

Bethesda Life-Line



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

Dec. 7 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

Dec. 14 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM

Dec. 21 Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Sunday Worship 3:30 PM
Communion

Dec. 25 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service
Communion

Dec. 28 Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Communion

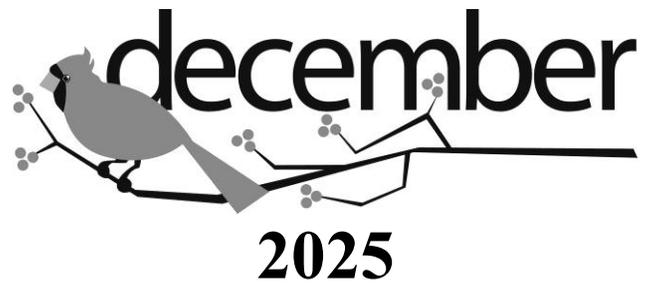
Upcoming Events

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING WILL BE ON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025,
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**



Snowbirds—Help Us Stay in Touch!

If you're heading south for the winter, please share your seasonal address or email with the church office, along with your departure and expected return dates. This helps us keep our records accurate and ensures you stay connected while you're away. Thank you for helping us keep everything running smoothly!



Christmas Giving 2025

Part of our local benevolence money goes to giving families in our area food cards to help with holiday expenses. Early December there will be a name suggestion box in entry way.

Please think about someone in the area (Petrys, Teals or Paulbecks) who could use a gift card . Give us their name and address by December 19 so cards can be mailed to them before Christmas.



It is hard to believe Dec. is upon us. The choir has been working on a Cantata I have put together. It will feature music from the bells, the Choir, and the Praise Team. The congregation will be singing familiar hymns as we hear the story of our Savior's Birth. We will be presenting the Cantata, "LET US ADORE HIM" on Sunday Dec. 14th @ 9:00 AM. I hope to see everyone there to participate in the Christmas Story of Jesus's Birth!! Directed by Sheila Penoyer

Christmas Dinner Invitation

Following both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services, a festive Christmas dinner will be provided by Pastor Christina and her family. All are welcome to join in fellowship, share a meal, and celebrate the joy of Christ's birth together.

Last Chance Quilt Sale

Don't miss it! Our final quilt sale will be held after church on Sunday, December 14. This is your opportunity to find a beautiful handmade quilt—perfect for gifting or keeping cozy this winter. Once they're gone, they're gone, so be sure to stop by!

Pastor Christina



“Every Advent, we light candles, sing carols, and pray for Christ’s coming because we believe God entered a frightened world to bring good news. We hold onto hope because we believe that Christ did come—that’s the promise of the season. Our hope is not flimsy or fleeting. It’s gritty, resilient, and can endure—no matter what we fear or face. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear.”

In Christ,
Pastor Christina Kadelbach

Bethesda Church Council Minutes 11/17/25

Attendees: Mary Braun, Dean Malotky, Gray Sjerven, Joanne Steuven, Donna Ansell, Larry Pantsari, Pastor Christina Kadelbach, Vicki Vossen, Sylvia Tapelt.

The meeting was called to order by Dean Malotky and the opening prayer was given by Pastor Christina.

Secretary's Report. Motion was made to accept minutes from October by Mary Braun and 2nd by Donna Ansell.

Treasurer's Report: Financial review and current month presented by Mary Braun. Motion was made to accept the minutes of the meeting from September by Donna Ansell and 2nd by Dean Malotky and passed.

Pastor's Report

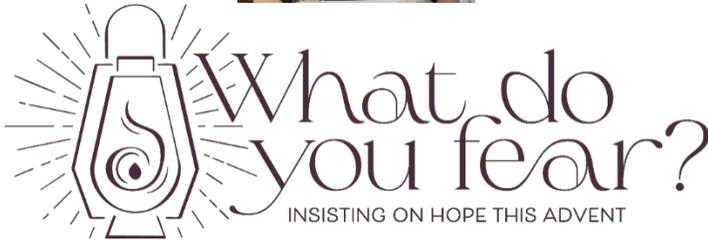
This past month has been full of meaningful moments in worship and community life. From the energy of the Bazaar to the tenderness of All Saints I continue to be grateful for the ways Bethesda shows care for one another. Thank you for your steady support as I move through a personal season of grief and for the many ways you help keep Bethesda’s ministry vibrant and grounded.

New Business: Property Committee update- Stage moved to Kathy Mjelde for storage. Stewardship Finance committee minutes are available from office.

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

Adjourn -The Lord's prayer A motion was made to adjourn by Mary Braun and 2nd by Dean Matlotky and passed.

Submitted by Sylvia Tapelt



As we enter the season of Advent, I look forward to walking with you through our theme, “What do you fear?” from the creative team at A Sanctified Art. This theme gives us space to notice how fear shows up in the story of Jesus’ birth and in our own lives.

Luke begins the story “in the time of Herod.” That brief detail places Jesus’ birth in a world full of tension and uncertainty. People struggle under heavy pressures and lived with real worry. When we hear this today it sounds familiar in its own way.

In that world, angels kept offering the same words: “Do not fear.” Mary heard it. Joseph heard it. The shepherds heard it in the night. They didn’t hide their fear or pretend it didn’t exist. They stayed present to what God was doing, asked questions, and stepped forward with the strength they had. God met them in that very place.

Our theme, “What do you fear?” invites us to look at fear with honesty rather than shame or avoidance. Fear can narrow our vision or convince us to expect the worst. Yet the birth of Jesus shows a God who enters human worry and brings a promise strong enough to carry us.

This season gives us a chance to remember that God meets us in the world as it truly is. Across Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, we’ll hear how scripture names fear and how it also points us toward hope, listening for where God is already working in our lives and in our communities.

2025 TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<i>(Envelope Giving)</i>		
Income Actual	\$ 8,943	\$ 112,229
Budget	\$ 11,500	\$ 115,000
All Funds		
Total Income Actual	\$ 12,662	\$ 16,3333
Total Income Budget	\$ 12,654	\$ 126,542
Expenses Actual	\$ 14,991	\$ 133,881
Expenses Budget	\$ 11,120	\$ 111,200
Over/(Short)	\$ (2,329)	\$ 29,451

Holiday Bazaar Results

A HUGE Thank You to all the volunteers who helped make this a successful event. We couldn't have done it without everyone pitching in—baking cookies and other goodies, making lefse, wrapping caramels, creating crafts and quilts, selling raffle tickets, cooking turkey and making sandwiches, helping with parking, and working the cash registers and sales. It truly was a whole-church effort!

The parking lot was full, customers lined the hallways, and the weather was magnificent. It was a WIN/WIN for everyone! Results are as follows:

Early Sales	\$ 150.00
Raffle	\$ 1,299.00
Lunch counter	\$ 1,131.00
Quilts, crafts, cookie walk, baked goods, jelly, lefsa	\$ 9,971.40
Credit card sales	\$ 1,317.85
Late Sales	\$ 110.00
TOTAL	\$13,979.25

WELCA Mtg. Nov.19, 2025

Chairwoman, Penny Sjoquist opened the mtg. with 15 members present. Jeannine led devotions. The purpose & mission statements were read.

The secy's report for Oct 1st. was read and accepted. Dianne gave the treasurer's report with a bal. on hand of \$18,920.54. Motion by Char, Second by Judie to accept the report. Motion passed.

Old business:

There is still a need for new co-chairs for WELCA. Discussion was held on paying the church 5% of the bazaar monies for the use of the bldg. etc. Motion by Char to pay \$700. Second by Judie. Motion carried.

Bethesda WELCA will host the Heartland Conf. Spring Gathering on April 18, 2026.

New business:

Brushes are being ordered to clean the coffee carafes. Cookies & other food items left in the freezer need to be labeled with the dates they were put there.

There was a short discussion on possible improvements for our next bazaar.

The WELCA Triennial Gathering is in Des Moines July 16-19, 2026.

A motion was made by Barb & 2nd by Jenny to distribute \$11,500 of the 2025 bazaar monies to the following:

Lutheran World Relief	\$ 500
Aitkin Food Shelf	\$ 500
Garrison Food Shelf	\$ 500
Isle Food Shelf	\$ 500
Elementary School – Isle	\$ 700
Elementary School – Aitkin	\$ 300
Aitkin County CARE	\$ 500
Teen Challenge	\$ 500
Hope Lodge	\$ 500
DARA Palliative Care- Mozambique	\$ 500
Freedom Ranch (Victims of Human Trafficking)	\$ 500
Pearl Crisis Center	\$ 500
Zambia-Village of Hope	\$ 500
Pine Ridge Center	\$ 500
HOPE of Aitkin	\$ 500
Lutheran Social Services	\$1,000
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$1,000
Katie's (Luther's wife) Fund	\$ 500
Project New Hope	\$ 250
Camp Onomia	\$ 250
Isle Girl Scout	\$ 500
Vacation Bible School	\$ 500
TOTAL	\$11,500

A motion was made to adjourn the mtg. by Jenny, 2nd by Janet. Motion carried.

The mtg. was closed with the Lords Prayer.

The next WELCA mtg. will be April 15, 2026.



It's Poinsettia time again. Please purchase one in honor of a loved one to beautify our Sanctuary. Sign-up sheets will be in the fellowship hall. They are \$15.00 each. Checks can be made out to Bethesda



ANNUAL MEETING Our congregation’s annual meeting will take place on Sunday, December 7th , following worship in Fellowship Hall. We’ll review ministry highlights from the past year and look ahead as we consider the 2027 budget. Annual reports and the proposed budget are available in Fellowship Hall. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Hanging of the Greens
Decorate the Christmas Tree**

The season of Advent is upon us, and with it comes one of our most cherished traditions: the Hanging of the Greens. On Sunday, December 4 at 10:00 a.m., we will gather to decorate the church Christmas tree and prepare our worship space for the joy of Christmas.

This is a time for fellowship, laughter, and shared purpose as we place ornaments, lights, and greenery that remind us of Christ’s coming. Whether you’ve helped for years or are joining us for the first time, your presence will make the day brighter.

Come lend a hand, bring your holiday spirit, and be part of this meaningful tradition. Together, we’ll create a beautiful space that reflects the hope and light of the season.

ELCA Good Gifts!!

The usual ELCA Christmas Giving is also available. There will be a catalog display in the fellowship hall or go on line to ELCA. This is an opportunity to give food support to needy countries by purchasing an animal in the name of someone on your Christmas list.

Thrivent Action Team Event: TP the Lodge

On November 7th, Jim and Darlene Christensen delivered Bethesda's donations to Hope Lodge in Minneapolis. This was part of the Thrivent Action Team Event: TP the Lodge. In addition to the collected items, the Thrivent \$250 grant purchased items from Hope Lodge's Amazon Wish list and the October Blessing box collection of \$312 was donated. A huge thanks to all who donated items or money to help Hope Lodge continue to offer free lodging to cancer patients during their treatment.



Can't join us in person? Tune in live from wherever you are!
Missed a service? Watch the recorded sermon at your convenience.

Simply visit YouTube and search for **Bethesda Lutheran Church - Malmo, MN**. Scroll through the videos to find the service from the date you need.

Talk to the Family!!

When you have family, friends or neighbors together over the Holidays mention having the kids coming to visit in June!! Come stay for 4 days!! That would be the 3 rd. week of June 15-18 for Vacation Bible School. It is 4 fun filled days with the best food, art, drama, music, Bible stories and outdoor activities. Please, help us advertise this important community outreach in any way you can. Thank You!

PRAYER & CARE List: Teri Carlson, Myra Honl, Darlene Meinert, the family of Sandy Miller, Janice Olson, Brenda Sjerven, & Sherry Whipple.

GLORY BAPTIST CHURCH Annual Christmas Salad Luncheon is on Wednesday, December 3rd at 12:30 pm. See the poster in the Narthex for more information.

Offering

Giving is an act of worship—a faithful response to God’s grace. Your gifts support Bethesda’s ministry and help share God’s love. As the table is set, let us give for the healing of the world.

Ways to Give:

- Place your offering in the plate during worship
- Use Vanco Services (forms in the Narthex)
- Scan the QR code to give through the app



Recurring or one-time online options
<https://app.autobooks.co/pay/bethesda-lutheran-church-of-malmo> Thank you for your faithful and generous support.



Thank you

We are grateful for the beautiful Reign of Christ service held on November 23. Thank you to everyone who helped make the worship so meaningful—from planning and music to fellowship and prayer. Your contributions brought joy and inspiration to our congregation as we celebrated Christ’s reign together.



End-of-Year Thank You from Bethesda Church

As we close another year together, we pause to give thanks for the many blessings our congregation has shared. From worship services and Bible studies to fellowship meals and outreach projects, each moment has been a reminder of God’s presence in our lives and the strength we find in community.

We are especially grateful for the dedication of our members and volunteers. Your time, talents, and generosity have kept our ministries vibrant and welcoming. Whether you served on committees, sang in the choir, helped with meals, or simply offered a kind word, you have made a difference.

This year also brought a joyful new chapter: we welcomed Pastor Christina to our church family. Her energy, compassion, and vision have already begun to inspire us, and we look forward to growing in faith together under her leadership.

As we step into the new year, may we continue to support one another, deepen our faith, and share Christ’s love with our community. Thank you for being part of this journey—your presence is a true gift.

***May the Christmas Season
bring only happiness and joy to
you and your family.***

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

Looking Ahead...2026!

On September 23, 2025, Faith Health/Wellness and Mission/Evangelism invited church members to share suggestions and make plans for 2026 projects and events.

Many outreach and wellness activities are ongoing thanks to dedicated volunteers. Programs such as yoga, visitations, Let’s Go Fishing, and picnics will continue. The goal of the meeting was to spark new ideas for our church community.

✦ Upcoming Activities

Jan 14, 2026 – 11:00 a.m.

Seasons of Life Workshop: Decluttering strategies for household or sheds

Feb 11, 2026 – 11:00 a.m.

Health Care Directive workshop (possible support from Ann at CARE)

Mar 11, 2026 – 11:00 a.m.

Hospice providers and programs available in the area
Apr 11, 2026

Craft Swap Meet

Apr 15, 2026 – 11:00 a.m.

Funeral planning with local funeral home and Pastor Christina

May 2026

Food as Medicine panel and demonstrations
(organized by Judie Birk)

June–July 2026

Vacation Bible School, outdoor picnics with music, veggie stand

Aug 2026 WELCA Corn Feed

All Year, Trail improvements and use; Girl Scouts activities; collecting snowshoes for winter fun

Summer 2026 (May–July)

13-week Grief Support session offered by Dennis Hennesy

Community Event

National Night Out at Bethesda, inviting the community along with police, fire, and first responders

Activities & Events

December 2025

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

USHERS

Dec. 7 Mark & Mary Vukelich
Dec. 14 Mark & Mary Vukelich
Dec. 21 Barry & Donna Ansell
Dec. 24 - 3:30pm
Darrell Kelly & Dick Stebbins
Dec. 25 - 10:00am
Mark & Mary Vukelich
Dec. 28 Larry & Carol Pantsari

GREETERS

Dec. 7 Bob & Kat Carlson
Dec. 14 Sherry Whipple & Winnie Zahradka
Dec. 21 Lee & Barb Forrester
Dec. 24 Gary & Brenda Sjerven 3:30pm
Dec. 25 Gary & Brenda Sjerven 10:00am
Dec. 28 Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Altar Care Dianne Jones

December Kat Carlson and Dianne Jones
January Karen Elias and Linda Southworth
February Winnie Zahradka and Sylvia Tapelt
March Elsa Carlson and Kat Carlson
April Linda Southworth and Carol Pantsari

Sunday Hospitality

Dec. 7
Dec. 14
Dec. 21 Chuck & Elsa Carlson
Lee & Barb Forrester
Dec. 24 3:30pm
Dec. 25 10:00am
Dec. 28



Dec. 4 Judith Birk
Dec. 5 Elsa Carlson
Dec. 6 Anna Westerlund
Dec. 8 Maynard Berland
Dec. 11 Larry Darmer
Dec. 17 Dean Hanson
Dec. 18 Dennis Liljenquist
Dec. 18 Albert Samuelson
Dec. 19 Roy Berry
Dec. 21 Kevin Skow
Dec. 23 Rollie Halvorson
Dec. 23 Ronesha Keil
Dec. 24 Carol Raymond
Dec. 25 Laury Nyberg
Dec. 26 Ruth Hamman
Dec. 26 Edmund Simonson
Dec. 30 Cole Trotter
Dec. 31 Eve Christensen



Dec. 4 Penny & Ken Sjoquist
Dec. 9 Lucille & Dennis Liljenquist
Dec. 18 Kelly & Larry Liljenquist
Dec. 27 Barb & Michael Macioch
Dec. 29 Jo & Rocky DeFeyter



Please take the time to fill out the Time & Talent Survey included in this Newsletter. You can return them to the office. There will be a box on the top of the secretary's desk for them.
Thank You!



December 2025

Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1</p> <p>11:30 Pinochle</p> <p>3:00 pm New Testament Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 Chair Yoga</p> <p>4:00 Bells</p> <p>5:30 Choir</p> <p>630 Praise Team</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s</p> <p>9:15 Chair Yoga</p> <p>10:00 Hanging of the Greens for Christmas</p>	5	6
<p>7</p> <p>9:00 Worship Communion</p> <p>10:00 Annual mtg</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 Women's Devotions</p> <p>11:30 Pinochle</p> <p>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 Chair Yoga</p> <p>9:00 Quilters</p> <p>4:00 Bells</p> <p>5:30 Choir</p> <p>630 Praise Team</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 R.o.m.e.o.s</p> <p>9:15 Chair Yoga</p>	12	13
<p>14</p> <p>9:00 Worship Cantata</p> <p>Quilt sale</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 Council mtg</p> <p>11:30 Pinochle</p> <p>7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 Chair Yoga</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9-4:00 WTC</p> <p>9:00 Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:15 Chair Yoga</p> <p>10:00 R.o.m.e.o.s</p>	19	<p>20</p> <p><i>Newsline Deadline</i></p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:00 Worship Communion</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</p>	<p>24</p> <p>3:30 Service</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 Service</p> <p>Merry Christmas</p>	26	27
<p>28</p> <p>9:00 Worship Communion</p>	<p>29</p> <p>11:30 Pinochle</p> <p>7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg</p>	30	<p>31</p> <p>New Years Eve</p>	<p>Happy New Year 2026</p>		

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	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	Christina Kadelbach	(218) 213-6731
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: bllnews@juno.com

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