

Bethesda Life-Line



Worship Services*

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

(<https://www.youtube.com/c/BethesdaLutheranChurchMalmöMN/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

**September 5 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM
Communion**

**September 12 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM
Communion**

**September 19 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM
Communion**

**September 26 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 AM
Communion**

Upcoming Events



September 6th

Oct. 25th - Lefsa making for Bazaar

Oct. 30th - Annual Craft Bazaar opens at 9:00am

Jamboree – Cancelled

Letter to the Congregation

This has been an extremely trying time for all of us during this pandemic. We have lost family and friends to this disease and the opportunity to gather as a body to share and grieve our losses.

I want to inform you that I have felt the same and it is in knowing that I am not alone that has provided me the strength to continue on. Knowing that God is present and working for my good even though I cannot see it at the time.

We all need to find that one little thing we can do for ourselves that will benefit someone else that will lift us up and give us hope in a better tomorrow. I know that it is in the giving that we receive the strength we require for today and to face our future.

I would like to encourage all of us to reach out to our neighbors and invite them to church. To share in the glory which God has provided us in our community. We are aware that unfortunately we are not getting any younger but growing older and we need new (younger) people to carry on and discover the blessings of service to others.

There is a great need for volunteers now. I know that many of you are staying in isolation because of health concerns. Please pray and meditate for things that you could do to help that will allow you to take care of yourself while helping meet this need.

Jesus' commission to us has never been easy or light and it is in times like these that it is important to remember His love for us and to share that love with others. Even though those others do not look like us or act like us or may not like us very much. It is easy to be kind to those that are kind to us, but it is much more difficult to love the unlovable. Fortunately, God loves us even when we are unlovable.

The Peace of Christ be with you and God Bless. I hope to see you all as soon as possible.
Dennis Hennessy, Council President



From the Pastor

Pastor's letter –
September 2021

“So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come!

And all these things are from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation. In other words, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting people's trespasses against them, and he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation.”
(2 Corinthians 5:17–19)

“Reconciliation” is one of those words that rarely escape our lips, but one that we live out with some regularity, especially in this last year or two. We might not be reconciling with sworn enemies in the grand, classical sense of the word (though if you have, good work!), but in a time marked by so much change, we have been constantly adjusting and readjusting and re-readjusting, etc. on a near weekly basis.

This summer we heard the Ephesians version of that famous Pauline metaphor that we are all members of one body in Christ. Each of us with different gifts, but all of us meant to work together. Of course, perhaps it is good to remember that the body of Christ often works a bit like a Mr. Potato Head. Whenever there is change, all the body parts get reassembled in some new form. Or maybe like a Lego creation, sometimes pieces are added to the mix, sometimes pieces are lost, and God works to reform us into a new creation.

That reconciliation work can indeed become complicated because of our sins or our weaknesses. We may be called upon to acknowledge the hurt we caused, whether

intentional or accidental. And then there are the ways in which we are just different. As human beings we sometimes live and work and think and speak in fundamentally different ways.

For example, I have noted that I am much more an introvert than extrovert, and I realize that can contribute to misunderstandings and hurt feelings. I am truly sorry if any of you have ever felt that I haven't reached out enough or seemed reluctant to socialize or just seemed generally awkward. While I am by no means the only introverted pastor, expectations for the role of pastor are so often shaped around the gregarious extrovert. I have worked hard to take on some of those extroverted traits, but, fundamentally, I am still different.

And introverts do come with their own set of strengths. We may not be the chatty social butterfly, but we are often great listeners when we do sit down with others. But, if you have ever been in doubt, please know that I do care deeply for all of you and for our community.

God calls us into community and does so fully knowing all our peculiarities. Our challenge is that work of reconciliation, to help that process of re-formation, to take all those body parts, all those different Lego pieces, and build something new, drawing on the strengths, acknowledging the tensions, and trying to make the healthiest, most functional, most love-filled whole.

Blessings to all of you, this month and always!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor James Muske

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

Minutes of Aug. 16, 2021 Council Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order by council president Dennis Hennessy and he gave opening Devotions.

Secretary's Report:

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

Treasurer's Report:

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

Pastor's Report:

Greetings, sisters, and brothers in Christ! Some items from the past month:

- * Began a new preaching series on Revelations (a lot of new material for me too!). Men's and women's bible study continue to meet and follow behind the Sunday readings.

- o Would like to propose forming a team to discuss Adult Education opportunities. Mission and Evangelism currently works with me regarding youth Christian Ed, but given our demographics, it would be nice to have a specific group meeting and planning classes and activities for adults.

- * Been reaching out to a couple of our neighboring churches regarding confirmation classes for the fall. Still discussing the possibilities. But I plan to reach out to the parents this week and give them an update of where we are and what they are thinking.

- * Been working to increase pastoral care visitations and contacts, and working with Darlene to help organize the congregation's efforts. We know people are calling, but it would be a big help to know who is calling who and when and whatnot.

- * Assisted Faith Lutheran in blessing some of their communion, as they still do not have even an interim pastor.

- * Would like to request that we consider hiring an individual or company to evaluate the internet setup in our building. We have had some ongoing issues that pop up every few weeks, and it is beyond your pastor's knowledge (especially in a timely manner).

- * I would like to work with council around the

formation of a strategic/long range planning committee.

- * I also plan to work to reform the pastor's mutual ministry committee.

- * Family is coming for a visit this month, and so will likely try to take a few days off for that during the week.

Yours in Christ, Pastor James

> Old Business

Outreach activities-Greif Support meetings are being considered and would be open to all members of the community.

Jamboree – Sun. Nov.7, at 3:00pm. **CANCELLED**

External Audit – finished

Results: Value of Church and property needs to be reflected on Statement of Financial Position. Change Pastor's employment status to Common Law Employee and file 941X with the IRS to rectify past payments.

> New Business

Playground Expenditure

A motion was made to approve repairs to the playground by Mary Braun and seconded by Sherry Whipple, motion was passed.

Scholarships requests

A motion was made to approve scholarships to two individuals by Sherry Whipple and seconded by Karen Carron, motion was passed.

Volunteers needed for Greeters & Ushers.

Fundraisers- Worship & Music will continue with raffle sales.

Choir visiting Nursing Homes – Looking into the current Covid visiting policies.

Live Stream Worship service? Would need volunteer to help run the camera during service.

> Pending Major Tasks to Accomplish

- * Digital Sign – will be proposed at the Annual Congregational meeting for approval.

- * External Audit-file 941X

Committee Reports

Worship and Music Committee Minutes for 7/22/2021

We met at Beanery in Aitkin with Jim, Sheila, Carol, Sherry, Patti, Pastor James and Julie in attendance. A summary of our discussion items is as follows:

Old Business:

Update on second service, 10 am service attendance

is small, but Council will look at it this fall as we are still getting back to “normal”.

Pastor would like to see second service be a bit different or more family friendly. This will be discussed next month.

Volunteers for services... How is it going?

Possibility of training or a sheet of usher “instructions” was discussed.

Jim talked about needing more digital organ folks for when he cannot do it. These folks also need training. Praise Team Update? Praise Team playing the third Sunday of each month.

Praise Team was a successful part of Isle Days with several other groups.

They are looking for a guitar player and Jim has a possible person.

We need a new mixer and a large donation (\$1000!!) will be making this possible! Thanks!

Special Music updates

Several possible special music people/groups were discussed.

Choir updates - Choir has started and sang at one July service so far. Plans are to sing 2 times/month

Hoping to continue to gain members. Sheila is working on familiar music to get choir back in the swing of things after COVID!

Bells, Bells are back at it and will be playing on Sunday, July 25th!

Fund Raisers.... Raffle Basket in progress, Drawing will be August 1st.

Another basket will follow. Off to a good start!

New Business:

Adding liturgy to service

Pastor is interested in adding small parts of liturgy to the service. Will continue this discussion.

Jamboree

We will be having a Jamboree. Date has been set for Sunday, November 7th at 3pm. . **CANCELLED**

“Seasons” has been chosen as a theme. More information coming next month.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 17th at noon at the Beanery.

Motion was made to adjourn by Karen Carron, seconded by James Muske, and passed.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting will be September 20 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Braun for Judie Birk, council secretary.

2021 TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<i>(Envelope Giving)</i>		
Income Actual	\$ 9,668	\$ 89,877
Budget Actual	\$11,333	\$ 79,333
<u>All Funds</u>		
Total Income Actual	\$25,672	\$128,210
Total Income Budget	\$12,446	\$ 87,121
Expenses Actual	\$21,941	\$101,140
Expenses Budget	\$12,502	\$ 87,516
Over/(Short)	\$ 3,731	\$ 27,070



Thank you JoAnn Stueven and Diane Jones for watering the flower gardens this summer! They look great!

THANK YOU! To all who helped with the Corn Feed! We couldn't have done it without the help from volunteers like you! Many hands make for lighter loads.

THANK YOU I want to thank Lyn and Randy, Kathy and George Larson, Wayne, Cheryl, and Sherry Whipple and Worship and Music committee for the most BEAUTIFUL flower arrangements ever. Now that I'm home I'm really enjoying them. I also want to thank my Bethesda church family for all the cards, calls, and prayers. I am so truly blessed. God Bless, Carol Bakken.



PRAYER & CARE LIST: Carol Bakken, Ron & LuAnn Gordon's son, Ramsey (deployed to Afghanistan), the family of Jerry Morris, Kristine Grap, and Roy Berg.

Last chance for the **Veggie Stand** on September 4th! Thank you to all that helped this year, from working, baking or customers!



Co-Chairwoman Sue Samuelson opened the mtg with 15 members present. Dawn Kellan brought 24 hand-made totes & items to fill. She told us about the Mid-MN Women's Center in Brainerd where the totes will be distributed. Prior to the mtg WELCA members filled the totes.

Pat Becker gave devotions. The Purpose & Mission Statements were read. The secretary's report stood approved as printed in the August newsletter. The treasurer's report was given by Dianne Jones. The balance on hand is \$2,152.77. Motion was made by Jeannine & 2nd by Lynn to accept the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- * Sept. 11th is the synod gathering in Grand Rapids.
- * The Fall gathering is in Pequot Lakes on Oct. 9th.
- * Crafters will meet every other Mon.
- * The corn feed is Aug. 21st

The next WELCA mtg is Sept 15th at 10:00am Motion to adjourn the mtg by Darlene, seconded by Barb F., Motion carried.

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

CAMP ONOMIA QUILT AUCTION Saturday, September 18, 2021,



from 11:00am-3:00pm. Live Quilt Auction, Silent Auction, Bake Sale, and Quilt Raffle. If

you would like to stay at the camp on Friday night, call in advance to reserve a room. \$40 per person for the night, includes breakfast & lunch on Saturday. 320-532-3767. See poster on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

We are collecting donations for Lutheran Disaster for wildfire relief. Write "U.S. wildfires" on your check memo line. There is a basket in the Narthex. Additional Ways to Give: Checks or money orders can be sent to:

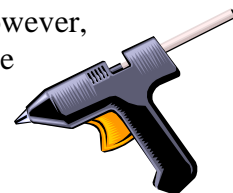


Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 (Write "U.S. wildfires" on your check memo line). Donate by phone at 800-638-3522 or online at <https://www.elca.org/disaster>.

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.

Join us for Crafters!

The countdown is closing in, two months to go to our Bazaar and three crafting days! We welcome crafts that people are making on their own. However, if you want to join our crafting group, we meet on the following Mondays: Sept. 13th, 27th and Oct. 11th. At 9:00 a.m.



The week of Oct. 25th will be our lefsa making and set up for the bazaar on the 30th. More details on the bazaar in next month's newsletter. Thank you. Judie Birk



Prepare for "God's work. Our hands."

On **Sunday, Sept. 12**, congregations of the ELCA will come together for "**God's work. Our hands.**"

Sunday, a dedicated day of service. As church, we are guided by our life in Christ to share the love of Jesus and serve our neighbors — even if these acts of service take place from our homes, outdoors or from a safe distance because of ongoing pandemic concerns. Plan your day of service.



JOIN the CHOIR it's CHEAPER THAN THERAPY!

New members are welcome and encouraged to join Bethesda's Adult Choir. Practice has begun on Tuesday nights at 5:30 pm. anyone interested in singing with the choir can just come to practice. Everyone is welcome!

Activities & Events

September 2021

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

Ushers Jim Christensen

Sept. 5 - 8:30 George Larson & Winnie Zahradke
10:00 Dick Stebbins & Darrell Kelly

Sept. 12 – 8:30 Patti Smith & Winnie Zahradke
10:00 Dick Stebbins & Darrell Kelly

Sept. 19 – 8:30 Don & Donna Myhre
10:00 Barry & Donna Ansell

Sept. 26 – 8:30 Don & Donna Myhre
10:00 Barry & Donna Ansell

Altar Care Dianne Jones

September....Shirley Gosselin and Gina Rosa

October..... Sylvia Tapelt and Dianne Jones

Recycling



Greeters Jim Christensen

Sept 5 - Wayne & Janice Olson

Sept 12 – Del & Dianne Jones

Sept 19 - Wally & Bev Swenson

Sept 26 - Bev Wedig, Winnie Z.



Sept. 3 Laurina & Randy Tofteland

Sept. 4 Barb & Phil Bray

Sept. 4 Joan & Dennis Petersen

Sept. 7 Donna & Barry Ansell

Sept. 8 Kathy & Bob Carlson

Sept. 8 Melody & Steve Lackner

Sept. 13 Sara & Steven Lebens

Sept. 15 JoAnn & Ron Haglund

Sept. 20 Nicole & Ian Dzubay

Sept. 25 Karen & Joseph Timmers

Sept. 26 Darlene & Jim Christensen

Sept. 27 Artie & Ron Heins

Sept. 29 Valerie & Elwin Benton



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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need your help to keep the church running smoothly. We need ushers, greeters, and hospitality volunteers. If you could volunteer for any of these

jobs: please contact Jim Christensen if you can usher or be a greeter. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for hospitality.



September 2021

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Cards-500	2 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 3:30 Bells	3	4 7:30 Last Veggie Stand
5 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion	6 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg Labor Day	7 5:30 Choir practice	8 9:00 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Cards-500	9 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 3:30 Bells	10	11
12 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion	13 9:00 Crafters 9:00 Women's Devotional Bible study 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	14 9:00 Quilters 5:30 Choir practice	15 9:00 Women's Bible Study 10:00 WELCA 1:00 Cards-500	16 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 3:30 Bells	17	18
19 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion	20 10:00 Council mtg 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg Newsline Deadline	21 5:30 Choir practice	22 9:00 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Cards-500	23 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 3:30 Bells	24	25
26 8:30 & 10:00 Worship Communion	27 9:00 Crafters 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	28 9:00 Quilters 5:30 Choir practice	29 9:00 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Cards-500	30 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 3:30 Bells		

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

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Aitkin, MN 56431

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The Lifeline Mission

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