

# Bethesda Life-Line

Worship Services\*

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



(<https://www.youtube.com/BethesdaLutheranChurchMalmoMN/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

March 2 Ash Wednesday 5:30pm Service

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

March 9 5:30pm Wed Lent Service

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

March 16 5:30pm Wed Lent Service

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

March 23 5:30pm Wed Lent Service

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

March 30 5:30pm Wed Lent Service

## Upcoming Events

**March 2 Ash Wednesday** (the first day of Lent)

**March 13 Daylight Savings Time starts**

**April 17 Easter**

**June 20-24, 2022-Vacation Bible school**



## Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the Lenten Season, begins on March 2. We will invite everyone worship will be held at 5:30pm. This is an opportune time to practice those Christian disciplines like prayer, Bible Study, meditation and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Please join us!

## March Madness FUN

Come join us for a movie afternoon at Bethesda's theater! Save Sunday, March 13th, 2-4 pm to watch the Disney movie; "Encanto". We will supply Popcorn and Refreshments!

And if you LOVE to play games, join us on Sunday, March 27th for Game Day! Bring your favorite game to play with others. Refreshments and snacks provided.



Wow! A I can't believe February is over. We are quickly coming up to Lent with Ash Wednesday on March 2nd starting the Season, and ending with Easter Sunday on April 17th! I am starting to look at music for the choir season and I am hoping to have the choir singing "Beneath The Cross" sometime in April or on Easter Sunday I need to hear from my choir members to see who will be around to practice and to sing in April. We will officially start choir season in May. I need to know if Tuesday or Wednesdays work best for practice. Please reach out to me and let me know the best night I will be putting updates in the bulletin to keep everyone updated on practice days, times, and Sundays we will be singing. I again want to invite anyone who would like to sing, to just come out to practice, and try it out!! Everyone is welcome! I look forward to another great year of praising our Lord with beautiful music!!! Sheila Penoyer/Choir Director



## **From the Pastor**

Greetings, sisters and brothers in Christ!

It should be no surprise by now that one of my favorite tools in my pastor's toolkit of ideas is to encourage a change

of perspective. To try and see through new eyes – to view our church, our ministries through the eyes of youth or newcomers, etc. Or perhaps to view through old eyes – what would it have been like to be alive during those Bible stories or at least to be among the first audiences for the written word?

It is also no surprise, as we enter the season of Lent, that while some appreciate the quieter, more contemplative nature, it is not everyone's cup of tea. While the movement from Lent to Holy Week to Easter certainly offers plenty of drama, the ominous, slow build to the traumatic events of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion, combined with the reflection on our own sinfulness, does lend a certain heaviness to the six weeks.

And perhaps, for those of us that have grown up in the church and have heard these stories year after year, it really is hard to have that fresh perspective, and, more than that, perhaps it starts to feel a bit like constantly reliving the most stressful moments of our lives. All those times you wish you would have done or said something differently. All the times you wish others would have done or said something differently. So, maybe, while we might admit the importance of Lent, perhaps we are ready to move on.

Yet, I am often struck by the reflection from those who have recently gone through some experience of loss or hardship, that they never truly understood what it was like until it happened to them. Also, too, the challenge for

the family and friends that accompany those in deep grief, how difficult it is to know what to say or do to help them.

So perhaps Lent might also be a great time to stretch our empathy muscles. Not that we want to lose the introspective nature, but I do find that being honest with myself and with God usually helps suppress the temptation to judge instead of deeply listening to others. Empathy also helps us to not rush the proclamation of hope. As much as we don't want to get stuck in grief, constantly spinning our wheels, for some the road is a long one.

While we don't want to lose sight of the unique, momentous nature of Jesus' story, part of the power of Christ's story is in its universality – that Jesus shared our flesh-and-blood world with all of its joys and all of its sorrows. Even 2000+ years later, it isn't hard to find modern day parallels to the various betrayals, cruelties, and broken systems that led to Jesus' death on the cross. We should not lose sight of the hope that might be found amid all that brokenness and loss, but it can take time for us to see that light breaking through the clouds.

Empathy requires sustained patient listening, so six weeks is not a bad start. Hope will come, but spoken too quickly, it can seem more like an effort to wave the pain away. Time also helps build trust, so when we do speak, that hope comes not as a platitude, but as a hard won truth.

Suffering is a reality in our world. Hope and love is also a reality. At the end of our 40 days of Lent, we are joined to the promise of new life. As Paul wrote to the Romans: "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his." This truth has come, and will come again.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor James Muske

## 2022 TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>General Fund</u> (Envelope Giving)	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income Actual	\$17,708	\$17,708
Budget Actual	\$11,667	\$11,667

### All Funds

Total Income Actual	\$21,038	\$ 21,038
Total Income Budget	\$12,454	\$ 12,454
Expenses Actual	\$37,975*	\$ 37,975
Expenses Budget	\$12,640	\$ 12,640
Over/(Short)	(\$16,937)	(\$16,937)

\* Down payment on digital sign in January (\$24,430)

## Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo Minutes of February 21, 2022 Council Meeting

### Minutes of February 21, 2022 Council Meeting

In attendance: Dennis Hennessy, Mary Braun, Darlene Christensen, Cheryl Malotky, Pastor James Muske, Dick Stebbins, Joanne Stueven

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 January meeting by Dick Stebbins and seconded by Cheryl Malotky and passed.

### Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for January was presented by Mary Braun. The large expenditures for the month of January included the down payment for the Digital Sign. Motion was made by Darlene Christensen to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Cheryl Malotky and passed.

Pastor's Report – January 17 to February 21, 2022  
Here are some highlights from the past month:

- Worship planning – Lent and Holy Week plans are underway
  - Midweek evening services will feature a pastor exchange again
- Been helping out with the new End of Life series, many thanks to Mary Vukelich and others on the Adult Ed planning team

- Continue to work with the synod's Together Here ministry, as well as helping our synod's EcoFaith team with planning for their online summit in March.
- Pastoral care visitations and contacts for the past few weeks include 4 in-person visits and approximately 10 phone calls.
- February is also my month to lead communion services at the 4 Aitkin care centers, though winter weather has made that a bit more complicated this month.

Yours in Christ, Pastor James

### Old Business

Committee Reports - None

- End of Life Series has been well received. A request has been made from viewers that Live Stream the sessions to have the questions at the end of the presentation repeated by the presenter or other member of the audience with a microphone. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Session is March 16 at 11:00am – Care Concerns (Hospice Care & Death Doulas) presented by parishioner Cindy Persson. April's seminar on Advance Health Care Directives is scheduled for April 20 at 11:00am.

### New Business

- VP Assignment – no volunteers were presented. If no volunteers step up, one will be assigned at next month's meeting by the council President.
  - Grad Blast Donation to Aitkin HS. A motion was made by Dick Stebbins to approve a \$50 donation, seconded by Cheryl Malotky and passed for both Aitkin and Isle schools.
  - Payroll assistant – A well-qualified candidate has submitted an application to assist with the payroll process. Application will be presented to the Personnel committee for interview.
  - A Grant from MLEC was submitted for funding for our Community Digital Sign in early February. Waiting on reply.
  - Looking into applying for a Micro-Grants from the Eco Faith Network NE Minnesota Synod for solar energy projects for the church.
- Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mary Braun and seconded by Dick Stebbins, and passed. The council closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next council meeting will be March 21 at 10 am.

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



**Thank you**

Happy Birthday Bev Wedig! The Birthday cake during coffee was delicious!



**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**

Join us on Wednesday, March 16 at 11:00am – Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Session is Care Concerns (Hospice Care & Death Doulas) presented by parishioner Cindy Persson. April's seminar on Advance Health Care Directives is scheduled for April 20 at 11:00am.

Sessions are 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/BethesdaLutheranChurchMalm oMN. If you have any questions, call the church office at 320-684-2123.

**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.

**FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING** at Bethesda - like us on Facebook, view live streaming worship services on Sunday mornings on our YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/c/bethesdalutheranchurch malmomn, or visit our website at:

[www.blcmalmo.org](http://www.blcmalmo.org)

**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](mailto:jimdarl@hotmail.com)

**2022 Synod Assembly  
"Deeply Rooted in a Boundless God"**

The 2022 Synod Assembly will be held at Cragun's Resort, Brainerd, MN Friday, April 29 - Sunday, May 1 or via Zoom. \*Because we have been called to love our neighbor, we are requiring all in-person participants of the 2022 Synod Assembly (i.e., voting members, visitors, volunteers, contract staff and synod staff) to be fully vaccinated and, if possible boosted, for COVID-19. Please remember this when electing or inviting voting members to the 2022 Synod Assembly. For those who chose to attend the Assembly remotely, the Zoom platform will be utilized.



**March 13<sup>th</sup>  
Daylight savings time  
begins**

Watch for Easter Lily  
Signup sheet!



## Attention Crafters

A craft room inventory and clean up was taken last week by Linda Southworth and Judie Birk. If any crafter needs materials or have ideas for the list below, please contact us. We will review items at our first craft day which will be in early May where we will brainstorm ideas for our fall bazaar. This listing is either what we have an abundance of or what we have that we need ideas to use.

Music Trees

Folding Trees

Button Button, we have buttons! Craft needed

Assorted Paper/Envelopes/smaller artist canvas

Cinnamon Stick project needed?

Clear small circle refrigerator magnet project

Old Xmas lights project (mosquito made last year)

Beads galore! A beader/jewelry makers dream!

Silverware Project?

Rope craft? Small grapevine wreaths

Scrapbook project - lots of nice paper

Pipe cleaner project

Straw Hat project

Wreaths

Pillow Forms

Chenille

Tulle decorative and black sheeting (tablecloth?)

Fur bag?

Fire Starters material's make?

Long accordion blind?

Snow Globes? We have bags of fake snow

Sea Shells Craft?

## Spring renewal

By reading the Scriptures I am so renewed that all nature seems renewed around me and with me. The sky seems to be a pure, a cooler blue, the trees a deeper green. The whole world is charged with the glory of God and I feel fire and music under my feet.

—Thomas Merton



Can't make it to church? Watch it live. Missed last week? Catch up by watching the recording. Go to YouTube enter Bethesda Lutheran Church - Malmö, MN

Scroll thru and search for the date you are looking for. Click on play. It's that easy!

## Stop, look and listen

Lent, the season of the church year that's associated with repentance, begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year). While some people deny themselves by giving up something for Lent, others prepare for Easter through special Bible studies or devotions.

Christians observe Lent for these reasons:

- It causes us to STOP. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile," as well as "Stop doing wrong."
- It tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ offering healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.
- It tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words aren't only important for our safety in travel; they're also helpful for our journey through the 40 days of Lent.



## First Day of Spring March 20<sup>th</sup>

In The Story of the Easter Robin (Zonderkidz), Dandi Daley Mackall retells an old Pennsylvania Dutch tale of the robin's compassion as he witnessed Jesus' death.

On Good Friday, a plain brown robin flying over Jerusalem was curious about the "nest" atop Jesus' head. When the bird realized it was a crown of thorns, he tried to dislodge it. As the robin pulled out a long thorn from Jesus' forehead, a drop of blood landed on the bird's breast, staining it red. Now the robin's red breast is a symbol of Jesus' loving sacrifice, and the robin's early-spring song is a reminder of Jesus' joyful resurrection.

# Activities & Events

March 2022

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

## Ushers      Jim Christensen

Mar 6: Wayne & Janice Olson  
Mar 13: Vukelichs  
Mar 20: Darrell Kelly & Dick Stebbins  
Mar 27: Barry & Donna Ansell

**Altar Care** Dianne Jones  
March, Winnie and Sylvia  
April, Elsa and Dianne

## Recycling

 Greeters      Lynne Meidlinger

Mar 6: Pat Becker & Susan Samuelson  
Mar 13: Dick & Sandy Pullen  
Mar 20: Barry & Donna Ansell  
Mar 27: Wally & Bev Swenson



Coffee Servers      by WELCA

**COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED!!!**

Mar. 6  
Mar. 13    Pat Becker & Anne Hennessey  
Mar. 20    Mary Braun, Sue & Sam Samuelson  
Mar. 27    Carolyn Morris, Bev & Wally Swenson



March 3      Shirley & Marlyn Eklund  
March 15     Patricia & Craig Kullberg  
March 23     Laurie & Brian Simonson  
March 26     Sandy & Dick Pullen



March 2	Ken Sjoquist
March 4	James Lange
March 9	Andrew Nyberg
March 10	Robert Carlson
March 11	Arty Heins
March 11	Norman Westerlund
March 14	Troy Nyberg
March 15	Theodore Mickelson
March 16	Ron Gordon
March 17	Holly Grap
March 20	Mary Braun
March 22	Donna Westerlund
March 25	Carolyn Morris
March 26	Nicole Berry
March 26	Jack Spetz
March 27	Richard Carron
March 29	Donna Fox
March 29	Scott Nyberg
March 29	Dale Peterson
March 30	Jean Berens
March 30	Tom Petersen
March 30	Ronald Richter



# March 2022

## Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:00 Women's Bible Study  5:30 Worship	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  5:30 Worship	10 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s	11	12
13 Daylight Savings Time Spring Forward 9:00 Worship Communion 2-4 Movie Night	14 9:00 Women's Devotional Bible study 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA &	15	16 9-4:00 WIC 9:00 Women's Bible Study 11:00 Preparing for End of Life 5:30 Worship	17 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s  <b>St. Patricks Day</b>	18	19
20 9:00 Worship Communion <b>Newsline Deadline</b>	21 10:00 Council mtg 11:30 Pinochle  7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	22 9:00 Quilters	23 9:00 Women's Bible Study  5:30 Worship	24 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s	25	26
27 9:00 Worship Communion  2-4 Game Day!	28 11:30 Pinochle  7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	29	30 9:00 Women's Bible Study  5:30 Worship	31 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s		

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmö  
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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	<a href="mailto:blcmalmo@gmail.com">blcmalmo@gmail.com</a>	(320) 684-2123
Fax		(320)-684-2836
Toll Free		(877) 684-2123
Church Web site		<a href="http://blcmalmo.org">blcmalmo.org</a>
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: [blnews@juno.com](mailto:blnews@juno.com)**

All articles due on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month