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
Advent 1 – November 29, 2026 – 9:00 AM

Prelude: *"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"* Arr. by Cathy Moklebust
GABRIEL's MESSAGE- Traditional Basque carol- Bethany Bells with piano

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hymn *"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"* **ELW #240**

Confession & Forgiveness

Gathering Hymn: *"Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"* **ACS #901**

Prayer of the Day

First Reading & Psalm Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel Acclamation: *"Our hearts burn within us"* **ACS pg. 33**

Gospel Mark 13:24-37

Children's Message

Sermon Pastor Denise Berns

Hymn of the Day: *"All Who Believe and Are Baptized"* **ELW #434**

Baptism of Jacob Dean Huber

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

Sharing of the Peace

Offerings: *"Thanks for the Blessings You Give"* John Turner

Offertory Prayer

Holy Communion
Great Thanksgiving ACS pg. 36, "Holy, Holy, Holy" ACS pg. 36,
Words of Institution, Lord's Prayer ACS pg. 39, Communion Song -
"Be Known to us, Lord Jesus" ACS pg. 40, Distribution

Communion Music: *"Come, Emmanuel"* arr. by Ruth Elaine Schram
Tunes: VENI EMMANUEL- Traditional
& HYFRYDOL by Rowland H. Prichard

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Sending Hymn: *"Soon & Very Soon"* **ELW #439**

Dismissal

Postlude: *"Fling Wide the Door"* Joseph Prentiss
Tune: MACHT HOCH DIE TUR by J.A. Freylinghausen

WORSHIP NOTES

Welcome to worship at Bethany Lutheran Church! It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ's 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. Thanks 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.

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come. (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.

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: Jaci Studer
Communion Servers: Onalee Wright, Jody Vollmer, Jaci Studer
& Candy Huber; Usher: Kent Baker; Fellowship Host: Jana Phillips:
Count: Sue Boblit; Everyone in the Audio/Visual Booth

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!*

Worship is rebroadcast on SMU CH #2:
Tuesday-5pm, Wednesday-10am
or can be found on YouTube® (Search Bethany Lutheran Church, Spencer IA)

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!

ADVENT DEVOTIONS are available in the narthex. Pick one up today!

KIDS MUSIC is in full swing with our first performance today during worship! Our next rehearsals will be **Sunday, November 29th and December 13th at 6:30-7:15 pm.** Let me know if you have any questions! sarahbuns16@gmail.com

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE is on Monday November 30th at River's Edge Church at 6:30. This "Candlelight Service of Remembrance" is for those who have experienced the death of a loved one. The service is centered on keeping their memories alive offering you comfort and strength.

ADVENT Bethany Wednesday evening Advent suppers and services will begin on *Wednesday, December 2*. Supper will be at 6:15 in the basement and worship at 7:00 in the Sanctuary. Let us gather together in fellowship, prayer and worship as we anticipate the coming birth of the Messiah!

SANTA FOR SENIORS Faith in Action is once again taking part in the Santa for Seniors program through Elderbridge and Upper Des Moines. You will notice a tree in the welcome center that has some tags on it. We are providing gifts for four seniors. If you would like to participate, please take the tags off the tree, return a wrapped gift with the white tag attached to the package. Attaching the tag we provide will assure we have received all the gifts. **Please return the wrapped packages, with the tags, to the church by Thursday, December 3rd.** Thank you all in advance for your support for this wonderful cause.

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. For more information, visit "Spencer Messiah" on Facebook.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will begin for 6th and 7th graders in the new year. A sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center. Join Pr. Denise at a parent/ student meeting held on January 6th at 6:30.

BETHANY PLANNING COUNCIL OPENINGS will need to be filled in the soon. 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS & REQUESTS

Liz Vulk, Donna Jones, Nancy Wick, Lee Youde, Steve Salts,
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)
Thanksgiving
Baptism of Jacob Dean Huber

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 29 – Advent 1
- 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
- 10:00 am Fellowship
- 6:30 pm Kid's Music Practice in the sanctuary
- 6:30 pm Lessons and Carols Rehearsal at Grace United Methodist

Tuesday, December 1
- 11:00 am David Ozolins Memorial Service

Wednesday, December 2
- 9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group
- 6:15 pm Advent Supper
- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting
- 7:00 pm Advent Worship

Thursday, December 3
- 4:00 pm Caring Friends

Saturday, December 5
- 7:30 am Men of Bethany Bible Study (in person & via ZOOM)

Sunday, December 6 – Advent 2
- 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.