



Sunday, November 29, 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

December 6 . . . Mark 1:1-8



LIVESTREAMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

You can now view our livestream worship service right on our website homepage! Just go to 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/—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.

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: “People Look East” L. Larson

☒ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Loving and forgiving God,

we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another.

Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ.

Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news: by God’s endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God’s love, ☐ comforted by Christ’s peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

SONG: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,

so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

P The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴"In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PASTOR CHAT**SONG: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel****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: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" E Rocherolle

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "He Came Down" R. Trelstad Porter

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, 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:



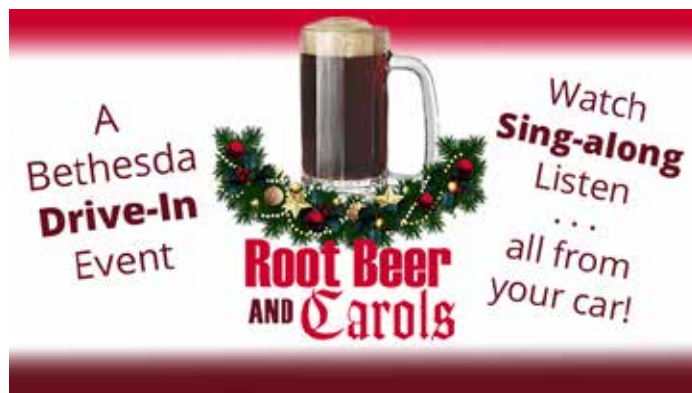
https://youtu.be/Gew_HQuMWU

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Voyagers Adult Forum: Dec. 6 @ 10:30 am

Spiritual Director at the White Conch Dharma Center, **Domo Geshe Rinpoche** will be featured in this educational forum.

The topic will be how Buddhism complements Christianity. A Zoom link will be provided in your Dec. 4 Enewsletter.

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 fun!

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.



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.

PRAYER AT BETHESDA

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

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers Pastor Bryan Simmons, Pastor Ryan Arnold
 Advent Wreath Lighters..... Aisenbrey Family
 Lector..... Cameron Aisenbrey
 Musician Trace Houge Brakke, Mark-Kretsinger-Harries, Mary Nelson
 Sound Tech Randy Slocum
 A/V..... 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

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 515-232-6256

www.bethesdaames.org

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