



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

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost– September 20, 2026 – 9:00 AM

Prelude: *"Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated"* John Purifoy

Based on HENDON by Henri A.C. Malan

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Gathering Hymn: *"Take My Life That I May Be"*

ELW #583

Prayer of the Day

First Reading

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Psalms (read responsively)

Psalms 145:1-8

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

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

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon

Pastor Erma Wolf

Hymn of the Day: *"Lord of Light"*

ELW #688

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession

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

Sharing of the Peace

Offerings Received: *"He Is Lord"* Arranged by Janet Vogt

Tune: HE IS LORD, Traditional

Offertory Prayer

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: *"Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast"* Jason W. Krug

Tune: HURSLEY, Katholisches Gesangbuch

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Sending Hymn: *"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"*

ELW #547

Dismissal

Postlude: *"Every Day I Will Bless You"* by Richard Blake

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. The pads also have a space for our record of communion. Please be sure to mark this if you partake in Holy Communion. Thank you for filling out the Fellowship Pad!

Large print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available. If you benefit from either of these, please speak with an usher.

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars. (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: Danny and Candy Huber, Reader: Sue Boblit

Ushers: Kent Baker, Count: Sue Boblit

Fellowship Host: Jana Phillips

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!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will resume in the parlor on Wednesday evenings. Classes are at 6:30 for 8th and 9th grade students. **There will be class next week on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd.** If you have any additional questions speak with Sue Boblit by emailing sdboblit@gmail.com or calling her at 260-2258.

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING will take place on Tuesday, September 22nd at 4:00 pm.

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, we are happy to train anyone. Please speak with Randy Phillips or Sandi Schmidt.

CHERISH CENTER NEWSLETTER NOTE - Due to the generosity of many, babies in our communities are staying clean, dry, and healthy! Since beginning in April, our Diaper Bank has been able to impact families from Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, O'Brien, and Palo Alto Counties, and year-to-date we have distributed 177 pkgs of diapers (thru August). Every diaper given represents a little less stress for a parent and one more way we can come alongside families. *Our need for diapers and diaper wipes is ongoing, specifically sizes newborn, 4, 5, and 6 diapers, and 4T/5T and 5T/6T pull-ups.* Thank you for your donations and partnering with us!

PRAYER CONCERNS & REQUESTS

Liz Vulk, Lee Youde, Donna Jones, Nancy Wick, Steve Salts
Carlos Barreda (Rita Storm's grandson-in-law)

Jeani Plautz (Lee Youde's sister)

DeAnna Bensen (Bill Bensen's mother)

Jerry Faulkner (Tammy Nighswonger's brother)

Tara Nighswonger (Tammy Nighswonger's daughter)

Keith Studer (Matt Studer's uncle)

Those Who Morn

Family of Kirk Andersen

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 20 – 17th Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Fellowship

Monday, September 21

10:30 am Kirk Anderson Memorial Service

Tuesday, September 22

4:00 pm Church Planning Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 23

9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group

6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Saturday, September 26

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

Sunday, September 27 – 18th 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)