BETHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

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**
24th Sunday after Pentecost – November 8, 2026 – 9:00 AM

Prelude: *"Strength in the Stillness"* Matt Schinske

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Gathering Hymn: *"Oh When the Saints Go Marching In"* **ACS #950**

Prayer of the Day

First Reading & Psalm Amos 5:18-24, Psalm 70

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon Pastor Denise Berns

Hymn of the Day: *"Blessed Assurance"* **ELW #638**

Confirmation

Prayers of Intercession God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offerings Received: *"Hymn of Grateful Praise"* Paul Taylor,
Tune: DIX by Conrad Kocher

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: *"Let Us Break Bread Together"* Cindy Berry

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Sending Hymn: *"This Little Light of Mine"* **ELW #677**

Dismissal

Postlude: *"America the Beautiful"* Samuel A. Ward,
arranged 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.

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb. (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. Denise Berns & Elina Leander Ozolins, pianist-organist
Many thanks to our worship volunteers:
Greeters: Rhonda Salts & Jaci Studer,
Reader: Confirmation Students
Communion Servers: Onalee Wright, Rhonda Salts,
Kristin Bensen & Jaci Studer;
Usher: Kent Baker,
Count: Connie Heien;
Fellowship Host: Jana Philips,
Everyone in the Audio/Visual Booth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FELLOWSHIP will be after worship in the parlor. Join us for cake and refreshments while celebrating our newly confirmed Bethany members. All are welcome for fellowship and lively conversation! Hope to see you all there!

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.

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. Our next rehearsal will be **Wednesday, November 18th at 6:30-7:15 pm.** 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

UDMO DJ BINGO Join them for a night of fun and games to help raise money for Clay County UDMO! The fun will take place at the Spencer Muni Clubhouse on Thursday and Friday, November 12th and 13th. Doors will open at 5:30 with the first bingo game beginning at 6 pm. A table for 4 is $100. This includes a bingo card for each game for each person and a large pizza and dessert! To reserve a table, contact UDMO at 262-7409 or email tchinn@udmo.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 pm. at Grace United Methodist Church. For more information, visit "Spencer Messiah" on Facebook.

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, Donna Jones, Nancy Wick,
Steve Salts, Aaliyah VanAmpting, Laurie Conlon
Carlos Barreda (Rita Storm's grandson-in-law)
DeAnna Bensen (Bill Bensen's mother)
Jerry Faulkner (Tammy Nighswonger's brother)
Tara Nighswonger (Tammy Nighswonger's daughter)
Keith Studer (Matt Studer's uncle)

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Confirmation of Keith Dean Brown, Cecelia Schiefelbein Burns,
Aleyah Grace Falline, Bentley Cooper Finkbeiner, Kathryn Jo Manwarren,
Ava Monroe Metcalf

Those Whom Mourn:

The Family of David Ozolins (Elina Leander Ozolins' brother)

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 8 – Confirmation Sunday
- 9:00 am Worship with Confirmation & Holy Communion
- 10:00 am Fellowship
- 6:30 pm Lessons and Carols Rehearsal at Grace United Methodist

Tuesday, November 10
- 4:00 pm Faith in Action Meeting

Wednesday, November 11
- 9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group

Thursday, November 12
- 9:00 am Fun & Fellowship

Saturday, November 14
- 7:30 am Men of Bethany Bible Study (in person & via ZOOM)

Sunday, November 15 – Confirmation Sunday
- 9:00 am Worship with Confirmation & Holy Communion
- 10:00 am Fellowship
- 6:30 pm Lessons and Carols Rehearsal at Grace United Methodist

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)