

# 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

**March 1 Sunday Worship**                      **9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**March 8 Sunday Worship**                      **9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**March 15 Worship**                                **9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**March 22 Worship**                                **9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

**March 29 Worship**                                **9:00 AM**  
**Communion**

### Upcoming Events

**March 8** Daylight Savings time begins

**March 4-11-18-25** Lent Service, Noon service followed by Potluck.

**March 11** 11:00 Seasons of Life Series



Watch for Easter Lily Signup sheet!



## 2026

### March Temple Talk

Our March 1 Temple Talk will offer a brief update on ways we can support those affected by the human crisis in Minneapolis. The Northeast MN Synod's Neighbor to Neighbor Fund provides assistance for needs in the Minneapolis area and, when possible, helps support needs within our local communities as well.

### LENTEN WORSHIP & FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES •

Wednesday Midweek Lenten Worship at Noon  
Wednesdays, February 25th through March 25th Our worship will be guided by the Holden Evening Prayer Potluck lunch to follow. The noon worship will be live-streamed each week. • Lenten Devotional Booklets Devotional booklets are available. These weekly devotions follow the scriptures of the Tell Me Something Good series through Easter Sunday and include commentary, poetry, visual art, hymns, written reflections, and prayer and conversation prompts.

The **2026 Mille Lacs Area Lenten Cantata, "Come to the Cross and Remember,"** invites our community to reflect on Christ's journey to the cross. Since 2016, this ecumenical gathering of singers, musicians, and volunteers has offered a meaningful night of worship through music, narration, and Scripture.

This year's theme brings us to the foot of the cross in awe of Christ's sacrifice, mercy, and love. Participants come from Bethesda, Faith, Holden, Isle Baptist, and other area churches.

Hosted at **Faith Lutheran Church**, the cantata will be held on **Good Friday, April 3 at 7:30 PM**, preparing our hearts for Easter through harmony and spoken word.

A **freewill offering** will support the Isle Area Food Shelf. **All are welcome.**



## Pastor Christina

Greetings friends in Christ,

As March arrives,  
Lent is well

underway. Our theme, "Tell Me Something Good," invites us to enter Lent's quieter pace.

It's a time to pause, to reflect honestly on our lives, and to trust that God meets us in both our struggles and our joys, drawing us again to the grace that sustains us each day.

This season brings me back to what matters most. Just last week, I watched a couple of kids laughing over treats in the fellowship hall. It was a simple, joy-filled moment, but it felt like grace. I've seen some of you staying long after the coffee is gone, someone pulling out a chair for another, a quiet conversation at the serving counter, or someone wrapping up an extra treat for a neighbor who couldn't make it.

These holy ordinary moments reveal God's presence among us. Christ comes to us in community, in Word and Sacrament, and through our neighbor. In these small acts of faithfulness and care, grace becomes visible, shaping us into a community of kindness and love, trusting that God provides all we need to serve one another. Good news lives right here among us at Bethesda. You can hear it in joyful gatherings, see it in hands preparing meals, and feel it in the ways you care for each other week after week. The love of Christ shows up in these simple, faithful acts, shaping us as the body of Christ for one another and for the world.

Have you noticed it too? The good that keeps rising in this place, the grace that meets you when you least expect it? I'd love to hear what's been meaningful for you; your stories help us see more clearly the grace God is already at work among us.

Lent gives us space to listen to each other and the world more deeply, to trust the grace that holds us, and to let our lives be shaped by the mercy we receive each week around Word and Table, gifts that sustain us on our journey. I give thanks for the steady presence you bring to our shared life and for the ways Christ continues to meet us here.



May these Lenten days draw us more deeply into Christ and into the life of grace already growing among us. Through word, table, and community, God's good news continues to take shape here, not for our sake alone, but for the sake of the world. As we move through Lent, I hope you find moments to share and receive something good, trusting that God's promise is for you and for all people.

Walking this Lenten Road with you,

Pastor Christina

### Bethesda Church Council Minutes

February 16, 2026

Council members - Mary Braun, Bob Carlson, Pastor Christina Kadelbach, Dean Malotky, Larry Pantsari, Vicki Vossen, Mark Vukelich, Winnie Zahradka, Sylvia Tapelt. Guest: Mary Vukelich

The meeting was called to order by Bob Carlson. Pastor Christina gave the opening prayer.

#### Secretary's Report

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the meeting from January by Vicki Vossen, 2nd by Winnie Zahradka, and passed.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Financial view and current month's activity for January was presented by Mary Braun. A motion was made by Mark Vukelich and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vicki Vossen to accept and was passed.

#### Pastor's Report

February has been filled with meaningful connections across our synod. On February 15th, Kat Carlson, Teri Carlson, and I joined other rostered ministers and voting members from across the Northeastern MN Synod for our Conference Assemblies, all held simultaneously across the five conferences: Lake Superior, Laurentian, Living Waters, Heartland, and Kettle River.

We traveled to Brainerd to participate in the Heartland Conference Assembly, where we heard reports, conducted conference elections, considered synod-wide nominations, and participated in the nomination process for the modified ecclesiastical ballot as we prepare to elect our next synod bishop.

Those nominated through the conference process include Pastor Andrew (Andy) Berry, Pastor David Carlson, Pastor Taryn Montgomery, and Pastor

Kathryn Tiede. These nominations will appear on the first ballot at the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly, April 24-26th , 2026.

Nominee forums will be held in the coming weeks:

- St. Andrew’s, Grand Rapids – March 12 at 7:00 pm
- Trinity, Brainerd – March 13 at 7:00 pm
- Salem, Hermantown – March 14 at 2:30 pm

Biographical information for each nominee is available at: <https://nemnsynod.org/bishop-nominees/>  
Please continue to hold our synod and all who are discerning this call in prayer as we move through this important season of listening and faithful decision-making.

A prayer for the Bishop Election Process: Almighty God, you have given your Holy Spirit to the church to lead us into all truth. Bless with the Spirit’s grace and presence the people of the Northeastern MN Synod as we prepare to elect a bishop. Keep us steadfast in faith and united in love, that we may manifest your glory and prepare for the way of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Old Business**

New stove for kitchen is here and the propane is connected. The pilot lights are off and need to be lit prior to using stove.  
Transfer money from checking to high yield saving account is put on hold.

**New Business:**

Strategic Planning Committee -Update given by Mary Vukelich. The committee has met a couple of times and is gathering information to make plans to update our constitution.

Parsonage guidelines have been updated.  
Property update-Need to contact Aquarius Home Services about contract work on church and parsonage properties.

Mark Vukelich is working regarding safety in and on the church property. New garage door openers and motion detectors have been ordered.

Next council meeting is Monday March 16th, at 10:00am.

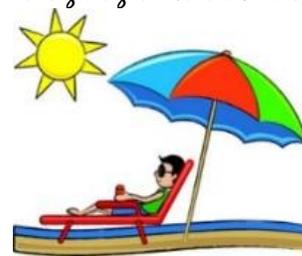
Adjourn -The Lord's prayer A motion was made to adjourn by Mark Vukelich and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vicki Vossen and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dean Malotky and passed.

Submitted by Sylvia Tapelt

**2026 TREASURER'S REPORT**

<u>General Fund</u> <i>(Envelope Giving)</i>	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income Actual	\$ 9,827	\$ 9,827
Budget	\$ 11,958	\$ 11,958
<b><u>All Funds</u></b>		
Total Income Actual	\$ 23,558	\$ 23,558
Total Income Budget	\$ 14,373	\$ 14,373
Expenses Actual	\$ 17,701	\$ 17,701
Expenses Budget	\$ 16,819	\$ 16,819
Over/(Short)	\$ 5,857	\$ 5,857

*Electronic giving doesn't take vacations*



**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.



**Happy St. Patrick’s Day, March 17<sup>th</sup>!**



## PASTORAL CARE

Caring for one another is part of who we are. If you are hospitalized or going through a difficult time, please let Pastor Christina or one of our parish nurses know. We would be honored to support you.

### A Perfect Time to Donate Your Glasses & Hearing Aids

As you sort through closets and cupboards this spring, consider setting aside any gently used eyeglasses or hearing aids for the Lions Hearing Aid Recycling Program. Your donations help extend the gift of sight and sound to those who need it most.

If you have hearing aids to contribute, please wrap them securely and place them in the designated basket in the Narthex for Lions hearing aids and eyeglasses. Questions may be directed to Dick Stebbins.



### Hear ye! Hear ye! Calling All Choir Members!

This is Sheila Penoyer, and I'm excited to announce that I will be directing the Choir for the 2026 season! We'll begin rehearsals after Easter, starting April 8, and we'll sing all the way through December, ending with our Christmas Cantata. We'll also be singing "Jesus Messiah" on April 19.

To make this season a success, we need new members to join us. If you love to sing and want to enrich our Sunday services with the gift of music, this is your moment. We have fun, we laugh, and we make beautiful music together.

Since I retired at the beginning of the year (and will be looking for a part-time job), I now have more flexibility to hold daytime rehearsals instead of evenings. What I need from you is some input on which day and time works best for practice.

All we need to keep this choir going is YOU—your voice, your presence, your joy.

Please come try singing in the choir. It may be the best thing you've ever done!  
— Sheila Penoyer, Choir Director



April 11, 2026 ~ 9:00am - Noon

**Hibernating in this cold weather?** It's the perfect time to clear out those closets, cupboards, and craft bins! As spring approaches, consider donating your gently used art and craft supplies to our upcoming Craft Swap & Supply Drive — a community event where creativity meets generosity.

Whether it's fabric, yarn, paint, paper, or tools, if it's in good working condition and ready to spark a new project, we'll gladly accept it. This is a wonderful chance to declutter your space while helping others discover new hobbies.

We'll be collecting donations of usable craft materials during the week leading up to the event. Then on April 11, come browse and pick up supplies — perfect for teachers, daycare providers, and curious crafters of all ages.

Let your extras become someone else's inspiration. More details to come — but for now, start gathering your stash! Questions, contact Judie Birk.

Do you have an organization or cause you would like Bethesda to know about? Would your committee or group like an opportunity to give a Temple Talk? Please contact **Mission and Evangelism — Joanne Stueven, 651-208-4273.**

### Neighbor to Neighbor Fund

Many of you are asking - "What can I do?" First and foremost, pray. And pray again. There are a variety of ways we can respond in this moment, as both people of faith and citizens of this country. Do your homework and act as God calls you.



The NEMN Synod has established the Neighbor to Neighbor Fund in direct response to our partner ELCA synods in Minnesota as they address concerns and needs in their local communities affected by federal law enforcement activity. Your gifts will be shared with them, and within our own synod should more activity arise. Thank you for your generosity. Keep vigil. Our neighbors are hurting.

## March Reflections: Walking the Lenten Path

As March begins, we step into the sacred season of Lent — a time to pause, reflect, repent, and open ourselves to God’s renewing work. We invite you to join us for Lenten services each Wednesday, a weekly rhythm of worship and reflection.

Throughout the season, consider setting aside time for daily prayer, Scripture reading, and quiet meditation as we deepen our faith together.

May this Lenten journey draw us nearer to God and strengthen our bonds with one another.

<b>B</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>O</b>
12	18	41	47	61
7	26	39	54	70
4	27	30	49	63
5	23	35	58	73
3	30	32	52	75

We played **JUNK BINGO** on Sunday, February 15th from 2–4 PM, and it was a wonderful afternoon of laughter, surprises, and friendly competition. Folks brought their good spirits, and enjoyed a couple of hours filled with fun.

We had snacks, great company, and plenty of fantastic JUNK prizes that kept everyone smiling. It was a joy to spend time together as a community. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

## Seasons of Life Series

### Hospice Care

March 11  
11-noon



**Wednesday, March 11**

11:00 AM – Noon

12:00 PM Lenten Service followed by potluck lunch

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmö

21590 State Hwy. 47, Isle, MN 56342

Join us for a free seminar learn about hospice care. Paige Harwig, LPN, Hospice Care Consultant from Moments Hospice will speak about hospice care.

Moments Hospice is committed to honoring patient’s and family’s wishes during the end of life process. We take great pride in creating long lasting partnerships with our Hospitals, Facilities and Community partners by recognizing that we are guests in their facilities and that collaborating on a joint plan of care always results in the best outcome for the patient. It is our mission to help increase the communities awareness of the Hospice Benefit as we believe that everyone deserves to be comfortable with an optimal quality of life during the end of life process.

**Virtual attendance available!**

Email [blcmalmo@gmail.com](mailto:blcmalmo@gmail.com) to receive the livestream link.

Questions? Call the church office at **320-684-2123**



## HEARTLAND CONFERENCE SPRING GATHERING

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026 – 8:30 AM - 1 PM**  
**BETHSDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

21590 STATE HWY. 47, ISLE, MN 56342



*“Don’t forget to do good and to share what you have,  
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”*

— Hebrews 13:16

Bring a friend and join in the fellowship, worship, joy and lunch.

Registration: 8:30-9:00 Cost: \$12.

Jason Kempthorne from Salem West will speak about Volunteerism.

Please bring items \$10 and under for the Buy-It-Now table.

Proceeds will go to Salem West.



A heartfelt thank-you to Pastor Christina and Mary for hosting such a wonderful Fat Tuesday breakfast! Your delicious meal, warm hospitality, and joyful spirit made the morning feel truly special. It was the perfect way to gather as a community, share good food, and step into the Lenten season with gratitude and connection.

Thank you both for the time, care, and love you poured into making the breakfast memorable for everyone who attended. Our congregation is blessed by your generosity and the way you continually nurture our fellowship.

# Activities & Events

March 2026

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

## Ushers

March 1: Mark & Mary Vukelich  
March 8: Barry & Donna Ansell  
March 15: David & Libby Brown  
March 22: Barry & Donna Ansell  
March 29: Darrel Kelly & Dick Stebbins

## Greeters

March 1: Bob & Kat Carlson  
March 8: Mary Braun & Linda Gommer  
March 15: Bev & Wally Swenson  
March 22: Char Berg & Carolyn Morris  
March 29: David & Libby Brown

## Altar Care Dianne Jones

March Elsa Carlson and Kat Carlson  
April Linda Southworth and Carol Pantsari

## Sunday Hospitality

March 1: Rocky & Cindy VanVickle  
March 8:  
March 15:  
March 22:  
March 29:



## BIRTHDAYS

March 2 Ken Sjoquist  
March 3 Lorenzo Vossen  
March 4 James Lange  
March 9 Andrew Nyberg  
March 10 Robert Carlson  
March 11 Arty Heins  
March 11 Norman Westerlund  
March 14 Troy Nyberg  
March 15 Theodore Mickelson  
March 16 Ron Gordon  
March 17 Holly Grap  
March 20 Mary Braun  
March 22 Donna Westerlund  
March 25 Carolyn Morris  
March 26 Nicole Berry  
March 27 Richard Carron  
March 27 Sharron Roberts  
March 29 Donna Fox  
March 29 Scott Nyberg  
March 30 Jean Berens



March 15 Patricia & Craig Kullberg  
March 23 Laurie & Brian Simonson  
March 26 Sandra & Richard Pullen



# March 2026

## Bethesda Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:00 Worship Communion	<b>2</b> 11:30 Pinochle  7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	<b>3</b> 9:00 Chair Yoga	<b>4</b> 9:00 Women's Bible Study  Noon Lent Service Pot-Luck following	<b>5</b> 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00 Worship Communion  Daylight Savings time begins	<b>9</b> 9:00 Women's Devotions 10:00 Property mtg 11:30 Pinochle 7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	<b>10</b> 9:00 Chair Yoga 9:00 Quilters	<b>11</b> 9:00 Women's Bible Study  11:00 Season's of Life  Noon Lent Service Pot-Luck following	<b>12</b> 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 Worship Communion	<b>16</b> 10:00 Council mtg 11:30 Pinochle  7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mtg	<b>17</b> 9:00 Chair Yoga  <b>Happy            St Patricks            Day</b>	<b>18</b> 9-4:00 WIC 9:00 Women's Bible Study  Noon Lent Service Pot-Luck following	<b>19</b> 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga	<b>20</b> First Day of Spring    Newslne Deadline	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 Worship Communion	<b>23</b> 11:30 Pinochle  7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	<b>24</b> 9:00 Chair Yoga 9:00 Quilters	<b>25</b> 9:00 Women's Bible Study  Noon Lent Service Pot-Luck following	<b>26</b> 8:00 R.o.m.e.o.s 9:15 Chair Yoga	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 Worship Communion	<b>30</b> 11:30 Pinochle  7:00 p.m AA & Alanon mg	<b>31</b> 9:00 Chair Yoga				

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

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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	Christina Kadelbach	(320) 684-2123
Council President	Bob Carlson	(218) 838-6420
Vice President	Mark Vukelich	(320) 364-6006
Parish Nurse	Darlene Christensen & Kathy Berland	

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