of the three doors and floor section replacement in the Veggie Stand is \$1,775.00, including aluminum wrap to prevent future damage. The Property Committee suggests doing all the doors together, but the projects could be separated if need be. The Veggie Stand repairs are more immediate. The bid was given by a local contractor. We look forward to your guidance.

SIGN UPDATE:

Steel signposts (6” x 6”) will replace the wooden posts within a 3-4 week time frame. The post costs and installation are covered by a generous member.

The cost to remove and reinstall the old sign will have to be covered by our church, including electric hook-up.

SPRING CLEAN-UP:

A spring clean-up is scheduled for May 26th. We hope to clean the windows at that time.

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 June 21 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.

2021 TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>General Fund</u> <i>(Envelope Giving)</i>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income Actual	\$11,644	\$ 56,782
Budget Actual	\$11,333	\$ 45,333
<u>All Funds</u>		
Total Income Actual	\$14,661	\$ 70,347
Total Income Budget	\$12,446	\$ 49,783
Expenses Actual	\$16,348	\$ 52,036
Expenses Budget	\$12,502	\$ 50,009
Over/(Short)	(\$ 1,688)	\$ 18,312



FIRST LUTHERAN in Aitkin invites you to special worship services this summer. Outdoor Maria Chapel* Worships June 9, July 21 & August 18 at 6:30pm. Also; Worship on the Water June 13th Farm Island Lake & July 11th Cedar Lake, both at 3:00pm. See flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex for more information. You can email office@flc-aitkin.com or call the church at 218 927-2028 or visit their Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/FLCAitkinMN for more information. * Located off Cty. Rd 39 next to Diamond Lake Cemetery

STUFFED ANIMALS The Malmo Lions are collecting new or gently used stuffed animals. Please bring to the church attention Sherry Whipple.

MALMO LIONS COMMUNITY PICNIC June 23rd, 5:00pm at the Mille Lacs Snowmobile Club. Adult Junk Bingo! Games for Kids. Free meal with good will donation. All proceeds go to local food shelves.



GLEN 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Is on for this summer! If you are interested in representing Bethesda in the parade, give the office a call.

Random Acts of Kindness

Pastor would like to Challenge the congregation to do Random acts of Kindness throughout the year. Grab some business cards with the inscription Something Extra to Show You God Loves You to hand out and bless others. Use your creativity and resources to find ways to do this. Some ideas are to give an extra tip & card to a server who may have been out of work; sneak a \$20 bill at a gas station pump along with the business card; or leave the church card with a gift card in a library book for a nice surprise for someone. So the plan is to show people what a loving church we are at Bethesda and who knows, they may want to visit us sometime!

Bethesda business cards can be picked in the Fellowship Hall and in the church office.



Happy Father's Day
June 20th

Activities & Events

June 2021

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

Ushers by: Jim Christensen

- June 6 8:30 - Patti Smith & Sherry Whipple
10:00 - Darrell Kelly
- June 13 8:30 - Patti Smith & Sherry Whipple
10:00 - Barry & Donna Ansell
- June 20 8:30 - George Larson & Skip Hansen
10:00 - Ron & JoAnn Haglund
- June 27 8:30 - Chuck & Elsa Carlson
10:00 - Dick & Sue Stebbins

Ushers are urgently needed now that we are back to two services on Sundays!

Altar Care by Dianne Jones

- June Winnie Zahradka and Barb Forrester
- July Linda Southworth and Karen Elias
- August Kathy Larson and Elsa Carlson

Recycling



Greeters Lynne Meidlinger

- June 6 Pat Becker & Char Berg
- June 13 Chuck & Elsa Carlson
- June 20 Barry & Donna Ansell
- June 27 Wally & Bev Swenson



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



- June 8 Susan & Albert (Sam) Samuelson
- June 9 Joanne & Dave Stueven
- June 12 Mary Kramer & Steve Long
- June 18 Sandra & Kevin Skow
- June 20 Sheila & Doug Penoyer
- June 26 Lucinda & Jonathan Mickelson
- June 28 Laurie & Norman Westerlund



Help! We need Coffee Servers for the summer and beyond!

Please sign up so we may continue to have coffee in between the services, the signup sheet is now on a board mounted in fellowship hall. We hope everyone serves at least once a year if not twice a year.

Sign up to mow the church lawn!
Join the team!
Signup sheets in the Narthex.





Card Players Welcomed!
Join us on Mondays at 11:30am
For Double Pinochle

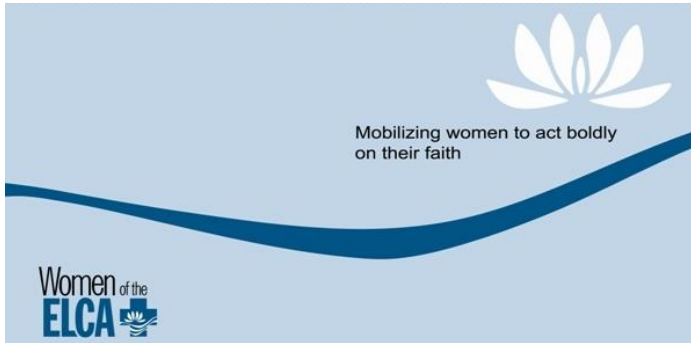
**ITEMS NEEDED TO ASSIST IN SUPPORTING
WOMENS SHELTERS**

In May, WELCA had Dawn Kellen come and give a presentation on the project her and her husband Keith have been doing this winter. She sews about a 12” x 12” bag for the shelter and they need to be filled with items that are needed when they leave. Items that have proven useful are as follows:

- Simple embroidered dish towel
- Scrubbies
- Dish rags
- Potholders
- Small dish soap
- Bar hand soap
- Small laundry detergent
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Body lotion
- Glade air freshener
- Razors
- Deodorant
- Fingernail files

We have decided to make this an “IN KIND” project for our area.

A box will be set up in the narthex for anyone wanting to donate. The center that they have been helping houses about 25 women and children. Mostly are abuse victims.



**BETHESDA WOMEN OF THE ELCA
MEETING – MAY 19, 2021**

Chairperson, Sue Samuelson, opened the meeting with 14 members present. Jeannine gave the devotions. The Purpose Statement and Mission Statements were read.

The secretary’s report was approved as written in the newsletters.

The treasurer’s report was given w/a balance on hand of \$1,899.85. Motion by Cheryl and seconded by Elsa to accept the report. Motion passed.

Dawn Kellan gave a presentation about the tote bags she has been making and filling to give to the Mid Minnesota Women’s Center in Brainerd.

Old Business

- Jim Christensen will be charge of the veggie stand. It will be open May 29th and then again starting July 3rd.
- Jelly was made on May 3rd – 224 jars.
- The Holiday Bazaar plans were discussed. Bazaar will be Oct 30th. Judie Birk has offered to co-chair the bazaar. A June 7th meeting will be held at 9:00am for those interested in the crafts part of the bazaar.

The Lord’s Prayer was said.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next WELCA meeting is August 18th at 9:30am

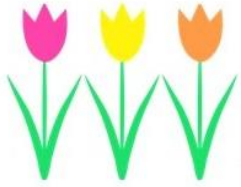
Respectfully submitted by Char Berg

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
CONFIRMATION CLASS
Sunday, May 23, 2021**



Pictured left to right: Savannah Elliott, Will Vukelich, Pastor James, and Mark Vossen

You have claimed the promises
made to you in Baptism!
Blessing to you, Sister & Brothers in Christ!



June 2021

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 8:30 & 10:00 Outdoor Worship (weather permitting) Communion	7 9:00 WELCA Crafts Brainstorming Mtg 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	8 9:00 Quilters	9	10	11	12
13 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion	14 9:00 Women's Devotional Bible study 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	15	16 9-4:00 WIC	17	18	19 Newline Deadline
20 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion Happy Fathers Day	21 10:00 Council meeting 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	22 9:00 Quilters	23 9:00-Noon Moderna Vaccine Clinic 5:00 Lions Communi- ty Picnic Mille Lacs Snowmobile Club	24	25	26
27 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion	28 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	29	30			

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
21590 State Highway 47
Isle, MN 56342

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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	Dennis Hennessy	(651) 247-2283
Vice President	Karen Carrom	(952) 210-9508
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



From the Pastor

Greetings, fellow disciples in Christ!

After a year of pandemic precautions and quarantines, life is starting to feel a bit more normal. Life is starting to feel a

bit, well, livelier! Of course, as much as we are ready to put this past year behind us, we should try and remember that 1) the virus is not completely beat yet, especially around the world, and 2) this past year laid bare many of the aspects of our world and our society that need improvement. In our rush to return to normal, we should first acknowledge that some of our “normals” need to be revamped, if not replaced.

Reforms to our health care and senior care systems and better care for our caregivers. Safety precautions and other support for those who work front line jobs. Efficient and effective aid programs for small businesses and those that lose their job. Care for all the teachers, staff, and students that struggled through this crazy year. And realizing the way that these systems may work better for some groups than others. Not to mention continuing all the important conversations about race and justice that were begun this year.

There is an immense amount of suffering and need out there in our world, and we, as Christians, are called to respond. To, at least, listen and bear witness. To pray. To ask for forgiveness when we have contributed to that suffering or failed to respond. To be gracious and patient with one another, and to be mindful of all those that may be suffering in ways we cannot immediately recognize.

One group of people that haven't received much attention this past year and are especially relevant to us as a Christian community are our pastors and other church leaders – deacons, youth and family ministers, office staff, chaplains, etc. Like many other caregivers, church workers often have horrible self-care. We regularly put ourselves last on our mental hierarchies of people in need. The thought of acknowledging our own struggles fills us with guilt. Including me, right now, as I am typing these words.

Over this last year, as I met with fellow clergy over Zoom or other online conversations, or the rare in-person meetings, the stress that everyone was feeling was so rarely verbalized. Yet it always seemed to be there on the edges of the conversations. It seemed like

we were all too afraid to let those flood gates open. But you could see it in people's faces, in smiles that faded a bit too quick. You could hear it in their voices, a note of exhaustion that seemed to build more and more throughout the year.

It was heartbreaking. Because pastors, surprisingly, are actually a lot of fun. Yes, it can be hard for some of us to turn off “pastor-mode”, but, generally, we are a witty and intelligent lot, with lots of hidden talents and interests. And even when we are sharing frustrations and horror stories, there remains this love for our communities and our world – a battle-tested hopefulness – which I find so life-giving.

But this year has added burden after burden, weighing us down and wearing us out. I was fortunate to have some familiarity with the technology, but even for me, it was difficult to completely change models of ministry almost overnight and then having to adjust again and again as new guidelines came out. Spending so much time sitting alone behind a computer screen also takes its toll. Even those of us on the more introverted side of the spectrum tend to prefer flesh and blood human beings to their digitized versions.

The world changed and so we did our best to adapt. But now we had to work twice as hard to create these remote experiences, and to work twice as hard to create half as much. Knowing that it isn't the same, that for all its benefits, it had serious downsides too. We sympathized with those that didn't like all the changes, and yet it was hard not to be frustrated at the same time because of all the effort involved. Exhausting to be the one to bear most of the changes that were needed to make something, anything happen, and knowing that it is not going to be fully satisfying, knowing that some would not even try out the new options.

And, again, to be frustrated and then to feel completely guilty for that frustration. Because others are going through this collective trauma too, and many dealing with much more than us. This has been a year of our hearts constantly breaking.

Then, to top it off, this is a year where we have also felt so divided, and not just in a social distancing sense. To realize again that the wounds of racial injustice have never fully healed (and the struggle of how to have such a difficult conversation while we can't even meet in person!). To see our political divisions grow even wider. To see how divided we were in how to respond to the virus and the precautions

we should take, and to see even that issue become politicized.

Congregations, along with the rest of society, were torn on the right path forward. Balancing those who desire that every precaution be taken with those who claimed the virus was a hoax. Church leaders caught in the middle. Treated with suspicion when they try to keep people safe. Agonizing over compromises and then facing disapproval and resistance. Even facing public criticism, like that in one of our local papers last year, where a letter printed in the religion section (not Opinion) stated that if Jesus was alive that he would open the churches and if people died, so be it, and if pastors refused, they should be fired. To say that such theories are less than helpful is to put it mildly.

Of course, our pastors and other leaders are also, at the end of the day, human beings. People with families and friends. People who worried, like so many worried, about loved ones getting sick. People who worried about their own health. People who mourned when those they loved succumbed to the disease. People, many of whom are parents, who now had to figure out schooling and childcare. People who worried about the financial realities of the pandemic. Not just for those in their community, but for their churches and themselves personally. It is hard for us to admit, but we are human, with all the blessings, sins, and limitations that comes with humanity. We rely just as much as any on the grace of God and hope for it from our neighbor.

Our Church has failed our leaders (big C church, as in the general Christian church on earth; our little individual church I would rate as not perfect, but above average 😊). Our leaders have born a lot of the weight for us this past year. The weight of countless changes and endless debates. The weight of long hours and little time to grieve and find renewal. They have born that weight and it has wounded many of us in the process. There are already many signs throughout the country that clergy burnout will be a rapidly growing challenge for communities of faith. Researchers regularly report the damaging physical and mental effects of stress and overwork. We as a people of God need to do a better job caring for those who care for us.

And, again, this is not to put church leaders on a pedestal or declare them to be the only or those most suffering. But perhaps, for our congregations, our leaders are a bit like the canary in the coal mine. If we

cannot care, be gracious, and generous towards those who we call to encourage and teach us about grace and generosity and caring for others, it doesn't bode well for our mission as disciples more broadly.

I still feel completely guilty and self-centered sharing all this, but I also can't bear to keep silent. Such is the nature of lament, even in the Bible. It is rarely pretty or perfect. I thank you for reading all this and hope you didn't roll your eyes too many times. If I am brave, I might even share this on social media. Because, besides other suggestions that I might make someday in a "part 2", my hope is that one step congregations can make is to simply be better at asking their pastor how they are doing. To ask, not just in passing, but to take some time, have a little privacy, build an environment of trust, maybe over coffee or a meal, to ask and to then be patient. To be quiet and let them share, if they want, and then to take what they say seriously.

Neither is that to pretend, I should note, that pastors are perfect, I know I am far from it. Some decisions from the past year I would do differently, some I think I nailed (ha!), and the bulk falls under that category of "doing the best you can with what you got."

Life should be a continual learning process, and, as a church, we should exemplify that. As I noted, our church seems to have handled this past year a bit better than many others, in stories I have heard from colleagues near and far. But there is still room for improvement. Still, as I end, I want to express my gratitude for our council, for Mary in the office, for our Praise Band, and other lay leaders this past year. Even when we had disagreements, it always felt like we were in this together. So, thank you!

I know this isn't the shortest or cheeriest letter I have ever written, but I thank you for letting me share it. God blessings on you this month and always!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor James Muske


Come to me,
all you who are
weary *and*
burdened,
and I will give you rest.


MATTHEW 11:28