



Sunday, Sept. 13, 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 20 . . . Matthew 20:1-16

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: “For the Beauty of the Earth” (A. Jordan)

☞ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

ANTHEM: “Providence” (C. Curtis, 1820) – Bethesda Virtual Choir

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDRENS’ MESSAGE

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

L A reading from Genesis:

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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.



OFFERTORY: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

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.

POSTLUDE

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 device: phone, laptop, tablet) 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 iPhone and Android). We can't wait to see you!



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.

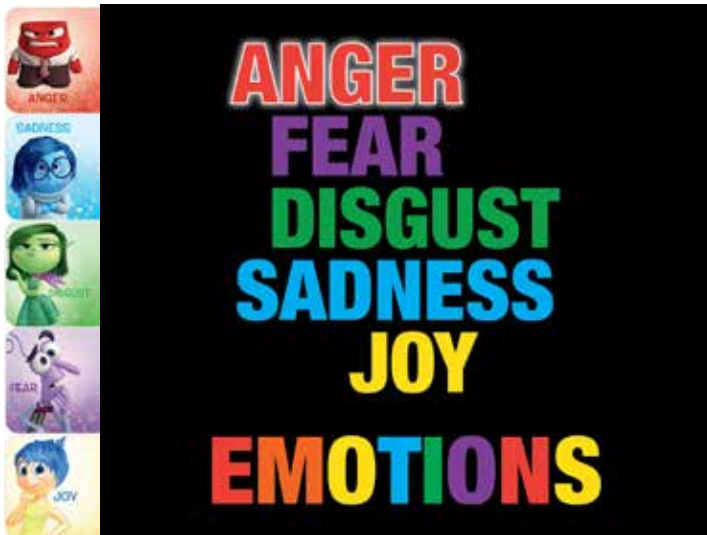
2020 CROP Walk is a Virtual Event!



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!

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.



SPLASH Sunday School Begins

TODAY, **Sunday, September 13**, following the livestream worship service at 10:30 is our first day of Splash Sunday School! We will be using the EMOTIONS curriculum, and gathering together via Zoom! Miriam Chadima, Youth Engagement Specialist, will be leading the virtual classes. The Zoom link is in the September 11 (online) edition of the *Living Current*.

PRAYER AT BETHESDA

GRIEVING: ~ Chuck & Mary Morris on the death of their son, J.C. Morris on September 6, at Mary Greeley ~ Liz Sletten and Lise Rollins and all their family, on the death of husband and father, John Sletten on September 8, at Israel Hospice House
HEALING: Bob Ahlstrom; Marianne Berhow (rehab @ MGMC); Helen Casey (mother of Sharon Anderson); Gloria Egertson; Gloria Herrold; Bill Marion; Jerry Mortensen; Dean Newlon
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

Minister Pastor Ryan Arnold
 Lector Joann Short Byrd
 Musician Bethesda Virtual Choir, Mary Nelson
 Sound Tech Randy Slocum
 Video Techs Rod Fischer, Allan Schmidt

CONTACT INFORMATION

Joyce O'Donnell, Council President jdodonn@icloud.com
 Bryan Simmons, Lead Pastor bsimmons@BethesdaAmes.org
 Ryan Arnold, Associate Pastor rarnold@BethesdaAmes.org
 Miriam Chadima, Youth Engagement Specialist mchadima@BethesdaAmes.org
 Lindsay Peters, High School Coordinator lpeters@BethesdaAmes.org
 Mary Nelson, Lead Organist mnelson@BethesdaAmes.org
 Mark Kretsinger-Harries, Director of Worship and Music mkharries@BethesdaAmes.org
 Ed Kaizer, Saturday Music Coordinator kaizerjazz@gmail.com
 Nick Kaizer, Carillon Choir Director kaizertrumpet@gmail.com
 Lisa Ailshie, Communications Manager lailshie@BethesdaAmes.org
 Lynn Anderson, Administrative Specialist ljanderson@BethesdaAmes.org
 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

www.bethesdaames.org

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