

# 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

**Jan. 4 Sunday Worship      9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**Jan. 11 Sunday Worship    9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**Jan. 18 Worship              9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**Jan. 25 Worship              9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

## Upcoming Events

Jan. 1 Happy New Year

Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday



### 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!



# January

## 2026

### Let's plan to enjoy our winter!

Weather permitting, we're planning a Fun Day on January 25—and we'd love you to join us!

#### 1:00 PM

Outdoor fun on the nature trail.

Walk in boots, snowshoes, or skis... whatever works for you!

#### 2:00 PM

Prefer to stay warm? Come inside for a movie, games, and hot drinks.

(Movie to be announced; games optional.)

Keep the date in mind—and please join us!

Mission and Evangelism Committee

### New Year's Resolution

Do you have or need a New Year's Resolution? How about you attend a Bible Study? Your spiritual life is important – especially in this day and age. We learn and share our thoughts and beliefs we grow in the journey.

**2026**  
*Happy New Year*

**Wishing our congregation a joyful,  
peaceful, and hope-filled New Year!  
May 2026 bring blessings to all..**

## Pastor Christina



Dear Friends of Bethesda,

As we step into January, many of us are returning to familiar routines while carrying the weight and grace of the season just past. Turning a calendar page invites a pause, a moment to notice what we bring with us into this new year and where God may already be meeting us.

Paul writes to the church in Colossae about a life shaped by Christ, a life in which the word of Christ dwells among a people and forms how they speak and live together over time. This dwelling takes shape through gratitude and shared practices that root a community in Christ.

As the 2026 calendar year begins, the church continues its own rhythm, and the twelve days of Christmas reach their turning point at Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate this feast on the Sunday closest to that date, January 4<sup>th</sup>, as we name Christ revealed to the world and present among us. Epiphany draws our attention to God's presence already at work in ordinary life.

This season invites attentiveness as Christ continues to be made known in the life of the community through worship, care for neighbors, and words shaped by grace.

As this year unfolds, may Christ continue to dwell among us, giving shape to our life together and guiding us as we walk the days ahead.

Peace to you in the year ahead.

Pastor Christina



## Bethesda Church Council Minutes

. Council Meeting Minutes for 12/15/25

Attendees: Mary Braun, Dean Malotky, Gray Sjerven, Donna Ansell, Larry Pantasari, Sylvia Tapelt. New members David Brown, Mark Vukelich and Bob Carlson

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

**Secretary's Report.** Motion was made to accept minutes from November by Dean Malotky and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry Pantasari.

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

### Pastor's Report

Pastor on vacation but has been working on worship services for the holidays.

**New Business:** Property Committee update- A new stove is needed for the kitchen. The cost will \$2,800 for a new gas stove and installation of gas line. Water heater needs new rods and Gary will replace the rods.

Welcome to new members and Thank You to outgoing members.

1. Suggestion from attendee at annual meeting to put some money from checking account into a high yield savings account. Will research for best option to transfer funds to.
2. Aitkin high school grads requested donation and \$50.00 will be sent.
3. Looking into getting Costco membership for church.

Next council meeting is Monday January 19th at 10:00 am  
Adjourn -The Lord's prayer A motion was made to adjourn by Donna Ansell and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dean Matlotky and passed.

Submitted by Sylvia Tapelt



### PRAYER & CARE LIST

Jim Christensen, Myra Honl, & Sherry Whipple. As a community of faith, we are committed to holding one another in prayer and care.

We invite you to pray for those listed here and offer support as you are able. To request prayers for yourself or someone else (with their permission) Please get in touch with the church office.

**MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING 12/7/25**

**Congregational meeting** was called to order by Dean Malotky.

The Prayer was given by Pastor Christina.

Motion to accept 2024 minutes was made by Mary Braun and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Ansell and passed.

A motion was made to accept the written reports by Mary Vukelich and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cheryl Malotky and passed.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** New Council members, 3 year term. Nominees are David Brown, Bob Carlson, Mark Vukelich and Winnie Zahradka. A motion was made to accept the nominees by Cheryl Malotky, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Ansell and passed. Dean Malotky has agreed to extend his term as a council member for one more year.

**Nominating committee** Julie Swaggert and Lee Forrester.

**Synod Convention Delegates** Terry Carlson, Kat Carlson and Libby Brown. A motion was made to accept by Mary Braun, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry Carlson.

income. See handout on the table in the Narthex or contact your financial advisor for more information.

A motion was made to adjourn by Sue Stebbins and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cheryl Malotky. The Lord's Prayer was said.

**2025 TREASURER'S REPORT**

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<i>(Envelope Giving)</i>		
Income Actual	\$ 10,283	\$ 122,512
Budget	\$ 11,500	\$ 126,500
<b>All Funds</b>		
Total Income Actual	\$ 17,955	\$ 181,607
Total Income Budget	\$ 12,654	\$ 139,196
Expenses Actual	\$ 22,026	\$ 156,227
Expenses Budget	\$ 11,120	\$ 122,320
Over/(Short)	\$ (4,071)	\$ 25,380

**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**

*I would like to thank you for all the prayers, cards, and caring thoughts, at the passing of my Grandson (Kyle) and Brother (Miles).*

*Bethesda is such a wonderful, caring Church family, so thankful to be a member here.*

*Linda Southworth*

**Agenda: Proposed 2026 Budget**

Category	2024 Actual	2025 Actual thru Oct	2026 Budget
<b>Total Income</b>	\$222,111	\$163,652 <i>(Budgeted: \$126,542)</i>	\$172,475
<b>Total Expense</b>	\$228,663	\$134,200 <i>(Budgeted: \$111,200)</i>	\$201,833
<b>Net</b>	(\$6,553)	\$29,451	(\$29,358)

**Note:** 2025 year-end benevolence yet to be paid — approximately **\$9,100+**

**Strategic Planning Committee** Bob Carlson, Mary Vukelich, Lee Forrester, Jim Lang and Joanne Steuven.

**Solar Power** Not much has changed in the last 2 years. Mille Lacs Electric has not increased our prices in 2 years, and we can revisit in the future if looks profitable to make investment.

If you have IRA's that require minimum distribution (starting at age 73) you can set up RMD distribution to Bethesda. Bethesda qualifies as a charitable organization. Distribution is excluded from taxpayers'

HAPPY NEW YEAR  
**2026**

BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO



**Jan. 14**

**Declutter Focus**

**Feb. 11**

**Health Care Directives**

**March 11**

**Hospice**

**April 15**

**Funeral Planning**

**DECLUTTER FOCUS**

*Wed., Jan. 14, 2026, 11 am-noon  
Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo*

Memories and possessions can accumulate into overwhelming clutter, making downsizing and decluttering seem like an insurmountable challenge. Our first season of life seminar offers guidance and support to for those seeking to simplify their lives and create spaces that promote peace, functionality, and well-being. We will cover strategies such as focusing on one area at a time, dealing with sentimental items, and knowing where to donate unwanted goods. Mark and Mary Vukelich will be the presenters for this seminar.



Email [blcmalmo@gmail.com](mailto:blcmalmo@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending virtually as we will live stream these sessions. Or if you have any questions, call the church office at 320-684-2123



**POINSETTIA Donations**



<u>Name</u>	<u>In Memory/Honor of</u>
Char Berg	Roy Berg
Judie Birk	Family
Chuck & Elsa Carlson	Family
Karen & Rich Carron	Family
Barb & Lee Forrester	Family & Friends
Linda Gommer	Hamman Family
Linda Gommer	Gommer Family
Anne Hennessey	Family
Dianne & Del Jones	Jack Spetz
Merrily Jones	Husband & Parents
Pr. Christina & Jason Kadelbach	Loved Ones
Darrell Kelly	Family & Friends
Darlene Ryan	Joe Ryan
Jenny Schuett	Dennis & Loved Ones
Penny Sjoquist	Family
Sue & Dick Stebbins	Loved Ones & Others
Joanne & Dave Stueven	Family
Sylvia Tapelt	Joe Tapelt
Bev Wedig	Al, Jen, Travis
Winnie Zahradka	Randy & Family

*Thank you to those who have made donations for the beautiful flowers to decorate our sanctuary!*



## Summer Camp Registration Now Open!

Summer 2026 at Camp Onomia is shaping up to be one for the books! With three brand-new programs and exciting updates to returning favorites, there's something for everyone to love.

From Day Camps and Youth Overnight adventures to Family Camp experiences, this summer is the perfect time to reconnect with creation, community, and faith.

Invite someone you know who could use a meaningful, safe, and joy-filled week at camp! Early Bird Savings end March 15.

### How to Register for Summer Camp

1. **Pick Your Adventure** - Choose your program and week! Grade levels are based on the grade completed. No matter what you choose, adventure awaits!
2. **Sign Up Online** - Learn more about our programs and enroll online through our webpage <https://www.camponomia.org/summer-camp>

Paper registrations are also available, contact the camp office for details. Phone 320-532-3767

3. **Deposit and Forms** - Pay your deposit and finish your camper forms! You can update medications closer to camp time.
4. **Invite a Friend** - Camp is even more fun with a friend! You can request a cabinmate when you register.



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.



# Activities & Events

January 2026

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

## USHERS by Gary & Brenda Sjervin

Jan. 4 — Mark & Mary Vukelich  
Jan. 11 — Barry & Donna Ansell  
Jan. 18 — Darrel Kelly & Dick Stebbins  
Jan. 25 — Barry & Donna Ansel

## GREETERS by Gary & Brenda Sjervin

Jan. 4 — Bev & Wally Swensen  
Jan. 11 — Mary Braun & Linda Gommer  
Jan. 18 — Char Berg & Carolyn Morris  
Jan. 25 — Libby & David Brown

## **Altar Care** 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

Jan. 4  
Jan. 11 Mary Braun & Jenny Schuett  
Jan. 18  
Jan. 25



Jan. 1 Dennis Bistodeau  
Jan. 3 Ardis Kendall  
Jan. 8 Patricia Kullberg  
Jan. 8 Wallace Swenson  
Jan. 12 Joan Halvorson  
Jan. 16 Gloria Christensen  
Jan. 18 Darlene Christensen  
Jan. 19 Carol Bakken  
Jan. 19 Shirley Moe  
Jan. 20 Audrey Bistodeau  
Jan. 21 Keith Kellen  
Jan. 24 Dave Stueven  
Jan. 25 Linda Gommer  
Jan. 26 Joanne Stueven  
Jan. 28 Delano Jones  
Jan. 28 Kristine Kral  
Jan. 28 Kristin Penoyer  
Jan. 28 Richard Seifert  
Jan. 29 Larry Liljenquist  
Jan. 29 Winifred Zahradka  
Jan. 31 Katherine Larson



Jan. 16 Elsa & Chuck Carlson



# January 2026

## Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2	3
4 9:00 <i>Worship Communion</i>	5 11:30 <i>Pinochle</i>  7:00 p.m <i>AA &amp; Alanon mg</i>	6 9:00 <i>Chair Yoga</i>	7 9:00 <i>Women's Bible Study</i>	8 8:00 <i>R.o.m.e.o.s</i> 9:15 <i>Chair Yoga</i>	9	10
11 9:00 <i>Worship Communion</i>	12 11:30 <i>Pinochle</i>  7:00 p.m <i>AA &amp; Alanon mg</i>	13 9:00 <i>Chair Yoga</i>	14 9:00 <i>Women's Bible Study</i>  11:00 <i>Season's of Life "Decluttering"</i>	15 8:00 <i>R.o.m.e.o.s</i> 9:15 <i>Chair Yoga</i>	16	17
18 9:00 <i>Worship Communion</i>	19 10:00 <i>Council mtg</i> 11:30 <i>Pinochle</i>  7:00 p.m <i>AA &amp; Alanon mtg</i>  <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>	20 9:00 <i>Chair Yoga</i>  <i>Newsline Deadline</i>	21 9-4:00 <i>WIC</i> 9:00 <i>Women's Bible Study</i>	22 8:00 <i>R.o.m.e.o.s</i> 9:15 <i>Chair Yoga</i>	23	24
25 9:00 <i>Worship Communion</i>  <i>Fun Day Afternoon! 1:00pm</i>	26 11:30 <i>Pinochle</i>  7:00 p.m <i>AA &amp; Alanon mg</i>	27 9:00 <i>Chair Yoga</i>	28 9:00 <i>Women's Bible Study</i>	29 8:00 <i>R.o.m.e.o.s</i> 9:15 <i>Chair Yoga</i>	30	31

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

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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	bclmalmo@gmail.com	(320) 684-2123
Fax		(320)-684-2836
Toll Free		(877) 684-2123
Church Web site		bclmalmo.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: [blnews@juno.com](mailto:blnews@juno.com)**

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