March, 2026 Volume 66, Issue 3

The Chimes

Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

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

Mid-Week Lenten Services

Mid-week Lent services are in full swing at Bethany with our friends from Messiah and Unity joining us each week! Services are held every Wednesday in March! Soup Supper starts at 6:00pm with the Holden Evening Prayer following at 7:00pm! Messiah will be providing the meal on March 4 & 25; Unity on March 11; and Bethany on March 18! There is a sign-up sheet for Bethany's March 18 meal now available in the Fellowship Hall!

Holy Week

We will end our month of March with the start of Holy Week! Bethany will host the beginning of the week, with Compline Service, Vespers, and Morning Prayer services. Messiah will end the week with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday services. Please see Pastor Misha's article for more information on what times and days these services will take place!

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
March/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...

Shining a Light on Disability Support

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Brain Injury Awareness Month and Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month making it the perfect time to highlight LSI's services for individuals with disabilities.

LSI provide respite care for those caring for loved ones with mental and developmental disabilities along with 24 hour care, hourly options and host homes. In total LSI provided over 366,000 hours of services to those living with disabilities last year.

For families caring for a child or adult with disabilities, the demands of around-the-clock care can be overwhelming. That's where respite support makes a meaningful difference. Respite care offers caregivers a personalized break while ensuring their loved one continues to receive quality care. A trained respite provider can step in for a few hours or up to an entire weekend to support children and adults with disabilities. Services can be provided in the individual's home, the provider's home, or within the community.

As one parent put it, “Respite helped me step back and rethink things, breath and start over again with a better mind set! I truly believe that respite has changed my family and my life.”

LSI’s thorough matching process and ongoing oversight help ensure the success and quality of respite services. One of our respite providers, met her client and his family when they moved into a new neighborhood. This provider and client had an instant connection during this visit, and the provider knew that she wanted to provide respite services to him. The family worked with LSI, after being introduced to our respite program by the provider, to enroll the client in services. They started out with small amounts of time, and as the years went by, the amount of respite increased.

This provider has now been providing respite services to this client for over 10 years. Their relationship has continued to grow, and is stronger than ever, as the provider has supported both the client and his family.

This client has become a part of his provider’s expended family, and sees her at least once a week. The client enjoys spending weekends once a month at his provider’s home. This also allows the client’s parents to have a scheduled break each month. One of this client’s favorite activities during his weekends at his provider’s home is to visit his provider’s parents, and discuss the latest book that he has read with them.

“I became a respite provider because it offered me an opportunity to earn some extra income around my family's busy schedule. What I was not expecting was the learning opportunities that occurred for both my children and the respite children on our home. It has been an amazing experience to see the children grow. I love when I run into them out in the community and they come over and tell me everything they are now doing. Through respite care you are able to make a difference!”

-Respite Provider

If you are interested in learning more about respite services or becoming a respite provider, contact Kay Baker at 319-883-9583.

LSI

LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA

people focused ▪ results driven

FROM THE PASTOR

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. – Joel 2:12

We are fully into the season of Lent. It is a time for us to repent and return to the Lord. A time of fasting and prayer. There are so many things we can fast from during Lent. The purpose of fasting is to remove distractions from our connection to God. It is common to fast from certain foods such as soft drinks or chocolate. However, we can also fast from injustice, hatred, anger, intolerance, and the like. Instead of giving up something, we can take on something that will strengthen our connection to God. We can take on loving our neighbors. We can take on feeding the hungry. We can take on clothing the naked. We can take on praying for our enemies. This Lent we can try a different approach to fasting to help refresh our Lenten experience.

There are lots of happenings in the life of a pastor. I am part of the Burlington Citizens Police Academy. Each Tuesday I get to spend 3 hours learning about a different aspect of keeping the citizens of Burlington safe. Our graduation is April 7th! I taught a Bible Study via Zoom for the WELCA Council of Presidents on February 21st. I continue my work on the Bishop Election Committee. I attended Lutheran Day on the Hill on February 26th.

In March I will attend a Clergy Lenten Renewal event hosted by the Bishop in Bettendorf. I wrote the weekly devotions for The Burlington Beacon and The Hawkeye. In April I will do the weekly radio sermon on behalf of the Burlington Area Council of Churches.

We continue to have our midweek Lenten services held at Bethany this year. We have a delicious meal at 6pm and Holden Evening Prayer at 7pm. All three ELCA churches in Burlington are worshipping together for our midweek services – Unity, Messiah, and Bethany. We will have daily services once again for Holy Week. Each church will have their own Palm Sunday service. Shared services will occur the rest of the week. Monday – Wednesday services will be held at Bethany. Thursday – Saturday services will be held at Messiah. Monday at 8pm is Compline, Tuesday at 7pm is Vespers, and Wednesday at 10am is Morning Prayer. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are at 7pm. Holy Saturday service is at 3pm. All of this leads to Resurrection Sunday which will be held at Bethany and Messiah! I look forward to seeing you at several of our worshipping opportunities this Lent and Easter!

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Misha

Meetings

The meetings for Mar., 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, March 12 @ 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee
Thursday, March 12 @ 6:00 p.m.

Church Life Committee
Sunday, March 8 @ 10:15 a.m.

Property Committee
Monday, March 9 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Council
Thursday, March 19 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Outreach
Sunday, March 1 @ 10:15 a.m.

Pastor's Book Club @ Bethany
Tuesday, March 10 @ 5:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch
Wednesday, March 11 @ 12:30 p.m. @ Toast of Burlington, located in Fairway Center.

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, March 21 @ 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

February ATTENDANCE

February 1	16 **At Messiah*
February 8	52
February 15	47
February 18	59 **Ash Wednesday*
February 22	56

February GIVING

February 1	**At Messiah*
February 8	$4,022.40
February 15	$1,249.90
February 22	$2,279.70
Total:	$7,552.00

January VANCO total: $1,580.00

LAY LEADERS

March Usher: Susan Swanson

Communion Assistants
1 – Mike Hopp; Julie Wischmeier
8 – Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt
15 – Mark Rosenberg; Rachel Lindeen
22 – Steve & Sue Rogers
29 – Mike Hopp; Julie Wischmeier

Lector
1 – Rachel Lindeen
8 – Todd Chelf
15 – Mike Hopp
22 – Michelle Huppenbauer
29 – Ron Kastner

Greeters
1 – Mark & Bonnie Rosenberg
8 – Vicki Stoller
15 – Carol Dodge
22 – Judy Craven
29 – Bill Mundt

Flowers
1 – Ginny Mesecher
8 – Scott & Jan Creighton
15 – Susan Swanson
22 – Michelle & Tiffany Huppenbauer
29 – Palm Branches

Missionary Support
1 – Open
8 – Open
15 – Open
22 – Open
29 – Michelle & Tiffany Huppenbauer

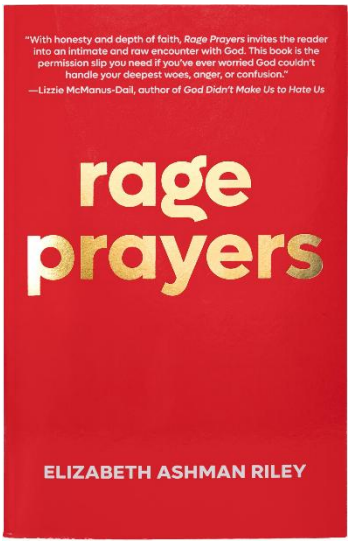
Altar Guild
Vanette Wooldridge
Marlys McClurg
Lori Cox
Michelle Cox

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, March 11 @ 12:30pm @ Toast of Burlington, located in Fairway Center in Burlington, 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, February 10 at 5:00pm at Bethany! All are welcome to join us! This month we are reading "Rage Prayers" By Elizabeth Ashman Riley!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

February 26, 2026

Isaiah 54:10 – *For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.*

Dear ELCA congregations,

I write to you today with deep sadness and grief to notify you of the death of Rev. Brian Palmer, a missionary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serving in Totota, Liberia. Rev. Palmer tragically passed away on February 25, 2026, succumbing to injuries sustained in a vehicle accident.

Rev. Palmer was serving as the Dean for the College of Theology at the main campus of the Lutheran University of Liberia in Totota, Liberia, at the time of his death, and had been serving as a missionary of the ELCA in West Africa since 2010.

We are deeply grateful for the ministry of Rev. Palmer in the area of leadership formation and the positive impact his life had on so many individuals across West Africa and within the United States.

We ask that you keep Rev. Palmer's family and friends, the Lutheran Church in Liberia, the students and communities he accompanied, and the Global Mission team in your prayers during this time of grief.

If you would like to send a message of comfort or prayers to Rev. Palmer's family, they have asked the ELCA Churchwide Office to receive these words of consolation on their behalf. These messages can be sent to globalchurch@elca.org. When we have more information regarding memorial service arrangements, we will provide these details to you.

In the Promise of Eternal Life in Christ,

Pastor Khader El-Yateem
Executive Director, Service and Justice Unit

Bethany Lutheran Church
Minutes of the Church Council Regular Meeting
January 21, 2026

Present: Pastor Misha, Mike Hopp - President, Pam Taylor-Secretary, Dirk Zaiser-Treasurer, Dan Wischmeier, Tiffany Huppenbauer, Bill Mundt, Bev Sherbondy- Vice President, Vicki Stoller, Dave Neubel, and Julie Chubb **Absent:** Mitchell Huston, Tom Bonar.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 6:35. The pastor read a devotion from 1 Cor.

Minutes Dirk Z. motioned, Dan W seconded to approve 12/18/25 minutes. **Motion carried.** **Pastor's**

Report Written report provided. There were no additional updates.

Financials - Mike H reviewed the handouts of the Checking Account Balances and Income vs Expenses YTD ending 12/31/25. *Pastor noted again that there may be a need to correct an entry of $304.65 in Parsonage Maintenance. That amount was reimbursed by the Pastor for the parsonage garden fence.* The Scholarship and General fund reports were provided by J Martindale. Scholarship checks for the 2nd semester have been sent out to the recipients.

Memorial ledger accounts were addressed. Using existing council approved steps, some ledgers will be closed out and a "general memorial" ledger account will be established. This will catch our record keeping up to date in memorial funds. Mike will ask Michelle to compose a letter, which he will sign, to active family members prior to "closing out" any memorial ledgers. Dan W. motioned, Dave N. seconded to approve the Financial Reports. **Motion carried.**

Committee Reports

Church Life - Bill reported. He provided the schedule indicating when three churches are to provide meals prior to Lent service.

Church Outreach - Bev provided a written report. No further discussion.

Finance - A written report was provided by Michelle/Dirk. No further discussion.

Property - Bev S. provided a written report. Dave shared that he will have the railing upfront completed in the church this week or next.

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

Old Business

- Printer Contract - The contract will not be available for renewing if we end the contract due to the fact the equipment is a model sold by the prior company owner J&S. Mike stated the contract will "likely" be ended with projections it will be saving Bethany expenses for the next year.
- Bill Ward, Jr. - Despite outreach efforts by council members and the pastor to identify further family needs, no contact has been made and the family has made no further requests.

- Mitchell Huston - Dan W. motioned and Bev S. seconded to accept Mitchell's verbal resignation from the council provided to the Pastor. His remaining two-year term will be addressed at the annual church meeting. **Motion carried.**
- CD Plans - following discussion it was decided the council would vote on managing this CD at the next February meeting, prior to its automatic renewal.

New Business

2026 Goals - Council members shared ideas for goals. Further steps will be taken to get additional input and prioritization from church members. We discussed a need for separate council goals (ex: cleaning up membership lists, memorial ledgers, etc). Pam is to write up a list of goals and get them to Mike with the possibility they can be reviewed by and/or voted on by church members at the annual meeting. Others were encouraged to share additional ideas with Pam as they came to mind.

Synod Delegates - The council seeks two individuals interested and able to attend the synod as delegates, May 15 and 16 in Cedar Rapids. The pastor will be going as a pastor.

2026 Budget - Bev S motioned and Vicki S seconded to accept the drafted Bethany 2026 Budget for presentation at the Annual Church meeting. **Motion carried.**

Council Schedule - the first draft of the 2026 Tentative Council meeting dates was reviewed. Corrections will be made and resent.

Committee Time and Talents - Mike shared his plan to assure that follow up is done after completing the Time and Talents from the congregation. He plans to meet with each committee to gather ideas for 2026 that can be used to increase members on each committee. The goal is to have 3 council members and 3 members at large on each committee.

Adjourn

Vicki S. motioned, Dan N. seconded to adjourn at 8:01 pm. **Motion carried**.

Next Regular Meeting: THURSDAY @ 6:30pm, February 19.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Taylor, Secretary

Bethany Lutheran Church
Minutes of the Annual Meeting for 2025 Business
January 25, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 10:28 am by President Mike Hopp. A quorum was determined by visual count (38). The average attendance in 2025 was 55. The 40% required for quorum was met. Steve R motioned and Dirk Z seconded to approve the amended agenda with the two additional items under "Other Business" presented by the president. **Motion carried.**

I. **Devotion**: Pastor Misha McFarland-Pollock led the devotion.

II. **Naming of Tellers** - Todd C motioned and Mark R. seconded to close the nominations and unanimously accept the council nominees presented in the report. **Motion carried.**

III. **Reports**: Dave N motioned and Deb Hoxie seconded to approve the listed and printed Committee reports. **Motion carried.**
Steve R motioned and Bonnie R seconded to approve the 2025 Congregational Meeting Minutes, Pastor's Report, President's Report and Treasurer's Report. **Motion carried.**

IV. **Report of Tellers:** N/A

V. **Financial Reports:** The President first highlighted last year's budget. He then addressed the projected deficit of expenses over income; noting reduction in general giving, and the projected utilities and insurance expenses in the 2026 Budget. Mark R motioned and Dan W. seconded to approve the 2026 budget. **Motion carried.**

VI. **2025 Statistical Report: no discussion**

VII. **In Loving Memory: no discussion**

VIII. **Other Business:**
Council 2-year vacancy - Michelle H, Bethany's Financial Secretary,
offered to serve the 2 year term. Todd C confirmed verbally that the constitution did not keep an employee from serving but that standards must be set in order to prevent conflict of interest. Todd C moved, Teresa M seconded, to accept Michelle as the nominee for the 2-year term. Steve R moved, Deb H seconded to close nominations and accept Michelle's nomination. **Motion carried.**
Synod Assembly Delegates - Pam T motioned, Dirk Z seconded to accept Tiffany H and Michelle H as Bethany's delegates to the Synod Assembly in May. **Motion carried**
Mike shared that the council will be working on goals and members were invited to share their ideas.

IX. **Adjournment:** Todd C motioned, Steve R seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:52am.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Taylor, Council Secretary

Bethany Lutheran Church
Minutes of the Church Council Special Meeting
January 25, 2026

Present: Mike Hopp - President, Pam Taylor-Secretary, Dirk Zaiser-Treasurer, Dan Wischmeier, Tiffany Huppenbauer, Bill Mundt, Bev Sherbondy- Vice President, Vicki Stoller, Dave Neubel, Michelle Huppenbauer, Tom Bonar, Julie Chubb.

The meeting was called to order by the President following the Church's Annual meeting. The purpose was to vote on council officers for 2026.

Pam motioned and Bev seconded to nominate Mike H for President. Michelle H motioned and Bev S seconded to close the floor for nominees and unanimously accept Mike H as council president. **Motion Carried.**

Pam T motioned and Dirk Z seconded to nominate Bev S for Vice President. Pam motioned and Tom B seconded to close the floor for nominees and unanimously accept Bev S as council Vice President. **Motion Carried.**

Dirk Z motioned and Bev S seconded to nominate Pam T for secretary. Bev motioned and Dirk seconded to close the nominations and unanimously accept Pam T as council secretary. **Motion Carried.**

Dave motioned and Bev S seconded to nominate Dan W for Treasurer. Pam T motioned and Michelle seconded to close the council nominations and unanimously accept Dan W. as council treasurer.

Adjourn

Vicki S. motioned Dirk Z seconded to adjourn at 11:06 am. **Motion carried**.

Next Regular Meeting: THURSDAY @ 6:30pm, February 19.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Taylor, Secretary

Easter lilies with 5-7 blooms will cost $18.00 each this year with purple foil and no bow.

If you would like to help us decorate the church for Easter with one or more of these plants, please fill out the information below and return it to the church office, or drop it in the offering plate by **March 15**.

Given by:_____

_____

_____Number of Easter lilies @ $18.00 each

Amount enclosed _____

Envelope #_____

Plants purchased in memory/honor (circle one) of:

_____

_____

_____

Announcements

Mid-Week Lent Services on every Wednesday in March at Bethany! 6pm Soup Supper, 7pm Holden Evening Prayer. Bethany provides the meal on March 18; Messiah on March 4 & 25; Unity on March 11!

Easter Lily orders are in full swing! An order form is included on the prior page, and also available every Sunday inside the bulletin. Just drop your order form with payment in the offering plate on Sunday, or send it to the office. Deadline for ordering Easter Lilies is on Sunday, March 15!

Pastor's Book Club meets on Tuesday, March 10 at 5:00pm at Bethany! This month, we are reading "Rage Prayers" by Elizabeth Ashman Riley!

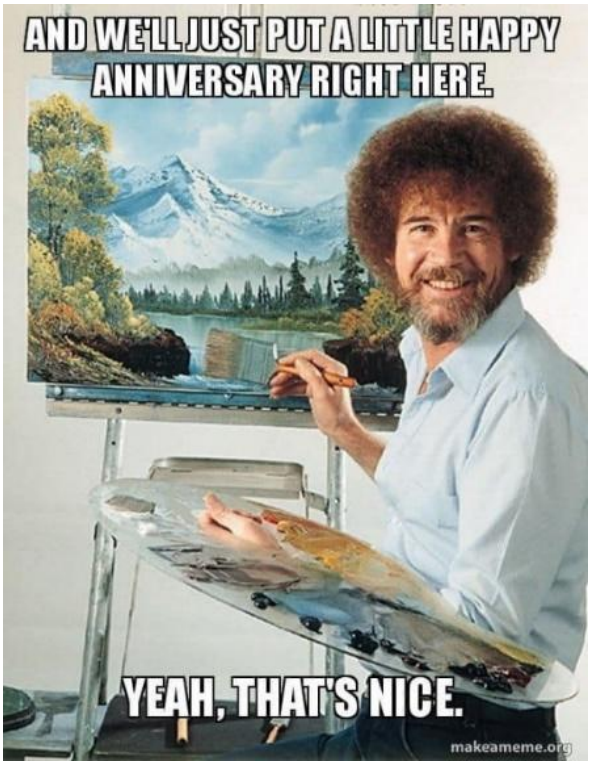
Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, March 11 at 12:30pm at Toast of Burlington, located in Fairway Center. Please call Dave Nuebel at 319-237-6933 to sign up.

Bethany, along with Messiah, will be helping serve a dinner for the Bridges Program on Tuesday, March 10. If you would like to volunteer for this community event and for more information, please speak with Mike Hopp.

Daylight Savings Time is on Sunday, March 8! Please remember to "spring" your clocks forward 1 hour on Saturday night!

March Anniversaries

13 – Steve & Sue Rogers
19 – Ron & Brenda Kastner
23 – Dan & Ruth Harken
29 – Robert & Julie Etchison



March BIRTHDAYS

1 – Jacob Cox
5 – Marlene Benninghoven
7 – Dan Wischmeier
8 – Sterling Tharp
9 – Ron Woodside; Laurie Chelf
10 – Dave Nuebel; Steven Quam
14 – Mike Reichelt; Rylee Morris
17 – Darrin Timberlake; Lori Cox
18 – Doreen Roy
19 – Isaac Morehead
20 – Nancy Kern; Tiffany Huppenbauer
24 – Tony Stanley; Alexis Oetken; Rachel Lindeen
27 – Cameo Mundt
29 – Elizabeth Loots; Aaron Morehead; Joe Engle
31 – Mike Hopp; Tyler Schramm

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00 a.m. Worship **10:15 a.m. Church Outreach** 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	2 **Retired School Personnel Mtg. @ Noon**	3 	4 Mid-Week Lent Services @ Bethany **6:00pm – Meal** **7:00pm – Holden Evening Prayer** ***Meal provided by: Messiah***	5 **Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah**	6	7
8 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:00 a.m. Worship **10:15 a.m. Church Life** 10:55 a.m. Hope Service ***Daylight Savings Time. "Spring" your clocks forward 1 hour on Saturday night.***	9 **Property mtg. @ 6:30pm**	10 **Pastor's Book Club @ 5pm @ Bethany**	11 ***Lunch Bunch @ 12:30pm @ Toast of Burlington*** Mid-Week Lent Services @ Bethany **6:00pm – Meal** **7:00pm – Holden Evening Prayer** ***Meal provided by: Unity***	12 **Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah** **Exec. Comm mtg @ 6:00pm** **Finance Mtg. @ 6:30pm**	13 	14
15 4th Sunday in Lent 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service ***Last Sunday for Easter Lily orders!***	16	17 	18 Mid-Week Lent Services @ Bethany **6:00pm – Meal** **7:00pm – Holden Evening Prayer** ***Meal provided by: Bethany***	19 **Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah** **Council Mtg. @ 6:30pm**	20 **Chimes Deadline**	21 **8:00am Men's Breakfast**
22 5th Sunday in Lent 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	23 	24	25 Mid-Week Lent Services @ Bethany **6:00pm – Meal** **7:00pm – Holden Evening Prayer** ***Meal provided by: Messiah***	26 **Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah**	27	28 **Boy Scouts Shoquoquon District Annual Dinner-has Fellowship Hall all day.**
29 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	30 **Compline Service @ Bethany @ 8:00pm**	31 **Vespers @ 7:00pm @ Bethany**			Office Hours **Mon.-Wed.-Fri.: 9:00am-1:00pm** **Tues. & Thurs.: 1:30pm-4:30pm**	**Paraments:** **Purple: 1, 8, 15, 22** **Red: 29**