

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 28 – Christmas 1

9:00 am Worship

10:15 am Fellowship Time

Tuesday, December 30

10:00 am Funeral Service for Steven McAllister

Wednesday, December 31 – New Year's Eve

9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group

Thursday, January 1 – **Happy New Year!** – Office Closed

Friday, January 2 – Office Open

Saturday, January 3

7:30 am Men of Bethany Bible Study (in person & via ZOOM)

4:00 – 6:30 pm CPR Training with Zoe Fiedler in the parlor

Sunday, January 4

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:15 am Fellowship Time

10:15 am KIDZ TIME resumes



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.

Worship is rebroadcast on SMU CH #2:

Tuesday-5pm, Wednesday-10am

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

A PRAYER FOR A NEW YEAR . . .

Lord, thank you for the gift of this new year, for the potential and hope it holds. Forgive our failings in the past and help us to forgive ourselves and one another, starting with a clean slate. Guide our steps, grant us wisdom to discern Your will, and give us strength to live according to Your purpose. Fill us with Your love, peace, and joy as we seek to serve You and others. Bless our families, protect us from harm, and use us to bring glory to Your name this year. Amen.



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

15 W 14th St, Spencer, IA 51301 | www.bethluthspencer.com | 712-262-2327

CHRISTMAS 1 – December 28, 2025 – 9:00 AM

Prelude: *"Sing We Now of Christmas with 'The First Noel'"* – arranged by Lloyd Larson

Welcome & Announcements

*Call to Worship (responsive)

*Gathering Hymn: *"Love Has Come"*

ELW # 292

*Prayer of the Day (see 'Today's Readings' insert or the screen)

First Reading

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm (read responsively)

Psalm 148

Second Reading

Hebrews 2:10-18

*Gospel Acclamation: *"Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"* – v. 1 **ELW #519**

*Gospel

Matthew 2:13-23

Message

Denise Kramer Tolzmann

Hymn of the Day: *"In a Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes"*

ACS # 908

*Prayers of the People

We remember and give thanks.

*The Lord's Prayer

*Sharing the Peace of the Lord

Offerings Received: *"O, How Joyfully! With 'Joy to the World'"*, arranged by Cindy Berry

Offertory Hymn: *"Create in Me a Clean Heart"*

ELW # 186

Hymn Sing: congregation chooses hymns to sing!

*Blessing & Dismissal

Postlude: *"All the Earth Rejoices with 'For Unto Us a Child is Born' and 'Joy to the World'"* arranged by Mark Hayes

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. Everyone please sign the Fellowship Pad in your pew.

Large-print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available. If you benefit from either of these, please speak with an usher.

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. **The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope** as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. (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.

Each worship service comes together through the help of many people. Please consider being a worship volunteer. Find schedules at the Welcome Center and help fill in the blanks. Thank you for volunteering!

Today’s worship leaders are:

Denise Kramer Tolzmann & Elina Leander Ozolins, pianist-organist

Many thanks to our worship volunteers:

Greeters: _____; Reader: Katrina Brown

Usher: Kent Baker; Acolyte: _____

Fellowship Hosts: Judy & Francis Hiemstra,

Count: Connie Heien; Everyone in the Audio/Visual Booth



ANNOUNCEMENTS

YEAR-END GIFTS dated in December and received by January 5 will be recorded in 2025 unless specified otherwise. The giving statements for 2025 will be mailed in January. Thank you for your continued support of Bethany Lutheran Church.

UDMO FOOD PANTRY Bring food and hygiene items to Bethany – we’ll deliver to UDMO. Not sure what to get/give? Get a shopping list at the Welcome Center.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will resume on January 7th at 6:00 pm. Youth Group follows at 7:00 pm!

REPORTS FOR ANNUAL MEETING Ministry team/committee chairs reports are due at the church office by Friday, January 2. Please email a format-table copy (*no .pdf*) to: bethany@bethluthspencer.com.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING: The Annual Meeting of Bethany Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 18, 2026 after worship in the Sanctuary. All eligible voters are encouraged to attend. *“Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation.” (C8.02.c; Bethany’s Constitution)*

ST LUKE MINISTRY Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you would like to help with St. Luke BINGO at 2:00 on Friday, January 2. Prizes are also needed. There is a basket near the Welcome Center for prizes. Thank you to all who help with this ministry.

CHURCH COUNCIL OPENINGS If you are interested in serving on the Bethany Planning Council, please contact Russ Wright or anyone on the Planning Council. *There are several openings available beginning in 2026.*

PRAYER CONCERNS & REQUESTS

Health Concerns

Kirk Andersen, Cindy Heiter, Donna Jones, Jill Meyer, Sylvia Moore, Liz Vulk, Mike Palm, Carolyn Kruger

Deb Albert (Cheri Klemme’s sister), DeAnna Bensen (Bill Bensen’s mother), LuAnn Becker (Bob Becker’s sister), Bill Boblit (brother of Tom Boblit), Donna Dirksen (Bill Bensen’s grandma), Lois Sanchez (Deb Mechler’s sister) Dean Mechler (Deb Mechler’s husband)

Those Who Mourn

Family of Steve McAllister