

Worship Service for Bethany U.C.C.
August 23, 2026

Bell Ringing
Announcements, Joys and Concerns

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 138: 1-7)

L: I will give You thanks with all my heart; I will sing praises to You before the gods.

C: **I will bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your loving kindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word according to all Your name.**

L: On the day I called, You answered me; You made me bold with strength in my soul.

C: **All the kings of the earth will give thanks to You, O Lord, when they have heard the words of Your mouth.**

L: They will sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord!

C: **For though the Lord is exalted, yet He regards the lowly, but the haughty He knows from afar.**

All: **Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch forth Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand will save me.**

*HYMN #23 SS *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

* UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

We praise and honor Your name, O God! We thank You for the gifts You have blessed us with for use in the kingdom. Help us to use these gifts wisely to strengthen this body of Christ and all we come in contact with. Show us how we can serve You in different ways. May we be transformed by Your Spirit for the work ahead of us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, we read Paul's words in Romans and we look at our lives and see how we have failed. You have called us not to conform to the world around us, yet we have turned from Your ways. Forgive us, we pray. Set before us the model of sacrifice and service that is given to us in the life and teachings of Jesus. May our lives shine as emblems of hope to others as we share the gifts we have by our words and actions. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

INVITATION TO CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN #290 UCC *What a Fellowship*

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Receive our offering, gracious God, as an expression of our thankfulness. Help us to become more aware of the gifts we possess and use them to Your glory. May many be blessed through our sharing of these offerings and our sharing of ourselves. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12: 1-8

SPECIAL MUSIC

MESSAGE

*HYMN #366 SS *Who Is on the Lord's Side?*

*BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY - Pastor Joel Schlatter

Thank you to all who prepared, helped with, attended, and cleaned up after the Women's Event yesterday!

Women's Fellowship will have a carry-in at noon on Wednesday, September 2, in the hall. A dish sign-up sheet is on the bulletin strip. At 1:30 p.m., Annette Smith will present the highlights of their trip to Germany. Guests are welcome to attend the meal and program. A business meeting will follow.

The Maag Memorial Blood Drive is this coming Thursday, August 27, from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Bott Center at 705 Lafayette St in Warsaw. It is being hosted with ImpactLife. Contact Dale Maag at (309) 337-7099 to book an appointment.

The annual Friends of Unit 4 Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, September 12, beginning at 4 p.m. at the Adams County Fairgrounds. The event raises funds for activities in Unit 4 schools. See the bulletin strip for more information.

SAVE THE DATES:

- Sept. Women's Fellowship: Wednesday, September 2, 12 p.m.

- Resume 9 a.m. Sunday School: Sunday, September 13, 9 a.m.
- Men's Event: Sunday, November 8, 6 p.m.
- Women's Bible Study: Mondays, 9:30 a.m.

Kevin Schrader is greeter today, Randy Roskamp next week. Thanks to the greeter, Pastor Joel, the musician, AV tech - all who helped with the service.

WELCOME ALL! If you are a visitor, please sign the guest register and come again.

Bethany United Church of Christ

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