

# Bethesda Lutheran Church

GATHER...GROW...GO



**Sunday, March 21, 2021 . . . 9:30am**

## Welcome

We invite you to join our community, which is committed to inclusion, racial equity and anti-racism. We share in God's abundant grace knowing that we cannot be separated from the love of God by our age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, political beliefs, socioeconomic status, physical or mental abilities or faith background. 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

GATHER all people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ  
GROW as disciples by worship, prayer and study of God's Word  
GO into the world to share the gospel in word and deed

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 am Sundays . . . Livestream & Limited In-person (please sign-up)  
6:30 pm Lenten Wednesdays . . . Livestream

### How To:

View our livestream worship service at [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 also hosts the Livestreams—[facebook.com/BethesdaAmes/](https://facebook.com/BethesdaAmes/) .  
Just "Like" our Facebook page and you will receive notification that the stream is starting.  
Each week, sign-up here [bethesdaames.org/upcoming-events](http://bethesdaames.org/upcoming-events) to reserve a seat in the pew on Sunday.



# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in the presence of the spirit of God who brings us love, life and peace.

**We come wishing to be strengthened and made whole. Lord, forgive us our selfish desires, broken relationships and mixed up priorities.**

The good news is that God forgives our selfishness, brings healing to our broken lives and loves us with an unconditional love. Let us praise God for the renewal of our lives.

**Praise, blessing, honor and glory be to God forever and ever.**

## SONG: *Your Grace Is Enough*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHILDRENS' MESSAGE

# WORD

## FIRST READING: Psalm 51:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
<sup>4</sup>Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.  
<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.  
<sup>6</sup>You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
<sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.  
<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.  
<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **GOSPEL: John 12:20-33**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**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.

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.  
Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

# MEAL

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION****LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. 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**

**God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

# SENDING

**BLESSING**

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor

God bless you ✠ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

# Bethesda Opportunities



Sign-up weekly

<https://bethesdaames.org/upcoming-events/>



## Zoom Prayer Circle

All women are welcome! Don't worry if you don't have a copy of the *Gather* Magazine . . . the conversation can still be rewarding. We will be screen-sharing the digital copy during the meeting, **Thursday, March 25**. Log on between 9:30-10:00 to visit, the discussion of "Journeys with Angels," by Christa VonZychlin, Session Three (p. 20, March *Gather* Magazine) will begin at **10 am**. To receive the link for Zoom, please call, text or email [karlam64@yahoo.com](mailto:karlam64@yahoo.com) ~ Karla Mortensen



Bethesda Women's bi-monthly board meeting will be next **Tuesday, March 23 @ 6:30 pm via Zoom**. Everyone is welcome, please contact Karla for the Zoom link.



Join the BUNNY CREW  
Volunteer Sign-up is LIVE!  
<https://tinyurl.com/67dtbuv8>



## Splash Sunday School

The Zoom link will continue to be published in Friday's E-newsletter each week.

Glenn Crosswait and Lori Woodcock continue the Lenten series this Sunday. **Please have a Bible (any translation or version is great) close by.** Mark your calendars for "Splash-free Sundays."

We won't meet on Easter, April 4. Our next Splash series will begin April 11 (through May 23).

## PRAYER AT BETHESDA

**HEALING:** Fred Brown; Cindy Deppe (mother of Keri Carstens); Nora (Brakke) Lehti (aunt of Chris Brakke); Julie Pike; Rod Place; Cooper Schmidt

**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 Opportunities

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Holy Week services are all Livestreamed  
and In-Person with sign-ups!



April 14 @ 6:30 pm!  
SAVE THE DATE!



## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers ..... Pastor Bryan Simmons, Pastor Ryan Arnold  
Greeters ..... Scott & Allison, Evan, Seth Smyth  
Lector ..... Allison Smyth  
Musician ..... Mark Kretsinger-Harries  
Sound Tech ..... Randy Slocum  
A/V ..... Rod Fischer, Allan Schmidt

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Tony Woodcock, Council President ..... woodcock.ar@gmail.com  
Bryan Simmons, Lead Pastor ..... bsimmons@BethesdaAmes.org  
Ryan Arnold, Associate Pastor ..... rarnold@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  
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Linda Fevold, Database Coordinator ..... lfevold@BethesdaAmes.org  
Curtis Malone, Assistant Custodian



## GROW IN GOD'S WORD

March 28 . . . Palm Sunday

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



A congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We are a proud member of Reconciling in Christ.  
Learn more about our inclusivity at: [www.reconcilingworks.org/RIC/](http://www.reconcilingworks.org/RIC/)



**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)**

**Worship Schedule**  
Sunday . . . 9:30 am  
Lenten Wednesdays . . . 6:30 pm