



“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

– John 8:31-32

BETHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 coat racks 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)

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Ames, Iowa 50010

(515) 232-1544

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Michael K. Smith

Find us on the web at bethanyames.net

Order of Service – Rite One (beginning on p. 41)

See also “Prayers for Worship” on p. 40 in the front of the hymnal.

The Hymn – #551 – “Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain”

(Sunday School sings vss. 1-2; congregation sings vss. 3-4)

The Collect for the Day

P: Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

The First Lesson – Jeremiah 31:31-34

- ³¹ Yes, the days are coming, declares the LORD,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.
- ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers,
when I took them by the hand
and led them out of the land of Egypt.
They broke that covenant of mine,
although I was a husband to them, declares the LORD.
- ³³ But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel
after those days,
declares the LORD.
I will put my law in their minds,
and I will write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.
- ³⁴ No longer will each one teach his neighbor,
or each one teach his brother, saying, “Know the LORD,”
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD,

for I will forgive their guilt,
and I will remember their sins no more.

The Psalm of the Day – Psalm 46

P: God is our refuge and strength, a helper who can always be found in times of trouble.

C: That is why we will not fear when the earth dissolves and when the mountains tumble into the heart of the sea.

P: Its waters roar and foam.

C: The mountains quake when it rises.

P: There is a river—its streams bring joy to the city of God, to the holy dwelling of the Most High.

C: God is in her. She will not fall. God will help her at daybreak.

P: Nations are in turmoil. Kingdoms fall.

C: God raises his voice. The earth melts.

P: The LORD of Armies is with us.

C: The God of Jacob is a fortress for us.

P: Come, look at the works of the LORD. What a wasteland he has made of the earth!

C: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth. He shatters the bow. He cuts up the spear. He burns the carts with fire.

P: “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations.

C: “I will be exalted on the earth.”

P: The LORD of Armies is with us.

C: The God of Jacob is a fortress for us.

The Second Lesson – Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says is addressed to those who are under the law, so that every mouth will be silenced and the whole world will be subject to God’s judgment. ²⁰For this reason, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by works of the law, for through the law we become aware of sin.

²¹But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it. ²²This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe.

In fact, there is no difference, ²³ because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in his blood. God did this to demonstrate his justice, since, in his divine restraint, he had left the sins that were committed earlier unpunished. ²⁶ He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so that he would be both just and the one who justifies the person who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ What happens to boasting then? It has been eliminated. By what principle – by the principle of works? No, but by the principle of faith. ²⁸ For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law.

The Gospel Lesson – John 8:31-36

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

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

C: ♪ **God be prais-ed for his glad tidings.**

The Apostles’ Creed (p. 46)

The Chief Hymn – #250 – “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

The Sermon – John 8:31-36 – “Hold On to the Truth of God’s Word”

The Prayer of the Church

P: Since the beginning of time, O Lord, you have spoken to humanity.

C: **Even though people have sought to silence your voice, you have pierced the veil of silence with your powerful Word.**

P: Through Moses and the prophets you made your will known among us.

C: When your Word was ignored, you miraculously embodied your word in the person of Jesus Christ.

P: Again some tried to still your voice by nailing your Word to a cross,

C: but you could not be silenced.

P: You raised your “Word made flesh” from the dead so that many have heard the message.

C: We thank you, Lord, that we have heard the message through Christ.

P: Many have been the heroes and saints who have, at great personal sacrifice, handed the gospel on to us today.

C: Many sacrificed their lives in the defense of your truth and the gospel.

P: In spite of their efforts, however, human barriers have often curtailed the free distribution, teaching, and preaching of your Word.

C: Many times your Word has been buried under the rubble of man-made laws and traditions.

P: But you have always brought forth one of your chosen servants to restore your Word.

C: For giving us such men to lead us out of spiritual darkness into the marvelous light of the gospel, we give you thanks.

(Here special intercessions, silent or spoken by the pastor, may be offered.)

P: Help us, O Lord, to treasure your Word, and guard it with a due sense of appreciation for those who have made its presence in our midst possible.

C: Help us to read, hear, and inwardly digest it so that we may grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer (p. 49)

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

The Hymn – #549 – “O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word”

The Closing Hymn – #228 – “Almighty God, Thy Word is Cast”

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Announcements

- The Voters meet today following the worship service.
- All are invited **this afternoon at 4:00** to the area ELS/WELS Reformation Service at Beautiful Savior, West Des Moines (8051 EP True Parkway). Prof. David Scharf of Martin Luther College is the guest preacher. A chili/soup supper will be available after the service.
- All men are invited this Saturday at 7:00am to a time of food, fellowship, and study. (See the food signup in tomorrow’s announcements.)
- Next Sunday we’ll have a “Chili Cookoff” potluck following the service. See the signup sheet on the table by the kitchen.

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



This Week at Bethany

Monday	7:00pm	ISU Bible Study
Wednesday	7:00pm	Bible Study
Saturday	7:00am	Men’s Breakfast
Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School/ Bible Class
	10:00am	Worship/ Communion
	11:15am	Potluck
	11:30am	Confirmation

Faces of the Reformation

Martin Luther

Born: Nov. 10, 1483 – Eisleben, Germany

Died: Feb. 18, 1546 – Eisleben, Germany

As an Augustinian monk, Luther fasted, prayed, attended, and led Mass. Despite this holy life, he was in constant doubt about his salvation. Luther began concentrating his studies on the Bible rather than the Church Fathers. In 1514, while studying Paul's letter to the Romans in his tower room in Wittenberg, he finally was led to believe



the pure gospel. He was led to realize that sinners are saved not through good works but by the gift of God through faith. This realization sparked a concern that the church's practice of selling a certificate of forgiveness (called an indulgence) would lead to the loss of true contrition for sins. If people could receive pardon from all sins, then they could spend the rest of their lives not worrying about the status of their souls. They would also

never understand God's pure grace. Luther felt he must protect God's people from this dangerous practice. On Oct. 31, 1517, Luther posted his 95 Theses on the Castle Church doors, seeking a scholarly debate on the sale of indulgences. This led to a series of written materials and debates on the church practices of the time, the culmination of which resulted in Luther being called before Emperor Charles V at a meeting in Worms, Germany, where Luther was asked to recant his writings. Luther refused to take back anything he had written or said.

(Adapted from https://lutheranreformation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ref500-Luther_Insert.pdf.)

