

Bethesda Life-Line



**Bethesda is now Live Streaming
Sunday Worship Services on our
YouTube channel!**

(<https://www.youtube.com/c/BethesdaLutheranChurchMalmomn/videos>), or find the link 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

**February 6 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion**

**February 13 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion**

**February 20 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion**

**February 27 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion**

Upcoming Events

March 2 Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent)

June 20-24, 2022-Vacation Bible school

2021 YEAR END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are available for pick up in the Fellowship Hall along with your 2022 giving envelopes.



February Junk BINGO!

Join us on February 27th, 2-4 pm for some Good JUNK BINGO! Bring an appetizer to share. Purchase BINGO cards for a free will donation.

And talking about Good JUNK! If you have any treasures to donate, please drop off at church. We will have a bin ready to gather the good stuff!!



Five zoom based gatherings to energize and equip you and your congregation to be stewards of the earth for the sake of the whole creation.

God calls us to be stewards of the earth. In a time of urgency, how do we live out this call? Each Thursday in March, presenters from active creation care ministries will share their experiences to help you plant, fertilize, and grow creation care in your context.

Together we will learn how to sow the seeds of care for creation into worship, education, congregational life, building and grounds, and community action. Attend with members of your congregation. Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome to join us!

Creation Care Training is hosted by the Accompaniment Outreach Team of the EcoFaith Network NE MN Synod, ELCA. It is open to people and congregations everywhere, and of any church affiliation.



From the Pastor

Greetings, sisters and brothers in Christ!
Besides the making (and perhaps quickly breaking) of resolutions around the start of a new year, for many there is also the tradition of hanging a new calendar. A traditional perhaps dwindling a bit in

the modern digital age, but even if you are not the sort that keeps their life in order by filling a calendar with hand-written notes, there is the aesthetic appeal of rotating through a beautiful series of images. And, frankly, some of us need all the reminders we can get for important holidays and birthdays that, despite keeping the same date each year, always manage to sneak up on us.

The big holiday this month, of course, is Valentine's Day. A day that people either love or loath, regardless of whether they are partnered or single. Both camps likely have good reasons for their opinion, but perhaps there is something about the nature of holidays themselves that either delight or stress us.

Holidays usually concentrate and focus our attention on a specific topic. Love and romance on Valentine's Day. Presidents on Presidents. Green beer and various Irish stereotypes on St. Patty's Day, etc. Holding up that magnifying glass on that one day a year might highlight something great... or reveal something less admirable.

If you *only* show affection to your partner on Valentine's Day, don't be surprised if they aren't as impressed at your romantic overtures. Similarly, we shouldn't only reflect on what makes for a good leader on President's Day, and why we are grateful for Irish Americans on St. Patrick's Day.

We should take particular care to look beyond the holiday when remembrances focus on groups of people within our country. Last month we had Martin Luther King Jr. Day and this month is Black History Month. Next month is Women's History Month. A month is decent span of time, but, still, our efforts at learning, listening, honoring, and, if necessary, changing, should not be limited to neat and tidy timeframes. It should just become a regular part of who we are.

So, as we move through our calendar this year and as we come upon one holiday after another, take time to reflect how we might honor the occasion for more than just one specific day. How do we share love beyond Valentines, how do we show love for our country beyond July 4th, how do we honor our fathers and mothers and veterans and all our neighbors as part of how we live our lives every day?

And don't forget, there are all those religious holidays too! We may tell certain stories at certain times of year, we may explore specific themes depending on the liturgical season, but we should not just be generous and joyous in December and reflective and repentant in Lent. Even though Ecclesiastes (and the Byrds!) reminds us that "for everything there is a season," you are under no obligation to wait for the official season or holiday to live the life God calls you to live each day. Never forget – God is with us, each and every day on our calendars, now and forever.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor James Muske



Love gauge

In a ship's engine room, it's impossible to look into the great boiler and see how much water remains. But running up beside it is a tiny glass tube that serves as a gauge. As the water stands in the little tube, so it stands in the great boiler. When the tube is half full, the boiler is half full; when the tube is empty, the boiler is empty.

Do you ask, "How do I know I love God? I believe I love him, but I want to know." Look at the gauge: Your love for other people is the measure of your love for God

2021 TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<i>(Envelope Giving)</i>		
Income Actual	\$ 9,763	\$138,589
Budget Actual	\$11,333	\$136,000
<u>All Funds</u>		
Total Income Actual	\$19,157	\$207,637
Total Income Budget	\$12,446	\$149,350
Expenses Actual	\$44,077	\$203,625
Expenses Budget	\$12,502	\$150,027
Over/(Short)	(\$24,920)	\$ 4,012

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo **Minutes of Jan. 17, 2022 Council Meeting**

In attendance: Dennis Hennessy, Judie Birk, Mary Braun, Darlene Christensen, Cheryl Malotky, Pastor James Muske, Dick Stebbins, Joanne Stueven and Sharon Whipple

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 December meeting by Sherry Whipple and seconded by Cheryl Malotky and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for December was presented by Mary Braun. She has not closed out books for year yet but did pay out all benevolence accounts. Motion was made by Sherry Whipple to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Cheryl Malotky and passed.

Pastor's Report –December 20 to January 17, 2022

Here are some highlights from the past month:

Worship planning – switched out the Gospel readings for a John series

Beginning to look at Lent plans – pastors discussing swap, but not decided yet

Movie night went well, except small attendance

New streaming continues to work well, but need to train in additional people.

Have had a couple meetings with our youth after services. Looking forward to building relationships with the new group.

Pastoral care visitations and contacts for the past few weeks include 2 in-person visits and approximately 12 phone calls.

Had the first meeting with our re-formed Mutual Ministry committee. Went well, feel positive about the new group.

Took a couple days of vacation after Christmas.

Old Business

Digital Sign/Posts — Mary has been in contact with Jody and finalizing details on the digital sign. Posts will not go in until Spring. The digital sign will be delivered directly here. Jody will call and will be here when it's delivered. Getting donors to contribute to

the digital sign was significant. See article in the February newsletter. Dick Stebbins brought up that we could possibly get some money from the MLEC Roundup program. He will see if they contribute monies to religious organizations and if so, if we would qualify.

Spiritual Gifts Survey results — Only 13 people replied and pretty much the same people that are doing the work already are the ones that replied.
Worship and Music — It was suggested that when we have fewer people, we will put the Offertory Basket in the back instead of passing out. Pastor will make an announcement if we do this.

Committee Reports

Worship and Music Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 5pm

Members Present: Sheila Penoyer, Jim Christianson, Pastor James, Sherry Whipple, Patti Smith and Julie Swaggert

• **Worship and Live Stream updates**

New system working well and good comments from those watching Live Stream at home or when out of town. Live stream link on Facebook also will have bulletin link. Sunday bulletin is also on web site. Mary and Pastor James develop service presentation for screens. Mary has been trained in on Live Stream process. Jim and a couple others need to be trained as well. Mary has trained Darlene and Jim on running service iPad.

• **Lenten plans**

Ash Wednesday is March 2nd. Bethesda will have a 5:30pm Service that day and for each Wednesday in Lent. Lenten services will be Live Streamed as well. Pastor conferring with area churches and may work together for Pastor exchange for Wednesday night Lenten Services. This is somewhat Covid and live-service dependent. Will utilize Holden Evening Service for Lent at Bethesda. No plans at this time for weekly Lenten suppers.

• **Choir update/plans**

Sheila will continue her choir member recruiting and hopes to start practicing around mid-April when snow birds return. Possible to have small group special choir music for Easter but whole choir singing again in May.

• **Gift Basket Fundraiser**

Sherry, Sheila and others putting together a Valentine gift basket. This will be ready by end of January with drawing towards end of February.

- **Worship/Music Equipment needs**
New reserved signs for pews, Choir music, Music stands, New replacement cords and iPad holder to attach to music stand. Jim, Sheila Pastor looking into purchasing these
- **Pastor Worship Ideas/Thoughts (to be continued at February meeting)**
 1. Having Worship and Music or other congregation members help pick out service music
 2. Special Passion Readings/Service for Palm Sunday. Pastor handed out idea.
 3. Service or part of service to celebrate world cultures (Native American service last fall was well received)
- **February Meeting....towards end of month before Praise Team practice.**

New Business

Welcome to Dick & Darlene — Dennis welcomed new members Dick Stebbins and Darlene Christensen. Thank you for agreeing to serve on the council and it's important to have different individuals serving on the committee. It's very appreciative.

Committee appointments were made as follows:

Mission, Evangelism, Youth and Family

Council Rep: Judie Birk
Chairperson: Joanne Stueven

Faith, Health and Wellness

Council Rep: Cheryl Malotky
Chairperson: Darlene Christensen

Property

Council Rep: Dick Stebbins
Chairperson: Darrell Kelly

Stewardship and Finance

Council Rep: Mary Braun
Chairperson: Barb Forrester/Donna Ansell

Worship and Music

Council Rep: Sherry Whipple
Chairperson: Julie Swaggert

Personnel

Council Rep : Darlene Christensen
Chairperson: Julie Swaggert

Strategic Planning

Council Rep & Chairperson: Dennis Hennessy

WELCA

President: Susan Samuelson

Snow Days assignments — Judie will coordinate with food and snowshoes.

End of Life Series starting Wednesday, Jan. 19 — First of this series.

Grief Share Series will go on until February 8th.
Strategic Planning — are we on the right path for our church's vision? Some initiatives we've done like the End of Life Series and fun outings like Snow Days are good. We are a retirement church and we need the congregation to get out and greet people and invite them. Next month we will look, as a council, about Strategic Planning ideas. What is the big pictures of the church, what's working, what needs to be improved, use our resources efficiently?

A new ad for the Central Area Minnesota 'The Guide' advertising our church will be submitted.

Officers: No vice-president. Next council meeting we will be electing both a president and VP.

Mask Wearing — Our current recommendation is that we encourage people to wear a mask if they are not v. Right now we are not mandating it. Pastor suggested that him and Darlene talk about mask wearing at one of the upcoming Sunday services.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mary Braun and seconded by Cheryl Malotky, and passed.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting will be Feb. 21 at 10 am.
Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.

Thank yous

Thank you again! I would like to thank you all for the prayers and get well wishes. I came through with flying colors, and it's all because of my great prayers team. I am truly blessed. Shirley Gosselin.



Many thanks to my Bethesda family for all the cards, phone calls, visits, meals and other goodies I have received during my recuperating from knee surgery. I am so blessed to be part of this church family. Thank you, dear friends. Elsa Carlson



PRAYER SHAWLS We are in need of more Prayer Shawls to be knitted or crocheted. There are kits with yarn and instructions available in the nurse's office or from Darlene.

New Digital Sign



I hope this finds you and your family in good health and happy the Holidays are behind us. It is not uncommon that the Holidays are a trying time for an assortment of reasons,

but I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday season.

At the Annual Meeting the congregation agreed to purchase a new digital sign to replace our existing sign. I wanted to provide an update to you on our progress and status.

We have placed the order for the new digital, colored sign that will be 41" high by 91" wide. It can be remotely programmed from inside the church and be mounted on steel posts for a cost of about \$27,360.

We are anticipating that the posts will be installed this Spring and the sign will arrive about the same time. The financing of the sign is being met with donations from the congregation. While we do have several members that have committed to large contributions, we hope that others in the congregation also contribute to this endeavor. There are several members that are making monthly contributions and it would be wonderful to see more members make either a onetime contribution or make regular contributions. Please designate any contribution to the sign so that we can set it aside for that purpose.

The addition of the sign will be a great help to letting the congregation and the community know of the different activities that we will be putting on in the future. Thank you for your support.

God Bless,
Dennis Hennessy, Council President



PREPARING FOR THE END OF LIFE SERIES

Join us on Wednesday, Feb. 16, 11 am, for our second free seminar at Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo. Retired Funeral Director, Jerry Thompson from Sorenson-Root-Thompson in Aitkin will speak on funeral planning including Celebration of Life planning and obituary considerations. Session is about 40 minutes long with questions following. Bring your own bag lunch. Our address is 21590 State Hwy. 47, Isle, MN 56342.

Upcoming topics and session are:
March 16 (11 am) — Care Concerns
April 20 (11 am) — Health Care Directives
Email Bethesda Lutheran Church at blcmalmo@gmail.com if you are interested in attending virtually as we will live stream these sessions. The live stream You Tube address is: www.youtube.com/c/BethesdaLutheranChurchMalmomn. If you have any questions, call the church office at 320-684-2123.

Real-life sacrifice

"I love to help the people who need it most. ... Seeing people who are needy motivates me to help." Amazingly, these aren't the words of a wealthy or comfortable person but of a teenager who, herself, is among the world's poorest. Her family lives in a Chilean slum and is assisted by a Christian human-services agency.

When fire broke out near the 16-year-old's home, leaving 220 already-destitute families homeless, the girl and her mother donated their own blankets, towels and other supplies to people who'd lost the little they had. Her mother even gave away clothes she'd planned to sell for much-needed household income.



I was humbled to read of this girl and her mom. So often I "have contributed out of [my] abundance"; but this pair, "out of [their] poverty ... put in ... all [they] had to live on" (Mark 12:44, NRSV).

Activities & Events

February 2022

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

Ushers Jim Christensen

- Feb 6: Chuck & Elsa Carlson
- Feb 13: Dick Stebbins & Darrell Kelly
- Feb 20: Barry & Donna Ansell
- Feb 27: Dick Stebbins & Darrell Kelly



- Feb. 14 Cindy & Dan Persson
- Feb. 22 Judie & Jim Birk

Altar Care Dianne Jones

- February, Linda and Karen
- March, Winnie and Sylvia
- April, Elsa and Dianne



Recycling

Greeters Jim Christensen



- Feb 6: Julie Swaggert & Dennis Hennessy
- Feb 13: Bev & Wally Swenson
- Feb 20: Praise Choir Members
- Feb 27: Janice & Wayne Olson

- Feb. 1 Elizabeth Lagerstrom
- Feb. 2 Karen Carron
- Feb. 2 Lance Elliott
- Feb. 2 Eric Lagerstrom
- Feb. 2 Aleshia 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 Josephine Fischer
- Feb. 13 Marge Garbo
- Feb. 15 Walter Nelson
- Feb. 22 Joyce Dressely
- Feb. 23 Judith Wuorio
- Feb. 24 Lisa Stay
- Feb. 25 Jan Aho
- Feb. 27 Jim Christensen
- Feb. 27 Raymond Dooley
- Feb. 27 Demetries Mickelson

USHERS & GREETERS NEEDED We need ushers and greeters. If you can volunteer for one of these positions, *please* contact Jim Christensen at 320 279-0692 or jimdarl@hotmail.com

ISLE COMMUNITY LENTEN CANTATA You are invited to join Isle Community Lenten Choir and participate in an enriching musical and spiritual experience. First Rehearsal Feb. 27th at Faith Lutheran Church in Isle. Registration begins at 2:15pm, rehearsals 2:30-4:00pm Sundays in Lent. Performance on Good Friday, April 15, 2022, at 7:30pm. See poster in Narthex for more information.



February 2022

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:00 Women's Bible Study	3 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s *	4	5
6 9:00 Worship Communion	7 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	8 9:00 Quilters	9 9:00 Women's Bible Study	10 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s*	11	12
13 9:00 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 9:00 Preparing for End of Life -Funeral Planning	17 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s*	18	19
20 9:00 Worship Communion Newsline Deadline	21 10:00 Council mtg 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	22 9:00 Quilters	23	24 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s*	25	26
27 9:00 Worship Communion 2-4 pm Junk Bingo!	28 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg			* R.o.m.e.o.s to be determined week to week. Call the office to confirm.		

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmö
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**
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Bethesda Telephone Directory

Church	brcmalmo@gmail.com	(320) 684-2123
Fax		(320)-684-2836
Toll Free		(877) 684-2123
Church Web site		brcmalmo.org
Facebook page		Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmö
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: bllnews@juno.com

All articles due on or before the 20th of the month