

Bethesda Life-Line

Worship Services*

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

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

June 5 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

June 12 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

June 19 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

June 26 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

Upcoming Events

June 5th New Member Sunday

June 20-24, 2022-Vacation Bible school

June 28 Kitchen Cleanup 8:00am

July 2 Veggie Stand opens 8:00am

July 4 Glen Parade

August 20th Bethesda Corn Feed



The Faith, Health and Wellness Committee and its Outreach Ministry is seeking people who are interested in making shut in visits/phone calls or doing home

communion either individually or as a team. Contact Pastor or Darlene to learn more about it.

Crafters be WOWed!

We had a great turnout at the recent brainstorming crafters meeting. Many great ideas and we hope to WOW everyone at this year's bazaar on October 29th. Our June meetings will be June 6 and June 27, at 9 am. We have some fun projects to work on at our meetings with some gluing to do. So you don't need to be crafty to join us. We are also looking for some woodworkers to see if they would be interested in making/cutting some wood project ideas that are popular right now, charcuterie boards (fancy name cutting board) and small pieces to be cut for barn quilt designs. Contact Judie Birk if interested.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

It is safe, it is easy and it is convenient. Never have to remember your check or envelope on Sunday mornings. There are Simply Giving forms available in the Narthex, included in this newsletter, and online at:

<http://blcmalmo.org/WP2016/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Simply-Giving-Form.pdf>



HOSPITALITY we need hospitality servers on Sundays if we wish to continue coffee time after our worship service. If you can't serve, please bring in treats we can keep in the freezer and use as needed.



From the Pastor

Greetings and blessings to you,
fellow disciples in Christ!

In her book “Help, Thanks,
Wow,” author Anne Lamott
offers this prayer:

Hi, God.

I am just a mess.

It is all hopeless.

What else is new?

*I would be sick of me, if I were You, but
miraculously You are not.*

*I know I have no control over other people’s
lives, and I hate this. Yet I believe that if I
accept this and surrender, You will meet me
wherever I am.*

*Wow. Can this be true? If so, how is this
afternoon – say, two-ish?*

*Thank You in advance for Your company and
blessings.*

You have never once let me down.

Amen.

Her book makes a couple important points – one, that while there are many finely-crafted prayers, even simple prayers, prayed honestly and from the heart, work perfectly well; and two, that when it comes to simple prayers, three essential prayers are “help,” “thanks,” and “wow” (hence the title).

I have been thinking about her book as our men’s group has been starting to study the Psalms. Lamott must be well versed in them, as the Psalms frequently feature these three prayers. I especially love those psalms that may start as a “thanks” or “wow” prayer but are really a “help” prayer in the flimsiest of disguises. And if we can see through the subterfuge, God must just be rolling his eyes.

The psalmist proclaims, in one breath, that God is good, that God is ever faithful, that God lifts up the lowly and punishes evildoers, and then, in the next breath, offers a whole laundry list of complaints about how their life is going.

I had a professor in seminary that would joke that we have a bit of latitude in interpreting these psalms and

the psalmist who wrote them – either we can see them as completely sincere, that their faith is strong and that no matter what befalls them, they trust completely in God... or we can view the fluctuations between praise and lament as a bit of a divine guilt trip. As if the psalmist is praying: “O God, you are great and wonderful and powerful and ever-faithful to your people.... anyway, while I have you, quick update, my life is consumed by suffering right now. I am sick, I am depressed, the world has gone nuts and everyone is against me, sooo, O ever-faithful God, not to put you on the spot, but I could use some of that ever-faithfulness right now. Please?!” Or, as Lamott puts it above, “How about this afternoon?”

Our recent Mental Health First Aid class made the point that one of the most profound gifts we can offer another person is to simply listen to them. To be there for them, without judgement, without rushing into fix it mode, and to be open to understanding, but not instantly assume that we do. This is also the gift of prayer and our conversations with God... or at least it should be.

We shouldn’t be afraid to be fully open with God, even if our prayers aren’t particularly pretty or happy or even ask some tough questions of God. Just as long, of course, as we are also willing to be open with God when it is God that is doing the talking and asking tough questions of us! Just as we may grow impatient, so too do we (most definitely) test God’s patience.

As we enjoy these lovely early summer days, this is a perfect time to reconnect with one another and maybe even introduce yourself to someone new. But even as we may be excited to “get back to normal,” don’t be afraid to make room in your conversations to let people unburden themselves of all the stresses we have been carrying over the last couple years. Of course, we hope that we can just “get back to normal” (whatever that means) without a lot of uncomfortable conversations, but, in the long run, we do well to be open, with God and with one another, about when we need help, when we give thanks, and when we are filled with “wow,” and everything in between.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor James

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

Minutes of May 16, 2022 Council Meeting

In attendance: Dennis Hennessy, Mary Braun, Cheryl Malotky, Pastor James Muske, Dick Stebbins, Joanne Stueven, 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 April meeting by Sherry Whipple and seconded by Mary Braun and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for April was presented by Mary Braun. Donations towards the digital signage was discussed. See Appeal in this newsletter. Mary noted she was attending a webinar on managing parish fixed assets. Motion was made by Sherry Whipple to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Dick Stebbins and passed.

Pastor's Report – April 18 - May 16, 2022

Here are some highlights from the past month:
Attended the Synod Assembly with Julie and Patti. Nice to have these large in-person gatherings again. Thanks to Dennis for leading worship!
Been working on a world music themed worship service that the Worship & Music committee has been discussing. Still a work in progress but should be a great way to highlight the many gifts of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ through music and prayer.
The men's group and I enjoyed the prayer breakfast held at Faith Lutheran as part of the National Day of Prayer.
I also attended an event on the Mille Lacs Reservation around the topic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, an important issue in native communities in our country.
Participated in both sessions of the Mental Health First Aid class (as well as providing some help with setup and tech support). A great class I hope we can offer again to our church and others in the community.
Pastoral care visits included four in-person visits and 16 phone calls.

Also spent time working on sabbatical plans. Decided not to apply for the grant mentioned last month but helped firm up ideas with the help of Julie Swaggert. Would like to propose taking my sabbatical starting in August to the end of October. While this may seem a bit soon, it helps avoid busy times of year like Christmas and Easter.

Julie, as Personnel Committee Chair (and someone who has taken a sabbatical), will continue working with me to help create a good balance between more restful activities and learning opportunities. She will also work with us to help find coverage. I have already begun speaking with a few pastors. I will plan to share a more detailed outline next month, once the timeline is approved (and could also hold a session after worship this summer), one main theme of my time will be to visit other ELCA ministries within Native American communities similar to ours, both in Minnesota and in other states. I also plan to spend some of my relaxation time outdoors, either hiking, biking, or on the water. I am also on the wait list for a cedar canoe building class at the North House Folk School in Grand Marais. As mentioned previously, I will be taking some continuing education time this week, attending the Festival of Homiletics (preaching conference) online. So great to see so many folks on Sunday morning, including some new people! Thanks to all of you for your support of our ministry!

Old Business

Digital Sign is scheduled for delivery soon. Sherry Whipple noted that the Lions are interested in purchasing the old sign. She will let us know.
Mental Health First Aid was a huge success and beneficial to all that attended. We hope to have another class next fall.
Pending - Update authorized signers on bank account to be done soon.
Vice-President — We appeal to anyone to please step up to fill this office.

New Business

Summer worship schedule – The survey results are that the majority want one Sunday 9:00 a.m. service. Also, there was a high percentage that want Sunday school, but with lack of children and no one wanting to teach, the council is reluctant to begin one.
Stewardship — Council discussed financials, making sure we are on target. It was suggested we have an article in the newsletter.

Committee Reports

Update on Mission and Evangelism responsibilities and activities during the past months (Online spring meeting, May 2022):

Our group called a meeting responding to a request for more adult education. It was a successful brain storming session that resulted in the successful End of Life Series being held at Bethesda.

Now, the First Aid for Mental Health sessions on May 3 and May 10 are being promoted as a part of Adult Education.

Sunday School was not offered this past season as we do not have teachers. Our committee needs to address the situation and perhaps try to form a Children's Education Program. We did ask for input in the May newsletter.

Vacation Bible School is being planned for June 20-23 for classes and day 5 Friday as a possible service project day.

Game and Movie Sundays were held throughout the winter months. Thank You to those who helped with these events. One more game day is being planned as a Corn Hole Tournament on May 22.

There will be new members joining Bethesda on June 5, 2022. Our committee will ask individual members to be sponsors and attend church with them on June 5. Letters will be sent out welcoming the new members and confirming the sponsor's commitment. Name tag buttons will be made by Gary Sjerven (thank you, Gary) we need to give thought on making the coffee time on June 5 a welcoming event for our new members.

Now that Sunday services appear to back to somewhat normal (whatever that is) do we need to promote Temple Talks from those who receive our benevolence dollars? Our committee needs to talk about that.

Confirmation attendance is an ongoing issue...not sure what help Pastor would like with this situation. Let's consider meeting in person when everyone is available for now, please communicate any suggestions or concerns. Submitted by Joanne Stueven

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 June 13 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary.

2022 TREASURER'S REPORT

| <u>General Fund</u> | <u>APRIL</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| <i>(Envelope Giving)</i> | | |
| Income Actual | \$ 8,775 | \$ 53,601 |
| Budget Actual | \$11,667 | \$ 46,667 |
| <u>All Funds</u> | | |
| Total Income Actual | \$10,757 | \$ 65,876 |
| Total Income Budget | \$12,454 | \$ 49,817 |
| | | |
| Expenses Actual | \$16,393 | \$ 80,649 |
| Expenses Budget | \$12,657 | \$ 50,627 |
| | | |
| Over/(Short) | (\$ 5,636) | (\$ 14,773) |

New Digital Sign

Greetings all and welcome back to all our Snowbirds. In the next few weeks, we will be installing our New Digital Sign that will allow us to make announcements of upcoming events like VBS, Movie nights, and special services.

One of the real advantages will be the ability to make changes quickly and remotely from the office. No more trudging out to the sign to manually make changes and we will be able to add graphics, which has Mary really excited.

It is not only the ease of making changes to the sign but having a sign that will be seen from the highway. Yes, we are moving away from the white, black, and beige to the full spectrum of colors, red, green, blue, yellow so hold on to your socks and get ready for a change.

Several individuals have already contributed to the cost of the sign, and we do have one member of our congregation who is going to make a very large contribution as a memorial.

Please consider a contribution to this valuable addition to our church which will enable us to colorfully enter the 21st century.

Thank you and God Bless.

Dennis Hennessy, Council President



Results of the Summer Worship Service Survey

We received 48 responses to our Summer Worship Service Survey. Here are the results:

| | | |
|-------------------------|----|-----|
| 2 Services-8:30 & 10:am | 7 | 15% |
| 1 Service – 8:30am | 5 | 10% |
| 1 Service – 9:00am | 32 | 67% |
| 1 Service – 9:30am | 3 | 6% |
| 1 Service – 10:00am | 3 | 6% |
| YouTube Live Stream | 1 | 2% |

In addition to the Sunday morning services members suggested the below worship services:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|-----|
| Saturday Evening Causal | 6 | 13% |
| Wednesday Night | 4 | 8% |

Sunday School Results:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----|-----|
| YES-Sunday School | 18 | 38% |
| NO-Participate in main service | 9 | 19% |
| YES-I'll Help | 1 | 2% |

COMMENTS:

YouTube Live Stream

- Great option – Thanks!

YES-Sunday School:

- If families, teachers, & students commit
- Then kids will come
- Confirmation – we need children to survive as a church
- Yes if enough kids

NO-Sunday School (Participate in main service)

- Even if it's only a children's sermon

We will continue with one worship service at 9:00am for the summer unless attendance at one service becomes too full. The council will review the attendance at their next meeting on June 13th to consider adding a second service if worship attendance increases significantly.

WELCA – May 18, 2022

Chairwoman Sue Samuelson opened the meeting with 13 members present. Jeannine gave devotions. The Purpose & Mission statements were read. The secretary's report stood approved as printed in the April newsletter.

The treasurer's report was given by Dianne Jones with a balance on hand of \$2,395.98. Motion by Elsa, second by Sherri W to accept the report. Motion carried.

Old business:

- Thirty-six in-kind totes were delivered to LSS in St. Cloud.
- Three hundred two jars of jelly were made. The church had \$450 reserve to use for the jelly.
- Sue took care of buying the supplies.
- Summer Gathering is June 6-8
- Crafting meetings begin May 23rd at 9:00am
- Kitchen cleaning will be Tuesday, June 28th at 8:00am

New Business

- Camp NOAH needs fleece blankets. We will make some on Wednesday, July 20th at 10:00am.
- The Corn Feed will be August 20th from 4:30-7:00pm. Proceeds will go for the digital sign.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Elsa, seconded by Darlene. Motion passed.

We closed with The Lord's Prayer



KITCHEN CLEAN-UP Tuesday, June 28, 8:00am.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Wednesday, June 1, 9:00 a.m.

Please help with the spring cleanup if available. We will be cleaning the yard and washing windows.

SUMMER LAWN MOWING

Please enjoy the outdoors and sign up to help mow the church lawn. Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Faith, Health and Wellness

Now that activities at church and visitation at Care Centers and Assisted Living facilities have opened up more we are looking to reorganize this committee and the Outreach Ministry. We are looking for people who can make phone calls or visit members either individually or as a team or to participate with some other aspect of the committee. Contact Pastor James or Darlene if you can be a part of this ministry.



Crafters to Start Meeting

Our crafting meetings for the 2022 year are starting. Mark your calendar for Monday, June 6 and June 27 at 9 am

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/bethesdalutheranchurchmalmomn>, or visit our website at:

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

Happy Father's Day June 19th



Thank
You!

"Blessed are those who give of themselves", with warmest thanks for all your help and prayers. -
Shirley Gosselin

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

the week of June 20 -24
Please invite kids to attend Vacation Bible School the week of June 20-24, 2022. We're excited to be back in person again!



The NE MN Synod Women meet in Convention/Gathering

June 6 to June 8 at Sugar Lake. **Halvor Lines will again provide a semi-trailer for loading up boxes of quilts and kits** to be delivered to Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries.

The hours for the truck which will be staffed are Monday afternoon from 4 - 7 pm and Tuesday from 8 am - 1 pm. All boxes should be sealed with contents marked and labeled on all 4 sides with **Lutheran World Relief**, 398 East Richmond Street, South St. Paul, MN 55075.



Inspirational Vision

Charley Boswell, a former University of Alabama football star with hopes of a professional baseball career, lost his eyesight in World War II. But that did not stop him. He went on to become the National Blind Golf Champion 17 times. He was quoted as saying, "I never count what I've lost. I only count what I have left."

Activities & Events

June 2022

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

Ushers Jim Christensen

- June 5: the Vukelich Family
- June 12: Lee & Barb Forrester
- June 19: Darrell Kelly & Dick Stebbins
- June 26: Barry & Donna Ansell

Altar Care Dianne Jones

- June.. Linda Southworth and Sylvia Tapelt
- July. Winnie Zahradka and Dianne Jones

Sunday Hospitality

- June 5 Mission & Evangelism New Members
- June 12 Mary B., Dennis H., Patti S., Julie S.
- June 19 Ron, LuAnn Gordon, Ron, Jan Aho, Myra Honl
- June 26



Greeters

- June 5: Shirley Moe & Winnie Zahradka
- June 12: Ron & JoAnn Haglund
- June 19: Dennis Hennessy & Julie Swaggert
- June 26: Chuck & Elsa Carlson



- | | | |
|------|----|------------------|
| June | 1 | Lois Falk |
| June | 1 | Sandra Pullen |
| June | 1 | Paula Spetz |
| June | 2 | Dennis Petersen |
| June | 4 | Bruce Carlson |
| June | 4 | Sharon Whipple |
| June | 12 | Lyle Nyberg |
| June | 17 | Glenice Peterson |
| June | 19 | George Larson |
| June | 20 | Wayne Danielson |
| June | 20 | Dennis Hennessy |
| June | 21 | Craig Dressely |
| June | 21 | Dean Malotky |
| June | 22 | Edward Grap |
| June | 29 | Ruth Jaszczak |



- | | | |
|------|----|------------------------------|
| June | 4 | Cheryl & Dean Malotky |
| June | 8 | Susan & Sam Samuelson |
| June | 9 | Joanne & Dave Stueven |
| June | 12 | Mary Kramer & Steve Long |
| June | 18 | Sandra & Kevin Skow |
| June | 20 | Sheila & Doug Penoyer |
| June | 26 | Lucinda & Jonathan Mickelson |
| June | 28 | Laurie & Norman Westerlund |

If anyone is interested in participating in the Glen Forth of July Parade, sign up in the office.



June 14, 2022



June 2022

Bethesda Calendar of Events



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|--|--|-----------|-----------|
| | | | 1 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:00 Spring clean-up | 2 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s | 3 | 4 |
| 5 9:00 Worship Communion New Member Sunday | 6 9:00 Crafters 11:30 Cards 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg | 7 4:00 Bells 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise choir | 8 9:00 Women's Bible Study | 9 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s | 10 | 11 |
| 12 9:00 Worship Communion | 13 10:00 Council mtg 11:30 Cards 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg | 14 9:00 Quilters 9:00 Women's Dev. 4:00 Bells 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise choir | 15 9-4:00 WTC 9:00 Women's Bible Study | 16 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9:00 Worship Communion | 20 Vacation Bible School 9:00-11:30am Newsline Deadline 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg | 21 Vacation Bible School 9:00-11:30am 4:00 Bells 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise choir | 22 Vacation Bible School 9:00-11:30am Lion's Community Picnic in Malmo 5:00pm | 23 Vacation Bible School 9:00-11:30am | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:00 Worship Communion | 27 9:00 Crafters 11:30 Cards 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg | 28 8:00 Kitchen cleaning 9:00 Quilters 4:00 Bells 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise choir | 29 9:00 Women's Bible Study | 30 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s | | |

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
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**
we will **ACT** with **LOVE** and **KINDNESS**
we will **GIVE** hope and **SUPPORT** to all



Bethesda Telephone Directory

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Church | bclmalmo@gmail.com | (320) 684-2123 |
| Fax | | (320)-684-2836 |
| Toll Free | | (877) 684-2123 |
| Church Web site | | bclmalmo.org |
| Facebook page | Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo | |
| Pastor | James A. Muske | (320) 684-2123 |
| Council President | Dennis Hennessy | (651) 247-2283 |
| 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

AUTHORIZATION FORM

The **Simply Giving** * Program

Name of the organization: **Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo**

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|------|
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY | ENVELOPE/DONOR # | DATE |
|---------------------|------------------|------|

Effective date of authorization: ____ / ____ / ____

Type of authorization: New authorization Change donation amount Change donation date

Change banking information Discontinue electronic donation

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Last Name | First Name |
|-----------|------------|

Address

| | | |
|------|-------|-----|
| City | State | Zip |
|------|-------|-----|

Email Address

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____ / ____ / ____ | FREQUENCY OF DONATION: <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly - Mondays <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15th <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly (transferred on 1st & 15th of each month) | FUNDS: <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating <input type="checkbox"/> Building/Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Local Benevolence <input type="checkbox"/> World Benevolence <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | AMOUNTS: \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ Total \$ _____ |
|--|--|---|---|

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| CHECKING / SAVINGS | Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below) | Routing Number: _____ <i>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</i> |
| | | Account Number: : 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 : 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 0 0 0 1 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 100px;"></div> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 100px;"></div> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 50px;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> Routing Number Account Number Check Number </div> |
| | | I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____ |

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| CREDIT / DEBIT CARD | Card Brand (Check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover |
| | Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ |
| | Name on Card: _____ |
| | Billing Address (if different from above): _____ |
| | I authorize the above organization to process transactions in accordance with the information above. Signature (as it appears on the card): _____ Date: _____ |