



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Bethany Herald

September 2026

Volume 09-26

"A Christ-Centered Family Who Serves by Sharing God's Love & Hope With All"

*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

**Your attendance is requested.
The Church Council,
by request of the Call Committee,
has called a special meeting of the
congregation to take place on
September 6, 2026 at 10:00 AM
at Bethany Lutheran Church
located at 15 W. 14th St.**



**Bethany members will vote
to extend a call
to Pastor Denise Berns
to serve Bethany.**



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.

SEPTEMBER 6 – 9 AM - 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scriptures: Ezekiel 33:7-11 , Psalm 119:33-40,

Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

Greeter: Janet Keck

Reader: Deb Mechler

Communion servers: Onalee Wright, Twila Henning,
Candy Huber, Deb Mechler

Usher: Kent Baker

Count: Connie Heien

SEPTEMBER 13 – 9 AM - 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scriptures: Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13,

Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

Greeters: Rhonda Pettit & Jaci Studer

Reader: Jana Phillips

Communion servers: Onalee Wright, Jaci Studer,
3) _____ 4) _____

Usher: Kent Baker

Count: Francis Hiemstra

SEPTEMBER 20 – 9 AM - 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jonah 3:10—4:11, Psalm 145:1-8,

Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

Greeters: Danny & Candy Huber

Reader: Sue Boblit

Communion servers: Onalee Wright, Candy Huber,
Jaci Studer, 4) _____

Usher: Kent Baker

Count: Sue Boblit

SEPTEMBER 27 – 9 AM - 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scriptures: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9,

Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

Greeters: Rhonda Pettit & Jaci Studer

Reader: Jana Phillips

Communion servers: Onalee Wright, Twila Henning,
Sue Boblit, Jaci Studer

Usher: Kent Baker

Count: Connie Heien

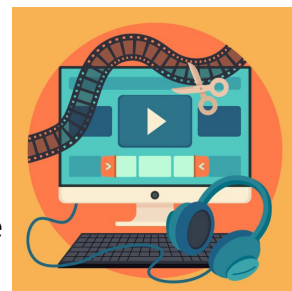


If you or your family is interested in serving as fellowship hosts on Sundays after worship or would like more details, contact Sandi Witt at skwitt52@gmail.com. Sandi will begin to put together the next fellowship

schedule in the coming weeks as the current one wraps up at the end of September!

AUDIO/VIDIO BOOTH

Learn a new skill or exersize the talent you have fostered by helping the team in the Bethany Audio visual 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 the 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.

EACH 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! We are happy to teach you any aspect you are interested in helping with!

Lend a Helping Hand
and Spread Some Love!



Many thanks
to all who
share of their
time and talent,
serving in this way!

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, Liz Vulk, Lee Youde,
Donna Jones, Greg Manwarren, Ron Huber, Nancy Wick

Jeani Plautz (Lee Youde's sister)

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)

Students, families & teachers as they acquaint themselves with new activities, routines and opportunities to learn and grow with each other this school year.

Peace in All Nations

Those Who Mourn

Family of Sylvia Moore

Family of Lois Sanchez (Deb Mechler's sister),

Family of Michael Olsen (Kristin Bensen's uncle),

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

Thanksgiving

Marriage of Matt and Jaci Studer

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:1-13



Prayers for the Call Process

Heavenly Father,
We come before You in humility, knowing that calling a pastor is a sacred task entrusted to Your Spirit. We pray that our hearts may be open, our agendas set aside, and our focus on You alone.

Lord, You know the needs of our church, the challenges we face, and the shepherd You have prepared for us. We pray for discernment to recognize the one You have chosen.

Grant us wisdom to see beyond resumes and into the heart of the candidate — to their love for Your Word, their humility, their ability to lead with justice and compassion.

We ask for unity among us, that we may listen to one another and to You, and that we may put aside personal preferences so that Your will may be done.

In Jesus ' name,
Amen

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!



CONFIRMATION CLASS

Is taking place in the parlor on Wednesday evenings.

The first class was this week September 2nd at 6:30 for 8th and 9th grade students.

If you have any additional questions, speak with Sue Boblit by emailing sdboblit@gmail.com or calling her at 260-2258.

There will be no class on Wednesday, Sept. 16th.
(Fair Week)



**The LORD is gracious,
and full of compassion;
slow to anger,
and of great mercy.**

Psalms 145:8 KJV

TopBibleVerses.com

FLOOD FUND



Although it's been two years since the devastating flood hit our community, there are still people in recovery mode.

Bethany's Flood Fund has provided aid to many folks. We do have some money remaining in the fund. We will gladly consider requests for the use of these dollars by any church members still struggling with flood recovery.

Please contact the church office for a Flood Fund request form if there is a need we can assist with.

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=MWJUeIRVTTdtUUZMbnA2RjVhQ2dsZz09>

Meeting ID: 203 087 8041 **Passcode:** 618607



St Luke Lutheran Home is still raising money toward the purchase of an ice cream machine for their residents. If you would like to donate to this cause, please drop off your money at the front desk or mail a monetary donation to:

St. Luke Lutheran Home
1301 St Luke Drive.
Spencer, Iowa 51301



Thank you to all who have donated to this cause thus far.

Your kindness and generosity are appreciated by all!

Bethany Lutheran Church Planning Council

"A Christ-centered family who serves by sharing God's love and hope with all."

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 - 4:00 PM



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

Devotions – Russ Wright – Spreading the Good News of Peace

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. Jaci Schrier made a motion to accept the agenda as presented, second by Sue Metcalf. Motion carried

Secretary's Report – Judy Hiemstra made a motion to approve the July 21, 2026, council minutes as presented with no corrections. Second by Sandi Schmidt. Motion carried.

Correspondence – Received from Lutheran World Relief (will be discussed under new business) Camping opportunities from Ingham Okoboji, and Info on programs from Lutheran Lakeside.

Treasurer's Report/Monthly Expenses for July – Sandi Schmidt reported that our cash flow is still good. Motion by Sue Metcalf to approve the treasurer's reports. Second by Candy Huber. Motion carried.

Ministry Teams and other reports – Candy Huber reported that Faith in Action met, have the "Room at the Table" milk cans out for donations, and we are looking at something to do for "God's Work our Hands" in September. Randy Phillips reported that he is doing some research on property insurance, will bring estimates to the council once he has received.

Congregational Activity Report – included in packet.

Unfinished Business

Constitution Update – Sue Boblit reports this is still in the works.

Sue Metcalf – Kids Music – Sue Metcalf reports that she is speaking with possible applicant for the Kid's Music, this person would not be able to start until October, will be meeting with the applicant.

Disaster Plan update – Sue Metcalf provided copies of the Bethany Disaster Plan, may be a few more updates.

New Business:

Call Committee – Kirby Schmidt, president of the call committee presented to the council the name of a ministry candidate to put before the congregations for a vote. After some discussion Randy Phillips made a motion to have a congregational meeting to Call a Rostered Minister. Second by Judy Hiemstra. Motion carried. Information will be going out to the congregation.

8th and 9th Grade Confirmation – Council approved a letter to go out to the confirmands for a meeting on Wednesday, August 26th at 6:30 If all is ok, confirmation classes will start on September 2, with confirmation November 8th or 15th. Lynn Egesdal will be leading the class.

Lutheran World Relief – LWR "Last Mile" appeal, this is to help with shipping cost of the Quilts and Kits that are sent all over the world. The need and expenses are rising. Sandi Schmidt made a motion that we use \$2500.00 in Thrivent Choice funds to give towards this appeal. Sue Metcalf seconded the motion. No more discussion. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 4:00 PM

Devotions: Candy Huber

Respectfully submitted by Sue Boblit, Council Secretary

MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE September 22, 2026, COUNCIL MEETING



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"ROOM AT THE TABLE" MILK PROGRAM

Our Congregation at Bethany Lutheran Church has helped raise funds to cover the cost of milk for Spencer elementary kids for many years. We make sure that all kids are able to receive milk. During the previous school year we supplied 6,508 cartons of milk at a cost of \$2,928.60. Our balance to start this school year is only \$581.

**Your financial support is needed
to keep this program going.**

There are milk cans in the narthex where you can drop your donations or you can put a designated check in the offering plate.

-Faith in Action Team

Thank you all for your generous donations over the years.

