April, 2026 Volume 66, Issue 4

Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

Reaching out in Worship, Fellowship, Learning, and Love - We Are God's People.

The Chimes

Easter Season!

We will start our Easter season with Holy Week! Monday, March 30-Compline Service at 8:00pm at Bethany; Tuesday, March 31-Vespers Service at 7:00pm at Bethany; Wednesday, April 1-Morning Prayer at 10:00am; Thursday, April 2-Maundy Thursday at 7:00pm at Messiah; Friday, April 3-Good Friday at 7:00pm at Messiah; and Saturday, April 4-Holy Saturday at 3:00pm at Messiah! We will wrap up Holy Week on Sunday, April 5 with Easter Sunday!

Easter Sunday Worship will begin at 8:30am! The choir will be singing during service and will hold a rehearsal before Worship at 8:00am.

A joint service will be held on Sunday, April 12 at Messiah! This is a Youth Sunday Service and will be led by youth from both Messiah and Bethany! Worship starts at 10:30am!

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

Our Staff

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

Church Update
April 2026

LSI proudly serves Iowans in all 99 counties through our services of Mental Health, Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, People with Disabilities, and Immigrant & Refugee Community Services. We serve individuals of all ages, from families with newborns navigating the early stages of parenthood, to Refugee and Immigrant elders, as well as children at every stage of development. Our heart beats for the people we serve. We empower families and communities by recognizing and honoring the strengths and gifts of every individual.

Your SUPPORT makes these stories possible...

Growing Hope: LSI's Spring Plant Sale

Spring is an exciting season at LSI, and this year brings an especially meaningful milestone for our Global Greens program. After many years of renting space, we are grateful to share that LSI has purchased our local greenhouse in Des Moines, IA. This step allows us to expand our work and continue creating opportunities for the refugees and immigrants we serve.

Our Global Greens program brings together individuals and families from many different countries who are building new lives in our communities. In the greenhouse, participants grow flowers, vegetables, and hanging baskets while learning valuable job skills, practicing English, and forming friendships. It is a place where people from around the world work side by side, gaining confidence and experience as they move forward in their new home.

The **Spring Plant Sale** is an important part of making this program possible. The plants sold during the sale are grown and cared for by the refugees and immigrants in our program. Every purchase helps support training, supplies, and the ongoing work of LSI as we walk alongside newcomers adjusting to life in Iowa.

For our participants, the greenhouse represents more than a place to grow plants, it is a place to grow opportunity, community, and hope.

We invite you and your congregation to support this ministry by visiting the greenhouse during the plant sale, sharing the event with friends and neighbors, and keeping the families we serve in your prayers. When you purchase plants from LSI, you are not only preparing your garden for spring you are helping cultivate new beginnings for our newest neighbors.

Thank you for your continued partnership in this important work.

LSI
LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA
people focused • results driven

FROM THE PASTOR

Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not conceited.
– 1 Corinthians 13:4

As I sit and write this newsletter article it is March and we are under a blizzard warning. The wind is howling outside my window and snow is swirling around. However, this newsletter article is for April and I'm sure by the time you are reading this, the sun will be shining and flowers will just be starting to bloom.

Winter was a blur of activity and now we are moving on to Spring! We have slogged our way through Lent and rejoiced at the resurrection of Jesus on Easter. However, our Easter celebration has not ended. We as church celebrate Easter until we celebrate the festival of Pentecost! We are experiencing a time when the church remembers our baptism. I love the symbolism this entails. The water, and the Word, and the Holy Spirit unite us across time and space. It's like a giant family reunion!

Bethany received a new member in March and Messiah will have a baptism this month. Our churches are experiencing new life in many different ways. It was wonderful having the three ELCA churches worshipping together for our midweek Lenten services. We shared a meal together and worshipped together. Our preachers came from Bethany and Messiah! We had men and women preaching God's word. Our preachers included a variety of ages as well. It was great to learn from one another! Our meals were provided by Unity, Messiah, and Bethany. I loved eating and smelling the variety of soups that were prepared! We also had other delicious foods, but soups are my favorite for midweek meals.

I have been participating in the Burlington Citizens Police Academy. I have learned a lot about how a police force works in general and specifically about the Burlington Police Department. It has been a joy to learn from those who protect and serve the people of Burlington. My graduation from the program is April 7. As of the time of writing this newsletter article I have not yet gone on my ride along. I can't wait to tell you all about it when I do!

During the month of April, I will provide a Sunday morning sermon on the radio. It airs on KBUR at approximately 8:30am. I will also take part in the Good Friday Walk carrying the Cross as part of the Burlington Area Council of Churches. We will have a joint service on April 12th, the Sunday after Easter. It will be led by the youth of Bethany and Messiah. It will take place at Messiah. There will also be a baptism that same Sunday!

Our Synod Assembly is coming up. It's May 15-16. This year we will have a bishop election. I am on the Bishop Election Committee for the Synod. We have been having Zoom meetings for the last several months in preparation. It will be nice to see the fruit of all of our hard work at Synod Assembly.

I look forward to the changing of seasons. We are moving from snow and cold of Winter to the rain and sun of Spring. Each season brings something new into our lives just like God makes all things new.

Blessings,

Pastor Misha

Meetings

The meetings for April, 2026 that have been scheduled as of the publishing of this newsletter are listed below. Watch your bulletins for any date and time changes, or additional meetings that may be scheduled.

Finance Committee
Thursday, April 9 @ 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee
Thursday, April 9 @ 6:00 p.m.

Church Life Committee
Sunday, April 12 @ 10:15 a.m.

Property Committee
Monday, April 13 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Council
Thursday, April 15 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Outreach
Sunday, April 12 @ 10:15 a.m.

Pastor's Book Club @ Bethany
Tuesday, April 14 @ 5:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch
Wednesday, April 8 @ 12:30 p.m. @

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, April 18 @ 8:00 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE

Because of Federal Privacy laws, if you or a member of your family are hospitalized and would like the Pastor to visit, you must contact the church and let us know.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

March ATTENDANCE

March 1	45
March 8	45
March 15	49
March 22	51

March GIVING

March 1	$10,981.51
March 8	$2,619.11
March 15	$1,895.02
March 22	$2,262.69
Total:	$17,758.33

February VANCO total: $1,575.00

**March 29 Attendance and Giving will be included in the May Chimes issue, due to time constraints.*

LAY LEADERS

April Usher: Susan Swanson

Communion Assistants
5 – Tiffany & Michelle Huppenbauer
12 – *At Messiah*
19 – Mike Hopp; Julie Wischmeier
26 – Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt

Lector
5 – Judy Craven
12 – *At Messiah*
19 – Todd Chelf
26 – Vicki Stoller

Greeters
5 – Carol Dodge
12 – *At Messiah*
19 – Sharon Martindale
26 – Marlys McClurg & Vanette Wooldridge

Flowers
5 – Easter Lilies
12 – *At Messiah*
19 – Pam Taylor
26 – Carol Dodge

Missionary Support
5 – Debbie Hoxie
12 – Open
19 – Open
26 – Open

Altar Guild
Sharon Martindale
Carol Dodge
Lynda Johnson

Money Counter Volunteers

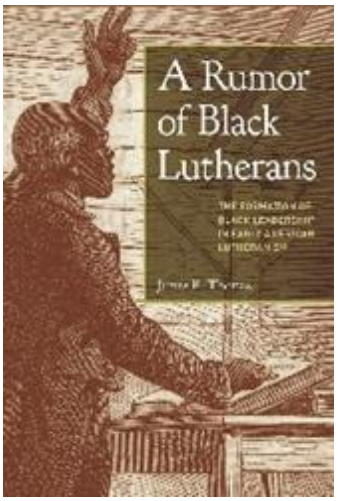
Finance committee is looking for additional volunteers to count money after church! This is done on a rotation basis every month & set up quarterly. If interested, see Pam Taylor or Mike Hopp.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch is a group get-together that meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month for lunch! This month's Lunch Bunch will be on Wednesday, April 8 @ 12:30pm @ Toast of Burlington, located in Fairway Center. Any and all are welcome! To sign up, if you have questions, or need transportation arrangements, please contact Dave Nuebel at 319-237-6933.

Pastor's Book Club

Pastor's Book Club will be meeting next on Tuesday, April at 5:00pm at Bethany! All are welcome to join us! This month we are reading "A Rumor of Black Lutherans" By James R. Thomas!



Bethany Lutheran Church
Minutes of the Church Council Regular Meeting
February 19, 2026 rv. 2.22.26

Present: Pastor Misha, Mike Hopp-President, Pam Taylor-Secretary, Dan Wischmeier-Treasurer, Tom Bonar, Michelle Huppenbauer, Tiffany Huppenbauer, Vicki Stoller, Dave Neubell
Absent: Dirk Zaiser, Bev Sherbondy- Vice President, Bill Mundt, Julie Chubb. The meeting was called to order by the President at 6:32. The pastor gave a devotion.

Minutes- Pam T motioned, Dave N. seconded to approve the 1.21.26 BLC Council minutes. **Motion carried.**

Dan W. motioned and Dave N seconded to accept the amended 1.25.26 BLC Annual meeting minutes. **Motion carried.** The Secretary will resend the amended minutes to reflect the Teller names and the nominated names that were in the Annual report.
Pam motioned and Dan W seconded to accept the 1.25.26 Special Council Meeting minutes. **Motion carried.**

Pastor's Report - Dave N motioned, Mike H seconded to accept the pastors' written report. **Motion carried.** There were no additional updates.

Financials - Dan moved, Mike seconded to remove 20K from the endowment fund to cover expenses. **Motion carried**. Following further discussion, Dan moved and Mike seconded to modify the motion to that of cashing in the ~$8,700 CD at Connection Bank and write a check for the balance of the $20K out of the endowment fund. **Motion carried**.
Mike made contact with Joel S. from Edward D Jones to confirm there was adequate cash available and to make sure there were no short-term decisions regarding investments that needed to be made as Bethany works to establish long term goals in upcoming transitions regarding management of the endowment.
Dave N motioned, Pam T seconded to accept the Financials. **Motion carried**.

Committee Reports

Church Life - Written report given. There was no added information.
Church Outreach - No written or verbal reports.
Finance - Written report provided.

A recommendation was made for finance to study the number of years before the endowment could be depleted and keep the congregation informed.
There was further discussion about how to present weekly financial information to the congregation in the bulletin and to start as soon as possible. The informational chart will be determined by the finance committee.
Shared ideas were also given about how to use the "self-denial" lent envelope funds. Michelle H. motioned, Pam T. seconded to send the self-denial envelope funds to the "Youth World Africa - Clean Water Initiative". Pastor and Vicki had seen the information presented as an option at a recent, local event. Each water cleaning unit costs $50 and lasts about 10 years. **Motion carried**. For more information: https://youthworldafrica.org.
A basket for both churches will be placed out starting this coming Sunday as there is consistent attendance from Messiah members who prefer the earlier morning service.

Property - A written report was provided. Dave N. added that he will be working on repairing some flaking plaster in the entry door area and other areas.

Vicki S. motioned, Tom B. seconded to accept the standing committees' reports. **Motion carried.**

Old Business

- Printer Contract - Pam T motioned, Dan W seconded to eliminate the service contract.
- Bill Ward, Jr. - Mike provided some updates regarding the family. No further requests are made at this time.
- Goals for the church year were mentioned including updating the website, balancing the budget, and a suggested joint church effort to support Bridges Out of Poverty (BOP). It was decided that the President would invite the church members after a service in the near future to a "directed fellowship." During this fellowship the whole church could discuss Bethany's mission, goals, and possible projects for the year to support Bethany's mission and goals.
- An upcoming opportunity to serve a meal to BOP, March 10th, was discussed at the recent Joint Councils' meeting. Mike would take the lead for Bethany's role and share this project information at a Temple talk and in a future bulletin. Dave N. said the Optimist Club would financially support this effort if we could provide the labor. Further discussion was held regarding consideration of what we are asking from the church budget and of members as we make plans for events. The Time and Talents project is important to implement so we can follow up on the significance of not only those who can make financial contributions but those whose time is also valued to carry out Bethany's mission, goals, and supporting activities.

New Business

- Annual Council Dinner - No date set.
- Committee Assignments - Michelle will serve on both the Finance and Church Life (since Church Life and Outreach are working together.
- Nominating Committee - council members were encouraged to seek out non-council members to serve on this committee that did not serve last year (Teresa M and Joe G served last year).
- Transfer form Endowment - handled under Finance reports.
- Other - Pastor received a request from a pastor friend, Pastor Ashley Kuhlman, for Bethany to host her traveling youth Saturday night, June 27th, as the youth travel from Minnesota to Nashville. The youth will spend the night on the floor in the social hall and join Bethany for services Sunday morning. Mike motioned, Michelle seconded to approve the request. **Motion carried.**

Adjourn

Dave N motioned, Vicki S. seconded to adjourn at 8:09 pm. **Motion carried**.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday @ 6:30pm, March 19th.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Taylor, Secretary

Announcements

Easter Sunday is April 5! Service will start at 8:30am at Bethany. Choir will sing during Worship. A choir rehearsal will be held before the service at 8:00am.

The office will be closed on Friday, April 3 and Monday, April 6 in observance of Good Friday and Easter Monday.

Our weekly flowers will have a price increase that will go into effect starting on April 1! Flowers will increase from $21.40 to $32.09 each week. This increase is due to Hy-Vee recently increasing their rates.

Bethany's Choir will be holding rehearsal for Easter Sunday on Sunday, March 29 at 8:00am, Wednesday, April 1 at 5:30pm and on Sunday, April 5 at 8:00am.

We will be having a joint service at Messiah on Sunday, April 12! This is a Youth Sunday Service and will be led by youth from both Messiah and Bethany! Worship starts at 10:30am!

Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, April 8 at 12:30pm at Toast of Burlington, located in Fairway Center. To sign up or have questions, please call Dave Nuebel at 319-237-6933.

Outreach donations for April will be anything non-perishable, i.e. food items, canned goods, hygiene products, paper products, etc…

Pastor's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 14 at 5:00pm at Bethany. All are welcome to join. This month we are reading "A Rumor of Black Lutherans" by James R. Thomas.

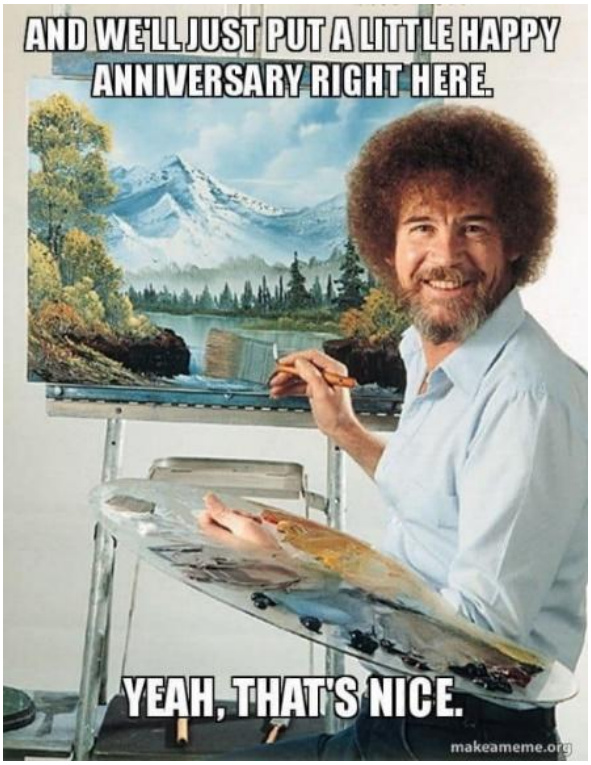
Finance committee is looking for additional volunteers to count money after church. If interested, please contact Pam Taylor or Mike Hopp.

April Anniversaries

18 – Todd & Laurie Chelf

April BIRTHDAYS

3 – Carlene Woodside
6 – Michael Kastner; Denise Kaup
9 – Arnhild Zaiser
10 – Erica House
12 – Thomas Holtz; Jim Morris
19 – Elliot Wallace
20 – Dee Dee McAllister
29 – Hunter Adam; Steven Rogers
30 – Vivienne Mafra



April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Paraments: **White: 5, 12, 19, 26**	Office Hours Mon.-Wed.-Fri.: 9:00am-1:00pm Tues. & Thurs.: 1:30pm-4:30pm		1 10:00am Morning Prayer @ Bethany *5:30pm Choir Rehearsal @ Bethany*	2 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah Maundy Thursday @ Messiah @ 7:00pm 	3 Office Closed Good Friday *Nurses mtg. @ 9:30am* Good Friday @ Messiah @ 7:00pm 	4 Holy Saturday @ Messiah @ 3:00pm
5 Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter *8:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal* 8:30 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	6 *Office Closed for Easter Monday* Retired School Personnel Mtg. @ Noon	7 *Property cleaning carpets & chairs*	8 Lunch Bunch @ 12:30pm @ Toast of Burlington	9 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah Exec. Comm mtg @ 6:00pm Finance Mtg. @ 6:30pm	10 	11
12 2nd Sunday of Easter *Joint Youth Service @ Messiah* 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	13 Property mtg. @ 6:30pm	14 Pastor's Book Club @ 5pm @ Bethany	15 Council Mtg. @ 6:30pm	16 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah	17	18 8:00am Men's Breakfast
19 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	20 Chimes Deadline	21 	22	23 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah	24	25
26 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	27	28	29	30 		