June, 2026 Volume 66, Issue 6

Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

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

The Chimes

Summer Campfire Worship

Summer Campfire Worship Services are returning this summer! We will kick it off at Messiah on Wednesday, June 24 and then Bethany will host on Wednesday, July 22! Both services 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!

Come gather around the fire with us!

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
June 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...

Monica never imagined she would become a mother.

After a childhood marked by trauma, the devastating loss of her sibling to violence, and years spent in turbulent foster care settings, she made a quiet promise to herself: she would never bring a child into a world that had caused her so much pain. But life has a way of opening doors we never expect. In her thirties, alongside her husband Tim, Monica found herself preparing to welcome a baby girl. Even then, fear and uncertainty lingered.

When Monica heard about LSI's free community baby shower in Le Mars, she hesitated. Social gatherings often triggered her anxiety, but something told her to take a chance. That decision would change everything.

At the event, Monica met Angie, a Family Support Specialist who immediately made her feel safe, seen, and supported. For the first time, Monica felt like she didn't have to navigate motherhood alone. Encouraged by that connection, she took a leap of faith and enrolled in LSI's HOPES (Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success) program. Soon after, baby Lily was born, and with her came a love that transformed everything.

Today, Monica and Tim eagerly welcome Angie into their home each week. Together they are building the kind of family Monica once believed was out of reach. Monica soaks up every parenting resource she can, applying what she learns with determination and care. Tim is a steady, patient presence. And Lily? She is a joyful, thriving toddler growing exactly as she should be.

But Monica's journey didn't begin with confidence. It began with a single moment of courage and an agency that showed up for her. Because of that one event, Monica found more than support, she found belief in herself. She found the tools to heal, to grow, and to become the loving, capable mother she once thought she could never be.

Stories like Monica's are only possible because of compassionate donors.

Community support makes it possible to host community baby showers that connect families to vital resources. It funds programs like HOPES that empower parents, strengthen families, and give children the safe, nurturing start they deserve.

And Monica's story is just one example of many.

What began in 2010 as a small idea has grown into something truly meaningful. Global Greens, a program of our Immigrant and Refugee Community Services, was rooted in a simple yet powerful need: former refugees searching for the foods they grew up with—the flavors of home that couldn't always be found in local grocery stores. Many also carried a deep connection to the land and generations of farming knowledge, hoping for the chance to grow again.

Over the years, that vision fueled by passion, resilience, and hard work has continued to flourish, opening new doors and creating new opportunities like our new greenhouse.

We recently celebrated the ribbon cutting for the opening of this greenhouse, marking an exciting milestone for Global Greens and the communities we serve. This moment was more than just a celebration of a new space but it was a reflection of every seed planted along the way: the dedication of our team, the strength and perseverance of our growers, the leadership that believed in this vision, and the community that showed up to support it.

Seeing so many people come together made the day truly unforgettable. It was a powerful reminder that when people are given the opportunity to reconnect with their roots, incredible things can grow.

And this is only the beginning.

LSI
LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA

FROM THE PASTOR

An intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.
– Proverbs 18:15

June is the month when summer fun begins! The kids are out of school. Vacations start happening. It's warm enough to play in backyard sprinklers and pools. And green is all around us including in the church! We have entered the Sundays after Pentecost with the liturgical color of green. Some Christian traditions call this Ordinary Time.

Sundays and Seasons explains that Pentecost Sunday comes fifty days after Easter Sunday. It is the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the Christian church. The season after Pentecost stretches through the rest of the year until Advent comes around again. Throughout this time, Christians follow the gospel stories of the life and ministry of Jesus and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

June also means that our Campfire Services are back! These are joint services that are also open to the community. On Wednesday, June 24th the service will be at Messiah. On Wednesday, July 22nd the service will be at Bethany. We hope to see you at both services so we can be church together!

My second anniversary of pastoring here in Burlington is June 3rd! A joint VBS for Messiah, Unity, and Bethany will take place at Messiah June 15 – 18. I'm looking forward to providing the radio homilies for KBUR in July. They will be recorded in June.

I was so honored to attend Lotegeluaki's baccalaureate service and graduation ceremony at Wartburg Seminary on May 17th. It was nice to go back to the same seminary I graduated from in 2024. I saw the professors who taught me for four years. I saw former classmates. I joined in celebrating the class of 2026 as they go fourth into the world sharing the good news of the gospel! Here are a couple of photos from the day!

I learned about an amazing app called Be My Eyes while attending a continuing education opportunity called Living Faith Daily back in April. It allows people who are visually impaired to call people for help. When you answer the call, you are seeing the person's surroundings via their cell phone. I was blessed to take my first call in May! I helped a woman read the label on a package that had been delivered to determine if it belonged to her or her neighbor. It is a wonderful way to help people. If you would like to know more about it please just ask and I would love to share my experience.

I attended the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly May 15-16. Bishop Amy Current was reelected on the first ballot! It was an emphatic vote of confidence. She will be our bishop for another six years! What a blessing!

As we enjoy the upcoming summer months may we continue to remember to be church together wherever we are.

Blessings,

Pastor Misha

Meetings

The meetings for June, 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.

Finance Committee
Thursday, June 11 @ 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee
Thursday, June 11 @ 6:00 p.m.

Church Life Committee
Sunday, June 14 @ 10:15 a.m.

Property Committee
Monday, June 8 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Council
Wednesday, June 17 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Outreach
Sunday, June 14 @ 10:15 a.m.

Pastor's Book Club @ Bethany
Tuesday, June 9 @ 5:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch
Wednesday, June 10 @ 12:30 p.m. @ Turnwater Bar & Grill in Ft. Madison, IA.

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, May 20 @ 8:00 a.m.

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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

May ATTENDANCE

May 3	38
May 10	51
May 17	30
May 24	46

May GIVING

May 3	$1,435.00
May 10	$5,218.56
May 17	$860.00
May 24	$1,597.27
Total:	$9,110.83

April VANCO total: $1,575.00

**May 31 Attendance and Giving will be included in the July/August issue due to time constraints.*

LAY LEADERS

June Usher: Susan Swanson

Communion Assistants
7 – Mark Rosenberg; Rachel Lindeen
14 – Steve & Sue Rogers
21 – Tiffany & Michelle Huppenbauer
28 – Mike Hopp; Julie Wischmeier

Lector
7 – Michelle Huppenbauer
14 – Mike Hopp
21 – Todd Chelf
28 – Ron Kastner

Greeters
7 – Vicki Stoller
14 – Carol Dodge
21 – Judy Craven
28 – Bill Mundt

Flowers
7 – Mark & Bonnie Rosenberg
14 – Susan Swanson
21 – Tiffany & Michelle Huppenbauer
28 – Dirk & Betty Zaiser

Missionary Support
7 – Open
14 – Open
21 – Open
28 – Open

Altar Guild
Carlene Woodside
Bev Sherbondy

“Peace Be With You”

That was the theme for the 2026 SEIA Synod Assembly, which was held May 15 & 16 at First Lutheran in Cedar Rapids. There were over 300 voting members in attendance along with many others. It was two days filled with information, prayer, worship and, of course, the business of the Synod. Bishop Amy Current was re-elected as Bishop for her second, 6-yr term on the first “official” vote of the assembly. (There were some hiccups with the first vote, and it was invalid.) It was also shared Deacon Jodi Schuman is retiring and the search for her replacement has begun. There was a spirited debate/discussion about the 2027 Synod budget, but it ultimately passed as presented. Pastor Dan Kuckuck and Pastor LeAnn Stubbs lead a bible study based on John 20:19 which was the theme scripture for the assembly. We heard faith stories shared by other pastors based on four tenants of faith: Fear, Peace, Rejoice and Sent. The study is available on the Synod website if you’d like to go through it yourself, or with a group you may be part of.

We can’t say enough about the beautiful quilts and prayer shawls that adorned the pews when you walked into the sanctuary. It was overwhelming! Such gifts these creators have. We spotted a familiar face right away in Cyndy Fabel from Unity and she was manning the table that quilts and shawls could be dropped off at. As of the beginning of the assembly, the pews were ALL covered and 150 more had been brought in! Hallelujah! We were welcome to take what we wanted, and any left were going to be distributed to organizations throughout Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. On Friday, there was a quilt on the pew right in front of me that had yellow, green and pink squares on it. The underneath side was the alphabet in pastel colors. I believe I was meant to get that quilt to have for my first grandchild, a girl, who is due at any time now. Next to where we were sitting on Saturday was a quilt in primary colors with trucks on it and I grabbed it for our great nephew who’s due to be born in September. Imagine our surprise when the tag on it said Unity of Burlington Iowa! God definitely had a hand in where we landed each day.

We are very grateful for the opportunity to have represented Bethany at the assembly this year. Thank you for allowing us to attend. It was eye-opening to see how the annual business of the Synod is conducted while the event still stays prayer-centered.

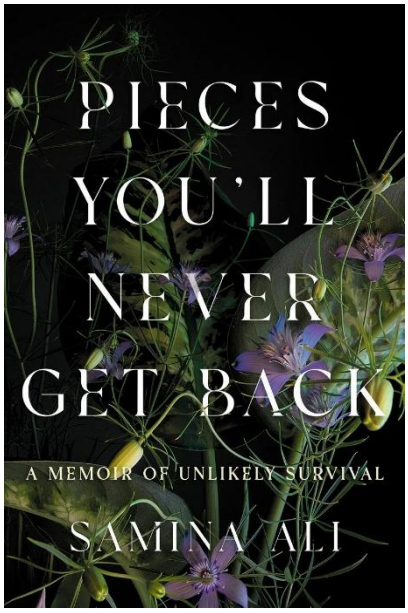
Michelle & Tiffany Huppenbauer

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, June 10 @ 12:30pm @ Turnwater Bar & Grill in Ft. Madison, IA. Any and all are welcome! To sign up, if you have questions, or need transportation arrangements, please contact Dave Nuebel at 319-237-6933.

Pastor's Book Club

Pastor's Book Club will be meeting next on Tuesday, June 9 at 5:00pm at Bethany! All are welcome to join us! This month we are reading "Pieces You'll Never Get Back" By Samina Ali!



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School at Messiah will be held Monday, June 15 through Thursday, June 18 from 9:00am – 12:00pm for any children 3 yrs of age to 6th grade! Use the QR code on the flyer below to register your child online or if you would like to volunteer to help! Registration forms are also available on the table outside of the Sanctuary in the Fellowship Hall. A list of supplies needed for the week will be available soon, please check the bulletin announcements for updates.

Bethany Lutheran Church
Minutes of the Church Council Regular Meeting
April 15, 2026

Meeting was postponed due to weather and held 4.16.26

Present: Mike Hopp-President, Pam Taylor-Secretary, Dan Wischmeier-Treasurer, Michelle Huppenbauer (via phone), Tiffany Huppenbauer, Vicki Stoller, Dave Neubell, Dirk Zaiser, Bill Mundt

Absent: Pastor Misha, Bev Sherbondy- Vice President, Julie Chubb, Tom Bonar
The meeting was called to order by the President at 6:30pm. Mike read a devotion from Acts.

Minutes- Dan W motioned, Dave N. seconded to approve the March 9th, 2026 BLC Council minutes. **Motion carried.**

Pastor's Report - No updates

Financials - Dan W. brought up that Finance became aware on Tuesday that the B Ward, Jr. household had their electricity shut off on Tuesday. Mike worked to get it back on by using $200 from a soup supper already approved for this family. However, the amount needed to turn the electricity back on was approximately $770. Mike reached out to the remaining members of Finance on Tuesday evening to explore options. The electricity was turned back on Wednesday morning. There was much discussion tonight about getting the family in touch with Milestones Area Agency on Aging to inquire about home delivered meals, a case manager to work with the family and the church (if the family approves), and seeing if the family qualifies for the program where the daughter-in-law of the church member may possibly qualify for payment as a caregiver for the mother-in-law. Other questions and concerns were discussed. Mike (and Pastor) would continue to try to reach out to the family and build a stronger and comfortable relationship. The goal would be to get the family to accept services so we can continue to assist financially, if needed, knowing with assurance their needs are managed. Dave motioned and Dan seconded to use Human Concerns funds for the balance of what was needed to pay the balance of the utility bill (up to the approximate $770) for this family. **Motion carried.**

BLC received a $20K check from the M. Zabloudil Estate. Even after Mike consulted with an attorney there remains a lack of clarity about what is meant in the estate verbiage by "utility purposes". The use of the word "utility" could have been used for broad purposes. However, these funds could also be used for the line-item budget, "utilities," to the full extent for 2026 as there is a budget of $22,000 for church utilities. There was discussion as to which account to deposit the funds. Michelle, Financial Secretary, recommended it be deposited into the Remembrance Fund. Pam motioned and Dan seconded to deposit the check into the Remembrance Fund and use it according to the intent when it is needed. **Motion carried.**

The Checking Account Balances and Income vs Expenses YTD as of 3/31/26 were reviewed. Current balances are adequate enough in the General Funds not to have to transfer any more from the Endowment Funds for now. There was $20,352.51 deposited into the General Fund in March which came from cashing in a CD worth $8,795.91 and transferring $11,556.6 from the Endowment Funds.

Committee Reports

Church Life - Bill gave a verbal report. The committee is planning to meet on Sunday the 19th after worship to begin planning for the August Ice Cream Social.

Church Outreach - No written or verbal reports.

Finance - Written report provided. No further additions to discussion above under Financials.

Property - A written report was provided. The annual budgeted amount for the property committee was reviewed showing $1,000. There are many projects. If the committee will need more funds, they are to bring their request to the Council for prior review.

Dan W. motioned, Pam T. seconded to accept the standing committees' reports. **Motion carried.**

Old Business

- Goals- Mike will begin announcing on Sundays an invitation for the congregation to join May 3rd, after services, for a "directed fellowship" to gather input on goals for the church year.
- Annual Council Dinner - Reservations made @ Gators, Sunday, April 19th @ 5pm.
- Nominating Committee - tabled discussion/action.
- Community Garden - Dirk motioned, Pam seconded to accept the continuation of the Community Garden as a mission of the church. **Motion carried.** The garden will remain the same size, a chain link fence will be added, & a concrete block added for the water tank.
- Bill Ward, Jr - discussed above under Financials.

New Business

- Personnel Handbook - Pam is to ask Wendy to make copies of the drafted Personnel Handbook and share them with Pastor and all staff. It was recently reviewed with comments and recommendations by Todd Chelf.
- Church Usage Policy - Pam is to get the approved policy from December and get it to Wendy for the Central office so she and others can implement the policy and procedures.
- Time and Talent - Michelle will pull the old form out for Mike to be used as a format to develop a succinct checklist with what all committees submit to Mike. Each Committee is to meet in May and submit in writing to Mike by the end of May, 4-5 things or projects they need help with from members. These items will be listed on revised Time and Talent sheet form. It was recommended that Mike speak to this plan in the church announcements when talking about goal setting.
- Zabloudil Estate - discussed above under Financials.
- Added: Protocol in handling scholarship forms was discussed. It took a family two months to locate and find a form to complete. At this time Carlene Woodside has the forms. It was recommended that the protocols for the Scholarship committee and the process to apply be reviewed along with where forms are kept.
- It was brought to the council's attention that when joint services are held, both churches' activities and events should be listed in the hosting church's bulletin. Mike will visit with both Wendy and Shelly to see this happens.

Adjourn

Dirk Z motioned, Dave N. seconded to adjourn at 7:42 pm. **Motion carried**.

Next Month Meeting (s): Joint Council- May 13, Wednesday, 6:30pm @ Bethany

BLC Council - May 20th, Wednesday, 6:30 @ Bethany

Respectfully submitted, Pam Taylor, Secretary

Announcements

The Primary Elections will be held on Tuesday, June 2. The church will be open from 7:00am – 8:00pm for voting purposes.

Wendy will be out of the office on Monday, June 8 and Monday, June 15. The office will be closed these days.

Pastor's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, June 9 at 5:00pm. For this month, we are reading "Pieces You'll Never Get Back" By Samina Ali.

Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, June 10 at 12:30pm at Turnwater Bar & Grill in Ft. Madison, IA. To sign up, have questions, or need transportation arrangement, please call Dave Nuebel at 319-237-6933.

Vacation Bible Study at Messiah starts June 15 – June 18 from 9am – 12pm for Youth 3 yrs old to 6th Grade. To register, please use the QR code on the flyer, a few pages above, or pick up a physical copy in the fellowship hall. A supplies sheet for items needed will be out soon. Stay tuned.

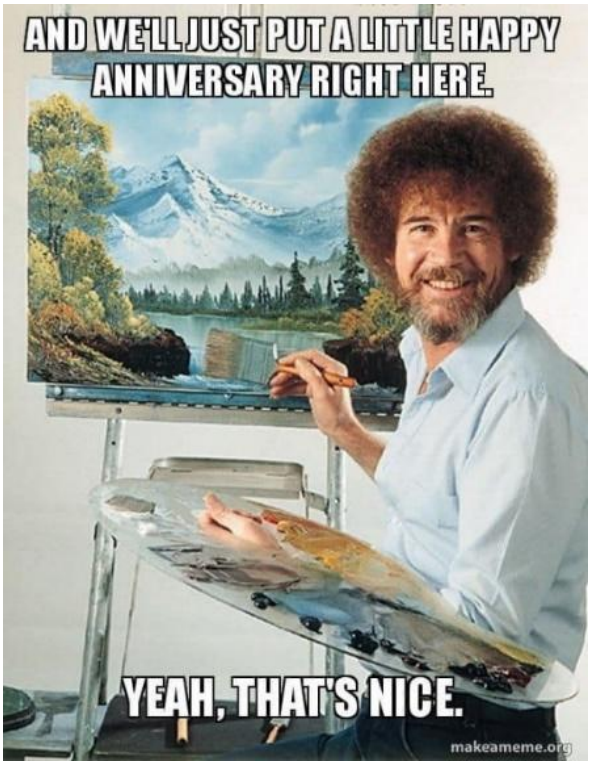
Campfire Worship starts on Wednesday, June 24 at Messiah! Meal starts at 6:00pm with service starting at 7:00pm. We will end the night roasting s'mores.

June Anniversaries

2 – Bill & Pam Taylor
4 – Mark & Bonnie Rosenberg
7 – Tony & Betty Stanley
30 – Tim & Teresa Ruberg
30 – Derek & Savannah Evans

June BIRTHDAYS

1 – Sarah Loots
2 – Bill Mundt; Marilyn Ward
3 – Eddison Newman; Wendy Bell
10 – Sam Banks; Sheri McCarthy
11 – Dylan McClurg
12 – Robin Milton; Teresa Ruberg
19 – Roger Gard
25 – Austin Cox



June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Paraments: Green: 7, 14, 21, 28	1	2 	3	4 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah	5 Nurses mtg. @ 9:30am	6
7 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	8 Office Closed Property mtg. @ 6:30pm	9 Pastor's Book Club @ 5pm @ Bethany	10 Lunch Bunch @ 12:30pm @ Turnwater Bar & Grill, Ft. Madison, IA	11 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah Exec. Comm mtg @ 6:00pm Finance Mtg. @ 6:30pm	12 	13
14 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship **10:15 a.m. Church Life & Outreach** 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	15 Office Closed	16 	17 Council Mtg. @ 6:30pm	18 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah	19	20 8:00am Men's Breakfast
21 4th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	22 Chimes Deadline	23	24 Campfire Worship Service @ Messiah 6:00pm Meal 7:00pm Service 	25 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah	26 	27
28 5th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	29 	30				Office Hours Mon.-Wed.-Fri.: 9:00am-1:00pm Tues. & Thurs.: 1:30pm-4:30pm