



Sunday, September 6, 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

September 13 . . . Matthew 18:21-35

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: “Wedding Day at Trolldhaugen” (E. Grieg)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK: Larry Otteman “Bread for World Hunger”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved people of God, why are you here?

We are here to be fed by the bread that eternally satisfies, and to drink from the living water of life.

Beloved children of the Creator, who is it that you seek?

We seek Jesus the Messiah, the Son of the living God, because we are hurt and broken-hearted, discouraged by our lives and the world around us.

Beloved heirs of heaven, what is it that you desire?

We want to be made new, to hear the good news of forgiveness and love once again.

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: Ezekial 33:7-11

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

FAITH FORMATION MOMENT**SERMON****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. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

SONG: "They'll Know We Are Christians"

Bethesda Opportunities



Sign up today at <https://tinyurl.com/y575uwwy>

Please Send Us Your Testimonial Videos!

As we gear up for our annual Stewardship drive, we'd like to hear from you. In a short video (taken on your smart phone) tell us "WHAT BETHESDA MEANS TO YOU." Visit <https://bethesdaames.org/your-testimonial-videos> for a link to upload your video to Bethesda, and for instructions (both PC and Apple). We can't wait to see you!

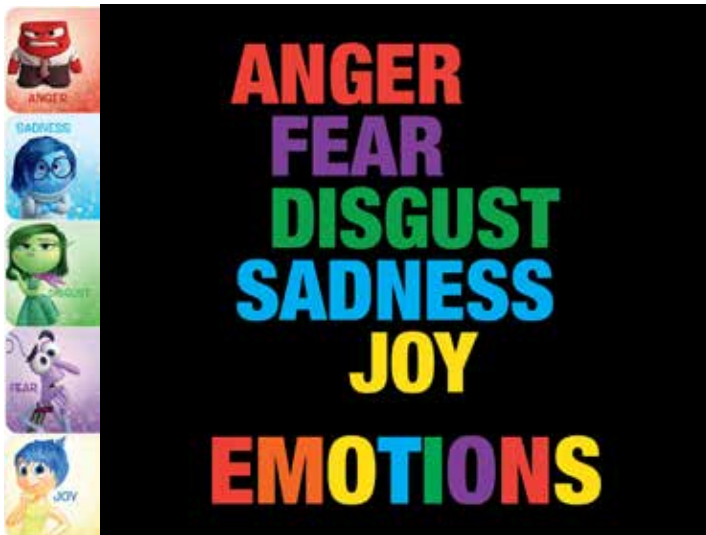


Offering of Letters

This is a request familiar to many Bethesda members. Thank you for your past letters. Please write individual letters (handwritten have the most impact) to Senators Ernst & Grassley, asking them to pass legislation that provides nutrition for vulnerable people. Ask them to support specific legislation such as continuation of the school lunch program that provides for children even if they cannot attend classes (Electronic Benefit Transfer [EBT] program). Ask them to support a 15% increase in food stamps (now known as SNAP) which amounts to \$25 more per person per month to free up money for other necessities. Let them know why you are moved to write—the pandemic, Bethesda's commitment to food outreach, your faith. Address letters to U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510. We are collecting letters in the church office for a large mailing but you may mail them directly as well. Much more information can be found at bread.org/ol



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.



Sunday School Information Session

Join us on Zoom, **Sunday, September 6**, immediately following the livestream worship service, for details about our EMOTIONS curriculum, and the format for lessons! Miriam Chadima, now our Youth Engagement Specialist, will be leading our virtual Fall Sunday School classes! We'll share the Zoom link with you soon.

SCAM Alert! If you receive an email from either Pastor asking for gift cards or otherwise sounding strange—please know that it is a **scam**. Outside scammers are mimicking our names hoping to prey on the trust built between you and us. Do not respond to them. Thank you.

PRAYER AT BETHESDA

HEALING: Bob Ahlstrom; Marianne Berhow (rehab @ MGMC); Helen Casey (mother of Sharon Anderson); Gloria Egertson; Gloria Herrold; Bill Marion; J.C. Morris; Jerry Mortensen; Dean Newlon; John Sletten
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

2020 CROP Walk is a Virtual Event!



YOU pick the time & place to walk! And, we'll make it easy for you to donate at www.crophungerwalk.org/amesia. Or to write a check or donate cash, please email Rod Fischer at videoguy@iastate.edu to make arrangements for pickup. Several Ames CROP Committee members will be at Brookside Park the day of the walk—Sunday, October 11—between 1 & 3 pm to drop off a donation in person! Thank you for your past support of the CROP Walk!



A Days for Girls Socially-Distanced Sewing Night!

Monday, September 21 at 6:30pm—for those who are comfortable—please join us at Jeanne Stewart's farm (She-Shed)! where we can spread out and use her tables. This is a mask-up event. The evening would also give us an opportunity to organize sewing projects for women to work on at home, if they wanted. RSVP to jwstewart1@gmail.com and she will reply with directions to the farm.

A Card Shower!

LaVon Brown turns 95 on September 15! Her daughters are asking friends and family to join in on a card shower. The Covid isolation has been hard on her. A card shower will be a pleasant surprise and make her Birthday extra special.

2103 Northwestern Ave.
Ames, IA 50010

*Thank
you!*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers Pastor Bryan Simmons, Pastor Ryan Arnold
 Temple Talk Larry Otteman
 Lector Brian Meyer
 Musicians Trace Houge Brakke, Ed Kaizer, Nick Kaizer, Mark Kretsinger-Harries, Jeff Widen
 Sound Tech Randy Slocum
 Video Techs Rod Fischer, Allan Schmidt

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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

www.bethesdaames.org

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