



15 West 14th Street, Spencer, IA 51301

[www.bethluthspencer.com](http://www.bethluthspencer.com)

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 2, 2021 – 9:00 AM

Prelude: *"Just As I Am, Without One Plea"* arr. Cindy Berry

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Hymn Sing

Prayer of the Day

First Reading Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

Second Reading 1 John 4:7-21

Gospel Acclamation: *"Alleluia"* Setting 8, p. 188

Gospel John 15:1-8

Children's Message Deacon Lynn Egesdal

Sermon Pastor Jeff Geiger

Hymn of the Day: *"In Christ There is No East or West"* ELW 650

The Apostles' Creed

The Prayers of the Church

L: Hear our prayer, O enlightening God. **C: Make us one in you.**

Peace

Offering

*"At the Cross"* arr. Reuben Morgan & Darlene Zschech Jaci Schreier, soloist

The Great Thanksgiving, the Words of Institution and the Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion, Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

Closing Hymn Sing

Benediction

Dismissal

Postlude: *"Lift High the Cross"* arr. Cindy Berry

## ♪ Worship Notes ♪

Welcome to worship! Thank you for joining us today— here at Bethany and in our livestream to homes near and far away. It is our hope that each and every one of you experience the love of Christ this morning and His presence at our worship service today.

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world. (*Sundays & Seasons Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.*)

The liturgical color for Easter and the Easter season can be either white or gold or both. White symbolizes purity, holiness, respect and reverence. White is also used for the season of Christmas. Gold symbolizes what is precious and valuable, and so symbolizes majesty, joy, and celebration. Because of its brightness, metallic gold also symbolizes the presence of God.

Our service today includes Holy Communion. All who seek Christ's true presence promised to us through the bread and wine, body and blood, are welcome and invited to commune. If you haven't already done so for 2021, please complete a communion card for our records and leave it in the offering plate as you exit the church. Drive up communion is available for our home viewers, following the service through 10:30 am. Come to the north parking lot entry to receive the elements and a blessing.

Worship leaders today are: Pastor Jeff Geiger, Deacon Lynn Egesdal and Elina Leander Ozolins, pianist/organist. A special thank you to Jaci Schreier for our offering music today. And many thanks to our worship volunteers: Greeter- Sue Boblit; Reader/usher- Judy Hiemstra; Usher- Jill Meyer; Tech Booth- Sandi Schmidt, Hannah Geiger and Randy Phillips.

### PRAYER CONCERNS

#### Health Concerns:

Sharon Clarke, Lloyd Duffney, LaVonne Kramer, Gerald Koester, Linda Kunzmann, Kim McCune, Sandy Manwarren, Marsha Nelson, Hallee & Gentry Salton, Michele Summers, Marv Umbrell;  
Ed Duffney (*Lloyd Duffney's son*);  
Duane Schneider (*Twila Henning's brother*);  
Josh Dizzine (*Susan Geiger co-worker's son*);  
Emma Ritz (*Kellie Power's mother*)  
Jackie Braunschweig (*Lynn Egesdal's sister-in-law*)

#### Thanksgiving:

Reba Jayne Schulz, daughter of Dave & Patty Schulz, baptized on April 18

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL IS WRAPPING UP** The kiddos are welcome to stay after worship today for Sunday School. After today, there is only one more week left for this season! Our last Wednesday afternoon class is Wednesday, May 5 from 4-5:15pm and our last Sunday morning class is on Mother's Day, May 9 following worship! Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share time with your kids!

**OPEN DOORS GRANTS** The Evangelical Church in America (ELCA) has invited congregations to apply for "Open Doors" grants to support ministries as we return to in-person worship and gatherings. Do you have some thoughts or a creative idea on how we might reach out to others in our community as we open our doors? We would like to hear them and we encourage you to share those ideas with Evangelism Team chair, Pixie Jensen – email: [pixiej1950@gmail.com](mailto:pixiej1950@gmail.com) or via phone call at 712-283-2029. Grant applications will be accepted through May 14 with a deadline to complete the application of May 19. For more information visit this link: [ELCA.org/OpenDoors](http://ELCA.org/OpenDoors).

**MOBILE FOOD PANTRY** On Tuesday, May 4, from 4-6pm, the Spencer Seventh Day Adventist Church (1910-10th Ave E) will partner with Food Bank of Iowa to offer a mobile food pantry. This is free/open to the public, targeting individuals in need of food assistance. Participants are reminded that COVID-19 protocols are in place. Please remain in your car and follow traffic directions. Volunteers will load the food into your trunk. For more information on the Spencer Mobile Food Pantry, please call Spencer Seventh Day Adventist Church 262-5766 or 262-5213 or email: [spencerda@imsda.org](mailto:spencerda@imsda.org). Please help get the word out! Thanks!!

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION MILESTONE** In May we remind our High School seniors that as part of our Christian family they take this faith with them to college and the workplace. At worship on Sunday, May 9 we will celebrate the High School Graduation Milestone. Seniors will be recognized and receive a special gift that has been made for them by the Men and Women of Bethany. Since we are unable to have a breakfast this year, plans are to have a "to-go" packet to send with the grads and their families. Baskets will be available for each senior if you would like to leave a card. Please join us as we celebrate with our graduates: Payton Cooper, Hallie Rusk, Kendel Schmidt and Ian Youngdahl.

**REMINDER!** Are you still using an smunet.net email address? These services will soon be coming to an end. If you have changed your email address, please remember to let us know. We want to keep in touch!!

**RED-THE COLOR FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY** Sunday, May 23 is Pentecost Sunday. Let us witness to the Spirit that unites us by wearing red! Also, the Altar Guild will decorate the sanctuary with red geraniums. We invite you to share a geranium in honor or remembrance of a loved one and then take it home with you after the service that day. The cost for a geranium is \$6. Look for a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** is observed each year on the first Thursday of May, this year on May 6. People from all religions throughout the United States will be praying for our country. On that day please take time to lift up our nation and its leaders in your prayers. Thank you!

**CONFIRMATION CAMP** All Bethany youth who are completing sixth grade are encouraged to attend Confirmation Camp this summer at Lutheran Lakeside. We are setting aside July 18-23 to attend this year as a group. However, if you cannot attend with the group there are other dates available. There is also a special “campership” available for those attending Confirmation Camp for the first time. If you have questions please talk to Lynn Egesdal, Coordinator of Children, Youth and Family ministries at Bethany and make sure to sign up for camp ASAP

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – SAVE THE DATE!** Mark Saturday, June 5, on your calendar and save the date for River of Life Day Camp. This will be a one day event, hosted at Bethany Lutheran Church from 9 am – 3 pm for kids entering Kindergarten thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade. For more information, please visit our website: [www.bethluthspencer.com](http://www.bethluthspencer.com).

**NEW MEMBER INFORMATION** Are you, or is someone you know interested in joining Bethany? A time to share information about our church and the Lutheran faith will be coming up next month. If you have questions or want to join Bethany, we encourage you to contact the church office at 262-2327.

## **CALENDAR:**

### Sunday, May 2

9:00 am Worship online & in-person

10:15 am Drive through Communion, Sunday School

### Tuesday, May 4

10:00 am Staff Meeting (MQ)

5:00 pm Service Rebroadcast-SMU Channel 2

### Wednesday, May 5 - WOW – Check your Email!

9:30 am Bible Study and Prayer Group (in person)

10:00 am Service Rebroadcast-SMU Channel 2

12:00 pm Text Study

4:00 pm Sunday School

6:30 pm Confirmation

7:30 pm **Bethany Youth Group (BYG)**

### Thursday, May 6 – National Day of Prayer

8:30 am Spencer Ministerial Prayer

### Saturday, May 8

7:30 am Men of Bethany Bible Study (In person & via Zoom)

### Sunday, May 9

9:00 am Worship online & in-person

10:15 am Drive through Communion, Sunday School