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
25th Sunday after Pentecost – November 15, 2026 – 9:00 AM

Prelude: *"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"* Arranged by Brant Adams
Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR by George J. Elvey,
Flute Soloist- Mary Hugen, Piano- Elina Ozolins

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Gathering Hymn: *"Christ be Our Light"* **ELW #715**

Prayer of the Day

First Reading & Psalm Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, Psalm 1-8 [9-11] 12

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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

Gospel Matthew 25: 14-30

Sermon Pastor Denise Berns

Hymn of the Day: *"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"* **ELW #678**

Apostles' Creed

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

Sharing of the Peace

Offerings Received: *"'Tis a Gift to Be Simple"* Shaker melody,
Arranged by Sandra Eithun, Bethany Bells and Piano

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: *"Peace Day By Day"* Arranged by Ruth Elaine Schram
Tunes: BLOTT EN DAG, Oscar Ahnfelt, PEACE LIKE A RIVER, Folk melody
Tune: WYE VALLEY, James Mountain

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Sending Hymn: *"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"* **ELW #674**

Dismissal

Postlude: “Every Time I Feel the Spirit” Arranged by Lloyd Larson
Tune: FEEL THE SPIRIT- Traditional Spiritual

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.

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us. (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:
Greeter: Sue Metcalf, Reader: Judy Hiemstra
Communion Servers: Onalee Wright, Twila Henning,
Kristin Bensen & Jody Vollmer;
Usher: Kent Baker; Fellowship Host: Francis & Judy Hiemstra,
Count: Francis Hiemstra; Everyone in the Audio/Visual Booth

Join us in the parlor for Fellowship after worship. 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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

POINSETTIAS- We will decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias for Advent and Christmas. If you'd like to share a plant in memory or honor of a loved one, sign up at the Welcome Center by November 24. Cost is $12.00. Make checks payable to Bethany Lutheran Church.

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 15, 22 and 29 at 6:30 pm. at Grace United Methodist Church. For more information, visit "Spencer Messiah" on Facebook.

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**!**

2026 FESTIVAL OF TREES: DUALLING GALLERIES will be hosted by Arts on Grand and the Clay County Heritage Center of Spencer on Saturday, November 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at each location. The event costs $10 per person and includes viewing more than 50 trees and holiday vignettes between the two galleries. One ticket gives you access to both galleries. Attendees will enjoy trees and vignettes of personal collections by area groups, businesses and residents, a silent auction of some trees on display, holiday music, historic items, and a delicious spread of 'savory and sweet' for those who attend. Tickets are available for sale at both galleries or may be purchased at the door of each location.

PRAYER CONCERNS & REQUESTS

Liz Vulk, Donna Jones, Nancy Wick, Lee Youde
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 Brown, Cecelia Burns, Aleyah Falline, Bentley Finkbeiner, Kathryn Manwarren, Ava Metcalf

Those Whom Mourn:

The Family of David Ozolins (Elina Leander Ozolins' brother)
The Family of Phyllis Krukow (Carla Anderson's mother)

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 15 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost
- 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion followed by fellowship
- 6:30 pm Lessons and Carols Rehearsal at Grace United Methodist

Tuesday, November 17
- 4:00 pm Planning Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 18
- 9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group
- 11:30 am BFFF's lunch at Family Table
- 6:30 pm Kid's Music

Saturday, November 21
- 7:30 am Men of Bethany Bible Study (in person & via ZOOM)

Sunday, November 22 – Christ the King
- 9:00 am Worship with 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)