



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

Annual Congregational Meeting December 4, 2022

Call to order Devotions

Approval of Minutes

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Election:

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Auditor's Report

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AGENDA:

Financial Report

New Business

Report of Tellers

Closing

Adjournment

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
Annual Meeting Minutes [Last Year]
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

1. Darlene Christensen
2. Dick Stebbins
3. 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:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
General Envelope & Plate Offerings	\$136,521	\$128,826
Total Income	\$202,090	\$188,324
Total Expenses	\$205,314	\$159,888
NET	(-\$3,224)	\$28,737*

Major Projects Completed and Paid for in 2021:

\$1775 –Entry Door Replacements (3)

\$2025 –Live Stream Equip Down payment (Balance approx. \$550)

\$ 940 –Playground Repair

* *Benevolence yet to be paid out*

Year-End Cash & Investments

Checking	\$119,207
Savings	\$6,051
Edward Jones	\$50,938
Total Year-end Cash & Investments as of 11/30/21	\$176,196

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 ChristmasChild	\$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 November 30, 2020.....	\$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,	(\$14,482)
YEAR END CASH & INVESTMENTS NET OF	
DESIGNATED FUNDS.....	\$113,501

Proposed Budget

	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u> <u>(Thru Nov.)</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>
Total Income	\$202,090	\$189,101	\$149,450
		Budgeted(\$149,350)	
Total Expenses	\$205,314	\$160,595	\$149,881
		Budgeted(\$150,027)	
Net	(\$3,224)	\$29,306*	(\$431)

* *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 out doors 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. Dave 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

2022 BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

End of Present Term

President: Dennis Hennessey	December 2022
Vice-President:	
Darlene Christensen	December 2024
Joanne Stueven	December 2023
Dick Stebbins	December 2024
Sherry Whipple	December 2022
Cheryl Malotky	December 2022
Treasurer: Mary Braun	
Secretary: Judie Birk	
Pastor James Muske	

2022 Nominating Committees

1. Julie Swaggert

2. Lee Forester

2022 Synod Convention Delegates:

1. Dennis Hennessy

2. Julie Hennessy

MISSION STATEMENT

We will **LIVE** and **SERVE** through **FAITH**,

We will **ACT** with **LOVE** and **KINDNESS**,

We will **GIVE** hope and **SUPPORT** to all.

2023 BALLOT

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council members may serve only two consecutive terms

Vote for three: (three-year term)

OPEN _____

OPEN _____

OPEN _____

SYNOD CONVENTION DELEGATES (1 year term)

OPEN _____

SYNOD CONVENTION ALTERNATES (1 year term)

OPEN _____

2022 Annual Report of the Pastor to Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

“The LORD proclaims: When Babylon’s seventy years are up, I will come and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the LORD; they are plans for peace, not disaster; to give you a future filled with hope. When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me. I will be present for you, declares the LORD, and I will end your captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have scattered you, and I will bring you home after your long exile, declares the LORD.” (Jeremiah 29:10–14 (CEB))

I have always been a bit uncomfortable with the idea that God has everything planned out down to the tiniest detail, that everything that happens is according to some divine plan. It works fine with the good stuff in life, but the bad? From the mundane — did God really mean for me to stub my toe? — to the more serious — did God intend for thousands to suffer in this natural disaster? — it just seems to ask some difficult questions about the nature of God.

And yet, I love this passage from the Book of Jeremiah. It is this glimmer of hope offered to the people of God as they languish in Exile in Babylon. It speaks of plans, but it doesn't bother laying out all the details. It is a promise. A reminder that God's love, even in the midst of so much suffering and upheaval, still dwells among us and holds us firm. The details, we can figure those out in time, but be assured that God's plan is to bring us love and life, and that plan can never be stopped.

After the upheaval of the last few years, this past year felt as if we had truly gotten back into our “normal” (whatever that means) rhythms of life as a congregation. Another year with the Corn Feed, the Christmas Bazaar, and VBS. The Veggie Stand folks wowed us all again with the delicious fruits of their labors. The gardeners blessed our grounds with the natural beauty that they tend to so well. The quilters quilted up a storm. Sheila and all our musicians blessed us with their many gifts. So many opportunities for folks to gather over study or fellowship or some shared passion. So many unglamorous, tedious, and absolutely necessary tasks undertaken by all kinds of unsung helpers. We continue to be blessed with an abundance of selfless acts of love and generosity of time, talents, and resources.

Yet, as I noted last year, I also continue to be encouraged by those ways in which we engage in something new, something not “normal.” The ways in which we continue to stretch ourselves. I am so grateful for our new Grief Share group, the Mental Health First Aid training and the End of Life series. All these new ways we are learning to understand ourselves and others better.

Though it may come with a bit of sadness, I am even grateful for those times when we discern that some practices need to be paused or put away. That is one of the hardest parts of stewardship — realizing that we can't do everything. There are many great and wonderful things we can do as a congregation, but we should regularly reflect on how we best serve our community (inside and outside our walls) with the resources we have at hand. God helps guide us, not just in the old traditions we maintain or the new opportunities we seize, but also walks beside us as we let some things go. So, thank you all for your faithfulness and courage in listening to wherever God may be calling us next!

Finally, many thanks again to those that tended to our congregation's ministry during my sabbatical. Many thanks to Mary in the office, Julie on the Personnel Committee, Dennis and all those on the Council, Sheila and all those on the Worship Committee, Darlene and Pastor Jess for tending to pastoral care needs, Pastor Kate, Rick, and all our guest preachers and worship leaders. And my gratitude to the

congregation as a whole, for giving me the opportunity of a sabbatical. I know it was a new concept for some of you, but as pastors and congregations are increasingly discovering, sabbaticals are so helpful in keeping your pastor spiritually and mentally refreshed (and hopefully the congregation too!) So thank you all for those three months, and thank you for all that you do throughout the year, all those acts of love, big and small, that may never receive the recognition they deserve.

May God continue to bless Bethesda Lutheran Church and this world that we serve!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor James Muske

Letter from Council President

Greetings to all. The year 2022 is coming to an end. This has been a much more “Normal” year compared to last year and I hope that it will continue to be more normal. I believe that the congregation has faced and met the challenges we were presented with strength and resilience.

We have had a year with several wonderful accomplishments. The new sign has been installed and Mary is having fun programming all the different images. The top of the old sign has been refurbished and looks fantastic on top of our new sign. Our old sign has been sold and there was a happy dance by some as it left.

There were several out reach activities Bethesda put on this past year. The ‘End of Life ’series was well attended and extremely well received by the community. A ‘Mental Health First Aid ’seminar was held and again addressed how to recognize and respond to mental health issues. And we are once again hosting a ‘Grief Share ’series for those that have lost that special person in their lives.

The Council approved and hired a payroll specialist to assist Mary with her treasury position and it is working well with a zero budget impact. The Fall Bazaar was a huge success and brought in over \$15,000. Thank you to all the crafters, quilters, bakers and lefse makers who contributed their talent and time.

We are fiscally in a good position with some minor adjustments, but it is a strong foundation. I am confident that if we continue to recognize our obligations and keep you all informed we will stay in a solid financial position.

There are many things on the horizon needing careful thought and a lot of praying to see the path God would choose for us to follow. The one I would like to address first is Bethesda membership and growth. Churches nationally have seen a decline in membership for an assortment of reasons. It is important for us to be a welcoming place for anyone to find a place to encounter God and become a disciple of Jesus. There is so much negative news that it is sometimes lost on us that our individual responsibility is not to change the world but to be a light to those around us. We are promoters of Jesus and let Him persuade someone to follow in His teachings. Opportunities come as we show the world what Jesus has done for us personally. God gave us the ability to have a life that allows me to give so that we can receive so many blessings from Him.

This will be the end of my extended term. It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve this congregation. Thank you for the many blessings I have received as a result of that service.

God Bless, Dennis Hennessy, Council President

Mission and Evangelism

Committee members are: Pastor James, Sandy Pullen , Sue Samuelson, Judie Birk and Joanne Stueven. We welcome anyone to join this committee if any of the outreach efforts interest you.

We have only met in person a few times this year but continue to use emails and texts to keep in touch. During the winter months, our committee continued to provide the movie game day opportunities each month. Our May gathering did not happen because of cold temps for outdoor games.

Someone from our committee prepares a Family Hospitality Table serving coffee and cookies to the family at each funeral held at Bethesda.

Our group held a meeting responding to a request for more adult education. A brainstorming session resulted in the very successful End Of Life Series being held at Bethesda January, February, March and April.

In May , First Aid for Mental Health sessions were offered by Mary Vukelich as part of adult education. The Adult Education budget was used to help purchase some start up materials for the Grief Sessions presented by Dennis Hennesy.

We did not offer Sunday School this past year. If children attend church there are materials available to take into church. Confirmation attendance is very limited. There are on line and in person opportunities to complete sermon notes and communicate with Pastor. Vacation Bible School did meet the 3 rd week of June. It was a smaller group of about 25 students but a very successful event. (VBS report included)

On June 5, we welcomed new members to Bethesda. Our committee arranged sponsors for each family , made name tags, served cake and coffee, took photos and gave a special cross as a gift.

Our effort to advertise during the 4th of July Parade was cancelled due to weather. Our plan for the coming year is to distribute water bottles with Bethesda advertising on them.

Facebook has become an interesting way to advertise. We try to get events and messages on our Facebook page and website.

We pay for annual advertising in local papers.

Although, we had very poor attendance to last years Trunk or Treat we will try again this October. The treats will have a back to school theme giving pencils, notebooks , water bottles and books. We welcome church members to decorate their cars and give candy or other treats.

Our usual, November and December activities are World Hunger and ELCA Good Gifts. Our local benevolence offers Christmas food cards to local families as suggested by our church members. This November, along with World Hunger, we will share information on a local service project called Loaves and Fishes at the First Lutheran Church in Aitkin.

Our committee is reducing the number of organizations who receive benevolence dollars. (reducing 10 commitments to 8). Our Global dollars will be divided three ways: Mozambique Dara, Zambia Village of Hope, and Feed My Starving Children. The Local benevolence dollars will still be divided five ways: Aitkin Co. Health and Human Services, Camp Onomia, HOPE in Aitkin (women's shelter), Bethesda Office Emergency fund (gas or food for needy drop ins) and the Christmas Care and Share program (food cards).

We are responsible for Temple Talks letting people know about organizations that we sponsor. On Oct 2, we had a wonderful service learning about Mozambique. In December, we will hear about Zambia's Village of Hope.

Our plan for 2023 is to call it "2023 A Year of Service". We plan to have one Temple Talk a month letting Bethesda Members know about the opportunities to serve or donate. We already participate in

many activities through WELCA or other committees but this will make us all aware of our out reach opportunities.

Respectfully Submitted by Joanne Stueven

Stewardship and Financial Committee

The goal of our stewardship and financial ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them.

Our main task during the past year, was to carefully watch general offerings, currently we are \$3,000 short on our year to date general income. We would like to encourage families to sign up for automatic withdrawal using the "Simply Giving" forms which are available from the office. We lost about 18% on our stock investments year to date.

We encourage all members of the congregation (and visitors) to complete the Time & Talent survey that went out in the December newsletter. We need you to continue our good work! *Each good deed strengthens your angel wings!*

We will continue to monitor expenditures and the amount of financial gifts we receive, so that Bethesda will remain an active and fiscally sound congregation.

We recommended the budget to the council for the coming 2023 Calendar Year on Nov. 14, 2022.

Last year we listed the following ideas for you to consider in your daily life. How many of these ideas have you adopted into your normal life? Just one or two can help the environment and fellow parishioners with your stewardship service.

- You can once again bring your own grocery bags when you go to the store. Plastic is destroying our oceans and wildlife.
- Recycle — recycle — recycle! The recycle dumpsters are in Malmo the 2nd & 4th weeks of the month (Monday-Thursday)
- Install a rain barrel and use to water plants in the summer
- Ditch the plastic water bottles (or re-use)
- Buy Local Food (Or Grow Your Own)
- Do one kind act for a stranger once a month
- Purchase a Bible, devotional book, or pick up the monthly devotional provided by the church, and read it each day
- Remember the local food shelves
- Call someone who may be feeling alone.
- Look for ways to put a smile on people's faces

Currently we are looking for people to join the Stewardship & Finance committee. Typically, we meet once a quarter to review the monthly financial report of the church and make recommendations to the council as needed. We also oversee the yearly recommendations of the benevolence funds and distribute those funds at the end of the church year. If you would be interested in joining this committee, please contact one of the members or Pastor James.

Members: Donna Ansell, Mary Braun, Barb Forrester.

Faith, Health and Wellness/Parish Nurse Program

The Faith, Health and Wellness Committee covers the following programs:

- Loan closet-medical equipment such as walkers, crutches, wheelchairs, shower chairs, toilet risers and other medial supplies can be loaned out
- Cookie and Soup ministry-soup and cookies are kept in the pantry freezer and can be brought to members who are visited.
- Card ministry-hand-made birthday, anniversary, sympathy and get well cards are made by Ruth Hamman and sent to members
- Prayer Shawls and Prayer Squares-these are available in the narthex and can be given to those facing health related issues or who have suffered a recent loss. Thanks to the many knitters and crocheters who have provided the beautiful shawls to be given out.
- Baby bundles-gifts wrapped in quilts made by Bethesda quilters are given to the family at the time of a baptism
- Care Notes-pamphlets covering multiple health related topics are in a display case in the narthex
- Grief Support-the “Journey Through Grief” series is given to those who have suffered the recent loss of a loved one along with a prayer shawl
- Monthly blood pressure checks

The Outreach Program was started to ensure homebound, care center/assisted living residents, those with health concerns and those experiencing recent loss are visited or contacted by phone on a regular basis. Home communion training was done for those who wish to provide home communion during visits. Currently we have a visiting team consisting of Kathy Carlson, Carolyn Morris, Sue Samuelson and Darlene Christensen to assist Pastor James with visiting. We welcome anyone else who would like to be a part of this team.

The Parish Nurse Program at Bethesda seeks to promote health and wellness of body, mind and spirit in the members of the congregation. Kathy Berland and Darlene Christensen are available for telephone consultations for health related concerns and work with Pastor James to meet the needs of homebound and hospitalized members with health related issues. They can assist with such things as completing advance directives, medication and nutrition questions and blood pressure checks.

Submitted by Darlene Christensen

Worship and Music

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

The Worship and Music Committee had a productive year. The use of our digital technology now allows Sunday services (as well as funerals, Lenten services, special programs etc) to be livestreamed and then available recorded on our You Tube channel. Having services live and recorded has been beneficial for those unable to attend in person and has become “expected” and “normal” for Bethesda. We are blessed with members who once again have generously supported our technology needs so the equipment could

be purchased. We are also blessed with folks who create wonderful service power points (Mary Braun), run the iPads for services (Mary and Jim Christenson) and just plain “make it happen!” Thanks!

The Adult Choir started up in May and has about 15 members. Shiela Penoyer continues to provide great leadership in her role as choir director and music coordinator. The choir has been singing two times per month and will finish their year with a Christmas Cantata at the service on Sunday, December 19th. The Praise Team has led worship monthly throughout the year. The Bell Choir has added members and performs once a month from June through December. We thank God for all who share their time and musical talents with the Bethesda congregation.

The Worship and Music Committee took on some additional responsibilities during Pastor’s sabbatical. Julie Swaggert was responsible for creating the schedule for our supply Pastors during August, September and October. We were blessed with Rick Gabriel (Synod Authorized Minister), Pastor Kate Mensing and Dee Hillstrom (also a SAM) providing outstanding service leadership. The committee collaboratively chose service music and worked with Mary Braun to make sure the Sunday music was covered.

Sunday services just don’t happen. Worship services rely on a host of volunteers: ushers, greeters, communion assistants, altar care leaders and technology specialists. Bethesda is blessed to have faithful members for this important and necessary help!

A special “shout out” to our Office Manager, Mary Braun, for her tireless and creative efforts in developing service power points, bulletin reformatting, iPad service streaming and more as she is the glue behind making the technology effective, efficient and awesome. Thanks Mary!

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Swaggert, Worship and Music Committee Chair

Bell Choir

A short history of the Tone Chimes — In 2000 the family of Edna Andren donated money to purchase two octaves. Later Ruth Hamman’s family donated a third octave. A few years later a fund was established for brass hand bells. Donors were Don and Donna Myhre, Helen Neese family, Bob and Lee Krueger, Doris and Sam Reinhard, and anonymous donors. By 2006 we had a three octave set of Brass Bells.

Our current members are Donna Myhre, Donna Ansell, Jeannine Bruesewitz, Linda Gommer, Kathy Carlson, Cheryl Malotky, Jo DeFeyer, and myself. We still have more room for ringers, so if you want to give it a try, chime and give us a ring! Men are welcome too and!

Submitted by Dianne Jones

Altar Care

Members prepare the altar for communion. Each month, two members are responsible for preparing the bread, wine and juice for Sunday services and any special days during the year.

At Christmas and Easter, we decorate the sanctuary. When there is a baptism, we put the name on a special banner for the font. A large banner is used also for funerals and some other events. New members are always welcome to join us.

Current committee members are Elsa and Chuck Carlson, Barb and Lee Forrester, Linda Southworth, Sylvia Tapelt, Winnie Zahradka, Karen Elias, Patti Smith, Cheryl Malotky, and myself. We want to thank Karen and Gene Miller from TJ's Liquor for donating the wine.

Submitted by Dianne Jones

Praise Team

Mission Statement: We seek to thank, honor and praise God through the gift of music as we teach and lead the congregation in contemporary worship songs.

Members: Pastor James Muske, Sheila Penoyer, Sherrie Whipple, Jim and Darlene Christensen.

The Praise Team began its ministry in April of 2008 with a vision to offer contemporary Christian music in addition to the more traditional music during worship. We introduce and teach new contemporary songs to the congregation as well as incorporate more familiar songs into the service.

Once the church reopened for in person worship the Praise Team has led services the second Sunday of each month. We want to thank Rick Gabriel for filling in as singer and drummer while Pastor James was on sabbatical August through October. He was a great addition to our team.

We always welcome new singers/musicians who have a love of contemporary Christian music to join us.

Personnel Committee

The function of the Personnel Committee is to assist the Church Council in all staffing matters including the updating of committee and individual job descriptions, conducting annual staff performance reviews, interviewing and hiring staff as needed, making salary recommendations and conducting background checks as required. The Personnel Committee has met this year to review salaries, budget and begin again to do performance reviews.

In March 2022, we hired Brenda Sjervin to take on the duties of Payroll Specialist. Brenda has experience and skills in payroll and has taken this portion of the Treasurer position from Mary Braun. Mary continues in her role as Treasurer and Secretary. We have proposed renaming her position as Office Manager to better capture how her role has changed in the past couple of years with the addition of service technology and other duties she covers. The new digital sign is now under Mary's capable hands and serves as a welcoming and information center for Bethesda and the community.

Pastor James took a three month sabbatical during August through October, 2022. Rick Gabriel (SAM), Pastor Kate Mensing and Dee Hillstrom (SAM) were our supply pastors who each brought their unique gifts to Bethesda and we thank them. Pastor Jess Olson from Onamia filled in for our Pastoral Care role and also conducted a funeral service at Bethesda. We thank her for her service.

We will continue to update and revise all of the job descriptions utilizing staff input to reflect current job position responsibilities. We thank God for our staff, Office Manager and Treasurer Mary Braun, Payroll Specialist Brenda Sjervin, Music Director Sheila Penoyer, Digital Music Coordinator Jim Christiansen, Custodian Gary Sjervin and Pastor James Muske. The job responsibilities continue to evolve and our employees have been determined to continue to serve Bethesda and for that we are grateful.

Personnel Committee members include: Lee Forrester, Pat Becker, and Julie Swaggert. Our long - time member Pat Becker recently moved to Milaca. We thank God for her faith-filled service on this committee and to all aspects of Bethesda! We will be looking for another Personnel Committee member.

Respectfully submitted, Julie Swaggert

Property Report:

Wow! Have you seen the new digital sign? It looks great. The upper wooden section of the sign was rotting and had to be completely reworked, the post is steel to provide strength and durability. The sign is completely finished. We owe our thanks to Gary Sjerven and Berry Ansel for their time and hard work.

Annual maintenance of putting out and removing septic covers and winter road markers. Spring and fall clean-up was completed. Thanks to the nature lovers who mowed lawn and tended the beautiful flowers around the church and memory garden. Fire extinguishers and emergency exit signs were inspected and five new extinguishers were added and batteries added to emergency exit signs as needed. A new furnace was installed in the kitchen area. The dish washer was leaking and was repaired. The water softener needed repair twice and will need to be replaced in the near future. The exterior lights have been updated and are now working great.

Solar Report: The Solar Committee set up at the last annual meeting has been working to gather information on installing, cost, and location of solar panels. The committee members include Dick Stebbins, Emile and Mary Vukelich and Lee Forrester. A presentation will be made at the annual meeting.

The Property Committee members include Dianne Jones, Dick Pullen, Dave Stueven, Don Myhre, Gary Sjerven, Darrell Kelly, Lee Forrester and Council Rep Dennis Hennessy. We are always looking for new members. If you are looking for an opportunity to get involved please call Darrell Kelly or Lee Forrester. Submitted by Darrell Kelly and Lee Forrester

Quilters

Made and donated:

16 Onamia Hospital

1 Baptisms

1 Synod Assembly

1 Camp Onomia (sold for \$275)

2 Graduations

16 LWR

Thank you to all who helped and donated.

Submitted by Bethesda Quilters

Bethesda Women of the ELCA 2022

“As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our calling, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, in society and the world.”

Bethesda is in the Heartland Conference in the NE Synod and WELCA includes all women of Bethesda Lutheran Church.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday in the months of January, April, May, August, September and November.

Synod gatherings were held in June and September in Grand Rapids and Garrison.

We met in December of 2021 to disburse funds from the “2021 BAZAAR”. Placards were placed on all tables in the fellowship hall with the disbursements listed. Total was \$12500.00.

In April of 2022, we packed 36 In-Kind bags that were delivered to Lutheran Social Services for the refugees.

May found the ladies making 302 jars of jelly to be sold at the “Veggie Stand,” and the volunteers at the veggie stand did such a great job selling, we needed to make more in October so we would have jelly to sell at the Bazaar!

Fleece tie blankets (14) were made in July for Camp Noah for children that need comfort as they process their disaster and/or trauma experience.

August brought the annual “Corn Feed” which again, was a huge success. We served 183 hungry corn lovers. The proceeds will be used to obtain a new window in the fellowship hall to hang the Centennial Stain Glass.

The “ANNUAL BAZAAR” was held on October 29th. WOW, what a huge sale that was. Thank you to Judie Birk, our leader and Linda Southworth, our inventory and pricing lady, and EVERYONE that gave of their time, skills, etc. Our total was \$15,446.32!!! A record #!!!! And we still have items available throughout the holidays. We will meet in November to disburse those funds.

So, a HUGE “Thank You” for the time all have donated, the talents you have shared, and the money given to allow us to follow our mission statement. “To mobilize women to “ACT BOLDLY” on their Faith in Jesus Christ.

All women are welcome to share in God’s work at Bethesda.

Gods Peace to All

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Samuelson, co-chair, Darlene Christianson, co-chair, Char Berg, secretary and Dianne Jones, treasurer

Bethesda Women of the ELCA

Bethesda Women of the ELCA Fiscal Year End Report — October 2022

Balance on hand on November 2021 **\$16,411.69**

Deposits/credits

Corn Feed	1906.00
Sales/quilts etc	394.00
Funerals	824.16
Jelly	120.00
Misc.	120.00

Total **\$3,364.16**

Checks/Debits

BLC playground	940.00
Bazaar Donations etc.	12,000.00
Funeral food	570.48
Lutheran World Relief	540.00
Misc.	139.30
WELCA	1,150.00
Refugee project	588.77
Quilters Expenses	217.68
Jelly Expenses	336.64
Corn Feed expenses	87.34
Bazaar expenses	152.00

Total **\$16,722.21**

Balance on hand October 5, 2022 **\$3,053.64**

Submitted by Dianne Jones, Treasurer on October 16, 2022

Holiday Bazaar – 2022 Results

The parking lot was full! Customers lined up in the hallways! The weather magnificent! It was a WIN/WIN for everyone! Result are as follows:

Raffle	\$1,741.00
Lunch counter	978.50
Quilts, crafts, cookie walk, baked goods, jelly, lefse	9,937.66
Credit card sales	2,789.16
TOTAL	\$15,446.32

Proceeds will be distributed in December.

Member Statistics January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

Weddings:	none	
Baptisms:	January 23, 2022	Josephine Anne Fischer
Confirmation:	none	
Funerals:	June 21, 2022	Jack Spetz
	October 1, 2022	Randy Zahradka
Deaths:	April 10, 2022	Delores Haggberg
	April 12, 2022	Richard Nelson
	May 16, 2022	Irene Manning
	May 18, 2022	Les Bolke
	August 3, 2022	Judy Wuorio
	August 7, 2022	Dean Gommer
	September 18, 2022	Dorothy Gordon
Transfer Out:	June 15, 2022	Barb Bray
Transfer In:	February 4, 2022	Ron & LuAnn Gordon
New Members:	June 5, 2022	Gary & Brenda Sjerven
		Rocky & Jo DeFrater
		Shane & Vicki Vossen
		Neda Vossen, Mark Vossen, Joy Vossen
		Lorenzo Vossen, Chayton Cottier-Vossen

Memorials Given

IN MEMORY OF	MEMORIAL DONOR	GOES TO
Marilyn Hass	Chuck & Elsa Carlson.....	Church choice
Marilyn Hass	Wally & Bev Swenson.....	Electronic sign
Marilyn Hass	Carol Bakken	Choir
Neil Honl	Joanne Stueven	VBS
Neil Honl	Wally & Bev Swenson.....	Electronic sign
Neil Honl	Pat Becker	Music
Neil Honl	Carol Bakken	Music
Neil Honl	Char & Roy Berg	Music
Neil Honl	Chuck & Elsa Carlson.....	Music
Neil Honl	Barb & Lee Forrester	Church choice
Al Wedig	Bev Wedig	Electronic sign
Jack Spetz	Paula Spetz.....	Electronic sign
Jack Spetz	Marlene Gray	Electronic sign
Jack Spetz	Steve & Marlene Champlin	Electronic sign
Jack Spetz	Plumber's Union	Electronic sign
Jack Spetz	Loose Ends HCR	Electronic sign
Jack Spetz	Jim & Darlene Christensen	Electronic sign
Jack Spetz	Carol Bakken	Electronic sign
Jack Spetz	Dave & Joanne Steuven	Electronic sign
Jack Spetz	Lois Johnson	Electronic sign
Jack Spetz	Patti Smith.....	Electronic sign
Jack Spetz	Sam & Sue Samuelson.....	Electronic sign
Jack Spetz	Richard Hanson.....	Electronic sign
Jack Spetz	Barry & Donna Ansell	Electronic sign
Jack Spetz	Mary Jane Swanson	Electronic sign
Jack Spetz	Jeannine Bruesewitz	Church choice
Jack Spetz	Lee & Barb Forrester	Church choice
Jack Spetz	Denise & Ronald Hukriede.....	Church choice
Jack Spetz	Elaine Spetz	Electronic sign
Richard Nelson	Marjorie Nelson	Church choice
Randy Zahradka	Patti Smith.....	Church choice

Treasurers Report 2022

Year to Year Financial Activity Comparison	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022 (thru Oct)</u>
General Envelope & Plate Offerings	\$138,589	\$114,584
Total Income	\$207,637	\$169,804
Total Expenses	\$204,325	\$167,814
NET	\$3,312	\$1,990*

***World & Local Benevolence has not been paid out in full yet (see next page for YTD totals).**

Year End Cash & Investments	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022 (thru Oct)</u>
Checking	\$106,186	\$111,759
Savings	\$6,502	\$6,502
Edward Jones	\$ 51,906	\$42,288
Total Year End Cash and Investments	\$164,594	\$160,549

Year End Designated Funds (Reserved)		
Facility Accrual	\$10,447	\$10,447
Digital Sign Reserve	\$4,995	\$0
Worship & Music Accrual	\$733	\$503
Office Equipment Accrual	\$161	\$161
Christmas Care Accrual (Secret Santa)	\$800	\$800
Operation Christmas Child	\$800	\$800
Veggie Stand Accrual (Start Up Funds)	\$400	\$402
Emergency Benevolence Funds Accrual	\$3,226	\$2,363
Sabbatical/Continuing Ed Accrual	\$17,806	\$13,471
Centennial Reserve	\$4,107	\$4,169
VBS Reserve	\$970	\$241
Memorial Accrual – Restricted	\$4,137	\$4,137
Memorial Accrual – Unrestricted	\$997	\$997
Tax Withholdings Payable	\$12,008	\$17,059
Total Designated Funds as of December 31	\$61,587	\$55,550

Operating Cash Balance as of	Dec. 31, 2021	Oct. 31, 2022
Total Year End Cash & Investments	\$164,594	\$160,549
Total Designated (Reserved)	(\$61,587)	(\$55,550)
Year End Cash & Investments		
Net Assets of Designated Funds	\$102,557	\$104,999

2022 Benevolence Summary

2022 Benevolence Summary (as of October 2022)

- **Global & Non-Local Total (YTD): \$2,628**
 - **Recipients (\$526 each): Dara Mozambique, Village of Hope Zambia, Feed My Starving Children, Lutheran Partners in Global Missions, Ingrian Church Russia**

- **Brainerd Lakes Local Total (YTD): \$7,019**
 - **Recipients (\$1,404 each): Aitkin Co Human Services, BLCM Emergency Fund, Christmas Joy, Camp Onomia, Hope Crisis Center, Aitkin**

- **Local Food Shelves Totals (YTD): \$ 949**
(paid out so far: \$ 874)

- **ELCA Synod Total (YTD): \$6,786**

- **World Hunger (YTD): \$1,637**

- **Dedicated Other Benevolence Total (YTD): \$2,953**
(paid out so far: \$1,498)
 - **Recipients: Dara Mozambique, Lutheran World Relief (Eastern Europe Crisis Response).**

Benevolence will be given out later in December.

2022

Bethesda Worship Attendance

January 2022

2-Jan	9:00	36
9-Jan	9:00	33
16-Jan	9:00	42
23-Jan	9:00	61
30-Jan	9:00	48

Monthly Online 76 *

January Totals: 296

May 2022

1-May	9:00	58
8-May	9:00	74
15-May	9:00	57
22-May	9:00	70
29-May	9:00	60

Monthly online 56 *

May Totals: 375

September 2022

4-Sep	9:00	48
11-Sep	9:00	42
18-Sep	9:00	58
25-Sep	9:00	71
	Online	46 *

September Totals: 265

February 2022

6-Feb		52
13-Feb		36
20-Feb		39
27-Feb		46

Monthly Online 53 *

February Totals: 226

June 2021

5-Jun	9:00	80
12-Jun	9:00	53
19-Jun	9:00	62
26-Jun	9:00	59

Monthly online 28 *

June Totals: 282

October 2022

2-Oct	9:00	60
9-Oct	9:00	42
16-Oct	9:00	66
23-Oct	9:00	82
30-Oct	9:00	72

Monthly online 50 *

October Totals: 372

March 2022

2-Mar	Ash Wednesday	18
	online	6 *
6-Mar	9:00	25
9-Mar	Lent 5:30	21
	online	10 *
13-Mar	9:00	40
16-Mar	Lent 5:30	17
	online	8 *
20-Mar	9:00	43
23-Mar	Lent 5:30	11
	online	4 *
27-Mar	9:00	50
30-Mar	Lent 5:30	17
	online	4 *

March Totals: 274

July 2022

3-Jul	9:00	52
10-Jul	9:00	72
17-Jul	9:00	70
24-Jul	9:00	60
31-Jul	9:00	60

Monthly online 40 *

July Totals: 354

November 2022

6-Nov	9:00	70
13-Nov	9:00	
20-Nov	9:00	
27-Nov	9:00	
	Monthly online	*

November Totals: 70

April 2022

3-Apr	9:00	59
6-Apr	Wed Lent	23
	online	4 *
10-Apr	9:00	76
14-Apr	Maundy Thurs	26
	Good Fri	14
17-Apr	Easter 8:30	54
	Easter 10:00	54
24-Apr	9:00	68

Monthly Online 101 *

April Totals: 479

12 August 2022

7-Aug	9:00	58
14-Aug	9:00	62
21-Aug	9:00	61
28-Aug	9:00	60
	Monthly online	50 *

August Totals: 291

December 2022

4-Dec	9:00	
	Online	
11-Dec	9:00	
	Online	
18-Dec	9:00	
	Online	
24-Dec	Xmas Eve	
	Xmas Eve	
	Online	
25-Dec	9:00	
	Online	

December Totals: 0

2022 Calendar Year to Date: 3284

** virtual on line service attendance based on NEMN Synod calculation recommendations.
(Unique visits x 2)*

Budget Worksheet

	Two Years Ago Actual	Last Year Actual	Current Year Actual	Current Year Budget	Next Year Budget	Next Year Revisions
Income						
<i>General Fund</i>						
General Offerings						
400 Envelope Offering - General I-1-05-00-01	135,260	135,578	114,068	138,000	135,000	_____
402 Plate Offering - Loose Cash I-1-05-00-02	1,261	3,011	2,209	2,000	3,000	_____
Totals:	136,521	138,589	116,277	140,000	138,000	
General Offerings Totals:	136,521	138,589	116,277	140,000	138,000	
Benevolence Offerings						
445 Operation Christmas Child (A265) I-1-15-10-01	0	0	0	0	0	_____
Totals:	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Income						
403 Holiday/Lent/Advent/Thanksgivi I-1-20-00-03	4,146	3,980	1,436	3,000	2,500	_____
408 Stock Donation I-1-20-00-06	0	0	0	0	0	_____
409 Interest Income I-1-20-00-01	2,737	3,547	(7,417)	1,000	1,000	_____
415 Miscellaneous Income I-1-20-00-02	424	344	8,570	0	0	_____
435 Fuel Income I-1-20-00-05	0	0	50	0	0	_____
Totals:	7,307	7,871	2,638	4,000	3,500	
Other Income Totals:	7,307	7,871	2,638	4,000	3,500	
Worship & Music						
410 Book and Music Sales I-1-30-00-04	0	0	20	0	0	_____
413 Music Income(Funeral/Wedding) I-1-30-00-09	0	275	0	100	100	_____
416 Worship & Music Income I-1-30-00-01	100	2,151	435	300	300	_____
418 Altar Care (P506) I-1-30-00-07	0	650	345	0	0	_____
460 Jamboree I-1-30-00-03	0	0	0	0	0	_____

	Two Years Ago Actual	Last Year Actual	Current Year Actual	Current Year Budget	Next Year Budget	Next Year Revisions
Totals:	100	3,076	800	400	400	
Worship & Music Totals:	100	3,076	800	400	400	
Faith, Health & Wellness						
433 Nurse's Ministry Income I-1-31-00-01	0	93	0	0	0	
Totals:	0	93	0	0	0	
Youth & Family Ministry						
430 Youth Program Income I-1-32-00-01	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals:	0	0	0	0	0	
Benevolence						
427 Veggie Stand Income (P767A274) I-1-33-00-08	24	3,524	3,551	0	0	
440 World Hunger Income (P761) I-1-33-00-01	1,444	1,835	1,827	0	0	
441 Local Benevolence (P763A272) I-1-33-00-02	5,364	8,612	7,054	0	0	
442 Food Shelf Income (P765A270) I-1-33-00-06	4,220	2,477	949	0	0	
443 World Benevolence (P766) I-1-33-00-03	3,588	3,750	2,703	0	0	
444 Other Benevolence (P762) I-1-33-00-04	2,293	3,305	2,993	0	0	
Totals:	16,933	23,503	19,077	0	0	
Benevolence Totals:	16,933	23,503	19,077	0	0	
Christian Education						
424 Sunday School Income I-1-35-00-03	0	0	0	0	0	
425 VBS Income I-1-35-00-01	400	970	390	500	500	
426 Adult Education Income (P576) I-1-35-00-02	0	35	178	0	0	
Totals:	400	1,005	568	500	500	
436 Adult Christian Ed I-1-35-04-01	0	150	659	0	0	
Totals:	0	150	659	0	0	
Christian Education Totals:	400	1,155	1,227	500	500	
Evangelism / Mission						

	Two Years Ago Actual	Last Year Actual	Current Year Actual	Current Year Budget	Next Year Budget	Next Year Revisions
423 Picture Directory Income I-1-36-00-01	0	0	0	0	0	
428 Mission & Evangelism Income I-1-36-00-04	0	0	750	0	400	
434 Centennial Celebration I-1-36-00-06	203	0	20	0	0	
Totals:	203	0	770	0	400	
Evangelism / Mission Totals:	203	0	770	0	400	
Fundraisers						
411 Blessing Box Income (P513) I-1-38-00-02	1,141	998	1,519	0	0	
431 Fundraiser Income (P512) I-1-38-00-01	106	92	88	0	0	
Totals:	1,247	1,090	1,606	0	0	
Fundraisers Totals:	1,247	1,090	1,606	0	0	
Office Administration						
461 Copier Replacement Fund (A284) I-1-45-00-00	0	0	0	0	0	
463 Office Expense Income I-1-45-00-04	90	210	5	50	50	
Totals:	90	210	5	50	50	
Office Administration Totals:	90	210	5	50	50	
Church Property Maintenance						
421 Janitorial Services Income I-1-70-00-01	100	50	0	0	0	
422 Janitorial Supplies Income I-1-70-00-02	19	0	0	0	0	
Totals:	119	50	0	0	0	
Church Property Maintenance Totals:	119	50	0	0	0	
Utilities						
490 Church Use Income I-1-75-00-01	855	764	650	1,000	1,000	
491 Equipment Use I-1-75-00-02	55	0	30	0	0	
Totals:	910	764	680	1,000	1,000	
Utilities Totals:	910	764	680	1,000	1,000	
Church Property Improvements						
492 Facilities Fund Income I-1-77-00-01	3,990	4,853	3,100	3,500	3,500	

	Two Years Ago Actual	Last Year Actual	Current Year Actual	Current Year Budget	Next Year Budget	Next Year Revisions
493 Multi-Media Expansion Income I-1-77-00-05	7,545	505	0	0	0	_____
495 Digital Sign Income I-1-77-00-06	0	4,995	21,515	0	0	_____
Totals:	11,535	10,353	24,615	3,500	3,500	
Church Property Improvements Totals:	11,535	10,353	24,615	3,500	3,500	

Building Fund

Parsonage

432 Parsonage Cash Donations I-2-80-00-02	50	755	0	0	0	_____
Totals:	50	755	0	0	0	

Memorial & Endowment Fund

Memorials

482 Memorial Income I-3-90-00-00	12,810	6,405	2,665	0	0	_____
Totals:	12,810	6,405	2,665	0	0	

Endowments

480 Endowment Income I-3-94-00-01	0	0	0	0	0	_____
Totals:	0	0	0	0	0	

PassThru

PassThru

450 PassThru Income I-4-85-00-01	12,865	12,724	3,402	0	0	_____
451 Scholarship Income I-4-85-00-02	1,000	1,000	500	0	0	_____
Totals:	13,865	13,724	3,902	0	0	
PassThru Totals:	13,865	13,724	3,902	0	0	
Income Totals:	202,090	207,637	174,261	149,450	147,350	

Expense

General Fund

Benevolence Offerings

745 Operation Christmas Child E-1-15-10-01	0	0	0	0	0	_____
Totals:	0	0	0	0	0	

Other Income

	Two Years Ago Actual	Last Year Actual	Current Year Actual	Current Year Budget	Next Year Budget	Next Year Revisions
708 Stock Expense E-1-20-00-01	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals:	0	0	0	0	0	
Worship & Music						
500 Choir Supplies E-1-30-00-01	0	1	208	500	300	
501 Choir Director E-1-30-00-02	2,880	2,160	2,400	2,880	2,880	
502 Digital Hymnal Tech E-1-30-00-03	2,820	2,925	2,420	2,820	2,820	
503 Praise Team Performances E-1-30-00-04	265	0	0	0	0	
504 Praise Choir Supplies E-1-30-00-05	0	94	85	700	250	
505 Worship Supplies E-1-30-00-06	1,423	1,435	1,151	1,800	1,500	
506 Altar Care (P418) E-1-30-00-07	451	284	465	200	300	
507 Bell Choir Supplies E-1-30-00-08	0	0	197	0	200	
508 Worship & Music Training E-1-30-00-09	0	0	0	0	0	
510 Worship & Music Accrual (A282) E-1-30-00-11	0	0	0	0	0	
511 Special Music E-1-30-00-12	575	500	0	250	250	
520 Jamboree Expenses E-1-30-00-14	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals:	8,414	7,399	6,926	9,150	8,500	
Worship & Music Totals:	8,414	7,399	6,926	9,150	8,500	
Faith, Health & Wellness						
515 Parish Nurse Salaries E-1-31-00-01	0	0	0	0	0	
516 Parish Nurse Mileage E-1-31-00-02	0	0	0	0	150	
517 Parish Nurse Training E-1-31-00-03	0	0	0	0	0	
518 FH & W Special Interests E-1-31-00-04	110	149	169	250	200	
519 Parish Nurse Program E-1-31-00-05	0	172	0	0	0	
Totals:	110	321	169	250	350	
Faith, Health & Wellness Totals:	110	321	169	250	350	
Youth & Family Ministry						
740 Youth Program	0	0	0	0	0	

	Two Years Ago Actual	Last Year Actual	Current Year Actual	Current Year Budget	Next Year Budget	Next Year Revisions
E-1-32-00-01						
741 Youth & Family Director	0	0	0	0	0	
E-1-32-00-02						
742 Youth Auto Allowance	0	0	0	0	0	
E-1-32-00-03						
743 Adult-Parent-Family	0	0	0	0	0	
E-1-32-00-04						
744 Youth & Family Training	0	78	0	0	0	
E-1-32-00-05						
Totals:	0	78	0	0	0	
Youth & Family Ministry Totals:	0	78	0	0	0	
Benevolence						
760 ELCA Synod Benevolence	8,197	8,384	6,786	8,400	6,900	
E-1-33-00-01						
761 World Hunger Benevolenc (P440)	1,444	1,840	1,637	0	0	
E-1-33-00-02						
762 Other Benevolence (P444)	4,643	3,308	1,498	0	0	
E-1-33-00-03						
763 Local Benevol (P441A272)	6,218	9,312	0	0	0	
E-1-33-00-04						
765 Food Shelf Donation (P442A270)	4,520	2,477	874	0	0	
E-1-33-00-06						
766 World Benevolence (P443)	4,828	3,750	0	0	0	
E-1-33-00-07						
767 Veggie Stand Benev (P427A274)	688	3,524	3,551	0	0	
E-1-33-00-08						
Totals:	30,538	32,594	14,345	8,400	6,900	
Benevolence Totals:	30,538	32,594	14,345	8,400	6,900	
Lay Leadership						
560 Synod Delegate	675	75	1,279	700	1,500	
E-1-34-00-01						
561 Council Retreat	0	0	0	0	0	
E-1-34-00-02						
562 Educational Subscriptions	0	0	0	0	0	
E-1-34-00-03						
563 Leadership Training	0	38	0	0	0	
E-1-34-00-04						
Totals:	675	113	1,279	700	1,500	
Lay Leadership Totals:	675	113	1,279	700	1,500	
Christian Education						
575 Confirmation	0	190	120	200	50	
E-1-35-00-01						
576 Adult Education (P426)	0	65	1,413	0	0	
E-1-35-00-02						

	Two Years Ago Actual	Last Year Actual	Current Year Actual	Current Year Budget	Next Year Budget	Next Year Revisions
577 Sunday School/Cross Generational E-1-35-00-03	117	13	39	100	50	_____
578 Adult Christian Education E-1-35-00-04	136	922	90	1,000	500	_____
579 Vacation Bible School E-1-35-00-05	40	970	0	1,000	250	_____
Totals:	294	2,160	1,662	2,300	850	
Christian Education Totals:	294	2,160	1,662	2,300	850	
Evangelism / Mission						
590 Evangelism Training E-1-36-00-01	0	0	0	0	0	_____
592 Evangelism / Advertising E-1-36-00-03	368	527	425	1,000	500	_____
593 Picture Directory E-1-36-00-04	0	0	0	0	0	_____
596 Centennial Celebration E-1-36-00-07	1,212	0	0	0	0	_____
Totals:	1,579	527	425	1,000	500	
597 Evangelism Operating Expenses E-1-36-07-01	0	0	104	0	0	_____
Totals:	0	0	104	0	0	
Evangelism / Mission Totals:	1,579	527	529	1,000	500	
Stewardship / Finance						
612 Stewardship E-1-37-00-01	0	658	511	800	600	_____
Totals:	0	658	511	800	600	
Fundraisers						
512 Fundraiser Expense (P431) E-1-38-00-02	26	0	0	0	0	_____
513 Blessingbox Expense (P411) E-1-38-00-04	1,270	998	1,067	0	0	_____
Totals:	1,296	998	1,067	0	0	
Fundraisers Totals:	1,296	998	1,067	0	0	
Office Administration						
635 Office Supplies E-1-45-00-03	571	600	659	700	700	_____
636 Copier Maintenance E-1-45-00-01	858	1,045	1,383	1,000	600	_____
637 Computer Supplies E-1-45-00-02	698	314	202	400	250	_____

	Two Years Ago Actual	Last Year Actual	Current Year Actual	Current Year Budget	Next Year Budget	Next Year Revisions
638 Postage E-1-45-00-04	526	1,113	821	1,200	1,200	
Totals:	2,653	3,072	3,064	3,300	2,750	
Office Administration Totals:	2,653	3,072	3,064	3,300	2,750	
Salaries						
524 Pastor Auto E-1-50-00-05	5,100	1,216	0	2,500	2,000	
525 Administrative Salaries E-1-50-00-02	12,379	14,708	14,074	17,212	19,340	
526 Pastor Salary E-1-50-00-01	42,500	43,635	36,250	43,500	43,500	
527 Furnishing Allowance E-1-50-00-03	1,500	1,500	1,250	1,500	1,500	
528 Home Equity-Pastor E-1-50-00-06	1,687	1,742	1,451	2,340	2,340	
532 Retirement E-1-50-00-04	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals:	63,166	62,801	53,025	67,052	68,680	
Salaries Totals:	63,166	62,801	53,025	67,052	68,680	
Benefits						
529 FICA - Employers share E-1-55-00-02	3,593	3,959	3,662	5,500	4,500	
547 Medicare - Employers share E-1-55-00-08	840	926	857	1,000	1,000	
548 Continuing Education E-1-55-00-09	134	0	49	0	0	
549 Retirement Contribution E-1-55-00-10	10,948	11,766	10,205	7,020	7,020	
550 Insurance Benefits E-1-55-00-11	10,769	11,420	10,198	10,500	10,500	
552 Sabbatical Expense (A286) E-1-55-00-03	6,000	6,000	0	0	0	
Totals:	32,285	34,071	24,970	24,020	23,020	
Benefits Totals:	32,285	34,071	24,970	24,020	23,020	
Administration						
800 Adminstrative Expenses E-1-65-00-01	2,458	3,162	2,965	3,000	3,000	
801 WC Umbrella Liability Ins E-1-65-00-02	925	936	910	1,000	1,000	
Totals:	3,383	4,098	3,875	4,000	4,000	
Administration Totals:	3,383	4,098	3,875	4,000	4,000	
Church Property Maintenance						

	Two Years Ago Actual	Last Year Actual	Current Year Actual	Current Year Budget	Next Year Budget	Next Year Revisions
700 Property Maintenance E-1-70-00-03	1,535	5,165	5,659	4,000	3,000	
701 Parsonage Maintenance E-1-70-00-04	0	592	67	800	500	
703 Janitorial Services E-1-70-00-05	1,954	2,776	2,048	4,000	4,000	
704 Janitorial Supplies E-1-70-00-06	716	438	625	1,000	800	
Totals:	4,205	8,971	8,399	9,800	8,300	
Church Property Maintenance Totals:	4,205	8,971	8,399	9,800	8,300	
Insurance						
712 Property Insurance E-1-72-00-03	3,371	3,408	3,966	4,200	4,000	
Totals:	3,371	3,408	3,966	4,200	4,000	
Utilities						
720 Church Heating Fuel E-1-75-00-01	2,733	4,372	3,727	5,000	6,000	
723 Parsonage Heating Fuel E-1-75-00-02	754	899	450	1,500	1,500	
Totals:	3,488	5,271	4,176	6,500	7,500	
721 Church Electricity E-1-75-01-01	3,092	3,294	2,961	3,500	3,500	
724 Parsonage Electricity E-1-75-01-02	967	901	1,173	1,000	1,500	
Totals:	4,059	4,195	4,134	4,500	5,000	
722 Church Phones & Internet E-1-75-03-01	1,667	1,753	1,632	1,700	1,700	
725 Parsonage Phone & Internet E-1-75-03-02	1,954	1,955	1,647	2,000	2,000	
Totals:	3,621	3,707	3,279	3,700	3,700	
726 Garbage Removal E-1-75-04-01	316	409	290	500	400	
727 Snow Removal E-1-75-04-02	1,069	639	989	1,200	1,200	
Totals:	1,384	1,047	1,278	1,700	1,600	
Utilities Totals:	12,552	14,220	12,868	16,400	17,800	
Church Property Improvements						
735 Church Property Improvements E-1-77-00-01	4,301	90	1,754	1,500	2,000	

	Two Years Ago Actual	Last Year Actual	Current Year Actual	Current Year Budget	Next Year Budget	Next Year Revisions
736 Memorial Garden E-1-77-00-02	0	0	0	0	0	_____
753 Multi Media Expansion E-1-77-00-03	8,763	2,833	0	0	0	_____
795 Digital Sign Expense E-1-77-00-04	0	4,995	25,453	0	0	_____
Totals:	13,064	7,918	27,206	1,500	2,000	
Church Property Improvements Totals:	13,064	7,918	27,206	1,500	2,000	
<i>Building Fund</i>						
Parsonage						
710 Parsonage E-2-80-00-01	715	755	0	0	100	_____
Totals:	715	755	0	0	100	
<i>Memorial & Endowment Fund</i>						
Memorials						
582 Memorial Expenses E-3-90-00-01	13,705	6,405	1,820	0	0	_____
Totals:	13,705	6,405	1,820	0	0	
Endowments						
580 Endowment Expense E-3-94-00-01	0	0	0	0	0	_____
Totals:	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>PassThru</i>						
PassThru						
850 PassThru Expense E-4-85-00-02	13,444	12,758	3,352	0	0	_____
890 Scholarships E-4-85-00-01	0	1,000	0	0	0	_____
Totals:	13,444	13,758	3,352	0	0	
PassThru Totals:	13,444	13,758	3,352	0	0	
Expense Totals:	205,448	204,325	169,033	152,872	149,850	
Income - Expense:	(3,359)	3,312	5,228	(3,422)	(2,500)	

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo
Annual Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2022

Council Members in Attendance: Dennis Hennessy, Cheryl Malotky, Joanne Stueven, Sherry Whipple, Dick Stebbins, Darlene Christensen and Judie Birk

Attendee were around 48 people. With a quorum confirmed, President Dennis Hennessy called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

Pastor James Muske shared an opening prayer.

Secretary's Report:

There were no corrections. Cheryl Malotky made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2021, Annual Meeting. Sue 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 Sharon Whipple and seconded by Sue Stebbins and approved. These are good summaries of the excellent work and ministries performed within our church.

Election:

Council Members

Three Year Terms

1. Gary Sjerven
2. Donna Ansell
3. Dean Malotky

Sue Samuelson made a motion to accept these candidates as council members. Cheryl Malotky seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Nominating Committee

1. Julie Swaggert
2. Lee Forrester

Synod Convention Delegates: Julie and Lee will find delegates

- 1.
- 2.

Darlene Christensen made a motion to accept the Nominating Committee
Gary Sjerven seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Mary Braun reported via Zoom as she had tested positive for Covid.

Year/Year Financial Activity Comparison:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
General Envelope & Plate Offerings	\$138,589	\$121,487
Total Income	\$207,637	182,634
Total Expenses	\$204,325	\$180,220
NET	3,312	\$2,414*

Major Projects Completed and Paid for in 2022:

\$25,453 - Digital Sign

** Benevolence yet to be paid out*

Year-End Cash & Investments

Checking	\$109,154
Savings	\$6,052
Edward Jones	\$44,489
Total Year-end Cash & Investments as of 11/30/22	\$159,695

Year End Designated Funds (Reserved)

Facility Accrual.....	\$10,447
Worship & Music Accrual	\$503
Office Equipment Accrual	\$161
Continuing Ed (Sabbatical)Accrual	\$13,471

Christmas Care Accrual (Secret Santa).....	\$800
Operation ChristmasChild	\$850
Veggie Stand Accrual (Start Up Funds)	\$63
Emergency Benevolence Funds Accrual	\$2,363
Centennial Reserve	\$4,169
Tax Withholdings Payable.....	\$16,625
Memorials Accrual	
Restricted.....	\$4,137
Unrestricted	\$997
Total DesignatedFunds November 30, 2020	\$54,827

Operating Cash Balance

Total Year End Cash and Investments as of Oct. 30, 2022	\$159,695
Total Designated (Reserved) Funds as of Nov. 30, 2022	(\$54,827)
Benevolence to be paid out for 2022 (thru Nov. 30, 2022	(\$12,585)

YEAR END CASH & INVESTMENTS NET OF

DESIGNATED FUNDS.....\$92,283

Proposed Budget

	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>22 Actual</u> <u>(Thru Nov.)</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>
Total Income	\$202,637	\$182,634	\$147,350
		Budgeted(\$136,996)	
Total Expenses	\$204,325	\$180,220	\$149,850
		Budgeted(\$150,027)	
Net	\$3,312	\$2,414*	(\$2,500)

** Benevolence yet to be paid & Sabbatical fund transfer yet to be made.*

Old business

2021 Benevolence 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
- New Furnace in Kitchen area
- Northland Fire Protection Service
-

Centennial Stained Glass Art

Sue Samuelson reported that she is looking for someone to replace the glass in the Fellowship Hall where we would like to hang the Centennial Stained Art piece.

Strategic Planning

Pastor James says we need to talk about the future and where we as a church feel called. Volunteers are needed. Please talk with Pastor.

New Business:

- **2022 Benevolence Recipients:**
 - **Global & Non-Local: \$2,938 (YTD)**
 - Dara Mozambique, Village of Hope Zambia, Feed My Starving Children
 - **Brainerd Lakes Local: \$7,926 (YTD)**
 - Aitkin Co Human Services, BLCM Emergency Fund, Christmas Joy, Camp Onomia, HOPE Women's Shelter in Aitkin
 - **ELCA Synod Total: \$7,279**

- **World Hunger: \$1,932**
- **Dedicated Other Benevolence Total: \$3,042**
 - Recipients: Dara Mozambique, Lutheran World Relief, Ingrian Church, Isle Paw Pantry, Pearl Crisis Center, Villages of Hope, Multi-Media Expansion, Christmas Joy

Solar Panels

Dick Stebbins and Lee Forrester have looked at several Solar Energy companies regarding solar panel installation at Bethesda. Solar Power is an environmental benefit now and to the future of our church. They gave the congregation pros and cons of ground mount or roof mounted solar panels.

Ground Mount

PROS:

- Easy to access
- Easy to clean
- Easier to troubleshoot
- Stronger racking overall
- System is not confined to the dimensions of the roof
- Cooler panel temperatures mean higher energy output
- No need to remove panels if roof is replaced

CONS:

- Installation is more labor-intensive
- Installation is more expensive
- Requires more parts and pieces
- Permitting process is more expensive
- Takes up real estate
- Not aesthetically pleasing to everyone

Roof Mount

PROS:

- Less expensive
- Requires fewer materials to install
- Installation labor cost is lower
- Utilizes unused space
- Easier to permit

CONS:

- Hard to access – especially if your roof is steep or slippery

- **Harder to troubleshoot errors**
- **Higher panel temperatures mean lower panel output**
- **Space constraints on the roof limits the size of the system**
- **Can be a hassle if you need to replace the roof within the panel's lifetime (might install the system twice)**
- **Putting holes in your roof could lead to water damage**

There were many questions and concerns:

- Dennis Hennessy and Mary Braun did reach out to the bank and we would be pre-approved for \$100,000 loan. This would roughly be \$8,800/year payments.
- Paying for propane is increasing. Current cost for propane for church and parsonage for a year is \$8,000.
- It was recommended to do solar panels on the ground as maintenance is much easier to do.
- With 94 panel (\$1300 each), we would generate three times as much electricity than we could use. We would sell back to Mille Lacs Electric each month.
- Dean Malotky's concern is the negative cash flow. Cost of solar has already dropped and feels there's no rush. Suggest we wait a few years.
- Julie Swaggert suggested that we get more information from Solar Companies with more data.
- Someone questioned if we need to change our furnace and we do not. It can run off of electric or propane.
- Ron Haglund asked how much will Mille Lacs Electric pay us? 11 cents per kilowatt hour.
- Barry Ansell asked about water heaters. We would need some propane for this.
- Donna Ansell had concerns about sun effect in the winter when we might not have as much sunlight. Dick Stebbin said the panels can be angled to catch more sun.
- Donna asked about maintenance. Dick Stebbins reported that it should be very little. Lee Forrester mentioned that three other churches they talked with had zero maintenance after many years.
- Jim Lang asked about back-up batteries. We are not looking at that as backups are very expensive.
- Barry Ansell concern about rebates still being around.

- Sue Samuelson suggested we table this and make no decision today. More research is needed.
- Lee Forrester and Dick Stebbins have spent many hours on research. They only want congregations approval to continue exploring/pursuing this.

A motion to explore/pursue a long-range plan for installing solar panels was made by Ron Haglund and seconded by Gary Sjerven and motion passed.

Julie thanked Dick Stebbins, Lee Forrester, the Vukelich family for their help in researching this solar project.

Dean Malotky 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