



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

Fifteen Sunday after Pentecost– September 6, 2026 – 9:00 AM

Prelude: *"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"* by Nettleton-

Arranged by Joel Raney, Piano Duet Deb Mechler and Elina Ozolins

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Gathering Hymn: *"Awake My Soul and with the Sun"*

ELW #557

Prayer of the Day

First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms (read responsively)

Psalms 119:33-40

Second Reading

Romans 13:8-14

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

Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

Sermon

Pr. Melissa Pickering

Hymn of the Day: *"Where Charity and Love Prevail"*

ELW #359

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offerings Received: *"Near to the Heart of God"* Jeannette M. Smith

Tune: MCAFEE by Cleland B. McAfee

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: *"I Must Tell Jesus"* with *"Blessed Assurance"*

By Mary McDonald Tune: ORWIGSBURG by Elisha A. Hoffman,

Tune: ASSURANCE by Phoebe P. Knapp

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Sending Hymn: "Go, My Children with My Blessing"

ELW #543

Dismissal

Postlude: "Forward in His Name" R. Kevin Boesiger,

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.

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation. (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. Melissa Pickering & Elina Leander Ozolins, pianist-organist

Many thanks to our worship volunteers:

Greeter: Janet Keck

Reader: Deb Mechler

Communion Servers: Onalee Wright, Twila Henning, Candy Huber and Deb Mechler

Ushers: Kent Baker

Count: Connie Heien

Fellowship Host: Mary Hugen

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!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING The Church Council, by request of the Call Committee, has called a special meeting of the congregation to take place **today at 10:00 AM** at Bethany Lutheran. The purpose of the meeting is to vote to extend a call to Pastor Denise Berns to serve Bethany.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will take place in the parlor on Wednesday evenings. The first class was this week September 2nd at 6:30 for 8th and 9th grade students. There will be no class on Wednesday, Sept. 16th. (Fair Week) If you have any additional questions speak with Sue Boblit by emailing sdboblit@gmail.com or calling her at 260-2258.

ROOM AT THE TABLE Bethany has helped raise funds to cover the cost of milk for 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 so **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. Thank you all for your donations over the years.
Faith in Action Team

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.



PRAYER CONCERNS & REQUESTS

Kirk Andersen, Liz Vulk, Lee Youde, Donna Jones, Nancy Wick, Steve Salts
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)

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 6 – 15th Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, September 8

4:00 pm Faith in Action

Wednesday, September 9

9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group

6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Thursday, September 10

9:00 am Fun & Fellowship

Saturday, September 12

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

Sunday, September 13 – 16th Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 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)