

Bethesda Life-Line

Worship Services*

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

(<https://www.youtube.com/c/BethesdaLutheranChurchMalm0MN/videos>), as well as on our facebook page



Bethesda Mission Statement:

We will **LIVE** and **SERVE** through **FAITH**
we will **ACT** with **LOVE** and **KINDNESS**
we will **GIVE** hope and **SUPPORT** to all

July 4 Sunday Worship Communion	8:30 & 10:00 AM
July 11 Sunday Worship Communion	8:30 & 10:00 AM
July 18 Sunday Worship Communion	8:30 & 10:00 AM
July 25 Sunday Worship Communion	8:30 & 10:00 AM

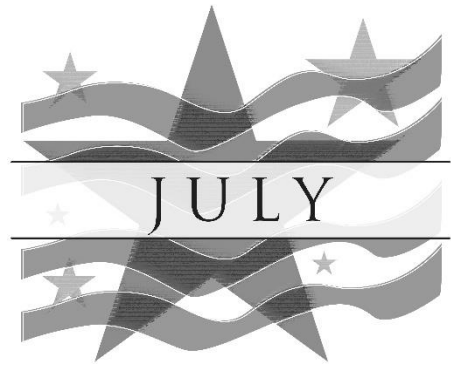
Upcoming Events

July 3-Veggie stand opens

GLEN 4TH OF JULY PARADE at 1:00



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

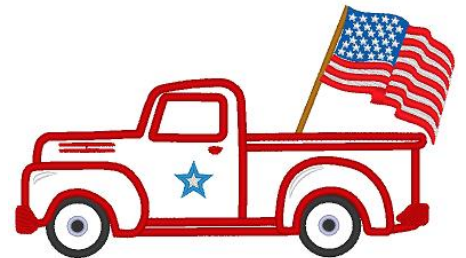


4th of July Glen Parade

Because the 4th is on a Sunday this year, the annual Glen 4th of July parade is advertised to begin at 1:00 which means lineup will

begin at noonish.

Lineup is taking place all along the North Clear



Lake Road. Fall in line whenever you get there. The township and sheriff indicated lining up along the road will be fine as long as driveways aren't blocked.

If you are interested in representing Bethesda in the parade, give the office a call. 320 684-2123. Bike riders are needed. We will meet at the church and plan to leave the church parking lot by 11:30am. We will be pulling a decorated trailer and bike riders are welcome to ride beside the trailer! We have candy and tote bags to hand out.



From the Pastor

*"O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth."
(Psalm 96:1)*

Recently someone asked me if we could sing "more familiar songs" on Sunday morning, and, I'll admit, I got a bit defensive. I have been asked that before. Many, many times before. (My apologies if I have ever been a bit snippy when you have asked me that question!) But later in the day I caught myself smiling when I thought about that question again. After the last year and a half, what a wonderfully "normal" kind of a challenge!

For many of us, music is an important aspect of our worship services and lives of faith more generally. I have met some anti-music Lutherans in my time, but they seem to be rare. But trying to figure out the right blend of music for any given worship service... oof, it's a challenge!

So how do we do it? Well, first, the "we" in this situation is usually Jim Christensen and myself. We meet once a month and begin by going through all the upcoming worship services and review the readings and the overall theme for that day. If we are lucky, we have a suggested list of music for that Sunday. If so, then we begin by listening to those recommendations.

As we listen, we listen for both how the lyrics might connect with our Bible readings, but also for familiarity. Do we recognize this song, or do we at least recognize the tune? Christian music nerd moment: have you ever looked at the bottom right corner of a hymn in the hymnal and ever wondered what those two bits of information mean? For example, if you looked at "Amazing Grace," it reads "New Britain" and below it "CM". "New Britain" is the name of the tune (the melody) and "CM" is the meter (the rhythm). CM stands for "Common Meter," while often you will just see a string of numbers in that spot indicating the number of syllables in each part of the rhythm.

Many hymns in the Bible share similar melodies and rhythms. So, even if you don't know the words, you may recognize the melody. And, if you don't like the melody, if you know the meter, you can swap to a different tune with the same rhythm. (fun fact: "Amazing Grace" and the folk rock song "House of

the Rising Sun" have the same meter, try singing each song to the other's tune sometime, ha!) Then we also consider the peppy-ness factor of the music (highly technical terms here). We like having the opening song a little peppy, but not so much so that people who haven't had their coffee yet are blown away. The hymn after the sermon often tends to be the most serious sounding, but really we just try to make that the hymn with the strongest connection to the readings. Then finally the last song should be the most exciting to send people out with spring in their step. This is also where we usually like to put a more contemporary piece of music, or maybe some world music.

But there are also some other complicating factors. The big one is our digital organ. A wonderful tool, but it doesn't have all the hymns in the hymnal, and lacks many contemporary or world songs. If we still want to use music that our organ doesn't have, then we either have to find a musician to play it for us, or we have to use recorded music. But then we have to be careful about playing copyrighted music, especially now that we put services on YouTube. As you can start to see, it is quite a process, especially since it has to be repeated for every worship service. But I also find it to be a deeply meaningful process, and music selection can be representative for the larger culture of a church. You want a blend of old and new. Familiar and unfamiliar. It is healthy for our brains and our spiritual lives. And it demonstrates that fact to newcomers – that we both have connections to a rich history, but are also willing to incorporate to change and incorporate the new.

So back to that question, why don't we play more familiar music? Well, one, because we want to have a blend of old and new. And, two, we do! We try to! But because people come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, what is old and familiar to you is not necessarily familiar to your neighbors in the pews. We try to go by what seems familiar to us and by the age of the hymns as noted in the hymnal, but a hymn could be hundreds, if not thousands, of years old and it could be new to someone. The hope is that the new becomes familiar the more we sing them.

One of our best tools, that we also use when choosing hymns, is a list of suggested hymns. I encourage you to pop one in the basket on the church entrance table, if you haven't in awhile. I have a master spreadsheet

on my computer of all the suggestions and I even try to remember to note when we use them. It is really the only way we have of knowing what you know. This is also why we like to have one or two hymns sing each year. Not only does it usually give your pastor a bit of a break, it also lets us indulge in all those songs we have been longing to hear. So, keep singing my friends. Sing the old favorites, and sing a new song too! Make a joyful noise and give thanks for one of God's most blessed gifts!
Yours in Christ,
Pastor James Muske

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

Minutes of June 21, 2021, Council Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order by council president Dennis Hennessy
Pastor James gave opening Devotions.

Secretary's Report:

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

Treasurer's Report:

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

Pastor's Report: May 17 to June 21, 2021

Much of my time this past month has been spent working to re-adjust as Covid (hopefully) winds down. Thankfully it mostly seems to be going smoothly.

The men's bible study group has restarted and the women's group will have their first meeting this week.

Will be working with Joanne and Mary to offer some online VBS options this summer.

Settled into a new rhythm and plan for online worship services. Viewers have declined significantly, but I think it is still a valuable ministry to homebound folks. We have also figured out how to burn a DVD that would play in a standard DVD

player, so that can be an option to save and share services.

Some baffling tech glitches this past month, but things seem to be okay for now? (crosses fingers)

Regarding recording services, we may want to consider a more permanent system at some point.

I have also had conversations with Darlene and Mary about new outreach and schedules for visiting homebound members. We are looking forward to getting regular visitations going again.

Our three confirmation students were confirmed on Pentecost. (Thanks to those that helped choose gifts, they were very nice!) We will have to reflect on how we want to handle confirmation class going forward and speak with folks at Faith Lutheran if they want to continue a joint program now that Pastor Kate has left.

Led two Memorial Day services at our local cemeteries.

Between Worship & Music and Mission & Evangelism and various other groups, I am excited by all the great ideas floating around. People are really eager to be back together, so the more we can lift that up, the better! Thanks to all who show up and all who volunteer!

Old Business

Outreach activities — No activities at present. Council did discuss ideas: Corn Feed; Potluck after a Sunday Service; Host Wednesday Music in the Park at Isle or at our church; Food Truck Saturday Night Service prior to Free Church concert. We need someone to champion one of the ideas. If anyone has interest, let us know.

External Audit – still in progress, meeting with auditor next week.

Digital Sign – Money has been coming in from Memorials — Council has decided to table discussion on this until the Annual Meeting.

Present Sign — Posts still need to be installed. Mary is going to check on insurance for when it originally fell over in the wind. Also note to Property Committee to see if they can find someone to change the wording on the sign.

Lions Car Show — A car show is being held at Bethesda parking lot on July 24. Money raised will go towards the Veterans in Aitkin area.

New Business

4th of July Parade — Parade begins at 1 pm, with

line up beginning at noon. Thank you to the Ansell family for driving a trailer. We encourage you to join us by either riding the trailer or bring your bike.

Bethesda Bags are ready to be handed out; Candy and decorations are ready.

Ushers — Jim Christianson is now in charge of ushers. If interested in volunteering to be an usher, please call Jim.

Servers for Fellowship — It was suggested that we might consider collecting donations for our fellowship sweets. One idea is that if no one signs up to serve, Mary will buy treats and then we will put out a donation basket.

Services — It was suggested that we go to one service. After discussion, it was decided we will revisit this fall.

Committee Reports: No reports

Motion was made to adjourn by Mary Braun, seconded by Sherry Whipple, and passed.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting will be July 19 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.

2021 TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<i>(Envelope Giving)</i>		
Income Actual	\$15,923	\$ 72,704
Budget Actual	\$11,333	\$ 56,667
<u>All Funds</u>		
Total Income Actual	\$17,730	\$ 88,820
Total Income Budget	\$12,446	\$ 62,229
Expenses Actual	\$11,881	\$ 63,876
Expenses Budget	\$12,502	\$ 62,511
Over/(Short)	\$ 5,849	\$ 24,945

Help! We need Coffee Servers for July and August



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.

Thank You!

A shout out to Karen & Gene Miller for donating the communion wine, and Michele and Lynwood Elliot for covering the cost of lawn mower gas and other items from the Malmo Market for our church. Bless your **generosity!** A heartfelt **thank** you for all that you have given to us. Our highest gratitude and appreciation – we are so grateful for your support.

Crafters Begins

Please join us to work on crafts for our annual bazaar to be held late October. We will have projects to work on or if you have one that needs help or want to share how you're creating, please join us. We will be meeting at 9:00 a.m. every other Monday. July and August dates are: July 5, July 19, Aug. 2, Aug. 16, and Aug. 30.



Hi Bethesda Members and Bethesda Choir Members!

I just want to welcome all of you back to indoor worship, and the start of the Bethesda Choir Practicing!! It has been so nice being able to worship in the Sanctuary, and we have been given the ok to start having Choir Practice, and for the Choir to sing at the services. I am planning on starting with the first Choir Practice on Tuesday, July 6th at 5:30. I am hoping to get back as many of the past members back singing, and would invite anyone who loves to sing and have fun, to come and give us a try! We would love to see you at choir practice!!
 PS: We will have a short meeting at the end of practice to discuss practice times and dates for singing in church services. Come one, Come all!!
 Sheila Penoyer/Choir Director

VBS ONLINE The 3rd week of June would have been Vacation Bible School week. We are working on a virtual online version for you to share at home with your little ones. Stay tune, we'll have a program to share with you on our website: blcmalmo.org and on our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/BLCMalmo/](https://www.facebook.com/BLCMalmo/) OR you can pick up packets in the office with worksheets, instructions & a CD of music.

ACTS OF KINDNESS CARDS let someone know we care by taking a business card and paying it forward to let them know that our church welcomes all. See ideas, and pick up cards, on display in the Fellowship Hall.

USHERS NEEDED if you could help us with ushering, please contact Jim Christensen. Phone: 320 279-0962 or email: jimdarl@hotmail.com

Stewardship



Mention “stewardship” at church and you’re likely to see a lot of eyes rolling and hear some deep groans—just before people bolt for the door with one hand on their wallets and checkbooks. That’s because, in too many congregations,

“stewardship” has become a cheesy euphemism for “We want your money.”

It’s a shame too. As stewardship lies at the very center of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. “Stewardship is everything we do after we say, ‘I believe,’” said Clarence Stoughton (1895-1975), who served as executive secretary of the Lutheran Laymen’s Movement for Stewardship and as secretary of stewardship for the United Lutheran Church in America, an ELCA predecessor.

From birth to death marks a finite span of days in which we live, breathe, and have our lives. Each moment is precious, as Psalm 90:12 makes clear: “Teach us to count our days, that we may gain a wise heart.”

How we spend our time may be the most crucial stewardship question of all. After all, income levels and talents differ widely by individual, but everyone is given the same number of minutes and hours in a day. How we use them says a lot about our priorities and values.

When we choose to give our time to church, to neighbor, to a ministry that works for God’s purposes, we are stewarding our time wisely.

As people dedicated—heart, soul and possessions—to God’s purposes, we put all we have and all we are in the service of God, trusting that the Spirit will give us direction and guidance.

“Christ has no body on earth but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do well. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. ... Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

The offering prayers we say every week in worship help us understand afresh that stewardship is more than whether we give our money to God’s mission in the world. It’s how we use every good blessing that God has entrusted to us on our journey of faith. Again, as Stoughton wisely remarked, “Stewardship is everything we do after we say, ‘I believe.’”

*-Taken from the Living Lutheran’s
June/July magazine*



Seeds

The Bible often uses seeds as symbols of faith or God’s Word. In the Old Testament, seeds also refer to offspring. Jesus said people who believe in him can perform mighty deeds with “faith the size of a mustard seed” (Luke 17:6, NRSV). Many of Jesus’ teachings use seed imagery; for example, in the parable of the four soils, he said the seed, God’s Word, can grow only when people hear it, “hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance” (Luke 8:15, NRSV).



Join the team!

Sign up to mow the church lawn!

Activities & Events


July 2021

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

Ushers Jim Christensen
July 4 *if you are available for ushering,*
July 11 *please contact Jim Christensen.*
July 18 *Phone: 320 279-0962 or email:*
July 25 *jimdarl@hotmail.com*

Altar Care by Dianne Jones
 July Linda Southworth and Karen Elias
 August Elsa Carlson and Karen Elias
 September Kathy Larson and Linda Southworth

Recycling

Greeters  Lynne Meidlinger
July 4 Sylvia Tapelt and Char Berg
July 11 Winnie Zahradka and Bev Wedig
July 18 Maynard & Kathy Berland
July 25 Lee & Barb Forrester



July 5 Bev & Wally Swenson
 July 7 Ardis & Harold Kendall
 July 10 Patti & Ken Wanous
 July 16 Jan & Ron Aho
 July 16 Barb & Lee Forrester
 July 21 Randy & Winnie Zahradka
 July 23 Carolyn & Jerry Morris
 July 29 Marilee & Kirk Swenson
 July 30 Glenice & Dale Peterson



July 1 Dennis Meidlinger
 July 5 Harold Kendall
 July 6 Joanne Danielson
 July 7 Jerome Schewe
 July 8 Penny Sjoquist
 July 9 Darrell Kelly
 July 10 Donna Myhre
 July 11 Barbara Bray
 July 11 Randy Tofteland
 July 15 Gavin Fischer
 July 16 Alene Lowe
 July 18 Paul Meleen
 July 21 Ronald Heins
 July 21 Craig Kullberg
 July 22 Kathy Carlson
 July 23 Sandi Elwood
 July 24 Keith Mundingger
 July 25 Ken Elwood
 July 27 Marilyn Elling
 July 27 Linda Hauglid
 July 27 Annie Johnson
 July 27 Joanne Mehlhop
 July 29 Cindy Persson





July 2021

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:00 ROMEOS	2	3 7:30-11 Veggie Stand Opens
4 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion Happy 4th of July	5 9:00 Crafters 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	6 5:30 Choir practice	7 9:00 Women's Bible Study	8 8:00 ROMEOS	9	10 7:30-11 Veggie Stand
11 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion	12 9:00 Women's Devotional Bible study 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA &	13 9:00 Quilters 5:30 Choir practice	14 9:00 Women's Bible Study	15 8:00 ROMEOS	16	17 7:30-11 Veggie Stand
18 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion	19 9:00 Crafters 10:00 Council mtg 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	20 Newsline Deadline 5:30 Choir practice	21 9-4:00 WIC 9:00 Women's Bible Study	22 8:00 ROMEOS	23	24 7:30-11 Veggie Stand 10-2 Lion's Car Show in Parking Lot
25 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion	26 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	27 9:00 Quilters 5:30 Choir practice	28 9:00 Women's Bible Study	29 8:00 ROMEOS	30	31 7:30-11 Veggie Stand

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The Lifeline Mission

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we will **ACT** with **LOVE** and **KINDNESS**
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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 Malmø
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:
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c/o Bethesda Lutheran Church
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All articles due on or before the 20th of the month