July/August, 2026 Volume 66, Issue 7 & 8

The Chimes

Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

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

Ice Cream Social

Our Annual Ice Cream Social is coming up just around the corner on Wednesday, August 12 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm at Bethany! We will be serving Pulled Pork, Chicken and Biscuits, Maid-Rites, German Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, various Desserts and, of course, Ice Cream! Tickets are $10 for Adults and $5 for Children 10 and under. Tickets will be on sale starting July 26 for three weeks. Sign-up sheets will be out on the table in the Fellowship Hall mid-July. We will need help with food, serving, clean up, etc…

Set up is planned for Sunday, August 9, following Worship service, to prepare for Wednesday evening. Volunteer help is needed.

Proceeds this year will go to our college youth to help with miscellaneous expenses.

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
July 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...

Without Amy's support, I would still be an addict, and I wouldn't be where I am today," said Michelle, an LSI client.

Michelle was struggling with substance abuse, legal issues, and mental health issues when she found LSI therapist Amy Davis back in 2021.

"God helps us in ways we don't always want him to," said Michelle. "When the coronavirus pandemic hit, I lost my job. The unemployment lines were long at the time, so we went several months without a paycheck, so I decided to get creative with my finances. I started selling drugs and was later arrested with a large quantity of drugs. They came in, took my kid, and I went to jail. After that, I was referred to work with Amy at LSI."

Michelle and Amy worked through Michelle's childhood trauma, processing the significant losses in her life due to drug overdose and death. Amy helped Michelle work on building a positive support system, a list of future goals, and a relationship with her daughter, Rachel.

"Rachel and I had a lot of problems when we entered therapy because I was a drug addict, and there was a lot of broken trust between us," said Michelle. "LSI therapists helped us rebuild that trust and helped show her the progress I had made when she couldn't see it herself."

Rachel, in therapy as well, has been seeing LSI Therapist Chelsea Zaragoza since 2019. In addition to one-on-one therapy sessions with their respective therapists, Michelle and Rachel also do family therapy sessions with Amy and Chelsea. These sessions help the mother and daughter have time set aside to talk about issues they are having in a healthy, productive way.

“Michelle has had a lot of struggles, loss, and a lot of people who didn’t believe in her, and her daughter was one of them,” said Amy Davis, LSI Therapist. “We have worked hard doing family and individual therapy to bring those two back together, and it has worked. Where they are now, I don’t think I’ve seen a mother-daughter relationship as healthy as the two of them are.”

“To see how far Michelle has come since I met her is truly remarkable,” said Amy. “She built the ladder, and she climbed out.”

“I was a mess when I first came to LSI,” said Michelle. “Now, I’m sober, in college, have a high-paying job, and have my daughter back. Amy believed in me when no one else did, not even myself. She gave me hope.”

LSI
LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA

FROM THE PASTOR

I lift my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. – Psalm 121:1-2

We have made it to the middle of the summer! As a nation we are celebrating our 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. s a country we have been celebrating all year and now that it is July we are celebrating in bigger and bigger ways. There are parades, picnics, potlucks, and fireworks! There are events all around the state and country to celebrate our nation. It has created a fun and exciting environment for the summer!

We just finished having Vacation Bible School! It is always a fun time to come together as the ELCA churches in Burlington to worship the Lord through youthful eyes and minds. The energy of the children and the adults who teach them inspires me every year. I am grateful to live in a community that works together for the benefit of our young people!

Our campfire worship services have already begun. We had our first one in June at Messiah and our second one is Wednesday, July 22nd at Bethany. I look forward to these services. I love being outside worshipping together alongside members of the community. Campfires create an inviting atmosphere where relaxed worship can bring a calm end to a busy summer day.

I am traveling a lot this month. I am attending the Rostered Ministers Gathering in Indianapolis. Theme this year is Woven Together. During this gathering clergy have a time of intentional connection to renew our strength and reflect on the Holy Spirit's work among us. I am also a voting member and one of the chaplains for the WELCA Triennial Convention and Gathering held in Des Moines this year. If it wasn't for WELCA I would not be a Lutheran pastor today! These ladies encouraged me to go to seminary. Allowed me to learn by doing and continue to support me and cheer me on today. I end July attending the Conference on Worship Theology and the Arts held at St. Olaf. CWTA provides professional development, spiritual nourishment, and networking opportunities for people engaged in congregational and specialized ministries.

July is a busy month for all of us! There are vacations to take, continuing education conferences to attend, warm naps in the sun to experience, and time spent in our gardens to help remind us of the goodness of God. We can be thankful for this time of year to slow down and recharge. This summer reset prepares us for the upcoming school year and the liturgical seasons of Advent, Lent, and Easter.

I pray everyone has a safe and fun summer!

Pastor Misha

Meetings

The meetings for July/August, 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.

Joint Executive Committee
Wednesday, Aug. 5 @ 6:30 p.m. @ Messiah

Joint Council
Thursday, Aug. 13 @ 6:30 p.m. @ Bethany

Finance Committee
Thursday, July 9 @ 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 11 @ 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee
Thursday, July 9 @ 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 11 @ 6:00 p.m.

Church Life & Outreach Committee
Sunday, July 12/Aug. 9 @ 10:15 a.m.

Property Committee
Monday, July 13/Aug. 10 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Council
Wednesday, July 15/Aug. 19 @ 6:30 p.m.

Pastor's Book Club @ Bethany
Tuesday, July 14/Aug. 11 @ 5:00 p.m.

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

Wednesday, Aug. 12 @ 12:30 p.m. @ location to be announced at a later date in Sunday bulletin.

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, July 18/Aug. 15 @ 8:00 a.m.

Ice Cream Social
Wednesday, Aug. 12 @ 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

May 31 ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Attendance	54
Giving	$2,106.00

June ATTENDANCE

June 7	51
June 14	60
June 21	44
June 28	76

June GIVING

June 7	$1,391.00
June 14	$1,262.10
June 21	$920.09
June 28	$1,912.00
Total:	$5,485.19

May VANCO total: $1,615.00

**May 31 Attendance and Giving is included in this issue due to time constraints last month.*

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.

LAY LEADERS

July Usher: Susan Swanson

Communion Assistants
5 –Tiffany & Michelle Huppenbauer
12 – Mike Hopp; Julie Wischmeier
19 – Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt
26 – Mark Rosenberg; Rachel Lindeen

Lector
5 – Todd Chelf
12 – Carlene Woodside
19 – Vicki Stoller
26 – Judy Craven

Greeters
5 – Carol Dodge
12 – Sharon Martindale
19 – Marlys McClurg & Vanette Wooldridge
26 – Judy Craven

Flowers
5 – Dan Wischmeier
12 – Tiffany & Michelle Huppenbauer
19 – Bill Mundt
26 – Vanette Wooldridge

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

Altar Guild
Mary Ann Schoof-Schleif
Marlys McClurg

LAY LEADERS

August Usher: Susan Swanson

Communion Assistants
2 – Steve & Sue Rogers
9 – Tiffany & Michelle Huppenbauer
16 – Mike Hopp; Julie Wischmeier
23 – Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt
30 – Mark Rosenberg; Rachel Lindeen

Lector
2 – Ron Kastner
9 – Bill Mundt
16 – Rachel Lindeen
23 –Judy Craven
30 – Michelle Huppenbauer

Greeters
2 – Dan & Julie Wischmeier
9 – Ginny Mesecher
16 – Mark & Bonnie Rosenberg
23 – Lynda Johnson
30 – Vicki Stoller

Flowers
2 – Deb Hoxie
9 – Bill Mundt
16 – Scott & Jan Creighton
23 – Open
30 – Open

Missionary Support
2 – Open
9 – Open
16 – Open
23 –Open
30 – Open

Altar Guild
Kathy Beach
Ginny Mesecher

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, July 8 @ 12:30pm @ Applebee's. Any and all are welcome! To sign up, if you have questions, or need transportation arrangements, please contact Dave Nuebel at 319-237-6933.

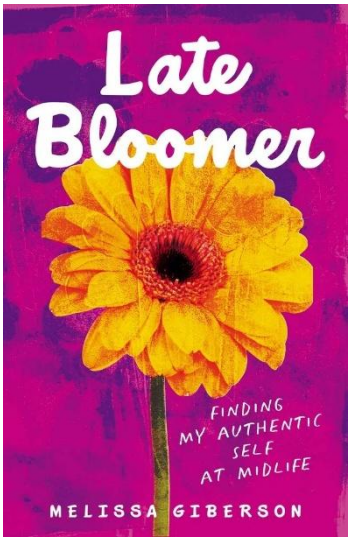
August Lunch Bunch will be announced in the bulletin and on the board in the hallway.

Pastor's Book Club

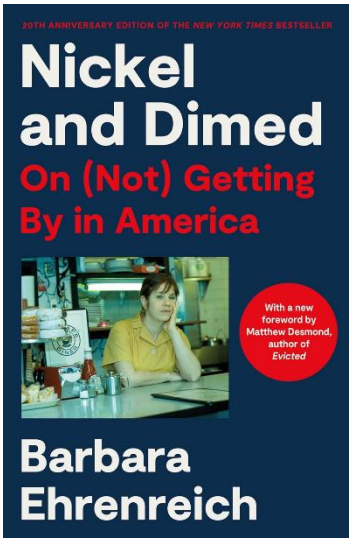
Pastor's Book Club will be meeting next on Tuesday, July 14 at 5:00pm at Bethany! All are welcome to join us! This month we are reading "Late Bloomer" By Melissa Giberson!

For our August Pastor's Book Club, we will meet on Tuesday, August 11 at 5:00pm at Bethany! We will be reading "Nickel and Dimed, On (Not) Getting By in America" By Barbara Ehrenreich.

July



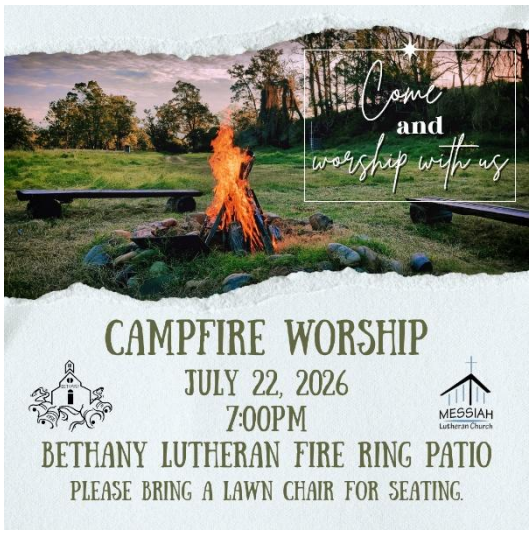
August



Summer Campfire Worship

Summer Campfire Worship Services continue on Wednesday, July 22 at Bethany! We will start off with a meal at 6:00pm, followed by the Worship service at 7:00pm and will end with roasting s'mores! We will be singing songs out of the "With One Voice" Worship Hymnals once again this year!

Bring your lawn chair and come gather around the fire with us!



Thank You from Outreach

Church Outreach would like to thank everyone for their generosity for donating to the local food pantries each month throughout the year!

-Church Outreach-

Outreach donations for July and through the end of the year: Any non-perishable food items!

Bethany Lutheran Church Council

May 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Location:
Date: May 20, 2026 6:30 P.M.
Location: Bethany Congregational Hall

Attendance:
Present: Mike Hopp (President), Bev Sherbondy (Vice President), Dan Wischmeier (Treasurer), Dirk Zaiser, Bill Mundt, Julie Chubb, Dave Nuebel, Tiffany Huppenbauer
Absent: Vicki Stoller, Michelle Huppenbauer, Tom Bonar, Pam Taylor, Pastor Misha

Agenda:

I. Call to Order, Attendance, Devotion

Mike called the meeting to order. Mike read a devotion to open the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the previous meeting were presented.

MOTION: Dave moved to approve the minutes; Dirk seconded; motion carries.

III. Pastor's Report

Pastor Misha provided her report in the Chimes

MOTION: Report was approved by affirmation.

IV. Financial review and committee report:

Dan reviewed the financial documents. He read the account balances and reviewed pertinent information. The youth account is now depleted after reimbursing Elizabeth Chelf for camp expense. If any youth go to camp in the future we will need to look for a different way to support them. $30,000 will come out of the scholarship fund for 6 youth going to college in September.

MOTION: Dave moved and Dirk seconded to approve payment for these youth from the scholarship fund. Motion passed.

General Fund: April 30, 2026 balance is $13,948.69.

Endowment Fund Quarterly Report: Jim Martindale provided a quarterly report. This shows $11,300 transferred to the Bethany account to cover the budget, leaving a 4.1% decline in the fund value.

Designated Fund checking account and Remembrance Fund: April 30, 2026 balance is $33,899.52. This includes the donation from the Myrna Zabloudil estate of $20,000. WELCA: April 30,

2026 balance is $6,156.03

Human Concerns Fund: April 30, 2026 balance is $ 2,171,40.

Dan also discussed the increase in church insurance rates of 19%. We had increased our budget for an anticipated increase and may be ok this year. Our service contract on the copier is now done and if we have need for service in the future we will pay directly if needed.

V. Committee Reports/Discussion:

Bethany Lutheran Church Council

May 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes

A. Outreach and Church Life joint report: These committees have decided to meet jointly on the second Sunday of the month after worship because both are small committees and their members can help each other with projects.
The written report was submitted. Planning for the cream social is continuing. Bill will get the stickers needed for our signs showing the dates for the current year. Food pantry donations for June will be crackers, peanut butter, and soups. Carol reports these are items people frequently request. She has been taking donations to the little food pantry at Messiah which seems to empty rapidly. She continues to take donations to the pantries at Zion and St Vincent de Paul also.

. Property: A written report was provided. Carpet cleaning in the Fellowship Hall will continue. The Sladky area by the parking lot door needs work which will include removing old mulch, pruning the tree, and placing borders. Mowing and weed spraying continue. Our mowers are getting older and may need service. It may be a good idea to begin setting aside funds to replace them in the future. The lights on the back of the altar were replaced by Scott and are now on a remote for turning on/off. Dave repaired a table that is in the conference room, and also is working on repairing the lighted cross by the parking lot door.

MOTION: Dirk moved to accept staff and committee reports, Dave seconded, motion passed.

VI: Old Business

1. Congregational goals: Mike reported we had a good discussion at our meeting and we will have another congregational meeting in 2-3 weeks to refine the suggestions. Pam has typed the list of goals suggested.

2. Nominating committee: We will have 3 council members retiring who are not eligible for another term and who will be on the nominating committee. We will ask for congregation volunteers to serve on the committee with them.

3. Membership list: Dan has been working on this. He has identified some former members who should be removed. He notes that spouses are not listed. We will need a committee to work on reviewing the list and consider inviting members who are not active to return to Bethany. We also will consider the Facebook attendees.

VII: New Business

1. Campfire services: Mike discussed the dates for these and the decision of the joint council to provide a meal before the service. Meal will be at 6, service at 7 with s'mores after. The service is at Messiah June 24 and Bethany will host the service July 22. Dirk also suggested planning a joint or Bethany only service at the park next spring with a potluck following.

VIII: Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by affirmation. Next meeting will be June17, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Sherbondy, Secretary pro tem

Bethany Lutheran Church Minutes
Special Church Council Meeting
June 14, 2026 after Church

Present: Bev Sherbondy- Vice President, Pam Taylor-Secretary, Dan Wischmeier-Treasurer, Michelle Huppenbauer , Vicki Stoller, Dave Neubell, Dirk Zaiser, Bill Mundt, Tom Bonar, **Absent:** Mike Hopp-President, Tiffany Huppenbauer, Pastor Misha Julie Chubb
The meeting was called to order around 10:15am.

A request from the Ward family for assistance with Bill Ward Jr's funeral and burial expenses had been received Thursday (June 11th) and discussed at the regular Executive council meeting that same Thursday. A recommendation was drawn up that would ask the council for $3000 from endowment toward the expenses and an appeal to the congregation on Sunday for those who may wish to contribute as well. The special meeting was requested by the President, Mike Hopp, on June 13th via email to Pam. The council would be asked to make a decision on whether and how much to assist the family.

A revised motion was made by Michelle, seconded by Bill to provide $2,000 to Prugh's Funeral Home from endowment fund, for the benefit of the Bill Ward, Jr's funeral expenses. **Motion carried with one council member opposed.**

$471 *(updated amount per Michelle)* was also received from the Sunday morning's appeal to the congregation for Mr. Ward's funeral and burial expenses.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Taylor, Secretary

Announcements

The office will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observance of 4th of July! Normal office hours will resume on Monday, July 6.

Don't forget our next Campfire Worship Service is on Wednesday, July 22 at Bethany! Meal will start off at 6pm, followed by the service at 7pm and s'mores will follow! Please bring a lawn chair with you. Come join us around the firepit!

Pastor Misha will be out of the office attending multiple pastoral gatherings and continuing education during the month of July. Starting off with Rostered Ministers Gathering in Indianapolis, IN from July 6 – July 11. The WELCA Triennial Gathering from July 15 – July 19, and finally July 20 – July 22 for the Conference of Worship, Theology, & the Arts for continuing education @ St. Olaf College. For this one, she will be presenting on her Confirmation student led services. She plans to return before our Campfire Worship starts that evening.

Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, July 8 @ 12:30pm @ Applebee's. To sign up, have questions, or need transportation, please contact Dave Nuebel at 319-237-6933. August Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, August 12 @ 12:30pm, location will be announced in the bulletin at a later date.

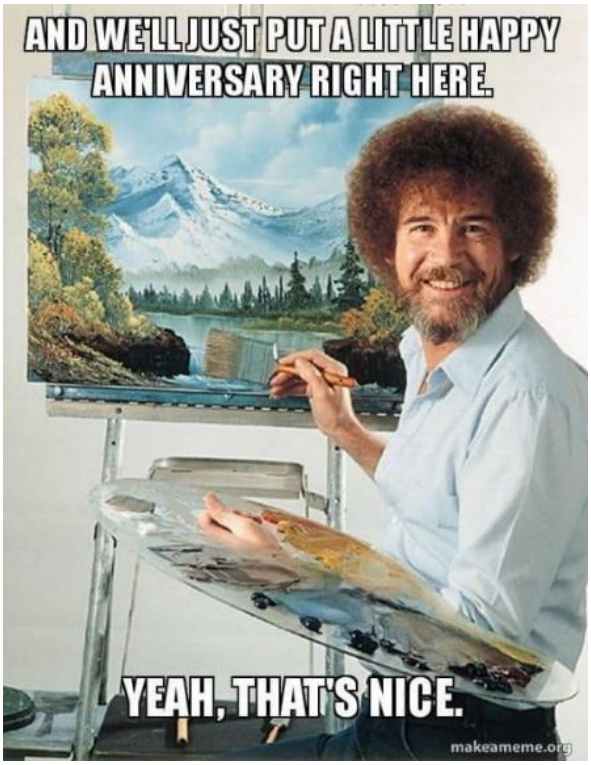
Wendy will be out of the office on Friday, July 31 for the Des Moines County Fair.

Pastor Misha will be departing for Chapel in the Hills in South Dakota in the afternoon of Sunday, August 2 and will return the afternoon of Tuesday, August 11. She will be the Pastor in residence during her time there.

The Ice Cream Social is on Wednesday, August 12 from 5pm – 7pm at Bethany. Tickets go on sale July 26 for 3 weeks. Sign-ups will be out mid-July. Please see front page for more details.

July Anniversaries

14 – Art & Ginny Mesecher
14 – Dan & Julie Wischmeier
19 – Chris & Shelley Wallace
28 – Jim & Sharon Martindale



July BIRTHDAYS

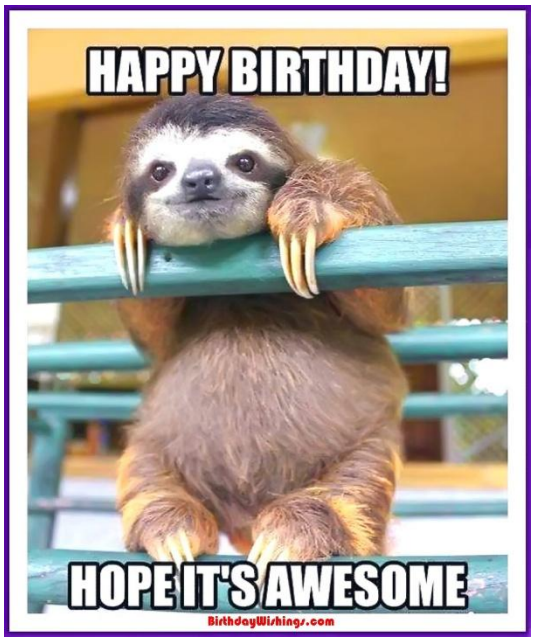
1 – Jim Martindale; Paul Hermansen
3 – Sydney Cox
8 – Debbie Hoxie; Amy Bloomer; Angela Kain; Jackie Marion
9 – Todd Morehead
13 – Vanette Wooldridge
14 – Brody Johnson
25 – Carol Dodge
26 – Jeff Engle
28 – Kathy Beach
30 – Bonnie Rosenberg; Melissa Hopp

August ***Anniversaries***

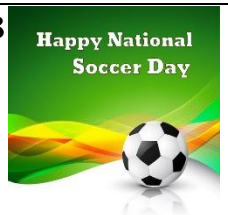
4 – Michael & Megan Rogers
6 – Todd & Teresa Morehead
21 – Paul & Sue Hermansen

August ***BIRTHDAYS***

1 – Bill Taylor
4 – Jane Ward
6 – Abbey Timberlake; Tara Rosenberg
7 – Ron Kastner
8 – Erin Mafra
12 – Laurenn Beach; Addison Shepherd
14 – Tim Ruberg
18 – Michael Rogers
23 – Justin Ward
28 – Brenda Kastner; Tyler Bloomer



July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Paraments: Green: 5, 12, 19, 26	Office Hours Mon.-Wed.-Fri.: 9:00am-1:00pm Tues. & Thurs.: 1:30pm-4:30pm		1	2 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah	3 	4
5 6th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	6	7	8 Lunch Bunch @ 12:30pm @ Applebee's	9 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah Exec. Comm mtg @ 6:00pm Finance Mtg. @ 6:30pm	10	11
	Pastor Misha @ Rostered Ministers Gathering in Indianapolis, IN. July 6 – July 11					
12 7th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship **10:15 a.m. Church Life & Outreach** 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
			Pastor Misha @ WELCA Triennial Gathering in Des Moines July 15- 19			
19 Lessons and Carols **Todd Chelf will be Preaching-No Communion** 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service ***Pastor Misha returns from Des Moines***	20 Pastor Misha @ Conference of Worship Theology & the Arts @ St. Olaf College for Continuing Ed. July 20-22	21 Chimes Deadline	22 ***Pastor Misha Returns from Conference of Worship Theology & Arts.*** Campfire Worship Service @ Bethany 6:00pm Meal 7:00pm Service	23 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah	24 	25
26 10th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	27	28 	29	30	31 Office Closed- Wendy out of office	

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Paraments: **Green: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**	**Office Hours** **Mon.-Wed.-Fri.: 9:00am-1:00pm** **Tues. & Thurs.: 1:30pm-4:30pm**					1
2 **10th Sunday after Pentecost** 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service ***Pastor Misha departs afternoon for Chapel in the Hills.***	3	4	5 **Joint Exec. Mtg. @ 6:30pm @ Messiah**	6 **Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah**	7	8
		Pastor Misha @ Chapel in the Hills in South Dakota August 3 - 11				
9 **11th Sunday after Pentecost** 9:00 a.m. Worship **10:15 a.m. Church Life & Outreach** 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	10 **Property mtg. @ 6:30pm**	11 ***Pastor's Book Club @ 5pm @ Bethany*** **Exec. Comm mtg @ 6:00pm** **Finance Mtg. @ 6:30pm**	12 **Lunch Bunch @ 12:30pm @ Location TBD** **Ice Cream Social 5:00pm – 7:00pm**	13 **Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah** **Joint Council Mtg. @ 6:30pm @ Bethany**	14	15 **8:00am Men's Breakfast**
Pastor Misha @ Chapel in the Hills 8/3-8/11						
16 **12th Sunday after Pentecost** 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	17 **Chimes Deadline**	18	19 **Council Mtg. @ 6:30pm**	20 **Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah**	21 **Happy National Kool-Aid Day!** 	22
23 **13th Sunday after Pentecost** 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	24 	25	26	27	28	29
30 **14th Sunday after Pentecost** 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	31					