

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

July 7 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

July 14 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

July 21 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

July 28 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

Upcoming Events

4th Of July Parade

Bethesda decorates a trailer to advertise our church in the 4th of July Parade at Glen. We would welcome anyone who has a parade vehicle, show car, or wants to ride on the trailer to join us.

As the event gets closer and we have the time and details we will encourage a sign up. Watch for the sign up or talk to Joanne Stueven of Mission and Evangelism.



2024

YOUR HELP NEEDED:

We found the front door unlocked and lights on. We need your help to ensure the lights are turned off if you are the last person to leave the church. The front door does not always snap shut, so when you close the door, try to open the door to be sure it is locked.

Please enjoy our beautiful church and be diligent on these issues. Bethesda Property Committee



Veggie Stand

The veggie stand will open on the 4th of July weekend which happens to be Saturday July 6. We will give a shout out to our regular bakers who have been the backbone of the outreach!! Please consider bringing baked goods early Saturday or leave it in the church on Friday. As your gardens start to produce, please share that fresh produce also!

Actually, it is fun to come have coffee and greet neighbors on Saturday mornings! The regular crew really appreciates it when others come and visit.

Hours are 7:30-11:00 AM Every Saturday through Labor Day



From the Pastor

By now, many of you will have already received a letter (see included sheet) announcing that as of the end of July, I will be ending my time as your pastor here at Bethesda and beginning a new call at St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church in White Bear Lake, MN. It has been my sincere privilege to be your pastor for over six years, and, as much as I am excited to begin this next chapter of my life and ministry, it is going to be hard to say goodbye.

I will carry with me memories of learning to make lefse and baking baskets of bread for the Bazaar. Enjoying treats, veggies, and good conversation at the Veggie Stand. I will remember the joyous chaos of Vacation Bible School. I will remember Trunk or Treat parties and the Corn Feed. I will remember singing and acting in goofy skits during the Jamboree. I will remember the sunsets over the lake, the flowers in the garden, snowshoeing with folks behind church, the bugs – oh the many forms of insect life in Malmo! – and the ice fishing trips up north.

I will remember seeing the quilters hard at work quilting each week. The card players having fun and sharing their treats. Watching the crafters pour their creative spirit into their work. I will remember learning about how to make maple syrup with Skip and going ricing with Ray. I will remember watching movies and playing games in the winter. I will remember riding my bike and handing out candy to little kids at the Glen 4th of July parade. Sharing laughs and bribing Mary with potato wedges.

And, of course, since this is a church, ha, I will remember all the wonderful moments we shared worshipping our God together. That cycle that takes us from Advent and Christmas to Lent and Easter and the summer months when all the snowbirds re-join us again. I won't forget all the beautiful music we shared as part of our worship – singing with the choir, playing drums in the Praise Band, hearing our bell choir make their beautiful music. Those special occasions when we performed a Christmas cantata or participated in the Isle Lenten Cantata. The special services where we were joined by John Koziol or my parents. Outdoor worship services, when the weather cooperated, cannot be forgotten either.

I will remember, of course, the difficult pandemic years. How we had to figure out all over again how to function as a church. When worship moved online or into the parking lot. Making videos with Pastor Kate, our praise band, and others from Faith Lutheran. How could I ever forget us singing Silent Night in our parking lot? I continue to be grateful for the ways, even as things have returned to “normal”, that we continue to be open to new ideas and new ways of worship. And that we are open to partnerships with our neighbors. Besides the Lenten Cantata, the Lenten pastor rotation was such fun every year, and I hope you continue to find more ways to live out our faith with our neighbors in the Isle and Aitkin area.

Of course, we have shared our faith in many other ways – in our weekly Bible and book studies, through our outreach to the community, working with our visitation team to share God's love by visiting and calling and sending cards to others. I was also grateful for those brave, faithful souls that traveled out to Pine Ridge last summer and am so hopeful for the continued learning and bridge building they have committed to.

I have had the honor to be your pastor through baptisms and through funerals. Through moments of joy and laughter, and moments of sadness and loss. We have had fun, lighthearted conversations and tough conversations where we didn't agree. We have served together doing important work that wasn't always fun or glamorous or likely to even be noticed, but which needed to be done anyway. The people of Bethesda continue to be generous with not just what they put in the plate, but with their time, their energy, and their hearts.

For all of it, I thank you. And I give thanks to God for bringing us together, and for making all of these moments (and the many, many more that I didn't have room to include) possible. God has blessed this community, God has blessed me through you, and I have faith that God will continue to bless us both.

With love and gratitude,

Pastor James Muske



Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo

COUNCIL MEETING 6/10/24

Attendees: Dean Malotky, Mary Braun, Pastor James Muske, 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 May meeting by Mary Braun, 2nd by Gary Sjerven and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month activity for May was presented by Mary Braun. Motion made by Dean Malotky, 2nd by Gary Sjerven to accept and passed.

Pastor's Report –for the June 10, 2024 council meeting

Blessings to you all as we share mission and ministry this summer!

- VBS planning – next week! – is obvious everywhere in church now. Thanks again to Joanne and all who help make it possible. Thank you to the parents, grandparents, youth leaders, and, especially, the kids that attend too!
- Thank you to Dennis (and family!) for providing worship leadership coverage while I was gone over Memorial Day. So grateful to have folks with these gifts in our church and who are willing to use them!
- June is my month for leading worship at the Aitkin senior care centers. 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. Wally has volunteered to join me, which should be fun!
- Also, Ken Wanous now resides at Golden Horizons. I have visited him once already, but this will offer another chance. Darlene and I have added him to the visitation list.
- The Mutual Ministry committee and I are going to meet after this meeting concludes, part of our regularly scheduled meetings. I am grateful for their ongoing support of my ministry!

- Met with the Property Committee to discuss some of the recommendations offered by the synod for congregations with parsonages. Everything has been going well, but we thought it would be good to get a few things down in writing.
- I also have a regularly scheduled Board meeting for Camp Onomia this week, where I get to meet this summer's counselors. Also, Executive Director Jim Schmidt has announced his intention to retire later this year. Many thanks to him for his long service at Camp and blessings in his retirement!
- Thank you in advance to my dad and step-mother for providing music on Sunday, June 16. Putting my dad to work on Father's Day, ha!

Yours in Christ, Pastor James

Old Business

Fire Alarm System is moving forward and will be installed sometime in August to November.

Highway cleanup is scheduled for Tuesday June 11 at 10:00am, in the event of rain it will be Thursday June 13 at 10:00am.

\$100.00 was sent to Isle Fire Association for advertising on Fun Run shirts.

New Business

Property committee update: The gopher issue will be resolved. The coffee maker will be delimed. Welca will be looking in the replacement options for the kitchen stove and hood. Currently the power has been turned off on the kitchen stove due to issues. The electric bill is down \$100.00 per month due to updates that have been completed. There is a crack in the septic tank and options are being looked into. The propane tanks have been switched out and the first fill was \$.99 per gallon and \$1.29 for the 2nd fill. The shed at the parsonage will be repaired instead of replaced. We need to have some tuck pointing done on the cracks in the bricks and looking into contractors. Looking into raised garden beds for the parsonage. The pine trees by the parsonage need to be trimmed and a dead tree needs to be cut down. Some of the air conditioners are low and must have Freon added. The fountain in the garden will run Friday thru Sunday. VBS helpers needed.

Maturity notice on CD at bank is June 29 2024. We made \$1,347.60. It will automatically renew and expire 12/29/24. Review amount in checking account

at that time to see what is needed to make payment for the fire alarm system.

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Worship & Music Committee Minutes/Notes - 6/11/24

Members present: Pastor James, Patti Smith, Sheila Penoyer, Jim Christenson, Sherry Whipple, Teri Carlson, Julie Swaggert

- We discussed our Summer Campfire and Song event. We are looking at a Wednesday in August...preferably the 14 th . Julie has met with Terry “Tinman” Haigler from Isle who would be interested in playing guitar, performing songs and leading a sing along with us. He is a great musician who loves to share his gifts and love of God. Julie will confirm a date and we will continue to work out details and advertise. We are tentatively looking at a picnic supper (grilled hot dogs and sides), followed by a campfire and music (with S’mores). We hope to make this accessible to everyone and it will not be late in the evening!
- The box for hymn suggestions is in the Narthex and folks are encouraged to put in their favorites! Pastor will advertise this during his announcements.
- It has been suggested we sing hymns during communion. We are working on this and it may be in conjunction with the favorite hymn suggestion box.
- We are planning an outdoor service for September 15 th with details to be worked out.

Respectfully submitted
Julie Swaggert

Next council meeting is Monday July 15th at 10:00 am.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mary Braun 2nd by Gary Sjeverson and was passed.
Adjourn-Lord's prayer

Submitted by Sylvia Tapelt



Gardener's! We could use some help weeding the flower beds. Any time you have a few minutes would be appreciated!

2024 TREASURER'S REPORT

| <u>General Fund</u> | <u>MAY</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------------|
| <i>(Envelope Giving)</i> | | |
| Income Actual | \$ 7,914 | \$ 72,733 |
| Budget | \$11,500 | \$ 57,500 |
| <u>All Funds</u> | | |
| Total Income Actual | \$ 9,559 | \$ 89,500 |
| Total Income Budget | \$12,442 | \$ 62,208 |
| | | |
| Expenses Actual | \$16,007 | \$ 75,778 |
| Expenses Budget | \$12,995 | \$ 64,975 |
| | | |
| Over/(Short) | (\$ 6,448)* | \$ 13,722 |

**1st Quarter Benevolence Paid*

Crafty Mondays!

Join us to work on crafts for our Holiday Bazaar on the following Mondays from 9-11 am: 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: July 1 - Papermaking; and Aug. 19 – Dried fruit crafts. The bazaar is on Oct. 26 this year.



THANK YOU! A big thanks to Joanne Stueven and all her helpers that made for another successful Vacation Bible School week.!

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>

SUMMER LAWN MOWING



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

JULY WOMENS' DEVOTION is changed to Monday, July 8th at 9:00am

HEALTHY HABITS MEETING Tuesday, July 30th at noon.

Vacation Bible School

June 17-20, 2024

We are enjoying the best week of summer as I write this!! We have 18 school age children, 10 teens and 15 adults coming to our space adventure each morning. We meet in front of a fantastic moon backdrop to learn some facts about our universe as well as how God's love lights up our world. There is music, a skit, classes, great snacks and the playground activities. As a special treat this year the bell choir visited the classes. Thank you for taking the time to do that for our kids!

I need to thank the adults who step up to make this such an awesome adventure for children. Perhaps they see the rewards in those happy faces that come sharing Jesus Light each day!! Thank You, Joanne Stueven



Pictures from Vacation Bible School



Activities & Events

July 2024

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

Ushers by Gary & Brenda Sjervin

July 7 Gary; Brenda Sjervin

July 14 Lee; Barb Forrester

July 21 Barry, Donna Ansell

July 28 Chuck, Elsa Carlson

GREETERS by Gary & Brenda Sjervin

July 7 Julie Swaggert & Dennis Hennessy

July 14 Wally & Bev Swenson

July 21 Mary Braun & Winnie Zahradka

July 28 Lee & Barb Forrester

Altar Care Dianne Jones

July- Elsa and Dianne

August- Winnie and Karen

Sunday Hospitality

Need Volunteers



July 1 Dennis Meidlinger

July 1 Vicki Vossen

July 2 LuAnn Gordon

July 5 Harold Kendall

July 6 Joanne Danielson

July 7 Jerome Schewe

July 8 James Meinert

July 8 Penny Sjoquist

July 9 Darrell Kelly

July 10 Donna Myhre

July 11 Randy Tofteland

July 15 Gavin Fischer

July 16 Joy Vossen

July 18 Paul Meleen

July 21 Ronald Heins

July 21 Craig Kullberg

July 22 Kathryn Carlson

July 23 Sandi Elwood

July 24 Keith Mundinger

July 25 Ken Elwood

July 27 Marilyn Elling

July 27 Linda Hauglid

July 27 Annie Johnson

July 27 Joanne Mehlhop

July 29 Cindy Persson



July 5 Bev & Wally Swenson

July 7 Ardis & Harold Kendall

July 10 Patti & Ken Wanous

July 16 Jan & Ron Aho

July 16 Barb & Lee Forrester

July 29 Marilee & Kirk Swenson

*The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same moment.-
Thomas Jefferson*

A very wonderful and special country

What a country this is! To my way of thinking, there is nothing like it anywhere in the world. I have visited many beautiful lands, but upon returning to the United States, there is always the feeling that Almighty God carved out here a very wonderful and special country.

We need to recount the stories of the great souls America has produced and who produced America. We need to tell and retell these stories beginning with the Pilgrim Fathers. Bibles under their arms, setting forth in little ships across a stormy sea, driven not by the winds that raged the Atlantic and caught the sails of their little boats, but by the mighty conviction that as sons of God no one could make slaves of them.





July 2024

Bethesda Calendar of Events



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|--|------------------|---|
| | <p>1</p> <p>9:00 Crafters 11:30 Pinochle</p> <p>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</p> | <p>2</p> <p>9:00 Chair Yoga</p> <p>4:00 Bell Practice 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise Team</p> | <p>3</p> <p>9:00 Women's Bible Study</p> | <p>4</p> <p>Happy 4th of July</p> <p>10:30 Glen Parade</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6</p> <p>8:00 Veggie Stand</p> |
| <p>7</p> <p>9:00 Worship Communion</p> | <p>8</p> <p>9:00 Women Gather 11:30 Pinochle</p> <p>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</p> | <p>9</p> <p>9:00 Chair Yoga 4:00 Bell Practice 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise Team</p> | <p>10</p> <p>9:00 Women's Bible Study</p> | <p>11</p> <p>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> <p>8:00 Veggie Stand</p> |
| <p>14</p> <p>9:00 Worship Communion</p> | <p>15</p> <p>11:30 Pinochle</p> <p>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</p> | <p>16</p> <p>9:00 Chair Yoga 4:00 Bell Practice 5:30 Choir</p> | <p>17</p> <p>9:00 Women's Bible Study 9-4:00 WIC</p> | <p>18</p> <p>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> <p>8:00 Veggie Stand Newspine Deadline</p> |
| <p>21</p> <p>9:00 Worship Communion Worship</p> | <p>22</p> <p>11:30 Pinochle</p> <p>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</p> | <p>23</p> <p>9:00 Chair Yoga 4:00 Bell Practice 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise Team</p> | <p>24</p> <p>9:00 Women's Bible Study</p> | <p>25</p> <p>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> <p>8:00 Veggie Stand</p> |
| <p>28</p> <p>9:00 Worship Communion Worship</p> | <p>29</p> <p>9:00 Crafters 11:30 Pinochle</p> <p>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</p> | <p>30</p> <p>9:00 Chair Yoga 12:00 Healthy Habits 4:00 Bell Practice 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise Team</p> | <p>31</p> <p>9:00 Women's Bible Study</p> | | | |

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

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Paid
Permit No. 25
Aitkin, MN 56431

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 | blcmalmo@gmail.com | (320) 684-2123 |
| Fax | | (320)-684-2836 |
| Toll Free | | (877) 684-2123 |
| Church Web site | | blcmalmo.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

November 2017 ~ July 2024





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June 25, 2024

Dear friends in Christ,

I write this letter to all of you with excitement that is mixed with sadness. On Monday, June 24, I shared my resignation as the pastor of Bethesda Lutheran Church with our council president. I took this action because I have accepted a call to be the Lead Pastor of St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church in White Bear Lake, MN.

During the month of July, I will continue to preach and minister to the needs of this congregation. **My last Sunday will be July 28th.** Our council president Dean Malotky is in contact with staff from the NEMN Synod, so that they may support Bethesda during this time of transition.

As happy as I am to begin this next stage in my life and my ministry, it was by no means an easy decision. Please know that this transition is not a reflection on my time here or my hopes for this congregation. On the contrary, though we have been through some difficult moments as a congregation, I am so grateful for the past six years and will miss this community deeply. I also continue to be hopeful about the future of Bethesda Lutheran – all of you bring so many gifts to this ministry and God's love is truly lived out here!

As an important reminder, though I will continue to provide pastoral duties until the end of July, after that time I am required to exercise appropriate boundaries, so that you may form stronger relationships with any new clergy or leadership. This means that I cannot preside over funerals or weddings, conduct visits, or offer advice on governance issues at Bethesda, but if there are any important community milestones that I might attend as a visitor, please send me an invite!

Please know that I will always treasure the ministry that I have shared with all of you. Though my relationship as your pastor will change, my love for you will not. So, even as I feel called to serve this new congregation, this was indeed a difficult decision. The difficulty is not in saying yes to the Lord, but in saying goodbye to all of you. You are good people with hearts to serve and follow our Lord. You have invited me into your lives in such humbling ways. As I depart from this special place, I will continue to pray that God guides you and gives you strength in your ministry as a congregation.

May God continue to bless and keep you!

Your fellow disciple in Christ,

Pastor James Muske