



Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

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



Springtime is Here!



Birds are chirping, flowers are blooming, the weather is warming up! Springtime is finally here! You will notice things happening outside. Our Community Garden for the Ukrainian refugees is coming along nicely. They have the land tilled and some vegetables planted.

With the rain we have been getting, the grass is growing! Thanks to our Property Committee for always keeping up with the mowing and any other work our grounds have been needing to keep our Church looking great!

Be sure to take a look at Pastor Misha's article! She touches base on some exciting things happening in May and an exciting new thing happening this summer!



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
Kim Engle, Stephen Ministry Coordinator
Wendy Bell, Office Administrator
Michelle Huppenbauer, Temporary Financial Secretary
Pam Crable, Custodian

The Chimes

LSI proudly serves Iowans in all 99 counties through our services of Mental Health, Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, Global Greens, 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.

A Story of Resilience: Aime's Journey from Refugee to Entrepreneur

In 2010, Aime fled the war in Congo, seeking safety for herself and her future. She first found refuge in Tanzania before making her way to the United States, later that year settling in South Dakota. There, she worked with Palance Autism, dedicating herself to helping others. During this time, Aime met her husband, and together they built a family, eventually welcoming five children.

In 2012, Aime and her family moved to Des Moines, Iowa, where she began working with TPI, a wind energy company. For ten years, she juggled the demands of her job while raising her children. However, when TPI closed in 2022, Aime saw the chance to create a new path – one that would allow her to spend more time with her family and pursue a career more aligned with her values.

Determined, Aime enrolled in Lutheran Services in Iowa's childcare program in October 2022. With their support, she launched her own daycare business in 2023. Today, Aime cares for six children in her daycare, providing a safe and nurturing space for them to grow while also staying closely connected to her own family.

Aime's story is one of resilience, growth, and the courage to start over. From fleeing her home to building a business in a new country, she has transformed her challenges into opportunities for herself, her family and her community.



For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.



Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. – Psalm 32:1

Jesus is risen! Alleluia! We have made it through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter! I had a wonderful first Easter with Messiah and Bethany. We had two full churches! We had a service each day of Holy Week and they were nicely attended by people from both congregations as well as the community. It was nice to experience some of the services from the ELW that are new to us. We had a Holy Saturday service during the day instead of an evening Easter Vigil. It was a great way to end the journey of Holy Week before the joyful celebration of Easter morning. I wanted to offer a variety of services during Holy Week so people would have the opportunity to journey with Jesus from the triumphal entry of Palm Sunday to the regular days of Jesus' life afterwards to the institution of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday to the crucifixion on Good Friday to the silence and fear surrounding the uncertainty of Holy Saturday before finally arriving at the joy of the resurrection on Easter morning!

Our confirmation students have been busy preparing for the Healing Service on May 7th at 7pm at Messiah. They have put the service together and will lead the service. The Confession and Forgiveness Service they led in January was well attended and we hope you all will come out and support them as they lead this Healing Service as well!

I have been up to some things myself. If you receive the Burlington Beacon or the Hawkeye, then you may have seen my devotions during the month of April. This month, May, you can hear me preach on KBUR. It is a short 8-minute segment airing Sundays at 8:30am. In July I will lead worship services at Klein and in November I will have a couple of weeks when I will once again write devotions for both newspapers. I received these opportunities as part of the Burlington Area Council of Churches.

I look forward to summer worship and trying some new things like campfire worship services. These services will happen once a month (June, July, and August) around the firepits. They will take place on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm. June and August will be at Messiah. July will be at Bethany. We will use With One Voice as our worship hymnal!

Finally, I am on vacation May 18 – 31. Pastor Mark Youngquist from Swedesburg Evangelical Lutheran Church will cover for any pastoral emergencies. His phone number is 319-631-8564.

Blessings,

Pastor Misha

Meetings

The meetings for May, 2025 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, May 15 @ 7:00 p.m.

Executive Committee
Thursday, May 15 @ 6:00 p.m.

Church Life Committee
Sunday, May 11 @ 10:15 a.m.

Property Committee
Monday, May 12 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Council
Wednesday, May 21 @ 6:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast
Suspended until further notice.

Church Outreach
Sunday, May 4 @ 10:15 a.m.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

March ATTENDANCE

*March 30 21

April ATTENDANCE

April 6	52
April 13	62
April 20	88
April 27	<i>At Messiah</i>

March GIVING

*March 30	<u>\$2,260.00</u>
Total:	\$10,447.35

April GIVING

April 6	\$1,900.15
April 13	\$1,859.00
April 20	\$2,664.63
April 27	<u><i>At Messiah</i></u>
Total:	\$6,423.78

March VANCO total: \$1,530.00

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

May

May Usher: Susan Swanson

Communion Assistants

4 - Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt
11 - Mike Hopp; Julie Wischmeier
18 - Steve & Sue Rogers
25 - Jessica King; Bill Mundt



Lector

4 - Todd Chelf
11 - Judy Craven
18 - Vicki Stoller
25 - Mike Hopp

Greeters

4 - Sharon Martindale
11 - Lynda Johnson
18 - Ginny Mesecher
25 - Dan & Julie Wischmeier

Flowers

4 - Mel & Judy Craven
11 - Bill Mundt
18 - Arnhild Zaiser
25 - Carol Dodge

Missionary Support

A new sign-up sheet is available
for May-August! Please stop and choose your date!

Altar Guild

Pam Taylor
Michelle & Tiffany Huppenbauer

Healing Service

Messiah Confirmation Students will be leading a Healing Service on Wednesday, May 7 at 7:00pm at Messiah Lutheran Church. The students are planning the service and leading the service! It is one of the services found in the ELW. The service will last around 30 minutes. Hope to see you there!



Steven Ministry Update

The Steven Ministry team has taken on an additional care receiver we are meeting with, praying for, and supporting through difficult times. Remember, God does not intend for us to face struggles alone. In this life, we all have trouble from time-to-time, but there are people who care and are well-trained and willing to walk with you through these times. Please don't hesitate to contact either Kim Engle (319-371-5415 or keengle@protonmail.com) or Pastor Misha, who is familiar with our confidential ministry.

Submitted by Kim Engle



Finance Announcement

The Finance Committee, with the backing of the Church Council, has decided to change our offering counting process.

Currently, we have a small group of devoted counters who willingly volunteer their time to come in on Monday mornings to count the weekend's offerings and deposit them. We are extremely grateful for their ministry! In order to alleviate some of that burden, and have a more secure process, the Committee has decided to begin counting the offerings on Sunday morning immediately following worship. The process shouldn't take more than 20 min., and to that end, we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to help with this ministry. We would like to set up counting teams of two, unrelated people who would count for a month at a time, with a rotating schedule. We would like to start this process the first Sunday in July, and training would be provided the last two Sundays in June. You would only need to attend training one of these Sundays.

If you would be willing to serve in this manner, please let a member of the Finance Committee know: Dirk Zaiser, Mike Hopp, Pam Taylor, Dan Wischmeier or Michelle Huppenbauer. We would need volunteers by June 15, which is Father's Day.

Thank you for considering serving your church in this ministry.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School at Messiah is coming up! From June 16-19 2025, Monday-Thursday 9:00am-12:00pm. Ages 3yrs old to 6th Grade. Below is the flyer for this year! Use the QR code to register online or pick up a registration form!

Registration forms will be provided on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers for this year's Vacation Bible School is also needed! If you have any questions, please call Laura Carruthers at Messiah Lutheran Church!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

ROAR and spread the good news about Jesus!

June 16-19, 2025 at Messiah Lutheran Church
9am-12pm Monday-Thursday
3 yrs old to 6th grade

Illustration of three dinosaurs (blue, yellow, and red) standing on a sandy beach with palm trees in the background.

QR code for online registration.

Logos for Messiah Lutheran Church and Unity Lutheran Church.

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICES



Office will be closed on Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day. It has been decided to suspend Men's Breakfast until further notice. This is due to low attendance.

Pastor Misha will be out of the office a few times this month. She will be at 1st Call retreat from the afternoon of Sunday, May 4 and will return to the area Tuesday, May 6 and at the Jordan Project Celebration from the afternoon of Sunday, May 11 and will return to the area on Tuesday, May 13.

Messiah's Healing Service will be on Wednesday, May 7 @ 7:00pm at Messiah. This is a service the Confirmation students are putting together and will lead the service. It will last around 30 minutes. Please come support these kids' hardwork!

Pastor Misha will be on Vacation from May 18-May 31! Pastoral emergency information is posted in Pastor Misha's article. Information on guest Preacher while she is away will be announced at a later date.

May Outreach donations will be hygiene items, such as toothpaste, deodorant & soaps! Thank you all for your generosity!

Pastor's Book Club will meet at 7:00pm on Tuesday, May 13. We will be discussing the book "Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community" By Dietrich Bonhoeffer!

Come see our very own Michelle Huppenbauer in Murder on the Orient Express at Player's Workshop! Matinees at 2pm on May 4 & 11 or Evenings at 7:30pm on May 2, 3, 8, 9, 10! Tickets are \$15 for adults & \$10 for students through High School. Box office opens at 6pm for Evenings and 12:30pm for Matinees or order online through the website at www.playersworkshoptheatre.com!

Vacation Bible School will be from June 16-19 at Messiah Lutheran Church from 9am-12pm Monday-Thursday! 3 years old – 6th grade! To register, use the QR code in the flyer above or on the bulletin board in the hallway or pick up a registration form provided on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are also needed!



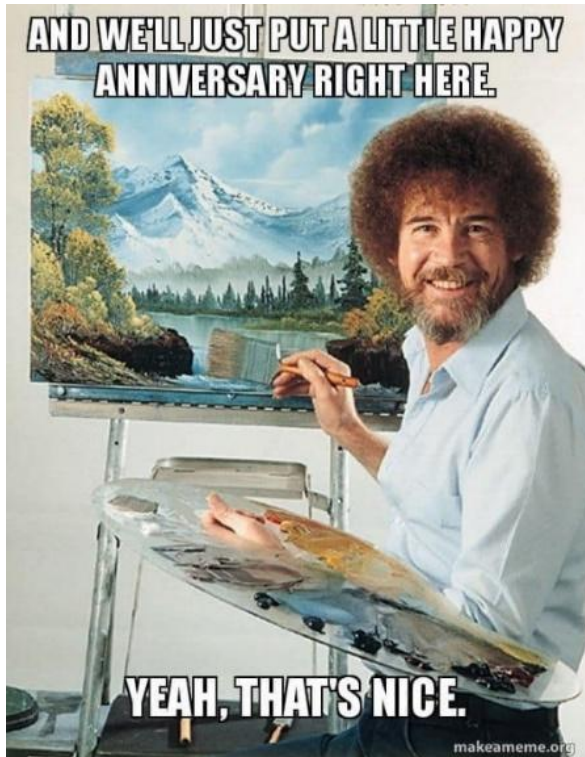
May Anniversaries

10 - Mel & Judy Craven
11 - Jeff & Heidi Schreiner
18 - Scott & Jan Creighton
20 - Wendy & Aaron Bell
29 - Mark & Sarah Loots; David & Jessica Tharp



May BIRTHDAYS

1 - David King; Sam Quam; Zoe Rogers
2 - Kara Roberts
4 - Peggy Schulz
5 - Brianna Hopp
7 - Beth McCarthy
8 - Sue Rogers
11 - Howard Burgus; Brett Morris; Brett Kuster
13 - Dalton McClurg
14 - Emily Bloomer
16 - Donna Edgington; Janice Peterson
18 - Drew McCarthy; Nancy Pilcher; Ed Roberts
19 - Robert Hornfeck; Lindsey Rice
22 - Jacob Smith
26 - Elisabeth Chelf; Jordan Roy; Michelle Schoof
27 - Jessica Sherrill
28 - Matthew Hogaboom; Jacob Roy; Joshua Roy
29 - Alexander Whitmore
30 - Sharon Martindale; Lisa Murphy
31 - Shirley Henson; Michelle Le Kander





May 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Paraments: White: 4, 11, 18, 25				1 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah	2 Nurses mtg @ 9:30 am Lewis family private wake/repass Fellowship Hall 4pm-7pm	3 
4 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Church Outreach 10:55 am Hope Service <i>Pastor Misha leaves in afternoon for First Call Retreat</i>	5 Retired School Personnel mtg luncheon @ noon	6 <i>Pastor Misha returns to the area from First Call Retreat</i>	7 Joint Exec. Mtg. @ 6:30pm @ Messiah Healing Service @ 7pm @ Messiah	8 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah	9 	10
11 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Church Life 10:55 am Hope Service <i>Pastor Misha leaves in afternoon for the Jordan Project Celebration Event</i> 	12 Property mtg. @ 6:30pm	13 Pastor's Book Club @ 7pm <i>Pastor Misha returns from Jordan Project Celebration</i>	14 Joint Council mtg @ 6:30pm @ Bethany	15 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah Exec. Comm mtg @ 6:00pm Finance Mtg. @ 7:00pm	16	17
18 5th Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship 10:55 am Hope Service <i>Pulpit Supply TBD</i>	19	20 	21 Council Mtg @ 6:30pm	22 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah	23	24 
		Pastor Misha on Vacation May 18-31				
25 6th Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship 10:55 am Hope Service <i>Pulpit Supply TBD</i>	26 	27	28	29 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah	30	31 Pastor Misha returns to the area
		Pastor Misha on Vacation May 18-31				