



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
PENTECOST 14 – September 14, 2025 – 9:00 A.M.

Prelude: *"Who You Say I Am"* composed by Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan
arrangement by Tracey Craig McKibben

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Opening Hymn: *"Lift High the Cross"* ELW #660

Greeting

Kyrie *"Have Mercy on Us Lord"* ELW pg. 203

Prayer of the Day

First Reading Exodus 32:7-14

Psalm Psalm 51:1-10

Second Reading I Timothy 1:12-17

Gospel Acclamation: *"Alleluia! Lord and Savior"* ELW pg. 205

Gospel Luke 15:1-10

Sermon Pastor Erma Wolf

Hymn of the Day: *"Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling"* ELW #608

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Share the Peace

Offerings: *"O Searcher of Hearts"* composed by Gene Clark

Offertory Prayer

Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving **ELW pg. 206**, *"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**

Communion Music: *"Invitation"* arrangement by Ruth Elaine Schram

Post Communion Prayer and Blessing

Postlude: "The Love of God" arrangement by Marty Parks

Tune: THE LOVE OF GOD composed by Frederick M. Lehman

WORSHIP NOTES

Welcome to worship at Bethany Lutheran Church! It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ and His presence during our worship service this morning. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest book in the narthex. All who seek Christ's true presence promised to us through the bread and wine, body and blood, are welcome and invited to commune. Everyone please sign the Fellowship Pad in your pew. These can help you get to know the others in your pew and they can help us to keep in touch with you! Please be sure to mark this if you partake in Holy Communion. Thank you for filling out the Fellowship Pad! Large-print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available. If you benefit from either of these, please speak with an usher.

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

Thanks be to God. (Sundays and Seasons v.20240130.1140 Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.)

Please take this bulletin home with you as a reference for this week's calendar of events, as a reminder of Bethany family and friends to keep in your prayers, and for other useful information.

Today's worship leaders are:

Pastor Erma Wolf & Elina Leander Ozolins, pianist-organist

Many thanks to our worship volunteers:

Greeter: Rhonda Salts; Reader: Kirby Schmidt

Communion servers: Onalee Wright and Jody Vollmer

Usher: Kent Baker

Count: Connie Heien

Fellowship Hosts: Dale and Sandi Witt

Everyone in the Audio/Visual Booth



Worship is rebroadcast on SMU CH #2:

Tuesday-5pm, Wednesday-10am

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FELLOWSHIP will be after worship in the parlor. This gathering time is a great time to chat over a cup of coffee and sweet treat. Meet new friends or catch up with old ones. All are welcome for fellowship and lively conversation! May this time of sharing in Christ's love be a blessing to us all. Hope to see you there!

FUN & FELLOWSHIP will meet for quilting Thursday, September 18th due to the Clay County Fair last week. Join in the fun as they lovingly create beautiful quilts to be sent off to those in need across the world. *In order to keep these gals busy, there is a continuous need for cotton fabrics of all colors and patterns!*

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS - If you are interested in joining the talented and dedicated musicians of Bethany Bells or Bethany's Choir talk with Elina Ozolins. Bell rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 4 pm and Choir will meet every other week at 6pm beginning on September 17th. We hope some new musicians and voices can join us! *Mark your calendars for Handel's "Messiah" rehearsals beginning October 19th at 6:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church.*

RALLY DAY will take place 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). WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE!*

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL 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.

CONFIRMATION MEETING will be Wednesday, September 24th at 6 pm. Confirmation class is a time for students to learn more about the Bible, Small Catechism and about their own faith life. We will have a parent and student meeting for all 7th and 8th grade students, along with the 9th grade students that will be confirmed in October. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss what the plans are for the upcoming church year, and what we will expect of the students. We are also looking to start youth group up again. Lynn Egesdal will be leading confirmation this year, and youth group. All are encouraged to attend, if you have a conflict please let Sue Boblit know and we can arrange to meet at a time convenient to you. -Lynn Egesdal and Sue Boblit (sdboblit@gmail.com)

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

series. Tippet 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, 6-7:30 p.m. Please contact her at dsmechler@gmail.com to receive the Zoom and Hope Portal links before October 2.

ROOM AT THE TABLE Bethany has helped raise funds to cover the cost of milk for elementary kids for many years. There are milk cans in the narthex where you can drop your donations to help with this. We make sure that all kids are able to receive milk. Thank you all for your donations over the years.

-Faith in Action Team

PRAYER CONCERNS & REQUESTS

Health Concerns

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

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)

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 14th Pentecost 14

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion followed by fellowship

Tuesday, September 16th

4:00 pm Planning Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 17th

9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group

Thursday, September 18th

9:30 am Fun & Fellowship

Saturday, September 20th

7:30 am Men of Bethany Bible Study

Sunday, September 21st Pentecost 15

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 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.