



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](http://www.bethluthspencer.com) | 712-262-2327

**Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 3, 2026 – 9:00 AM**

Prelude: *"Jesus Loves Me"* arranged by C.E. Walz,

Tune: JESUS LOVES ME, by William B. Bradbury

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

**ELW pg.94**

Gathering Hymn: *"Lord God, We Praise you"*

**ELW #558**

Canticle of Praise: *"Glory to God in the Highest"*

**ELW pg. 138**

Prayer of the Day

First Reading

Act 7: 55-60

Psalm (read responsively)

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel Acclamation: *"Alleluia! Lord to whom shall we go?"*

**ELW pg. 142**

Gospel

John 14:1-14

Sermon

Pr. Erma Wolf

Hymn of the Day: *"Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life"*

**ELW #816**

Nicene Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Offerings Received: *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

arranged by C.E. Walz

Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving ELW pg. 144, "Holy, Holy, Holy" ELW pg. 144,

Words of Institution, Lord's Prayer ELW pg. 145, Communion Song -

"Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world" ELW pg. 146, Distribution

Communion Music: *"O Come to the Altar"* Arranged by Larry Shackley

Music by Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Stephan Furtick and Wade Joye

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Sending Hymn: *"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen"*

**ELW #377**

Dismissal

Postlude: *"The Day of Resurrection"* Brad Nix

### **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 continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life. (Sundays and Seasons v.20240130.1140 Copyright © 2026 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:**

Pr. Erma Wolf & Elina Leander Ozolins, pianist-organist

#### **Many thanks to our worship volunteers:**

Greeters: Jaci Schreier & Rhonda Petitt; Reader: Jana Phillips

Communion Servers: Onalee Wright, Jaci Schreier, Twila Henning and Jody Vollmer

Usher: Kent Baker;

Fellowship Hosts: Francis & Judy Hiemstra

Count: Connie Heien;

Everyone in the Audio/Visual Booth

## 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. All are welcome for fellowship and lively conversation! Hope to see you there!

**SUNDAY KIDZ TIME** All children from kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to join Hunter, Kyle, Scott, Autumn or whoever comes from Lutheran Lakeside Camp for KIDZ TIME at 10:15 today and May 10. Come join in the fun! All are welcome.

**CONFIRMATION & BYG** We will close out our season with the last classes taking place on May 6. If you have questions, inquire with Deacon Lynn or Sue Boblit.

**BABY BOTTLE MONEY COLLECTION** for the Cherish Center begins today and will wrap up at the end of the month on May 31. Talk with Candy or watch for the bottles near the welcome center.

**RED GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST** We invite you to share a geranium to decorate the sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday, May 24. You may take them home after the service that day. The cost is \$6.00 each. See the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

**FLAGFEST OUTREACH** On Saturday, June 12th, Bethany Lutheran Church will host a God's Work, Our Hands hospitality outreach event for the community members watching the Flagfest parade on our lawn. Join the Faith in Action planning meeting on Tuesday, May 12 at 4 pm in the church parlor. If you'd like to be a part of this activity, please come to this meeting!

**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.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO BETHANY SENIORS** Maddie McWhirther, Ryan Reardon, and Mikalah Prickett as they graduate High School and begin the next steps in their pilgrimage of life. Let us thank God for their presence in our congregation as well as ask Him to grant them the peace of Christ as they move through this busy season and conclude this chapter of their lives.

**VBS!** Mark your calendars for the evenings of July 6-8 as Bethany will be partnering with First Congregational Church, and also joining us is Grace United Methodist Church for Vacation Bible School. Watch for the registration link coming your way soon!

## **PRAYER CONCERNS & REQUESTS**

Kirk Andersen, Sylvia Moore, Liz Vulk, Lee Youde, Greg Manwarren  
Lois Sanchez (Deb Mechler's sister),  
DeAnna Bensen (Bill Bensen's mother)  
Michael Olsen (Kristin Bensen's uncle)  
Jerry Faulkner (Tammy Nishwonger's brother)  
Lucille Faulkner (Tammy Nishwonger's sister-in-law)  
Tara Nighswonger (Tammy Nishwonger's daughter)  
Aaron Sweet (Tammy Nishwonger's stepbrother)  
Peace in All Nations

## **CALENDAR**

### Sunday, May 3 – Fifth Sunday after Easter

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion  
10:15 am Sunday Kidz  
10:15 am Fellowship

### Wednesday, May 6

9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group  
6:00 pm Confirmation Class  
7:00 pm Bethany Youth Group

### Thursday, May 7

4:00 pm Caring Friends

### Saturday, May 9

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

### Sunday, May 10 – Sixth Sunday after Easter

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion  
10:15 am Sunday Kidz  
10:15 am 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.

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

*Tuesday-5pm, Wednesday-10am*

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