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**
Reformation Sunday– October 25, 2026 – 9:00 AM

Prelude: *"A Mighty Fortress"* EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther,
Arranged by Anna Laura Page, Bethany Bells performing with piano

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Gathering Hymn: *"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"* **ELW #836**

Prayer of the Day

First Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm (read responsively) Psalm 46

Second Reading Romans 3:19-28

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

Gospel John 8:31-36

Sermon Pastor Deb Mechler

Hymn of the Day: *"Soli Deo Gloria"* **ELW #878**

Apostles' Creed

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

Sharing of the Peace

Offerings Received: *"Pray Always"* Garrett Parker

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: *"Blessings"* Ruth Elaine Schram,
Tunes: BLESSINGS, by Edwin O. Excell, KENOSIS, by Philip P. Bliss,
SOMETHING FOR JESUS, by Robert Lowry

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Sending Hymn: *"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"* **ELW #504**

Dismissal

Postlude: *"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"* arranged by Lani Smith,
Tune: HYMN OF JOY, by Ludwig van Beethoven

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.

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission. (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. Deb Mechler & Elina Leander Ozolins, pianist-organist
Many thanks to our worship volunteers:
Greeters: People of Bethany; Reader: Jaci Studer
Communion Servers: Onalee Wright, Twila Henning,
Kristin Bensen & Jaci Studer
Ushers: Kent Baker; Count: Sue Boblit
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!

LOST ISLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER is taking place on *TODAY*, October 25th from 4:00 pm- 7:00 pm. Chicken noodle, chili, vegetable beef (gf) and ham & bean soup (gf), homemade bread & pies will be on the menu. Join them for supper! For directions go to LostIslandLutheranChurch.org. A free will donation is appreciated.

KIDS MUSIC UPDATE- *A NOTE FROM SARAH*

Hello! I'm excited to be starting as your director for children's music at Bethany. As we figure out a schedule that works for us and wait for your new pastor to be here, we will be figuring out the dates that work best for practice as we go. At our first rehearsal, we determined that these two dates would work well for the next 2 practices:

Sunday, October 25th at 6:30-7:15pm

Wednesday, November 18th at 6:30-7:15pm

I am looking forward to seeing you all and the kids again soon, in the meantime let me know if you have any questions!

sarahbuns16@gmail.com

THE FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS will be held in Spencer on Sunday, December 6th at 3 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church. The community is invited to this annual program of music and the Christmas story. All singers in the area are invited to join the choir with rehearsals being held on Sunday nights. Rehearsals are on November 1, 15, 22 and 29 at 6:30 p.m at Grace United Methodist Church. For more information, visit "Spencer Messiah" on Facebook.

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 at 260-2258.

NAME TAGS Please let Elizabeth in the office know if you need a new nametag made. We want to be sure everyone is wearing theirs in the coming weeks as we welcome Pr. Denise to Bethany.

BFFFF'S (Bethany Fun & Fellowship, Food & Friends) Join us for lunch at Family Table on Wednesday, November 18th at 11:30 am. Ladies, all are welcome for this relaxing, fun-filled fellowship lunch. We hope to see you there!

PRAYER CONCERNS & REQUESTS

Liz Vulk, Lee Youde, Donna Jones, Nancy Wick,
Steve Salts, Aaliyah VanAmpting, Laurie Conlon
David Ozolins (Elina Leander Ozolins' brother)
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, October 25 – Reformation Sunday
9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 am Fellowship
6:30 pm Kids Music
Wednesday, October 28
9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group
6:30 pm Confirmation Class
Saturday, October 31
7:30 am Men of Bethany Bible Study (in person & via ZOOM)
Sunday, November 1 – All Saints Day
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)