



**Sunday, November 22, 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**

November 29 . . . Mark 13:24-37



### **LIVESTREAMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

You can now view our livestream worship service right on our website homepage! Just go to [www.bethesdaames.org](http://www.bethesdaames.org), and click on the banner that says "Livestream - Click here Sunday at 9:30 am". Our Facebook page will also host the Livestreams—[facebook.com/BethesdaAmes/](https://facebook.com/BethesdaAmes/)—just "Like" our Facebook page and you will receive notification that the stream is starting. *And* the video will be hosted on our YouTube channel after the livestream— [tinyurl.com/y22d7om2](https://tinyurl.com/y22d7om2).

**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:** “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”  
Louis Banitt and Kathy Slocum, soloists

## **☞ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

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

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**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 God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **WELCOME**

**TEMPLE TALK:** Larry Otteman “Reconciling in Christ”

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# WORD

**FIRST READING:** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

**L** A reading from Ezekiel:

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.

<sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-40**

**P** The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDRENS' MESSAGE**

**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:** “Let All Things Now Living” D. Cherwien

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

**Amen.**

**RESPONSE:** “Amen, Amen” (African American spiritual)  
– Bethesda Virtual Choir and Choristers

**DISMISSAL**

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" R. Hobby



*Members of the Facilities Ministry Team remove several pews in preparation for construction of a new Sound Booth.*

*Thank you Ken Kruse, Lance John, and Jim Koester!*

# **Fall Clean-up Powered by Scouts Troop 140**



**Thank  
you!**

# Bethesda Opportunities

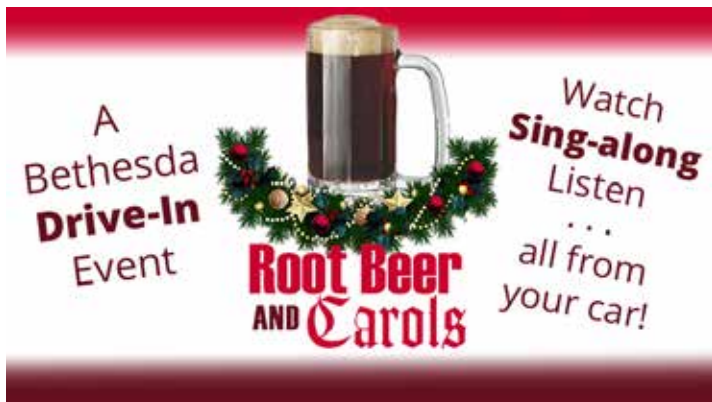
## Reconciling in Christ Task Force

*Your input needed!*

The Reconciling in Christ task force recently drafted an expanded Welcoming statement, which was then reviewed, and approved, by our Church Council. We now ask you to consider if the time is right for Bethesda to adopt the statement, possibly during our January semi-annual meeting. If you would, please **take this brief (1 minute!) survey** to review a draft of our new Welcoming Statement, which can be accessed at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCK6JKJ](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCK6JKJ), or by scanning this QR code with your smart device. You may also wish to view the Temple Talk given by Task Force Chair, Larry Otteman:



[https://youtu.be/Gew\\_HQuMWU](https://youtu.be/Gew_HQuMWU)



**Wednesday, December 16 @ 6:30 pm**

Drive-In to the Bethesda parking lot for this annual favorite sing-a-long! We'll hand out a songbook and a special bottle of Iowa-made Root Beer for each person. The pianist and song leaders are 'live' in the Sanctuary, and we will watch them on a huge screen and listen through our car radios. Safe celebrating, and SO much fun!

**Advent begins next Sunday!**

## PRAYER AT BETHESDA

**GRIEVING:** The family of Claire Moore, who died on November 16 at her home in Boone

**HEALING:** Gloria Egertson; April Lawson; Bill Marion; Jerry Mortensen; Sabine Troster Pierick

**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

## Bethesda's Bountiful Pie Exchange

In lieu of gathering for our annual Pie Social, we've got an alternately perfect pie plan! **Drop-off/Pick-up Day is Monday, Nov. 23.** Drive-up to the circle between 8-10:00 am and DROP OFF your home baked pie(s). Please use a disposable pie pan, and include your recipe (or at least a list of any allergen ingredients). We'll give you a numbered ticket. Then, between 4-6:00 pm drive-up with your ticket, and we'll present you with another



**THIS MONDAY!**

**Sign up today!**

<https://tinyurl.com/y5rz9l3l>

## Bethesda Leadership Needs You!

Bethesda is looking for candidates to serve as Council Officers and Board Chairs. **Currently, we have openings for President-elect, and Council Members.** If you are interested in making a difference, and sharing our mission and His Word . . . please consider serving. Contact Ron Morgan at [ronald.morgan.dvm@gmail.com](mailto:ronald.morgan.dvm@gmail.com).



## Bethany Life Christmas Card Call

*It has been 244 days* since folks were able to visit family and friends at Bethany. Help share greeting cards, letters, and even hand-drawn pictures to the 140 residents! Address the cards "To Someone Special" at 212 Lafayette Ave., Story City, Iowa 50248.

# WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers ..... Pastor Bryan Simmons, Pastor Ryan Arnold  
 Announcements ..... Miriam Chadima  
 Lector ..... Jan Peterson  
 Musician ..... Mark-Kretsinger-Harries  
 Sound Tech ..... Jim Stewart  
 A/V ..... 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  
 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](http://www.bethesdaames.org)

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