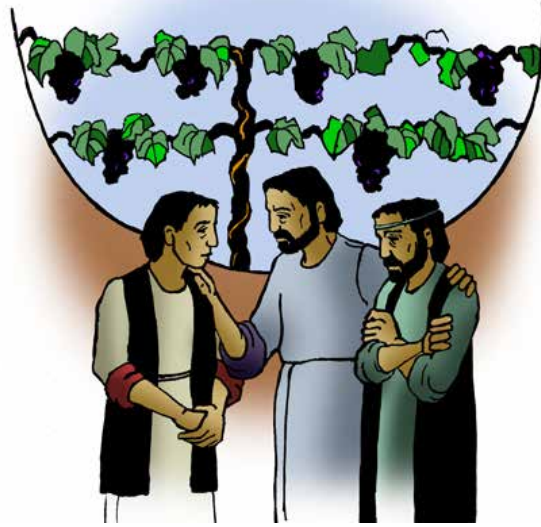


Bethesda Lutheran Church

GATHER...GROW...GO



Sunday, May 2, 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: “This Joyful Eastertide” M. Burkhardt

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, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

L A reading from Acts:

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit

said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG: *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDRENS' MESSAGE

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.



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.

Take a step toward staying

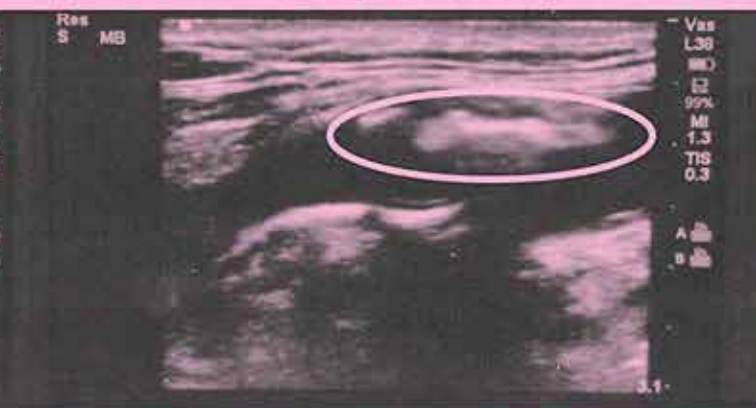
Healthy & Active

Be Smart: Do More For Your Cardiovascular Health

No Plaque Buildup



Plaque Buildup



Advanced ultrasound technology looks inside your arteries for signs of plaque buildup. That's why **9 out of 10 cardiovascular doctors** support preventive screenings for those with key risk factors*

*Key Risk Factors include Age 55+, High Blood Pressure, High Cholesterol, Diabetes, Obesity, tobacco usage, family history of CVD or stroke

We are coming to your neighborhood.

Where: Ames - Bethesda Lutheran Church

When: Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Pre-registration is required. Call: 1-888-653-6450

To register for your appointment and to receive a special \$10 discount, please call 1-888-653-6450 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners

Trusted by Hospitals Nationwide.

Life Line Screening has partnered with over **100 hospitals** across the country and has conducted **8 million** screenings since 1993.



Carotid Artery (Plaque) Screening —

Ultrasound scan of the carotid arteries that screens for buildup of fatty plaque — a leading cause of strokes.



Heart Rhythm Screening (Atrial Fibrillation) —

A quick and easy test using EKG electrodes placed on the arms and legs to identify the presence or absence of an irregular heartbeat.



Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening —

Ultrasound screening for an abdominal aneurysm (enlargement) that could lead to a ruptured aorta.



Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening —

Evaluates for peripheral arterial disease (PAD) in the lower extremities, which increases the risk of heart disease.



Osteoporosis Risk Assessment —

Ultrasound screens the heel for bone mass density. Osteoporosis is painless and silent in its early stages.

PACKAGE 1

Plaque, Vascular Disease and Heart Rhythm Package — 4 tests for only \$139!

PACKAGE 2

Add an Osteoporosis Screening for only \$10 more — 5 tests for only \$149!

A \$181 savings!

Screening results are provided to you in 21 days. We direct all participants with abnormal results to take the report to their physician. Carotid Artery and PAD screenings help identify the presence of Atherosclerosis, and if found, can be an early warning for higher risks of stroke and coronary artery disease. Such early warning information can help you and your doctor take important steps to reduce your risk for more serious health issues. If necessary, steps may include lifestyle and diet, medical therapies, and even more thorough follow-up testing and evaluation of your heart function. Appropriate modification of risk factors (including high blood pressure, smoking, heart disease, diabetes and poor diet) is also necessary for cardiovascular disease prevention. Our screenings cannot detect all forms of stroke risk or cardiovascular disease. All tests are for screening purposes only. You should consult with your personal physician regarding your screening results. Insurance Note: Life Line Screening does not participate in the Medicare program and the cost of our screening services is not covered or reimbursable by Medicare. Life Line Screening does not file insurance claims nor provide referrals to any physician's group or hospital. Screenings in California are provided by Life Line Mobile Screening, a physician owned practice. Screenings in Kansas are performed by Life Line Screening of America, Ltd. on behalf of Life Line Screening Physicians, P.A. Screenings in New Hampshire, New Jersey and New York are performed by Life Line Medical Screening, LLC (Dr. Andrew Manganaro, 70 Niagara Street, Buffalo NY, 14202). Life Line Screening does not engage in the practice of medicine in those states. This information is not intended to induce referrals by Life Line Screening to Life Line Medical Screening, LLC for any professional medical service. Texas residents: Physician authorization is required. A Life Line Screening affiliated physician will provide authorization for you if you qualify. Cancellation Policy: A full refund is issued if you call to cancel at least two days prior to your appointment. If less than two days' notice is given, we will issue a Gift card for the full amount to be used by you, or anyone you choose, to purchase future screening services.

Bethesda Opportunities



ATTENTION: High School Seniors!

We will be celebrating you in June! Please send your senior photos, high school activities, and future plans to the church office at contact@bethesdaames.org. Look for more details coming SOON!

Sign-up weekly

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

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

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 wearing a blue hijab and a young child.

Still Open for Sign-up!

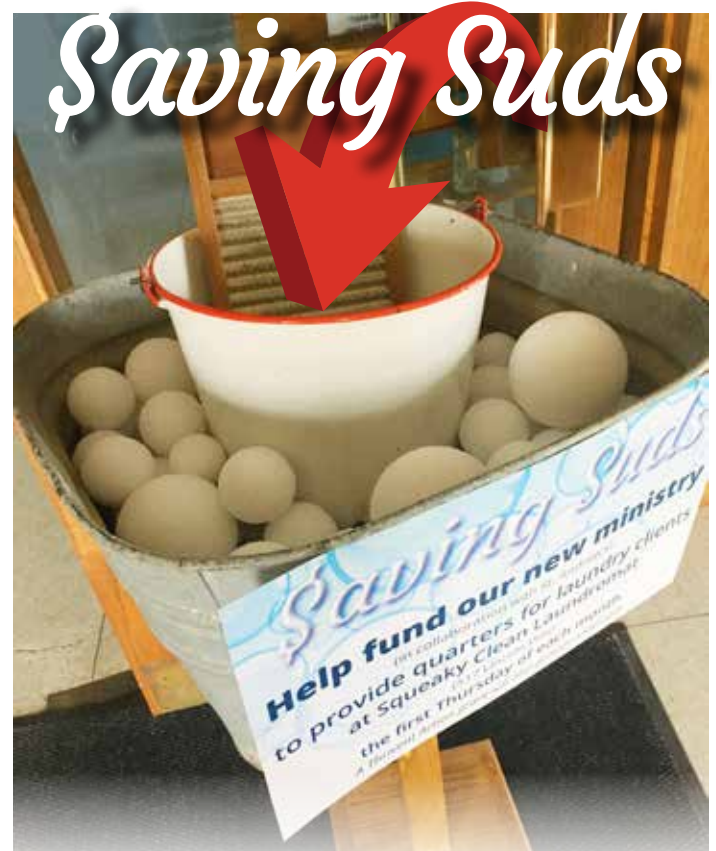
A logo for "GATHER 'ROUND" featuring a blue chair with "OUT DOOR WORSHIP" on the back and "WEDNESDAY" on the seat.

Bring your lawn chairs

GATHER 'ROUND

Celebrate our Confirmands

May 12 6:30 pm



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

PRAYER AT BETHESDA

GRIEVING: The family of Mel Flemmer, who died Sunday, April 25, at Israel Family Hospice House

HEALING: Bob Ahlstrom; Lucille Andersen; Fred Brown; Cindy Deppe; Gloria Egertson; Pat Frette; Nora (Brakke) Lehti; Julie Pike; Rod Place; Cooper Schmidt

SERVING OUR NATION: Colonel Mark Kappelman, (D.C.), son of Glenn & Mary Kappelman
Kristin Murray, Diplomat (US Embassy, Rabat, Morocco), daughter of Russ & Jan Melby

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers Pastor Bryan Simmons, Pastor Ryan Arnold
 Greeter..... Taylan Entriiken, Courtney Powell
 Lector..... Courtney Powell
 Musicians Bethesda Virtual Choir, 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
 Lisa Ailshie, Communications Manager lailshie@BethesdaAmes.org
 Lynn Anderson, Administrative Specialist ljanderson@BethesdaAmes.org
 Cliff McDonald, Accounting Manager cmcdonald@BethesdaAmes.org
 Cathy Wright, Bookkeeper cwright@BethesdaAmes.org
 Linda Fevold, Database Coordinator lfevold@BethesdaAmes.org
 Curtis Malone, Assistant Custodian



GROW IN GOD’S WORD

May 9 . . . John 15:12-17

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

Worship Schedule
 Sunday . . . 9:30 am

www.bethesdaames.org