



Sunday, January 3, 2021

Welcome

A special welcome to those new to worshipping with us—we're glad the spirit has called you here! **Bethesda Lutheran Church is live streaming church services on our website and Facebook during this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic.** 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 IN SUCH A TIME AS THIS

GATHER in due time
GROW in the meantime
GO with God ALL the time

LIVESTREAMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays at 9:30 am



You can view our livestream worship service right on our website homepage!

Just go to www.bethesdaames.org, and click on the banner that says "Livestream - Click here."

Our Facebook page will also host the Livestreams—facebook.com/BethesdaAmes/—

just "Like" our Facebook page and you will receive notification that the stream is starting.

And the video will be hosted on our YouTube channel after the livestream—tinyurl.com/y22d7om2.

We're still in touch. Call our church office with any needs, prayer requests, or to talk to a familiar voice. We're still sending out our Friday *Living Current* email blast; let us know if you'd like to be added to the list! You can keep up with us on our website and Facebook page too.

Finally, and most importantly, for today and all days, God is still with us. Do not be frightened. Or dismayed. Be strong. Be courageous. For the Lord your God is with you, wherever you go.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have gathered in the presence of God who is love.

We have gathered in the shadow of the cross, a sign of God's love.

Let us give thanks for the compassion of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the unity of the Holy Spirit.

We will sing and pray, praising God with our hearts and hands and voices!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDRENS' MESSAGE

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁷Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."
¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 1:10-18

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

VOLUNTARY: “Bright and Glorious Is the Sky” — Carillon Choir

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins

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.

PEACE & OFFERING

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.



SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ✝ through the Word made flesh.

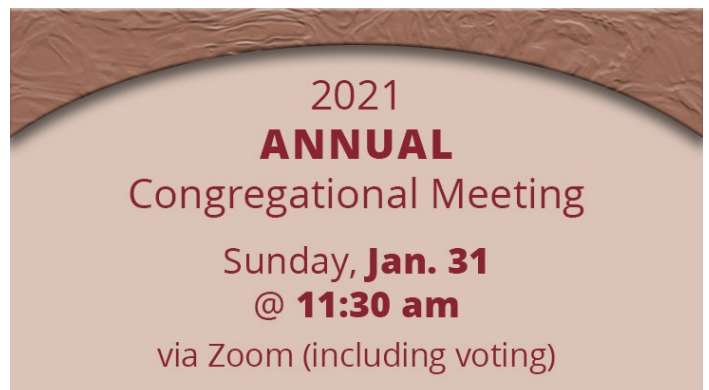
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers..... Pastor Bryan Simmons, Pastor Ryan Arnold
 Musicians..... Mark Kretsinger-Harries, Mary Nelson
 Sound Tech Randy Slocum
 Video Techs..... Rod Fischer, Allan Schmidt

PRAYER AT BETHESDA

HEALING: Gloria Egertson; April Lawson; Bill Marion; Sabine Troster Pierick; Sherald Sydnese

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

Dan and Sue Kepley & Family would like to thank everyone for the kind expressions of sympathy after the passing of Danny's Dad. Your phone calls, cards, prayers and comments on Facebook, or presence at the visitation were truly appreciated.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Office PHONE Hours

Monday-Thursday
 9:00 am-4:00 pm

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 515 . 232 . 6256

Livestream

Worship Schedule

Sunday . . . 9:30 am

www.bethesdaames.org