



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

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost— July 19, 2026 – 9:00 AM

Prelude: *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"* William M. Runyan, Arr. Joel Raney
Performed by Deb Mechler and Elina Ozolins

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Gathering Hymn: *"Gather Us In"* **ELW #532**

Prayer of the Day

First Reading 1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm (read responsively) Psalm 119:129-136

Second Reading Romans 8:26-39

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

Gospel Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Sermon Pr. Erma Wolf

Hymn of the Day: *"Be Thou My Vision"* **ELW #793**

Apostles' Creed

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

Offerings Received: *"God, That Madest Earth and Heaven"*
Jason W. Krug Tune: AR HYD Y NOS, Traditional Welsh melody

Blessing

Sending Hymn: *"My Life Flows On In Endless Song"* **ELW #763**

Dismissal

Postlude: *"Postlude on 'Faithfulness'"* Douglas E. Wagner
Tune: FAITHFULNESS by William Marion Runyan

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 Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first! (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:

Minister Josh Carr & Elina Leander Ozolins, pianist-organist

Many thanks to our worship volunteers:

Greeters: Jaci Schreier & Rhonda Pettit

Reader: Jaci Schreier

Ushers: Kent Baker & Francis Hiemstra

Count: Sue Boblit

Fellowship Host: Carol Anderson

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!

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.

BFFFF'S (Bethany Fun & Fellowship, Food & Friends) Please join us as we meet at Sports Page for a dutch-treat lunch on Wednesday, July 29 at 11:30 am. Ladies, come join in this relaxing, fun-filled fellowship lunch. All are welcome. We hope to see you there!

BETHANY HERALD DEADLINE is coming upon us already this month. Please have your information to the office no later than Wednesday, July 22nd.

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS - If you are interested in sharing a special piece of music over the final summer months please contact Elina Leander Ozolins.

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.spencercommunity.org/page/lunch-menu> Meals will be available at Fairview, YMCA and Spencer High School.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL was good time was had by all! Many thanks to Bethany members who assisted in making this successful.



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.

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),
Tara Nighswonger (Tammy Nighswonger's daughter),
Aaron Sweet (Tammy Nighswonger's stepbrother)
Keith Studer (Matt Studer's uncle)

Those Who Mourn

Family of Lucille Faulkner (Tammy Nighswonger's sister-in-law)

CALENDAR

Sunday, July 19 – Pentecost 8

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:15 am Fellowship

Tuesday, July 21

4:00 pm Planning Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 22

9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group

Saturday, July 25

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

Sunday, July 26 – Pentecost 9

9:00 am Worship

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)