



Sunday, December 20, 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



### 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).

### CHRISTMAS EVE . . . DEC. 24

1:00 pm Livestream . . 5:00 pm Candlelight Drive-In . . 9:00 pm Candlelight Drive-In

**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 Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” A. Krentz-Organ  
Kathy Slocum, flute

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

## ADVENT GATHERING RITE

### 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.**

### WELCOME

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

## WORD

### FIRST READING: PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26

**L** A reading from Psalm 89:

<sup>1</sup>I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.  
<sup>2</sup>I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;  
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.  
<sup>3</sup>You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to my servant David:  
<sup>4</sup>‘I will establish your descendants forever,  
and build your throne for all generations.’”  
<sup>19</sup>Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:  
“I have set the crown on one who is mighty,  
I have exalted one chosen from the people.  
<sup>20</sup>I have found my servant David;  
with my holy oil I have anointed him;  
<sup>21</sup>my hand shall always remain with him;  
my arm also shall strengthen him.  
<sup>22</sup>The enemy shall not outwit him,  
the wicked shall not humble him.  
<sup>23</sup>I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down those who hate him.  
<sup>24</sup>My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;  
and in my name his horn shall be exalted.  
<sup>25</sup>I will set his hand on the sea  
and his right hand on the rivers.  
<sup>26</sup>He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father,  
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!’

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38**

☐ The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**PASTOR CHAT****SERMON****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****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.**

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

**Thanks be to God.**

**BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

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

**Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**ANTHEM:** "People, Look East" arr. M. Archer  
Bethesda Virtual Choir

## SENDING

**BLESSING**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
✠ now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

# Bethesda Opportunities



## 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.



## A Meaningful Christmas Gift



Bethesda Women offer a suggestion for a meaningful Christmas gift: subscribe to **Gather** magazine for any woman on your list! *Gather* contains inspiring stories and articles, a monthly Bible study, which can be done together over Zoom OR in your own setting. Details can be found at [www.gathermagazine.org](http://www.gathermagazine.org). A one-year subscription is only \$19.95.



Sign-up to be available in the new year.



## Board Chairs Content Deadline

Board Reports (and special reports—Bethesda Women, Food Pantry, Tanzania) are due to the office by January 6.



## DSM Faith Committee for Peace Presents:

The "Feast of the Holy Innocents," Sat, Dec. 27 at 7:00 pm. The theme of the service is "Weeping for our Children." The Zoom link will be available soon on their Facebook page.

## PRAYER AT BETHESDA

**GRIEVING:** Karla, Jonathan, and the extended Mortensen family on the death of Jerry Mortensen, Dec. 7

Ron Morgan and family on the death of his brother, Neil

Danny and the Kepley family on the death of his father, David, Dec. 16 at the Israel Hospice House

(NOTE: A public visitation will be held Sunday, December 20, 2020 from 2-4 p.m. at Grandon)

**HEALING:** Gloria Egertson; Pastor John Kerr; April Lawson; Bill Marion; Sabine Troster Pierick; Sherald Sydnese

**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..... Horras Family  
 Lector..... Louis Banitt  
 Musicians ..... Bethesda Virtual Choir, Mark Kretsinger-Harries, Mary Nelson  
 Sound Tech ..... Randy Slocum  
 A/V.....Rod Fischer, Allan Schmidt

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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 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**  
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