

# 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

**June 2 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**June Sunday 9Worship 9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**June 16 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**June 23 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**June 30 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

## Upcoming Events

June 2, 2024 – New Member Sunday

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

June 25<sup>th</sup> Healthy Habits Meeting - Noon



**Happy Father's Day**  
**June 16th**



## Vacation Bible School

Malmo is going to space!! The space ship is in the veggie stand !! Lots of decorations to hang. There will be a donation and job board put up early in June. Please consider making a donation or taking on a job.

It is getting closer!! June 17-20, 9:00-11:30. Invite the children in your life! They will have so much fun!! Registration forms in office or fellowship hall.



## Mushroom Crafts

Join us to learn how to make 'Mushroom' crafts using driftwood, wool and other stuff on Monday morning, June 3 from 9-11 am at Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo. These mushrooms can

be used as garland, an ornament used on a wreath, etc. This workshop is free to the public and you will be able to take a mushroom craft home, but we also hope you will help make several for our Fall Bazaar in October. Additional workshops will be on 'Paper Making' crafts on July 1st and 'Dried Fruit' crafts on Aug. 19th. For more information, call the church office at 651-684-2123 or email [blcmalmo@gmail.com](mailto:blcmalmo@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:mmvuke@yahoo.com) or by phone/text at 651-230-4512.





## From the Pastor

Greetings, fellow siblings in Christ!

In case you missed it, May 20<sup>th</sup> this year was World Bee Day! I don't blame you if you missed it, however, as it was new to me too. There are so many of these lesser-known days and remembrances, that it is hard to keep track of them all. They range from the more lighthearted days like National Donut Day (June 7) to more serious and somber occasions like Pearl Harbor Day (Dec 7). World Bee Day is also new, having been part of a proposal by Slovenia to the United Nations, who proclaimed the first observance in 2017.



Although it might seem closer to the lighthearted, Donut Day, side of the holiday spectrum, bees and other pollinators are vitally important in our world. Much of our agricultural system would collapse if pollinators died off, which is a growing fear. A year or two ago, our church accepted a gift of seeds from our synod's EcoFaith team to help grow wildflowers on our church grounds. I certainly appreciate the bees that help pollinate the fruit trees I planted around the parsonage. You can see a bee going about its work on my Honeycrisp tree in the photo above.

Bees do show up in a number of places in the Bible, most often in connection with honey (though, of course, there are many more bee species than just honeybees). Part of the promise of the Promised Land is that it will be a land flowing with "milk and honey." This became a regular phrase in the Old Testament to describe a land that offered rich blessings for the people that would live there.

There is also a line in the ancient liturgical music of the Easter Vigil, where the chant speaks words of

thanksgiving for the light of Christ, as seen in the burning of a candle. It continues: "We sing the glories of this pillar of fire, the brightness of which is not diminished even when its light is divided and borrowed. For it is fed by the melting wax which the bees, your servants, have made for the substance of this candle."

I remember finding this line a bit funny when I first heard it. Why do the bees of all creatures deserve a shoutout at Easter? But I have come to appreciate the beauty in this connection. The gift of Jesus Christ was not just a gift for humankind, but for all creation, and all creation may have a role to play in helping us remember Christ's gift. The bees make the wax that make the candles that burn and remind us of the light of Christ shining in our darkness. But also a reminder of the God that created the universe, including our sun, which sends forth light which helps the flowers and the trees grow, to create the nectar that feeds the bees.

The naturalist John Muir is often quoted as having said "when one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." Evidently this is a misquote, with the correct quote reading: "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." The sentiment, though, is the same – our lives are connected, not just person to person, but across all of creation. The Kenspeckle Letterpress in Duluth sells a print featuring the misquoted version... with a bee at its center.



Our lives as disciples of Christ might benefit from some bee-like characteristics. Not just in the sense of living and working in community, but also in the way that bees, even as they go about their work, working goals that benefit them and their distinct community, they still benefit all these other lives. It is not that we, as Christians, can never do those things that benefit ourselves or our own communities, but how wonderful when we can help pollinate some of God's goodness in our everyday lives.

We do a pretty good job here at Bethesda in being a hub for community support for our area. We serve as a

host for AA groups and the WIC program. We host programs and vaccination clinics for the county health services. The Lions hold a car show here. We are even a helicopter landing site for emergency medical needs. We should continue to deepen how attached we are to the rest of the world, because this is one of the best ways for us to show our love for God and the world God has made.

And we can certainly live this out in our personal lives too. Beyond official acts of charity, we can be gracious to others as we are out in public. We can show kindness, compassion, and patience. We can help someone if their bag of groceries rips and spills everything. We can pick up trash on our walk in the park. We can help the parents and guardians of loud, squirmy children, instead of shooting them dirty looks.

In this interconnected world of ours, in all that we do, in actions big and small, how we live our lives can make a difference in the lives of others. So, live as Christ would have you live. Love as Christ would have you love. Be as Christ would have you be. :)

Yours in Christ, Pastor James



## Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

### COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES for 5/20/24

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

The meeting was called to order and Pastor James gave the opening prayer.

#### Secretary's Report

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

#### Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for February was presented by Mary Braun. Motion made by Dick Stebbins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Darlene Christensen to accept and passed.

#### Pastor's Report – for the May 20, 2024, council meeting

Summer is fast approaching, and, with it, the bugs! But ministry continues at a fast pace here at Bethesda – here are a few highlights from this past month:

- Summer planning is in full swing!
- Joanne will speak of all of her hard work, but we are getting excited for another year of VBS.
- A few of us held an initial summer outreach meeting. We discussed various fun ideas, so check out Joanne's notes. There is also the Let's Go Fishing outing that David Brown has helped organize.
- Music & Worship has also met and discussed an outdoor worship Sunday, which is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 15.
- We were able to celebrate a baptism for Leon Newman, great-grandson of the Myhre's, on 5/19. He was a little shy, but it went well! Blessings to him and his family!
- I officiated at another non-member wedding on May 17 in St. Paul. I was asked again by the venue where I will be getting married in September to provide coverage.
- The Pine Ridge trip folks met again and invited Adrienne Benjamin to come and talk with the group, a Mille Lacs Band member who is an artist and cultural educator. The meeting went well and we hope it might be the start of a series of conversations. The plan is for the group to speak with her first, before we organize any larger scale programs for the congregation.
- As noted last month, I plan to take 4.75 days of vacation time over Memorial Day weekend to visit family.
- While we haven't fixed the problem entirely, we have returned to using our iPad in worship wirelessly instead of directly connecting to the wall. We get a few audio glitches, but, utilizing a few strategies, it isn't as bad as it was this past winter.
- On the tech front, I also fixed Mary's old computer by installing a new power supply. Gary might be able to locate a free computer monitor, so we might use it as a replacement for Jim's current computer, which is quite old.
- As I was using an old calendar, May was **not** my month for leading worship at the Aitkin senior care centers, rather June is! So, I will be at Blackrock and Aitkin Health Services on



June 13, and at Aicota and Golden Horizons on June 27. At 1:45 & 2:30pm respectively.

- Jim & Darlene Meinert will be sworn in June 2. We have also had another new person join us for worship recently, and perhaps she could be a potential new member.

Yours in Christ, Pastor James

### **Old Business**

Fire Alarm System is moving forward, finalizing details and will start sometime in August.

### **New Business**

- Highway clean-up is scheduled for Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup> weather permitting. An alternative date will be June 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. We need at least 8 people to help. Dean is trying to contact boy scouts to see if they would be willing to help out towards merit badges.
- The Isle fire relief association wants us to help sponsor their fun run. A motion was made by Mary Braun approve \$100.00 donation and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dick Rubinstein. Motion was approved. Bethesda Lutheran Church will be printed on the T-shirts as a donor for the run.
- New member Sunday will be June 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim and Darlene Meinert will be sworn in.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Property Committee updates.**

- A liability waiver needs to be signed for those mowing lawn. There will be a sign-up sheet for mowing.
- They will also be spraying dandelions, in the front yard only.
- Found a lift to rent for working on sanctuary lights and other projects.
- Our new propane company is Superior Fuel. Our first fill will be \$0.99 per gallon and \$1.29 after. Church members are eligible for discounts if they switch to Superior Fuel. Their number is 218 319-2627. Call them to discuss the details.
- We need to have some tuck pointing done to prevent water from getting in the cracks of the bricks and causing damage.
- Working on guidelines for the parsonage maintenance.
- Take down the parsonage shed and replace.
- In September there will be some more clean up on the nature trail.

**Mission and Evangelism Present:** Pastor James, Julie Swaggert, Judie Birk, and Joanne Stueven  
Pastor asked us to meet to follow up on suggestions for summer outreach or music. He had suggested that since there is no longer Saturday evening music in Malmo (since then it appears they have a Saturday schedule) that we should explore what we could do. Our session produced several ideas:

1. Arrange a day trip to the MN Arboretum. It was suggested as May22 as a possible date. Joanne and Julie said they would ask Mary about getting details and a sign-up sheet. (I don't think we did that yet??)
2. Judi gave Julie the name of a singer (Terry Haigler) from Isle as possible campfire music.
3. It was suggested that on Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Friday evening, we have a wine paring Garden Party in our garden area. It was suggested to form a committee and check with Sherrie, Char's daughter, to see if she thinks it is possible. I think Judi was going to confirm.

Other ideas that were presented may be considered also:

Campfire night with staff from Camp Onamia.  
Day Trip to Sap Suckers at Mora  
Food trucks in parking lot.

Updates to this report:

- Sandy Pullen is meeting with WIC staff on May 22 to see what support our church can give individuals who come to Bethesda for the WIC program.
- WIC staff will give a Temple talk on July 14 explaining their needs.
- The arboretum trip was left up to the original 4 people who signed up to decide as weather may be a factor.
- The Garden Party event has been changed to Aug 9 a Friday evening. A committee will be formed to decide on details.

David Brown has offered to serve on the Mission and Evangelism Committee! Thank you, David.  
Submitted by Joanne Stueven/Mission and Evangelism

**WORSHIP & MUSIC** meeting minutes: 5/14/24  
Members present: Sherry Whipple, Sheila Penoyer  
Jim Christianson, Pastor James, Terry Carlson, and Julie Swaggert

- Terry Carlson is joining us a new member of the Worship and Music Committee. Terry has also joined choir. Thanks to Terry for her service and willingness to help!
- WM provided a raffle basket (items from Clear Lake Gardens and a gift certificate). The money raised is in our funds for use in our WM projects. (about \$75)
- **Choir** started in April with the talented Sheila as the director. We continue to look for new members! Choir will sing twice monthly and will continue until Christmas.
- **The Praise Team** will lead the service once per month on a continuous basis. The Praise Team is also always looking for additional musicians.
- **The Bells** will be play once per month. With some additional members, Bells are doing very well and continue to enhance our worship.
- The technology issues (skipping during the service) are much improved with the concept of a hard reset of the iPad before each service. All sorts of “fixes” within the system have been tried. SCI internet is not the issue so some sort of glitch within our system appears to be the issues and is helped by the hard reset. If we have issues during a service, the iPad can be used with a cord so we do have an emergency fix as well! Pastor, Mary, and Jim have worked on this.
- We have tentatively planned on having an outdoor service in the Gardens on September 15<sup>th</sup>. This is similar to the date we had for our outdoor service this past year.
- We are looking at a couple possible Saturday evening sing-along campfire/service/food events. Pastor and Julie are contacting musicians to help lead the music around the campfire. More ideas welcome. We will be reaching out for help from the congregation as well.
- We will be putting a box in the Narthex for hymn/song suggestions. We have done this in the past and it is time to do it again!
- We will meet again after choir soon to continue our summer plans discussion.

Julie Swaggert, WM Chair

### STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Met on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 10:00am. Members

attending: Donna Ansell, Mary Braun & Barb Forrester

Year to date Income and Expenses were discussed.

- Income was above budget due to the several RMD receive in the first quarter.
  - Year to date our stock investments have increased.
- Expenses were slightly above budget due to:
  - Insurance costs increase.
  - Synod Benevolence is up due to Income increase (we give 5% of General Income).
  - Advertising costs are up.
- Backups for the Treasurer and Financial Secretary positions were discussed.
- Benevolences checks need to go out quarterly.

We will meet again in 3 months so we can continue to monitor Income & Expenses.

Submitted by Mary Braun

Next council meeting is Monday June 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mary Braun 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dick Stebbins and was passed. Adjourn-Lord's prayer.

Submitted by Sylvia Tapelt

### 2024 TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<i>(Envelope Giving)</i>		
Income Actual	\$19,689	\$ 64,819
Budget	\$11,500	\$ 46,000
<u>All Funds</u>		
Total Income Actual	\$23,748	\$ 79,549
Total Income Budget	\$12,442	\$ 49,767
Expenses Actual	\$18,177	\$ 59,379
Expenses Budget	\$12,995	\$ 51,980
Over/(Short)	\$ 5,571	\$ 20,170



## Crafty Mondays!

Join us to work on crafts for our Holiday Bazaar on the following Mondays from 9-11 am:

June 3 & 24; July 1 & 29;  
Aug. 5 & 19; Sept. 16 & 30;  
Oct. 7

A few of these dates will be workshops where we will work on specific items: June 3 - Mushrooms; July 1 - Papermaking; and Aug. 19 Dried fruit crafts. The bazaar is on Oct. 26 this year.



## Our Adopt a Highway Pick up on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00

The Minnesota Department of Transportation thanks the thousands of Adopt a Highway volunteers who help us keep Minnesota roadsides clean and free of litter each year and we invite more people to join this important program.

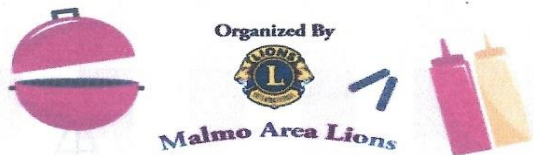
During 2023, Adopt a Highway volunteers removed more than 42,100 bags of trash from Minnesota highways and rest areas. MnDOT currently works with 2,021 volunteer groups statewide, collectively those groups volunteered almost 100,000 hours to pick up litter for the program.

Join Bethesda Church on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 to do our area! An alternative date is June 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. We need at least 8 people to help.



## Newsletter Articles

Please have your articles for the Newline in by the 20<sup>th</sup>. The email address is [blnews@juno.com](mailto:blnews@juno.com) or put your article in the Newsletter box in the hallway.



## COMMUNITY PICNIC

June 19<sup>th</sup> 11am-7pm

LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CENTER

Hwy 47/18 Malmo



Corn hole  
tournament 4pm  
meal at 5pm

Popcorn and punch will be  
for sale in vendor area

vendors/ crafters will be charged a donation of \$10 a  
spot that will go to the local food shelves

to register call Sharon Whipple (218) 390-0526  
or email [mean.gene@frontiernet.net](mailto:mean.gene@frontiernet.net)

come out and visit with your neighbors  
and friends



## SUMMER LAWN MOWING

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



**RAFFLE BASKET** Raffle baskets will be available to buy chances on every month. Check out the items in the Fellowship Hall; \$1/ticket. Enter as many times as you like.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING** It is safe, it is easy and it is convenient. Never have to remember your check or envelope on Sunday mornings. There are Simply Giving forms available in the Narthex and online at: <http://blcmalmo.org/WP2016/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Simply-Giving-Form.pdf>



## 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.





June 14th

### Inspirational Vision

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

### WELCA Mtg – May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

President Penny S opened the mtg. with 12 members present. Jeannine led devotions. The purpose statement & mission statements were read. The secy's report was accepted. Dianne gave the treasurer's report with a bal. on hand of \$8,260.63. Char made a motion & Jeannine seconded it to donate \$500 to the Gather offering at the Summer Convention. Motion passed. Motion made by Jenny S. to give \$500 for the Love offering at the Convention. Jeannine 2<sup>nd</sup> M/A

#### Old business:

- Sandy P will continue to work with the WIC representative re: the needs of local families.
- Shirley G has purchased the Hungry Jack potato flakes for the bazaar lefse.
- There were 368 jars of jelly made on April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- The penny jar for "Operation Sandwich" is in effect until the fall conference.

#### New business:

- Darlene C will be the backup funeral coordinator.
- Elsa will be the backup funeral luncheon coordinator.
- The corn feed will be held August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Crafters met May 13<sup>th</sup> w/new ideas for the bazaar. Meeting dates will be written in the Lifeline.
- A quilt has been donated to the summer convention Market Place. Several baskets of items are also ready to donate.
- Darlene will make a list of possible projects the \$250 Thrivent grants can be used for.
- Jeannine & Janice are hostesses for the August 21<sup>st</sup> WELCA mtg.
- The mtg was adjourned. The Lord's Prayer was prayed.



New Born Kits for babies were assembled after the mtg was adjourned. Char Berg, secy.



**LET'S GO FISHING** We have booked a Let's Go Fishing trip for the church members for anyone who is interested on 07 Aug from 1-3 PM. This trip is on Bay

Lake. Everything is provided at no cost. So far, 3 individuals have signed up, we can take an additional 7 members. There are also other dates that are available in addition to this trip. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. For additional information, please contact David Brown at: 518-645-4746 or email at [dbrown22dogs@gmail.com](mailto:dbrown22dogs@gmail.com).



Bethesda's cookies and workers made it to Loaves and Fishes at the First Lutheran Church in Aitkin on May 20<sup>th</sup>!!

An amazing effort to offer meals to those in need  
👍😊❤️🙏!

Good Job ...Karen Elias, Patti Smith, Julie Swaggert, Barb Forrester and Joanne Stueven.

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo  
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## The Lifeline Mission

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



### Bethesda Telephone Directory

Church	<a href="mailto:blcmalmo@gmail.com">blcmalmo@gmail.com</a>	(320) 684-2123
Fax		(320)-684-2836
Toll Free		(877) 684-2123
Church Web site		<a href="http://blcmalmo.org">blcmalmo.org</a>
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](mailto:blnews@juno.com)

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