



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

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost– August 16, 2026 – 9:00 AM

Prelude: *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"* arranged by Joel Raney,

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN by Stralsund Gesangbuch

Deb Mechler & Elina Ozolins Piano Duet

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Gathering Hymn: *"Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

ELW #886

Prayer of the Day

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalms (read responsively)

Psalms 67

Second Reading

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

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

Gospel

Matthew 15: [10-20] 21-28

"Light of Grace" by Andy Beck, performed by Bethany Choir

Sermon

Pr. Erma Wolf

Hymn of the Day: *"Healer of Our Every Ill"*

ELW #612

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offerings Received: *"Blessed Assurance"* arranged by Larry Shackley

Tune: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp

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"* Music by Chris Brown,

Mack Brock, Stephan Furtick and Wade Joye, arranged by Larry Shackley

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Sending Hymn: *"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

ELW #759

Dismissal

Postlude: *"Salvation"* Gilbert M. Martin,

Tune: DAVISSON'S KENTUCKY HARMONY

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.

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need. (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: Lisa Baker & Rhonda Salts

Reader: Deb Mechler

Communion Servers: Onalee Wright, Twila Henning, Jody Voller and Jaci Studer

Ushers: Kent Baker & Francis Hiemstra

Count: Connie Heien

Fellowship Host: Jim & Janet Keck

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!

ROOM AT THE TABLE Bethany has helped raise funds to cover the cost of milk for elementary kids for many years. There are milk cans in the narthex where you can drop your donations to help with this. We make sure that all kids are able to receive milk. Thank you all for your donations over the years. -Faith in Action Team

BFFFF'S (Bethany Fun & Fellowship, Food & Friends) Please join us as we meet at The Highlands dining room for a pizza lunch on Wednesday, August 26 at 11:30 am. Ladies, come join in this relaxing, fun-filled fellowship lunch. All are welcome. We hope to see you there!

COME CELEBRATE Rita Storm's 90th birthday at Oneota Park on Sunday August 23rd from 2:00-5:00 pm come and go. Help Rita fill her memory book! In lieu of traditional gifts please bring a written note, story or photograph. They will be gathered into a special memory book to celebrate her 90 wonderful years.

AUDIO/VIDEO BOOTH – a sign up has been placed at the welcome center for kids or young adults who would like to learn or help out the team in to Audio Visual Booth. If you are an adult and interested in helping out we are happy to train anyone. Please speak with Randy Phillips or Sandi Schmidt.

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.



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, Liz Vulk, Lee Youde, Donna Jones, Nancy Wick
DeAnna Bensen (Bill Bensen's mother)

Jerry Faulkner (Tammy Nighswonger's brother)

Tara Nighswonger (Tammy Nighswonger's daughter)

Aaron Sweet (Tammy Nighswonger's stepbrother)

Keith Studer (Matt Studer's uncle)

Thanksgiving

Marriage of Matt and Jaci Studer

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 16 – Pentecost 12

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:15 am Fellowship

Tuesday, August 18

4:00 pm Planning Council

Wednesday, August 19

9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group

Saturday, August 22

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

Sunday, August 23 – Pentecost 13

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, 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)