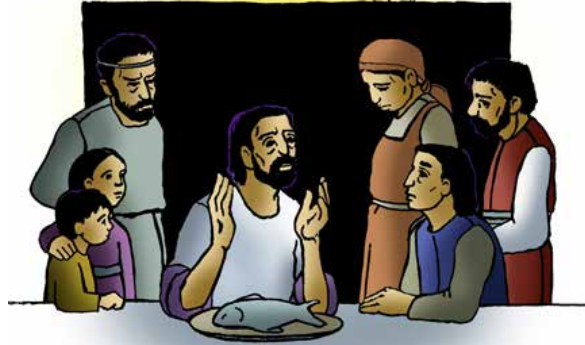


Bethesda Lutheran Church

GATHER...GROW...GO



Sunday, April 18, 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: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing” P. Manz

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By your grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

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.

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through 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: 1 John 3:1-7

A reading from 1 John:

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will

be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN: *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* vv.1-2

GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN: *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* vv.3-4

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

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our king!

To all the world glad news we bring:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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: "Gelobt sei Gott" H. Willan

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?

- Saturday evening Modern
 Either, depending on my schedule
 Sunday morning Traditional
 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?

- Saturday evening, 5:00pm
 Sunday evening, 5:00pm
 Saturday evening, 5:30pm
 Sunday evening, 5:30pm
 Sunday morning, before 9:30am service
 No preference, whenever is great
 Sunday morning, after 9:30am service
 Not interested in this worship style
 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?

- In the Commons, always
 In the Sanctuary, always
 In the Commons, mostly
 No preference, either location is great
 In the Sanctuary, mostly
 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

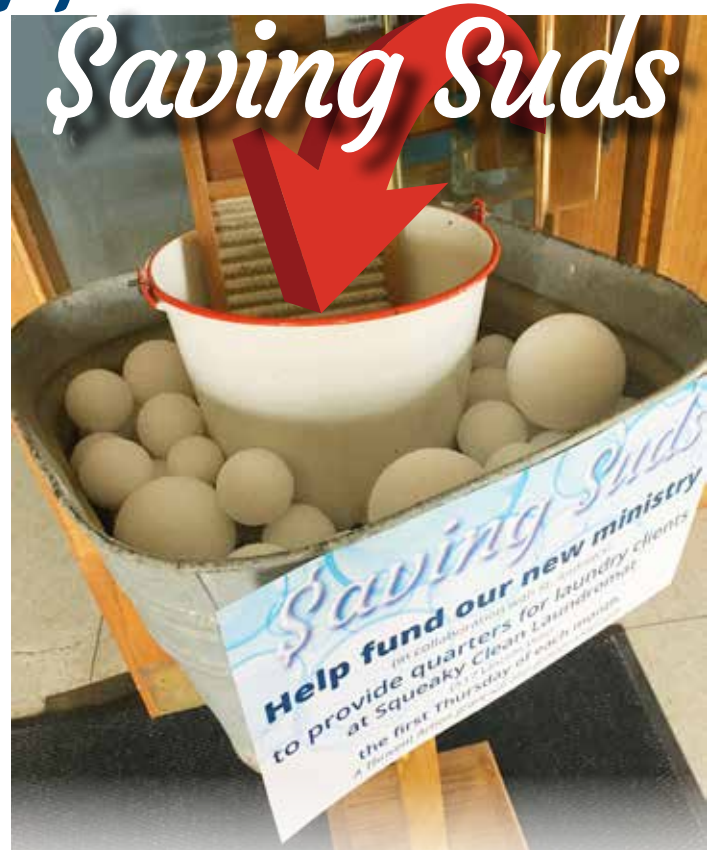
 Not at all

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

Bethesda Opportunities



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



Help fund our new ministry providing quarters for laundry clients!

Now accepting donations . . .

- Drop them in our washtub display outside the sanctuary
- Checks payable to Bethesda with "Saving Suds" in the memo line

Volunteer sign-up is live . . .

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

- First Thursday each month . . . 4-7:00 pm

A logo for Voyagers Adult Forum featuring a stylized blue and white figure.

VOYAGERS ADULT FORUM
Immigration Bible Study

Beginning April 25 @ 10:30 am

Attend this 6-week adult education series--led by Pastors Bryan and Ryan--**in-person** or via **Zoom**. **BOTH** require sign-up.

A circular inset photo showing a woman in a blue headscarf and a young child smiling together.

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 have begin our new Splash series: A study of the Parables of Jesus and unlocking the treasures within.

the
PARABLES
of **JESUS**

PRAYER AT BETHESDA

HEALING: Lucille Andersen; Fred Brown; Cindy Deppe; Mel Flemmer; Nora (Brakke) Lehti; 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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers Pastor Bryan Simmons, Pastor Ryan Arnold
 Greeters Russ & Jan Melby
 Lector Russ Melby
 Musician Mark Kretsinger-Harries
 Sound Tech Randy Slocum, Jim Stewart
 A/V Rod Fischer, Allan Schmidt, Kathy Slocum

CONTACT INFORMATION

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 Mary Nelson, Lead Organist mnelson@BethesdaAmes.org
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 Curtis Malone, Assistant Custodian



GROW IN GOD'S WORD

April 25 . . . John 10:11-18

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/



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