Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The Bethany Herald
November 2026

Volume 11-26

"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

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

Next Sunday , November 8th will be an exciting and busy day here at Bethany. Although Pr. Denise begins her time as Pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church on Monday, November 2, Sunday will be her time leading worship as Bethany's pastor! Please be encouraged to attend worship in person Sunday, as well as every week!

Confirmation will also take place on Sunday, November 8 for a group of young people who will affirm their baptism.

Please pray for Bethany and these young people as they take this next step in their faith journeys! This years confirmands include: Cecelia Burns, Aleyah Falline, Bently Finkbeiner, Kathryn Manwarren, Ava Metcalf and Keith Brown.

A heartfelt thank you to all the folks who came and helped Pastor Denise move in.





SCRIPTURE READINGS & VOLUNTEERS

Listed below are the lectionary readings for services in November along with volunteers who are helping the in the month of October.

Worship onsite, via livestream online, or catch a rebroadcast aired on SMU Channel 2 on Tuesdays at 5 pm or Wednesdays at 10 am.

NOVEMBER 1 – 9 AM - ALL SAINTS DAY
Scriptures: Revelation 7:9-17, Psalm 34:1-10, 22
Romans 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12
Greeter: Rhonda Salts
Reader: Jana Phillips
Communion servers: Onalee Wright, Jaci Studer, Candy Huber, Jody Vollmer
Usher: Kent Baker
Count: Sue Boblit

NOVEMBER 8 – 9 AM - 24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Scriptures: Amos 5:18-24, Psalm 70,
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13
Greeters: Rhonda Pettit & Jaci Studer
Reader: Confirmation Students
Communion servers: Onalee Wright, Jaci Studer, Rhonda Salts, 4)_____
Usher: Kent Baker
Count: Connie Heien

NOVEMBER 15 – 9 AM - 25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Jonah Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, Psalm 90:1-12,
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30
Greeter: Sue Metcalf
Reader: Judy Hiemstra
Communion servers: Onalee Wright, Jody Vollmer, Kristin Bensen, Twila Henning
Usher: Kent Baker
Count: Francis Hiemstra

NOVEMBER 22 – 9 AM - CHRIST THE KING
Scriptures: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 95:1-7a,
Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46
Greeters: Rhonda Pettit & Lisa Baker
Reader: Jana Phillips
Communion servers: Onalee Wright, Jaci Studer, Rhonda Salts, 4)_____
Usher: Kent Baker
Count: Sue Boblit

NOVEMBER 29 – 9 AM - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Scriptures: Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19,
1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37
Greeters: Rhonda Pettit & Jaci Studer
Reader: Jaci Studer
Communion servers: Onalee Wright, Jody Vollmer, Candy Huber, Jaci Studer
Usher: Kent Baker
Count: Connie Heien

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.

We encourage and welcome your help! There are numerous opportunities for volunteers to assist before, during or after worship! We are thrilled to teach any aspect you are interested in helping with!



Many thanks to all who share of their time and talent,

November 1



BETHANY

PLANNING COUNCIL OPENINGS

will need to be filled in the coming months. If you are interested in running for council talk with a current council member or give your name to the office.

Any Bethany member is welcome to join a council meeting to better understand how decisions move forward at Bethany.





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.

ST. LUKE
FAMILY OF SERVICES

Fall Giving Bazaar For St. Luke Auxiliary

The St. Luke Auxiliary holds its Fall Giving Bazaar during November and December to raise funds for a variety of needs at St. Luke. Over the past year, the Auxiliary has contributed $2,500.00 toward an ice cream machine, $600.00 for flowers and landscaping, $400.00 for Christmas gifts, and $500.00 toward rides on the Queen II and other summer activities. To support these efforts, you may leave a donation in the offering plate marked for the St. Luke Auxiliary or make a check payable to St. Luke Auxiliary. The Auxiliary appreciates your support.

Sue Boblit, St. Luke Auxiliary Secretary

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=MWJUelRVTTdtUUZMbnA2RjVhQ2dsZz09

Meeting ID: 203 087 8041

Passcode: 618607

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.





HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

If you have a prayer concern or request, please let us know.

Liz Vulk, Lee Youde, Donna Jones, Greg Manwarren, Steve Salts, Aaliyah VanAmpting, Laurie Conlon, Nancy Wick
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)
Peace in All Nations
Those Who Mourn
Family of Kirk Andersen

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!



BFFFF'S LUNCH

(Bethany Fun & Fellowship, Food & Friends)
Join the women of Bethany at Family Table for lunch on Wednesday, November 18th at 11:30 AM.



Bethany Lutheran Church Planning Council

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

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 - 4:00 PM

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

Absent – Jaci Studer

Devotions – Sue Boblit – " A new season, a new beginning"

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

Secretary's Report – Randy Phillips made a motion to approve the September 22, 2026 minutes. Second by Judy Hiemstra. Motion carried.

Correspondence – Sue Metcalf had information on Boundary Training, focus on Racial Justice.

Treasurer's Report/Monthly Expenses for April – Reports were approved with no questions. Motion by Judy Hiemstra 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 and determined that the best way to help CAASA right now is with a monetary donation. Candy Huber made a motion to send a donation of $1,000.00 from Thrivent Funds to CAASA. Second by Sue Metcalf. Motion carried. Candy noted that Faith in Action will be working with Elderbridge and Upper Des Moines for Santa for Seniors, and will plan a fleece blanket tying event in January.

Congregational Activity Report – included in packet.

Unfinished Business

Confirmation Dinner – Will be held on Saturday, November 7th at 6:00 PM. Invite will go out by the end of the week, menu will have a chicken casserole as a main course, with apple crisp for dessert. Once we have the number of attendees we will meet to prepare the meal.

Sue Metcalf – Kids Music – The Kid's music group met for the first time on October 14th. This was a get to know the teacher and discussion on meeting dates. Sue was pleased with the attendance, and looking forward to Sarah Bunnell working with the kids on music to bring to the church service.

Council Openings – There will be four openings on council next year.

New Business:

Budget – Sandi Schmidt asked that we all look at the budget and line items to start planning for next years budget.

Pastor Denise Berns – Installation is tentatively planned for December 6th. More information to come.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 4:00 PM

Devotions: Sue Metcalf

Respectfully submitted by Sue Boblit, Council Secretary

MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE November 17, 2026, COUNCIL MEETING

BETHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

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This Sunday Bethany will remember all of the saints that have died, especially members of Bethany who have died over the past twelve months.



Betty June Schmidt
Steven Richard McAllister
Sylvia Marie Moore
Kirk Douglas Andersen

These who join the saints at rest and receive

"their victorious crowns of gold".