



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
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost– August 30, 2026 – 9:00 AM

Prelude: *"Hyfrydol"* arranged by John Purifoy,
Piano/Flute-Elina Ozolins & Mary Hugen

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Gathering Hymn: *"For the Beauty of the Earth"* **ELW #879**

Prayer of the Day

First Reading Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalm (read responsively) Psalm 26:1-8

Second Reading Romans 12:9-21

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

Gospel Matthew 16:21-28

Sermon Pr. Denise Berns

Hymn of the Day: *"Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"* **ELW #808**

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offerings Received: *"Simple Gifts"* arranged by John Purifoy,
Piano/Flute-Elina Ozolins & Mary Hugen

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: *"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"* Music by
Shelton Ridge Love, Tune: SHOWALTER by Anthony J. Showalter

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Sending Hymn: *"Let Living Streams of Justice"*

ELW #710

Dismissal

Postlude: *"I Love to Tell the Story"* Lloyd Larson,

Tune: HANKEY by W.G. Fischer

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.

Large-print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available. If you benefit from either of these, please speak with an usher.

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world. (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: Sue Boblit

Reader: Jana Phillips

Communion Servers: Onalee Wright, Twila Henning, and Jaci Studer

Ushers: Kent Baker & Francis Hiemstra

Count: Sue Boblit

Fellowship Host: Dale & Sandi Witt

Everyone in the Audio/Visual Booth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH hosted by the call committee will be downstairs today following our worship service. This gathering time is an opportunity to meet the pastoral candidate and her family. All are welcome for fellowship and lively conversation! Hope to see you all there!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING The Church Council, by request of the Call Committee, has called a special meeting of the congregation to take place on September 6, 2026 at 10:00 AM at Bethany Lutheran Church located at 15 W. 14th St. The purpose of the meeting is to vote to extend a call to a rostered minister to serve Bethany.



BETHANY HERALD DEADLINE is coming upon us already this month. Please have your information to the front office Tuesday, September 1st or before.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will take place in the parlor beginning Wednesday evenings. The first class will be September 2nd at 6:30 for 8th and 9th grade students. There will be no class on Wednesday, Sept. 16th. (Fair Week) If you have any additional questions speak with Sue Boblit by emailing sdboblit@gmail.com or calling her at 260-2258.

ROOM AT THE TABLE Bethany has helped raise funds to cover the cost of milk for elementary kids for many years. We make sure that all kids are able to receive milk. During the previous school year we supplied 6,508 cartons of milk at a cost of \$2,928.60. Our balance to start this school year is only \$581 so **your financial support is needed** to keep this program going. There are milk cans in the narthex where you can drop your donations or you can put a designated check in the offering plate. Thank you all for your donations over the years.
Faith in Action Team

AUDIO/VIDEO 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 to 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.

Thank you Bethany friends for all of the well wishes & cards for my 90th birthday. It truly made it a memorable day. I am truly blessed.

Rita Storm

PRAYER CONCERNS & REQUESTS

Kirk Andersen, Liz Vulk, Lee Youde, Donna Jones, Nancy Wick, Steve Salts
Jeani Plautz (Lee Youde's sister)

DeAnna Bensen (Bill Bensen's mother)

Jerry Faulkner (Tammy Nighswonger's brother)

Tara Nighswonger (Tammy Nighswonger's daughter)

Aaron Sweet (Tammy Nighswonger's stepbrother)

Keith Studer (Matt Studer's uncle)

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 30 – 14th Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Brunch Fellowship & Meet Pastoral Candidate

Wednesday, September 2

9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group

6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Thursday, September 3

4:30 pm Caring Friends

Saturday, September 5

7:30 am Men of Bethany Bible Study (in person & via ZOOM)

Sunday, September 6 – 15th Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Congregational Meeting



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)