



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

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost— September 27, 2026 – 9:00 AM

Prelude: "Fairest Lord Jesu" Piano Duet- Deb Mechler and Elina Ozolins,
Arranged by Joel Raney, CRUSADER'S HYMN by Schlesische Volkslieder,

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Gathering Hymn: "*God Be the Love To Search and Keep Me*" **ACS #1084**

Prayer of the Day

First Reading Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm (read responsively) Psalm 25:1-9

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-33

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

Gospel Matthew 21:23-32

Sermon Pastor Erma Wolf

Hymn of the Day: "*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*" **ELW #517**

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offerings Received: "*This Is My Father's World*" by Roger Summers
Tune: TERRA BETA by Franklin L. Sheppard

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: "*One Lord, One Body, One Feast*" Arr. by Lee Dengler
Tunes: ST. PETER by Alexander Robert Reinagle,
ST. BRENDAN'S by Peter Scholtes,
LET US BREAK BREAD - African American Spiritual

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Sending Hymn: *"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"*

ELW #538

Dismissal

Postlude: *"Rejoice, the Lord Is King"* by John Darwall, arr. by Cindy Berry

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.

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world. (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: Rhonda Petitt & Jaci Studer;

Reader: Jana Phillips

Communion Servers: Onalee Wright, Twila Henning, & Jaci Studer

Ushers: Kent Baker;

Count: Sue Boblit

Fellowship Host: Francis & Judy Hiemstra

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!

A FAREWELL POTLUCK BRUNCH AND CARD SHOWER has been planned for Pastor Erma Wolf after worship on October 18, her last Sunday with us. Please bring your appetite, your favorite dish to share and a card if you wish.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES are in the parlor on Wednesday evenings to prepare for Confirmation that will take place during worship on November 8th. Classes are 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.

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.



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)

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 27 – 18th Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Fellowship

Wednesday, September 30

9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group

6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Thursday, October 1

4:00 pm Caring Friends

Saturday, October 3

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

Sunday, October 4 – 19th 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)