



A sower went out to sow.

– Matthew 13:3

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 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.

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 – #65 – “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

The Introit

P: I know the thoughts I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil. Then you will call upon me and pray to me, and I will listen to you. LORD, you have been favorable to your land; you have brought back the captivity of Jacob.

C: ♪ **Glory be to the Father....**

The Collect for the Day

P: Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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 – Isaiah 55:6-11

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found!

Call on him while he is near!

⁷Let the wicked man abandon his way.

Let an evil man abandon his thoughts.

Let him turn to the LORD,

and he will show him mercy.

Let him turn to our God,

because he will abundantly pardon.

⁸Certainly my plans are not your plans,

and your ways are not my ways, declares the LORD.

⁹Just as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so my ways are higher than your ways,

and my plans are higher than your plans.

¹⁰Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky
and do not return there
unless they first water the earth, make it give birth, and cause it to
sprout,
so that it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹in the same way my word that goes out from my mouth
will not return to me empty.
Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please,
and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.

The Psalm of the Day – Psalm 65

P: Praise waits for you, O God, in Zion.

C: To you vows will be fulfilled.

P: You who hear prayer,

C: to you all mortals will come.

P: The record of my guilt overpowered me.

C: You atone for our rebellious acts.

P: How blessed is the one you choose and bring near! He will dwell in
your courtyards.

**C: We will be satisfied by the goodness of your house, by the
holiness of your temple.**

P: In righteousness you answer us with awesome deeds, O God who
saves us.

C: He is trusted by all the farthest ends of the earth and the sea.

P: He establishes the mountains by his power.

C: He has wrapped himself with strength.

P: He stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the
turmoil of the peoples.

**C: Those living at the ends of the earth fear your signs. From sunrise
to sunset you let them shout for joy.**

P: You visit the earth and water it. You make it very rich.

**C: God's stream is filled with water. You provide grain for them, just
as you planned.**

P: You drench the land's furrows. You flatten its plowed ground.

C: You soften it with showers. You bless its crops.

P: You crown the year with your goodness.

C: The tracks made by your carts overflow with riches.

P: The pastures of the wilderness drip.

C: The hills are wrapped with joy.

P: The meadows are clothed with flocks. The valleys are dressed with grain.

C: They shout for joy. Yes! They sing.

The Second Lesson – Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸ For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope ²¹ that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²² For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. ²³ And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance.

The Alleluia (p. 67)

P: Alleluia. My word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia.

C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Gospel Lesson – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P: The holy Gospel for this Sunday is written in the 13th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning at the 1st verse.

C: ♪ Glory be to you, O Lord!

¹ That same day Jesus left the house and was sitting by the sea. ² A large crowd gathered around him. So he stepped into a boat and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ He told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate

it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately the seed sprang up, because the soil was not deep. ⁶ But when the sun rose, the seed was scorched. Because it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked it. ⁸ But some seed fell on good ground and produced grain: some one hundred times, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.

¹⁸ “So listen carefully to the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the Evil One comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the seed that was sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed that was sown on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he is not deeply rooted and does not endure. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. ²² The seed that was sown among the thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worry of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it produces no fruit. ²³ But the seed that was sown on the good ground is the one who continues to hear and understand the word. Indeed he continues to produce fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown.”

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 – #232 – “How Precious is the Book Divine”

The Sermon – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 – “Listen Well to Jesus”

The Offertory (pp. 70-71)

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

The Hymn – #231 (tune: 280)– “When Israel Through the Desert Passed”

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

Scripture quotations for the Scripture lessons are copyright The Evangelical Heritage Version™ (EHVTM) of the Bible held by The Wartburg Project. © 2019. All rights reserved worldwide.

Announcements

- The Council meets following the worship service today.
 - The Voters meet next Sunday following the worship service for their quarterly meeting.
 - **A special meeting of the Voters will be held Wednesday, July 22 at 7:00pm to call a new pastor.**
 - A farewell brunch for Pastor and Anita will be held following the service next Sunday, July 19.
 - Pastor Smith's official final Sunday will be July 26.
-

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

