Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 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.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

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

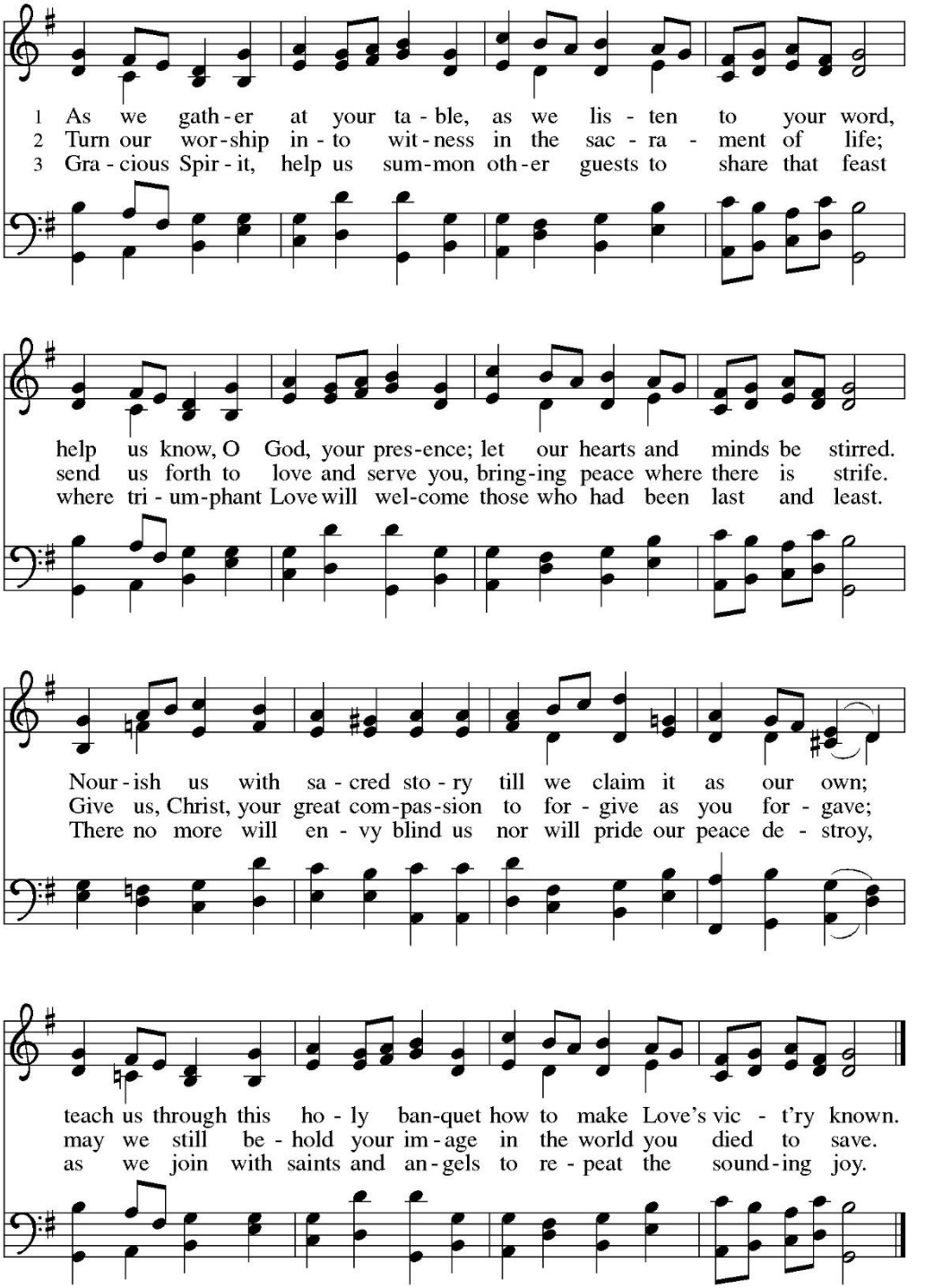
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

**C: 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.**

P: 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 grace.

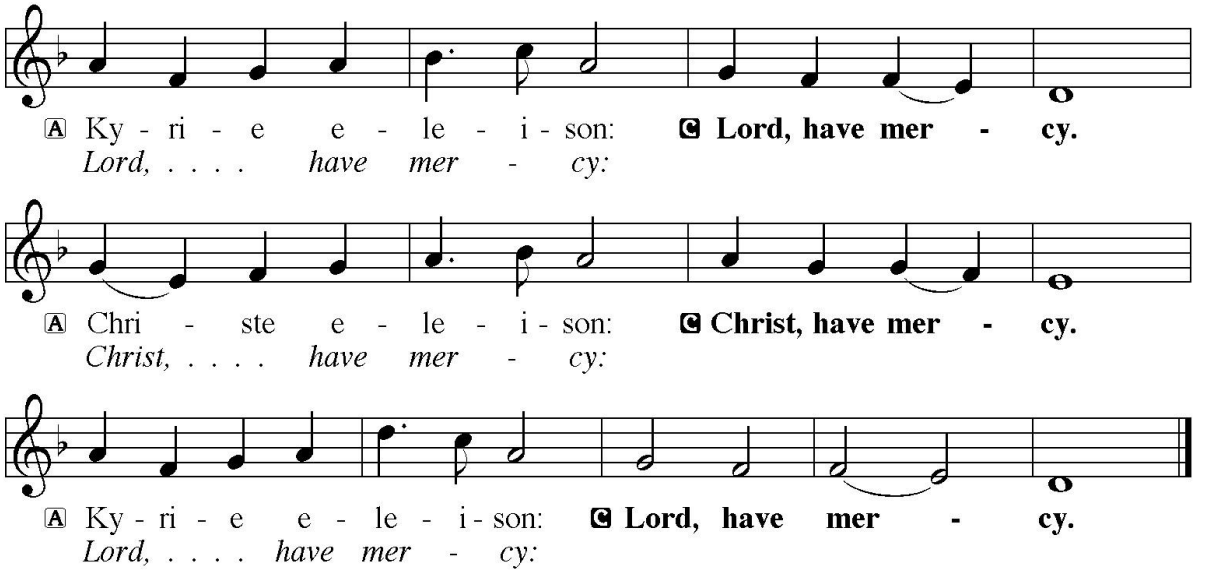
C: Amen.

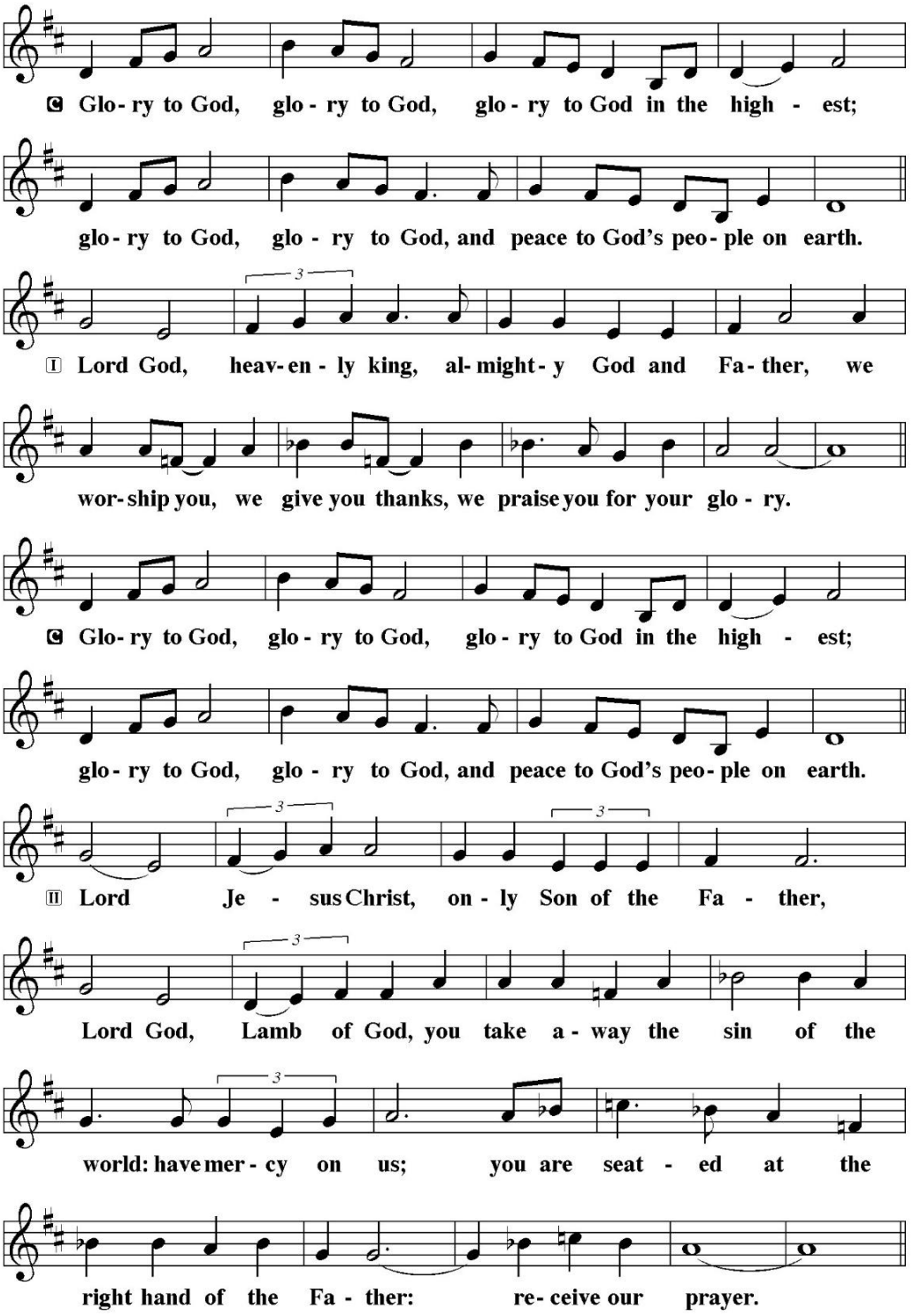
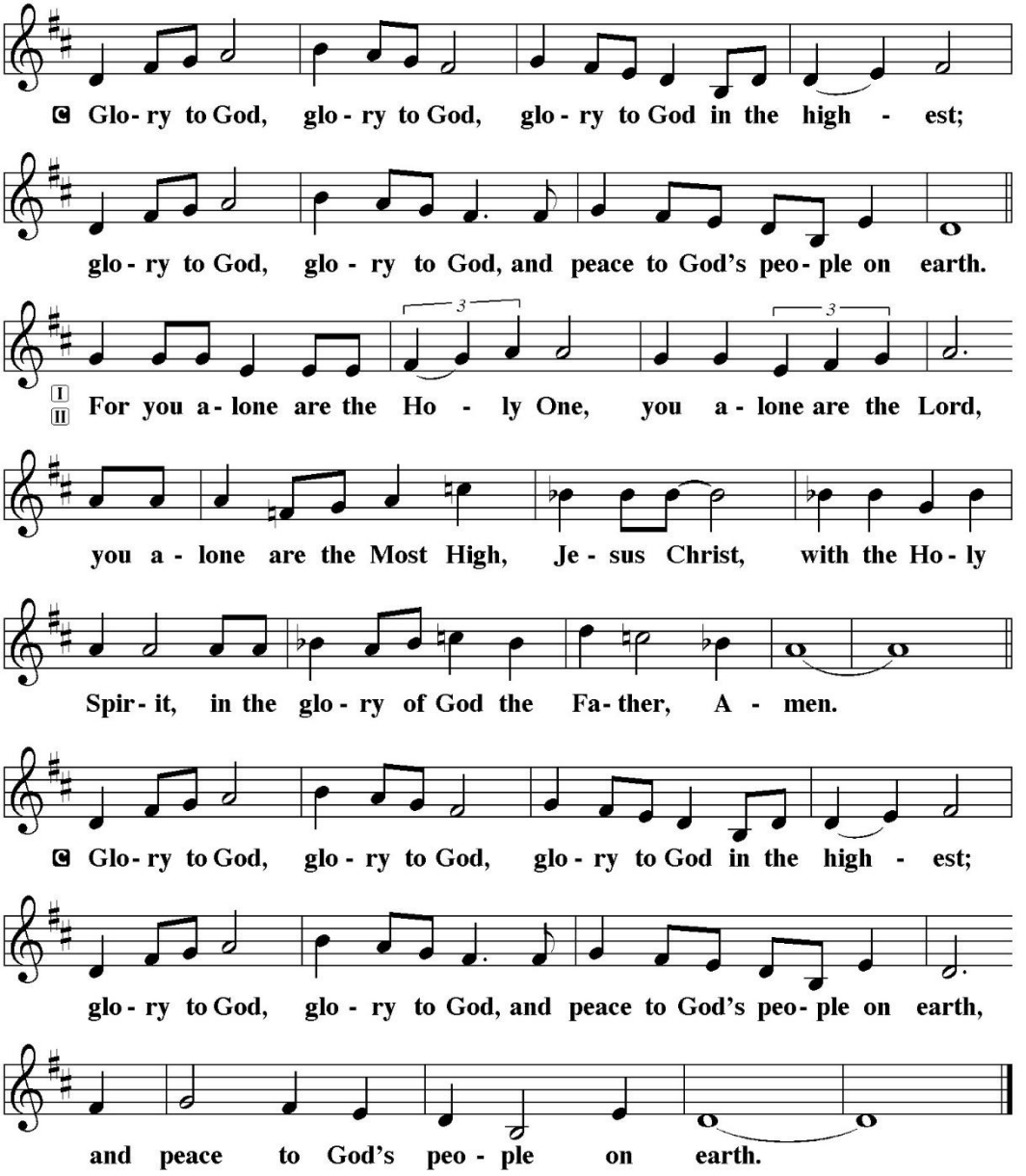
GATHERING HYMN *"As We Gather at Your Table"* **ELW Hymn 522**

GREETING

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.

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE

C Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
I II For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.
C Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,
and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC: *"For Spacious Skies"* **Libby Mangold & Cory Byrne**

We Listen to God's Word

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING **Ezekial 33:7-11**

7 So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a
word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. 8 If I say to the wicked,
"O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to
turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will
require at your hand. 9 But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they
do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have
saved your life.

10 Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our
transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them;
how then can we live?" 11 Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no
pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and
live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of
Israel?

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *(read responsively)* **Psalm 119:33-40**

L: Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.
**C: Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**
L: Make me go in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.
**C: Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**
L: Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless;
give me life in your ways.
**C: Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which you make to those who fear you.**
L: Turn away the reproach which I dread,
because your judgments are good.
**C: Behold, I long for your commandments;
in your righteousness preserve my life.**

SECOND READING **Romans 13:8-14**

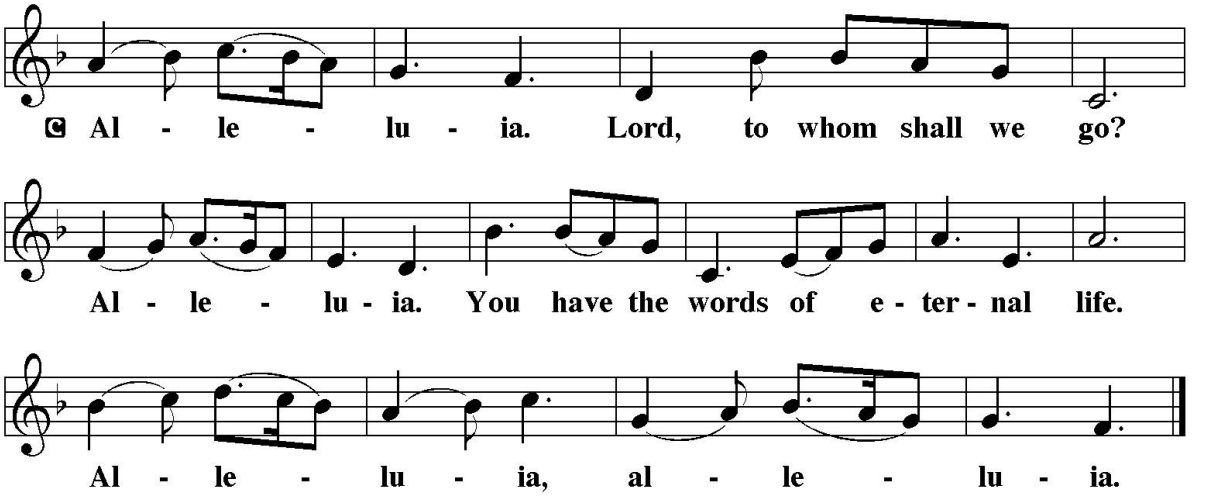
8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another
has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you
shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other
commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as
yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the
law.

11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to
wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became
believers; 12 the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of
darkness and put on the armor of light; 13 let us walk decently as in the day, not in
reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and
jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the
flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: Word of God, word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 18th chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL **Matthew 18:15-20**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 15 "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. 16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

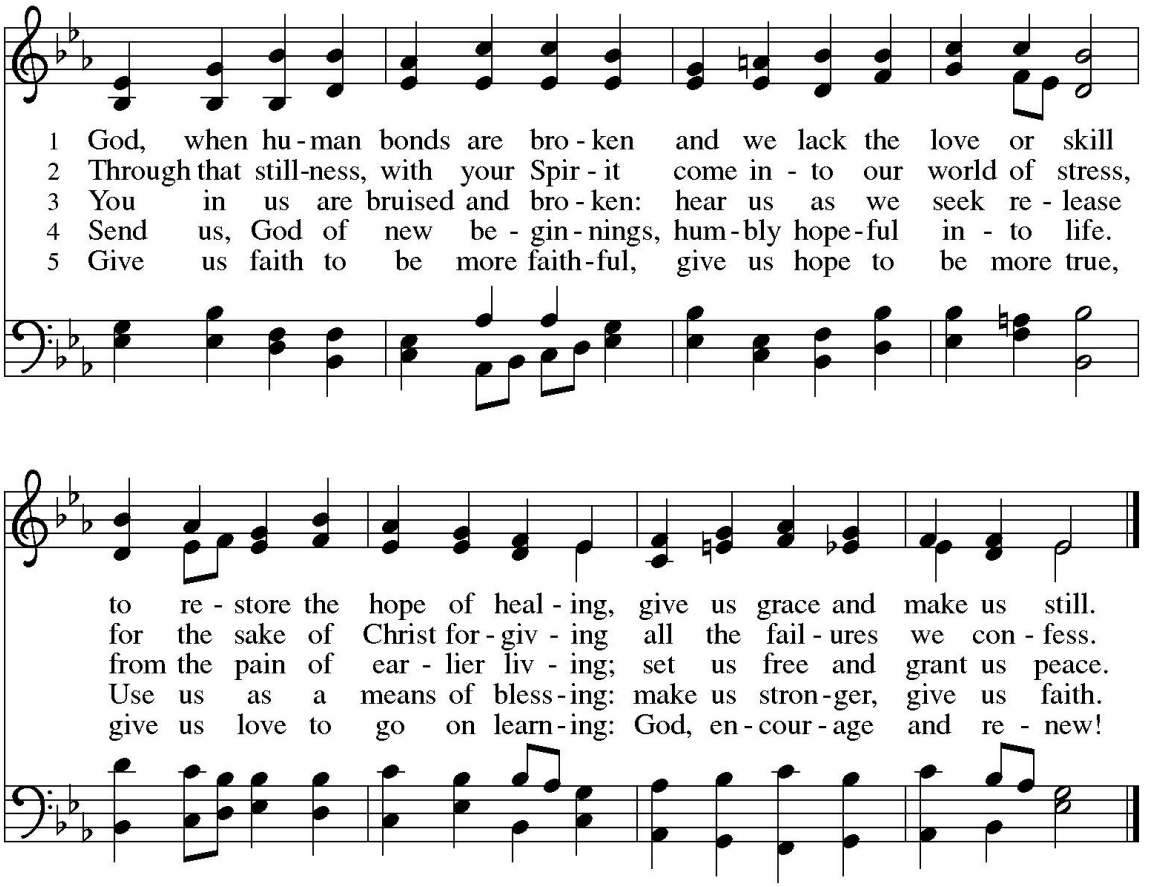
P: The Gospel of our Lord
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON ***Pastor Misha McFarland-Pollock***

(Please Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY *"God, When Human Bonds Are Broken"* **ELW Hymn 603**



We Respond to God's Word

APOSTLES' CREED ***(unison)***

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

(*Please be seated)*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:
P: Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.

We Share in the Holy Meal

(Please Stand)

DIALOGUE

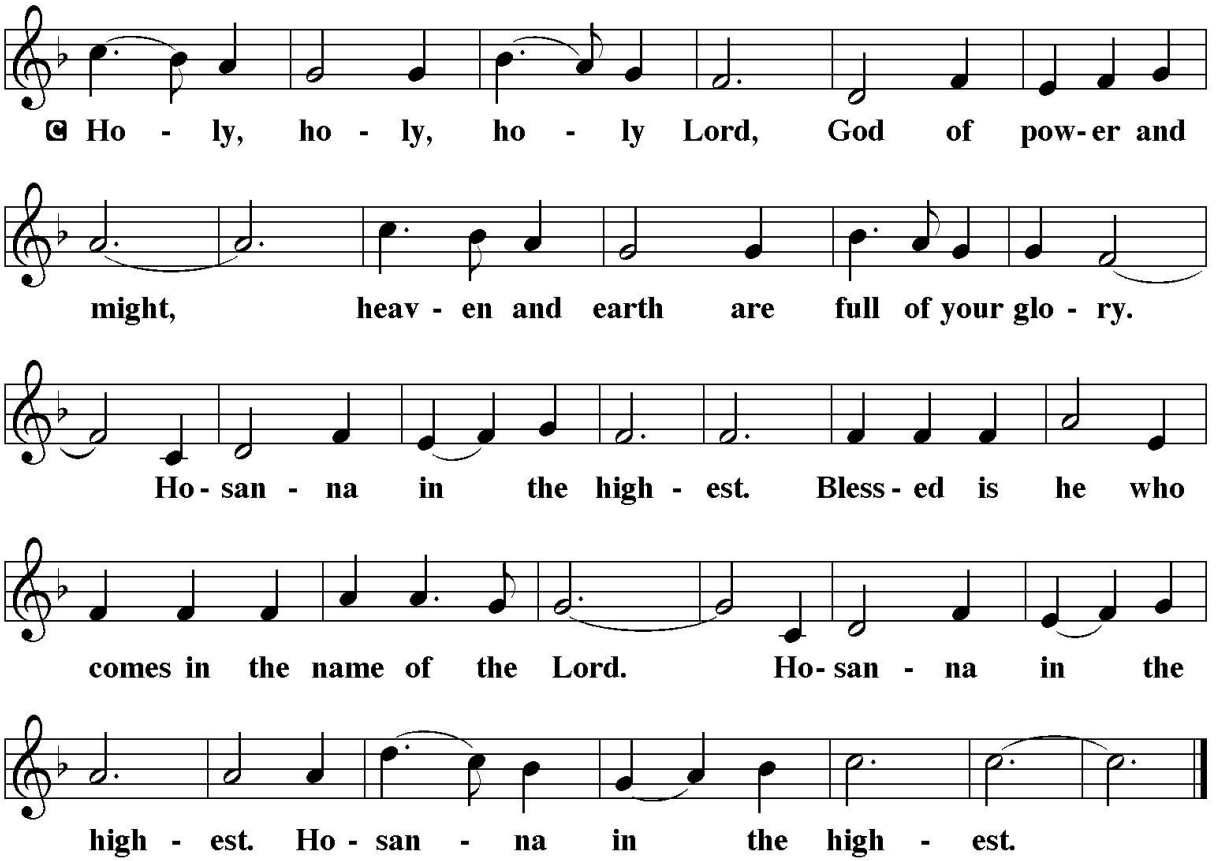
P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy….

…we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

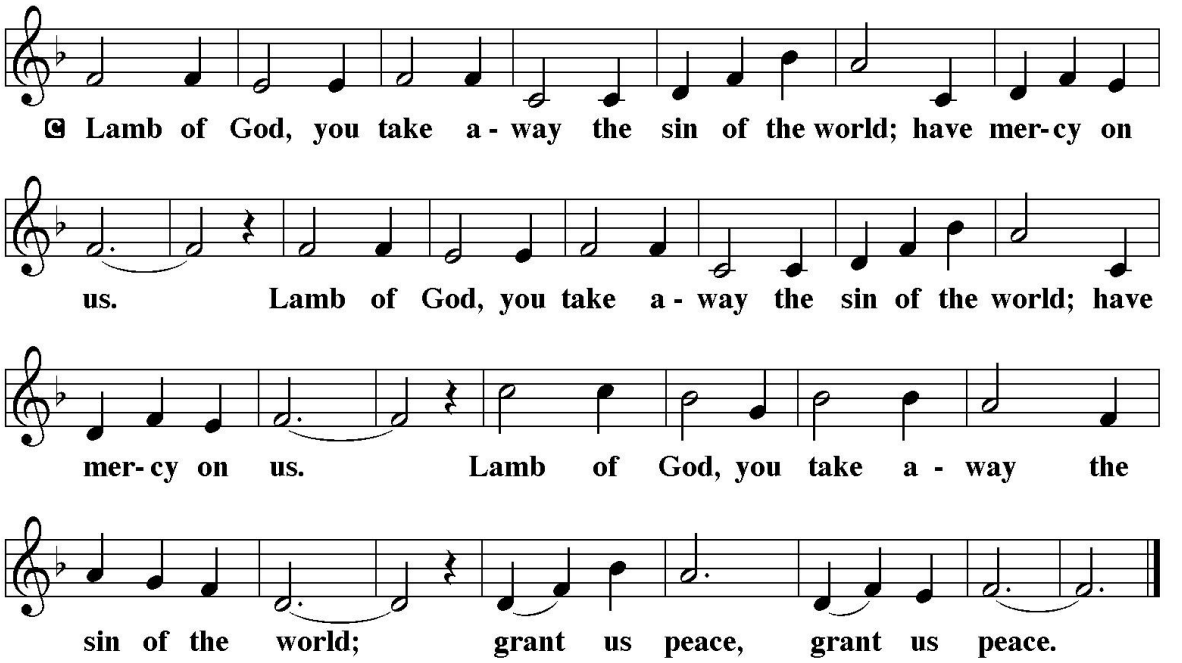
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

(Please be seated)

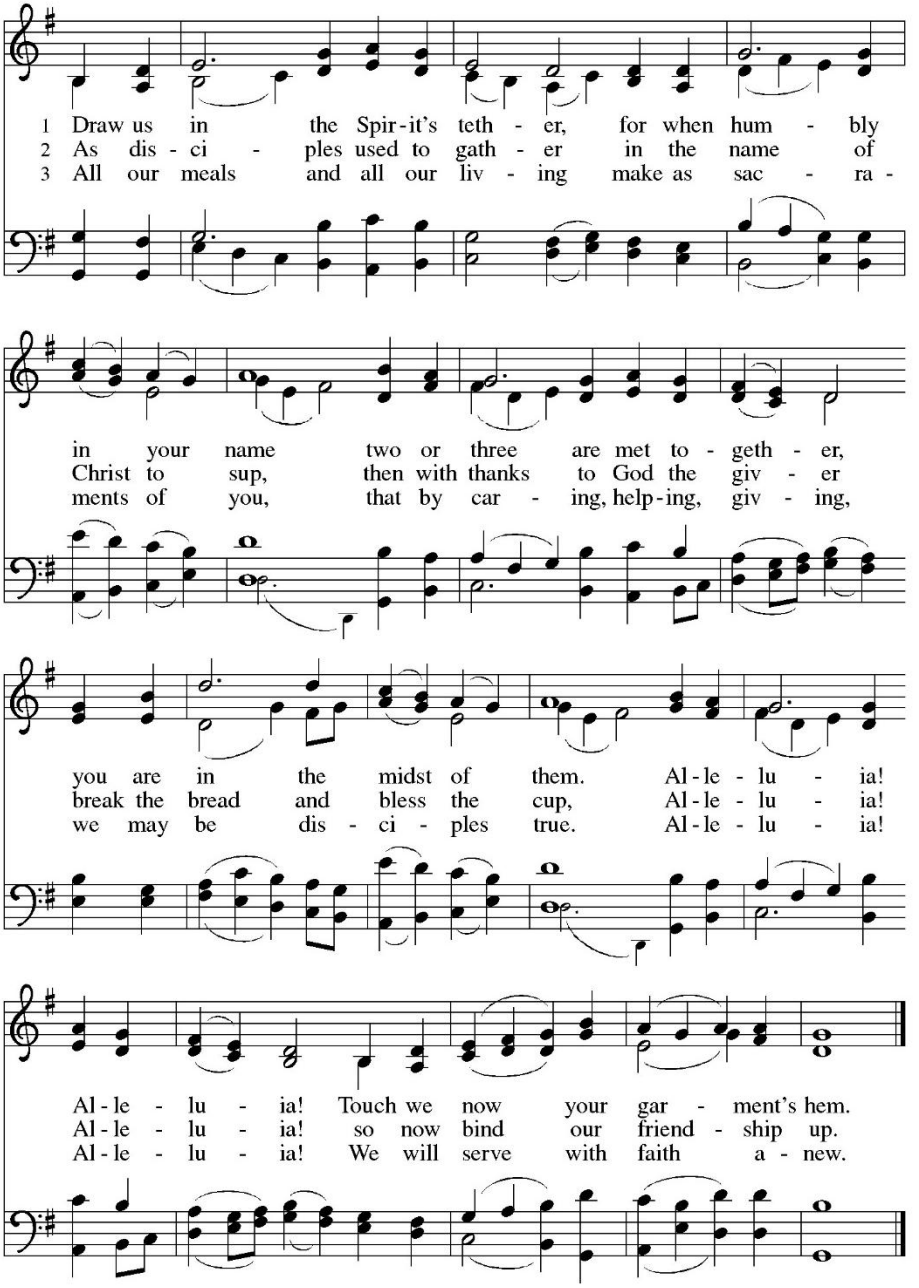
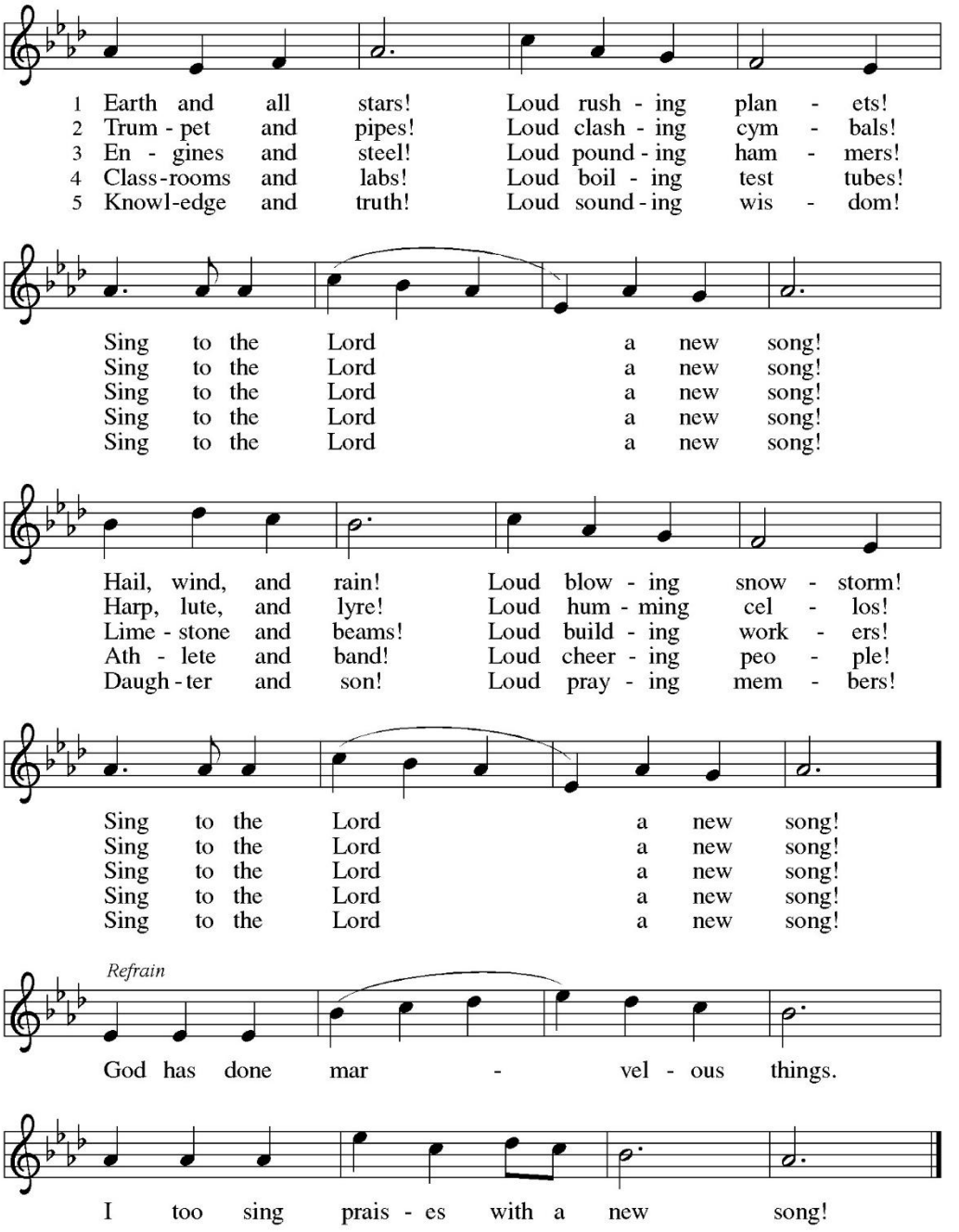
LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION BY INDIVIDUAL GLASSES

(Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)

All who believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to commune. Children who do not commune are welcome to come for a blessing. You will be given a wafer. The glasses of dark liquid are wine; the middle ring is juice. There is a bowl of water if you would like to remember your baptism.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"* ELW Hymn 470

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *"Earth and All Stars"* **ELW Hymn 731**

(Please Stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

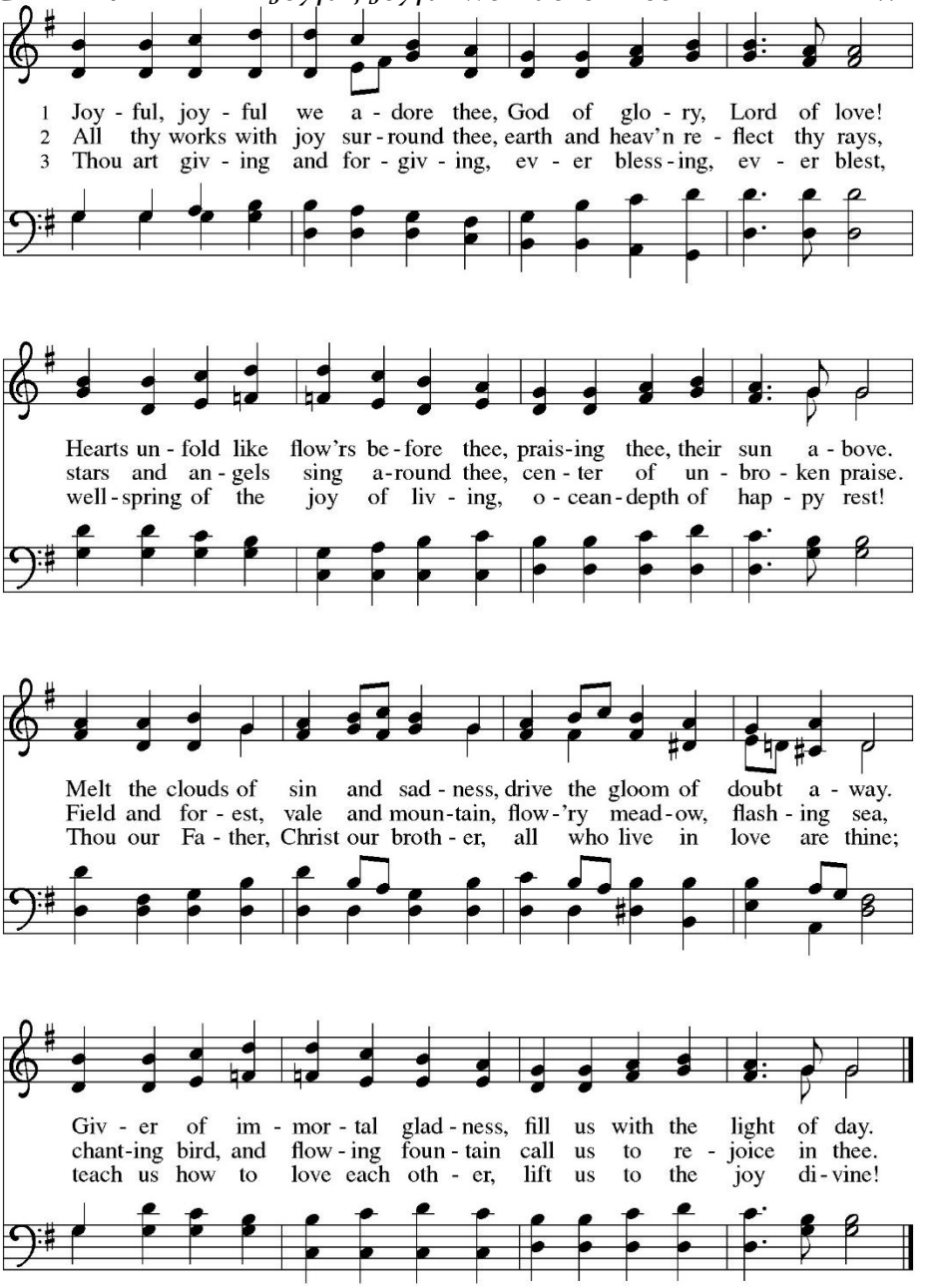
C: Amen.

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"* **ELW Hymn 836**

DISMISSAL

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector:	Mike Hopp
Usher:	Susan Swanson
Communion:	Steve & Sue Rogers
Greeters:	Carol Dodge
Missionary Support:	Open
Altar Flowers:	Lynda Johnson
Remember in prayer:	Patty Chacey; Julie Chubb; Eleonore Benninghoven; The Family of Mark Hermann; The Family of Marlene Benninghoven

~ ~

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.

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ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Today:	**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**	
	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:55 a.m.	Lutheran Church of Hope Service
Monday:	**Office Closed in observance of Labor Day**	
Tuesday:	**5:00 p.m.**	**Pastor's Book Club @ Bethany**
Wednesday:	**12:30 p.m.**	**Lunch Bunch @ Toast of Burlington**
Thursday:	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study @ Messiah
	6:00 p.m.	**Exec. mtg.**
	6:30 p.m.	**Finance mtg.**
Saturday:	**9:00 a.m.**	**God's Work, Our Hands Day**
Next Sunday:	**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost-*Joint Service @ Messiah for Rally Day! Bishop Current to join us!***	
	10:30 a.m.	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:55 a.m.	Lutheran Church of Hope Service

BISHOP CURRENT JOINING US FOR JOINT SERVICE RALLY DAY @ MESSIAH!

Rally Day is next Sunday, September 13! We will be joining together at Messiah for Worship at 10:30am! Bishop Amy Current will also be joining us on this Sunday for Rally Day! A Potluck Picnic will be held following Worship Service!

SEPTEMBER LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet next on Wednesday, September 9 @ 12:30pm @ Toast of Burlington! All are welcome to join us! To sign up, if you have questions, or need transportation arrangement, please call Dave Nuebel at 319-237-6933.

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR MARLENE BENNINGHOVEN

The funeral service for Marlene Benninghoven will take place on Thursday, September 17 at Lunning Chapel in Burlington. Visitation will take place at 1:00pm and the funeral service will start at 2:00pm. Burial to follow the service at Burlington Memorial Park.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS DAY

The workday for God's Work, Our Hands Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 12 starting at 9:00am at Bethany! We will be working on some outdoor projects, including, power washing at the Homeless Shelter and landscaping at Heartsong. Our lower impact projects currently are fringe tie fleece blankets for DHHS/BPD to disperse during crises and hygiene kits for local schools, both projects will take place at Bethany. We are working on expanding this list of projects! A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the fellowship hall! Please write your name under which type of project you would like to do, physical labor or lower impact.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

As you have seen the insert in your bulletin this week. We have a request for donations from the Lutheran Disaster Response to help with the communities in Nepal & Tibet after the deadly, devastating floods they encountered on August 26. If you would like to donate to this cause, please fill out the insert and return it with your donation in the offering plate on Sunday. We will be taking donations until September 27.

WEEKLY FINANCE REPORT

These are the numbers for where we are financially for the dates of August 23 – August 29:

August 23-August 29
Income: $2,496.66
Expense: $5,693.10
Shortage: ($3,196.44)

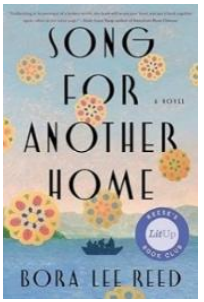
If you have any questions about these numbers, please contact a member of the Finance Committee.

SEPTEMBER OUTREACH DONATIONS

Food Pantry Donations for September: Non-perishable lunchbox items! (i.e. peanut butter, jelly, fruit snacks, chips, sandwich bags, fruit cups, etc…) Thank you all for your generosity!

SEPTEMBER PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB

Our September book club will meet again this Tuesday, September 8 @ 5:00 p.m., here at Bethany. All are invited to join us! For this month, we will be reading "Song For Another Home" By Bora Lee Reed.



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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

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Our Staff

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