



Sunday, July 5, 2020 . . . 9:30am

## Welcome

A special welcome to those new to worshipping with us—we're glad the spirit has called you here! **Bethesda Lutheran Church is live streaming church services on Facebook during this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic.** If you don't already have a church home and would like to join ours, please call the office at 515-232-6256 and we'll connect you to one of the Pastors, and make it easy.

### OUR MISSION IN SUCH A TIME AS THIS

GATHER in due time  
GROW in the meantime  
GO with God ALL the time

### GROW IN GOD'S WORD

July 12 . . . Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### LIVESTREAMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our Facebook page will host the Livestreams—<https://www.facebook.com/BethesdaAmes/>—and they will remain as videos for later viewing. Our Sunday videos will also be posted as Sermons on our website: <https://bethesdaames.org/sermons/>. Just “Like” our Facebook page and you will receive notification that the stream is starting.



**We're still in touch.** Call our church office with any needs, prayer requests, or to talk to a familiar voice. We're still sending out our Friday *Living Current* email blast; let us know if you'd like to be added to the list! You can keep up with us on our website and Facebook page too.

Finally, and most importantly, for today and all days, God is still with us. Do not be frightened. Or dismayed. Be strong. Be courageous. For the Lord your God is with you, wherever you go.

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in the presence of the spirit of God who brings us love, life and peace.

**We come wishing to be strengthened and made whole. Lord, forgive us our selfish desires, broken relationships and mixed up priorities.**

The good news is that God forgives our selfishness, brings healing to our broken lives and loves us with an unconditional love. Let us praise God for the renewal of our lives.

**Praise, blessing, honor and glory be to God forever and ever.**

### MORNING PRAYER

**We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our life and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Romans 7:15-25a

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup>“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup>‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

<sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**FAITH FORMATION MOMENT****SERMON**

**SONG: 10,000 Reasons**

**PRAYERS****LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**PEACE & OFFERING:** *Text three of your friends or family!*

Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/t4x6vz6>

or scan the QR code at right, with your smart phone or other device, to go directly to Bethesda's secure giving page.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**Let us pray. God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

## SENDING

**BLESSING**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

**Amen.**

**SONG:** *Shine, Jesus, Shine***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**Sunday, July 5 is the final day to vote!**



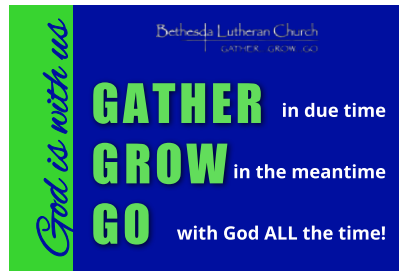
[amestrib.gannettcontests.com/Best-of-Story-County-2020/](http://amestrib.gannettcontests.com/Best-of-Story-County-2020/) ... or use the QR code at right.



# Bethesda Opportunities

## Get Your Bethesda Yard Sign!

Join your Bethesda neighbors in sharing the Good News! For only \$10 we can post one in YOUR yard. Visit <https://bethesdaames.org/bethesda-yard-signs> to order today!



## 2020 Shighatini Visitors Cancelled

It is with much regret that we have cancelled the visit of Godlisten and Yesse from Shighatini due to Covid-19.  
- *The Bethesda Tanzania Ministry Team*

## Opportunities to Join Ministry Teams

Are you comfortable on a ladder? Mechanically inclined? Able to lift and move? Do you have spare time during weekdays? **The Bethesda Facilities Team is looking for three new members!** Please contact Kathy Harris with your interest in joining this active team, at [kmh1951@msn.com](mailto:kmh1951@msn.com).

The **Food Pantry** is still providing curbside service with no direct guest contact. The three volunteers per shift are practicing social distancing, and we encourage wearing masks. If you are healthy and not in the groups potentially vulnerable to coronavirus, **we would love to train and place you in our schedule** (likely all summer and possibly into the fall). Interested volunteers may contact Joyce O'Donnell at [jdodonn@icloud.com](mailto:jdodonn@icloud.com).

We are also in need of **handsewn face masks to give out to our Food Pantry guests**. Visit <https://bethesdaames.org/help-make-face-masks/> for details.

## Who Wants a Bethesda Pew?

We have several pews available to anyone interested. Call Kathy Harris at 515-290-8205, or the church office at 515-232-6256 to schedule pickup.

## Request Prayers Online

Please check out the new "Prayer Request" option at [www.bethesdaames.org](http://www.bethesdaames.org), under the Resources drop-down menu. Anyone can ask for prayer, 24/7, and ask for a response as well. Blessings!

## Bethesda Backyard Camping Kits

We still have a few kits available—email [contact@bethesdaames.org](mailto:contact@bethesdaames.org), and include the number of children in your household. Or call the church office at 232-6256. You KNOW you want S'mores! And we can DELIVER!



## Nature Walk & Scavenger Hunt

Sat, July 25 @ 7:00 pm  
MOORE MEMORIAL PARK

We'll meet for scavenger hunt bingo, followed by a brief family devotional, then s'more-themed snacks!

BYO(Bugspray)—

everything else is free. **Sign up** at <https://tinyurl.com/y89q78jj> so we know how many attendees to plan for. We ask family groups to stay together during the event, and maintain 6-foot distance from other families whenever possible. We'll be offering **monthly Family Fun Days** for

children of all ages and families of all sizes!



## PRAYER AT BETHESDA

**HEALING:** Bob Ahlstrom; Don Borcharding; Gloria Egertson; Mike Fowler; Gloria Herrold; Jens Klatt; Bill Marion; Jerry Mortensen; Dean Newlon; Charlie Ricketts; Trish Swanson; Jason Thomes (grandson of Hannah Coney); Delbert Trickle

**SERVING OUR NATION:** Colonel Mark Kappelmann, (D.C.), son of Glenn & Mary Kappelmann  
Kristin Murray, Diplomat (US Embassy, Rabat, Morocco), daughter of Russ & Jan Melby

# WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers ..... Pastor Bryan Simmons, Pastor Ryan Arnold  
 Musician ..... Trace Houge Brakke, Ed Kaizer, Nick Kaizer, Mark Kretsinger-Harries, Jeff Widen  
 Lay Reader..... Kirk Anderson  
 Sound Tech ..... Randy Slocum  
 Video Techs .....Rod Fischer, Allan Schmidt

# CONTACT INFORMATION

Joyce O'Donnell, Council President ..... jdodonn@icloud.com  
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 Sonja Gerstenberger, Pastoral Intern ..... sgerstenberger@BethesdaAmes.org  
 Miriam Chadima, Volunteer and Youth Event Manager ..... mchadima@BethesdaAmes.org  
 Lindsay Peters, Youth Ministries Specialist (6-12th grade) ..... lpeters@BethesdaAmes.org  
 Mary Nelson, Lead Organist ..... mnelson@BethesdaAmes.org  
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 Cliff McDonald, Accounting Manager ..... cmcdonald@BethesdaAmes.org  
 Cathy Wright, Bookkeeper ..... cwright@BethesdaAmes.org  
 Linda Fevold, Database Coordinator ..... lfevold@BethesdaAmes.org  
 Curtis Malone, Assistant Custodian



## Bethesda Lutheran Church

GATHER...GROW...GO

**Office PHONE Hours**  
 Monday–Thursday  
 9:00 am–4:00 pm

1517 Northwestern Ave.  
 Ames, IA 50010  
 515-232-6256

**Livestream  
 Worship Schedule**  
 Sunday . . . 9:30 am

**[www.bethesdaames.org](http://www.bethesdaames.org)**