



GATHER all people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ GROW as disciples through worship, prayer and study of God's Word GO into the world to share the gospel in word and deed

Sethesda Lutheran Church GATHER...GROW...GO

1517 Northwestern Avenue | Ames, Iowa 50010-5299 | 515.232.6256 | www.BethesdaAmes.org



The Gift of Presence

~ Pastor Ryan Arnold

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:8-11, ESV)

When our family moved from South Florida to Iowa we bade farewell to certain warm weather traditions. Goodbye rope lights wrapped around palm trees in December. Adios inflatable nativity set adorning our front lawn. So long Christmas photos on the beach donning our favorite Santa hats. Winters in a tropical climate afford a specific holiday flavor distinct to the area in some truly funky, fun ways.

Our transition back to colder Midwest weather brought with it colder weather traditions. We readily embraced the simple pleasures of what hadn't been possible while living south of the south. Things like sitting fireside sipping hot cocoa, basking in the warmth of the hearth. Or wearing seasonal sweaters, beanie hats and fuzzy slippers. Even better: singing *Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow* became more than mere wishful thinking.

Because it really could.

As a child in Baltimore my family would take an annual pilgrimage to a local tree farm, walking multiple acres, row by row, until we had found just the right evergreen for our home. We took turns with the saw until the final cut was made. Tree now hoisted atop our car, we sipped on hot cider while munching sugar cookies, planning out how best to trim the tree.

And now?

We've recreated much of that tradition here in Iowa for the past several years with our children. Perhaps down the road they'll pass the tradition down to their kids too.

(If you're looking for a local tree farm check out Strautman's. They'll even pull your car out of the mud when it gets stuck; a story for another time \bigcirc .)

Our trip to choose a tree last year ended up being a bit different. Though we went in early December, there were

more people, fewer trees. I soon learned why: natural tree sales were up almost 30% last year. This year similar demand is expected.

The elongated season of pandemic we find ourselves in has changed us in some intriguing ways. The "Great Resignation" has created longer waiting times at restaurants, with many jobs left unfilled. We continue to purchase products at an unsustainable pace, which has resulted in supply chain issues not resolving any time soon.

We yearn for more time, more distractions to fill our day. Yet we yearn, too, for a return of what we once had more of; family, friends, faith, community, meaningful connections with that which is real. The gift we yearn for most of all under the tree from those we cherish? It might simply be their presence.

As we enter the season of Advent, let us surround ourselves with messages of hope, peace, joy, love. Let us bid adieu to that which separates us from our Creator, separates us from our neighbors. Let us commit to buy less and experience more. Let us wait, patiently, for good news of great joy. A good news that is for all.

And then let us celebrate the birth of a child that will show us the way to live this this world, in God honoring ways today, tomorrow, forever.



Hope Peace Joy Love



And Here We Are

~ Tony Woodcock Council President

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. ~ Proverbs 27:17, NIV

I've always liked this simple proverb because it gets to the core of why we need each other as Christians: Why we need to worship together, and break bread together, and do God's work together. And why we need to keep doing those things, day after day, and year after year. Without the help and support of each other, our blades will surely go dull and lose their effectiveness. So many of you are the iron that sharpens me, I hope that I can be one of the many irons that sharpens you.

As we approach the coming Winter, which brings Advent and the New Year, we often reflect on the year that was. As I write this, there's still a good couple of months to go, but I'll start reflecting anyway...

We started off the year with hope because of the vaccines that had been developed and were now being distributed. As Winter crept by, the COVID numbers were moving in the right direction and we eagerly anticipated the opportunity to return to in-person worship. Although it was a cold day in February, we finally were able to open up to in-person worship. What a glorious day! It felt so good to be back and we felt like we were turning the corner on the pandemic. Things continued to go well as we were able to open up more fully as the weeks went by.

Then we got the new sound system and screen up and running. I'm really liking the new screen for the Sunday morning worship. I know Saturday night worship has had the screens now for quite awhile and I got used to them there, but I didn't realize how much I'd like them in the sanctuary for Sunday morning. Many thanks to the people that made it happen, starting from a vision cast in strategic planning, to the task forces, the facilities team, and others that did the hard work in getting it all put together.

Then we found out that we were going to be able to install an elevator thanks to a generous donor. What a blessing to be able to more fully utilize the upstairs to pursue God's mission at BLC! I'm getting ready for some construction dust to be floating about.

With the vaccination numbers going up and the COVID numbers going down, the highlight of mid-Summer was the return of Saturday Night Worship. It was great to see



so many get to come back in-person and experience worship together with the music they love and the brothers and sisters in Christ that they hold so dear. It was like we had awoken from a dream and we were putting the pandemic in the rear view mirror....

Then, like a bird pooping on your freshly washed car, the Delta Variant showed up, the COVID numbers started moving back up, and we found out it could still infect the vaccinated (ugh!, here we go again). That kind of threw a monkey wrench into the whole "getting back to normal", but we adapted and I suppose heeded the advice we gave ourselves last Spring: "Be patient!". Wearing masks is not ideal, but it's a small price to pay for being able to worship in-person, not that our online worship is lacking. Our online worship is great and I'm still appreciative of the staff and volunteers that helped bring it all together and make it the high quality production it is. And thanks also to those that continue to make it happen.

The most recent good news is that thanks to some updated science, we were able to again consider singing in worship... with masks on. We talked singing times and distances and air exchange and air volumes and found out that we could safely sing in worship with our existing mitigation strategy. And here we are. Wearing masks and singing. Living in the COVID world that seems to constrain us, but doesn't really constrain us from pursuing God's mission for us. We are eagerly anticipating the Advent season and the return to inperson Christmas worship, even though masks will probably still be encouraged.



Best Place to **Worship** in Story County for the **FOURTH Year** in a Row!



Welcoming Immigrants and Refugees

~ Larry Otteman Council President-elect

Should we welcome immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees?

Bethesda is at the point of discerning whether to say "yes" to the above question and we want to review the process that has led to this decision.

This is the first I have heard of this. What is going on?

In a busy and committed church like ours, it is not unusual for news to travel slowly or not at all—despite our best efforts. We began in August 2019 when the ELCA voted to become a sanctuary denomination.

What does "sanctuary denomination" mean?

It means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith not politics. It does NOT call for any person, congregation, or synod to engage in any illegal action such as hiding undocumented immigrants or asylum seekers.

What has been done so far in terms of education and discernment?

A letter went out to all members of Bethesda in September 2019 and VOYAGER forums were held in October 2019 to answer questions about Bethesda's role. A ministry team was formed at the same time, and we joined the Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partnership (ASIP). Education and discernment resumed in April 2021 when Pastors Bryan and Ryan led a six-week bible study on immigration and refugees. The ASIP Ministry Team updated the Council in August and then met one on one with several members of the church. Another three-week Voyager forum based on material from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) was held in October.

What does it mean to becoming a welcoming congregation for immigrants and refugees? Do we need to write a new welcoming statement already?

In our present welcoming statement, we speak to the world outside our church walls. We make people aware of our commitment and welcome. But we can't speak a new commitment to immigrants and refugees directly. They won't hear us. We need to make this commitment to those around us who already have the task of facilitating their entry. This is the ELCA through the Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) Welcoming Congregations program and the LIRS through the EMMAUS program.

So how and when do we make this commitment?

A survey will be sent out in November to gauge whether this is a commitment we are ready to make. If more than 75% of responders answer "yes" then the vote will take place at our next annual meeting.

At our annual meeting in January 2022, we will take a vote on whether to endorse the following statement.

Bethesda Lutheran Church in Ames, Iowa makes these commitments:

- to welcome and minister to migrants and refugees and to identify a contact person in the congregation who has access to the language skills necessary for basic communication
- to physically accompany migrants and refugees as they make new lives in our community
- to pray for migrants and refugees
- to advocate for public policy that will positively impact the current immigration and refugee crises, including working in partnership with the ELCA Washington office and LIRS on immigration and refugee reform

Our commitments and our completion of the EMMAUS: A Congregational Discernment Guide will demonstrate that we are a trustworthy and engaged partner. And then the hard work begins.

Thanks be to God.





Bethesda **Briefs**

Book Recommendation by Jan Gray

What characteristics would you find in a group of winners? Ray Cole, a man from tiny Kingsley. Iowa

who became an influential person in ABC, ESPN, and Disney, shares his thoughts on what makes a WINNER in a new book, *Hangin' with WINNERS* by Ray Cole with Rob Gray (son of Jan & Henry Gray).

It includes sections on people in news, sports, general entertainment and Iowans. The sixty people interviewed for this book includes inspirational

comments by and about people like Gary Thompson, Governor Robert Ray, Michael J. Fox, Dr. Mehmet Oz, Peter Jennings, Barbara Walters, Jay Williams, Dick Vitale, George Stephanopoulos, and Diane Sawyer. Each has their own relationship and impressions of Ray Cole and the characteristics that make them winners.

This book is available at Hy-Vee stores and major book outlets. In the spirit of the book, the proceeds from the sale of the books will go to worthy charities such as Character Counts and Blank Children's Hospital. This is an encouraging and inspirational read during troubling times.



Deacon Search Update by Tony Woodcock

The Deacon Call Committee is still at work and interviewing potential candidates. The process has been slow as we search for the right candidate and we wish that we had more to report. We found out that, like many things in today's global supply chain, Deacons are in short supply so we'll just keep following the process and praying for God to guide us as we consider the few candidates that come our way.

Beer & Carols is BACK!



Bring your friends and family to our favorite festive event of the year—Beer & Carols! We'll gather at Torrent Brewing Company (located in downtown Ames at 504 Burnett) for the annual sing-a-long. Torrent serves tasty craft-brewed beer, and there are non-alcoholic beverages aplenty.



Emily Notch joins staff as Volunteer Coordinator

Hi! I am Emily Notch. I am from Des Moines, Iowa. I am currently an Iowa State University Student. I am in my fourth and final year. My major is Event Management, and I have been given the opportunity to organize events for the church as well as the community of Ames. In my free time I like to spend time with my friends. If I am not with my friends, you can usually find me being active outside or reading a book under a shady tree.

After I am done with college I hope to move to Texas and organize events for a sports team. I grew up loving sports and it is one of my passions. After getting more experience I hope to be able to open my own foundation that sends students overseas and work with orphanages in third world countries. I am very excited to be here, and I can't wait to share all my ideas and put together events for everyone.

Bread is Celebrating

~ Glenda Eggerling

The Midwest Regional Fall Meeting of Bread for the World was billed as a celebration for the year 2021, and Bread had much to celebrate! Our good God has given us the love and courage to respond to the prayers of our hungry brothers and sisters around the globe. Of course, there is still much to do to end hunger, but the Bible says to celebrate the smaller things or larger things stand less chance to come about. Thanks to Bread volunteers and others, improvements were made in SNAP and other safety net programs--and hunger decreased. Bread helped secure a 15 percent increase in SNAP benefits through September 2021. The Pandemic-EBT relief program provided meal replacements to 30 million American children, and a recent study found that P-EBT reduced child hunger by 30 percent. Some members of Bethesda were instrumental in causing another one-year expansion of the Child Tax Credit. Thank you so much for your contacts with the lawmakers that helped bring this about. Studies have shown that the CTC will do more than any other single action to reduce child poverty.

Among those and other successes, we can shout a huge hooray for the introduction of the Global Hunger and Malnutrition Resolution in both houses now, HR 4693 and SF 2956. Bread has worked hard to approach this resolution in a bipartisan manner, and, to some degree, this effort has succeeded with 150 Democratic cosponsors in the House, and 12 Republicans. So far in the Senate, the bill has 1 Democrat and 2 Republicans signing on as cosponsors. Asking our Congress people to be a cosponsor is a very important effort because the larger the number of cosponsors a bill has, the more likely it is to pass. Bread volunteers should continue to contact their lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to ask them to cosponsor this bill. In Matthew 14:15 - 21, when the disciples came to Jesus to ask him to let people leave to find something to eat, his response was, "Give them something to eat." Jesus invited his disciples to see the resources that were among them. It is from these resources, five loaves and two fish, that Jesus performed a miracle. This resolution can perform a miracle of nutrition assistance around the globe if it is passed by Congress.

The resolution calls for \$300 million for global nutrition in the government's fiscal year 2022 budget. This would double the current amount of funding for global nutrition. The funding is especially important now because the far-reaching impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are putting recent reductions in global malnutrition in jeopardy. Bread estimates that this increased funding for global nutrition would save the lives of up to 160,000 children and prevent stunting for more than half a million children.



Please contact your lawmakers and urge them to increase global nutrition funding to \$300 million in the fiscal year 2022 appropriations. To learn more, visit bread.org/act and take action today to impact the world by bringing it closer to ending hunger. You can participate with the God who is moving in our time to end hunger. You can join the celebration of gratitude by teaming with God in doing his work. We pray to God for the endurance to match the urgency of this cause. And we give joyful thanks for all of you and the Bread volunteers who respond to the prayers of parents and others who do not know how they will feed the children.

2021 CROP Walk Results

October 10th saw the return of the Ames CROP Walk to an in-person event after Covid-19 forced the walk to be held "virtually" in 2020. Results for this year's event was mixed.

Bethesda friends of CROP contributed \$2,385 to this year's walk, a 1.5% percent increase from 2020.

The total amount raised for the 2021 walk came in at \$20,147.83. This was a 35% decrease from the \$31,435 raised last fall. The number of walkers participating in this year's event was down as well. It's common to have 200-plus walkers at the event and this year roughly half that number participated.

Be sure and mark your calendar for October 9, 2022—the next scheduled CROP Walk in Ames!

the Wellspring

Welcome Home New Members!

Larry & Nancy Beall



Larry grew up in Cedar Rapids and graduated from Cedar Rapids Washington High School. Nancy grew up on a farm near Monticello and graduated from Monticello High School. Larry and Nancy met at Dana College at Blair,

NE. They transferred to UNI in Cedar Falls after they married in 1978. Larry graduated with a PE degree from UNI plus a master's degree from Drake in Science. Nancy graduated from UNI with a Vocational Home Economics degree. She also has a master's degree from Drake in Vocational Rehabilitation plus endorsements for Special Education Strat I & II.

They adopted a family of 3 children (2 were special needs). They have 2 other children. Two live in Johnston; one in Harrisonville, MO; one in Austin, TX, and one in Boston, MA. They have a 10-year-old granddaughter who lives in Austin. They also have 3 dogs and 2 cats.

They lived in Urbandale before moving to an acreage near State Center two years ago. Larry and Nancy taught in Des Moines for several years. They currently teach in Iowa Falls-Larry at the HS teaching science and Nancy at Riverbend MS teaching special education. Their hobbies are fishing in the summer. Nancy also tries to get some scrapbooking done in the summer time.

Dona Harkin



Prior to moving to Ames several years ago, I lived and worked in the Des Moines area. I worked at Blue Cross and Blue Shield for 30 years.

My late husband and I lived on an acreage in Cumming, Iowa, and we enjoyed

spending winters in Arizona, Texas and Florida. We also traveled much of the United States in our motor home. On one of our international trips, we went to Africa on a mission trip where we fitted children for eyeglasses. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I like to decorate, travel, organize, and paint. I have one son and one grandson. My late husband has 7 children, (yes 7) and 3 grandchildren. My extended family has been a blessing to me. Ames is a great place to live!

Russell & Ellen Henry



Russell and Ellen Henry were married sixty years ago at Danfort Chapel the University of Iowa. Their two daughters and their husbands live in Marshalltown and Pine Springs, Minnesota. The three Minnesota grandchildren have enriched their lives. The family enjoys many summer weekends at a Clear Lake cabin.

Russell practiced law in Jewell, Iowa for more than fifty years. After careers as a medical technologist and microbiologist, Ellen enrolled in Drake Law School and after graduation in 1986, she practiced with Russell.

In July of 2019, Russell and Ellen left their home of 50 years to move to 3329 Harrison Rd in Ames. In December of 2020, the Jewell practice was closed and they began a new chapter-Retirement. It was difficult to leave Bethesda Lutheran in Jewell after fifty plus years, but both are looking forward to membership at Bethesda Lutheran in Ames.

Tami Kuhn



Tamara (Tami) Kuhn of Somerset neighborhood in Ames, has re-joined Bethesda after living in the Des Moines area. She originally joined Bethesda in 1963 when her parents moved to Ames. Her father, Roy, worked as an engineer for the IDOT. Her mother, Esther, was a teacher and taught Bethel classes at Bethesda for five years.

Miss Kuhn was confirmed at Bethesda. She is currently retired. Her hobbies include movies and travel.



the Wellspring

David & Chelsey Ray



Hello! My name is Chelsey Ray. I was born and raised in Harlan, Iowa. The goal of completing a Bachelor's Degree in Biochemistry at Iowa State brought me to Ames. After graduation, I moved to the Twin Cities to work in Minneapolis. Two years later I moved back to Ames to work at

Harrisvaccines making veterinary vaccines. This is where I met David Ray. He was born and raised in Minneapolis, MN. After completing a Bachelors in Cell Biology and a Masters in Veterinary Virology at the University of Minnesota, he moved to Ames to work at Harrisvaccines designing RNA particle veterinary vaccines. We were introduced at work, but we became best friends while playing on a coed softball team. David also convinced me to get him a part time job at the Mucky Duck Pub where I was working part time hours on the evening and weekends. He assured me that he had bar experience and was willing to work hard. After getting him a bartending position, I learned that his "experience" was watching every episode of bar rescue... Luckily, he learned quickly and had great customer service skills! In 2019 we started dating. In 2020 we married. In 2021 Shawn Dayton joined the Ray family! We love our little family and spend most of our time playing with Shawn and our rough collies, Lady (3) and Annabelle (1). In our "free time" we enjoy strength training, playing golf, making music and tackling home improvement projects. David is also completing a graduate program in Biomedical Sciences at Iowa State. We both come from Lutheran backgrounds and are excited to call Bethesda our church home!

Ben & Sarah Van Dusen

Hello! My name is Sarah Van Dusen and my family is so excited to join Bethesda. We moved to Ames a year ago from northern California. My husband, Ben, and I both teach at ISU. Alex, 7, and Susie, 5, both attend Fellows Elementary. We love to camp and explore the outdoors with our dog. We look forward to meeting you at church activities!



'Roland Rocket' **Gary Thompson** donates to park project in town that still adores him

Chere is no lack of love and admiration between the community of Roland and its native son Gary Thompson: a sign welcoming motorists into town recounts the achievements of "The Roland Rocket," a giant replica of his signature is emblazoned on the middle school gym floor, a film about him was shown at the community's 150th anniversary celebration in July, and Thompson and his wife Jan were honored as marshals during the sesquicentennial parade.

In the latest instance, the Thompsons were recently invited to cut the ribbon on the renovated basketball and tennis courts in Roland's park, a project that received an \$80,000 donation from them.

To read the rest of this story, visit: <u>https://tinyurl.com/43jkmfxb</u>



Gary Thompson shows his shooting form from the 3-point line of the renovataed basketball court in Roland. *Ronna Faaborg/ Ames Tribune*

Stewardship Follow-up

Thank you to all who have thus far "pledged" to enable Bethesda to carry on the many ministries that it participates in—locally, nationally, and internationally. Carrying out God's work.

As of November 3, the total amount pledged is \$657,665.00 (\$16,051.04 of where we were at this time in 2020). Thank you notes have been sent out to those who have sent in their pledges and reminders have been sent out to members from whom we have not yet received a pledge.

To summarize this year's stewardship campaign, it started early, and came to a pinnacle with the "Stewardship Event" held on Wednesday, September 29.

The early start included monthly "Temple Talks" by members of Bethesda sharing their own personal forms of stewardship, mostly revolving around the use of their time and talents. What a great way this was for us all to learn a bit more about what our members are doing behind the scenes.

The "Event" (committee members couldn't think of a better name!) occurred on a Wednesday evening at the end of September at the Ames Golf and Country Club a pleasant setting. About 100 Bethesda members were in attendance to share a meal, a lot of fellowship, and to hear an inspirational talk by Jeff Johnson, the CEO and President of the ISU Alumni Association. Jeff, a man of faith, shared his personal stewardship insights as taught early in life by his parents and that he and his wife, Peggy, still abide by today. All who attended enjoyed the many aspects of the evening—food, fellowship, and an inspirational talk.

If you have not yet pledged, we encourage you to do

that now!! The annual budget will be based on what is known about resources for the upcoming year; this will determine what ministries Bethesda can support and to what extent. *For those of you that have already pledged*, *Thank You!!*







The Wellspring magazine is published quarterly by Bethesda Lutheran Church, a Congregation of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

1517 Northwestern Avenue | Ames, IA 50010-5299 | 515.232.6256 contact@BethesdaAmes.org | www.BethesdaAmes.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturdays @ 5:30 pm | Sundays @ 9:30 am Wednesdays @ 6pm monthly Livestreamed at <u>www.bethesdaames.org</u> and Facebook <u>BethesdaAmes</u>

Lead Pastor Bryan Simmons bsimmons@BethesdaAmes.org

Associate Pastor Ryan Arnold rarnold@BethesdaAmes.org

Council President Tony Woodcock woodcockar@gmail.com

Council President-elect Larry Otteman larryaotteman@gmail.com

Volunteer Coordinator **Emily Notch**

enotch@BethesdaAmes.org Director of Music and Worship

Mark Kretsinger-Harries mkharries@BethesdaAmes.org

Worship Production Coordinator Julia Lundstrum jlundstrum@BethesdaAmes.org

Lead Organist Mary Nelson mnelson@BethesdaAmes.org



Saturday Night Music Leader Ed Kaizer kaizerjazz@gmail.com

High School Coordinator Lindsay Peters lpeters@BethesdaAmes.org

Communications Manager Lisa Ailshie lailshie@BethesdaAmes.org

Administrative Specialist **Lynn Anderson** ljanderson@BethesdaAmes.org

Accounting Manager Clifford McDonald cmcdonald@BethesdaAmes.org

Database Coordinator Linda Fevold lfevold@BethesdaAmes.org

Bookkeeper Cathy Wright cwright@BethesdaAmes.org

Assistant Custodian Curtis Malone

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.

> For more information on our inclusivity visit: <u>https://www.reconcilingworks.org/RIC/</u>

NOTE: please contact Lisa Ailshie at 232-6256 or contact@BethesdaAmes.org with requests / comments, or to submit an article for the Spring issue (deadline Feb. 10).

All submissions to Bethesda Lutheran Church's *The Wellspring* magazine are subject to editing for clarity, space, and content.

Artwork credit for an element in this month's *Wellspring* cover photo: www.moneymagpie.com/make-money/knitting-earn-from-making-teaching-and-selling

the Wellspring

Vol 16 **Issue** 4



QUILTS & SCHOOL KITS

Once again, Bethesda came together to send quilts and school kits to those in need. Thank you to all who contributed their time, talents, or money to these worthwhile causes. We sent 72 school kits and 12 quilts.

CAFÉ BETHESDA 2.0

Bethesda Women will be hosting Café Bethesda 2.0 on the first Saturday of each month. We are doing a Charcuterie Board style food offering. All food will be finger foods—no silverware required. Free Will Donations will go to Bethesda Women to support our Benevolent Donations.

Meat

Cheese Cubes or Small Slices Crackers Fruit/Veggies Nuts Pickles/Olives Sweets Coffee—regular and decaf/Cream Lemonade Bag of Ice Help Set Up Help Clean Up

Sign-ups to donate food or time will be available online and at Saturday Night Worship.

Bethesda Women will provide the tablecloth, plates, napkins, frilly toothpicks, and cups.

GATHER MAGAZINE

Gather is not only the name of the magazine and our bible study circle, but it can also be a verb, calling us



1st

Saturday

to action. How do Bethesda Women re-group and grow with regard to stages of this pandemic? Bethesda Women is offering to collect subscriptions to *Gather* as a group, so renewing wouldn't be overlooked, and we would have an idea how many subscribers we actually have. Apparently, this was done in the past at Bethesda, and it would be supportive of Women of the ELCA (WELCA) as an organization. If you would like to subscribe or renew *Gather*, please contact Carolyn Ahlstrom.



GATHER PRAYER CIRCLE

As of the writing of this article, we are able to meet at church, masks recommended. We meet to visit and discuss the Bible Study in the *Gather* magazine for the current month.

9:30am Coffee & Snacks 10am-11am Discussion

- November 18
- December—no meeting
- January 27

For those of you for whom Thursday mornings don't work in your schedule—a couple of women are considering another circle at a different time starting in January. Contact Karla if you are interested.

WOMEN'S BOARD

Monthly meetings are the 4th Tuesday of the month. All are welcome to attend or submit input. We still need a Treasurer! If you like crunching numbers, please contact a Board Member for more information.

- President Karla Mortensen
- Vice President Lindsay Peters
- Secretary Gretchen Mosher
- TreasurerOPEN
- Members-at-Large Carolyn Ahlstrom, Jo Hutchins

BEYOND BETHESDA

 Week of September 18, 2023
The 12th Triennial Convention and Gathering Phoenix, Arizona



Bethesda Lutheran Church 1517 Northwestern Avenue Ames, Iowa 50010

www.BethesdaAmes.org

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID AMES, IOWA Permit No. 137

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Friday, December 10 Beer & Carols (Torrent Brewing Co @ 504 Burnett) 6:30 pm	
Sunday, December 12 Beer Carols	
Blue Christmas Worship (healing & comfort) 2:00 pm	advent
Wednesday, December 22 Christmas Caroling @ Care Facilities	worship
Friday, December 24	WEDNESDAY
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	6:30 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	Dec. 8, 15, 22
Saturday, December 25	(Advent 2, 3,4)
Christmas Day Worship	