



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

The Bethany Herald

September 2025

Volume 9-25

"A Christ-Centered Family who Serves by Sharing God's Love & Hope With All"

*Handy 'clip & save' box with contact
data and other useful information*



Bethany Lutheran Church - ELCA
15 W. 14th St. Spencer, IA 51301
Phone: (712) 262-2327

www.bethluthspencer.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

Bethany Lutheran Church,
Spencer IA-ELCA

YOU TUBE:

Bethany Lutheran Church
Spencer, IA

CHURCH COUNCIL:

Russ Wright, President
Paul Wick, Vice-President
Sue Boblit, Secretary
Sandi Schmidt, Treasurer
Council members-at-large:
Candy Huber
Shannon McAllister
Sue Metcalf
Randy Phillips
Denise Kramer Tolzmann

Visitation Ministry:

Onalee Wright
onalee53@gmail.com

STAFF:

Director of Music:

Elina Leander Ozolins
sveiks@mediacombb.net

Secretary:

Elizabeth Essick
bethany@bethluthspencer.com

Custodian:

Erick Phillips

Bishop-elect Scott Dalen will be installed as bishop of the Western Iowa Synod on Saturday, September 27th at 2:00 p.m. at Saint John Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs.

All are welcome to attend and invited to wear red.

Please use the QR code below or go to the Western Iowa Synod website to register if you would like to attend. Please register by September 10th.

Service of Holy Communion
with
Rite of Installation
for
The Rev. Scott Dalen
as Bishop of the
Western Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH
AT 2:00PM

SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
633 WILLOW AVENUE
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
CLERGY OF ALL TRADITIONS ARE INVITED TO VEST & PROCESS
THE COLOR OF THE DAY IS RED
RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 10TH

 



Scripture Readings & Volunteers September

SEPTEMBER 7 – 9 AM -

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1;

Philemon 1-21 ; Luke 14:25-33

Greeters: Russ & Onalee Wright; Reader: Judy Hiemstra

Communion Servers: Onalee Wright, Mary Marske,

3)_____ 4)_____

Ushers: Kent Baker; 2)_____

Count: Sue Boblit

SEPTEMBER 21 – 9 AM -

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scriptures: Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113;

1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

Greeters: Kirk & Sue Andersen; Reader: Sue Boblit;

Communion Servers: Onalee Wright, Sue Boblit,

Jody Vollmer, 4)_____

Ushers: Kent Baker; 2)_____

Count: Francis Hiemstra

SEPTEMBER 14– 9 AM - HOLY CROSS DAY

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scriptures: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10

1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

Greeter: Rhonda Salts; Reader: Kirby Schmidt

Communion Servers: Onalee Wright, Jody Vollmer,

3)_____ 4)_____

Ushers: Kent Baker; 2)_____

Count: Connie Heien

SEPTEMBER 28 – 9 AM -

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scriptures: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146;

1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

Greeter: Sue Metcalf; Reader: Mary Marske;

Communion Servers: Onalee Wright, Twila Henning,

Mary Marske, and 4)_____

Ushers: Kent Baker; 2)_____

Count: Sue Boblit



DISCUSSION GROUP:

HOPE PORTALS

This fall you can participate or listen in on seven online discussion sessions based on Krista Tippett's "Hope Portal" series.

Tippett is the award-winning NPR host of the OnBeing podcast who interviews authors, artists, scientists, poets, etc. on the spirituality of being human together.

Deb Mechler will facilitate the sessions on Sunday nights, October 5-November 16, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

If it is anything like the "Cherished Belonging" discussion last January, you will enjoy meeting people from around the country as we share our concerns about developments in the US.

Sessions are not consecutive, so you can drop in when you are able. Learn how you can remain steadfast in faith and hope as we each seek to do our part in God's kingdom vision.

Please contact Deb Mechler at dsmechler@gmail.com to receive the Zoom and Hope Portal links before October 2.

New Church built in 2022 in Imalinyi.

Photo Sent by
Denise Kramer Tolzmann
from her visit
on August 31st



Listed below are current prayer concerns along with those from over the past month.
Prayers have been lifted up for these folks at Bethany and beyond.
If you have a prayer concern or request, *please let us know.*

Health Concerns

Kirk Andersen, Cindy Heiter, Liz Vulk, Sylvia & Don Moore, Corrine Dahl, Steve McAllister, Jill Meyer, Donna Jones, Lee Youde, LuAnn Becker (Bob Becker's sister), Kevin Vaudt (Steve & Rhonda Salts son-in-law), Deb Albert (Cheri Klemme's sister), DeAnna Bensen (Bill Bensen's mother), 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
Baptism of Landon and Lennox Joynt
Baptism of Wesley Guy Falline

1 Timothy 2:1-4

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Those Who Mourn

Family of Richard (Dick) Schmidt
Family of Dick & Polly Phillips (brother & sister-in-law of Donna Jones)
The Family of Merrell 'Buzz' Butler (husband of Dee Butler)
The Family of David Lee (son of Betty Lee)

Other Prayer Requests

Bethany Lutheran's Call Process
Denise Kramer Tolzmann currently working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania – pray for safe travels, good health, meaningful experiences with siblings in Christ halfway around the globe!





CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

Join the talented and dedicated musicians of Bethany Bells or Bethany's Choir!

Talk with Elina Ozolins for more details.

Bell rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 4pm and Choir will meet every other week at 6pm beginning on September 17th.

We hope some new musicians and voices can join us!

¹ Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

² I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God

while I have my being.

Psalm 146



FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

**Join us in creating quilts for
Lutheran World Relief Missions
On September 18th at 9:00 am!**

**We meet one week late this month due
to the Clay County Fair.**

**Fabric donations are needed
and appreciated!**

**WORSHIP
VOLUNTEER
opportunities**



Each worship service and activity at Bethany Lutheran Church comes together through the work of many people. There are numerous opportunities for volunteers to assist and we encourage and welcome your help. Look at the Welcome Center for a list of areas where you, too, can be servants of God.



MEN OF BETHANY A.K.A. "THE MOB"

This small group is dedicated to Bible Study, meeting every Saturday morning at 7:30 am.

Participants enjoy fellowship, a light breakfast and time spent discussing the Gospel message and readings for the next day. Gain insights and deepen your understanding of the Bible texts as you hear them again on Sunday.

All men are welcome to join in the conversation!

Join Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2030878041?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2030878041?pwd=MWJlRVVTTdtUUZMbNlA2RjVhQ2dsZz09)

[pwd=MWJlRVVTTdtUUZMbNlA2RjVhQ2dsZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2030878041?pwd=MWJlRVVTTdtUUZMbNlA2RjVhQ2dsZz09)

Meeting ID: 203 087 8041

Passcode: 618607

WOMAN OF BETHANY



FUN & FELLOWSHIP, FOOD & FRIENDS

Dutch-treat lunch at THE DOCK
Wednesday, September 24th at 11:30 AM.
JOIN US, EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

CHRISTMAS AT BETHANY..... YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Saturday, December 13th, 2025
11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Christmas at Bethany planning is well underway. We are going to make a few changes this year. We will not have a craft show, the interest in this seems to not be as popular as it used to be. We will be having the Nativities set up in the Sanctuary. It was noted that many coming to Bethany that day missed this. Everything else will remain, the pulled pork lunch, bake sale and Scandinavian Tea Room. We want a fun day to gather as Bethany members and share our hospitality with the community.



We will have our annual lefse making days in November, sign-up sheets will be in the Welcome Center. Watch for more information and dates on this.

Proceeds from this event will go towards the Lutheran Lakeside Camp capital campaign. If you have never visited, Lutheran Lakeside is an awesome camp with wonderful staff.



They led our Sunday School last year, and will do so again this year.

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14TH AT 4:00 PM.

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN US!

REGISTRATION FOR 2026 SUMMER CAMP OPENS OCTOBER 1ST!

Copies of the complete 2026 Summer Camp Schedule at Lutheran Lakeside Camp are available at Bethany's Welcome Center. Make plans now for next summer's memories with children and grandchildren!

From the
rising of the sun
unto the
going down
of the same
the **LORDS** name
is to be praised.

Psalms 113:3

Bethany Lutheran Church Planning Council

"A Christ-centered family who serves by sharing God's love and hope with all."

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 - 4:00 PM

Council Minutes



Present in Person — Russ Wright, Paul Wick, Sandi Schmidt, Sue Boblit, Sue Metcalf, Candy Huber, Randy Phillips, Shannon McAllister

Absent — Denise Kramer Tolzmann

Devotions — Russ Wright — Life is like a common cup.

Check-in Time — Several spoke to where they had seen or experienced God in the past week.

Additions/Approval of the Agenda — Motion by Paul Wick to approve the agenda, second by Randy Phillips, Motion carried.

Secretary's Report on July 22, 2025, meeting was reviewed. Sandi Schmidt made a motion to approve the July 22, 2025 Minutes; a thank you from the SW Texas Synod for our donation to the Synod's Disaster Fund, following the devastating flooding, received an invitation to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Augustana Lutheran in Sioux City on September 6 & 7, 2025.

Treasurer's Report/Monthly Expenses for July — Sandi reviewed the treasurer's reports. Sandi noted that the electrical work by T Johnson Electric is paid from Properties Endowment Fund and does not affect the budget. Motion by Paul Wick to approve Treasurer's Reports; second by Candy Huber. Motion carried.

Ministry Teams and other reports — Denise Kramer Tolzmann provided a written report as she is on her way to Tanzania. Worship services for August and September have been planned. Pastor Erma will be leading worship August/September. Had a very good turnout for the July 27th service with Pastor Jen and Lynn Egesdal. Had a great potluck after. The ELCA elected a new presiding bishop, Rev Yehiel Curry from Metro Chicago, and new secretary, Rev CeCee Mills from North Carolina Synod. See attached report for more information that Denise shared.

Sue Boblit reported that the Faith in Action team met and discussed Christmas at Bethany. Very pleased with the turnout at the meeting. It was decided that we will not have a craft show this year, it does not seem to be attracting as many as we used to. We will add back the Nativities in the Sanctuary, which we did not do last year, and many missed this. Everything else will remain as previous years. Will get sign-up sheets out in October.

Sue Boblit reported she is meeting with Kyle Rydell, Lutheran Lakeside Camp Director this week to discuss Sunday School.

Paul Wick resigned his position on the Properties Committee but will remain as Vice President of the Council. Randy Phillips resigned his position on Parish Ed Committee, was then appointed by Russ Wright to the Properties Committee.

Congregational Activity Report — It was noted that we have had six baptisms this year.

Minutes continue on top of page 7.

Unfinished Business

Confirmation – Russ Wright and Sue Boblit met with Lynn Egesdal about teaching confirmation this year. It was recommended that we hire Lynn to teach confirmation and to form a youth group. Pastor Erma will teach the confirmands that are preparing for confirmation in October. A meeting will be scheduled after the fair to meet with confirmands and their parents.

Call Committee - Call committee to pursue possible other avenues for finding a pastor.

New Business:

Russ Wright – Looking for volunteers from Council to give announcements on Sunday's while Denise is in Tanzania. Council members will take turns.

Evangelism – Sue Metcalf was asked to present to council a request for Bethany to be a part of the group providing meals at the Community Outreach. Council requested more information as to what exactly they would want us to do. Sue will research and get back to the council.

Sue also asked if there were any objections to adding more doves to the ceiling in the sanctuary, some have "flown away." Everyone agreed that we should add more, it is awesome to look up and see them in the Sanctuary every Sunday.

HR Review - Tabled until October meeting.

President Russ Wright adjourned the meeting.

The Lord's Prayer was the closing prayer.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 4:00PM

Devotions – Denise Kramer Tolzmann

Respectfully submitted by Sue Boblit, council secretary

MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL at the September 16, 2025 Council Meeting.



Congratulations to Lutheran Services in Iowa on their 160th anniversary of serving Iowans in need!

They are hosting an event on Friday, October 17th to celebrate this momentous occasion.

For more information or to register to attend go to their website.



RALLY DAY
Sunday, September 21st, 2025

We are making plans to welcome back kids to Sunday School and confirmation.



*Bibles will be given to the 3rd grade kids on Rally Sunday.
Please plan to join us. (Kids and families).*

Kidz Time will start on Sunday, September 28th.

We are excited that the Ministry team from Lutheran Lakeside will again be leading Kidz Time, we look forward to welcoming them back.



*Save
the
Date*

*We will be scheduling a meeting of the confirmation students and their parents after the fair. **Watch your email for more information.***



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE!