



*“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who
sowed good seed in his field.”
– Matthew 13:24*

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 Two (beginning on p. 60)
See also “Prayers for Worship” on p. 40 in the front of the hymnal.

The Hymn – #11 – “Come, Holy Ghost, In Love”

The Introit

P: Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is with those who uphold my soul. He will repay my enemies for their evil. Cut them off in your truth. Save me, O God, by your name, and vindicate me by your strength.

C: ♪ **Glory be to the Father....**

The Collect for the Day

P: O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with you in perfect joy hereafter; 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 44:6-11

⁶ This is what the LORD, the King of Israel,
Israel's Redeemer, the LORD of Armies, says.

I am the first, and I am the last.

Except for me, there is no god.

⁷ For who is like me? Let him declare it.

Let him recite in order for me the things that took place
since the time I established an ancient people.

Or let them declare what is yet to come,
and what is going to take place.

⁸ Do not tremble, and do not be frightened.

Did I not announce this to you,

and declare it already long ago?

You are my witnesses.

Is there any god except me?

There is no other Rock. I am not aware of any other.

⁹ All those who form an idol are good for nothing.

All the things which delight them provide no benefit.

As for their witnesses — they do not see.

They know nothing, so they will be ashamed.

¹⁰ Who is this who forms a god or casts a metal image that can provide no profit? ¹¹ Look at him! All his associates will be ashamed. The craftsmen are merely men. Let them all gather themselves and take a stand. They will be terrified and ashamed together.

The Psalm of the Day – Psalm 119:57-64

P: You are my portion, O LORD. I said I would keep your words.

C: I have sought your favor with all my heart. Be gracious to me according to your sayings.

P: I have considered my ways, and I have turned my feet to your testimonies.

C: I will hurry. I will not delay. I will keep your commandments.

P: The ropes of the wicked bind me, but I do not forget your law.

C: At midnight I rise to give you thanks for your righteous judgments.

P: I am a companion to all who fear you, that is, to all who keep your precepts.

C: Your mercy, LORD, fills the earth. Teach me your statutes.

The Second Lesson – Romans 1:18-25

¹⁸ Indeed, God's wrath is being revealed from heaven against all the ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who try to suppress the truth by unrighteousness. ¹⁹ This happens because what can be known about God is evident among them, because God made it evident among them. ²⁰ In fact, his invisible characteristics — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, because they are understood from the things he made. As a result, people are without excuse, ²¹ because, even though they knew

God, they did not honor him or give him thanks as God. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless heart was darkened.

²² Although they claim to be wise, they have become fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human, or like birds, four-footed animals, and crawling things. ²⁴ So, as they followed the sinful desires of their hearts, God handed them over to the impurity of degrading their own bodies among themselves. ²⁵ Such people have traded the truth about God for the lie, worshipping and serving the creation rather than the Creator, who is worthy of praise forever. Amen.

The Alleluia (p. 67)

P: Alleluia! Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Alleluia!

C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Gospel Lesson – Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

P: The holy Gospel for this Sunday is written in the 13th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning at the 24th verse.

C: ♪ Glory be to you, O Lord!

²⁴ [Jesus] presented another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while people were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ When the plants sprouted and produced heads of grain, the weeds also appeared. ²⁷ The servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He said to them, ‘An enemy did this.’ The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and gather up the weeds?’ ²⁹ ‘No,’ he answered, ‘because when you gather up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “First, gather up the weeds, bind them in bundles, and burn them. Then, gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

³⁶ Then Jesus sent the people away and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷ He answered them, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world. The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the Evil One. ³⁹ The enemy who sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the world. The reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Therefore, just as the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so it will be at the end of the world. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will pull out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and those who continue to break the law. ⁴² The angels will throw them into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear."

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

C: ♪ Praise be to you, O Christ!

The Nicene Creed (p. 69)

The Chief Hymn – #423 – "How Can I Thank You, Lord"

The Sermon – Matthew 13:24-30, 36-44 – "Be the Lord's Wheat"

The Offertory (pp. 70-71)

The Prayer of the Church

P: Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the world on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

C: Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

P: Give your word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

C: Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

P: The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

C: Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

P: Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

C: Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

P: Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

C: Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

(Here special intercessions may be made, silently or spoken by the pastor.)

P: Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

C: Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

The Service of Holy Communion (beginning on p. 72)

The Hymn of Thanks – #320 (vss. 1,2,8) – “Lord Jesus Christ,
You Have Bestowed”

The Closing Hymn – #587 – “Jesus, Still Lead On”

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Prayer of the Church is adapted from *Christian Worship: Hymnal* (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 2021).

Announcements

- Everyone is invited to remain following the service today for a farewell brunch for Anita and Pastor.
 - The Voters meet for the regular quarterly meeting after the service.
 - **The Voters meet this Wednesday at 7:00pm for a call meeting.**
 - Next Sunday is Pastor Smith's last (official) Sunday as pastor of Bethany.
 - All are invited to a service of installation for the new synod president (Pastor Smith) and vice president (Pastor Peter Faugstad) on Wednesday, August 5 at 6:30pm at the chapel of Bethany Lutheran College. A cake reception will follow the service. A livestream of the service will be available at els.org/streams.
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Visiting with us today? Please sign the guest register in the entryway or use the QR code.

