



*“Everyone who hears these words of mine
and does them will be like a wise man who
built his house on bedrock.”*

– Matthew 7:24

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)

3113 Diamond St

Ames, Iowa 50010

(515) 232-1544

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Michael K. Smith

Find us on the web at 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 – #42 – “God, We Praise You”

The Collect for the Day

P: O God, whose never-failing providence orders all things both in heaven and earth, we humbly ask you to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us those things which are profitable for us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

C: ♪ Amen.

The First Lesson – Deuteronomy 11:18-28

¹⁸ Put these words of mine in your hearts and in your soul, and tie them on your wrists as signs and as symbols on your forehead.

¹⁹ Teach them to your children by talking about them when you sit in your house and when you travel on the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ²⁰ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, ²¹ so that your days and the days of your children may be many on the land that the LORD promised to your fathers with an oath, as many as the days that the heavens remain over the earth.

²² If you carefully keep the whole set of commandments that I am giving you, loving the LORD your God, walking in all his ways, and clinging to him, ²³ then the LORD will drive out all these nations before you, and you will take possession of nations larger and stronger than you.

²⁴ Every place where the sole of your foot walks will be yours. From the Wilderness to Lebanon, from the River – the River Euphrates – to the Mediterranean Sea, all of it will be your territory.

²⁵No one will be able to stand up to you. The LORD your God will put the fear and dread of you over the whole land on which you walk, just as he promised you.

²⁶You see, I am placing before you today a blessing and a curse: ²⁷the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God that I am giving you today, ²⁸or the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the LORD your God and you turn away from the path that I am commanding you today by walking after other gods whom you did not know.

The Psalm of the Day - Psalm 16

P: Guard me, O God, for I take refuge in you.

C: I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord. I have no good apart from you."

P: The holy ones who are in the land are glorious.

C: All my delight is in them.

P: Those who chase after another god will increase their sorrows. I will not pour out their drink offerings of blood.

C: I will not take up their names on my lips.

P: LORD, you are the cup that has been given to me.

C: You have secured an allotment for me.

P: The property lines chosen for me fall in pleasant places.

C: Yes, a delightful inheritance is mine.

P: I will bless the LORD, who guides me.

C: Even at night my heart instructs me.

P: I have set the LORD always before me.

C: Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

P: Therefore my heart is glad,

C: and my whole being rejoices.

P: Even my flesh will dwell securely because you will not abandon my life to the grave.

C: You will not let your favored one see decay.

P: You have made known to me the path of life, fullness of joy in your presence,

C: pleasures at your right hand forever.

The Second Lesson – Romans 3:21-28

²¹ But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it. ²² This 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 – Matthew 7:15-29

¹⁵ [Jesus said,] “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them. You do not gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles, do you? ¹⁷ So then, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ So then, by their fruit you will recognize them. ²¹ Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and drive out demons in your name and perform many miracles in your name?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.’

²⁴ “Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on bedrock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house. But it did not fall, because it was founded on bedrock. ²⁶ Everyone who hears these words of mine but does not do them will be like a foolish

man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell – it was completely destroyed.”

²⁸ When Jesus finished speaking these words, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught them as one who had authority, and not like their experts in the law.

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

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

The Nicene Creed (p. 47)

The Chief Hymn – #521 – “How Firm a Foundation”

The Sermon – Matthew 7:21-29 – “What Kind of Foundation Should You Build On?”

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 - #305 (vss. 1-2,5) - "Not All the Blood of Beasts"

**The Closing Hymn - #597 (vss. 1-2,4) - "Savior, Again to
Thy Dear Name"**

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

Announcements

- The family of Martin and Diane Tjernagel extends heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation to all the members and friends of Bethany for the outpouring of prayers, Christian love, and support at the earthly loss of Martin.
 - The Council meets next Sunday following the worship service.
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