



*Two of them...were talking with each other about all of these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing this, Jesus himself approached and began to walk along with them.*

*– Luke 24:13-15*

**BETHANY**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

# **Bethany Lutheran Church (ELS)**

**Welcome** to Bethany! 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](mailto: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](http://bethanyames.net).**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**April 19, 2026**

**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** – #349 – “How Rich At Eastertide”

**The Introit**

P: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. Alleluia! By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful.

C: ♪ **Glory be to the Father....**

**The Collect for the Day**

P: O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; 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** – Acts 2:14a, 36-47

<sup>14</sup>Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them:

<sup>36</sup>“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Gentlemen, brothers, what should we do?”

<sup>38</sup>Peter answered them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

<sup>40</sup> He testified solemnly with many other words and was appealing to them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."

<sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added.

<sup>42</sup> They continued to hold firmly to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers. <sup>43</sup> Awe came over every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They were selling their possessions and property and were distributing the proceeds according to what anyone needed.

<sup>46</sup> Day after day, with one mind, they were devoted to meeting in the temple area, as they continued to break bread in their homes. They shared their food with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> as they continued praising God and being viewed favorably by all the people. Day after day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

### **The Psalm of the Day – Psalm 116:7-19**

P: Return, my soul, to your rest, for the LORD has accomplished his purpose for you.

**C: Indeed, you have delivered my soul from death, my eye from weeping, my foot from stumbling,**

P: so that I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

**C: I believed. Therefore, I have spoken: "I am greatly afflicted."**

P: In my haste I said: "All people are deceptive."

**C: How can I repay the LORD for all his benefits to me?**

P: I will lift up the cup of salvation, and I will call on the name of the LORD.

**C: I will fulfill my vows to the LORD, now in the presence of all his people.**

P: Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his favored ones.

**C: Ah, LORD, truly I am your servant. I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You opened my chains.**

P: To you I will sacrifice a thank offering,

**C: and I will call on the name of the LORD.**

P: I will fulfill my vows to the LORD here in the presence of all his people, in the courtyards of the house of the LORD, in the middle of Jerusalem.

**C: Praise the LORD.**

**The Second Lesson – 1 Peter 1:17-21**

<sup>17</sup>If you call on the Father who judges impartially, according to the work of each person, conduct yourselves during the time of your pilgrimage in reverence, <sup>18</sup>because you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, not with things that pass away, such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup>He was chosen before the foundation of the world but revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

**The Alleluia (p. 67)**

P: Alleluia! Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Alleluia!

**C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The Gospel Lesson – Luke 24:13-35**

P: The Holy Gospel for this Sunday is written in the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning at the 13<sup>th</sup> verse.

**C: ♪ Glory be to you, O Lord!**

<sup>13</sup>Now, on that same day, two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about all of these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing this, Jesus himself approached and began to walk along with them. <sup>16</sup>But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” Saddened, they stopped.

<sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

<sup>19</sup>“What things?” he asked them.

They replied, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be condemned to death. And they crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we were hoping that he was going to redeem Israel. Not only that, but besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup> Also some women of our group amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning. <sup>23</sup> When they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb. They found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.”

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, “How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and to enter his glory?” <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village where they were going, he acted as if he were going to travel farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, since it is almost evening, and the day is almost over.”

So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he reclined at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and began giving it to them. <sup>31</sup> Suddenly their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. Then he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was speaking to us along the road and while he was explaining the Scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup> They got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and those who were with them assembled together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, “The Lord really has been raised! He has appeared to Simon.” <sup>35</sup> They themselves described what had happened along the road, and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

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** – #563 – “Abide With Us, the Day is Waning”

**The Sermon** – Luke 24:13-35 – “A Journey From Blindness to Sight”

**The Offertory** (pp. 70-71)

**The Prayer of the Church**

P: Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**C: Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

P: Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**C: Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

P: Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**C: Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

P: Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**C: Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

P: Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, and the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**C: Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

P: Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, in sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**C: Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

P: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*(Silent prayers, or prayers spoken by the pastor, may be offered.)*

P: We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, and who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**C: Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

P: Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

C: Amen.

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

**The Hymn of Thanks** - #312 (vss. 1-2) - "Bread of the World"

**The Closing Hymn** - #364 (1,5-6) - "O For a Faith  
That Will Not Shrink"

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## Announcements

- Next Sunday we will celebrate the confirmation in the Christian faith of Braelyn Knutson and Parker Woodbury. Please keep our confirmands in your prayers! Also, all are invited to remain after the service for a meal served by the families of the confirmands.
- The Voters meet following the worship service for the regular quarterly meeting.
- The annual Circuit 7 Lay Education Conference will be held Saturday, April 25 at Prince of Peace - Mason City from 9:30am-3:00pm. ELS Pres. Obenberger will present on "Acknowledging and Cultivating Sanctified Churchmanship in Jesus' Name."
- Pastor Smith will be out of town Thursday through Saturday afternoon. In case of an emergency, please contact one of the elders (Keith Lukens or Joel Franzen).

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

