

Bethesda Lutheran Church
GATHER...GROW...GO



Sunday, January 10, 2021 . . . 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

January 17 . . . John 1:43-51



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: “Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist” D. Buxtehude

☞ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Holy One,

you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy.
Amen.

How vast is God’s grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God’s own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God’s forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ’s justice and the Spirit’s reconciling peace.

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.

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDRENS’ MESSAGE

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 19:1-7

L A reading from Acts:

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

P The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN: *When Jesus Came to Jordan*

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.**

4 **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 Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" P. Manz

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.

Amen.

RESPONSE: "Amen, Amen" (African American spiritual)

– Bethesda Virtual Choir and Choristers

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" J. Blersch

Bethesda Opportunities



For details and to Sign-up, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y534tf93>

- OR -

scan this QR code with your smart device

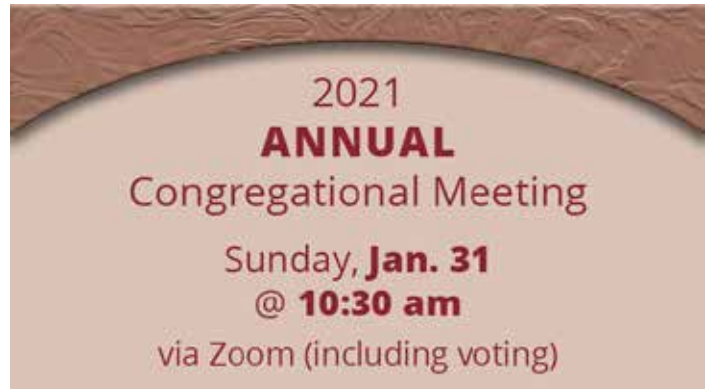


MLK Day of Service

“Make it a day on, not a day off”

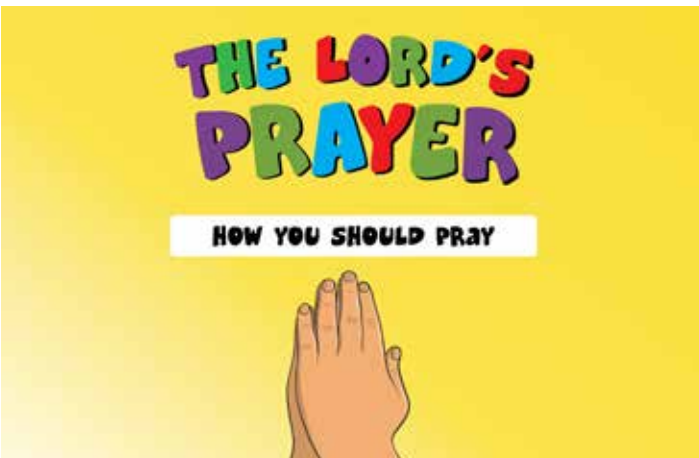
Uniting in service (virtually and in-person) for a celebration to honor the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Visit www.vcstory.org/mlk-day to see the different opportunities and sign-up options for Monday, Jan. 18. You can sign-up individually or as a group.



AMOS Leaders Retreat via Zoom

Join A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy (AMOS) Saturday, **January 23 from 9:00-3:00** on Zoom! This is an opportunity to reflect on what we've learned as public people during this year of pandemic organizing, build and deepen relationships across the organization, and strategize about the direction of AMOS in 2021. All AMOS leaders and anyone interested in community leadership training are invited to attend! Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y3z8ef73> for more details and to register.



Splash Sunday School starts the new year with new lessons! Find the Zoom link in Friday's *Living Current* Enewsletter

PRAYER AT BETHESDA

HEALING: Gloria Egertson; April Lawson; Bill Marion; 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

AMOS 2020 Organizing Successes

In the midst of a global pandemic and economic depression, AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) has continued to develop leaders, strengthen community organizations, and advocate for the common good in Central Iowa.

Workforce

- Within the first month of the pandemic, organized a virtual action and secured Iowa Workforce Development's commitment to hire 100 additional staff members to handle claim volume, improve their phone system, and expand resources in multiple languages for non-English speakers.
- Won \$5 million from CARES Act funding for job training to retrain un- and under-employed Iowans for high demand jobs.

Mental Health

- Within a status-quo state budget, AMOS helped secure \$5 million in additional funding for Polk County mental health services. Hundreds of AMOS leaders contacted their legislators to share why mental health funding was important and met with legislators during two days at the Capitol in early 2020.

Food Insecurity and Emergency Housing

- Helped raise over \$179,000 in emergency funds for Story County immigrants left out of federal stimulus and unemployment benefits.
- Secured 5 additional school meal sites at apartment complexes in the Des Moines metro area where many refugee families live.
- Pushed Story County Board of Health to create a plan to provide medical care for persons experiencing homelessness who contract COVID-19. Supported additional federal funding to ensure the county's homeless shelter and AMOS member The Bridge Home could continue to operate at full capacity.

Voter Engagement

- In a virtual action with over 200 AMOS leaders, secured commitments from 3 federal candidates to work with AMOS on the economic stability of families, childcare, and mental healthcare access.
- Reached 3,000 voters in a historically low-turnout precinct in Des Moines through literature drops and phone banking. Registered 70 refugee community members with EMBARC to vote.

Strengthening Institutions

- Organized thousands of relational phone calls to increase social connection and understand the pressures facing members of AMOS organizations.
- Engaged over 350 Central Iowans in small group conversations about the pressures impacting our families and communities through a virtual "Consider, Connect, and Create" listening campaign.

Building Relational Power

- Welcomed 4 new dues-paying AMOS member organizations: EMBARC, Project Iowa, Des Moines Mennonite Church, and Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance.
- Raised \$19,147 (11% of the budget) from 129 donors to support AMOS in addition to institutional dues

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers Pastor Bryan Simmons, Pastor Ryan Arnold
 Announcements Miriam Chadima
 Lector Evan Bay Brakke
 Musician Mark-Kretsinger-Harries
 Sound Tech Randy Slocum
 A/V Rod Fischer, Allan Schmidt

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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