

# the Wellspring

*Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water*  
John 7:38

Published quarterly  
**Volume 13**  
Issue 4



**WINTER**  
VALLEY  
2018

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

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

1517 Northwestern Avenue | Ames, Iowa 50010-5299 | 515-232-6256 | [www.BethesdaAmes.org](http://www.BethesdaAmes.org)



# Christ Is the Warmth in Our Hearts

~ Pastor Ryan Arnold

*When he was at the table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"*

~ Luke 24:30-32

This past winter, our first in Iowa, a new-to-us family tradition emerged. Each evening, after dinner, our kids would put on their pajamas, brush their teeth, and then head downstairs, with book in hand, for bedtime stories. We'd then gather by the fireplace and crack open the books our children selected.

Hannah, now in third grade, has graduated to chapter books of late (no pictures!) and reads aloud to all of us. Listening as she navigates more syllables, longer words, and bigger chapters, all with increased ease as her reading skills increase, well, this particular poppa couldn't be more proud.

Graham, a year from kindergarten, still likes to hear mom or dad read stories to him. Often he picks out a children's bible and asks us to read a few stories. This too makes poppa proud.

We are together. We are learning. We are warmed by both each other's company. The fireplace we nestle close to only magnifies this warmth.



An old Hasidic tale tells of a disciple who asked his rabbi the meaning of community one evening, when they were all sitting around a fire. The rabbi sat in silence while the fire died down to a pile of glowing coals. Then he got up and took one coal out from the pile and set it apart on the stone hearth. Its fire and warmth soon died out.

We need each other. Our families and our faith community fuel the fires within us, insulating us from the frigid cold of isolation. Our glowing coals, when joined with others, is where we find life. It is where we find vitality.

## Blue Christmas

A WORSHIP SERVICE OF HEALING & COMFORT

Thursday, Dec. 6 ... 6:30 pm

Followed by a brief reception

Bethesda Lutheran Church

GATHER...GROW...GO

1517 Northwestern Ave.  
Ames, Iowa 515-232-6256  
[www.BethesdaAmes.org](http://www.BethesdaAmes.org)

*You are not alone*



# An Advent of Our Own

~ **Laura Miller** Council President

*Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.*

~ Romans 8:25

**W**e are approaching my favorite time in the Lutheran church: Advent. In the midst of a commercialized “winter holiday” season that seems to get longer every year, Advent reminds me to prepare my heart for the real gift of Christmas – Jesus, God’s love made flesh.

Sure, I enjoy many things that surround a traditional American Christmas – gifts, shopping, lights and decorations, gingerbread houses, annual Christmas letters and other fun customs. But sometimes the hurry and scurry become too much, and I really need Advent to slow my pace, set my focus and draw me in.

Advent simply means “coming.” For centuries, Old Testament prophecies foretold the coming of a Messiah who would redeem the world. Advent represents our expectation, anticipation and preparation for this Messiah. It’s a time of patient waiting for a promise to come true.

Our Bethesda family is experiencing an advent of its own.

At Bethesda, we await the coming of much-needed improvements in the sanctuary. Top on the list are new LED light fixtures in the sanctuary, a project that has been talked about for years.

Our beautiful and expansive sanctuary is more than 50 years old. A measurement of the current light in this space showed variations between 1 and 5 foot-candles, depending on where the measurement is taken. That is the level of light generally provided for low-use parking lots. New fixtures will bring the light level to a more acceptable 20 foot-candles. What a change that will be!

Of course, I am not sharing anything new. If you have ever tried to read the bulletin or musical scores in our sanctuary on a rainy Sunday morning you know what I’m talking about. We replaced some of the spotlights at the front of the sanctuary, which only seemed to emphasize the dimness in the rest of the space.

We hope new fixtures will be installed by Christmas (ironically, just in time to turn them off and use candles during the Christmas Eve service). Given the long hours of darkness this time of year, our new light fixtures will be quite welcome!

Waiting is hard, and we don’t always understand God’s timing. The new light fixtures were part of a larger sanctuary plan we envision. As you may recall, in June Council approved a package of lighting, audio-visual and recording projects for the sanctuary. This fall, we had hoped to add the cost of those projects to our current mortgage and use endowment funds to cover the additional loan payments. But once again we are trying to wait patiently and prayerfully. Currently, Council is considering other ways to fund these important improvements, with more news to come in early spring.

While we wait for these enlightening improvements I invite you to look around, at what is already among us, here, in plain sight, for there is much to celebrate. It is easy to see how God is on the move at Bethesda. So many things point to His loving presence – more young people joining confirmation, a tremendous turnout at the Trunk or Treat outreach event, a successful Scandinavian coffee at a new date and time. I’m sure you can come up with other signs of the Holy Spirit among us at Bethesda.

As we enter the Advent season and Bethesda’s own advent, I invite you to prayerfully wait with me and members of the Council. We pray that God will prepare our hearts for the Greatest Gift of All and for more good things to come at Bethesda. Help us continue to “Gather, Grow and Go” in new and exciting ways that bring the Gospel of Christ to people of all ages, in Ames and beyond.

## Giving MORE during Advent

*This year we are “Giving back” each week of Advent! Focus on these four opportunities after worship each week . . .*

**Week 1:** Mitten Tree (Commons), ELCA

**Week 2:** Good Gifts Tree Ornaments  
(Commons)

**Week 3:** Noisy Offering for St. Jude’s  
(SPLASH Faith Formation bring coins)

**Week 4:** Non-perishable item for Food Pantry



## Welcome New Members!

### Sarah Cohen & Richard Schmude

Richard and I have two dogs. We have a small dog named Ginger and adopted her younger brother Harvey (a hurricane Harvey victim) last year. As far as hobbies go, Richard really enjoys watching football. I like spending time trying out new coffee shops. We both like spending time with our family and friends, and of course our dogs. Richard graduated from ISU in 2017 and studied business. He works for Anderson Trucking Services. I got both my bachelors and masters from UNI, finishing in 2017. My bachelors is in family services, and my masters is in leisure, youth, and human services. I now for for YSS running before and after school programs in Story City. We moved to Ames a little over a year ago, and tried out many churches. We had gone to Bethesda a few times and decided to go back. We chose it because it was a church that we both felt challenged by and comfortable attending. Richard is Catholic, so it was important to both of us that we could find a church that we both enjoy and feel comfortable attending.



### Gary Deal

Gary is a familiar face and friend at Bethesda. He served for 32 years on staff as Bethesda's Head Custodian, retiring in 2014. His wife Laura is also recently retired from Mary Greeley Medical Center. Gary's memories and experiences from Bethesda are vast, deep, and often funny—he has a great sense of humor. Though he still works part-time, doing custodial work for St. Andrews in Ames, he is much more available to pursue his passions. Gary owns two motorcycles, and enjoys every warm day on the road. He and Laura also enjoy traveling and kayaking. They recently attended one son's wedding in Florida, and have other children, grands, and great-grandchildren in the central Iowa area.



### Sarah Kallie

I came to America in 2004, with my aunt, Annie Karr, and our friend, Seydouba, had come a year earlier. When we came to Ames we wanted to belong to a big Lutheran Church like in Florida and Denver where we lived previously. My aunt Annie had taken me to the church in Florida and had me baptized there. I am still learning English, it is hard. Seydouba helps me. I go to Des Moines after church a lot to be with and help relatives there. Maybe I can become a greeter here like Annie.



### Annie Karr

I came to America in April 2004 with my niece, Sarah Kallie, and lived nine years in Tampa, Florida. We worshipped in a big Lutheran Church and they helped us a lot. In Africa I sang in the church choir with a music box and I helped people and welcomed them to church. I was president of the women. I think I would like to be a greeter here at Bethesda someday but right now I am still learning English and caring for family members. We lived in Denver from 2013 to 2018. I have five grown children and came here from Denver to be closer to Des Moines where I have many family members, including my aging mother as the family wanted us to come nearer to help with her care, etc. so every Sunday we come here to Bethesda and then go to Des Moines to be with family. Due to poor health, my husband, Harrison Karr, stayed in Africa with relatives and friends and he died a few weeks ago. I have family in South Dakota and in Wyoming, too.



### I am Seydouba Sylla

(Say-doo-ba See lah) from Tanzania. The Holy Spirit led me to come to Bethesda because everywhere we go, we look only for Lutheran Church. I was a Muslim in Africa but Annie Karr showed me the church and I became a Christian in the Lutheran faith way back in Africa. We visited St. Andrews and asked if there were other Lutheran Churches and they told us about one in north Ames, but on the way we drove by this big church with the cross and it said Bethesda Lutheran so we stopped here and after visiting others, we felt led to come to Bethesda. We were in a big Lutheran





church in Florida and in Denver. I came to America in 2003 and lived in Tampa, Florida for 10 years. In 2004 I helped Annie and her niece, Sarah Kallie, come to America. In Africa, I was a French teacher of all the dialects and I know written and spoken English so I help Annie and her family learn English. In 2013 we moved to Denver to live near one of Annie's adult sons. In 2018, we moved to Ames to be closer to her many family members in Des Moines. We share the expenses of rent, water, and heat in an apartment on Tripp St. I became a naturalized citizen in 2012 in Florida. I am just learning about activities and ministry here but am busy teaching the English language and learning how to live here in Ames.

We are **Don and Diane Pierce**. We moved to Ames (the Squaw Creek area) in 1997 to raise our two sons. Ash currently lives in Iowa City and Josh lives with us and is going to Iowa State. We enjoy fellowship and living in God's grace.



**Rich and Barb Roepke** moved to Ames in August 2018, joining three of their four children, including Gretchen (Mike) Mosher, Dave (Heidi) Roepke, and Steph (Eric) Schares in Ames. They also have Joanne (Beany) Bode in Algona, Iowa. They also have 8 grandchildren. Rich is a graduate of Iowa State University and owned and operated an insurance agency in Aurora, Iowa 1975 until his retirement in 2010. He served as a leader in many community and church organizations in Aurora and the surrounding area. He is a Cyclone fan and is a season-ticket holder for the ISU football team. Barb earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Northern Iowa and retired in 2010 after more than 25 years teaching elementary and PK students at East Buchanan Schools in Winthrop, Iowa. She enjoys antiques, giving hat programs, and various home improvement projects. Both Rich and Barb enjoy spending time with their family, including kids, grandkids, and other extended family members and friends. They also enjoy traveling and wintering in the panhandle of Florida. The Roepkes have been attending Bethesda this summer and look forward to participating in many of the activities offered by Bethesda Lutheran Church.

*(Editor note: photo not available at printing—please look for it soon on the New Member bulletin board.)*

**Daryle & Joyce Vegge** moved to Ames from Sioux City 42 years ago. They have two grown sons. Zach and his wife Kathy and two children reside in Orem, Utah, Noah, his wife Monica and two daughters live in Lenexa, Kansas. Joyce was an administrative assistant at Iowa State and retired in 2006 after 24 years of service. She keeps busy part-time at Tres Teal in downtown Ames and enjoys reading, playing bridge, 500, traveling, and watching their grandchildren in their activities. Daryle retired two years ago from Danfoss after 38 years of service. He is currently the board chair of the Story County Community Foundation, serves as an Ames Chamber Ambassador and is an active member of TGIF Toastmasters. Hobbies and interests include reading, travel, golf, biking, billiards and volunteerism. They will celebrate their 50th year anniversary in January while in Arizona and are both looking forward to becoming active members of Bethesda.



### Join the New Member Team . . .

This Team is happily quite busy, welcoming many new members to Bethesda, making them feel welcome, partnering them with mentors, and plugging them into the opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service! Please prayerfully consider joining the New Member Ministry Team! Contact Joyce O'Donnell at [joyceodonnell01@gmail.com](mailto:joyceodonnell01@gmail.com).



*(Editor note: we also welcome the Ramford family as new members! We hope to feature their photo and story in the next issue of the Wellspring.)*



## YOUTH AND FAMILY

### 8th-Gr. Confirmation Mentorship

Thank you to all that have volunteered to mentor an 8th grade confirmation student this year! Training is complete and our 8th graders have been matched up with mentors. It is a good feeling to know that there are people in our congregation, and in our families, that are praying for us and that want to help us in our faith journey. It's a wonderful way for us to reach across the generations and find commonality in who we are and what we are about as Christians. I can't think of better people to walk alongside of our young people than someone they have personally chosen as their mentor.

#### What are Confirmation Mentors?

Confirmation Mentorship is a Bethesda program designed to match each 8th-grade confirmation student with a confirmed member of our church over the age of 18, who is not related to the student. The goal is to foster a spiritual friendship between youth and adults in our church family.

#### When will the mentors and mentees meet?

The pair will meet with each other to participate in a guided discussion using the *Confirmation Journey for Mentors & Youth* workbook. These pairs will meet monthly on the second Wednesday from 5:45-6:30 pm

*God bless our mentors and mentees as they travel along this journey together!*

### LWW Special Scheduling . . .

Nov. 21 . . . **Thanksgiving Eve Worship** . . . . . 6:30 pm  
immediately followed by annual **Pie Social**  
No Living Water Wednesday programming

Dec. 5 . . . **OASIS** . . . . . 7-9:00 pm  
(Middle School Confirmation) Bowling & Laser Tag  
Party at **Perfect**

**Games—bring a friend!** \$5/person . . .  
carpool from Bethesda  
@ 7:00 pm



Dec. 19 . . . **LWW Christmas Party** . . . . . 5:30-8:30 pm  
No Living Water Wednesday programming

### SPLASH Faith Formation

Sunday SPLASH kids are having a great time this year! K- 5th graders started the year learning about Nehemiah and the concept of initiative; seeing things that need to be done and doing it! Then they moved onto the concept of contentment; deciding to be ok with what you have. In November the theme is cooperation: working together to do more than you can do alone. December's theme is Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's need. And January's theme is Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to.

Preschoolers started off the year learning about how God is a God who keeps his promises and that God is big enough to handle anything! In November their theme is being thankful for people who help. December's they learn about Jesus as God's son. January's theme is about how we need Jesus.

Each week there is time for an offering and the kids are very excited to offer their dollars and coins. This year's offering will go to St. Jude's Hospital. The SPLASH kids feel good about helping other kids who are sick pay for their medical bills. So far we have collected \$454!



## FIND YOUR FIRE

### Moms-of-Preschoolers (MOPS)

Mothers are uniting in Ames! Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) meets at 6:30 pm every first and third Mondays of the month.

We had six Moms come to the first meeting and we are growing! Many of the moms in the group do not attend Bethesda, but heard we were meeting and sought us out. We are excited to offer this group for the entire Ames community and supporting mothers in this unique season of life. If you are a mother of a preschooler you are most warmly and lovingly invited to join. If you know a mother of a preschooler please help us extend the invitation.



## YOUTH IN ACTION

### FLOOD High School Program

Our focus themes for the rest of the year at a glance:

November . . . . . Never Alone  
 December . . . . . Names of Jesus  
 January . . . . . New Life  
 February . . . . . Season of Prayer  
 March . . . . . Amazing Grace  
 April . . . . . Passion/Purpose  
 May . . . . . Peace

**8th Grade Retreat:** We enjoyed spending time growing together in faith and community during the 8th Grade Confirmation retreat back in September! Seeing each youth's personality unfold and flourish throughout the bible study, challenge course, and game time is just one of the highlights from this time spent together. Bethesda has such a special group of caring, thoughtful, and driven individuals!



**High School Retreat:** We are looking forward to continue strengthen the faith community that FLOOD is during our retreat at Riverside. The high schoolers will engage in a bible study, challenge course, and spend time growing together through games, a bon fire, and laughter. I am so grateful to be a part of this group's faith journey!

## Living Water Wednesday CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Get in the Spirit!**

**Wednesday, December 19, beginning at 5:30 pm in the Commons,** we will celebrate with a Christmas Party, foregoing any regular programming. This is always a blast, and you won't want to miss it!

### TIDES & TOTS Staffed Nursery

*We nurture children's  
 spiritual, physical, and  
 cognitive development during  
 church services and activities.*



The volunteers and I have taken great joy in the learning process of developing the staffed Nursery at Bethesda.

MOPS Monday . . . . . 6:30-8 pm  
 Living Water Wednesday . . . 5-7 pm and 7-8 pm  
 Saturday Service. . . . . 5:15-6:45 pm  
 Sunday Service & SPLASH . . . . 9:15-11:30 am

While children are in our care, we engage in interactive play, engage in youth development activities, and aid in spiritual guidance through age-appropriate conversation.

We want to help develop skills necessary to prepare the congregations' youth, aged 0-6, to participate in worship and prepare for school. If children are prepared, but parents simply need a little break, we also welcome your children with open arms. Whether you are a parent who needs a place to change their baby, a Mother looking for a place to nurse, or you are a parent who would appreciate some assistance with childcare during services, please utilize our staffed Nursery! We would love to see new faces and want all families to feel welcome in our program and our church.

#### Volunteering

The current weekly volunteers involved besides myself (Melanie Trepa, coordinator) include Gage Kelly, Janet Mickelson, Helen Olson, Shelly Pearson, Carla Peters, and Abby Robinder. We continually seeking assistance for times when the volunteers or I are unavailable to supervise the Nursery. Contact me at [mtrepa@bethesdaames.org](mailto:mtrepa@bethesdaames.org).

#### Registration & Check-In / Pick-Up Procedure Changes

Please note that we are tightening these processes for the safety of your children. We will be glad to walk you through the details upon your visit.

#### The Future of TIDES & TOTS

For the month of November and beyond, I hope to make more young families aware of the opportunities they have with our staffed nursery, while remaining clear that we still highly welcome child participation in worship.

# Bethesda WOMEN

**B**oxes containing 37 Quilts and 100 school Kits were packed at Bethesda into Dave and Dorothy Hansen's truck and delivered to Resurrection Church in Ankeny. Again, thanks for helping! Bar codes on these boxes can track where in the world they are sent by Lutheran World Relief.

Thanksgiving is a reminder of many hearts, hands, and voices that have made our 64th annual Scandinavian Coffee a continuing tradition. Thanks to ALL who participated in any way. Prayers will accompany donations that will soon be distributed. Wee the Women's Bulletin Board for a report.

Participation of women in the church is always changing. At Bethesda these days, we have an inspiring and challenging Bible Study in our monthly *Gather* magazine. Published by Women of the ELCA, contributors are women (and men) from theology, homemaking, teaching, parenting, art, music—in essence, *Gather* is inspiring! Please note the new opportunities for *Gather*, invite participation, and subscribe or share copies. Our bulletin board announces, "Bethesda Women Gather." Let's do it!

3rd Tuesday	9:30 am . . . . . Northridge Village 3300 GW Carver, 1st floor Coffee Room
4th Wednesday	7:15 pm . . . . . "Gather by the River" Bethesda Library
4th Thursday	9:30 am . . . . . Naomi & Ruth Circles evening. . . . . Mary Circle

## Women's Christmas Gathering



Saturday, Dec. 8 9 am–Noon  
Coffee & Registration 9:00 am  
*Gather* Bible Study  
9:30 am Business Meeting / Elections  
10:30 Program (our own Mary  
Nelson—new staff member, and new

mother!) A light lunch follows

**RSVP** at the Welcome Center, or [www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48adac2ca4fd0-womens](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48adac2ca4fd0-womens)

**Give the gift of an invitation!**

## Scandinavian Coffee 2018!



First of all, a huge "Thank You" to everyone who helped in any way! Your time, talent, and contributions were needed to make this event a success! We are pleased to report that our monetary income was up over last year, which reinforces that the move to Saturday was a good one. Our income this year was \$9,290, which was \$705 over last year!

We added some new things this year, including: Photo Booth in the Narthex, Power Point Presentation on the screens in the Commons, live Fiddle Music, Face Painting by our youth, and set-up for the Tea Table and seating in the Commons. These all seem to be well received by those attending.

The proceeds from the Scandinavian Coffee help us fund our Benevolent Requests. The official deadline was November 2, and we'll be reviewing those requests and making decisions on November 13.





# Louis & Pat Banitt Philanthropy Award

**OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPISTS OF STORY COUNTY 2018**  
(Nominated by Mary Greeley Foundation)

**Pat and Dr. Louis Banitt** are committed to giving back to the community that has given them so much. They support healthcare, education, innovation, and the arts. They give generously of their time and financial resources to Mary Greeley Medical Center, Story County Community Foundation, Ames Education Foundation, Ames Community Arts Council, Iowa State University Museums, United Way of Story County, Primary Health Care, Ames Public Library and many other nonprofit organizations in our community. Their volunteer leadership roles have resulted in substantial financial support throughout Story County and serve as an excellent example for others to follow.

The Banitts believe in leaving a legacy and have established several endowment funds throughout the community. They have served as founding donors to the United Way of Story County endowment fund and the Ames Education Foundation Band Endowment. As members of the Mary Greeley Foundation's Greeley Society, Louis and Pat will establish a significant endowment through their estate plan to fund Innovation. These gifts represent the deepest of commitments and will have a lasting impact on the whole community.



Pat and Louis Banitt lead by example, demonstrating their own values and inspiring others to join them. They are a true picture of quality leadership and philanthropy, and they have had an immeasurable impact on the community around them.

EDITOR'S NOTE: 10 Bethesda representatives were present at the November 15 luncheon honoring the Banitts and others.



## Patio Project Update

Five of the seven phases of the Patio Project are complete! The project was made possible from memorial funds and monetary donations. The next phase for project completion is patio accent lighting and two benches. Contact Kathy Harris (kmh1951@msn.com) for more information on how your gift can help fund these items.

## Bethesda Choir & Choristers

The vocal choirs of Bethesda have been hard at work this fall, learning and preparing music to beautify our Sunday morning worship. The adult Bethesda Choir is really expanding their musical horizons, while the Choristers children's choir is off to a great start in their first season! Both will contribute to the Bethesda Christmas Festival on Dec. 16th at 2:00 PM, and the adults have some very special music picked out for Advent and Christmas Eve services...and they are already looking ahead to Epiphany, too! If you are interested in joining either group, just speak to Mark Kretsinger-Harries or email him: [mkharrises@bethesdaames.org](mailto:mkharrises@bethesdaames.org)





Danke dir!

# Oktoberfest

The Bethesda Oktoberfest Team would like to thank all of you who came and helped, and all of you who came and enjoyed the food, fun and fellowship of our First Annual Oktoberfest! We learned a lot while planning our first Oktoberfest that will make the future Oktoberfest celebrations very enjoyable. If you have any suggestions/additions/questions, please share your thoughts with Jeanne Stewart at [jwstewart1@gmail.com](mailto:jwstewart1@gmail.com).

**The tentative date for 2019 Oktoberfest is September 7, from Noon-4 pm!** That is a “bye” week for the Cyclones so we shouldn’t have to worry about a game being held at the same time. Please mark your calendars for this fun event. We look forward to you being there to enjoy the fun, food and fellowship.



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

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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturdays (Modern) @ 5:30 pm

Sundays (Traditional) @ 9:30 am

Wednesdays (Midweek Renewal) @ 6:30 pm

SPLASH Faith Formation • VOYAGER Adult Faith Formation  
 Coffee Fellowship . . . Sunday after service @ 10:40 a.m.

## Church Office Hours

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m.-Noon Friday

**Lead Pastor Bryan Simmons**  
[bsimmons@BethesdaAmes.org](mailto:bsimmons@BethesdaAmes.org)

**Associate Pastor Ryan Arnold**  
[rarnold@BethesdaAmes.org](mailto:rarnold@BethesdaAmes.org)

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 Director  
**Dan Hinderaker**  
[dhinderaker@BethesdaAmes.org](mailto:dhinderaker@BethesdaAmes.org)

Youth Ministries Specialist  
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Youth Education Specialist  
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Lead Organist  
**Mary Nelson**  
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Choir Director/Associate Organist  
**Mark Harries-Kretsinger**  
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Carillon Choir Director  
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Assistant Custodian  
**Curtis Malone**

NOTE: please contact Lisa Ailshie at 232-6256 or [contact@BethesdaAmes.org](mailto:contact@BethesdaAmes.org) with requests/comments regarding this newsletter, or to submit an article for the Spring issue (deadline February 1, 2019)

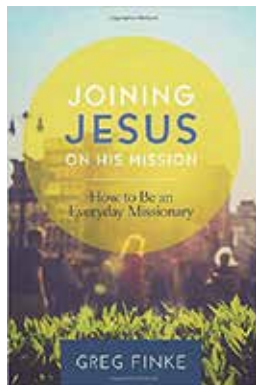
All submissions to Bethesda Lutheran Church's *The Wellspring* newsletter are subject to editing for clarity, space, and content.

Artwork credit for this month's *Wellspring* cover photo:  
 David Myers "Skunk River in Carr Woods"



## Bethesda Happenings

### New Reads in the Church Library



*Joining Jesus on His Mission*, by Greg Finke, is a new book in our church library that was recommended by Helene Adams. She learned about it at St. Paul's where the whole congregation read and studied it like we did for *People of Purpose* a few years back. I like this one so much that I also purchased Finke's, *Joining Jesus: Show Me How*, for Small Group studies.



### CROP Walk 2018

With the temperature hovering around 35° nearly 125 intrepid souls braved the rain, wind and snow showers to participate in the annual Ames CROP Walk held on Sunday, October 14. That total was about half the number of walkers who participated in 2017. As of this writing, \$30,906 has been raised with a few donation packets still outstanding. This current total is 16% less than the amount raised in 2017 Ames walk. Bethesda's 2018 CROP total was \$2345, nearly a 10% decrease from last year. The 2019 Ames CROP Walk will be held Sunday, October 13 at Brookside Park—whether it's sunny, raining or snowing! See you there!



Don't Miss It!

Upstairs  
off of  
Main  
Street

- or -

Go  
through  
the  
Corner  
Pocket  
(their  
steps are  
wider  
and not  
as steep!)



Friday, Dec. 14

6:30-8:00 pm

DG's Taphouse . . . 127 Main St.

Sing  
along  
to the  
sounds of  
Pr. Ryan,  
Mark  
Kretisnger  
-Harries &  
Co.

--  
All your  
favorite  
Christmas  
Carols!

### Stewardship Update

We'd like to remind you that Bethesda's Stewardship campaign celebrated Commitment weekend October 27/28. Our records show we have

not yet received a pledge from some of you.

As active members of Bethesda your support, through sharing of your time, talents and treasures is crucial, and helps us to Gather, Grow, and Go into the world, making a difference through our many ministries.



Your commitment is deeply appreciated. If not, we invite you to register to give online – [www.bethesdaames.org](http://www.bethesdaames.org), click on *Ministries* tab at top of page and select *Giving*. Or fill out a pledge card from the Welcome Center. Thank you for your previous support, and future consideration as we look to begin 2019 by sharing the love of Christ with all.

**Bethesda Lutheran Church**  
1517 Northwestern Avenue  
Ames, Iowa 50010

[www.BethesdaAmes.org](http://www.BethesdaAmes.org)

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Permit No. 137

2018  
**BETHESDA**  
**Christmas Festival**

Bethesda Choir  
Carillon Choir  
Choristers  
Liturgical Dancers  
Saturday Praise Band  
Sunday Splash Singers

Coffee  
Cookies  
Desserts  
Drinks  
Fellowship

**ALL CHURCH PROGRAM**

**RECEPTION in the Commons**

**Advent Workshops**

**Movie & Storytime**

Adult Crafts  
Childrens' Crafts  
Cake Walk  
Candle Decorating  
Card Crafting  
Ornament Making

**Dec. 16 2-4:30 pm**  
[www.BethesdaAmes.org](http://www.BethesdaAmes.org)



**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6**

**Blue Christmas Worship** (healing & comfort) . . . . . 6:30 pm

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14**

**Beer & Carols** (DG's Taphouse, 127 Main St.) . . . . 6:30-8 pm

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16**

**Christmas Festival** (program, reception, workshops) . . . . 2-4:30 pm

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship** . . . . . 1:00 pm

Pre-service Christmas Concert . . . . . 3:30 pm

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship** . . . . . 4:00 pm

Pre-service Christmas Concert . . . . . 8:30 pm

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship** . . . . . 9:00 pm

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25**

**Christmas Day Worship** . . . . . 10:00 am