



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

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost— July 5, 2026 – 9:00 AM

Prelude: *"America"* Ruth Elaine Schram

Tunes: MANTRNA, by Samuel A. Ward & AMERICA, Thesaurus Musicus

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Gathering Hymn: *"Before You, Lord, We Bow"* **ELW #893**

Prayer of the Day

First Reading Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalms (read responsively) Psalm 145:8-14

Second Reading Romans 7:15-25a

Gospel Acclamation: *"Alleluia! Lord to whom shall we go?"* **ELW pg. 142**

Gospel Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sermon Pr. Erma Wolf

Hymn of the Day: *"Lord of All Hopefulness"* **ELW #765**

Apostles' Creed

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

Offerings Received: *"Great God of Glory"* David Paxton

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: *"We Believe"* arranged by John Cumberland

Music by Travis Ryan, Matthew Hooper, and Richie Fike,

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Sending Hymn: *"Oh, Beautiful For Spacious Skies"* **ELW #888**

Dismissal

Postlude: *"Lift Every Voice and Sing"* Michael Ryan

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.

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community. (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:

Greeter: Rhonda Salts & Lisa Baker,

Reader: Judy Hiemstra,

Communion Servers: Onalee Wright, Jody Vollmer, Kristin Bensen

Ushers: Kent Baker & Francis Hiemstra

Count: Connie Heien,

Fellowship Host: Bethany Shiefelbein Burns & Family,

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 all there!

WARNER FUNERAL HOME PEACE OF MIND SEMINAR will take place at Bethany on Wednesday, July 15 at 10:30. Discussion on advanced funeral planning will include what steps are involved in getting a funeral plan in place and how that will affect your loved ones. Join in as Warner Funeral Home is here to answer your questions on funeral planning and services.

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.

SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM The Spencer Community School District is participating in the Iowa Summer Food Service Program, offering free meals over the summer for all kids. For a menu or more information go to <https://www. /page/lunch-menu> Meals will be available at Fairview, YMCA and Spencer High School.

VBS! Kids entering Kindergarten through 6th grade join us July 6-8 from 6 to 8 pm as Bethany will be partnering with First Congregational Church, and also joining us is Grace United Methodist Church for County Fair Vacation Bible School. The last night of VBS, July 8th a family dinner will take place at North Park. Enjoy corn dogs, watermelon, cotton candy and a petting zoo. FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!! **Registration is still open.** Please see the signs posted for details.



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS SIGN-UP TODAY! Every Sunday's worship service at Bethany Lutheran Church comes together through the work of many people. There are numerous opportunities for volunteers to assist. We encourage and welcome your help! All are happy to teach you any aspect you are interested in helping with! Thank you all for making our worship here at Bethany a blessed encounter with the heart of our Lord.

HOME DELIVERED MEALS in July are being delivered by Bethany Members! Thursday and Friday meals will be delivered by those who have signed up. Thank you for helping our community care for those who benefit from having fresh meals delivered to them!

PRAYER CONCERNS & REQUESTS

Kirk Andersen, Rita Storm, Liz Vulk, Lee Youde, Donna Jones
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)
Keith Studer (Matt Studer's uncle)

Those Who Mourn

Family of Lois Sanchez (Deb Mechler's sister),
Family Of John Chua (Jean Huber's uncle)

CALENDAR

Sunday, July 5 – Pentecost 6

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

Monday, July 6

6:00 pm Vacation Bible School at First Congregational Church

Tuesday, July 7

6:00 pm Vacation Bible School at First Congregational

Wednesday, July 8

9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group
6:00 pm Vacation Bible School Family Night at North Park

Thursday, July 9

9:00 am Fun & Fellowship

Saturday, July 11

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

Sunday, July 12 – Pentecost 7

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



ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE

If you would like to give online to support the ministries of Bethany Lutheran Church, can 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)