



*“This Jesus I am proclaiming to you  
is the Christ.”*

*– Acts 17:3*

**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)**

**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 One** (beginning on p. 41)

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

**The Hymn – #1 – “Blessed Jesus, At Thy Word”**

**The Collect for the Day**

P: O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; 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 17:1-15**

<sup>1</sup>When Paul and Silas had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. <sup>2</sup>As was his custom, Paul went to the Jews, and on three Sabbath days he led them in a discussion from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. He also said, “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.” <sup>4</sup>Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great number of God-fearing Greeks and more than a few of the prominent women.

<sup>5</sup>But the Jews became jealous and gathered from the marketplace some wicked men, who formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason’s house and searched for Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the mob. <sup>6</sup>When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, “These men, who have stirred up trouble all over the world, have come here too, <sup>7</sup>and Jason has welcomed them as guests! They are all acting contrary to Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another

king, Jesus!" <sup>8</sup> The crowd and the city officials were stirred up when they heard these things. <sup>9</sup> They took a security bond from Jason and the others and then let them go.

<sup>10</sup> That same night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue. <sup>11</sup> Now the Bereans were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians. They received the word very eagerly and examined the Scriptures every day to see if these things were so.

<sup>12</sup> Many of them believed, along with more than a few prominent Greek women and men.

<sup>13</sup> But when the Jews in Thessalonica learned that the word of God was being proclaimed by Paul in Berea, they also went there to agitate and stir up the crowds. <sup>14</sup> Then the brothers immediately sent Paul away to the seacoast, but Silas and Timothy stayed there. <sup>15</sup> Those who escorted Paul brought him all the way to Athens. When they left, they received instructions for Silas and Timothy to join Paul as soon as possible.

**The Psalm Hymn - #497 (vss. 1,6) - "Praise the Almighty;  
My Soul, Adore Him"**

**The Second Lesson - 1 Peter 2:4-10**

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, <sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to bring spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it says in Scripture:

See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who believes in him will certainly not be put to shame.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, for you who believe, this is an honor. But for those who do not believe:

The stone which the builders rejected has become the  
cornerstone,

<sup>8</sup> and,

a stone over which they stumble  
and a rock over which they fall.

Because they continue to disobey the word, they stumble over it. And that is the consequence appointed for them.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.

### **The Gospel Lesson – John 14:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> [Jesus said,] "Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. <sup>4</sup>You know where I am going, and you know the way."

<sup>5</sup>"Lord, we don't know where you are going," Thomas replied, "so how can we know the way?"

<sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you would also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup>"Lord," said Philip, "show us the Father, and that is enough for us."

<sup>9</sup>"Have I been with you so long," Jesus answered, "and you still do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am telling you I am not speaking on my own, but the Father who remains in me is doing his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. Or else believe because of the works themselves.

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

C: ♪ **God be praised for his glad tidings.**

**The Nicene Creed** (p. 47)

**The Chief Hymn** – #234 – "We Have a Sure Prophetic Word"

**The Sermon** – Acts 17:1-15 – "Are You Bein' a Berean?"

## **The Prayer of the Church**

P: Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

**C: Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.**

P: Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

**C: Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.**

P: Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

**C: Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.**

P: Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

*Silent prayer*

P: Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

**C: Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.**

P: Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

**C: Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.**

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

**The Service of Holy Communion** (beginning on p. 50)

**The Hymn of Thanks** – #319 (vss. 1-2,5) – “Just As I Am”

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

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Prayer of the Church is adapted from *Christian Worship: Hymnal* (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1993).

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### **Announcements**

- The Ladies meet next Sunday following the worship service.
  - The Council meets next Sunday following the worship service.
  - All ladies are invited to a time of fellowship and study on Thursday, May 14 at 6:30pm at the church. Refreshments will be provided. (See tomorrow’s email announcements for the study topics.)
  - Midweek Bible study will *not* meet this Wednesday.
  - Pastor Smith will be out of town Wednesday through Friday. 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.



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### **This Week at Bethany**

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:00am	Worship
	11:15am	Ladies
	11:15am	Council
	7:00pm	ISU Bible Study