



Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you.

– 1 Peter 3:15

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 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 Two (beginning on p. 60)

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

The Hymn – #29 – “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

The Introit

P: Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Sing out the honor of his name, make his praise glorious. Say to God, “How awesome are your works! Through the greatness of your power your enemies shall submit themselves to you.” All the earth shall worship you and sing praises to you.

C: ♪ **Glory be to the Father....**

The Collect for the Day

P: O God, you are the giver of everything good. Inspire us, your humble servants, to long for what is right and, through your gracious guidance, accomplish it to your glory; 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 17:22-31

²² Then Paul stood up in front of the council of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. ²³ For as I was walking around and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar on which had been inscribed, ‘To an unknown god.’ Now what you worship as unknown – this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made with hands.

²⁵ Neither is he served by human hands, as if he needed anything, since he himself gives all people life and breath and everything they have.

²⁶ From one man, he made every nation of mankind to live over the entire face of the earth. He determined the appointed times and the boundaries where they would live. ²⁷ He did this so they would seek God and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far

from each one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'Indeed, we are also his offspring.'

²⁹ "Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and planning. ³⁰ Although God overlooked the times of ignorance, he is now commanding all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has set a day on which he is going to judge the world in righteousness by the man he appointed. He provided proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

The Psalm of the Day – Psalm 98

P: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

C: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

P: The LORD has made his salvation known.

C: He has revealed his righteousness to the eyes of the nations.

P: He has remembered his mercy and his faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

C: Break out in joyful song! Make music!

P: Make music to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of music.

C: With trumpets and the sound of the ram's horn shout for joy before the King, the LORD.

P: Let the sea roar, and everything that fills it, the world, and all who live in it.

C: Let the rivers clap their hands.

P: Let the mountains sing for joy together before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

C: He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with fairness.

The Second Lesson – 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³ Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should happen to suffer because of righteousness, you are blessed. Do not be afraid of what they fear, and do not be troubled.

¹⁵ But regard the Lord, the Christ, as holy in your hearts. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you. ¹⁶ But speak with gentleness and respect, while maintaining a clear conscience, so that those who attack your good way of life in Christ may be put to shame because they slandered you as evildoers.

¹⁷ Indeed, it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil, ¹⁸ because Christ also suffered once for sins in our place, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in flesh but was made alive in spirit, ¹⁹ in which he also went and made an announcement to the spirits in prison. ²⁰ These spirits disobeyed long ago, when God's patience was waiting in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In this ark a few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water. ²¹ And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you – not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ²² He went to heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Alleluia (p. 67)

P: Alleluia. If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you. Alleluia.

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

The Gospel Lesson – John 14:15-21

P: The Holy Gospel for this Sunday is written in the 14th chapter of the Gospel according to St. John, beginning at the 21st verse.

C: ♪ **Glory be to you, O Lord!**

¹⁵ [Jesus said,] "If you love me, hold on to my commands. ¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. ¹⁷ He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see him or know him. You know him because he stays with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will see me no longer, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ The one who has my commands

and holds on to them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I too will love him and show myself to him.”

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

C: **♪ Praise be to you, O Christ!**

The Apostles’ Creed (p. 68)

The Chief Hymn – #197 – “My Hope is Built”

The Sermon – 1 Peter 3:13-22 – “We Have No Fear”

The Offertory (pp. 70-71)

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

The Hymn – #353 – “Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won”

The Closing Hymn – #579 – “Abide in Grace, Lord Jesus”

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Announcements

- God’s blessings to all our mothers on this Mothers’ Day!
- God’s blessings to all our ISU students! We pray we’ll get to see you again in the fall. Congratulations to all the graduates!
- Both the Ladies and Council meet following the worship service today.
- 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.
- Schedule change coming: on **Sunday, May 24** we will switch to our summer schedule. There will be no Sunday School and Bible class, and worship will begin at 9:00am.

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



This Week at Bethany

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:00am	Worship (w/ Communion)
