

FIRST WEEKEND
OF CHRISTMAS

Saturday
December 28, 2019

Sunday
December 29, 2019



Bethesda Lutheran Church
GATHER...GROW...GO



A congregation of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

Welcome

A special welcome to those new to worshipping with us—we're glad the spirit has called you here! If you don't already have a church home and would like to join ours, please fill out a Welcome/Prayer Request card (Saturday cards are inside the bulletin; Sunday cards are in the pew hymnal racks), and place it in the offering plate.

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

GATHER

Grow in God's Word
Jan. 4/5: John 1:10-18

Children are welcome! Age-appropriate activities during worship are available in "Busy Bags" at the main entrance to the Sanctuary. Tides & Tots, a staffed Nursery with private lactation room is available on the first floor each Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday.

Holy Communion is available to all believers. Bread, wine (red), and grape juice (white) served. Gluten-free wafers are available.

Large-print editions of weekend worship services are available. Please ask an usher. Sanctuary worship: Assistive devices for the hearing-impaired are available. Please ask an usher.

BUDGET FORUMS: Jan. 11/12

Be sure to attend one of these forums—after worship on both Saturday and Sunday, January 11 and 12. Representatives from the Ministry Team will be on hand to answer questions.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday **5:30 pm**

MODERN

First Saturday of each month

Café Bethesda (fellowship/treats) 5:00 pm

Sunday **9:30 am**

TRADITIONAL

SPLASH Faith Formation. 10:30 am

Coffee Fellowship 10:40 am

VOYAGERS Adult Forum 10:40 am

Wednesday **6:30 pm**

MIDWEEK RENEWAL



Boards and Ministry Teams get ready to showcase your work, and opportunities to join your Teams! Create a tabletop display . . bring photos . . have a representative at the Fair to talk with folks about the Team . . bring a way to take contact information. Contact Ron Morgan for more information (Ronald.Morgan.dym@gmail.com).

Bethesda Opportunities



Call for Nursery Volunteers!

A staffed nursery is a vital part of a healthy church—we need to ensure that our nursery is staffed during each worship service, and on MOPS Mondays. Prayerfully consider taking one of these short shifts! Did you know that High Schoolers are eligible to volunteer? Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yxyxxsox> to see the schedule and sign-up. Please contact Dan Hinderaker for more info about this important ministry.

Bethesda's got Talent

Sunday, Jan. 12 . . . 5:30 - 7pm
DINNER AND A SHOW!

A delicious Lasagna Dinner precedes our Bethesda's Got Talent Show. We encourage ALL our members to come out and share your talents with us! It will be a fun-filled night of food, fellowship and applause! **Sign-up** at the Welcome Center or online (<https://tinyurl.com/salwzds>), as a talent performer, or audience participant.

VOYAGERS ADULT FORUM

Catholic Zionism

Sunday, Jan. 12 (after service in Centennial Hall)
Russ Melby will facilitate a Voyagers Adult Forum on January 12 based on a 3-page article titled "Catholic Zionism," as reprinted from the January 2020 "First Things Journal." The essay is written by Gavin D'Costa, the author, most recently, of Catholic Doctrines on the Jewish People after Vatican II. Mr. D'Costa is persuaded that "the Jewish state [is] a sign of God's fidelity." Copies of the article will be provided. A "bonus" one-page article titled "A Rabbi Walks into a Presbyterian Church" will be distributed at the end of the January 12 forum.



As your treasurer, I want to send everyone a heartfelt thank you for a great year of giving. Our year-to-date offerings have surpassed the last ten years, but December is always a strong giving month, so to make that statement true for the entire year we need to finish the year strong. In real numbers, our average monthly offerings have been \$68,000; we need roughly \$150,000 in December to meet our budget. This \$150,000 is only a \$20,000 increase over our five-year December average. Your generosity during 2019 gives me confidence that this is attainable.

We have been very active this year with beautiful improvements to the building and patio, and with support for our congregation, synod, and international ministries. In the spirit of Christmas, please join me and my family increasing our regular giving this month so we can meet our budget and continue the good work of our congregation. **Thank you - Andra Reason**, Bethesda Treasurer

Saturday, December 28

GATHERING SONG 1: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is our refuge and strength,

A very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,

And though the mountains are toppled into the depths of the sea,

The Lord of hosts is with us;

And the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

GATHERING SONG 2: *Amazing Love*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

READING: Matthew 2:13-23

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: *Joy to the World*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: . . . Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

PEACE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION / LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (*elements have been pre-consecrated by the Pastor*)

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION SONG: *What a Beautiful Name*

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG: *Everlasting God*

DISMISSAL

Christ is born!

Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere. **Thanks be to God.**

SENDING MUSIC

Sunday, December 29

GATHERING

PRELUDE: "In dulci jubilo" (P. Manz)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: ***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*** (Red #288)

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS (Red p. 117)

GREETING (Red p. 120)

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: ***Angels We Have Heard on High*** (Red #289) vv. 1 & 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WELCOME

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9 (Pew Bible p. 605)

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:13-23 (Pew Bible p. 784)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ***All My Heart Again Rejoices*** (Red #273)

NICENE CREED (Red p. 126)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION . . . Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

PEACE: The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "In dulci jubilo" (J. M. Bach)

OFFERING PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER (Red p. 134)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *All are welcome at the Lord's table. Red is wine; white is grape juice.*

(elements have been pre-consecrated by the Pastor)

HYMNS: ***Your Little Ones, Dear Lord*** (Red #286)

In the Bleak Midwinter (Red #294)

COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ***Go Tell It on the Mountain*** (Red #290)

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE: "In dulci jubilo" (J. S. Bach)

Service, Mission & More

Annual Report Deadline: Dec. 31

In preparation for our Annual Congregational meeting on January 26, it is time to put together the Annual Report . . . deadline for narrative content is December 31. The publication must be printed and available to the congregation on Friday, January 17 (according to our by-laws). Board Reports reviewing the past year are requested in the form of a two-paragraph summary, PLUS five bullet points of the most important activities and achievements from the past year. Contact Lisa Ailshie (lailshie@bethesdaames.org) with your submission or any questions.

Wings of Refuge Requests Meals

“Wings of Refuge” has purchased another house here in Ames to be used as a half-way house for women who have been trafficked to move to when they no longer need intensive care and are transitioning back into public life. This home needs remodeling. Anne Almquist has been asked if the women of Bethesda would be willing to MAKE TWO EVENING MEALS PER WEEK (casseroles or soup) for the construction crew during the month of January. If you are willing to help with this endeavor please contact Anne at jamesalmquist@earthlink.net or call her at 515-296-5188.

PRAYER AT BETHESDA

HEALING: Katie Brockmeir (granddaughter-in-law of Ruth Brockmeir); Alta Byg; Ginny Hade (daughter-in-law of Dick & Darlene Hade); Marla Larson; April Lawson (mother of Gage Kelly); Riley Mahoney (granddaughter of Phil & Kathy Harris); Bill Marion; Denise Meier (daughter of Sande Larson); Mary Morris; Chloë Prince; Charlie Ricketts; Jane Schill; Jana Tschopp; Marnette Warth; Lorrie Woolery (surgery Dec. 27)

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

Winter Family Fun!

Invite a friend to join SUPER SUNDAY at Seven Oaks (outdoor skiing, tubing, snowboarding in nearby Boone). \$25 per person (includes ski/snowboard rental + lift ticket. Sign-up coming soon, deadline Feb. 2.



CROP Walk Totals Are In!

The Ames CROP Hunger Walk raised \$32,783 during their October walk, a 4.5% increase over 2018. Bethesda Lutheran Church raised \$2,740, placing us *second* in terms of money raised amongst the churches and other organizations participating in the fall walk. **Thank**

you for your support in the fight against hunger and mark October 11, 2020 on your calendar for the next Ames CROP Hunger Walk!



Current @ Bethesda

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 4:20 pm Praise Team Rehearsal Commons
- 5:30 pm Tides & Tots Nursery
- 5:30 pm Worship. Commons

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 9:30 am Tides & Tots Nursery
- 9:30 am Worship. Sanctuary
- 10:40 am Coffee Fellowship Commons

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 6:30 pm Tai Chi Centennial
- 9:00 am Community Food Pantry
- 9:30 am Community Clothing Closet
- 10:30 am Weekly Staff Meeting. Conference
- 1:00 pm LWR Sewing Centennial
- 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 140. Centennial

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

- 10:00 am Tai Chi Centennial
- 5:00 pm Annual Report Deadline Office

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

Church Office closed (activities/events cancelled)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

- 1:00 pm Community Clothing Closet
- 1:00 pm Community Food Pantry

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

- 6:30 am Tai Chi Centennial

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

- 4:20 pm Praise Team Rehearsal Commons
- 5:00 pm Café Bethesda Commons
- 5:30 pm Tides & Tots Nursery
- 5:30 pm Worship. Commons

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

- 9:30 am Tides & Tots Nursery
- 9:30 am Worship. Sanctuary
- 10:40 am Coffee Fellowship Commons
- 10:45 am Splash Faith Formation #209
- 3:00 pm Boy Scout #140 Troop. Centennial

Epiphany Immigration Fiesta/Dinner

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

Collegiate United Methodist / Wesley Foundation



6:00 pm Potluck Dinner

Place settings and drink will be furnished. Please bring a dish or two to share, and enjoy Three Kings' Cake!

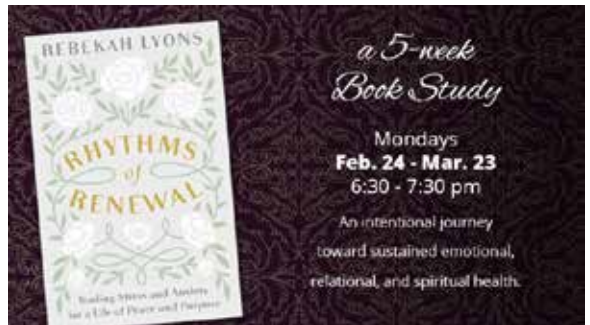
7:00 pm Program

Hear personal stories of immigrants' journeys from far-away to Ames

- What are the needs of immigrants in Ames?
- Jesus was an immigrant! How does that compare to today's immigrants?
- What are action steps we can take together to build relationships in our community?

Questions? Contact Bethesda member

Diane Pierce at dcf.pierce@gmail.com



Rhythms of Renewal: A Book Study

MONDAYS @ 6:30PM BEGINNING FEB. 24

Daily struggles with anxiety and stress make it difficult to receive God's peace. *Rhythms of Renewal* will help you trade your anxiety for the vibrant life you were meant to live. Sign-up at <https://tinyurl.com/uwbpggk>. Copies of the book are available for purchase in the church office. Payment (\$15) can be made at the first evening session.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Minister	<i>Intern Pastor Sonja Gerstenberger</i>
Saturday Praise Band	<i>Trace Houge Brakke, Christine Brinkmeyer, Karter Ewing, Ed Kaizer, Nick Kaizer, Rod Kern, Kay Nelson, Katherine Werner, Jeff Widen</i>
Saturday Hosts	<i>Sherrie Erickson, Denny & Cyndy Howell</i>
Saturday Lay Readers	<i>Sherrie Erickson, Denny Howell</i>
Saturday TVs	<i>Allan Schmidt</i>
Saturday Sound Tech	<i>Nick Kaizer</i>
Children's Message	<i>Mary Olson</i>
Sunday Lay Assisting Minister	<i>Kathy Slocum</i>
Lay Reader	<i>Louis Banitt</i>
Organist	<i>Mark Kretsinger-Harries</i>
Sound Tech	<i>Jim Stewart</i>
Greeters	<i>Dean & Sharon Axland, Amanda Marine & Family</i>
Ushers	<i>The Lundvall Family, Ava Reason, Marvin Scherr, Callie Server</i>
Communion Assistants	<i>Joan Greenlee, and Kathy Newlon</i>
Coffee Fellowship	<i>Brad & Sara Lehman</i>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Ron Morgan, Council President	ronald.morgan.dvm@gmail.com
Bryan Simmons, Lead Pastor	bsimmons@BethesdaAmes.org
Ryan Arnold, Associate Pastor	rarnold@BethesdaAmes.org
Sonja Gerstenberger, Pastoral Intern	sgerstenberger@BethesdaAmes.org
Dan Hinderaker, Director of Youth and Family Ministries	dhinderaker@BethesdaAmes.org
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Linda Fevold, Database Coordinator	lfevold@BethesdaAmes.org
Curtis Malone, Assistant Custodian	



Office Hours
 Monday–Thursday
 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
 Friday
 9:00 a.m.–Noon

Bethesda Lutheran Church
 | GATHER...GROW...GO
 1517 Northwestern Ave. Ames, IA 50010
 515-232-6256 www.BethesdaAmes.org

Worship Schedule
 Saturday . . . 5:30 p.m.
 Sunday . . . 9:30 a.m.
 Wednesday . . . 6:30 p.m.
 (monthly in summer)