

Bethesda Lutheran Church

GATHER...GROW...GO



Sunday, April 11, 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)

How To:

View our livestream worship service at 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/ .

Just "Like" our Facebook page and you will receive notification that the stream is starting.

Each week, sign-up here bethesdaames.org/upcoming-events to reserve a seat in the pew on Sunday.



GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

I will exalt you, O God,

And bless your name forever and ever.

Daily will I bless you

And praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;

There is no end to God's greatness.

SONG: *My Redeemer Lives*

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through 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: Acts 4:32-35

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SONG: *My Redeemer Lives*

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

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

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;**

**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

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Modern Worship Survey



If you prefer to take the survey online, here is a convenient QR code >>> to use with your smart device. This (2-pg.) form can also be printed, filled out, scanned and emailed to contact@bethesdaames.org. Or you can print it, then mail it to Bethesda. Thank you!

Greetings!

As COVID vaccinations increase, and in-person Sunday morning worship attendance increases too, Bethesda's Worship Music & Arts board finds ourselves wondering *how best to bring back our in-person Modern Worship service.*

If you would, please fill out the following survey about Modern Worship, which should take just a few minutes to complete. Your feedback is 100% confidential and will only be used in aggregate form.

Thank you!

1. Prior to March 2020, which weekend Bethesda service did you typically attend?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Saturday evening Modern | <input type="radio"/> Either, depending on my schedule |
| <input type="radio"/> Sunday morning Traditional | <input type="radio"/> Didn't attend Bethesda, in person, prior to March 2020 |

2. Going forward, what day and time for the weekend Modern Worship service works best for your schedule?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Saturday evening, 5:00pm | <input type="radio"/> Sunday evening, 5:00pm |
| <input type="radio"/> Saturday evening, 5:30pm | <input type="radio"/> Sunday evening, 5:30pm |
| <input type="radio"/> Sunday morning, before 9:30am service | <input type="radio"/> No preference, whenever is great |
| <input type="radio"/> Sunday morning, after 9:30am service | <input type="radio"/> Not interested in this worship style |
| <input type="radio"/> Other day and time (please specify) | |

For these next two questions, please keep in mind several *new and exciting upgrades*, to both our Sanctuary and the Commons, that have happened in the past year, including:

- The Sanctuary has cameras for livestreaming, new 18-foot screen + new speakers (coming soon)
- The Commons will soon have new speakers and cameras for livestreaming
- The Commons skylight has been replaced with roofing that is much quieter when it rains

3. Considering these enhancements, where would it make sense to hold Modern worship services?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> In the Commons, always | <input type="radio"/> In the Sanctuary, always |
| <input type="radio"/> In the Commons, mostly | <input type="radio"/> No preference, either location is great |
| <input type="radio"/> In the Sanctuary, mostly | <input type="radio"/> Not interested in this worship style |

4. Which aspect of Bethesda's Modern Worship service is most important to you?

- The music
 The sermon
 The order of service
 Holy Communion
 The date and time
 Not interested in this worship style
 The location
 Something else (please specify)

5. Is there anything else you'd like us to consider as we plan for the future of Bethesda's Modern Worship service? If so, please share it here.

Demographics

Finally, just a few questions for classification purposes.

* 6. Are you a member of Bethesda?

- Yes
 No

* 7. What is your age?

- Under 18
 45-54
 75 and older
 18-34
 55-64
 Prefer not to say
 35-44
 65-74

8. Do you have children or grandchildren, under age 18, that participate in services or events at Bethesda?

- Yes
 No

9. What is your gender?

- Male
 Non-binary
 Female
 Prefer not to say

10. How often, over the past two years, have you worshipped at Bethesda, either in-person or online?

- Once or twice
 Once a month
 Most weekends
 A few times a year
 Twice a month
 Not at all

That's all the questions we have for you today. Thank you!

Bethesda Opportunities



Sign-up weekly
<https://bethesdaames.org/upcoming-events/>



Washtub collection outside the Sanctuary
Or mail checks to Bethesda, "Saving Suds" in memo line.



Come Sing Along with Us!
Bubbly beverage, sweet treat, and songbook included!



Sign up today to attend
either In-Person or via Zoom
<https://tinyurl.com/svyfut8r>



Splash Sunday School

The Zoom link will continue to be published in Friday's E-newsletter each week. Leaders Glenn Crosswait and Lori Woodcock will begin our new Splash series: A study of the Parables of Jesus and unlocking the treasures within.

the
PARABLES
of JESUS

PRAYER AT BETHESDA

GRIEVING: Shelley Hawkins and family on the death of her father, Marvin

HEALING: Lucille Andersen; Fred Brown; Cindy Deppe; Nora (Brakke) Lehti; Julie Pike; Rod Place; Cooper Schmidt

CELEBRATING: Jerry Peterson turns 100 (April 8) @ Story Medical Center-Senior Care, 630-6th St., Nevada Willis & Doris Sauerbrei on their 60th wedding anniversary (April 9)

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers Pastor Bryan Simmons, Pastor Ryan Arnold
 Greeters Tony & Lori Woodcock
 Lector Tony Woodcock
 Musician Trace Houge Brakke, Mark Kretsinger-Harries
 Sound Tech Randy Slocum, Jim Stewart
 A/V Rod Fischer, Allan Schmidt, Kathy Slocum

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tony Woodcock, Council President woodcock.ar@gmail.com
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 Linda Fevold, Database Coordinator lfevold@BethesdaAmes.org
 Curtis Malone, Assistant Custodian



GROW IN GOD'S WORD

April 18 . . . Luke 24:36b-48

Bethesda Lutheran Church

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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/



Office PHONE Hours
 Monday–Thursday
 9:00 am–4:00 pm

1517 Northwestern Ave.
 Ames, IA 50010
 515-232-6256

www.bethesdaames.org

Worship Schedule
 Sunday . . . 9:30 am