



*“The kingdom of heaven is like
a treasure hidden in a field....”*

– Matthew 13:44

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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(515) 232-1544

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Michael K. Smith

Find us on the web at bethanyames.net

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 – #79 – “My Inmost Heart Now Raises”

The Collect for the Day

P: O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly 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 – 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ The LORD appeared to Solomon in Gibeon in a dream at night. God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

⁶ Solomon said, “You have shown great mercy and faithfulness to your servant, my father David, just as he walked before you in truth, righteousness, and uprightness of heart toward you. You have shown this great mercy and faithfulness to him and have given him a son who is seated on his throne to this very day. ⁷ O LORD my God, now you have made your servant king in the place of my father David, but I am a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And I, your servant, am among your people whom you have chosen, a great people, who cannot be counted or numbered because they are so many. ⁹ Now give to your servant a perceptive heart to judge your people, to distinguish between good and evil, for who is able to judge this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ In the eyes of the LORD, Solomon’s request was good. ¹¹ So God said to him, “Because you have asked for this, and you have not asked for a long life, nor have you asked for riches, nor have you asked for the lives of your enemies, but you have asked for discernment to reach just verdicts, ¹² therefore I will act according to your words. Yes, I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you before you, nor will anyone like you rise up after you.”

The Psalm of the Day – Psalm 119c (p. 52 in red book)

The Second Lesson – Romans 8:28-30

²⁸ We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose, ²⁹ because those God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called. Those he called, he also justified. And those he justified, he also glorified.

The Gospel Lesson – Matthew 13:44-52

⁴⁴ [Jesus said,] “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid again. In his joy, he goes away and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one very valuable pearl, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When the net was filled, they pulled it onto the shore. They sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but threw the bad ones away. ⁴⁹ That is how it will be at the end of the world. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous who are among them. ⁵⁰ And they will throw the wicked into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ⁵¹ Jesus said to them, “Did you understand all these things?”

They answered him, “Yes.”

⁵² He said to them, “Therefore every expert in the law who has been trained as a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his treasure both new things and old things.”

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

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

The Apostles' Creed (p. 46)

The Chief Hymn – #426 – “Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”

The Sermon – Matthew 13:44-52 – “God Brings Us Into His Kingdom”

The Prayer of the Church

P: Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

C: Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

P: Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

C: Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

P: Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

C: Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

P: Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

C: Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

P: Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, and the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

C: Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

P: Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, in sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

C: Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

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

P: We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, and who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

C: Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

P: Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (p. 49)

The Offering Hymn – #445 (vss. 1-2) – “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

The Hymn – #542 – “In Heaven Above”

The Closing Hymn – #593 – “On My Heart Imprint Thine Image”

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

Announcements

- Please keep the pastor Bethany has called, his family, and his congregation in your prayers as he considers the call to serve as our pastor!
- Pastor Ted Gullixson will serve Bethany during the vacancy. He can be reached at 507-340-7153 or tgullixson@yahoo.com. You may also reach out to Pres. Pete Levorson, or one of the elders: Keith Lukens or Joel Franzen.
- The Council meets Sunday, August 9, following the worship service.
- Anita and Pastor thank everyone for the wonderful farewell brunch this past Sunday!
- 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.

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

