

Bethesda Life-Line

Worship Services*

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

(<https://www.youtube.com/BethesdaLutheranChurchMalmomn/videos>), as well as on our Facebook page



Bethesda Mission Statement:

We will **LIVE** and **SERVE** through **FAITH**
we will **ACT** with **LOVE** and **KINDNESS**
we will **GIVE** hope and **SUPPORT** to all

April 7 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

April 14 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

April 21 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

April 28 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

Upcoming Events

April 7 special congregational meeting after service

April 17th at 10:00 am WELCA meeting

June 17-20, 2024 (4 days). -Vacation Bible school



2024



The first WELCA meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday, April 17th at 10:00am. All women of the church are invited.

WELCA Heartland Conference Spring Gathering, April 13, 2024, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 30985 Front Street, Pequot Lakes, MN 56472, 8:30 am registration. For more information see the poster on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



Let's Go Fishing is a non-for-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the lives of individuals through fishing and boating excursions that strengthen communities, build relationships, and create memories. I believe our slogan says it's best in that we Touch lives on the water. Our guest includes Veterans, Challenged Adults, Senior Citizens, Hospice Patients, Groups and Individuals, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Centers, Group Homes, and Pohl Children's Foundation.

Provided is a safe, handicapped accessible Pontoon, Life Jackets, Rods, Reels, Bait, Volunteer Boat Captain and Crew, and of course Lots of FUN at no cost to our guests.

Call if you are interested in how to become more involved to become a volunteer or to book a trip for the 2024 Season at 218-454-2543 or visit the Let's Go Fishing website at www.brainerd.lgfws.com.

Submitted by: David Brown. For more information you can call me at 518-645-4746 or email me at dbrown22dogs@gmail.com



From the Pastor

Christ is risen, alleluia! He is risen indeed, alleluia!

Easter blessings to all of you! Whether you were able to worship with us in Malmo or spent the day elsewhere, I hope you had a wonderful day!

This year Easter falls on the day before April Fools' Day – a confluence of holidays that happens every so often. Given Easter's status as the most important of all Christian holidays, perhaps this quirk of the calendar seems a bit... sacrilegious? How can a holiday based around jokes and pranks ever compare with Jesus' death and resurrection and the salvation of the world?

Yet Easter is first and foremost a joyous occasion! Both Easter day and the season that follows highlights God's great act of love given to us in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and how that love changes the world. How could we do anything but smile on such a day?

But I think the connections might run even deeper. Our faith is meant to be transformative, and humor can be a useful tool in inspiring change. Humor, at its best, tells a truth. More than just a vehicle for insults and innuendo, humor has the ability to reveal something about what it means to be a human being.

Even if we think back on the humor of our childhood, that brand of humor that is so often focused on bodily functions of one kind or another, even that kind of humor tells a truth. For a kid, as much as the enjoyment of that humor comes from watching our parents squirm, it also provides some comfort, some measure of catharsis.

Our bodies, young or old, can be incredibly stress-inducing. Humor found in burps and farts helps kids bring that stress to light and helps them to realize that they are not alone in their fears. We all deal with these "gross" and embarrassing realities, even though most adults learn to keep it to themselves as much as possible in polite company.

More adult kinds of humor work similarly – whether the joke concerns relationships or politics or matters of life and death, humor helps us see reality more clearly. It can poke fun at our fears, it can mock the powerful

and those who might be a source of our stress, but it also connects us to other people. Humor fights that tendency to hide our fears and put on a brave face. Humor deflates our ego and keeps us from pretending that we aren't the same flesh and blood as everyone else.

Certainly, when humor is misused, it can be hypocritical and cruel, but the best humor delights in bringing our shortcomings into the light of day. Not to hurt us, but to remind us that we all have our struggles. When we are honest about that, there can be a great comfort in learning that we are not alone in even our most embarrassing and creative screw-ups.

The Easter story easily could have been an embarrassing story for Jesus' followers. Their leader had been executed in a particularly violent and public fashion. Moreover, they had not even shown themselves in a particularly heroic light. One of Jesus' closest disciples, Peter, had even denied knowing him to save his own skin. And yet, that wasn't the end.

Communities of faith, at our best, are places of truth telling. The disciples didn't hide from the truth, even if that meant revealing their own weaknesses. In our churches, we come to learn about ourselves and our place in God's world. To strengthen our relationship with God and our neighbor. And that requires honesty, even about our fears and our failures. The Christian life should more about laughing at ourselves than pretending we are perfect.

We tell truth about the unpleasant so that it no longer has a hold over us. Confess it before God and neighbor so that the fears, the nervousness, and our own guilt and shame no longer controls us. That is the essence of Jesus' Easter gift of salvation – so we should live into it!

Don't be afraid to enjoy both Easter and April Fools. As the Psalmist sings: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth." The psalmist may have had singing and horns and lyres and clapping hands in mind, but probably wouldn't begrudge a good, hearty laugh too.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor James Muske

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

3/18/24 Minutes

Attendees: Donna Ansell, Mary Braun, Pastor James Muske, Darlene Christensen, Gray Sjerven, Dick Stebbins, Joanne Stueven, Sylvia Tapelt
The meeting was called to order by Donna Ansell. Pastor James gave the opening prayer.

Secretary's Report

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the February meeting by Mary Braun, 2nd by Gary Sjerven and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for February was presented by Mary Braun. Motion made by Dick Stebbins, 2nd by Darlene Christensen to accept and passed. A motion was made to keep \$1500.00 of pastor's salary for housing and furnishing allowance to keep it a tax-free status due to tax laws. Motion was made by Mary Braun and 2nd by Donna Ansell and was passed.

Pastor's Report – for Mar. 18, 2024 council meeting

Prayers for all of you as Holy Week and Easter fast approaches!

- Lent has been going well! Midweek attendance has been great, and the pastor exchange continues to go smoothly. I have heard positive comments from my colleagues, thank you for your warm welcome and tasty food!
- Palm Sunday will feature a song by the Praise Band, and we might see our first acolyte in a while, as I have been working with Joy Vossen to help as a worship assistant.
- For Maundy Thursday we are hosting the Dinner Church idea again. This will be a combo worship service and potluck held in the Fellowship Hall.
- I will not be singing in the Good Friday cantata this year, but I was asked to record video.
- Our continued efforts to work on the sound system didn't work, unfortunately. Once the choir and praise band are back, we will need to find volunteers to run the Sunday PowerPoint on the iPad.
- New Member Sunday went great! We have had a few others reach out to us that they would like to become official members.
- Darlene and I and the rest of the visitation team have been keeping busy. We are also happy to

welcome Ron Aho to the team!

- I will be officiating at a wedding (non-members) on Saturday, April 20 in Saint Paul. I was asked by the venue where I will be getting married in September to provide coverage.
- The Pine Ridge trip folks are hosting a meeting to discuss cross-cultural educational opportunities and ministry ideas. All are welcome to attend!
- Also, we should plan to hold a meeting to discuss summer programming ideas if we would like to start hosting occasional Saturday night events.
- Due to complicated clergy tax law, we need to have the council vote each January on the allotment of the pastor's salary that is designated as housing/furnishing allowance.

Thank you all and Happy New Year!

Pastor James

Old Business

Nature trail cleanup is scheduled for March 27th at 10am to complete the cleanup, weather permitting. Fundraising ideas. Possible Swedish meatball dinner to be revisited in July.

Front entrance carpet has been installed.

Signs for firearms have been posted. There will be an exemption for Honor Guard Funerals if requested, Coordination with funeral home will be worked and how to ensure guns are properly stored during service. Fire alarms need to be updated and the cost will be \$18,000. There will be a special congregational meeting after service on April 7 for approval of expenditure and questions. This needs to be done for insurance reasons and it is state law.

New Business

Safety deposit box Personnel-Currently on the list is Randy Tofteland, Craig Kullberg, Pat Becker, Lee Forrester, and Mary Braun and some need to be replaced. Randy, Craig and Pat will be removed, and Dick Stebbins will be added in their place. Request for donation for a student from First Lutheran going to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. Motion was made to donate \$100.00 to Cole Trotter since we do not have a youth program. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mary Braun 2nd by Darlene Christensen and was passed.

Adjourn-Lord's prayer.

Submitted by Sylvia Tapelt

2024 TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>General Fund</u> <i>(Envelope Giving)</i>	<u>FEBURARY</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income Actual	\$15,855	\$ 29,584
Budget	\$11,500	\$ 23,000
 <u>All Funds</u>		
Total Income Actual	\$17,445	\$ 33,609
Total Income Budget	\$12,442	\$ 24,883
Expenses Actual	\$12,143	\$ 25,649
Expenses Budget	\$12,995	\$ 25,990
Over/(Short)	\$ 5,302	\$ 7,960

Parish Nurse Notes

Soup and Cookie Ministry

Bethesda's Visitation team brings soup and/or cookies when they visit members. If you make extra cookies or soup you can bring small containers of soup or packages of 6 cookies to the freezer in the kitchen pantry. These items are always appreciated by those who are visited.

Prayer Squares

A prayer square is a small version of a prayer shawl. When placed in a pocket, backpack, purse or under a pillow it serves as a reminder to pause and pray and of God's unending love for us.

If you know someone who is having surgery, dealing with an illness, or is going through a difficult time giving them a prayer square reminds them that someone is praying for them, cares about them and is thinking of them. Include a prayer square when you send a get well or condolence card.



Prayer squares are available in a basket in the narthex. Thanks to Linda Southworth for the squares, she has knitted in the past and to London Feland who is currently using her passion for knitting to replenish our supply with beautiful brightly colored squares.



I have been busy the last month organizing music from last choir season and picking out all the choir music for this coming Choir Season. I have decided the first week in April the choir will start practicing starting on Tues., April 2nd @ 5:30 and Praise Team practicing at 6:30. The choir will sing on Sunday, April 7th, "Denny's favorite song" - "JESUS MESSIAH", and then again on April 21st, "We Remember you. "The choir practices every Tuesday night @ 5:30, the Practices this month are April 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th.

The choir is in need of new members! So, we would love to have you come and practice with us on Tuesday nights. Most of our members do not read music, and so we practice with music that has the voices behind us to learn the music, and i will send CD's home if you would like to practice at home. So don't let this stop you from trying out singing with the choir. We have a lot of fun and laughs. I know I have talked with some of you, and some of the choir members have been out asking also. We need all of you to keep our choir singing.

I want to thank the Choir and Praise Team for letting me step back for the last 3 months. I needed the break, but last month I have not been feeling well, and not been able to be at church or help with Wed. night services. I am now starting to feel better and am looking forward to another great season. Please remember to keep your Bethesda Choir in your prayers, as we start another year of praising our God with wonderful music!! Remember music is good for the Soul!!!

Hope to see you all at practice on April 2nd!!!!





Newsletter Articles

Please have your articles for the Newline in by the 20th. The email address is blnews@juno.com or put your article in the Newsletter box in the hallway.

HOSPITALITY HOSTS NEEDED! Sign up on the bulletin board next to the serving counter in the Fellowship Hall. There are treats in the freezer to serve if you don't bake.

LECTORS NEEDED we need lectors for weekly Sunday readings. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the Narthex heading into the Fellowship Hall and include the weekly readings.

RAFFLE BASKET Worship & Music has a raffle basket available to buy chances on. Check out the items in the Fellowship Hall; \$1/ticket. Enter as many times as you like.

ECOFAITH SUMMIT 2024 Saturday, April 6, from 9am-4pm at First Lutheran Church in Duluth. For more information, see the poster on the bulletin board in Narthex for more information.



For 50 years we have joined together as Lutherans to address the root causes of hunger and poverty through ELCA World Hunger. Part of this church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. As we reflect on our last 50 years of ministry together, congregations are invited to celebrate the progress we've made against hunger and poverty, and to increase support for programs around the world. A new case statement documents 50 years of impact, and additional resources have been developed to support congregations in commemorating this milestone together



As spring cleaning gets under way, Lions clubs are asking people to donate their used hearing aids to the Lions Hearing Aid Recycling Program. To donate used hearing aids, carefully wrap them and place in the basket for Lions hearing aid or eyeglass in the Narthex. Any questions contact Dick Stebbins



THANK YOU!

Thank you just doesn't cover all of the kindness shown to me as I recovered from major surgery on my knee and leg.

Thank you all for the prayers, cards, food gifts and phone calls. The visitations while I was in a nursing home, and the many visitors who came to my home. A special thank you to Pastor James for his visits and serving communion. We had good conversations about his time in North Dakota as my late husband was born there. Our Parish nurse, Darlene Christensen, also brought me communion and on Christmas Day, came for a visit and brought a meal.

All of your ways of support were very much appreciated. God Bless our Bethesda Family!
Winnie Zahradka



Christian Symbol - Butterfly

The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter, and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' dead body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.

The Loan Closet

Bethesda's Loan Closet has medical equipment such as walkers, crutches, commodes, toilet risers, wheelchairs, etc. that are available to members who want to borrow them on a short-term basis.

If you have medical equipment that is in a good workable condition that you would like to donate or if you need to borrow a piece of equipment, contact the Parish Nurses.

Activities & Events

April 2024

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

USHERS by Gary & Brenda Sjervin

April 7 Gary & Brenda Sjervin
April 14 Mark & Mary Vukelich
April 21 Lee & Barb Forrester
April 28 Darrell Kelly & Dick Stebbins

GREETERS by Gary & Brenda Sjervin

April 7 Carolyn Morris
April 14 Wally & Bev Swenson
April 21 Gary & Brenda Sjervin
April 28 Mary Braun & Winnie Zahradka

Altar Care Dianne Jones

April.....Linda and Sylvia
May.....Barb and Dianne
June... ..Cheryl and Patti

Sunday Hospitality

April 7
April 14
April 21 Lois Johnson & friends
April 28



April 1 Ted Jaszczak
April 4 Shirley Gosselin
April 4 Beverly Swenson
April 8 Leroyce Forrester
April 9 Barry Ansell
April 9 Patti Bradash
April 9 Renee Hanson
April 16 Warren Rolek
April 20 Lyla Dooley
April 20 Lois Johnson
April 20 Curtis Lindberg
April 21 Michelle Elias
April 21 Donna Metteer
April 23 Paige Dressely
April 24 Marty Dressely
April 24 Dale Petersen
April 25 Mark Korngable
April 25 Lucille Liljenquist
April 26 Valerie Benton
April 26 Craig Bradash
April 27 Joyce Keil
April 28 Kristine Grap
April 29 Ron Keil
April 30 Gina Rosa



April 1 Gloria & Thomas Christensen
April 11 Judy & Richard Seifert
April 14 Dorothy & Keith Munding
April 24 Lynne & Denny Meidlinger
April 27 Janice & Wayne Olson

April 2024

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	2 9:00 Chair Yoga 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise Team	3 9:00 Women's Bible Study	4 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga	5	6
7 9:00 Worship Communion Special Congregational Meeting <i>after service</i>	8 9:00 Women's Gather Devotions 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	9 9:00 Chair Yoga 9:00 Quilters 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise Team	10 9:00 Women's Bible Study	11 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga	12	13 8:30 am Heartland Conf. Spring Gathering Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Pequot Lakes
14 9:00 Worship Communion	15 10:00 Council mtg 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	16 9:00 Chair Yoga 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise Team	17 9-4:00 WIC 9:00 Women's Bible Study 10:00 WELCA	18 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga	19	20 Newsline Deadline
21 9:00 Worship Communion	22 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	23 9:00 Chair Yoga 9:00 Quilters 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise Team	24 9:00 Women's Bible Study	25 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga	26	27
28 9:00 Worship Communion Worship	29 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	30 9:00 Chair Yoga 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise Team				

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The Lifeline Mission

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we will **ACT** with **LOVE** and **KINDNESS**
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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	Dean Malotky	(612) 581-4072
Vice President	Donna Ansell	(320) 537-1893
Parish Nurse	Darlene Christensen	(320) 279-0097
Parish Nurse	Kathy Berland	(218) 838-6181

To share articles and/or information, mail to:

Sue Stebbins, *Lifeline Editor*

c/o Bethesda Lutheran Church

Email address: blnews@juno.com

All articles due on or before the 20th of the month