



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
Sue Metcalf, Vice-President
Sue Boblit, Secretary
Sandi Schmidt, Treasurer
Council members-at-large:
Candy Huber
Randy Phillips
Judy Hiemstra
Jaci Scheier

STAFF:

Director of Worship and Music:

Elina Leander Ozolins
sveiks@mediacombb.net

Visitation Ministry:

Onalee Wright
onalee53@gmail.com

Secretary:

Elizabeth Essick
bethany@bethluthspencer.com

Custodian:

Erick Phillips



Update on Seminary Fund Gifts

A motion was approved at our annual meeting in January to use \$10,000 of our Seminary Fund to provide financial assistance to seminary students from our Western Iowa Synod. The church council was assigned this task.

President Wright appointed a committee to complete the distribution. We reached out to the synod office for names of students and to help with the application process. An application form and cover letter from Bethany were created and following approval by our WIS bishop were distributed by the synod office to all eligible students in mid March. The application deadline was April 20th and required a letter of reference from a pastor or teacher. The completed documents were returned to the synod office and forwarded to Bethany as a group.

The committee then met to review the applications and make a decision regarding the distribution of the \$10,000. It was decided to award four gifts of \$2,000 each and two gifts of \$1,000 each, assisting six students. The checks were mailed on May 22. The synod office was very appreciative of Bethany’s generosity.



This week we received a thank you note from Seminarian Vicar Stephen Lewis for the scholarship assisting him in paying for his classes.

Let us keep him in our prayers asking the Holy Spirit to continue to guide his heart and his steps as he continues his education throughout Seminary.



JUNE & JULY SCRIPTURE READINGS & VOLUNTEERS



Listed below are the lectionary readings for services in June and July along with volunteers who are helping the in June. Worship onsite, via livestream online, or catch a rebroadcast aired on SMU Channel 2 on Tuesdays at 5 pm or Wednesdays at 10 am.

JUNE 7– 9 AM - PENTECOST 2

Scriptures: Hosea 5:15—6:6, Psalm 50:7-15,
Romans 4:13-25, Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
Greeter: Bethany Members
Reader: Kirby Schmidt
Communion servers: Onalee Wright, Twila Henning,
Francis Hiemstra, Judy Hiemstra
Usher: Kent Baker
Count: Sue Boblit

JUNE 28– 9 AM - PENTECOST 5

Scriptures: Jeremiah 28:5-9, Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23 , Matthew 10:40-42
Greeter: _____
Reader: Jana Phillips
Communion servers: Onalee Wright, Twila Henning,
3) _____ 4) _____
Usher: Kent Baker
Count: Sue Boblit

JUNE 14 – 9 AM - PENTECOST 3

Scriptures: Exodus 19:2-8a, Psalm 100 ,
Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]
Greeter: _____
Reader: Jana Phillips
Communion servers: Onalee Wright, Twila Henning,
3) _____ 4) _____
Usher: Kent Baker
Count: Connie Heien



WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SHARE OF THEIR TIME AND TALENT, SERVING IN THIS WAY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A WORSHIP VOLUNTEER, FIND SIGN-UP SHEETS AT THE WELCOME CENTER .



JUNE 21– 9 AM - PENTECOST 4

Scriptures: Jeremiah 20:7-13, Psalm 69:7-18,
Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39
Greeter: _____
Reader: _____
Communion servers: Onalee Wright, Twila Henning,
3) _____ 4) _____
Usher: Kent Baker
Count: Francis Hiemstra

JULY 5– 9 AM - PENTECOST 6

Scriptures: Zechariah 9:9-12, Psalm 145:8-14,
Romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

JULY 12 – 9 AM - PENTECOST 7

Scriptures: Isaiah 55:10-13, Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13,
Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

JULY 19– 9 AM - PENTECOST 8

Scriptures: Isaiah 44:6-8, Psalm 86:11-17,
Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

JULY 26– 9 AM - PENTECOST 9

Scriptures: 1 Kings 3:5-12, Psalm 119:129-136,
Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

KID'S MUSIC

Last year at the Parade of Bands there were 14 Bethany kids involved. That's a lot of talent! So, Bethany Planning Council and the congregation would love to have a Kid's Praise Band again.

We know how busy your families are. We're thinking the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, from 7 - 8 pm, might be a good time for music. **We would really like to hear from parents and kids if this is something they're interested in.** Your child doesn't have to be in band to participate. Let's have fun and make some music!

A Kids' Music Meeting will take place Wednesday, June 10, at 7:00pm. Please RSVP to Sue Metcalf 240-8366 or Sue Boblit 260-2258.



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 . All men are welcome to join in the conversation.

Join Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2030878041?pwd=MWJUelRVTTdtUUZMbnA2RjVhQ2dsZz09>

Meeting ID: 203 087 8041 Passcode: 618607

Women's Prayer Group & Bible Study



WEDNESDAY MORNINGS @ 9:30 am

This small group of ladies meets weekly for a cup of coffee and to read the upcoming Sunday's lessons. After a brief discussion of the lessons, they pray for those on Bethany's prayer list and others in need of special prayers. They also send postcards indicating prayers have been offered. This meeting usually lasts less than an hour.

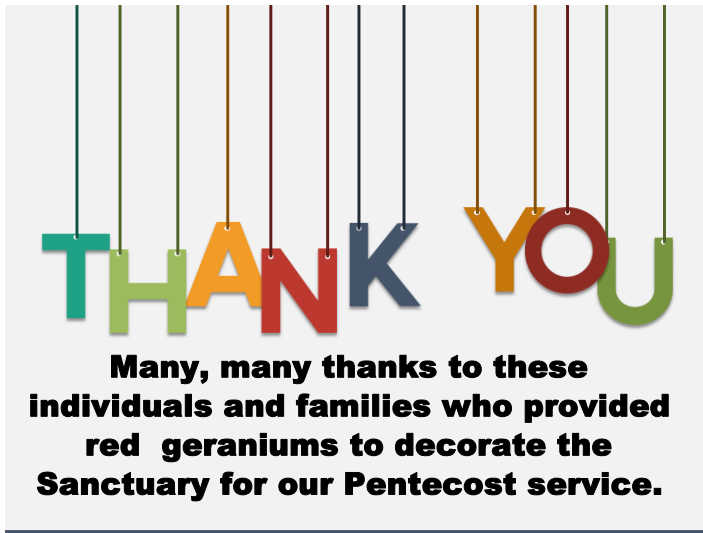
Feel free to join them in this prayer ministry!

LADIES LUNCH

Bethany Fun & Fellowship, Food & Friends will meet at THE DOCK for a Dutch-treat lunch on Wednesday, June 17th at 11:30 am.



It's the folks of Bethany's turn to help with home delivered meals—Thursdays & Fridays in July. There is one route to cover. **Are you able to help?** Look for a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. If you have any questions please stop in and talk to Elizabeth in the church office or call her at 262-2327 Tuesday—Friday. Sandi Schmidt also does this route so if Elizabeth is unable to answer questions Sandi can help with details. Thank you in advance for helping our community care for those who benefit from having hot fresh meals delivered to them!



Kent, Mike & Lisa Baker in memory of Connie Baker
 Dan Sorenson in memory of Everett & Elaine Sorenson
 Francis & Judy Hiemstra in memory of Asaph & Martha Reich
 Gary & Becky Koenig in memory of Parents & Becky Newgard

Twila Henning in memory of Mel Henning
 Francis & Judy Hiemstra in memory of Darlene Reich
 Doug & Mary Marske in memory of loved ones
 Kirby & Sandi Schmidt in memory of Al & Mary Schmidt
 Ellen Sorenson in memory of loved ones
 Jody Vollmer in memory of Jim Vollmer
 Marla Woelber in memory of Norm Woelber
 Don & Sylvia Moore in memory of loved ones

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Many thanks to all Bethany members who have helped to provide assistance or items needed for the St. Luke Resident Birthday Party in the month of June!

****REMINDER**** Bethany members will be assisting St. Luke residents on June 15th.

Please be at St. Luke at 2:00 pm as the party starts at 2:30!



PRAYER CONCERNS

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.

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

Those Who Mourn

The family of Florence Klitzke (Wendy McMullen's mother)



Prayers for the Call Process

Gracious giving God,

Give us your help again just as you have always done. Remind us of your care. Let there be gratitude in our congregation, for all that is needful has been sent and ordained for us already. As we work to call a new pastor to our congregation, may we be strengthened for this task with the thought that your providing reaches to every need of your church. This call committee and community of believers are your church too.

Amen.



Western Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ASSEMBLY REPORT—APRIL 17—18, 2026

I attended the Western Iowa Synod Assembly April 17th and 18th in Sioux City. Bethany voting members in attendance besides myself were Kristin Bensen, Hannah Bensen (Bethany's first young adult to attend a Synod assembly) and Denise Kramer Tolzmann (Denise is also a member of the Synod Council).

On Friday we opened with Worship, guests were introduced and we had a budget presentation. There were 192 voting members in attendance and 30 visitors. Keynote speaker was Dr. Laurie Jungling, she is the Program Director for Theological Ethics at ELCA Churchwide office. She was a member of the ELCA's Task Force for the development of the most recent social statement, Faith, and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All. She spoke on "Seeking Well Being for All." What is possible in God's world, what does God's future hold for us. She gave us a lot to think about; how do we work to be church together? Not all are called to do it the same way.

Saturday, we opened with devotions and heard from several speakers. Dr. Laurie Jungling gave the 2nd part of her presentation. We approved the revised 2026 budget, and some constitutional updates. We heard from staff members, Reverend Melissa Pickering, Director for Evangelical Mission, Reverend Cara LQ Knutson, Ass't to Bishop for mobility, call process and Congregational Care and Rev. Chip Borgstadt, Ass't to Bishop for Candidacy.

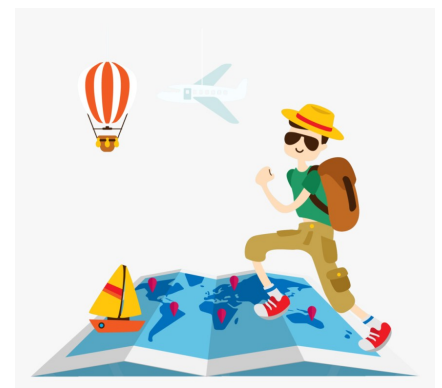
Our theme for the Assembly was "WE ARE HERE." Bishop Dalen spoke on how it is good for us to be here! We look back at where we were and look forward to what is to come. The words I heard were "Work is good," "Work is hard," we are not in this alone. These are the words that stuck with me.

Sue Boblit

Look for an ELCA congregation wherever you go!



Visit this website -
elca.org/directory/congregations



Mission in Marseille, France



Deb Mechler is going to accompany her daughter and son-in-law, Karen and John Corrigan, on a [Cru summer mission in Marseille](#) for five weeks. She will be helping with their toddler daughter Sydney while also acting as a French-speaking assistant during their stay. Deb is requesting prayer for the evangelistic mission and also for her and her husband Dean as they spend a month apart.

Karen and John describe the need: “Marseille is home to 70,000 students, the largest university in France, but has no Christian presence on campus. We will partner with local pastors to share the gospel in a city where the greatest barrier to faith is simply not knowing who Jesus is. We would love to introduce them to Him. 53% of French residents claim to have no religion (21% of them atheists), 32% are Catholic (of which only 7% are practicing), 13% Muslim, and 1% Evangelical. This means there is one Evangelical church for every 25,000 people in France. As a port city, Marseille is home to many North Africans, and comes in at 40% Muslim.

“From May 25 - July 2 we are joining a large team of Cru students and staff from New England for this five-week mission trip. We are eager to do this together as a family!”

WESTERN IA SYNOD WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION CONVENTION SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026 ST. PAULS LUTHERN CHURCH IN ATLANTIC

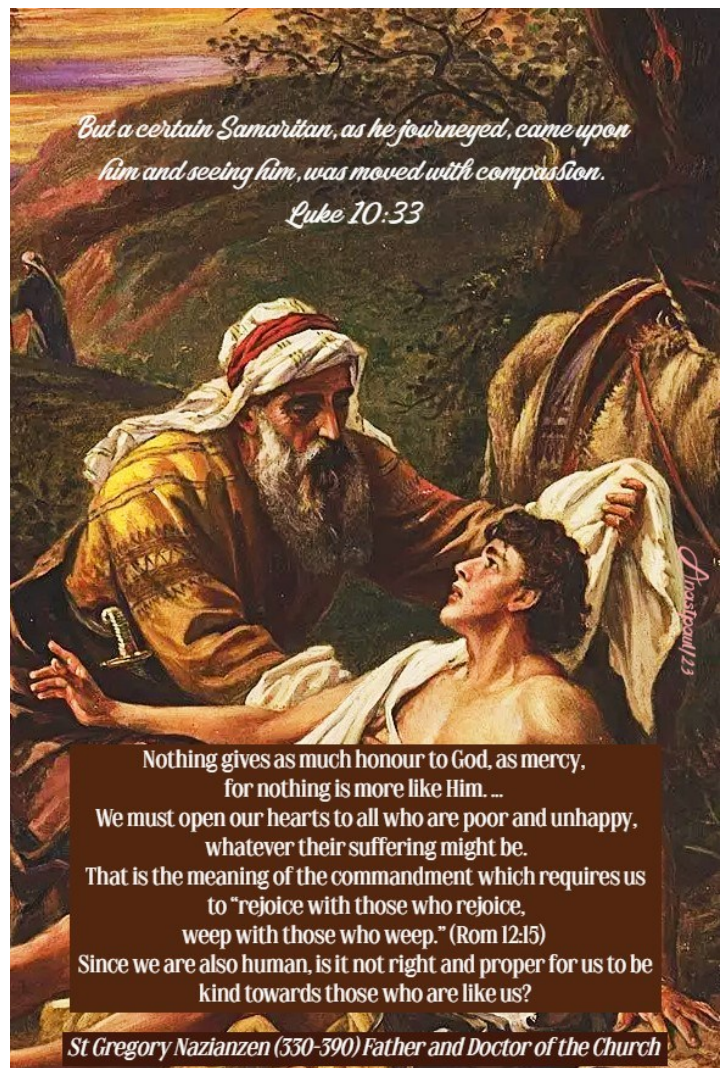
Only a few weeks until convention! It's not too late to sign up for the Western Iowa Synod Women's annual convention at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Atlantic.

At the conclusion of The Good Samaritan in Chapter 10 of Luke's gospel it ends as Jesus said: ³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

The program on the mission trip to Tanzania is sure to ignite a spark or continue to kindle the fire of love you have for Jesus, our neighbor and ourselves. Each and every human being is created by God in His image. When we as a human race become rooted in our true identities as God's children we are able to open our hearts to more deeply love all.

Join in the fellowship, good food and fun with other women from the Western Iowa Synod. The deadline for registration is June 12th, this helps to plan for food, and craft supplies. You are always welcome to just show up and register the day of also.

The Synod office also informed us they are looking for nominees for Secretary, and one board member. If you are interested contact Julie Cook at the Synod office at Julie.cook@wisynod.org



Bethany Lutheran Church Planning Council

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

Tuesday, May 19, 2026 - 4:00 PM



Present in Person – Russ Wright, Sandi Schmidt, Sue Boblit, Sue Metcalf, Randy Phillips, Candy Huber, Jaci Schrier

Absent – Judy Hiemstra

Devotions – Sue Boblit- Women of Salt: Faith that quietly changes the world.

Check-in Time – A few spoke to where they had seen or experienced God in the past week.

Additions/Approval of the Agenda – There were no additions to the agenda. Randy Phillips made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Sue Metcalf. Motion carried.

Secretary’s Report – Jaci Schrier made a motion to approve the April 26, 2026, council minutes and the Executive Committee minutes from May 3, 2026 as presented with no corrections. Second by Sue Metcalf. Motion carried.

Correspondence – No new correspondence

Treasurer’s Report/Monthly Expenses for April – Sandi Schmidt reported that we took in more in offerings last month than what we spent. We are sitting good financially. Motion by Sue Metcalf to approve the treasurers’ reports and April expenses. Second by Candy Huber. Motion carried.

Ministry Teams and other reports – Candy Huber reported that the Faith in Action team met on May 12th to begin Flagfest planning. It was decided that we wouldn’t have an entry in the parade but would make the hospitality on the church lawn bigger and better. We will be serving donuts and cookies. From 10:30 to 12:30 we will offer hotdogs and chips. A sign-up sheet will go out for volunteers to help from 8:30 to 12:30 (approximate ending of the parade). We will use Thrivent choice dollars to help with expenses,

Congregational Activity Report – included in packet.

Unfinished Business

Constitution Update – Sue Boblit will work on this, will take some time.

Sue Metcalf – Kids Music – Sue is sending out invites to attend a meeting on June 10th and putting in the bulletin and Herald. The meeting is to determine the interest, and how to proceed.

Wedding Handbook – Candy Huber reported that a final change was made, the book listed circles as being available to help serve, etc. Since we no longer have circles, this section was removed from the book.

New Business:

Candy Huber Flagfest – Candy’s report was discussed with the ministry teams reports.

Deb Mechler – Mission Trip to France – Deb will be joining her daughter and son-in-law. John and Karen Corrigan on a mission trip to Marseille France. Deb shared that the group will partner with local pastors to share the Gospel in a city where many simply don’t know who Jesus is. Deb speaks French, which will be an asset to the group, as well as helping with her granddaughter. After Deb left the meeting, the council discussed how we could help with this mission. Sandi Schmidt made a motion to give them \$5,000.00 Thrivent choice dollars to help with expenses (this is a fund that is to be used for outreach). Randy Phillips seconded the motion. With no further discussion the motion carried.

Sue Metcalf – Call committee update – The call committee met with Pastor Cara Knutson, Ass’t to the Bishop for Mobility, Call Process and Congregational Care. They had a productive conversation.

Seminary Fund – Sandi Schmidt, Sue Boblit, and Candy Huber met to review the applications for the seminary scholarships that Bethany voted to award at our Annual meeting in January. It was decided after reviewing that we would award four scholarships in the amount of \$2,000.00 each and two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each. Scholarships were determined by financial need.

Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Next meeting: Tuesday June 16, 2026, at 4:00 PM, Devotions: Jaci Schreier

Respectfully submitted by Sue Boblit, Council Secretary

MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE June 16, 2026, COUNCIL MEETING.



VBS

REGISTRATION OPEN!!!

Mark your calendar for July 6th—8th for
Vacation Bible School.
This summer VBS is offered to our community
by the enthusiastic partnership of
Bethany Lutheran Church,
First Congregational Church
and also joining us this year is
Grace United Methodist Church.

**All children entering Kindergarten through
6th grade are encouraged to attend!**



First Congregational Church
Bethany Lutheran Church
Grace United Methodist Church

COUNTY FAIR

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**WHEN: JULY 6TH, 7TH, *8TH
6:00PM- 8:00PM**

**WHERE: FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
1212 1ST AVE W
SPENCER, IA**

FREE ENTRY

SCAN ME

Scan the QR Code to Register

* Family Dinner on July 8th at North Park. Enjoy corn dogs, watermelon, a petting zoo, cotton candy and fun for the whole family!