

# Bethesda Life-Line

Worship Services\*

Bethesda now has a YouTube channel! Please check out our weekly Sunday services



(<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

**July 3 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**July 10 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**July 17 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**July 24 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**July 31 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

## Upcoming Events

**June 29** Veggie stand opens for summer 8:00

**July 4** Glen Parade

**August 20<sup>th</sup>** Bethesda Corn Feed



## Vacation Bible School

The best week of summer happened June 20-23 when 27 children and 12 teen youth came to Bethesda for Vacation Bible School.

The Rocky Mountain Railway took students to a snack station, Bible story, Art class, and the playground. They enjoyed a skit featuring London Feland as a railroad worker who was learning about Gods Power. London also helped with the music teaching an old favorite song Jesus Loves Me. They worked on 3 of the favorite songs and sang them at the Malmo Lions picnic on Wednesday evening.

A special thank you to Bethesda's adults who showed up to help. They know watching happy children learn about God brings joy to your heart and peace to your soul!!



## All Ladies of Bethesda, Please Join Us

On July 20th at 9am in the fellowship hall to cut and tie fleece blankets for the children at Camp Noah in St. Paul, MN. <https://www.lssmn.org/campnoah/>

If you would like to donate some pill free fleece, each blanket takes 2 yards of patterned (Bright Colored patterned) and 2 yards of plain coordinating color for the back. No sporting teams or hunting! Just bring a scissor and we will cut and tie and have fellowship!

Please direct any questions to Sue Samuelson at 612-220-4579.



## **From the Pastor**

This month we'll here from Dennis Hennessy, our Church Council President.

## **From the Church Council President**



### **From the Council President**

Jesus Christ death paid the price of our spiritual freedom from spiritual death. He accomplished what the Law could not and what no other person could do. Allowing us to accept the gift of His sacrifice brings us back into harmony with God.

What is our responsibility after accepting this gift? We know from the Apostle Paul that we are expected to be different than we were. Love is to replace hate. Generosity is to replace greed. Truth is to replace lying. Acceptance is to replace denial. We are to treat others as we would like to be treated.

No one individual can make another individual change. Change has to happen within us. But that is the problem, isn't it? We often feel that we are being forced to change to please others or that we have to change which is a very difficult thing to do.

Freedom requires us to look at our lives objectively and determine if we are free from things that bind us

to this world or to heaven. None of us is perfect. None of us has all the correct answers, but we do have a loving God who does have the answers and the power to carry it out.

White supremacy, gun violence, Christian nationalism, book banning, lying and violence are not what Jesus preached. Jesus did preach about love and acceptance which leads to Freedom for the Spirit.

When does my freedom end? Does it end because I cannot own assault rifles? Does it end when someone else's faith is respected as much as mine? Does freedom end when people with different colored skin are given the same rights as me? Or does it end when I do not allow someone the same rights and respect that I have?

The news is filled with problems and offers no solutions. Blaming will not change anything. I can only change things in my own life. My part is not to add to the chaos but to anchor myself to faith in a loving God. It is easy to look at this mess and give up, but I cannot give up. My trial is to face these problems and do my part to be a solution to them.

I will continue to read and keep myself informed and discern if what I am reading, hearing is true or not. I challenge you to expand your horizons and examine life without judging others. I must. Accept that others do have a right to their own beliefs and lifestyles. The most difficult part of life I have found is in not judging others and trying to understand their point of view.

My purpose here is to remind us of the need to look to God when the world wants us to be bound to fear. This will help us see clearly that it is our fear that binds us to this world and that it is our faith that will provide an answer to our problems. I know it is difficult to look at the world and not be terrified or lose to hopelessness. But it is at these times that we need to look to God in order to overcome this world.

God Bless and Keep You Safe.

Dennis Hennessy  
Council President



**Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo**  
**Minutes of June 13, 2022 Council Meeting**

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

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

**Treasurer's Report:**

Financial view and current month activity for May was presented by Mary Braun. Motion was made by Cheryl Malotky to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Dick Stebbins and passed.

**Pastor's Report** – *May 16 to June 13, 2022*

Here are some highlights from the past month:

- Virtually attended the Festival of Homiletics (preaching conference) digitally for a week of continued education. A good conference, even over the computer. One advantage of the digital registration is now I have access to all the presentations and sermons, so I can view the rest during my sabbatical.
- Julie and I have been working on sabbatical coverage and other plans, both for the congregation and my own personal agenda. Preaching coverage is coming along nicely.
- One item we need to discuss is pastoral care coverage while I am gone. I have spoken with Darlene and Faith, Health and Wellness about visitations, but we would be well served to form an arrangement with an ordained pastor for emergency needs. Pastor Jess from Bethany Lutheran in Onamia has indicated she would be willing to help, as she currently serves in a part time call.
- I have also been reviewing books and devotionals that our study groups might read in my absence. I will try to sit down with some potential leaders to discuss a plan for both the men's and women's groups.
- I have been preparing for my VBS sessions next week. Thanks to Joanne and everyone else for all the hard work they put into to

making this happen!

- This month is my turn at leading worship services in the Aitkin care facilities.
- We had a new member Sunday, welcome to all these great folks!
- Pastoral care visits included three in-person visits and 7 phone calls.
- Would like to take Monday, June 27 and Tuesday, June 28 off to attend a family gathering.

**Old Business**

- Digital Sign is supposed to be delivered today (June 13)
- Mary and Dennis plan to go update authorized signers on bank account after VBS
- Summer worship schedule — for now, it was decided to stay with one service. Council will review again next month.
- Old Sign — an offer to buy our old sign is being considered.

**New Business**

- Sabbatical — Pastor's sabbatical is approved. We reviewed financials for this and we have money available for pulpit supply while he is gone. Pastor James will have a schedule down by next month's meeting along with a list of pastors on retainer.
- VBS starts next week! Joanne reported they have about 25 children registered at the moment.
- Mary and Dennis will look into putting higher insurance on our new sign.
- 'Snapshot of Thanks' — Show us what you're thankful for ... that big fish you caught, the beautiful sunset photo you captured, flowers, birds, deer, etc...you get the picture! Photos will be displayed at Sunday service.

**Committee Reports**

Parish Nurse/ FHW/Outreach Ministry for May.

A Faith, Health and Wellness meeting was held on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> with 7 members attending.

Visits with communion were made to four members by Pastor and Darlene and to one member by Darlene. Regular phone calls are also being made by three other members. A list has been compiled of members who may need home visits with communion or regular phone calls. While Pastor is

on sabbatical a plan needs to be made as to how phone calls and visits will be done. Three people are interested in being trained in bringing home communion and a training session will be set up. The Outreach Ministry goal is to stay connected to members who are unable to attend services either through visits or phone calls or with those having short term medical issues.

The following items fall under the Faith, Health and Wellness umbrella and each has a member who is responsible for an area: grief support, prayer shawls, baby bundles, care notes, card ministry, loan closet, soup and cookie ministry, blood pressure screening and health education. An AED education session will be set up and monthly blood pressure screenings resumed.

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 July 18 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by Judie Birk, council secretary

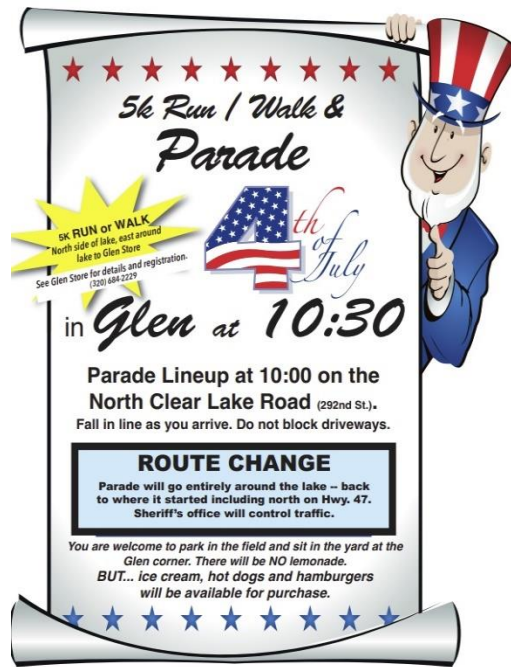
**2022 TREASURER'S REPORT**

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<i>(Envelope Giving)</i>		
Income Actual	\$14,280	\$ 67,882
Budget Actual	\$11,667	\$ 58,333
<b>All Funds</b>		
Total Income Actual	\$19,374	\$ 85,250
Total Income Budget	\$12,454	\$ 62,271
Expenses Actual	\$12,567	\$ 93,216
Expenses Budget	\$12,657	\$ 63,284
Over/(Short)	\$ 6,807	(\$ 7,966)



**Veggie Stand Opens**

July welcomes the return of the "Veggie Stand" at Bethesda. Our success greatly relies on help we receive from the generous Bethesda family. We will have our jellies, syrup. Corn and baked treats. We need your help in the bakery department. Anything you can share is appreciated by our customers. Also, come join us on Saturdays to help out and meet great people.



**GLEN 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY PARADE**

Let us know if you who would like volunteer to be in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade to pass out candy and religious items. We need volunteers. Sign up in the office.

**SUMMER LAWN MOWING**

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



**Crafters July Meeting**

We only have one date schedule for crafting in July. So mark your calendar for July 18 at 9 am to come craft with us! We hope to finish up some dowel snowman, some more beading on our driftwood hangers and then gluing of sweet gum ball seeds. Continue to work on crafts of your own or maybe your friends want to donate to our bazaar with their special craft. If you want to mark your calendar for August, we will be crafting on Aug. 1, 15 & 29.

**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)

**USHERS Just** a reminder to check for any instructions on the wall by the acolytes and please be sure to do a headcount and mark it down on the calendar in the office by the file cabinet.



## Pollinator Pilot Project Written by Tom Uecker

Six Lutheran churches in the NE MN ELCA Synod are participating in a project to plant a pollinator/Monarch Waystation garden on their church property. The only difference in a pollinator garden and a Monarch Waystation is that milkweed (a native plant-not a weed) must be present to be considered a Monarch Waystation.

The six congregations are:

- French River in French River (Pastor Kim Sturtz)
- Our Savior's in Outing (Kami Genz)
- Bethesda in Malmo (Julie Swaggert)**
- Bethlehem in Twig (SAM Kristin Peterson)
- Our Redeemer in Pine City (Mary Jo Mettler)
- St. Andrews in Grand Rapids (Jan Bilden)

They will be guided by synod members who have experience in this area:

- Pastor Mark Ditmanson (Bethlehem in Grand Marais)
- Laura Raedeke (Lutheran Church of the Cross in Nisswa)
- Tom Uecker (Gloria Dei in Duluth)

need to recover the cleanness and manhood and power and might of the United States in our minds. We must reemphasize morality, decency and honesty. We need more of God and more of Jesus Christ. Deeply rooted in the American tradition are the sovereignty of God and the sacredness of human personality. Upon these two pillars rests American freedom.

-Dr. Norman Vincent Peale from his sermon "I Pledge Allegiance"

### A Note from the Choir



Well, the choir season is underway. We have been busy practicing songs, some old, some new. The choir sang at the Malmo Lions Community Picnic on

Wed., June 22nd at 5:00, and the Bible School kids were there also. I decided instead of the choir just singing by ourselves, we would have a Sing-along with the folks who are there at the picnic. I picked out some good old favorite hymns out of the hymnal and sent the list to Mary in the evening. By that next day she had music for the choir, and booklets with words for the sing-along. I want to especially say Thank You to Mary Braun for all of her help with getting music and Booklets together for us. We have no idea all that she does in the background, but I think she is the best!! I also want to thank Jim Christensen for helping with the Music, and the sound set up for Picnic. Jim also does so much more than we even know about. Without these two we would not have the wonderful church service experience we do each week! They do so much behind the scenes that we don't even think about. We are truly blessed to have them in our church family!!

The choir will be singing on July 10th, a Patriotic song for the 4th of July celebration, and then again on July 24th, "I Will Believe. I just want to thank all of the choir members for giving their time and talents! It is a big commitment, but I want each and every one of you to know that you are all needed to make the choir sounds good! I was going to say there is no i in choir but there is! I want you all to remember that the choir is like a team! We need all teammates there to truly sound good!! I appreciate all my choir members, and my church family!! I pray for your continued sport thru the rest of the Choir Season!!

Sheila Penoyer/Choir director

### A Very Wonderful and Special Country

What a country this is!  
To my way of thinking,  
there is nothing like it  
anywhere in the world. I



have visited many beautiful lands, but upon returning to the United States, there is always the feeling that Almighty God carved out here a very wonderful and special country. ...

We need to recount the stories of the great souls America has produced and who produced America. We need to tell and retell these stories beginning with the Pilgrim Fathers. Bibles under their arms, setting forth in little ships across a stormy sea, driven not by the winds that raged the Atlantic and caught the sails of their little boats, but by the mighty conviction that as sons of God no one could make slaves of them. ... Something within drove them across trackless wastes to an inhospitable shore, where unhampered by the autocracy of men, they could worship God in all the dignity of free men.

We, too, need that spirit of freedom in our hearts. We

# Activities & Events

July 2022

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

**Ushers** Jim Christensen

- July 3: The Vukelich Family
- July 10: Lee & Barb Forrester
- July 17: Dick Stebbins & Darrell Kelly
- July 24: Barry & Donna Ansell
- July 31: Janice Olson & Winnie Z



**Altar Care** Dianne Jones  
 July. Winnie Zahradka and Dianne Jones

**Sunday Hospitality**

- July 3: Anne Hennessey & Carolyn Morris
- July 10:
- July 17: **Need**
- July 24: **Volunteers!**
- July 31:

- July 1 Dennis Meidlinger
- July 2 LuAnn Gordon
- July 5 Harold Kendall
- July 6 Joanne Danielson
- July 7 Jerome Schewe
- July 8 Penny Sjoquist
- July 9 Darrell Kelly
- July 10 Donna Myhre
- July 11 Randy Tofteland
- July 15 Gavin Fischer
- July 16 Alene Lowe
- July 18 Paul Meleen
- July 21 Ronald Heins
- July 21 Craig Kullberg
- July 22 Kathryn Carlson
- July 23 Sandi Elwood
- July 24 Keith Mundinger
- July 25 Ken Elwood
- July 27 Marilyn Elling
- July 27 Linda Hauglid
- July 27 Annie Johnson
- July 27 Joanne Mehlhop
- July 29 Cindy Persson



**Greeters**

- July 3: Jenny Schuett & Patti Smith
- July 10: Wally & Bev Swenson
- July 17: Jullie Swaggert & Dennis Hennessy
- July 24: Ron & JoAnn Hagland
- July 31: Denny & Lynn Meidlinger



- July 5 Bev & Wally Swenson
- July 7 Ardis & Harold Kendall
- July 10 Patti & Ken Wanous
- July 16 Jan & Ron Aho
- July 16 Barb & Lee Forrester
- July 21 Winnie & Randy Zahradka
- July 29 Marilee & Kirk Swenson
- July 30 Glenice & Dale Peterson



# July 2022

## Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8:00 Veggie Stand
3 9:00 Worship Communion	4 <b>Happy 4th of July</b>  10:30 Glen Parade 11:30 Cards  7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	5  4:00 Bells 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise choir	6 9:00 Women's Bible Study	7 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s	8	9 8:00 Veggie Stand
10 9:00 Worship Communion	11 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg 11:30 Cards	12 9:00 Quilters  4:00 Bells 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise choir	13 9:00 Women's Bible Study	14 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s	15	16 8:00 Veggie Stand
17 9:00 Worship Communion	18 9:00 Crafters 10:00 Council mtg 11:30 Cards	19 9:00 Women's Dev  4:00 Bells 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise choir	20 9-4:00 WIC 9:00 Women's Bible Study 9:00 WELCA Make Fleece Blankets for Camp Noah  Newslite Deadline	21 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s	22	23 8:00 Veggie Stand  Lion's Car Show
24 9:00 Worship Communion  31 9:00 Worship Communion	25 11:30 Cards  7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	26 9:00 Quilters  4:00 Bells 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise choir	27 9:00 Women's Bible Study	28 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s	29	30 8:00 Veggie Stand

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

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## ***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	bicmalmo@gmail.com	(320) 684-2123
Fax		(320)-684-2836
Toll Free		(877) 684-2123
Church Web site		bicmalmo.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: [blnews@juno.com](mailto:blnews@juno.com)**

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