

# 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

**August 5 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**August 12 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**August 19 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**August 26 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM**  
**No Communion**

### Upcoming Events

Outdoor picnic and campfire, Singalong at Bethesda on **Wednesday evening August 14<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm.**

**August 17 Bethesda Corn Feed**



## 2024

### Summer Food, Music, Campfire and Fun!

*(Worship and Music Committee sponsored event)*

Join us for an outdoor picnic and campfire at Bethesda on **Wednesday evening August 14<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm.**

The event will be highlighted by Isle guitarist and singer Terry "Tinman" Haigler providing music and a sing along beginning at 5:30. Tinman is from Isle and his work and music includes prison ministry and a heart for bringing music to all of God's people.

This is a free event (free will donation). Bring neighbors and friends and a lawn chair if you wish as we celebrate summer and the beauty of our Bethesda church grounds! The picnic will include grilled hot dogs, chips, veggies, watermelon, dessert and lemonade.

If you need a ride to this event, contact Julie Swaggert at 763-229-9121 and we will make sure you are able to attend.



21590 State Hwy. 47, Malmo, MN

**Saturday**  
**August 17, 2024**  
**4:30-7:00 pm**

**(ALL YOU CAN EAT CORN)**

Pulled Pork Sandwich,  
Calico Beans,  
Coleslaw, Bars  
Coffee/Water/Lemonade

**Adults \$12.00**  
**Children 12 & under \$5**

*"Event sponsored by Thrivent"*

# Living Lutheran

WE ARE ALSO CITIZENS

June 14, 2024



The airwaves are filled with contentious political discourse. And, as we get closer to the November election, it will undoubtedly get louder and coarser. Each side seeks to catch the other with questions that aren't designed for clarity and dialogue but to further its own agenda. Martin Luther's explanation of the Eighth Commandment in the Small Catechism—"We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. *Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light*"—is barely visible in the rearview mirror.

But the "gotcha" question isn't a modern invention. "Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ... Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar (the emperor) or not?" ([Matthew 22:15-17](#)). We know the answer. Jesus told them: "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" ([21](#)).

This passage has been used to inform the relationship between the institutions of the state and the community of faith. In this relationship the authority of the state is real and respected—but limited. God's authority is acknowledged as ultimate and deserving of ultimate devotion and obedience, yet it doesn't necessitate withdrawal from or opposition to participation in civic life and its responsibilities. We Lutherans call this the doctrine of two kingdoms, and we understand that the church and the state, the spiritual and the temporal, are *both* established by God and are *both* part of God's twofold rule. Both church and state are good gifts from God.

Lutherans have been accused of congenital quietism. Our understanding of God's twofold rule and even the story about paying taxes in Matthew have been used to discourage participation in civic life. However, active

participation in public life has been part of the Lutheran movement from its beginning. Lutherans don't withdraw from public life. In fact, the [ELCA's constitution](#) pledges us to "work with civil authorities in areas of mutual endeavor, maintaining institutional separation of church and state in a relation of functional interaction."

I have been voting for 51 years. I can't think of an election cycle more fraught and divisive than this one. People all across the political spectrum claim that life as we know it is on the line. It's not possible to agree to disagree—one must decide and put a stake in the ground. There is the potential for violence.

But division and violence don't have to be our inevitable future. On Nov. 5, no matter the outcome, we will still be here together. Our church, our people, our congregations will still be here and will witness that unity doesn't mean uniformity; that what binds us together is new life in Christ; that the church—and our country—are bigger than our "tribe"; and that baptism proves that water is thicker than blood.

This is not "both side-ism." Based on Scripture and the [Confessions](#) and forged through prayer, there are principles that aren't debatable: love, community, sacrifice for the common good, to name a few. Instead, we are free and forgiven in Christ so that even when we disagree on deeply held convictions, we can still see the other as someone for whom Christ died.

Something that is missed when reading the story of Jesus and taxes is what he reveals about God and the world God so loves. We focus on Caesar. If Caesar's image and title are imprinted on a base metal coin, a humanly created, literal graven image, where is God's image to be found? Human creatures—the living beings whom God created in God's own image, into whom God breathed the breath of life—are bearers of God's image in the world.

Dear church, our citizenship is ultimately in heaven. But we are also citizens of this country—this flawed, fractious, unequal, imperfect union. In U.S. political history, people have yearned and given their lives for what they had hoped for—democratic life for the sake of the flourishing of all. One of the ways we serve our neighbor is to participate in civic life. Can we see Election Day as a unifying event when the whole country goes to the polls?



### Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2024

Attendees: Dean Malotky, Mary Braun, Pastor James Muske, Gray Sjerven, Dick Stebbins, Donna Ansell, Darlene Christensen, 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 June meeting by Mary Braun and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Ansell and passed.

#### Treasurer's Report:

The estate of Ken Skogquist's gave a Memorial gift of \$13,000 to the general fund. Thank you to his family for this gift. Financial view and current month activity for May 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 July 15th, 2024, council meeting

As I begin this final pastor's report thank you all again for this ministry we have shared these past six years. I have been so grateful for all the folks that have dedicated time, energy, and good spirits to serving on church council and our various committees. This is not always the most glamorous or exciting work, but it is vitally important for this ministry to function. My deep appreciation to the staff, I have been so grateful to work with Mary, Sheila, Jim, Darlene, and Gary (and the others through the years!). I feel so blessed!

In terms of some of the final items I am working on before I say goodbye:

- I have been in regular contact with Dean and Julie on the transition, and everything seems to be progressing smoothly. I also have a meeting today with our mutual ministry team, so they can also help me reflect on this time. While it is certainly up to your next pastor, I encourage you to keep this team in place, as they can be a great resource to help a pastor reflect and wrestle with issues in their ministry.
- I plan to work with Mary on creating some tech tips and troubleshooting for some of our pieces of technology around the building. Will also work on saving any files from my computer to

an external hard drive that Mary or others will find useful.

- Using a resource that Mary had started, I edited a songbook for the Praise Team, to help them update and organize their music.
- I have planned out music for worship services from now until the end of September. Of course, you are welcome to edit the choices at any time.
- I intend to schedule visits with all our home bound members before I depart, either solo or with a member of the visitation team. Darlene and I can also meet to discuss plans going forward.
- Met with the Property Committee to discuss moving out and cleaning. I did offer to leave a few items behind (a bed and mattress, basic kitchen supplies, etc.), in case you wanted to be able to host a pulpit supply pastor at the parsonage. Also spoke with them about caring for the fruit trees, so I will make up a cheat sheet for that too.
- I will also plan to clean out my office, though there are some items, of course, that came with the office or were purchased along the way. However, I would like to request that I be able to keep my laptop. This is fairly standard in my experience for churches, especially when the laptop is older, and mine is now six years old and rough around the edges. I would also be willing to make an offer on the camera and audio equipment, if you find over the next several months or so that you aren't really using them.
- I will continue to work with Gary on the final clean up and move out details.

Again, thank you all for the gifts that you share with this congregation. I am so glad to have such strong leadership during this time of transition. God bless you in your continued efforts to share God's love with the world!

Yours in Christ, Pastor James Muske

#### Old Business

Fire Alarm System is moving forward and will be installed late August.

VBS completed. 18 kids attended, 10 teenage helpers & 15 Grandma helpers

## New Business

An exit interview was completed at the council meeting with Pastor James.

Pastor's Farewell-last day of call is July 31, 2024.

- He has 21 vacation days available as of July 31st, that is exactly how many business days there are in the month of August, so he will receive a months' worth of pay and benefits (per Synod guidelines). We need to remove his name as an authorized signer on the checking account and replace him with another person. A motion was made for Brenda Sjerven to be added by Darlene Christensen, 2nd by Dean Malotky and passed. Julie has arranged Pulpit Supply personnel for every Sunday of August & September, except for Labor Day weekend. There will be communion when there is a pastor. There will be no communion if there is a Lay Leader. Council will provide Cake & Coffee on the last Sunday of July Joanne is ordering the cake. Volunteers to help serve coffee would be welcomed!
- The council will meet with Susan Williams from the Synod on August 5 at 10am so she can walk us through the Interim to Call process.
- New rate for the rolled over CD at the bank is 4.5%. New maturity date is 3/12/25

**Property committee update:** The septic cover needs to have an extension added. To save cost of having it done the property committee will take care of it. Lee Forrester has resigned from the property committee. Darrell Kelly will take over for now. The septic system was pumped out. Tuck pointing has started and needs to be completed. A new water softener is needed for the parsonage.

Next council meeting is Monday August 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mary 2 Adjourn-Lord's prayer

Submitted by Sylvia Tapelt



*“Are you spending your time on the right things? Because time is all you have.”*

## 2024 Treasure's Report

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<i>(Envelope Giving)</i>		
Income Actual	\$ 8,601	\$ 81,334
Budget	\$ 11,500	\$ 69,000
 <u>All Funds</u>		
Total Income Actual	\$ 24,687	\$114,187
Total Income Budget	\$ 12,442	\$ 74,650
Expenses Actual	\$ 12,237	\$ 88,015
Expenses Budget	\$ 12,995	\$ 77,971
Over/(Short)	\$ 12,450	\$ 26,172



### Crafty Mondays!

Join us to work on crafts for our Holiday Bazaar on the following Mondays from 9-11 am, Aug. 5 & 19; Sept. 16 & 30; Oct. 7. A few of these dates will be workshops where we will work on specific items Aug. 19 – Dried fruit crafts. The bazaar is on Oct. 26 this year.



**WELCA**, with the help of everyone, will be hosting **THE CORN FEED** on Saturday, August 17th from. 4:30 - 7:00. We will be serving Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Calico Beans, Coleslaw, Bars and all the Corn you can eat. Adults \$12.00. Children 10 and under \$5.00

Sign-up sheets for helping will be in the fellowship hall the first week of August.

**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>



It is hard to believe that it is already Aug.!! Summer is flying by! The choir has been busy working on some new songs, and some old favorites. We will be singing a couple new songs for Aug. On Aug. 4th we will sing, "As we come into his Presence" & on Aug.18th we will be singing, "In Remembrance of Me" We are sad that Pastor James will be gone but hope all goes well for him with his new Congregation and starting married life! We wish him & Mary the best, and hope the new congregation works out well. WE WILL MISS HIM TONS!!!

In Sept. the choir will be taking off the first two Sundays, Sept. 1st, & Sept 8th. The Praise Team will be doing our outdoor service on Sept.15th, and the choir will sing on Sept. 22nd "How Great is Our God!", and then the bells will end the month on Sept. 29th. Keep all our members in your prayers as we work to call a new Pastor!! We just need to continue with our Ministry and keep moving forward!! Thank you for all your support to our Music groups! We will get through this if we all work together!!  
Sheila Penoyer/ Choir Director

Women of the ELCA  
Fall Gathering is October  
5th at Lord of Life in  
Baxter.



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



**SUMMER LAWN MOWING**

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

**BAKED GOODS FOR VEGGIE STAND**  
are gladly accepted for Saturday mornings.

**Happy Labor Day  
September 2!**

**FOOD SHELF DONATIONS** are needed.  
Nonperishable items can be left in boxes in the Narthex.



2024 high school graduate London Feland was given a beautiful quilt from the Bethesda Quilters!! London loves the colors, and it will be a perfect fit in her room. Thank you, kind quilters!



Bethesda was proudly represented in the Glen 4th of July Parade!



The Veggie Stand opened for the season on Saturday July 6 at 7:30 AM!! We will have sweet corn, baked goods, famous pies, and free coffee. Lots of good conversations, please come visit us.

# Activities & Events

August 2024

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

## USHERS by Gary & Brenda Sjervin

Aug. 4 Lee & Barb Forrester  
Aug. 11 Barry & Donna Ansell  
Aug. 18 Barry & Donna Ansell  
Aug. 25 Gary & Brenda Sjervin

## GREETERS by Gary & Brenda Sjervin

Aug. 4 Julie Swaggert & Dennis Hennessy  
Aug. 11 Wally & Bev Swenson  
Aug. 18 Julie Swaggert & Dennis Hennessy  
Aug. 25 Sherry Whipple & Winnie Zahradka

**Altar Care** Dianne Jones  
August- Winnie and Karen  
September Barb and Patti  
October Sylvia and Cheryl

## Sunday Hospitality

Aug. 4 *Need Volunteers!*  
Aug. 11 **Karen Carron & family**  
Aug. 18 *Need Volunteers!*  
Aug. 25 *Need Volunteers!*



Aug. 1 Bonnie Mickelson  
Aug. 1 Sandra Skow  
Aug. 3 Vienna Sorby  
Aug. 3 Barbara Westerlund  
Aug. 4 Susan Stebbins  
Aug. 7 Brad Messer  
Aug. 7 Zachary Simonson  
Aug. 8 Emily Trotter  
Aug. 9 Vicki Magedanz  
Aug. 11 Roy Berg  
Aug. 11 Sherri Lofgren  
Aug. 12 Ronald Haglund  
Aug. 18 Nancy Hansen  
Aug. 18 Sara Lebens  
Aug. 19 Richard Stebbins  
Aug. 20 Mark Vossen  
Aug. 20 Sophia Westerlund  
Aug. 21 Sheldon Stay  
Aug. 22 Cheryl Malotky  
Aug. 23 Myra Honl  
Aug. 23 Dianne Jones  
Aug. 23 Dianne Sandberg  
Aug. 26 Barbara Forrester  
Aug. 27 Charles Anderson  
Aug. 27 Donald Myhre  
Aug. 27 Judith Seifert  
Aug. 28 Dan Persson  
Aug. 29 Linda Southworth  
Aug. 30 Stacy Westerlund  
Aug. 31 Karen Timmers



Aug. 13 Laury & Troy Nyberg  
Aug. 13 Evelyn & Ronald Richter  
Aug. 16 Susan & Curtis Lindberg  
Aug. 20 Karen & Richard Carron  
Aug. 21 Sherri & Michael Lofgren  
Aug. 22 Donna & Greg Westerlund  
Aug. 23 Dawn & Keith Kellen  
Aug. 26 Sylvia & Charlie Tapelt



## Emergency Pastoral Care starting August 2024

Pastor Sarah Stadler (Pastor at St. Johns of Cedarbrook Lutheran

Church in rural Aitkin) will be available for Pastoral care emergencies until we have an Interim Pastor assigned. Phone number. 602-318-6876



# August 2024

## Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga	2	3 8:00 Veggie Stand
4 9:00 Worship Rev. John Omans  Communion	5 9:00 Crafters  11:30 Pinochle  7:00 pm AA & Alanon mtg	6 9:00 Chair Yoga 4:00 Bell Practice 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise Team	7 9:00 Women's Bible Study	8 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s  9:15 Chair Yoga	9	10 7:30 Veggie Stand
11 9:00 Worship Rev. John Omans  Communion	12 9:00 Women Devotions 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 pm AA & Alanon mtg	13 9:00 Chair Yoga 4:00 Bell Practice 5:30 Choir	14 9:00 Women's Bible Study  <b>5-7:00 Picnic &amp; Singalong</b>	15 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s  9:15 Chair Yoga	16	17 7:30 Veggie Stand <b>Corn Feed 4:30-7:00</b>
18 9:00 Worship Rev. Deb Hanson- Carlson  Communion	19 9:00 Crafters 10:00 Council mtg 11:30 Pinochle  7:00 pm AA & Alanon mtg	20 9:00 Chair Yoga 4:00 Bell Practice 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise Team  <b>Newsline Deadline</b>	21 9-4:00 WIC 9:00 Women's Bible Study  10:00 WELCA	22 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s  9:15 Chair Yoga	23	24 7:30 Veggie Stand
25 9:00 Worship Rick Martins (lay)  <b>No Communion</b>	26 9:00 Crafters 11:30 Pinochle  7:00 pm AA & Alanon mtg	27 9:00 Quilters 9:00 Chair Yoga 12:00 Healthy Habits 4:00 Bell Practice 5:30 Choir 6:30 Praise Team	28 9:00 Women's Bible Study	29 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s  9:15 Chair Yoga	30	31 7:30 Veggie Stand

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

NON PROFIT ORG  
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	<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	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/BLCMalmo/">https://www.facebook.com/BLCMalmo/</a>	
Pastor		
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