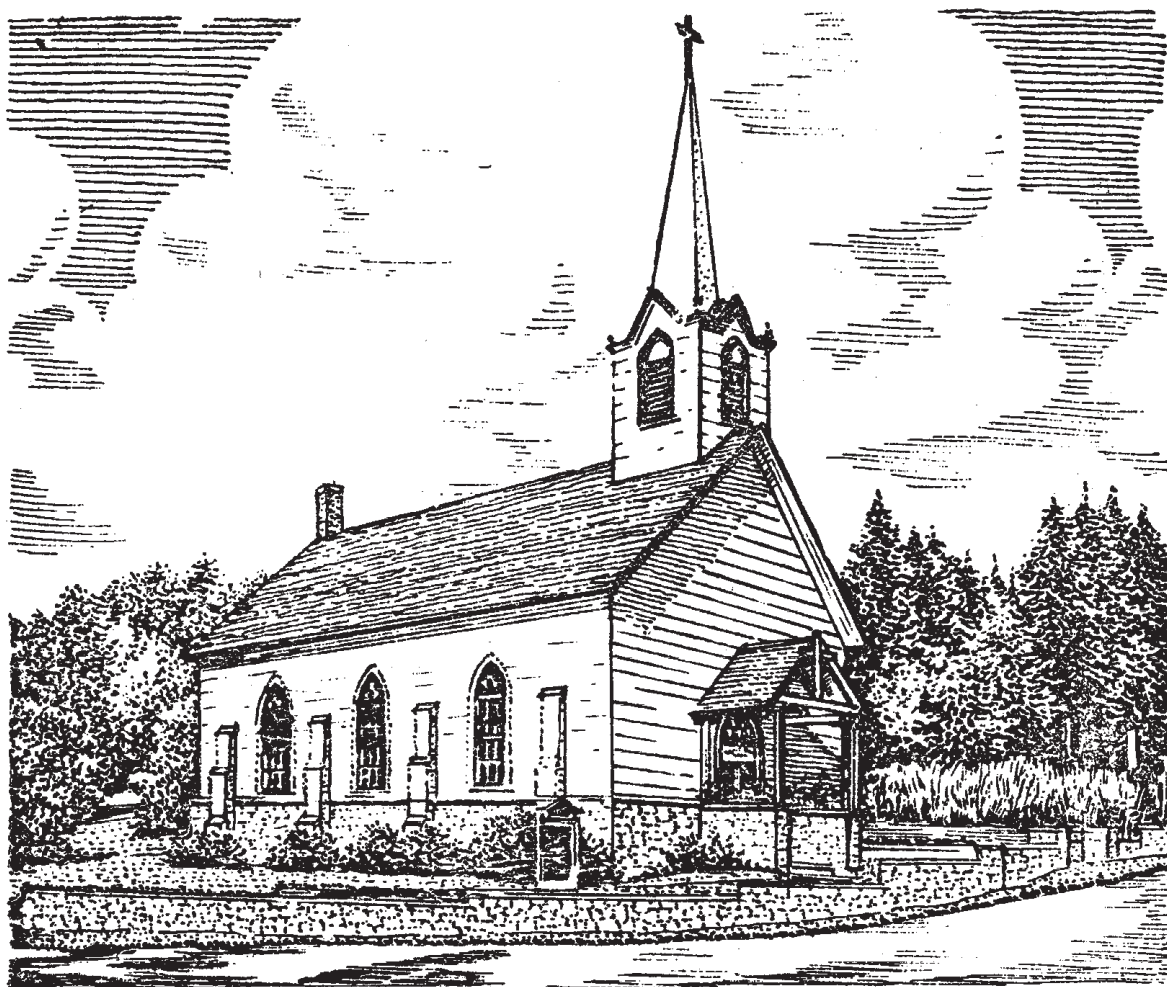


Bethany Lutheran Church of Ephraim



PO Box 707 • Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

~ Founded 1882 ~
BethanyEphraim.org

Order of Worship

GATHERING *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Organ Prelude

Let us move from coming here to being here.
(Silence as you prepare your heart.)

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of peace. **Amen.**

Gathering Song

Prayer of the Day *(see Celebrate insert)*

WORD *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

First Lesson *(see Celebrate insert)*

Second Lesson *(see Celebrate insert)*

Gospel *(see Celebrate insert)*

The Holy Gospel according to...

Glory to you, O Lord.

(reading of the Gospel)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Prayers of Intercession *(see Celebrate insert)*

Offering

Offering Prayer

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.

All blessings are from you;

make us generous with what we have.

Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.

Amen.

MEAL *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

All are welcome to the table.

Communion

Communion Hymns - *See Hymn Board*

Prayer after Communion

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Blessing

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

Amen.

Sending Song

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

We **welcome** all visitors worshiping with us today. If you spend time in Door County, please consider becoming a member of our special ministry. Contact any member for information.

Holy Communion is celebrated during each worship service. Jesus, who is present in this meal, welcomes ALL; there is a place for YOU at our Lord's table! In this meal, we receive the grace and love of God, and we are connected with one another in God's mission.

Director of Music and Organist - Lori Free

Visit us at BethanyEphraim.org. and follow our worship service live and archived, on the website.

Restrooms are located in the Pioneer School.

*Remove not the ancient landmark,
which thy fathers have set. Prov. 22:28*

Plans for a Lutheran Congregation were made in 1878 with meetings being held in the various homes. A Pastor Biorn from Manitowoc came by boat to Ephraim. In 1879 Pastor Biorn left Manitowoc, and his successor, Pastor Ruh, felt that the trip was too difficult - so organizing was delayed.

Christmas of 1881 - another effort was made. Mr. Thomas Goodletson offered 10 acres of land, but Mrs. Maria Olson offered the present site, which was chosen because of its location - high on a hill - overlooking the waters.

January 24, 1882 a group of Scandinavians gathered at the home of Thomas Goodletson with Mr. Peter Peterson as a leader - to plan the organization of a Lutheran Church in Ephraim. During the next few weeks 60 families signified their willingness to cooperate in this new venture. Construction began immediately while solicitations for funds continued. By October 23, 1882 the building was completed. On October 28, 1882 the first official meeting was held in the Church. Rev. John Olson was the first Pastor and served for 10 years.

January 28, 1883 officers were elected: Peter Peterson, Secretary; Thomas Goodletson, Treasurer. Trustees Henry Olson and Simon Evenson were elected to serve one year, Edward Hanson and Morton Olson to serve two years and H. N. Anderson and Peter Peterson for three years.

In April, 1883 the present parsonage was given to the church by Peter Peterson. January 25, 1889 one acre of land was purchased for a cemetery from Hendrick Hanson - just west of the north entrance to Peninsula State Park.

From 1882 to 1966, 16 Pastors served Bethany. Since 1966 we are being served by visiting Pastors.

The Lord has greatly blessed our humble efforts, in keeping Bethany doors open to worshipers, and all are welcome.