



*“This is how many your descendants will be.”*

*– Romans 4:18*

**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 coatracks 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).**

**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** – #81 (vss. 1-5) – “O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”

**The Introit**

P: Clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph. For then Lord Most High is awesome. He will subdue the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet.

C: ♪ **Glory be to the Father....**

**The Collect for the Day**

P: O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding. Pour into our hearts such love toward you that we may love you above all things, and lead us by faith to your eternal promises which exceed all we can desire. We ask these things through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

**The First Lesson** – Hosea 5:15-6:6

<sup>15</sup> I will go. I will return to my place  
until they admit their guilt and seek my face.  
In their distress they will earnestly seek me.

<sup>6:1</sup> Come, let us return to the LORD.

For he has torn us to pieces,  
but he will heal us.

He has struck us,  
but he will bandage our wounds.

<sup>2</sup> After two days he will revive us.

On the third day he will raise us up,  
so that we may live in his presence.

<sup>3</sup> Let us acknowledge the LORD.

Let us pursue knowledge of the LORD.

As surely as the sun rises,  
the LORD will appear.

He will come to us like a heavy rain,  
like the spring rain that waters the earth.

<sup>4</sup>What am I going to do with you, Ephraim?  
What am I going to do with you, Judah?  
For your faithfulness is like a morning mist,  
like early dew that disappears.

<sup>5</sup>That is why I cut them to pieces by means of the prophets.  
I killed them with the words of my mouth.  
The judgments against you go forth like the light.

<sup>6</sup>For I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,  
and the knowledge of God, rather than burnt offerings.

**The Psalm of the Day** – Psalm 119b (p. 51 in red book)

**The Second Lesson** – Romans 4:17b-25

<sup>17b</sup> In the presence of God, Abraham believed him who makes the dead alive and calls non-existing things so that they exist. <sup>18</sup> Hoping beyond what he could expect, [Abraham] believed that he would become the father of many nations, just as he was told: “This is how many your descendants will be.” <sup>19</sup> He did not weaken in faith, even though he considered his own body as good as dead (because he was about one hundred years old), and even though he considered Sarah’s womb to be dead. <sup>20</sup> He did not waver in unbelief with respect to God’s promise, but he grew strong in faith, giving glory to God <sup>21</sup> and being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”

<sup>23</sup> Now the statement “it was credited to him” was not written for him alone, <sup>24</sup> but also for us to whom it would be credited, namely, to us who believe in the one who raised our Lord Jesus from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was handed over to death because of our trespasses and was raised to life because of our justification.

**The Alleluia** (p. 67)

P: Alleluia. Blessed be the God of our fathers. Praise him and highly exalt him forever. Alleluia.

C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **The Gospel Lesson – Matthew 9:9-13**

P: The Holy Gospel for this Sunday is written in the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning at the 9<sup>th</sup> verse.

C: **♪ Glory be to you, O Lord!**

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting in the tax collector's booth. He said to him, "Follow me." Matthew got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> As Jesus was reclining at the table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners were actually there too, eating with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "The healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' In fact, I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

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** – #226 (vss. 1-5,9) – "By Grace I'm Saved"

**The Sermon** – Romans 4:17b-23 – "What Does it Take to Have the Faith of Abraham?"

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

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

**The Hymn** – #229 – "By Faith We Are Divinely Sure"

**The Closing Hymn** – #594 – "On What Has Now Been Sown"

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## **Announcements**

- Many thanks to Glenda Bossow for accompanying our worship on the piano today!

- Schedule change: the Council meets **next** Sunday following the worship service instead of today.
- Interested in helping mow the church lawn? See the signup sheet on the back table. (The e-version will be in tomorrow's email announcements.)

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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	Worship (w/Communion)
	10:15am	Council