

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 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.

First Sunday in Lent

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 forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs
of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

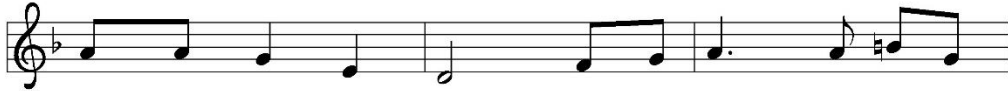
Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the
righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are
forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells
in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (Lent 1)" ELW Hymn 334



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

Lent 1

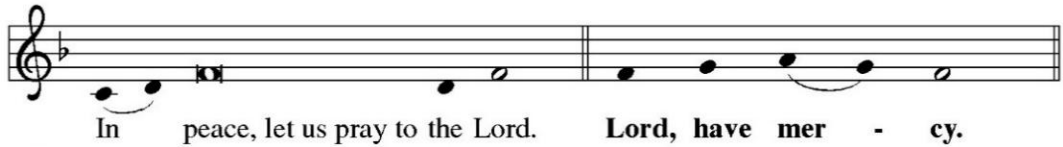
From the dawning of creation
you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temptation,
make us turn to you alone.

GREETING

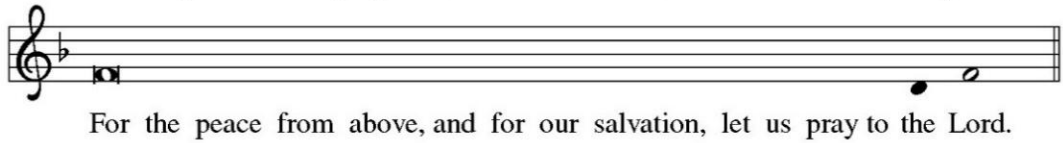
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

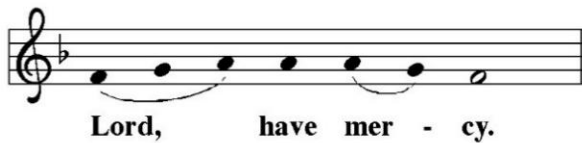
KYRIE



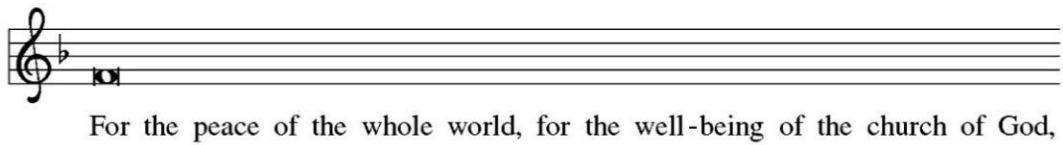
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



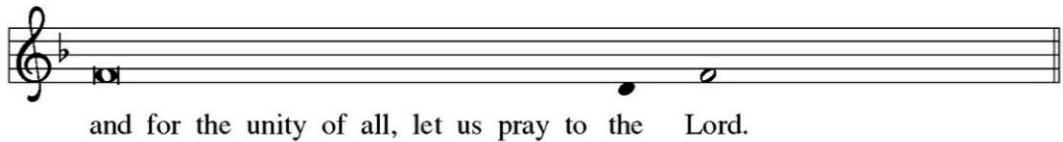
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



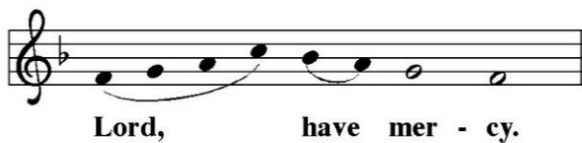
Lord, have mer - cy.



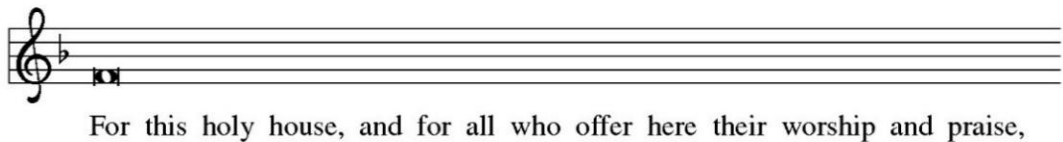
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



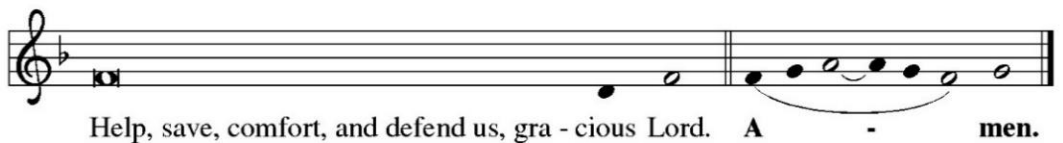
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



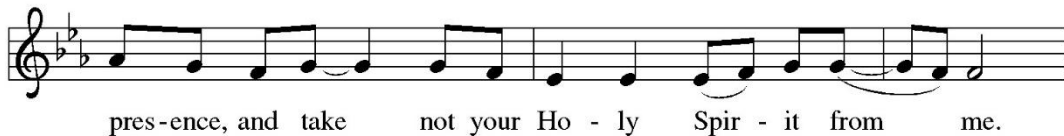
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW Hymn 185



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: **Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

- L: Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!
- C: Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**
- L: While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.
- C: For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**
- L: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me
the guilt of my sin.
- C: Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**
- L: You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- C: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**
- L: Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."
- C: Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**
- L: Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

(Please be seated)

SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-19

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P: The Gospel according to Matthew the 4th chapter.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

Sermon

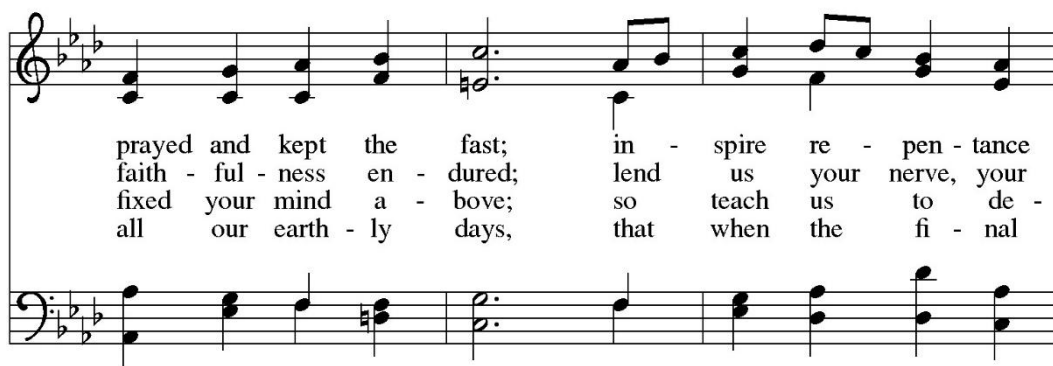
Pastor Misha McFarland-Pollock

(Please Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days" ELW Hymn 319



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

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: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

We Share in the Holy Meal

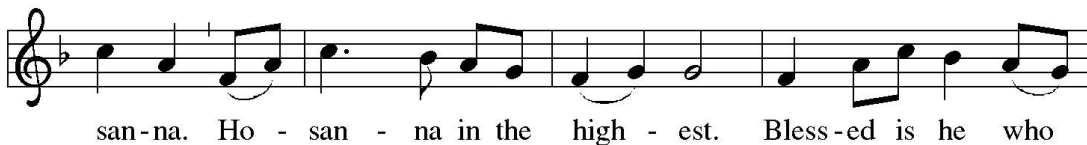
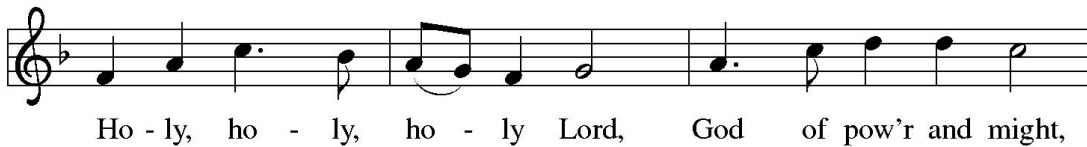
(Please Stand)

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: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

(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

"Here I Am, Lord"

ELW Hymn 574



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"




Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you




call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

(Please Stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us Pray,

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, 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 God be with you till we meet a-gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a-gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a-gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,

with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;
 dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain

Till we meet, till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,

meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet, till we

meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 meet a - gain, 8

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector: Bill Mundt
Usher: Susan Swanson
Communion: Steve & Sue Rogers
Greeters: Lynda Johnson
Missionary Support: Open
Altar Flowers: Bev Sherbondy
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: **First Sunday in Lent**
9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion
10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service

Wednesday: **Mid-Week Lenten Service @ Bethany**
6:00 p.m. Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study @ Messiah

Next Sunday: **Second Sunday in Lent**
9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion
10:15 a.m. Church Outreach
10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service

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.

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.

EASTER LILY ORDERS

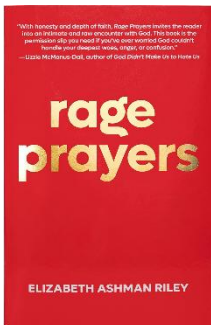
It's that time of year again! Easter lily orders are starting today, Sunday, February 22! Lilies are \$18.00 with purple foil and no bows. Order forms are available in your bulletins and will be included in the March Chimes Newsletter as well. Some extra forms will be available in the office. Deadline for lily orders is Sunday, March 15!

MARCH OUTREACH DONATIONS

Food Pantry Donations for March will be: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Crackers, & Coffee!

MARCH PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB

Our March book club will meet again on Tuesday, March 10 @ 5:00 p.m., here at Bethany. All are invited to join us! For this month, we will be reading "Rage Prayers" by Elizabeth Ashman Riley!



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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