



Sunday, Sept. 27, 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

October 4 . . . Matthew 21:33-46

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: “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” (M. Burkhardt)

☞ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ☐ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God’s work in the world.

Amen.

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.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDRENS’ MESSAGE

WORD

FIRST READING: Philippians 2:1-13

☞ A reading from Philippians:

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 being born in human likeness.
 And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death—
 even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
 and gave him the name
 that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:28-32

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people,] ²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

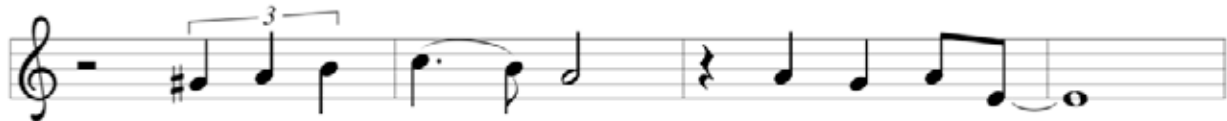
SERMON

HYMN: Change My Heart, O God

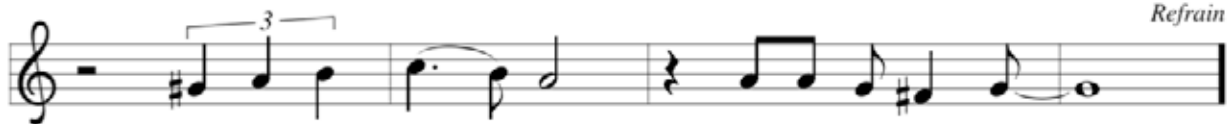
Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953
 Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa
 Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services

PRAYERS**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:** "Change My Heart, O God" (E. Espinoza)**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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**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.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.
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.

RESPONSE: "Amen, Amen" (African American spiritual) – Bethesda Virtual Choir and Choristers

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" (J. Carter)



Friday, October 30

Sign up your Trunk at

<https://bethesdaames.org/trunk-or-treat-2020/>



Bethesda Opportunities

Please Send Us Your Testimonial Videos!

We would REALLY like to hear from you! In a short—20 seconds to 2 minutes—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 Apple and PC). **We'll be using the videos THIS SUNDAY!!!**



2020 CROP Walk is Virtual

YOU pick the time & place to walk! And, we'll make it easy for you to donate at www.crophungerwalk.org/amesia. Or to donate by check/cash, Rod Fischer will be at the pick-up/drop-off Monday, Sept. 28 (always before a Wednesday Drive-In service—Sept. 30)! Or please email him at videoguy@iastate.edu to make arrangements for pickup. Ames CROP Committee members will also be at Brookside Park on Sunday, October 11 between 1 & 3pm to drop off a donation in person!

SPLASH Sunday School is in Session

TODAY, Sunday, September 27, following the livestream worship service at 10:30 we meet again via Zoom for Splash Sunday School! We are using the EMOTIONS curriculum, and today's subject is DISGUST. Miriam Chadima, Youth Engagement Specialist, leads the virtual classes, and does a related Children's Message skit during the service. The Zoom link is in the Sept. 25 (online) edition of the *Living Current*.



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AMOS Citizenship in Action Meeting

Bethesda Members—please join us for this Zoom meeting with Congressional & Senate candidates on October 4 at 3pm. Here is a chance to watch the process in action and see how effective our grassroots organizing strategy works. It also gives information on other actions and fundraising to support. It doesn't cost anything to sit in and watch(!)—and we don't even have to drive anywhere to get there. Register in advance for this meeting at: <https://tinyurl.com/y6c5kd97>



PASTORS' BOOK STUDIES
 Tuesdays
 at both
 10am and 7pm
 via ZOOM
 Sep. 29-Nov. 3
 led by Pastor Bryan

THE THIRD PEACOCK
 ROBERT FARRAR CAPON
 The Problem of God and Evil

Sign up TODAY at
bethesdaames.org/upcoming-events

BARK in the PARK
 Bring yer Bethesda hooman
 to zat Ames Dog Park
 so'z can play!

Friday, **October 2**, 5-6pm
<https://tinyurl.com/y2mfjqmu>
 Register your dog here, just \$5!

PRAYER AT BETHESDA

GRIEVING: • The family of Esther Howerton, on her death, September 20, in Story City
 • Kathy Newlon and family on the death of Dean Newlon, September 21, at Israel Hospice House
 HEALING: Bob Ahlstrom; Helen Casey (mother of Sharon Anderson); Gloria Egertson; Gloria Herrold; April Lawson (mother of Gage Kelly); Bill Marion; Jerry Mortensen
 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



September 20, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing to extend my deep appreciation for the beautiful sending service, gifts of the “Bethesda blue” flower and cross, and many heartfelt cards and individual gifts. I felt the same care and generosity extended during my internship experience in my sending.

It has been a beautiful year of learning and growing together, and that is thanks to the way you embraced the gifts I had to offer and wholeheartedly provided words of affirmation, encouragement, and challenge. I could not have imagined a more supportive and welcoming congregation. Thank you for the ways you join in God’s work in the world and spread the good news of freedom in Christ to all.

I wanted to express my thanks with the same wholeheartedness, and kept putting off writing this, as the words that would come didn’t seem sufficient. They still don’t, but what I have to offer is my gratitude for Bethesda taking the leap of faith to have an intern this past year and going all in on supporting and affirming me in my learning. You will always be a part of the great cloud of witnesses that surround me. Each person we meet leaves an imprint, and we are never the same. Bethesda has left a God-breathed mark on me.

I will keep you all up to date when I have details to share about call and ordination. I am eager for this next step and also attentive to the work of the Holy Spirit to lead me and a future congregation into a relationship that is a positive and generative as my time with you has been.

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.”

—Numbers 6:24–26 NKJV

In God’s Peace,
Sonja

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers Pastor Bryan Simmons, Pastor Ryan Arnold
 Announcements / Childrens' Message Miriam Chadima
 Lector Lindsay Peters
 Musician Bethesda Virtual Choir and Choristers, Mary Nelson

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Bethesda Lutheran Church

GATHER...GROW...GO

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

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 515-232-6256

www.bethesdaames.org

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