



A Christ-centered family who serves by sharing God's love and hope with all.  
15 West 14th Street, Spencer, IA 51301 [www.bethluthspencer.com](http://www.bethluthspencer.com)  
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025 – 9:00 A.M.

PRELUDE: *"In the Garden" & "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"* arrangement by Brandt Adams  
Elina Leander Ozolins - piano, Mary Hugen - Flute

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

KARIBU! MUNGU NI MWEMA! MUNGU NI PENDO!  
NI VYEMA KUWA PAMOJA HAPA

GATHERING SONG: *"To Be Your Presence"*

ELW #546

- 1 To be your presence is our mission here,  
to show compassion's face and list'ning ear,  
to be your heart of mercy ever near,  
alleluia!
- 2 To be your presence is our mission bold,  
to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold,  
to be your hands of justice, right uphold,  
alleluia!
- 3 To be your presence is our mission blest,  
to speak for all the broken and oppressed,  
to be your voice of hope, your love expressed,  
alleluia!
- 4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice,  
to serve your people is our call and choice,  
and in this mission we, the church, rejoice,  
alleluia!

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HOLY BAPTISM – of Walker Steven Rusk  
Parents – Rylee and Brady Rusk  
Sponsors – Hallie Rusk, Erika and Levi Meier  
Officiating – Rev Jennifer Henry and Deacon Lynn Egesdal

## PRESENTATION

*Deacon:* God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of holy baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us up to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

*Sponsors:* **We present Walker Steven for baptism.**

*Deacon:* Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Walker baptized into Christ?

*Parents:* **We do.**

*Deacon:* As you bring Walker to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

To live with him among God's faithful people,  
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments,  
place in his hands the Holy Scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer,  
so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Walker grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents:* **We do.**

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Walker in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Sponsors:* **We do.**

People of God, do you promise to support Walker and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

*All:* **We do.**

#### PROFESSION OF FAITH

*Pastor:* I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*All:* **We renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*All:* **We renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*All:* **We renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

*All:* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*All:* **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*All:* **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

#### THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

*Pastor:* The Lord be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Pastor:* Let us give thanks to the Lord.

*All:* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Pastor:* We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah & his family and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

*All:* **Amen.**

#### BAPTISM

*Pastor:* Walker Steven, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*All:* **Amen. Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.**

*Pastor:* Let us pray...

We give you thanks, O God, that through the water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Walker with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

*All:* **Amen.**

Walker Steven, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.  
*All: Amen.*

WELCOME

*Deacon:* Jesus said, I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized:  
*All: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God’s creative and re-deeming word to all the world.*

MILESTONE MINISTRIES PRESENTATION OF FAITH CHEST

*Sue B:* This Faith Chest is a symbol of the presence of God in this place much like the Ark of the Covenant was to the children of Israel on their faith journeys. God has called every Christian to pass on faith from milestone to milestone and generation to generation. Fill this Faith Chest with symbols, memorabilia, and rich stories of God’s faithfulness in the life of this child and your family.  
*Parents and Sponsors: We receive this Faith Chest with grace and gratitude.*

May God continue to bless and keep you as you pass on faith in Jesus Christ from generation to generation.  
*All: Amen.*

HYMN: “Jesus Loves Me” ELW #595

<b>Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so; little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.</b>	<b>Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.</b>
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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

**Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

PSALM 138 from THE MESSAGE® - *read responsively*

<sup>1-3</sup> Thank you! Everything in me says “Thank you!”  
Angels listen as I sing my thanks.  
**I kneel in worship facing your holy temple  
and say it again: “Thank you!”**

Thank you for your love,  
thank you for your faithfulness;  
**Most holy is your name,  
most holy is your Word.**

The moment I called out, you stepped in;  
you made my life large with strength.

<sup>4-6</sup> **When they hear what you have to say, GOD,  
all earth’s kings will say “Thank you.”**

They’ll sing of what you’ve done:  
“How great the glory of GOD!”  
**And here’s why: GOD, high above, sees far below;  
no matter the distance, he knows everything about us.**

<sup>7-8</sup> When I walk into the thick of trouble,  
keep me alive in the angry turmoil.  
With one hand strike my foes,  
With your other hand save me.

**Finish what you started in me, God.**  
**Your love is eternal—don't quit on me now. MSG®**

READING Colossians 2:6-15 from 'The Message'®

*The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.*

<sup>6-7</sup> My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now *live* him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start *living* it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving.

<sup>8-10</sup> Watch out for people who try to dazzle you with big words and intellectual double-talk. They want to drag you off into endless arguments that never amount to anything. They spread their ideas through the empty traditions of human beings and the empty superstitions of spirit beings. But that's not the way of Christ. Everything of God gets expressed in him, so you can see and hear him clearly. You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of Christ, and the emptiness of the universe without him. When you come to him, that fullness comes together for you, too. His power extends over everything.

<sup>11-15</sup> Entering into this fullness is not something you figure out or achieve. It's not a matter of being circumcised or keeping a long list of laws. No, you're already *in*—insiders—not through some secretive initiation rite but rather through what Christ has already gone through for you, destroying the power of sin. If it's an initiation ritual you're after, you've already been through it by submitting to baptism. Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as he did Christ.

When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross. He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets. **MSG®**

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Listen, God is Calling” ELW #513

**(Listen,)**  
**listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,**  
**offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**  
**(Listen,)**  
**listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,**  
**offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

- 1 (Jesus gave his mandate:)**  
**share the good news**  
**(that he came to save us)**  
**and set us free. Refrain**
- 2 (Let none be forgotten)**  
**throughout the world.**  
**(In the triune name of God)**  
**go and baptize. Refrain**
- 3 (Help us to be faithful,)**  
**standing steadfast,**  
**(walking in your precepts,)**  
**led by your Word. Refrain**

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GOSPEL

Luke 11:1-13 from 'The Message'®

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.      C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

One day he was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said, “Master, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.”

Father,  
Reveal who you are.  
Set the world right.  
Keep us alive with three square meals.  
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.  
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.”

<sup>5-6</sup> Then he said, “Imagine what would happen if you went to a friend in the middle of the night and said, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread. An old friend traveling through just showed up, and I don’t have a thing on hand.’

<sup>7</sup> “The friend answers from his bed, ‘Don’t bother me. The door’s locked; my children are all down for the night; I can’t get up to give you anything.’

<sup>8</sup> “But let me tell you, even if he won’t get up because he’s a friend, if you stand your ground, knocking and waking all the neighbors, he’ll finally get up and get you whatever you need.

<sup>9</sup> “Here’s what I’m saying:

Ask and you’ll get;  
Seek and you’ll find;  
Knock and the door will open.

<sup>10-13</sup> “Don’t bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This is not a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we’re in. If your little boy asks for a serving of fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? If your little girl asks for an egg, do you trick her with a spider? As bad as you are, you wouldn’t think of such a thing—you’re at least decent to your own children. And don’t you think the Father who conceived you in love will give the Holy Spirit when you ask him?”

MSG®

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.      C: **Praise to you, O Christ!!**

SERMON PASTOR JENNIFER HENRY

HYMN OF THE DAY: “*Shine, Jesus, Shine*”

ELW #671

*Refrain:* **Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land  
With the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations  
With grace and mercy;  
Send forth Your word, Lord,  
And let there be light.**

**Lord, the light of Your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me.    *Refrain***

**Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into Your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me.    *Refrain***

**As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,  
So our faces display Your likeness;  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me.    *Refrain***

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THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Spoken Response:* L: God of grace, C: **hear our prayers.**

BLESSING & SENDING FOR MISSION

OFFERINGS 'TANZANIA STYLE'

HOLY COMMUNION

Great Thanksgiving ELW pg. 206, "It is indeed right...", "Holy, Holy, Holy" ELW pg. 207,  
Words of Institution, Lord's Prayer ELW pg. 208, Communion Song -  
"Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world" ELW pg. 208, Distribution

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"*

ELW pg. 207

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**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.**

*"O Lamb of God"*

ELW pg. 208

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin  
of the world away;  
You suffered death our lives to save:  
have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin  
of the all the world away;  
you set us free from guilt and grave:  
have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin  
of all the world away;  
eternal peace with God you made:  
Give us your peace, we pray.**

COMMUNION MUSIC: “We Are Marching in the Light” ELW #866

**We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)  
we are marching in the light of God.**

Additional stanzas ad lib:

**We are dancing . . .  
We are praying . . .  
We are singing . . .**

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POST COMMUNION PRAYER & BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: “Send Me Jesus” ELW #809

- 1 (Send me, Lord.)  
Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus,  
send me, Jesus, send me, Lord.
- 2 (Lead me, Lord.)  
Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus,  
lead me, Jesus, lead me, Lord

3 (Fill me, Lord.)  
Fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus,  
fill me, Jesus, fill me, Lord.

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DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE: “Sweet By and By” Arrangement by Lloyd Larson

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Welcome to worship! Thank you for coming to our worship service today! It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ this morning and His presence during our worship service! A special welcome to our visitors and families. Thank you for coming this morning!

*Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God’s own. “When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.” (Sundays and Seasons v.20240130.1140 Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.)*

Our service today includes Holy Communion. All who seek Christ’s true presence promised to us through the bread and wine, body and blood, are welcome and invited to commune. Wine or grape juice is available and regular or gluten-free wafers. Children are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. Come to the banquet, all is now ready.

**Worship leaders today are:**  
Pastor Jennifer Henry, Deacon Lynn Egesdal, and Elina Leander Ozolins  
**Many thanks to our worship volunteers:**  
Greeters: Sue Boblit & Bethany’s Planning Council; Reader: Mary Hugen  
Ushers: Kent Baker & Francis Hiemstra; Fellowship Hosts: Judy & Francis Hiemstra  
Communion servers: Pastor Jennifer Henry, Deacon Lynn Egesdal, Onalee Wright and Denise Kramer Tolzmann;  
Count: Francis Hiemstra; Everyone in the Audio/Visual Booth  
Everyone who helped with the delicious meal that follows worship today!

***Worship is rebroadcast on SMU CH #2:***

*Tuesday-5pm, Wednesday-10am*

*or can be found on YouTube® (Search Bethany Lutheran Church, Spencer IA)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by Twila Henning in remembrance of her husband Mel Henning whose birthday is July 30.

**'CHRISTMAS IN JULY'** – Thanks to everyone who helped with VBS this year! There were many great helpers of a variety of ages to assist the children in meaningful experiences. Special thanks to Sue Boblit for coordinating with First Congregational Church.

**CALLING ALL MUSICIANS** - If you are interested in sharing a special piece of music over the final summer months please contact Elina Leander Ozolins.

**"CHRISTIAN WOMEN SPEAK"** is a radio program that airs on KICD-AM 1240 at 7:50 am each Sunday morning. Last year "Christian Women Speak" celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary since its first broadcast was in October of 1949!! Speakers from *many* area churches take to the air waves sharing the "Good News" through this program. Might you be interested in helping with these efforts? If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please call the church office or speak with Denise. Thank you! Tune in on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, September 21<sup>st</sup>, as well as November 2<sup>nd</sup> to listen to women from your Bethany family. Thanks to Rev. Deb Mechler, who records a program tomorrow that will be broadcast the following Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** for the upcoming months of August and September. Sign-up at the Welcome Center!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RUSK & SALTS FAMILIES** on this blessed day! Walker becomes a fourth generation Bethany Child of God!

## PRAYER CONCERNS & REQUESTS

### Health Concerns

Kirk Andersen, Cindy Heiter, Liz Vulk, Sylvia Moore, Don Moore, Corrine Dahl, Steve McAllister, Jill Meyer, Donna Jones, Lee Youde

Kevin Vaudt (Steve & Rhonda Salts son-in-law)

Deb Albert (Cheri Klemme's sister), DeAnna Bensen (Bill Bensen's mother)

LuAnn Becker (Bob Becker's sister), Nora Zehrug (Jaci Schrier's cousin),

Kiki Marske (Doug and Mary Marske's sister-in-law),

Sue Burg (Liz Essick's cousin), Bibi Sangho (Deb Mechler's friend),

Shannon VanDaalen (Lois Becker's sister-in-law),

### Prayers of Thanksgiving

Baptism of Walker Steven Rusk

### Those Who Mourn

The family of Bill Burgeson (brother-in-law of Jill Meyer; daughters Michelle and Natalie)

The family of Jed Cameron (son of Sharon and Mark Cameron)

### Other Prayer Requests

Bethany Lutheran's Call Process

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 7- Summer Worship led by Pastor Jen Henry

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion, Baptism, and "Sending" Prayers

10:45 am Maidrites for Brunch/Lunch – Dining Hall Downstairs

### Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>

9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group

### Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>

7:30 am Men of Bethany Bible Study

### Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>

7:50 am KICD "Christian Women Speaks" Broadcast featuring Rev. Deb Mechler

9:00 am Worship followed by Fellowship



## ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE

If you would like to give online to support the ministries of Bethany Lutheran Church, scan this code for giving page on our website.