



Confirmation Sunday

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 or 515-232-1544.

Bethany Lutheran Church (ELS)

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Michael K. Smith

Find us on the web at bethanyames.net

Confirmation Sunday

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 – #510 – “Fear and Love Thy God and Lord”

The Collect for the Day

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father’s house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

The First Lesson – Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

¹ In those days, as the number of disciples was increasing, a complaint arose from the Greek-speaking Jews against the Hebrew-speaking Jews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

² So the Twelve called together the whole group of disciples and said, “It is not right for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers, carefully select from among you seven men with good reputations, who are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will put them in charge of this service. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

⁵ This proposal pleased the entire group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas, a proselyte from Antioch.

⁶ They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ The word of God kept on spreading, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly. Also a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸ Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. ⁹ Some men who were from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians,

Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia) rose up and disputed with Stephen.

^{7:2} Stephen said, "Gentlemen, brothers and fathers, listen!

⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit! You are doing just what your fathers did. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who prophesied the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers — ⁵³ you who received the law as transmitted by angels, but did not keep it."

⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed up into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ He said, "Look, I see heaven opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

⁵⁷ But they screamed at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and rushed at him with one purpose in mind. ⁵⁸ They threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" ⁶⁰ Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." After he said this, he fell asleep.

The Second Lesson – 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ For this is favorable: if a person endures sorrows while suffering unjustly because he is conscious of God. ²⁰ For what credit is it to you if you receive a beating for sinning and patiently endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and endure it, this is favorable with God.

²¹ Indeed, you were called to do this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example so that you would follow in his steps.

²² He did not commit a sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.

²³ When he was insulted, he did not insult in return. When he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself carried our sins in his body on the tree so that we would be dead to sins and alive to righteousness. By his wounds you were healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but you are now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The Anthem - "Children of the Heavenly Father" (#174)

The Sunday School Choir

The Gospel Lesson - John 10:1-10

¹ [Jesus said,] "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

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 - #252 - "I Walk in Danger All the Way"

The Sermon - 1 Peter 2:19-25 - "Suffering Sheep Follow Their Shepherd Who Suffered"

The Rite of Confirmation for Braelyn Knutson and Parker Woodbury

The Prayer of the Church

P: Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the world on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

C: Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

P: Give your word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to

strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

C: Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

P: The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

C: Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

P: Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

C: Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

P: Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

C: Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

(Here special intercessions may be made, silently or spoken by the pastor.)

P: Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

C: Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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

The Hymn - #515 - "Thine Forever, God of Love"

The Closing Hymn - #593 - "On My Heart Imprint Thine Image"

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Announcements

- Congratulations and God's blessings to Braelyn Knutson and Parker Woodbury who are confirmed in their Christian faith today! All are invited to remain after the service to celebrate with a meal provided by the Knutson and Woodbury families.
- Thank you to Glenda Bossow for serving as the accompanist today.
- We need your help! A workday at the church and parsonage has been scheduled for **this coming Saturday** beginning at 9:00am. See Craig Knutson for details.
- All men are invited to a time of food, fellowship, and study this Saturday from 7:00-8:30am. (See tomorrow's emailed announcements for the food signup.)
- A signup sheet for mowing the lawns is on the back table (see also the e-version in tomorrow's emailed announcements).

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



This Week at Bethany

Wednesday	7:00pm	Bible Study
Saturday	7:00am	Men's Breakfast
	8:30am	Elders' Meeting
	9:00am	Workday
Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:00am	Worship w/Communion
	7:00pm	ISU Bible Study