

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 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.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: **you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.**

We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.

**We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.**

Turn us to seek your face.

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.**

Amen.

P: The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:

Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.

May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: **Amen.**



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the




us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

GREETING

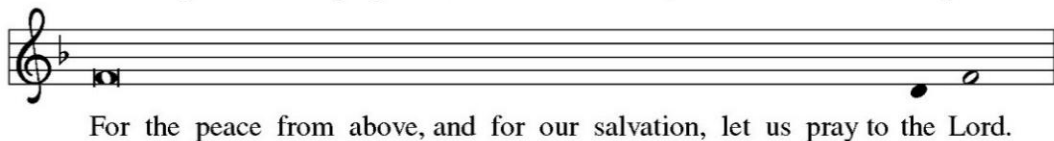
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

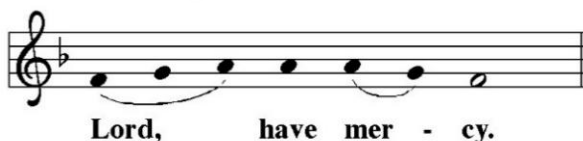
KYRIE



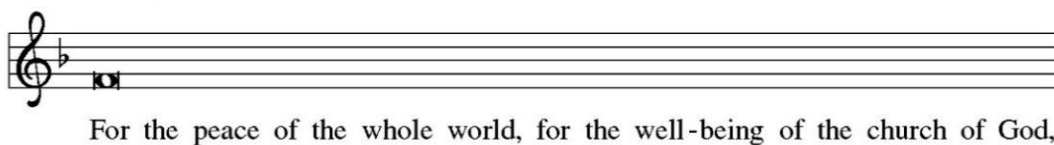
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



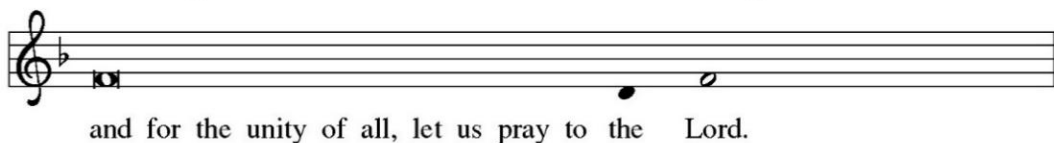
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



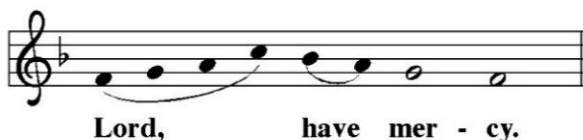
Lord, have mer - cy.



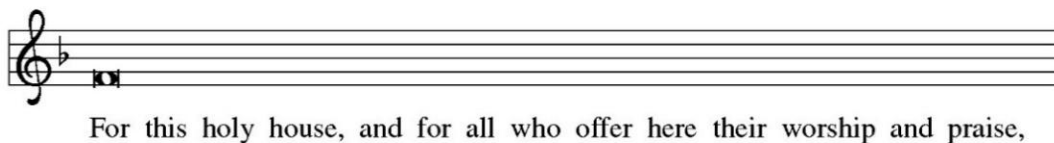
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



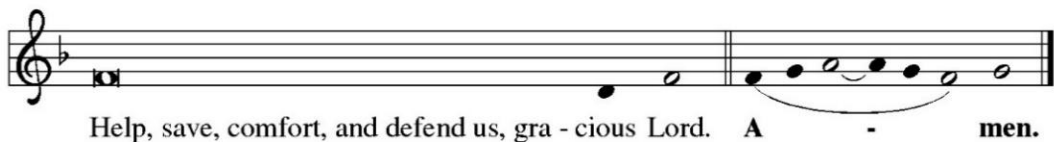
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: **Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-9a, 9b-12

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

Continued...

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

- L: Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!
- C: Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**
- L: Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.
- C: Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**
- L: It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- C: For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**
- L: They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- C: Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**
- L: They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast
forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.
- C: The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine
away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

(Please be seated)

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also, no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶“For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Gospel according to Matthew the 5th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

"Lord of Light"

ELW Hymn 688

1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent

suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing

as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions that
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that

fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain

Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

We Respond to God's Word

THE APOSTLES' CREED *(unison)*

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: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

We Share in the Holy Meal

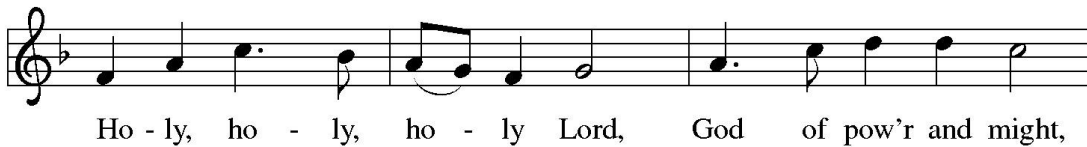
(Please Stand)

DIALOGUE



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

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

**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.**

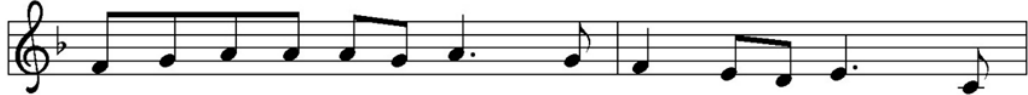
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

(Please be seated)

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

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

“Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal”

ELW Hymn 464



1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less you eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
 5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man and
 I am the life, you be -
 you are the Christ, the

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat of this bread, and you shall live for -
 drink of his blood, and drink of his
 lieve in me, e - ven though you
 Son of God, who have

me ev - er, un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 blood, you shall live for - ev - er."
 die, you shall not have life with - in you."
 come in - to you shall live for - ev - er."
 the world.

Refrain
 All

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,

and I will raise you up on the last day."

(Please Stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
 the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
 our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
 em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
 With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
 lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
 Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
 give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector: Ron Kastner
Usher: Susan Swanson
Communion: Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt
Greeters: Dan & Julie Wischmeier
Missionary Support: Open
Altar Flowers: Open
Remember in prayer: Kerri Hermann; Patty Chacey; Mel Craven

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*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: **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**
9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion
10:15 a.m. Church Life
10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service
Monday: 6:30 p.m. Property Mtg.
Tuesday: 5:00 p.m. Pastor's Book Club
Wednesday: 12:30 p.m. Lunch Bunch @ All-Star Maid-rite Diner
6:30 p.m. Joint Council Mtg. @ Bethany
Thursday: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study @ Messiah
Next Sunday: **Transfiguration of Our Lord**
10:30 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion
10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, February 18! Messiah will have service at Noon and Bethany's service will be at 7:00pm. Both services will have ashes & Holy Communion.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES @ BETHANY

Mid-Week Lent Services will be hosted at Bethany this year! Every Wednesday, starting on Wednesday, February 25 through Wednesday, March 25. Soup Supper Meal will start at 6:00pm, with Holden Evening Prayer following at 7:00pm. Bethany will be providing the meal for Feb. 25 & March 18. Messiah will provide the meal for March 4 & March 25. Unity will provide the meal for March 11.

MID-WEEK LENT SOUP SUPPER MEAL SIGN-UP

A sign-up sheet for the Soup Supper on Wednesday, February 25, is now available on the table in the Fellowship Hall! A separate sign-up sheet for the March 18 meal will be available at a later date.

FLOWER CHART

The new flower chart for this year is up and available! Lots of dates are still available! Please stop in the hallway on Sunday morning and choose your special date!

FEBRUARY OUTREACH DONATIONS

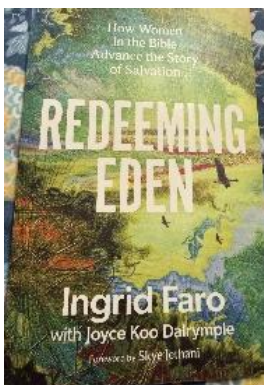
Food Pantry Donations for February will be: Canned Goods of any kind!

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet this Wednesday, February 11 @ 12:30pm @ All-Star Maid-Rite Diner! To sign up, if you have questions, or need transportation arrangement, please call Dave Nuebel at 319-237-6933.

FEBRUARY PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB

Our February book club gathering will be Tuesday, February 10 @ 5:00 p.m., here at Bethany. All are invited to join us! For this month, we will be reading "Redeeming Eden" by Ingrid Faro!



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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***

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Our Staff

Rev. Misha McFarland-Pollock
Cory Byrne
Wendy Bell
Michelle Huppenbauer
Pam Crable

Pastor
Organist/Choir Director
Office Administrator
Financial Secretary
Custodian