

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

May 5 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

May 12 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

May 19 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

May 26 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

Upcoming Events

May 6th 8:00am Jelly Making

May 9th 10:00am Clean Kitchen

May 13th 10:30 am Crafters' Brainstorming Mtg.

May 20th 2-5:30pm Loaves & Fishes

May 28th Noon Healthy Habits

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



Healthy Habits: Join us on the last Tuesday of each month as we get together to share ideas around Food, Fitness, Friends, and Faith. Lunch is provided, please register at the church office by the Thursday before so adequate food can be prepared. We will spend one hour talking about healthy habit topics of interest while we share a nutritious meal together. Feel free to contact Mary V. with questions at mmvuke@yahoo.com or by phone/text at 651-230-4512.



The choir has started for the season. We sang 2 times in April, and did a great job, even though we do not have all of our members back as of yet. The choir will be Singing on May 5th, "Rain On Me" and again on May 19th, "Where the Spirit Is" I would like to again reach out to anyone who loves to sing, to come and try out the Choir or Praise Team. We need more singers. We would love to have you in the choir, and to sing God's Praises with us!!
Sheila Penoyer/Choir Director



LET'S GO FISHING
Brainerd Lakes Area

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.lgfw.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

Greetings, fellow disciples of Christ!

I recently had the honor to officiate at a wedding at Summit Manor in Saint Paul, the same venue where I will be married on September 1. Though a little on the chilly side, the weather mostly cooperated, and it was a lovely day for a wedding.

To honor the groom's heritage, we incorporated a "jumping the broom" at the end of the wedding ceremony. In modern times, it is a tradition that is mostly found in African American wedding ceremonies, having been utilized all the way back into the earliest years of our country during the time of slavery. It gained wider recognition in the 1970s because of the book and TV series "Roots".

In an article in the New York Times, Dr. Parry, a professor of African American Studies at the University of Nevada, notes that although there are some West African cultures that utilize brooms in ceremonies, the act of jumping over a broom seems to be the product of the blending of cultures in the United States.

In fact, the tradition may have been inspired by wedding ceremonies practiced by "traveling communities like the British Romani, rural Welsh communities, Irish individuals and various other people who lived on the margins of the British Isles." These were groups that could not get married through official channels, similar to how slaves had no legal right to marry before the Civil War.

Even though much has changed in our society, there remains powerful symbolism in the act of jumping the broom, both for its historical connections, and for other symbolic elements that couples recognize in the act. In one description that the couple had me read at the wedding:

"This leap into new life as husband and wife symbolizes the coming together of both families, and commitment to each other as husband and wife. It represents strength, love, togetherness, loyalty, and respect, which is essential for a successful marriage. The broom handle represents God or the creator. The straws represent the countless numbers of ancestors. The binding represents the newlyweds' ties to family, church and community. The concept behind the broom

is also to build an heirloom that can be passed down from one generation to another.

... As they jump, they physically and spiritually cross the threshold into the land of matrimony. It marks the beginning of their making a home together."

While it may take a little physical dexterity to accomplish, it really is a beautiful tradition. It also speaks to me, both as a groom-to-be and in this time of transition in our church year. We are moving through the Easter season into the festival of Pentecost on May 19 (don't forget to wear red!). This is a time in the church year that is all about transition, all about the earliest followers of Jesus living into this new reality. Jesus has died, Jesus has come again, and now Jesus sends them out.

These early Christian communities have to figure out all over again how to be a people of God. Like a married couple, they draw from their past, but they also know they are in for many new adventures. And they are to be joined to new people – with traditions and practices of their own. Much of the drama of the early church centered around the joining of Jewish and Gentile followers. It is one thing to proclaim that you are united in Christ, it is another thing entirely to live into that.

While we don't debate Jewish vs Gentile traditions too much these days, our lives in Christian community regularly spend much time and energy on how we knit together our all our various gifts and passions and opinions and personality quirks. It is a joyous moment when we come together, but as people come and as people go, it often takes figuring things out all over again. On top of all the other changes that life throws at us.

And so, like those early Christians and like any new couple, there usually comes a moment when we must make a leap of faith! We can pray. We can plan. But sometimes you just have to jump, trusting that however it goes and whatever awaits you in the future, that God will be with you. And doing our best to remember the love that binds us together – our love for each other and God's love for us.

Blessings to you this month, whatever the future holds!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor James Muske

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

April 15, 2024, 10:00 am

Attendees: Donna Ansell, Mary Braun, Pastor James Muske, Darlene Christensen, Dick Stebbins, Joanne Stueven, Dean Malotky, Sylvia Tapelt

The meeting was called to order by Dean Malotky. Pastor James gave the opening prayer.

Secretary's Report

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the April meeting by Mary Braun, 2nd by Dick Stebbins and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity was presented by Mary Braun. Motion made by Donna Ansell, 2nd by Dean Malotky to accept and passed.

Pastor's Report – for the April 15, 2024, council meeting

Blessings to our Bethesda Community! Here are a few highlights from this past month:

- Holy Week and Easter went well! People seemed to enjoy the Dinner Church concept again and we had great attendance. Thanks to Mary for her help and all those that brought food!
- The morning service for Good Friday was a bit small, perhaps due to Easter being earlier on the calendar, but we did have a good-sized Bethesda contingent down in Isle for the Community Cantata. We may want to explore partnering with another church for the morning/daytime service next year.
- The two Easter services were lovely. Neither was full, but we saw lots of families attend the second service, so I think it is still a good idea to keep that option.
- 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 have met a couple times now to discuss cross-cultural educational opportunities and ministry ideas. We also attended a Mille Lacs Band event and are reaching out to a potential speaker. It is great to see continued energy, and we invite others to attend!
- Though I haven't scheduled it yet, I still would like to hold a meeting to discuss summer programming ideas.
- On Wed, April 10, I officiated at the funeral for Mary Jane Anderson. Continued prayers go out to her family and friends!

- I plan to take some vacation time around Memorial Day weekend to visit family.
- Gary and I discussed having someone come in to check our wired internet connectivity around the building, which could perhaps help diagnosis some of our issues.
- May is my month for leading worship at the Aitkin senior care centers. I will be at Blackrock and Aitkin Health Services on May 9, and at Aicota and Golden Horizons on May 23.

Yours in Christ, Pastor James

Old Business

- Fire alarm system was approved up to \$25,000 at special meeting. Will continue to look for cheaper options.
- Safety deposit box updated at bank. Dick Stebbins and Lee Forrester need to go to Security State bank and update signatures.
- Sent \$100.00 to First Lutheran for National Youth Gathering,

New Business

- The Lion's have asked to plant 10 trees on church property. A place will be chosen so they do not interfere with church functions.
- **Congregational Meeting April 7th**
- The meeting was called to order by Pastor James. This was a special meeting to approve an expenditure for \$18,000 for an upgrade to the fire alarm system. Approval by the congregation is needed for this expenditure since it is more than 10% of the annual budget. Skip and Lynne Hanson made a generous donation, and these funds can be used for this. The system is also needed for insurance to rebuild in the event of a fire. A motion was made by Merrily Jones to approve up to \$25,000 and to continue to look for other options and 2nd by Mary Braun.

Next council meeting will be Monday May 20th at 10:00 am.

A motion was made to adjourn by Mary Braun and 2nd by Dick Stebbins.

Adjourned with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Sylvia Tapelt

Mission and Evangelism

This article is an attempt to make our congregation more aware of the function of different church committees. We publish updates for each year in the

annual report but will also make an effort to share in the newsletter and as a Temple Talk.

The Blessing Box Temple Talk can help fund committees' work as all budgets have been reduced for the 2024 year.

One area that Mission and Evangelism struggles to fund is the advertising budget. We would like to advertise at the Glen parade as well newspaper coverage and printed brochures. The first Sunday in May will be a chance to hear the details from Mission and Evangelism.

Mission and Evangelism Report

Members: Judi Birk, Sandy Pullen , Joanne Stueven , Pastor James Muske, (new vacancy due to Sue Samuelsons departure.)

We welcome anyone interested to join us.

Ever since Covid we have not met in person on a regular basis but communicate on line.

Our annual duties include:

- 1 Advertising on Facebook and in local papers
- 2 Participate and advertise in the Glen Parade
- 3 Promote and designate local and global benevolence giving (take food donations to local food shelf) Including ELCA Christmas Giving , Local Christmas and World Hunger
- 4 Gods Work our Hands (usually beach clean up)
- 5 Offer winter outreach having movies, games or outdoor activities
- 6 Promote Vacation Bible School 3 rd. week of June Includes having students participate in Operation Shoe Box. They also sing at Annual Lions event in Malmo
- 7 Offer cookies/coffee hospitality to families at funerals
- 8 Plan for confirmation and Sunny school as needed
- 9 Coordinate the budget for adult education, outreach, and conferences.
- 10 Plan for Temple Talks keeping members aware of the benevolence opportunities.
- 11 Plan for New Members orientation, provide sponsors and encourage continued involvement.
- 12 Plan for a current Picture or printed directory of members. (picture directory is outdated)

NEW 2023 Programs started this year:

Started Yoga Tuesday/ Thursdays (thank You Mary)

Implemented the Year of Service Plan

Committed to the Loaves and Fishes program.

Hosted the CARE Remember project.

To help with the budget shortfall we will do some fundraising needed for advertising:

Ask for Blessing Box donations.

Raffle a Spring Flower Basket in May

Promote a movie day with free will donations.

Promote Junk Bingo with free will donations.

Had a very successful craft swap in March!!

During The 2023 Year of Service the following Temple Talks were given with extra Blessing Box donations going to each organization.

January: Hope Lodge

February: Hope Shelter in Aitkin

March: Together Here Awareness

April: Feed My Starving Children

May: CARE Aitkin Co support

June: Youth travel to Pine Ridge

July: CARE by Lynn Jacobs Aitkin Co.

Aug: Back to School music instruments donated to Isle

September: Camp Onomia

October: Dara and Chad in Mozambique

November: Village of Hope in Zambia

December: Pastors Emergency Fund (gas/ food cards from office)

Respectfully submitted by

Joanne Stueven



Loaves & Fishes Update

Bethesda's next opportunity to volunteer at First Lutheran in Aitkin for the Monday night Loaves and

Fishes community meal is MAY 20th. We help prepare, pack, serve and clean up at Loaves and Fishes community dinner. We need **6 volunteers** with 2-3 coming early (2pm) to help prep the meal and 3 more to come at 3-5:30 to help pack, serve and clean up. We will be finished by 5:30pm.

In addition, Bethesda provides cookies to be included in the meal. **Volunteers are needed to make cookies** and to help pack them up after church on Sunday, May 19th. We will have a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for cookie baking!

Please let me know if you would like to help with the meal on Monday May 20th. Thanks in advance for your service! Julie Swaggert, 763-229-9121 or jswaggert@gmail.com



May 12th

"If you have a mom, there is nowhere you are likely to go where a prayer has not already been."

—Robert Brault

2024 TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<i>(Envelope Giving)</i>		
Income Actual	\$15,545	\$ 45,130
Budget	\$11,500	\$ 34,500
<u>All Funds</u>		
Total Income Actual	\$22,192	\$ 55,801
Total Income Budget	\$12,442	\$ 37,325
Expenses Actual	\$15,553	\$ 41,202
Expenses Budget	\$12,995	\$ 38,985
Over/(Short)	\$ 6,639	\$ 14,599

Chairwoman Penny Sjoquist opened the mtg. with 16 members present. Jeannine led devotions. The purpose and mission statements were read. The secy's report for Nov. 2023 was approved as printed in the newsletter. Dianne gave the treasurer's report with a bal on hand of \$7,877.08. Motion by Mary B , second by Jenny Scheutt to accept the report. Motion passed.

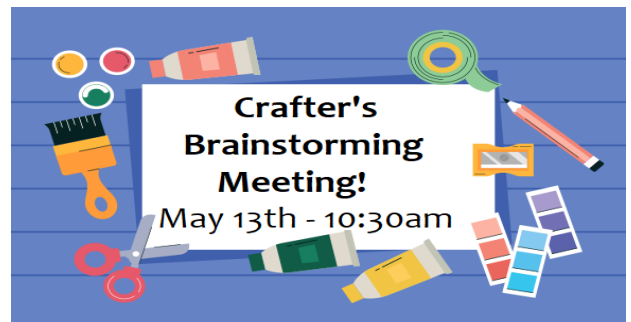
Old Business:

- Clean the kitchen day is set for 10 am on Thurs., May 9th.
- Shirley Gosselin installed new clocks.
- Discussion was held re: the condition & cost of replacing kitchen appliances. Action was tabled.
- Thank Yous were given to Jeannine & others for presenting on Bold Women's Sunday.
- The Heartland Spring Gathering was in Pequot Lakes on April 13th.

New Business:

- The summer convention/gathering is June 10-11. Jenny Schuett will attend as a voting delegate. Others will register on their own. WELCA will pay their registration fees.
- Shirley G will order Hungry Jack flakes for the bazaar lefse from SAMS.
- Funeral serving charts/lists were updated after the WELCA mtg.
- Jelly making will be Mon., May 6th at 8 am.
- Crafters will meet May 13th at 10:30 am for a "Brainstorming" meeting.
- The craft swap for next yr. will be April 12, 2025.
- Jeannine spoke about Global Health Ministries & WELCA in-kind-kits.
- We will set up a WIC box for local people in need.

The mtg was closed with the Lord's Prayer.
 The next mtg is May 15th, 2024, at 10 am.



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.

THE MALMO LIONS will be having their yearly Community picnic on June 19th at the Lakeside community center. and this year we are looking for craft and vendors for the afternoon. If anyone is interested in having a booth, please contact Sharon Whipple at 218.390.0526 or email: mean.gene@frontiernet.net. There will be a \$10 donation for a spot that will go directly to the community food shelves and the vendors are free to eat at the picnic and enjoy the activities. Booths can be set up at 11am and close by 7pm, must bring your own tables and tents.

RAFFLE BASKET Mission & Evangelism will have a raffle basket available to buy chances on in May. Check out the "Spring Flower Basket" in the Fellowship Hall; \$1/ticket. Enter as many times as you like.

The Loan Closet

Bethesda's Loan Closet has medical equipment such as walkers, crutches, commodes, toilet risers, wheelchairs, etc that is 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

May 2024

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

Ushers by Gary & Brenda Sjervin

May 5 Mark & Mary Vukelich
 May 12 Lee & Barb Forrester
 May 19 Darrell Kelly & Dick Stebbins
 May 26 Gary & Brenda Sjervin

GREETERS by Gary & Brenda Sjervin

May 5 Gary & Brenda Sjervin
 May 12 Wally & Bev Swenson
 May 19 Mary Braun & Winnie Zahradka
 May 26 Lee & Barb Forrester

Altar Care Dianne Jones

May.....Barb and Dianne
 June... ..Cheryl and Patti

Sunday Hospitality

May 5 Elsa & Chuck Carlson
 May 12
 May 19 Dianne & Del Jones
 May 26
 June 2 Joanne & Dave Stueven
 (to celebrate London's graduation)



May 2 Thomas Westerlund
 May 4 Reily Lagerstrom
 May 5 Jonathan Mickelson
 May 8 Charlotte Berg
 May 8 Jeannine Bruesewitz
 May 8 Dick Nelson
 May 8 Shane Vossen
 May 10 Gary Sjervin
 May 11 Wayne Olson
 May 12 Donna Ansell
 May 13 Jeanne Anderson
 May 13 Jamie Trotter
 May 14 Vada Sorby
 May 15 Thomas Christensen
 May 16 Cliff Roberts
 May 17 Janice Olson
 May 21 Jacquelyn Follmer
 May 21 Laurina Tofteland
 May 21 Martin Wolf
 May 22 Marilyn Andrews
 May 22 Ray Piispanen
 May 24 Kris Fredrick
 May 26 Steven Lebens
 May 27 Ellee Johnson
 May 29 Eldon Mitchell
 May 29 Gaylard Westerlund
 May 30 Michael Brucciani
 May 31 Theresa Berry
 May 31 Gale Rolek



May 10 Susan & Richard Stebbins
 May 24 Lisa & Sheldon Stay
 May 24 Joyce & Ron Keil

May 2024

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 Women's Bible Study 10:00 Trail Clean-	2 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga	3	4
5 9:00 Worship Communion	6 8:00 Jelly Making 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 pm AA & Almon mg	7 9:00 Chair Yoga 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise Team	8 9:00 Women's Bible Study	9 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga 10:00 Clean Kitchen	10	11 Opening of fishing
12 9:00 Worship Communion Mother's Day	13 9:00 Women's Gather Devotions 10:30 Crafter's Brainstorm mtg 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 pm AA & Almon mg	14 9:00 Chair Yoga 9:00 Quilters 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise Team	15 9:00 Women's Bible Study 10:00 WELCA	16 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga	17	18
19 9:00 Worship Communion	20 10:00 Council mtg 11:30 Pinochle 2-5:30 Loaves & Fishes 7:00 pm AA & Almon mtg Newsline Deadline	21 9:00 Chair Yoga 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise Team	22 9-4:00 WIC 9:00 Women's Bible Study	23 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga	24	25
26 9:00 Worship Communion	27 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 pm AA & Almon mtg Memorial Day	28 9:00 Chair Yoga 9:00 Quilters 12:00 Healthy Habits mtg 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise Team	29 9:00 Women's Bible Study	30 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga	31	

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmö
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The *Lifeline* Mission

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



Bethesda Telephone Directory

Church	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 Malmö	
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