

# Holy Cross Day

## September 14, 2025



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

# Holy Cross Day

*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,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: **Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful and loving God,

C: **we are your stiff-necked people.**

**We trample on the needy.**

**We grumble about your grace to others.**

**We turn away from the poor.**

**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost  
and have been found.**

**Amen.**

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.  
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.  
You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: **Amen.**

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

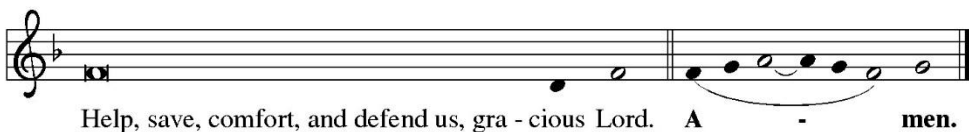
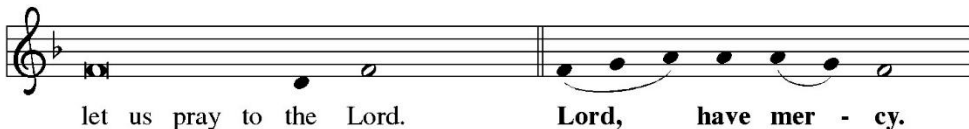
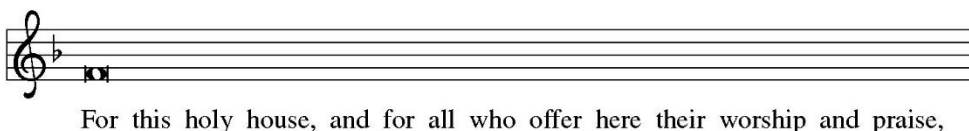
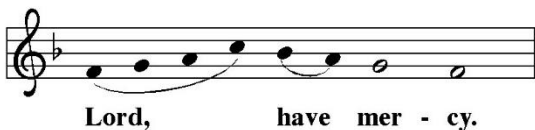
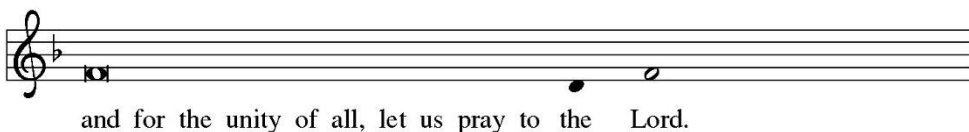
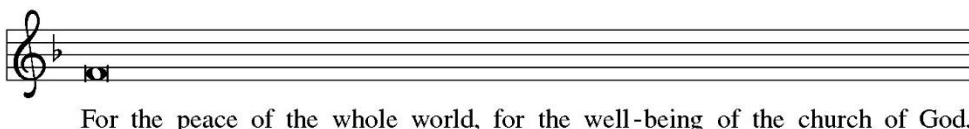
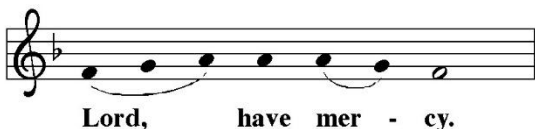
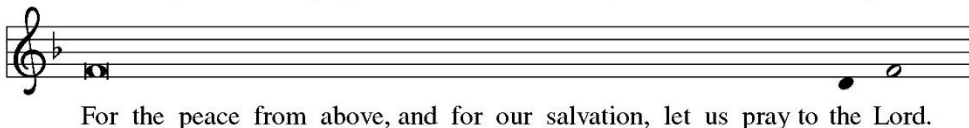
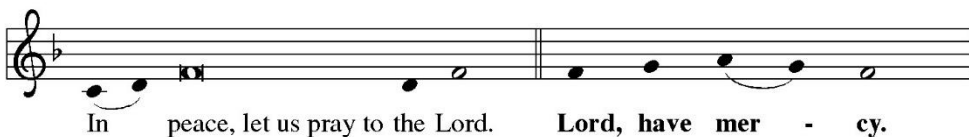
al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

## 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

*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: **Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through 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

**Numbers 21:4b-9**

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] <sup>4b</sup> but the people became discouraged on the way. <sup>5</sup> The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM *(read responsively)*

**Psalms 98:1-4**

L: Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

C: **O LORD, you have made known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

L: You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

C: **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

L: Word of God, word of life.

*(Please stand)*

P: The Gospel according to John the 3rd chapter.

## John 3:13-17

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

P: The Gospel of our Lord

8



(Please be seated)

**SERMON**

**Rev. Misha McFarland-Pollock**

(Please stand)

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

***“Lord, I Lift Your Name On High”***

**ELW Hymn 857**

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your prais-es.

I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heav-en to earth to show the way, from the earth

to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave,

from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

# 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)*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Each petition concludes:*

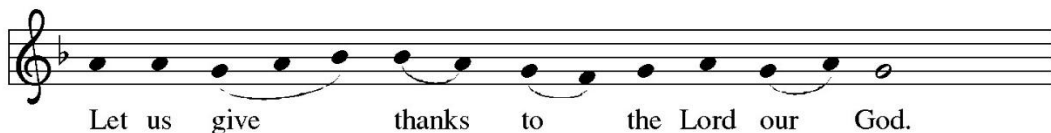
P: God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

# We Share in the Holy Meal

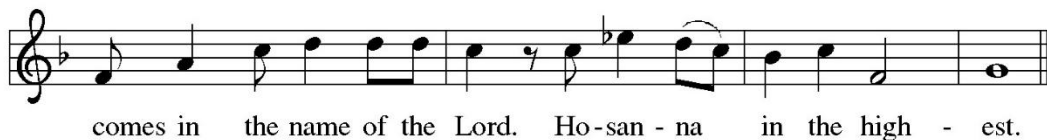
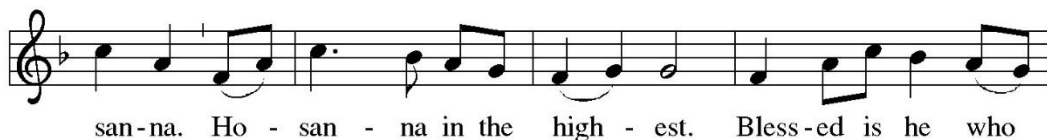
(Please Stand)

## DIALOGUE



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

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



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

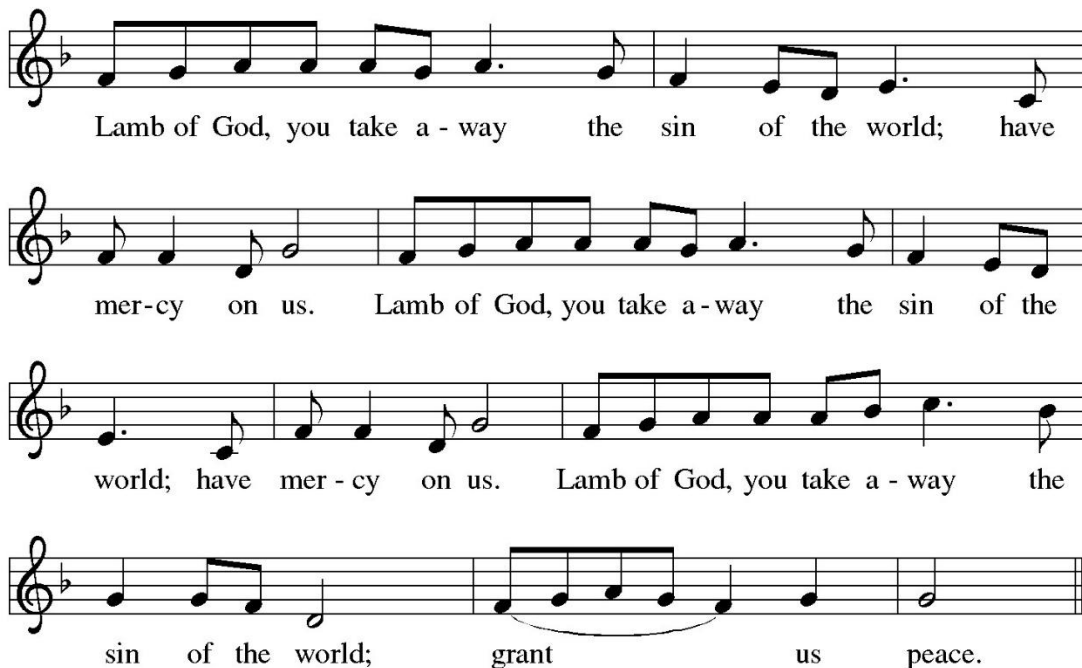
Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from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

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

*(Please be seated)*

### LAMB OF GOD



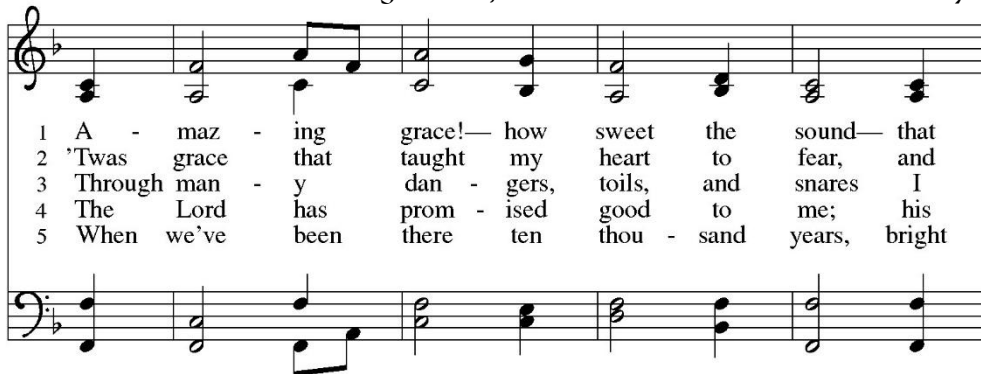
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## 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 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” ELW Hymn 779



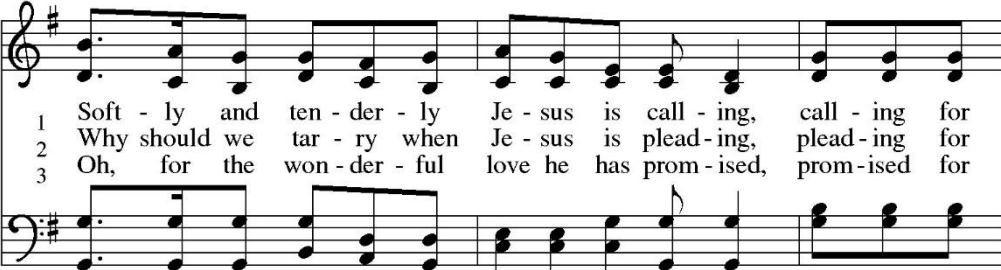
1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



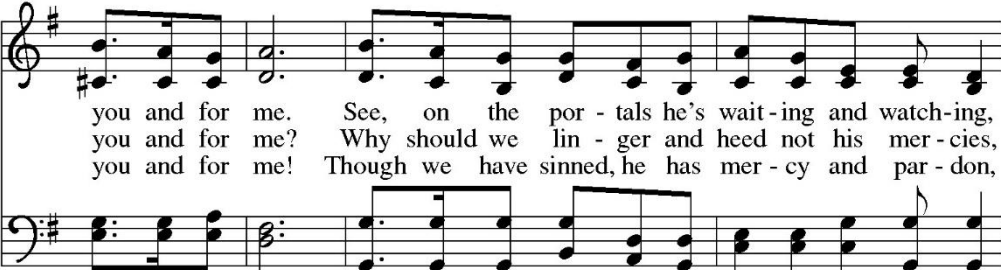
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.




1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*



watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!"



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

(Please stand)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us  
and appointed us to be your servants.

Send us to do good and to share our possessions  
with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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.**

## CLOSING HYMN

*"Send Me, Jesus"*

ELW Hymn 549

1 *Thu - ma mi - na,    thu - ma mi - na,    thu - ma mi - na, Nko - si yam.*  
2 *Ndi - ya vu - ma,    ndi - ya vu - ma,    ndi - ya vu - ma, Nko - si yam.*  
1 *Send me, Je - sus;    send me, Je - sus;    send me, Je - sus; send me, Lord.*  
2 *I    am will-ing;    I am will-ing;    I am will-ing, will - ing, Lord.*

## THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector: Pam Taylor  
Usher: Susan Swanson  
Communion: Jim & Sharon Martindale  
Greeters: Mark & Bonnie Rosenberg  
Missionary Support: Open  
Altar Flowers: Lynda Johnson  
Remember in prayer: Barb West; Norma Bock; Bill Ward, Jr.; The family of Bev Felland

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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:	<b>Holy Cross Day</b>
	9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
	<b>10:15 a.m. Church Life</b>
	10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>6:30 p.m. Council mtg.</b>
Thursday:	9:30 a.m. Bible Study @ Messiah
	11:00 a.m. Heritage Conference Clergy mtg.
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>Property Work Day</b>
	<b>8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast returns!</b>
Next Sunday:	<b>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>
	9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
	10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service

## CHURCH OUTREACH

Church Outreach will be meeting today (Sunday, September 14) following worship service @ 10:15am.

## PASSING OF BEV FELLAND

It is with great sorrow that we must share the passing of Beverly Felland on Wednesday, September 3. She was laid to rest on Tuesday, September 9 at Lunning Chapel. Please keep the Felland family in your prayers, during this difficult time.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST RETURNS

It has been decided to restart the Men's Breakfast! Starting this month, on Saturday, September 20 at the same time of 8:00 a.m.!



### **TEA PARTY WORSHIP SERVICE**

Women are invited to join us for a Tea Party and short Worship Service on Sunday, September 28 @ 2:00 p.m. at Messiah's Shelter House! It is the culmination of our work on The Jordan Project! This service is also open to the public!

### **HALLWAY RESTROOM FAUCETS REMINDER**

We have had a few occurrences over the past couple of weeks of a faucet not being turned off all the way in the restrooms down the preschool hallway and was not found until Monday morning. Please remember to make sure the faucet is being turned off all the way before exiting the restroom. Thank you.

### **SEPTEMBER OUTREACH DONATIONS**

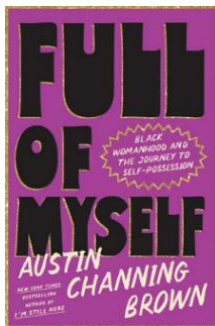
Outreach Food Pantry Donations for September will be non-perishable Breakfast items, (i.e.: Cereals, breakfast bars, pop tarts, etc...)

### **FAITH FORWARD KITS**

Faith Forward parent and grandparent kits or magnets are available! Please see Pastor Misha if you would like to have one!

### **OCTOBER PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB**

Our October book club gathering will be Tuesday, October 14 @ 5:00 p.m., here at Bethany. Please note this time change! All are invited to join us! For this month, we will be reading "Full of Myself" by Austin Channing Brown.



### **EWALU'S 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL QUILT AUCTION**

Camp Ewalu (located by Strawberry Point, IA) is hosting their Annual Quilt Auction on-site, on Saturday, September 20! Admission for this event is free, though you need to bring your own lawn chair. Schedule of events starts at 9:00am, a freewill BBQ lunch is offered at noon and the 1:00pm starts the Quilt Auction! An Online Auction is also being offered and starts on Monday, September 15 at 12:00pm and ends Sunday, September 21 at 7:00pm. You will find the link to the online auction on their website [www.Ewalu.org](http://www.Ewalu.org).

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**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](mailto:damisha.mcfarlandpollock@gmail.com)***

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**Our Staff**

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

Pastor  
Organist/Choir Director  
Stephen Minister Coordinator  
Office Administrator  
Financial Secretary  
Custodian