

Bethesda Lutheran Church

GATHER...GROW...GO



Sunday, April 25, 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: “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” V. Labenske
 “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” J. Carter

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing to the Lord a new song,

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless the Lord’s name;

Proclaim the good news of salvation from day to day,

Declare the Lord’s glory among the nations

And the Lord’s wonders among all people.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG: I Am Jesus' Little Lamb**GOSPEL: John 10:11-18**

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDRENS' MESSAGE**SERMON**

VOLUNTARY: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" P. Gervais

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: "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb" S. Eithun

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: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" J. Carter

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/>



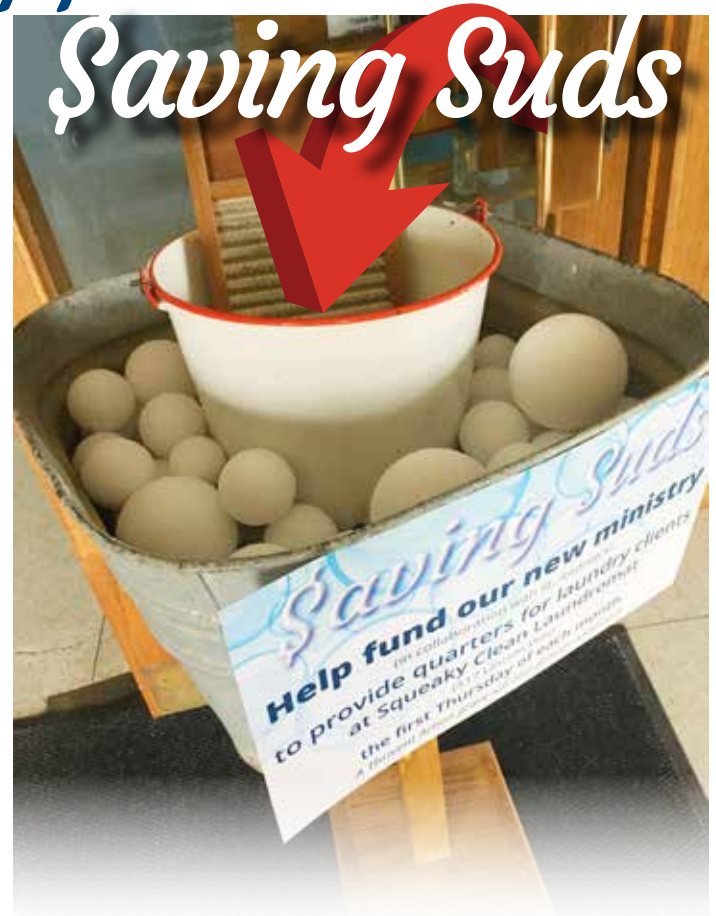
Begins TODAY via Zoom!



PRAYER AT BETHESDA

HEALING: Lucille Andersen; Fred Brown; Cindy Deppe; Mel Flemmer; Pat Frette; 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



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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers Pastor Bryan Simmons, Pastor Ryan Arnold
 Greeter..... Amanda Furman
 Lector..... Amanda Furman
 Musicians Bethesda Virtual Choir & Choristers, Mark Kretsinger-Harries, Mary Nelson
 Sound Tech Randy Slocum, Jim Stewart
 A/V..... Rod Fischer, Allan Schmidt, Kathy Slocum

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
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 Curtis Malone, Assistant Custodian



GROW IN GOD'S WORD

April 25 . . . John 10:11-18

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