A Creation Service of Lessons & Carols
Led by Todd Chelf
July 19, 2026

Bethany Lutheran Church
2515 Madison Ave., Burlington, IA
Phone: (319) 752-3621
www.bethanyburlington.org

Bethany's Mission Statement: Reaching out in Worship, Fellowship, Learning and Love – we are God's people.

We are so glad you chose to worship with us this morning. We hope everyone
feels welcome as we strive to serve and strengthen each other in faith toward God and in love toward all. Now, as you wait for the service to begin, please relax, enjoy the music, and quiet your heart before God.

A Creation Service of Lessons and Carols

ELW indicates that hymns or liturgy are taken from Evangelical Lutheran Worship–red hymnal

PRELUDE

Welcome, Birthday/Anniversary Bank
(money given to Bethany's Human Concerns Fund)

We Gather to Acknowledge God's Presence

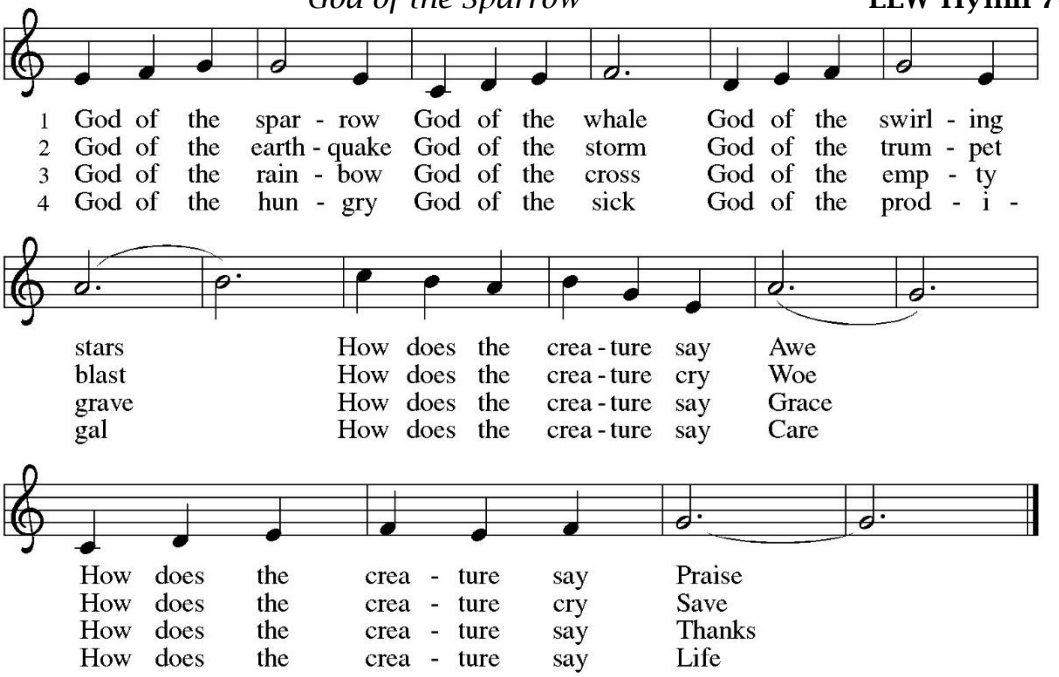
(Please Stand)

OPENING DIALOGUE

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.
P: Let us bless God, who created heaven and earth.
C: Our Creator's name be praised.
P: God blessed them, and God said to them,
C: "Be fruitful and multiply
P: and fill the earth and subdue it
C: and have dominion over the fish of the sea
P: and over the birds of the air
C: and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

(Genesis 1:28)

HYMN *"God of the Sparrow"* **ELW Hymn 740**



5 God of the neighbor
God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, you move through all creation with sighs too deep for words. Open our hearts to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Speak through your church to rebuke the forces that seek to exploit your planet. Join our human prayers with the voices of all creation and move us to honor you by preserving the gifts of nature that reveal your glory.
Amen.

DIALOGUE

P: But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
C: the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
P: ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you,
C: and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
P: Who among all these does not know
C: that the hand of the LORD has done this?
P: In his hand is the life of every living thing
C: and the breath of every human being.

(Job 12:7-10)

HYMN *"Praise and Thanksgiving"* **ELW Hymn 689**

PRAYER

God, creator of all living things, you fashioned a world in which lands and waterways, plants and animals, together meet the needs of all that you made. We pray that such vitality may flourish around the globe. Bless those who work the soil and who manage animals. Uphold their towns and villages. Nurture bees and other pollinators. Protect farmlands and ranches from drought and flood. Free children from forced labor in the fields. Grant an economy that can sustain those families who treasure a rural life. Teach us how to share with everyone the benefits of each harvest, and accept our gratitude for all sustenance you provide, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

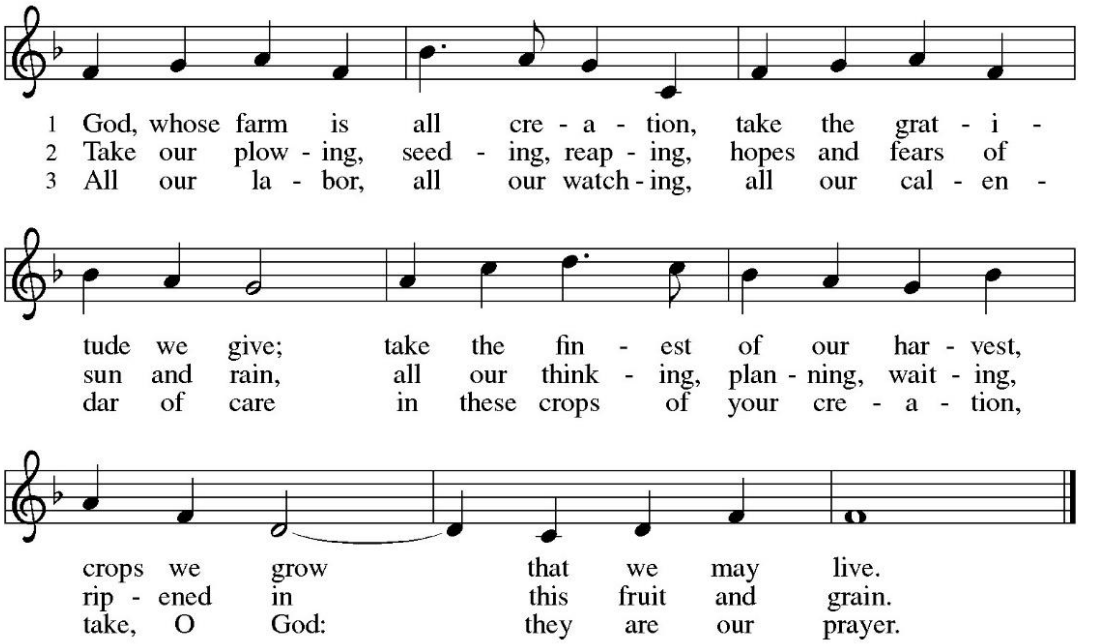
Amen.

DIALOGUE

P: You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.
C: You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.
P: You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
**C: with heavy rain you soften the ground
and bless its increase.**
P: You crown the year with your goodness,
C: and your paths overflow with plenty.
P: May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
C: and the hills be clothed with joy.
P: May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
C: let them shout for joy and sing.

(Psalm 65:9-13, ELW)

HYMN *"God, Whose Farm is All Creation"* **ELW Hymn 734**



PRAYER

Holy God, we lift to you the animal inhabitants of the earth. For those seen and unseen creatures and living things that attest to your creative power, we ask your blessing. We pray for victims of animal cruelty. Bless all who care for injured and abused animals. Comfort those who mourn for their pets and for endangered and extinct species. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

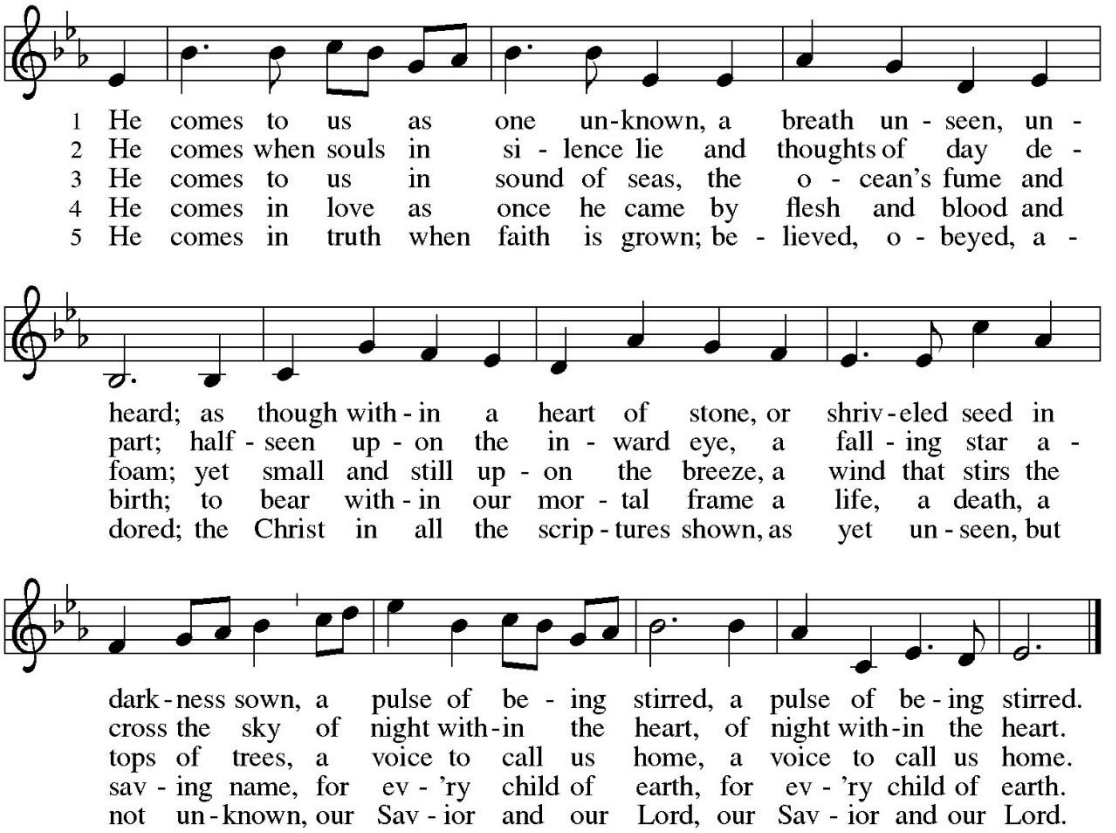
SERMON ***Todd Chelf***

DIALOGUE

P: Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life,
C: bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city.
P: On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month,
C: and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

(Revelation 22:1-2)

HYMN *"He Comes to Us as One Unknown"* **ELW Hymn 737**



PRAYER

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

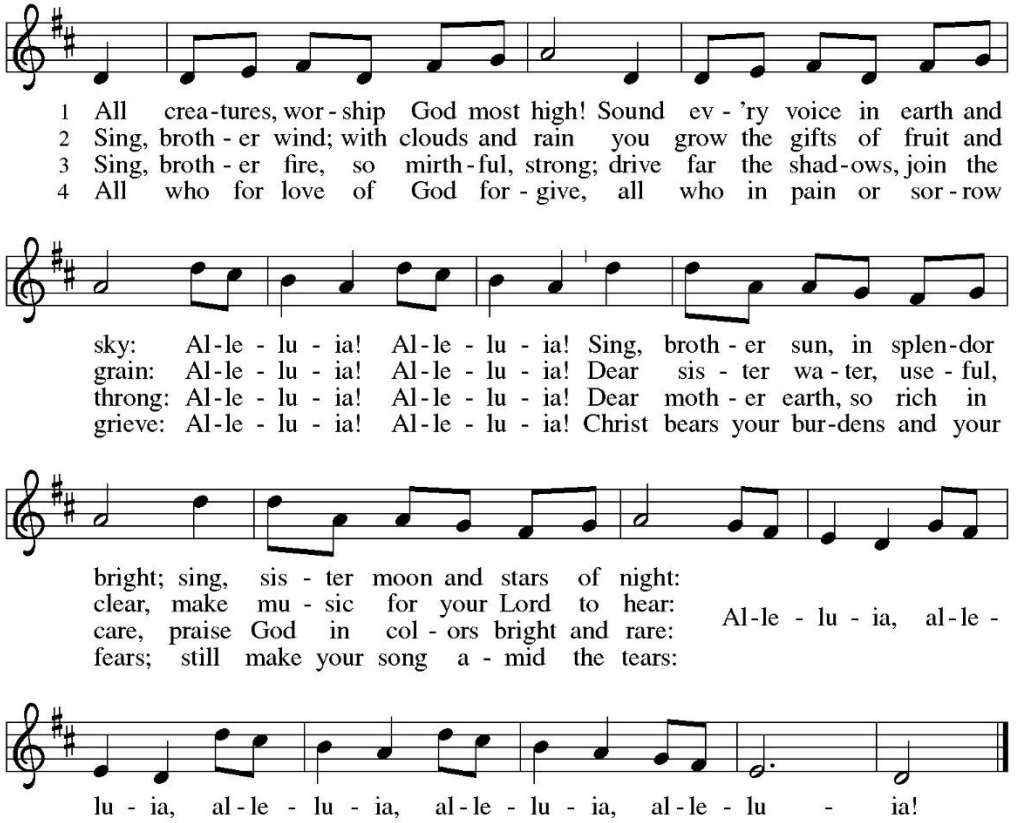
DIALOGUE

P: Most high, most powerful, good Lord,
C: Praise, glory, honor and blessing are yours. . . .
P: Praise be to you, my Lord, with all your creatures,
C: Especially to my reverent Brother Sun . . .
P: Beautiful is he and radiant with splendor great;
C: singing of your significance.
P: Praised be my Lord, for Sister Moon and for the stars . . .
C: Praised be my Lord for Brother Wind . . .
P: Praised be my Lord for Sister Water . . .
C: Praised be my Lord for Brother Fire . . .
P: Praised be my Lord for our sister, Mother Earth,
C: Praised be my Lord for those who forgive others for your sake . . .
P: Praised be my Lord for our sister, Death . . .
C: Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks.

*(Excerpt from "Canticle of the Sun" by Francis of Assisi," trans. Paschal Robinson and slightly modernized by Creative Commons Prayer (**www.creativecommonsprayer.com/occasion/st-francis-canticle-of-the-sun/**). Used under creative commons license version 2.0.)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN *"All Creatures, Worship God Most High"* **ELW Hymn 835**



5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

PRAYER

Stir up your power, O God, and save your good creation. The earth groans in travail. Forests fall, oceans rise, crops fail. The air is thick with so much burning. Free us from the powerful who destroy the air, water, and land. Frustrate their violence, expose their lies, overthrow their schemes. Pour out over the earth justice that rolls down like water to nourish the life of the world. Preserve the health of your beloved creation. Strengthen those who serve and protect the garden of this earth. Restore the choir of your creatures and let us sing for joy. Gather us at your river, under the tree of life. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth; in the name of the one who from a wounded tree birthed a new creation, Jesus our redeemer. **Amen.**

CLOSING DIALOGUE

P: Let us bless the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.
P: May we go forth in peace.
C: In the name of Christ. Amen.

****
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress SundaysandSeasononline.com license #25124
Reprinted from *Sundays and Seasons* copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector:	*No Lector this Week*
Usher:	Susan Swanson
Communion:	*No Communion this week*
Greeters:	Marlys McClurg & Vanette Wooldridge
Missionary Support:	Open
Altar Flowers:	Bill Mundt-In Memory of my son, Carl Mundt
Remember in prayer:	Barb West; Norma Bock; Mel Craven

~ ~

A Cry Room for infants is available up the stairs and to the right. There are Kids Celebrate children's bulletins available for youngsters who'd like to have their own reference to the lessons for this week. Ask our usher for help.

Please join us for coffee and donuts in the fellowship hall following the worship service. We would like to get to know you and offer our friendship.

~ ~

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Today:	**A Creation Service of Lessons & Carols-*Todd Chelf will be Preaching***	
	9:00 a.m.	Worship-**No Communion this week**
	10:55 a.m.	Lutheran Church of Hope Service
Wednesday:	**Summer Campfire Worship Service @ Bethany**	
	6:00 p.m.	**Meal**
	7:00 p.m.	**Service – *S'mores to follow service***
Thursday:	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study @ Messiah
Next Sunday:	**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**	
	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/Holy Communion
	10:55 a.m.	Lutheran Church of Hope Service

PASTOR MISHA AT CONFERENCE OF WORSHIP THEOLOGY & THE ARTS

Pastor Misha will be attending the Conference of Worship Theology & the Arts @ St. Olaf College, where she will be presenting on her Confirmation student led Healing services. She will be away from Monday, July 20 and will be returning in the afternoon of Wednesday, July 22, just in time for the Campfire Worship Service.

EMERGENCY PASTORAL COVERAGE JULY 20-JULY 22

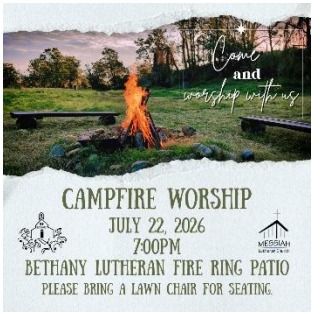
Pastor Sam Fratt from Burlington Foursquare Gospel Church will be providing emergency Pastoral care for any Pastoral emergencies that may arise while Pastor Misha is away at St. Olaf College for the Conference of Worship Theology and the Arts from Monday, July 20 to Wednesday, July 22. Pastor Sam Fratt can be contacted at 319-572-5320.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL INFORMATION

Ticket sales for this year's Ice Cream Social will go on sale starting next week! Adults are $10 and Children ages 10 and under are $5. Sign-up sheets for food items and help needed will also be out next week! For those that have yard signs, please start posting your signs in your yard. Ice Cream Social is on Wednesday, August 12 from 5:00pm-7:00pm.

SUMMER CAMPFIRE WORSHIP SERVICE

Our last Campfire Worship Service for this year will be this Wednesday, July 22 at Bethany! A meal will start things off at 6:00pm with the service to start at 7:00pm and roasting s'mores will wrap up the evening! We will be singing out of the "With One Voice" Hymnals again this year. Remember to bring your lawn chair! Come gather around the fire with us!



WEEKLY FINANCE REPORT

These are the numbers for where we are financially for the dates of July 5 – July 11:

July 5-July 11
Income: $4,789.74
Expense: $0

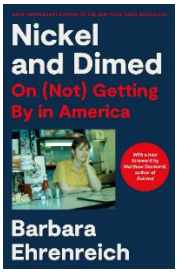
If you have any questions about these numbers, please contact a member of the Finance Committee.

JULY OUTREACH DONATIONS

Food Pantry Donations for July will be anything non-perishable! Thank you for your generosity!

AUGUST PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB

Our August book club will meet on Tuesday, August 11 @ 5:00 p.m., here at Bethany. All are invited to join us! For this month, we will be reading "Nickel and Dimed, On (Not) Getting By in America" by Barbara Ehrenreich!



~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Bethany Lutheran Church
2515 Madison Ave., Burlington, IA Phone: (319) 752-3621
www.bethanyburlington.org

Office Hours
Monday-Wednesday-Friday – 9:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday & Thursday – 1:30pm-4:30pm

Pastor Misha's Office Hours
Bethany: Monday & Tuesday
Messiah: Wednesday & Thursday
**** Pastor Misha's hours vary in the office from week to week as she may be out of office on visits or other Pastor duties. Please call or text her to make an appointment or to see if she is in the office. ****

Pastor Misha's contact info: 412-628-6382; damisha.mcfarlandpollock@gmail.com

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Our Staff

Rev. Misha McFarland-Pollock	Pastor
Cory Byrne	Organist/Choir Director
Wendy Bell	Office Administrator
Michelle Huppenbauer	Financial Secretary
Pam Crable	Custodian