

"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline in the place of honor...."

- Luke 14:8



Bethany Lutheran Church (ELS)

Welcome to our church! You have joined us for the most important time we spend together as a congregation. Each week we gather around God's Word and sacraments with the sure promise that Jesus is present wherever two or three come together in his name. We also rely on his promise to build us up and strengthen us in our faith through his Word and sacraments.

The order of service is outlined in this folder. Hymns will be sung from the hymnals located under the seats in front of you.

Restrooms are located next to the coatracks just off the entryway.

An offering will not be taken during the service. An offering plate is located on the table in the back of the sanctuary if you would like to give an offering.

Should you have any questions or need any type of assistance, please feel free to ask the usher or the pastor.

About Bethany: Bethany is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS). We are in full fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We would love to become better acquainted with you at your convenience. For more information, contact Pastor Smith at mksmith@blc.edu or 515-232-1544.

Bethany Lutheran Church (ELS)

3113 Diamond St Ames, Iowa 50010 (515) 232-1544

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Michael K. Smith

Find us on the web at bethanyames.net.

15th Sunday After Pentecost

September 21, 2025

Holy Communion: We invite members of our congregation or other ELS or WELS congregations to commune with us. We ask everyone else to please visit with Pastor Smith before our next communion service. **Members**: Please sign the communion registration sheet on the table in the narthex.

Order of Service – Rite Two (beginning on p. 60) *See also "Prayers for Worship" on p. 40 in the front of the hymnal.*

The Hymn - #23 - "Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now"

The Introit

P: The Lord is my Light and my Salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the Strength of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked came up against me, my enemies and my foes, they stumbled and fell. Though an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear.

C:
☐ Glory be to the Father....

The Collect for the Day

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The First Lesson - Proverbs 25:6-7

⁶ Do not honor yourself in a king's presence. Do not stand in a place reserved for great people,

⁷ because it is better to be told, "Come up here," than for you to be humiliated before a ruler whom your eyes have seen.

The Psalm Hymn - #441 - "O That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

The Second Lesson - Hebrews 13:1-8

¹ Continue to show brotherly love. ² Do not fail to show love to strangers, for by doing this some have welcomed angels without

realizing it. ³ Remember those in prison, as if you were fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated, as if you yourselves were also suffering bodily.

⁴ Marriage is to be held in honor by all, and the marriage bed is to be kept undefiled, for God will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have. For God has said: "I will never leave you, and I will never forsake you." ⁶ So then we say with confidence: "The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Carefully consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

The Verse (p. 67)

P: Alleluia. Your words became a joy to me, and the delight of my heart. Alleluia.

C: 🎜 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Gospel Lesson – Luke 14:1, 7-14

P: The Holy Gospel for this Sunday is written in the 14th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke, beginning at the 1st verse.

C: ☐ Glory be to you, O Lord!

¹One Sabbath day, when Jesus went into the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat bread, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how they were selecting the places of honor, he told the invited guests a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline in the place of honor, or perhaps someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him. ⁹ The one who invited both of you may come and tell you, 'Give this man your place.' Then you will begin, with shame, to take the lowest place.

¹⁰ "But when you are invited, go and recline in the lowest place, so that when the one who invited you comes, he will tell you, 'Friend, move up to a higher place.' Then you will have honor in the presence of all who are reclining at the table with you.

¹¹ "Yes, everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

¹²He also said to the one who had invited him, "When you make a dinner or a supper, do not invite your friends, or your brothers, or your relatives, or rich neighbors, so that perhaps they may also return the favor and pay you back.

¹³ "But when you make a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. Certainly, you will be repaid in the resurrection of the righteous."

P: This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

C:
☐ Praise be to you, O Christ!

The Nicene Creed (p. 69)

The Chief Hymn – #455 (tune of #291) – "With Broken Heart And Contrite Sigh"

The Sermon – Luke 14:1,7-14 – "Humility is Not Just a Quality"

The Offering Hymn - #445 (vss. 1-2) - "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

The Prayer of the Church (pp. 96-97)

The Service of Holy Communion (beginning on p. 72)

The Hymn of Thanks – #313 (vss. 1,12-13) – "I Come, O Savior...."

The Closing Hymn - #236 (vss. 1,4) - "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus"

Scripture quotations are copyright The Evangelical Heritage Version $^{\text{TM}}$ (EHVTM) of the Bible held by The Wartburg Project. © 2019. All rights reserved worldwide.

Announcements

- Next week we'll have a potluck following the service. See the signup sheet on the table by the kitchen.
- We'd like to plan to do another "Trunk or Treat" event this year to reach out to our neighborhood. We need at least three additional volunteers to make this happen. The event would be Friday, Oct. 31 from 5:00-8:00pm. Talk to Pastor Smith if you're interested or have questions.

- This Saturday our Circuit 7 Mission Rally and Lay Education Conference will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church (611 W. Court St., New Hampton, IA). Rev. David Thompson will present "The Pleasure of Defending Christian Truth (Apologetics)" and "Those Challenging Worldviews." Rev. Thompson serves as the director for the ELS Center for Apologetics and Worldviews (https://apologeticscenter.org/). Coffee and registration will begin at 9:30am, and the conference will conclude at 3:00pm. Please let Pastor Smith know if you're planning to attend (the ladies at Redeemer need a head count for lunch).
- If you'd like to help with mowing the church lawn, see the signup sheet on the back table. (E-version will be in tomorrow's announcements.)

Visiting with us today? Please sign the guest register in the entryway or use the QR code.



	SCAN	ME		

This	Week.	at	Bethany
	W CCIN	CIC	DCCICII

Monday	7:00pm	ISU Bible Study
Wednesday	7:00pm	Bible Study
Saturday	9:30am	Circuit 7 Mission Rally/
	-3:00pm	Lay Education Conference
Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:00am	Worship
	11:15am	Potluck
	11:30am	Confirmation Class