



15 WEST 14TH STREET, SPENCER, IA 51301

www.bethluthspencer.com

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – JANUARY 24, 2021 – 9:00 AM

Prelude: *"In the Bleak Midwinter"* arr. Larson

Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Gathering Song: *"How Good Lord to Be Here"* ELW 315, vv. 3-5

Prayer of the Day

First Reading Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12 Read responsively

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel Acclamation p. 188

Gospel Mark 1:14-20

Children's Message

Sermon Pastor Jeff Geiger

Hymn of Day: *"If You But Trust in God to Guide You"* ELW 769, vv. 1-2

The Apostles' Creed and The Prayers of Church

Offering: *"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"* arr. Hamlin

Offertory: *"Brightest and Best of the Stars"* ELW 303, v. 3

Offertory Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving

The Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion

Benediction

Sending Hymn: *"Great is Thy Faithfulness"* ELW 733, v. 1 & 3

Postlude: *"Recessional on 'Deo Gracias'"* arr. Wagner

♪ 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 during our worship service today.

We are in the Season of Epiphany. The liturgical color for this season is green. Green symbolizes the renewal of vegetation, living things and the promise of new life. It is used for the two seasons that focus most directly on continuing life in this world: Epiphany and Pentecost. Epiphany focuses on the life of Jesus as a human being, and Pentecost focuses on the life of the Church.

Worship leaders today are Pastor Jeff Geiger, Deacon Lynn Egesdal and Elina Leander Ozolins. Many thanks to our worship volunteers today: Pixie Jensen, reader; Randy Phillips, audio; Sandi Schmidt, video.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Health Concerns: Larry Anderson, Casey Cunningham, Corinne Dahl, Mary Rose Hemme, Gerald Koester, Linda Kunzmann, Gary Lundquist, Sandy Manwarren, Kim McCune, Marsha Nelson, Steve Salts, Geraldine Senne, Lloyd Senne, Lyle Youngdahl; Joel Meyer (*Marilyn Meyer's son*); Patricia Bentsen (*Missionary to Madagascar*) Ken (Doc) & Val Manwarren (*Greg Manwarren's brother/sister-in-law*) Martha Lionberger (*Mary Marske's sister*)

Those who mourn: Family of Patricia "Kay" Schweitzer; Family of Helen Mielke (*Ethel Schmidt's sister*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COME TO WORSHIP We are happy to return to in-person worship. If you visit with members and friends who may be wondering, please let them know. For those who are considering coming, but unsure, here's what to know. Enter through the north parking lot entry. Masks are required. If you forget yours, we have some on hand. A member of the hospitality team will scan your forehead and from there proceed to the Narthex to sign in. Please be mindful of social distancing and limit the touching of surfaces as much as possible. Hand sanitizer is available in multiple locations. Safe seating capacity in the Sanctuary is about 60 people, with overflow seating in the balcony, narthex and nursery. Our service will continue to be livestreamed on You Tube at 9am for those not ready to return. And, they are rebroadcast on SMU Channel 2 on Tuesdays at 5pm & Wednesdays at 10am. One way or another, we welcome you to join us!

HOLY COMMUNION Beginning this Sunday and going forward, we will be offering Holy Communion for both our in-person worshipers and a drive-up option for those watching from home. Drive-up communion will run from 10:15-10:45 am. After the postlude, head on up to the church parking lot where Pastor Jeff & Deacon Lynn will offer the elements along with a blessing. If you don't immediately see someone outside, please pull into a parking spot and they will be with you in a moment. If you are unable to commune in either of these ways, please reach out with a call to the church office (262-2327). In the coming weeks Pastor Jeff, Onalee and members of the Caring Friends team will be reaching out to bring communion to you. Let us know if you would like a visit.

CONFIRMATION & BYG Bethany Confirmation and Bethany Youth Group (BYG) have resumed in person gatherings – Wednesdays at 7pm. Confirmation students meet with Pastor Jeff in the church parlor and Youth Group meets with Lynn in the Youth Room downstairs. Both are opportunities for youth to reconnect with Christian friends and nourish their faith. All participants are reminded to wear masks.

LAST CALL!!! Bethany photo collage 2021 calendars will be on sale until February 1st. They are at the Welcome Center with a "cash box" for a cost of \$15. These calendars have many photos of Bethany's congregational and community events along with a featured Bible verse. Bible verses were submitted by Bethany members as their favorites. Both secular and Christian festivals and seasons are marked.

HOUSE FOR RENT Bethany's rental house at 1418 First Ave W is available for rent. It is a four bedroom, 2 bath home with a two stall garage. Stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer are furnished. Rent is \$800/month. Interested parties should call the church office at 262-2327. Please help get the word out. Thank you!

RESOURCES FOR YOU We continue to stock our "drive up devotional box" with items for you. Typically it is available 24/7 and in it you will find a variety of devotional materials, the most recent worship bulletins and readings inserts, and at this time, copies of the annual report. Stop by and pick something up! Also, please feel free to leave items for us in the box. If you do this, give us a call or email to let us know there is something in the box for us to pick up. Thank you!

LET US KNOW! It is our understanding that June marks the end of the smunet.net email addresses. If you have changed yours, don't forget to let us know. We want to keep in touch! Thanks!

LENT 2021 The beginning of Lent is less than a month away as February 17 is Ash Wednesday. ***These are things that will be happening:*** we will have services online on the Wednesdays and Sundays in Lent; we will be using “A Story to Tell” from Augsburg Fortress publishers as a group devotional and midweek Lenten series theme. Copies will be available soon, to pick up at the Welcome Center or in the drive-up devotional box. Look for information coming from Lynn Egesdal, Coordinator of Children, Youth & Family Ministries on a “Photo-a-Day” challenge on Facebook throughout the Lenten season. ***These are the things that we are hopeful for and planning*** (but may change based on the current circumstances of the pandemic): an in-person worship service on Ash Wednesday and the following Sundays and Wednesdays of Lent; First Communion midweek classes for our 5th and 6th graders and perhaps other gatherings as we are able. Watch for details coming out in a February/March issue of the Bethany Herald – planned to be in the mail during the first week of February. And look for the latest news in our Wednesday E-Blast emails. If you’re not receiving these emails, let us know your email address so we can add you to the list. Thank you!

THE CHURCH IS OPEN! Don’t forget – the church is open during the week. Pastor Jeff is available if you want to stop by to chat or reach out to him on the telephone. Building hours are, Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm and Friday, 8:30am-12:30pm. (Reminder: please use the parking lot entry). Here is what’s happening this week:

CALENDAR:

Sunday, January 24

9:00 am Worship online *and* in-person

Tuesday, January 26

10:00 am Staff Meeting (LB)

5:00 pm Service Rebroadcast-SMU Channel 2

Wednesday, January 27 - WOW – Check your Email!

10:00 am Service Rebroadcast-SMU Channel 2

10:00 am Prayer Group (*via email*)

7:00 pm Confirmation & Youth Group

7:30 pm Women’s Book Study via Zoom

Saturday, January 30

7:30 am Men of Bethany Bible Study via Zoom

Sunday, January 31

9:00 am Worship online *and* in-person