

Bethesda Lutheran Church

GATHER...GROW...GO



Sunday, May 23, 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

TEMPLE TALK

PRELUDE: “Veni creator spiritus” N. de Grigny

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

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, 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: Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN: *Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove*

SECOND READING: Acts 2:1-8, 12-18

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷“In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

OFFERTORY: “Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire” P. Manz

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;
 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

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.

SENDING HYMN: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (Red #836) vv.1, 3

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Komm, Gott Schöpfer, heiliger Geist" J. S. Bach



Bread for the World is



- Ecumenical
- Bipartisan
- A trusted leader
- An advocacy organization with years of experience and success
- A way to maximize personal letters and emails



What is Bread for the World?

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities in which we live.



Key Components of a Letter to Congress

- Make it personal. Describe what motivated you to write.
- Make your request clear.
- Include *your* address in the letter.



Proposals before Congress

Family Security Act

- \$350 per month under 6 years old
- \$250 per month ages 6-17
- Phases out at \$200,000 single or \$400,000 filed jointly

Child Tax Credit

- \$300 per month under 6 years old
- \$250 per month ages 6-17
- Phases out at \$75,000 single or \$150,000 filed jointly



Two ways to send your message to Congress

- Write a personal letter to each Iowa Congress member- the most work but the most impact
- Email a personalized letter to each Iowa Congress member- go to template at www.bread.org/ol



Congressional addresses

Representative Randy Feenstra
1440 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Joni Ernst
730 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510



Sample offering of letter to congress from Bethesda

To Representative Feenstra, Senator Grassley, Senator Ernst (three separate letters)

The pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities in our safety net and food systems from farm to fork. Child hunger has skyrocketed with one in four children now food insecure. But the pandemic has also shown what Congress can do to lift Americans out of this disaster. Thank you for your efforts.

As a member of Bread for the World, my faith calls me to continue to advocate for policies to help move people out of poverty and hunger. Specifically, Congress should do the following:

Expand measures focused on families and children such as making the child tax credit permanent as proposed by President Biden or enacting the Family Security Act as introduced by Senator Romsey.

The pandemic has left our children and grandchildren with long term damage. Providing for their health and welfare should be the the highest priority for our nation.



Get Involved!



- ☐ Become a Bread member
 - (bread.org/join)
- ☐ Register for regional updates
 - (bread.org/webinars)
- ☐ Build a Bread team
 - Contact your regional organizer for help.
- ☐ Visit your member of Congress



Thank You!

www.bread.org/ol



Bethesda Opportunities



Please continue to Sign-up weekly!

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



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.



SIGN UP is OPEN!
tinyurl.com/czazxcz9

SIGN UP TODAY!



SIGN UP TODAY!!!
tinyurl.com/ebaz2kn4

PRAYER AT BETHESDA

HEALING: Bob Ahlstrom; Lucille Andersen; Cindy Deppe; 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
Lay Assisting Minister	Larry Otteman
Greeters	Jolene Baker, Larry & Carole Otteman
Lector	Larry Otteman
Musicians	Bethesda Virtual Choir, Mark Kretsinger-Harries
Sound Tech	Randy Slocum, Jim Stewart
A/V	Rod Fischer, Allan Schmidt, Kathy Slocum

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Curtis Malone, Assistant Custodian	



GROW IN GOD'S WORD

May 30 . . . John 3:1-17

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