

Bethesda Life-Line

january
2022



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

(<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

**January 2 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion**

**January 9 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion**

**January 16 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion**

**January 23 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion**

**January 30 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion**

Upcoming Events

Jan. -1 Happy New Year 2022!

March 2 Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent)

June 20-24, 2022-Vacation Bible school



Christmas Take Down

Volunteers are needed to help with taking down the holiday decoration that adorn our beautiful church. Please join us on Wednesday, January 5 at 9:30 am. Your help is appreciated.

Movie and Game Day

We are planning some Sunday afternoon winter activities. Get out of the house and come join the activities. On January 9 there will be a movie with pizza 2:00- 5:00. On January 23 there will be indoor games with an opportunity for outdoor snow fun (weather permitting). Snacks and treats as part of the fun again 2:00-5:00. Look for details in the Sunday bulletin.

The Epiphany Story

Epiphany is celebrated annually in Christian churches on January 6. The word “epiphany” comes from a Greek word meaning “manifestation” or “showing forth.” Its focus is on the legendary arrival of the Magi (three wise men) after the birth of Christ. They followed the light of a star to find the Light of the World.

The wise men were not Jews but Gentiles, which shows that Christ came not only for Jews but for all other people on Earth. Thus, all of us who are Gentile Christians are in the lineage of the Magi, the first Gentiles who came to Christ.

New Year’s Resolution

Do you have or need a New Year’s Resolution? How about you attend a Bible Study? Your spiritual life is important – especially in this day and age. We learn and share our thoughts and beliefs we grow in the journey.



From the Pastor

Happy New Year, fellow sisters and brothers in Christ!

Preparing for the Christmastime sermons last month, I stumbled across Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final Christmas sermon

from 1967, four months before his assassination. I have edited it down a bit for space, so I would encourage you to seek out a full recording – simply search youtube.com for “Martin Luther King, Jr., Christmas Sermon”. King’s words remain as powerful (and as needed) as they were 60 years ago. As this New Year begins, may we all seek, over whatever it is that divides us, to be drawn closer together and not farther apart.

Blessings to you all! Pastor James Muske

“Peace on Earth...

This Christmas season finds us a rather bewildered human race. We have neither peace within nor peace without. Everywhere paralyzing fears harrow people by day and haunt them by night. Our world is sick with war; everywhere we turn we see its ominous possibilities. And yet, my friends, the Christmas hope for peace and goodwill toward all men can no longer be dismissed as a kind of pious dream of some utopian. If we don't have goodwill toward men in this world, we will destroy ourselves by the misuse of our own instruments and our own power... And so, if we assume that life is worth living, if we assume that mankind has a right to survive, then we must find an alternative to war — and so let us this morning think anew on the meaning of that Christmas hope: “Peace on Earth, Good Will toward Men.”...

Now let me suggest first that if we are to have peace on earth, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective. No individual can live alone, and as long as we try, the more we are going to have war in this world. Now the judgment of God is upon us, and we must either learn to live together as brothers or we are all going to perish together as fools...

It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated.

We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. We are made to live together because of the interrelated structure of reality... We aren't going to have peace on earth until we recognize this basic fact...

There are three words for “love” in the Greek New Testament; one is the word *eros*. *Eros* is a sort of esthetic, romantic love... Then the Greek language talks about *philos*, which is another word for love, and *philos* is a kind of intimate love between personal friends... Then the Greek language has another word for love, and that is the word *agape*. *Agape* is more than romantic love, it is more than friendship. *Agape* is understanding, creative, redemptive good will toward all men. *Agape* is an overflowing love which seeks nothing in return. Theologians would say that it is the love of God operating in the human heart. When you rise to love on this level, you love all men not because you like them, not because their ways appeal to you, but you love them because God loves them. This is what Jesus meant when he said, “Love your enemies.” And I'm happy that he didn't say, “Like your enemies,” because there are some people that I find it pretty difficult to like.

Liking is an affectionate emotion, and I can't like anybody who would bomb my home. I can't like anybody who would exploit me. I can't like anybody who would trample over me with injustices. I can't like them. I can't like anybody who threatens to kill me day in and day out. But Jesus reminds us that love is greater than liking. Love is understanding, creative, redemptive goodwill toward all men. And I think this is where we are, as a people, in our struggle for racial justice. We can't ever give up. We must work passionately and unrelentingly for first-class citizenship. We must never let up in our determination to remove every vestige of segregation and discrimination from our nation, but we shall not in the process relinquish our privilege to love.

I've seen too much hate to want to hate, myself, and I've seen hate on the faces of too many sheriffs, too many white citizens' councilors, and too many Klansmen of the South to want to hate, myself; and every time I see it, I say to myself, hate is too great a burden to bear. Somehow we must be able to stand

up before our most bitter opponents and say:

“We shall match your capacity to inflict suffering by our capacity to endure suffering. We will meet your physical force with soul force. Do to us what you will and we will still love you. We cannot in all good conscience obey your unjust laws and abide by the unjust system, because noncooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good, and so throw us in jail and we will still love you. Bomb our homes and threaten our children, and, as difficult as it is, we will still love you...”

If there is to be peace on earth and goodwill toward men, we must finally believe in the ultimate morality of the universe and believe that all reality hinges on moral foundations. Something must remind us of this as we once again stand in the Christmas season and think of the Easter season simultaneously, for the two somehow go together. Christ came to show us the way. Men love darkness rather than the light, and they crucified Him, and there on Good Friday on the Cross it was still dark, but then Easter came, and Easter is an eternal reminder of the fact that the truth-crushed earth will rise again...

I still have a dream that with this faith we will be able to adjourn the councils of despair and bring new light into the dark chambers of pessimism. With this faith we will be able to speed up the day when there will be peace on earth and goodwill toward men. It will be a glorious day, the morning stars will sing together, and the sons of God will shout for joy.”

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
December 24, 1967
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

2021 TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>General Fund</u> (Envelope Giving)	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income Actual	\$ 9,815	\$128,826
Budget Actual	\$11,333	\$124,667
<u>All Funds</u>		
Total Income Actual	\$16,978	\$188,451
Total Income Budget	\$12,446	\$136,904
Expenses Actual	\$13,959	\$159,519
Expenses Budget	\$12,502	\$137,525
Over/(Short)	\$ 3,019	\$ 28,932

December 15, 2021 WELCA Meeting

Chairwoman, Sue Samuelson, opened the meeting with 16 members present. Pat Becker gave devotions. The Purpose & Mission statements were read. The secretary’s report stood approved as written in the Dec. newsletter. Sue gave the treasurer’s report with a balance on hand of \$16,667.22. Motion by Jeannine, second by Lynn to accept the report. Motion carried.

Old business:

A thank you was given for bazaar work. It truly was a successful event.

New business:

Motion by Pat B. to pay the full \$940 for the playground equipment & painting. Second by Sue Stebbins, motion passed.

Motion by Barb F, second by Carolynn Morris to give \$679 left from the corn feed proceeds for In-kind use for the Summer Gathering June 6-8, 2022.

We will decide when kitchen cleaning will take place at the April WELCA mtg. WELCA will continue to charge for funeral food ordered. Any other food expenses will be discussed later.

North Eastern Lights will no longer be mailed to churches. An electronic pdf will be sent. It will be put on our website & Mary will print issues as needed.

Pat B made a motion to keep \$2,000 in our WELCA treasury. Seconded by Darlene. Motion passed.

After a considerable discussion of disbursement of the 2021 bazaar proceeds, Pat made a motion to spend \$12,500 to give to agencies (listed below.) Second by Sue Stebbins. Motion passed.

Darlene motioned to adjourn the mtg. Second by Sue Stebbins. Motion passed. The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Disbursements of 2021 bazaar proceeds	
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 500
Aitkin Food Shelf	500
Garrison Food Shelf	500
Isle Food Shelf	500
Elementary School needs – Isle	700
Elementary School needs – Aitkin	300
Aitkin County Care	500
Teen Challenge	500

Dara – palliative care- Mozambique	500
Russian Ingrian Church	500
Freedom Ranch	500
Hope Lodge	500
Pearl Crisis Center	500
Zambia Village of Hope	500
Together Here	500
HOPE of Aitkin	500
Lutheran Social Services	1,000
Hearts of MLHS	200
Lutheran Disaster Relief	2,000
Circle of Welcome	500
Mid MN Women’s Shelter	300
WISE	500
Total	\$12,500

New Year’s Resolution

Do you have or need a New Year’s Resolution? How about you attend a Bible Study? Your spiritual life is important – especially in this day and age. We learn and share our thoughts and beliefs we grow in the journey.

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo Annual Meeting Minutes December 5, 2021

Council Members in Attendance: Mary Braun, Karen Carron, Cheryl Malotky, Joanne Stueven, Ron Haglund,, Sherry Whipple and Dennis Hennessy (via phone).

Attendee were around 37 people. With a quorum confirmed, President Dennis Hennessy (via phone) called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

Pastor James Muske shared an opening prayer.

Secretary’s Report:

There were no corrections. Lee Forrester made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2021 Annual Meeting. Dick Stebbins seconded the motion and it passed.

Written Reports: Dennis thanked all who had submitted reports. A motion to approve the committee reports was made by Cheryl Malotky and seconded by Lee Forrester and approved. These are good summaries of the excellent work and ministries performed within our church.

Election:

Council Members

Three Year Terms

Darlene Christensen

Dick Stebbins

Cheryl Malotky agreed to stay on one more year

Karen Carron made a motion to accept these candidates as council members. Dorothy Munding seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Nominating Committee

1. Julie Swaggert

2. Lee Forrester

Synod Convention Delegates:

1. Patti Smith

2. Julie Swaggert

Darlene Christensen made a motion to accept the Synod delegates. Mary Braun seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Sue Stebbins made a motion to accept the Nominating Committee. Cheryl Malotky seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Mary Braun thanked everyone for his or her generosity and continued support. She explained the financial comparison and because of the change in the fiscal year that we hadn’t taken out the benevolence payments yet.

Year/Year Financial Activity Comparison:

General Envelope & Plate Offerings

	2020	2021
	\$136,521	\$128,826
Total Income	\$202,090	\$188,324
Total Expenses	\$205,314	\$159,888
NET	(-\$3,224)	\$28,737*

* *Benevolence yet to be paid out*

Major Projects Completed and Paid for in 2021:

\$1775 -Entry Door Replacements (3)
 \$2025 –Live Stream Equip Down payment (Balance: \$550-paid in December)
 \$ 940 –Playground Repair

Year-End Cash & Investments

Checking	\$119,207
Savings	6,051
Edward Jones	50,938

Total Year-end Cash & Investments \$176,196
 (as of 11/30/21)

Year End Designated Funds (Reserved)	
Facility Accrual	\$9,692
Worship & Music Accrual	\$713
Office Equipment Accrual	\$161
Continuing Ed (Sabbatical) Accrual	\$11,806
Christmas Care Accrual (Secret Santa)	\$341
Operation Christmas Child	\$149
Veggie Stand Accrual (Start Up Funds)	\$112
Emergency Benevolence Funds Accrual	\$2,862
Centennial Reserve	\$4,302
Tax Withholdings Payable	\$14,392
Memorials Accrual	
Restricted	\$3,137
Unrestricted	\$546
Total Designated Funds Nov. 30, 2021	\$48,213

Operating Cash Balance	
Total Year End Cash and Investments	
as of Nov. 30, 2021	\$176,196
Total Designated (Reserved) Funds	
as of Nov. 30, 2021	(\$48,213)
Benevolence to be paid out for 2021	
(thru Nov. 30, 2021)	(\$14,482)
YEAR END CASH & INVESTMENTS NET OF	
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$113,501

Proposed Budget

Total Income	(Thru Nov.)		
	2020	2021	2022
	Actual	Actual	Budget
	\$202,090	\$189,101	\$149,450
Total Expenses			
	\$205,314	\$160,595	\$151,681
Net	(\$3,224)	\$29,306*	(\$2,231)

*Benevolence yet to be paid out

Money for the new advent holder will be purchased using monies from the Centennial fund. Donna Ansell made a motion to accept the proposed budget, Dick Stebbins seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Old business

Benevolences Summary

- Global & Non-Local Total: \$4,828
–Recipients: Dara Mozambique, Village of Hope Zambia, Feed My Starving Children, Lutheran Partners in Global Missions, Ingrian Church Russia
- Brainerd Lakes Local Total: \$6,218

–Recipients: Aitkin Co Human Services, BLCM Emergency Fund, Christmas Joy, Camp Onomia, Pearl Crisis Center

- Local Food Shelves Totals: \$4,520
- ELCA Synod Total: \$8,197
- World Hunger: \$1,444
- Dedicated Other Benevolence Total: \$4,643

–Recipients: Dara Mozambique, Lutheran World Relief, Ingrian Church, Isle Paw Pantry, Pearl Crisis Center, Villages of Hope, Multi-Media Expansion, Christmas Joy

Facility Updates

- Recycle Program has continued
- Three new furnaces purchased

New Business:

2022 Benevolence Recipients:

Global & Non-Local:

Dara Mozambique, Village of Hope Zambia, Feed My Starving Children, Lutheran Partners in Global Missions, Ingrian Church Russia

Brainerd Lakes Local:

Aitkin Co Human Services, BLCM Emergency Fund, Christmas Joy, Camp Onomia, HOPE Women's Shelter in Aitkin

(There is a basket in the Narthex for suggestions for additional Benevolence Recipients. If you know of a worthy local or global cause, let us know your suggestions.)

Multi-Media Updates

- Live streaming now active
- Digital signage was discussed and voted on. Cost estimates is between \$15,000 and \$17,000. Currently \$3,000 has been designated towards the digital sign. The sign can be managed inside and will be placed outdoors where present sign is. Cost to run is about the same as one or two light bulbs. It would be installed by Jodi Steward who has worked with us before. Messages can be added easily.

Dean Malotky: *“Because our church is set back it's not that visible from Hwy. 47. A digital lighted sign would be more seen. Cheryl and Dean would contribute \$2,000 towards the sign.”*

Don and Donna Myhre were thanked for their years of putting messages on the present sign. Don said they would also contribute \$2,000 towards the sign.

Patti Smith suggested we look at ordering sooner than later as prices are set to go up and items may be harder to get. Also suggested we raise a certain amount of money. Julie Swaggert said she would contact Jodi on delivery and price guarantee or at least see how long the quote is good for.

Concern about what we would do with the old sign. Suggestion was to see if Jodi could use it. A vote was taken and was unanimously voted (30 yes 7 no) to go ahead with a digital sign.

Centennial Stained Glass Art

Discussion on a permanent home for the Centennial Stained Glass art was discussed. The recent survey was to not hang it. A suggestion of hanging it on a wall with backlighting will be looked into.

Any leftover over money after that, will go towards the digital sign.

Strategic Planning

Pastor James says we need to talk about the future and where we as a church feel called. We need volunteers for long-range planning. The recent survey for the Education/Fellowship Activities was helpful, but we need volunteers.

Solar Panels

Lee Forrester talked about our church putting in solar panels as we look to the future. There are many options to look at and wants to form a committee. Dick Stebbins volunteered to be on this committee

RMD Donations

A reminder that the RMD donations will help reduce your taxable income.

Dennis Hennessy thanked all the committee, bible study groups, veggie stand, memorial garden volunteers, mowers and everything else done by volunteers here at Bethesda. He also thanked the work of council members leaving this year. And the continued work of the present and new council members. Dennis said we need to keep moving forward as a church and to talk to neighbor on how great Bethesda Lutheran is. So spread the word!

Dick Stebbins made a motion to adjourn and Cheryl Malotky seconded the motion and it carried. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk,
Council Secretary

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo Minutes of Dec. 20, 2021 Council Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order by council president Dennis Hennessy

Dennis Hennessy gave opening Devotions.

Secretary's Report:

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the November meeting by Ron Haglund and seconded by Sherry Whipple and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for November was presented by Mary Braun. She reported we were the same as when we had the Annual Meeting a few weeks ago. Motion was made by Ron Haglund to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Cheryl Malotky and passed. Mary noted that her and Joanne Stueven distributed the money for the local Sharing/Caring program. Seven families received \$300 each.

Pastor's Report (Nov. 15-Dec. 20, 2021)

Here are some highlights from the past few weeks: Lots of planning for all the Advent/Christmas services.

Including leading a Blue Christmas service for the first time in several years

New streaming device seems to be working well. Takes a little setup before service, but not complicated.

Adult Education team met again and has had very fruitful conversations.

Planning to start up Movie and Game afternoons again (alternating), starting in January

New books for our Bible studies seem to be well received.

Continue to meet with Together Here Ministries and have also started attending planning meetings for our Synod's next Eco Faith Summit.

Had a first meeting with confirmation students and parents, planning to start some conversations after Sunday church service in January

Pastoral care visitations and contacts for the past few weeks include 3 in-person visits and approximately 10 phone calls.

Old Business

Live Streaming Update: It is going very well and people love it. They like that they can worship in same time. Let Pastor or Mary know if you need help in setting up your computer/tablet to watch 'live streaming' at home.

Spiritual Gifts Survey Results are coming in slow. Please fill out and submit your survey.

Committee Reports — See Mission and Evangelism's report below.

New Business

Digital Sign/Post: A down payment has been made on the Post for the sign. There will be some prep work to the steel mounting posts to allow for the mounting of the sign and Jody Steward will speak to Gary to get an idea of what we need to coordinate. As for the digital sign, we were informed that price increases will happen in January. Council discussed options and as the quotes for two options are more money than what was already discussed at the Annual Meeting. FYI the Digital Sign was voted on and approved to purchase at the Annual Meeting (at approximately \$20,000)

Some discussion items: Previous quotes were Red Monochrome 41"H x 91"W at \$17,230; 28"H x 91"W at \$15,150 the new quotes are for full color displays. Estimate #4116 is for a 28"H x 91"W full color double sided 10mm sign (\$22,961). Estimate #4117 is for a 41"H x 91"W full color double sided 10mm sign (\$27,358.81). The 10mm is the spacing between the LED's and will be at a higher definition. There are 6mm, 10mm and 16mm so its in the middle of the road. All quotes include installation. The manufacturer says that it will be around 12 weeks to get the sign and there will be a price increase around the first of the year. These signs are built in the USA not China.

After much discussion on what size ... 28x91 or 41x91, red monochrome or full color, visibility (larger, better to see as people drive by at 55 mph), using to advertise worship, activities, educational announcements, a motion was made.

Cheryl Malotky made a motion that we purchase the larger size (41x91) sign and council will check with contributors and see how much money we can raise to determine if we go with the red monochrome or the full color screen before placing our order. Mary Braun seconded the motion and it passed.

Communion Servers — Jim Christensen mentioned to Mary Braun about council members helping to serve communion. It was discussed and decided that if servers are needed and no one has volunteered, that a council member should fill in.

Committee Reports:

Mission & Evangelism —Members present: Pastor James, Joanne Stueven, Judie Birk Guests: Pat Becker ,Julie Swaggert, Darlene Christensen, Mary Vukelich

The group met to discuss how we would move forward on a Brainstorming session held November 3 , 2021. The group decided to create a series on the end-of-life issues such as estate planning, funeral arrangements, health directives, and hospice programs. We also discussed the possibility of having a class on First Aid for Mental Health. On the lighter side of activities, we will continue to have Sunday afternoon outdoor snow activities, indoor games and or cooking, and movies.

Our tentative plans suggest that the End-of-Life series of presentations would be held mid-day on the 3 rd Wednesday of each month starting in January. Details will be available when we confirm the presenters.

Joanne Stueven will contact a lawyer on estate planning
Pastor James will contact Sornson Root for funeral information. Mary Vukelich will check on health care directive presenters. Darlene Christensen will look into hospice programs.

Mary Vukelich has volunteered to teach a First Aid for Mental Health in two 4-hour sessions March 8 and 15, 2022. She will need a minimum of 5 people, with no more than 20, to teach the class. There may be fee for the materials, but we are looking into grants or scholarships in order to make it available to everyone. The plan is for mid-day 10 am-2:30 pm.(bring a bag lunch)

Additional meetings and information on these programs maybe be online as some snowbirds are not available for in person meetings.

Submitted by Joanne Stueven

Education/Fellowship Activities

Henry Brucker, Attorney at Law, agreed to present a session on Estate Planning on January 19, 2022, at 11

am. The topics that are of interest to the group: The difference between a will and trust
Suggestions and or restrictions when gifting or giving property or investments to children. (Might be covered in will or trust information)
Power of Attorney. This will be open to the community. More information to come.

Fun Activity

We are planning some Sunday afternoon winter activities. On January 9 there will be a movie with pizza from 2-5 pm. On January 23, there will be indoor games with an opportunity for snowshoeing (weather permitting). Snacks and treats as part of the fun again 2-5 pm. look for details in the Sunday bulletins.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mary Braun and seconded by Sherry Whipple and passed. The council closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next council meeting will be January 17th at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.

Thank you's

I just wanted to say Thank you to everyone that came to the Cantata or watched it online. I was so happy to see so many people at the church service, and how the Cantata came together, it was so great to hear all of the nice compliments, on how nice it was! Always good to hear that all of the hard work was successful!!



The choir will be taking a break now, and we will start back up at Easter time. If anyone knows of someone who would like to come and do any special music over the winter, just get in contact with Jim Christensen or Pastor James. We are always happy to have special music in the Winter services. I will let you know when the choir is going to start again and hope that all members will be back for next year's choir season, and hopefully there will be some new faces also Thanks again for a great season and I hope all have a happy and safe winter!!
Sheila Penoyer/Choir Director

Thank you Bethesda Choir for the great Cantata! It was enjoyed by all, especially liked the Mary and Joseph! Enjoy your time off this winter!

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.



Preparing for the End of Life Series

Whether you are 30 years old or 70 years old, preparing for the end of life is one of the greatest gifts you can give your family.

Join us on Wednesday, January 19 at 11:00 AM for the first session in the series. Attorney Henry Brucker will discuss the differences between a will and a trust along with the importance of a power of attorney. He may also have suggestions about gifting inheritance to children.

Future sessions are 11:00 AM on Feb. 16, March 16, and April 20, 2022. Future topics include funeral planning, health care directives, and care considerations as you approach the end.

Email Mary V at mmvuke@yahoo.com if you are interested in attending virtually and we will consider that option also.

At this point, we are thinking to bring your own bag lunch may be an option if you want to stay and visit after the presentation. Check church bulletin for details as dates get closer.



UPDATE from Benedict

How do people manage without God?

Kathleen and I know that we could not. He is totally Faithful, and we totally need Him. This year, 2021, demonstrated our need to rely on our Father and Creator.

GOD'S PROVISION:

Wells going dry: Our farming and irrigation threatened, then God provided a 21,000 gallon per hour well.

No Day-Old Chicks available to buy: We started hatching our own chickens. We now have over 800 Kuroiler chicks, hens, and roosters!

Rains are a month late already: After lack of rain for 8 out of the last nine years, we have managed by His Grace and are now trusting for this rainy season which is very late in

arriving!

Cost of animal feed for our chickens, cows, and pigs almost doubled: We started producing our own feed and now have a successful feed production program.



Pig production for food and income generation: We sold 50 pigs this year to the butcher shop, 96 still growing and producing more.

EDUCATION:

Covid 19: Challenged with safely providing quality education for hundreds of children while maintaining our standards and standing.

Sixth Graduation from School of Hope: Over 250 students have now graduated from the School of Hope since 2016.

College Dorms: We completed accommodations for 24 additional Hope College students.

Student Teacher Placements: Students due to graduate from our Hope College of Education in 2022 began their teaching field placements this year, gaining practical classroom experience in many settings.



School of Hope growing onions commercially: Our School Production Unit has grown tons of onions to sell and to help offset school expenses.

RAISING CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

Walking With Wounded Children: We conducted training for staff on how to be sensitive to and help to heal the trauma our children have lived through.

BUSINESSES:

Renovation of the old tailoring area into a bakery: After a year of waiting for delivery, we finally received and installed the Hope Bakery equipment. Training is going on. Full operations will begin in 2022.



FINANCES:

Doing much with less: The value of the US Dollar has dropped 40% in Zambia! At the same time, inflation brought price increases of 24.8%; a Net 64.8% decrease in our buying power. This will be a big challenge in 2022.

But, in spite of many trials and tribulations we have so, so much to give thanks and praise for. Thanks for your help, your prayers, and your investment in our Zambian kids. We are grateful, as we all look forward to 2022 and whatever comes.

*We know not what tomorrow holds,
but we know Who holds tomorrow.*

We thank God that we are here in Zambia, by His grace and with your help.

Please help us to continue this work of God in Zambia for many years to come. Your partnership is essential and appreciated.

Blessings,
Benedict & Kathleen for the Village of Hope Team

All Kids Can Learn International
224 N. Washington St., Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Visit the website to donate:

<https://www.akclivillageofhope.com/>

Or to shop the many wonderful handmade gifts to purchase: <https://villageofhopeshop.com/>

A Vow for the New Year

Making plans for your life in the New Year? Could it be that God already has a plan for you and is patiently waiting for you to make that plan a reality?

When one considers how everything seems to have a purpose in nature (atoms, genes, plants, animals, etc.), it makes sense to believe that each of us has a purpose as well. On the other hand, if all of creation seems to have just happened without any reason, then this means our minds and spirits must have no reason or purpose as well. How can we trust them?

But believers trust that there is a great Intelligence that brought everything into existence.

There is a Mind and a Heart at the center of all creation. If that's the case, then life can only make sense when we seek what the Creator has in mind for us.

Jesus, who knew the Mind and Heart of God better than anyone who ever lived on Earth, once said to the erring Peter: "You are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things" (Mark 8:33, NRSV).

Setting our minds on human things can get us into trouble. That's why it often seems we live in a crazy mixed-up world. How can life ever be fulfilling, without the purpose God has for that life?

To set one's mind on divine things leads us to consider the one vow we should take seriously for the New Year. Your will, Lord. Your will and nothing else.



Activities & Events

January 2022

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

Ushers Jim Christensen

Jan. 2 Vukelichs
Jan. 9 Barry & Donna Ansell
Jan. 16 Dick Stebbins & Darrell Kelly
Jan. 23 Winnie Zahradka & Nancy Hansen
Jan. 30 Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Altar Care Dianne Jones
January, Elsa and Sylvia
February, Linda and Karen
March, Winnie and Sylvia
April, Elsa and Dianne

Recycling



Greeters Jim Christensen

Jan. 2 Ron & JoAnn Haglund
Jan. 9 Pat Becker & Carolyn Morris
Jan. 16 Don & Donna Myhre
Jan. 23 Shirley Moe & Susan Samuelson
Jan. 30 Julie Swaggert & Patti Smith

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

FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING at Bethesda - like us on Facebook, view live streaming worship services on Sunday mornings on our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/c/bethesdalutheran churchmalmomn, or visit our website at: www.blcmalmo.org



Jan. 16 Elsa & Chuck Carlson
Jan. 25 Ruth & Ted Jaszczak



Jan.	1	Dennis Bistodeau
Jan.	1	Hunter Westerlund
Jan.	3	Ardis Kendall
Jan.	8	Patricia Kullberg
Jan.	8	Wallace Swenson
Jan.	9	Alanna Tibbetts
Jan.	11	Savannah Elliott
Jan.	12	Joan Halvorson
Jan.	14	Michael Lofgren
Jan.	15	Mason Modrow
Jan.	16	Gloria Christensen
Jan.	18	Darlene Christensen
Jan.	19	Carol Bakken
Jan.	19	Shirley Moe
Jan.	20	Audrey Bistodeau
Jan.	21	Keith Kellen
Jan.	23	Will Petersen
Jan.	24	Patti Honnold
Jan.	24	Dave Stueven
Jan.	26	Bruce Gingerich
Jan.	26	Joanne Stueven
Jan.	27	Samantha Rae Lebens
Jan.	28	Delano Jones
Jan.	28	Kristine Kral
Jan.	28	Kristin Penoyer
Jan.	28	Richard Seifert
Jan.	29	Larry Liljenquist
Jan.	29	Janet Tousignant
Jan.	29	Winnie Zahradka
Jan.	31	Katherine Larson

SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY Results are coming in slow. Please fill out and submit your survey. Additional survey forms are available in the office.



January 2022

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						<i>1 Happy New Year</i>
2 <i>9:00 Worship Communion</i>	3 <i>11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</i>	4 <i>4-6:00 Grief Support Group</i>	5 <i>9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:30 Tree take down</i>	6 <i>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 1:00 Cards & Game Time</i>	7	8
9 <i>9:00 Worship Communion 2-5:00 Movie & Pizza</i>	10 <i>9:00 Women's Devotional Bible study 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA &</i>	11 <i>9:00 Quilters 4-6:00 Grief Support Group</i>	12 <i>9:00 Women's Bible Study</i>	13 <i>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 1:00 Cards & Game Time</i>	14	15
16 <i>9:00 Worship Communion</i>	17 <i>10:00 Council mtg 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</i>	18 <i>4-6:00 Grief Support Group</i>	19 <i>9:00 Women's Bible Study 9-4:00 WIC 11:00 Estate Planning</i>	20 <i>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 1:00 Cards & Game Time Newline Deadline</i>	21	22
23 <i>9:00 Worship Communion & Baptism</i>	24 <i>11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</i>	25 <i>9:00 Quilters 4-6:00 Grief Support Group</i>	26 <i>9:00 Women's Bible Study</i>	27 <i>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 1:00 Cards & Game Time</i>	28	29
30 <i>9:00 Worship Communion</i>	31 <i>11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</i>					

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
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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
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Toll Free		(877) 684-2123
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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