May, 2026 Volume 66, Issue 5

The Chimes

Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

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

Spring Has Arrived!

Flowers are starting to bloom, the birds are chirping, the weather is starting to warm up, we've had many rainy & stormy days. Spring has arrived!

You will notice a few projects happening outdoors! Our Community Garden is starting to ramp up for our Ukrainian friends! They have tilled the land and put up a new fence around the garden to help keep our wonderful wildlife at bay, and a concrete pad will be placed under where the water tank is placed, next to the garage. Grass seed has been planted in the spot next to the front door to the church and with the rain and help from watering it regularly, grass has started to grow! Thank you to Bev Sherbondy for keeping it watered!

You will also notice our front sign has been revamped! Thanks to Scott and Jan Creighton for working so hard on this project! Check inside for more details and a photo!

Be sure to check out Pastor Misha's article! She touches base on what we've done the past month, as well as what is upcoming this month and taking place this summer! Enjoy!

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
May 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...

A testimony from a grateful family:

"We first learned about LSI's school-based therapy program through our son's school counselor. We had wanted to get him into therapy for a long time, but it often felt out of reach. We do not have many extra resources, and finding a provider in Dubuque with availability for a child under 12 was incredibly difficult. On top of that, we both work and did not know how we would manage getting him to appointments during or after the school day.

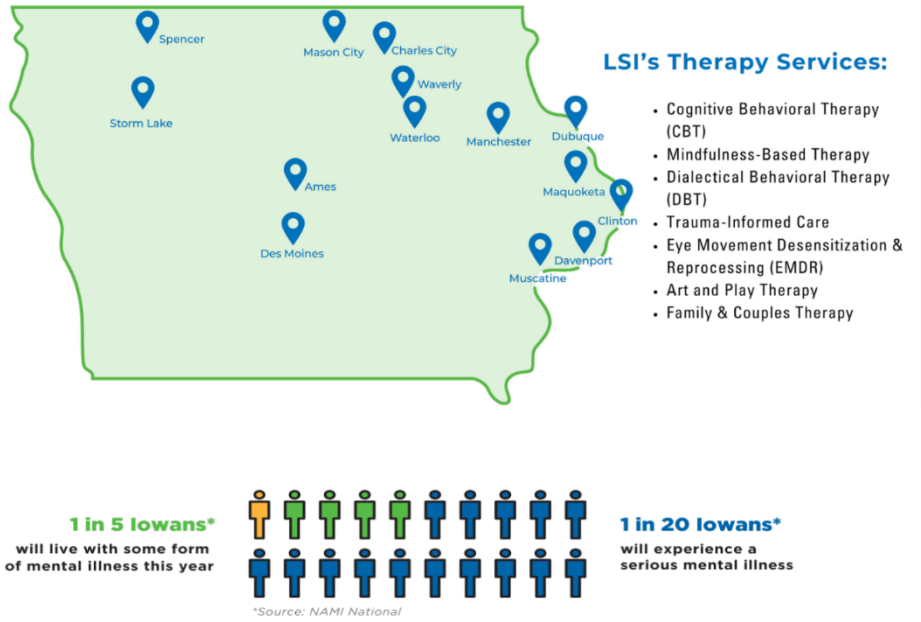
When we found out that therapy could take place right at his school, it truly felt like an answer to our prayers. He did not have to miss much class, we did not have to take time off work, and he was able to meet with someone in a place where he already felt comfortable.

Even after getting connected, we still had concerns. Our insurance included a copay that was difficult for us to afford. LSI let us know that financial assistance was available to help cover those costs, as long as we remained committed to his treatment. That support made all the difference. Without it, I do not think we would have been able to continue.

Our son has only been in therapy for about six weeks, but we are already beginning to see small changes. He seems to be learning new ways to manage his emotions and is starting to talk more about what is bothering him instead of shutting down or acting out. We know he still has a long road ahead, but for the first time in a long time, we feel hopeful.

We are so grateful for this opportunity and for the support LSI has provided to our family. Without this program and the financial assistance, I truly do not know if our son would have been able to receive the help he needs."

We provide therapy services to all 99 Iowa counties through in-person locations and online sessions!



LSI Selected to Lead the Evelyn K. Davis Center

The Evelyn K. Davis Center, 1171 7th Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

Exciting news for our community! The Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) has selected Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) as the new operating partner for the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families. Since 2012, the Center has been a vital resource for Central Iowa families, offering support in employment, finances, and education.

After a thoughtful, community-driven process, LSI was chosen for its strong mission fit and experience. The transition is already underway and will be completed by July 1, 2026 with services continuing seamlessly as the Center begins this exciting new chapter.

LSI
LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA

FROM THE PASTOR

You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound. In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure. – Psalm 4:7-8

I cannot believe it is already May! My ordination anniversary is on May 24th! Two years have flown by! My first day with you all was June 3, 2024. It was a whirlwind experience graduating from seminary, being ordained, moving to Burlington, and then beginning my first call all within approximately 3 weeks. And now we have all settled into a nice rhythm of church life together.

During April we celebrated Easter, had a baptism, remembered fondly the lives of several members who joined the church triumphant. I was invited to be the assisting minister for my friend's ordination. Bethany's council had their annual dinner at Gators. It was lovely to spend time together on a Sunday afternoon getting to know each other better.

I participated in the Burlington Citizens Police Academy. It was an eight-week program where we learned the ins and outs of being a police officer in Burlington. We heard from the county attorney, learned how to investigate a crime scene from Burlington detectives, had a session at the outdoor firing range, and went on a ride along. It was a great way to get to know both Burlington and the police department better.

On Thursday, May 7th at 5pm the 75th Annual National Day of Prayer Community Service will be held at First United Methodist Church. All are invited to attend. The service is being led by the Burlington Area Council of Churches. There will be conversations around education, business, military, government, and media. I will be speaking on education.

The all Iowa First Call Retreat is May 3 – 5. It is where all the clergy in Iowa in their first call come together to learn and grow in ministry. Clergy must attend first call events for the first three years of their ministry. The SEIA Synod Assembly takes place May 15 – 16. I am on the Bishop Election Committee. There will be a bishop election this year. Bishop Amy Current will seek to continue being the bishop of SEIA. More information can be found on the synod website: (seiasynod.org). The conclusion of the Faith Forward program will take place in Des Moines from May 18-20.

Summer will be here before we know. With the warm weather comes opportunity to have a couple of outdoor worship services. Last year we had two campfire worship services during the summer – one in June and one in July. We will do that once again this year. When the season shifts to Fall, we will welcome the bishop to join us for our joint worship service for Rally Day on September 13, 2026.

We have so much to celebrate at Messiah and Bethany! I'm grateful for all of you!

Blessings,

Pastor Misha

Meetings

The meetings for May, 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, May 14 @ 6:30 p.m.

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

Executive Committee
Thursday, May 14 @ 6:00 p.m.

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

Property Committee
Monday, May 11 @ 6:30 p.m.

Joint Council
Wednesday, May 13 @ 6:30 p.m. @ Bethany

Church Council
Wednesday, May 20 @ 6:30 p.m.

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

Pastor's Book Club @ Bethany
Tuesday, May 12 @ 5:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch
Wednesday, May 13 @ 12:30 p.m. @ Buffalo Wild Wings

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

March 29 ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Attendance	66
Giving	$2,880.40

April ATTENDANCE

April 5	96
April 12	**At Messiah*
April 19	35
April 26	57

April GIVING

April 5	$2,702.00
April 12	$890.00
April 19	$1,267.00
April 26	$3,086.96
Total:	$7,945.96

March VANCO total: $1,575.00

**March 29 Attendance and Giving is included in this issue due to time constraints last month.*

LAY LEADERS

May Usher: Susan Swanson

Communion Assistants

3 – Mark Rosenberg; Rachel Lindeen
10 – Steve & Sue Rogers
17 – Tiffany & Michelle Huppenbauer
24 – Mike Hopp; Julie Wischmeier
31 – Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt

Lector

3 – Carlene Woodside
10 – Ron Kastner
17 – Bill Mundt
24 – Rachel Lindeen
31 – Judy Craven

Greeters

3 – Judy Craven
10 – Dan & Julie Wischmeier
17 – Ginny Mesecher
24 – Mark & Bonnie Rosenberg
31 – Lynda Johnson

Flowers

3 – Arnhild Zaiser
10 – Robin Milton
17 – Mel & Judy Craven – Happy 62nd Anniversary!
24 – Vanette Wooldridge
31 – Open

Missionary Support

3 – Open
10 – Open
17 – Open
24 – Open
31 – Open

Altar Guild

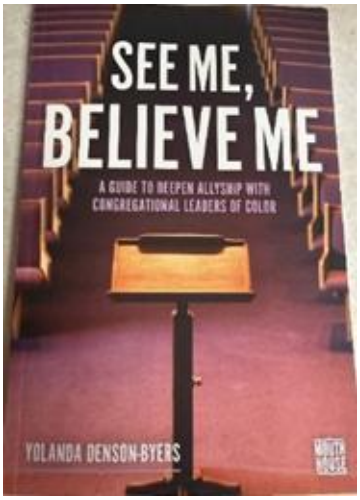
Pam Taylor
Michelle Huppenbauer
Tiffany Huppenbauer

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, May 13 @ 12:30pm @ Buffalo Wild Wings. 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, May 12 at 5:00pm at Bethany! All are welcome to join us! This month we are reading "See Me, Believe Me" By Yolanda Denson-Byars! Pastor Misha was gifted several copies of this book, so anyone who would like to participate can do so for free for May! Also, anyone who would like a copy, even if not participating in book club, can have one while supplies last! Please see Pastor Misha, if interested!

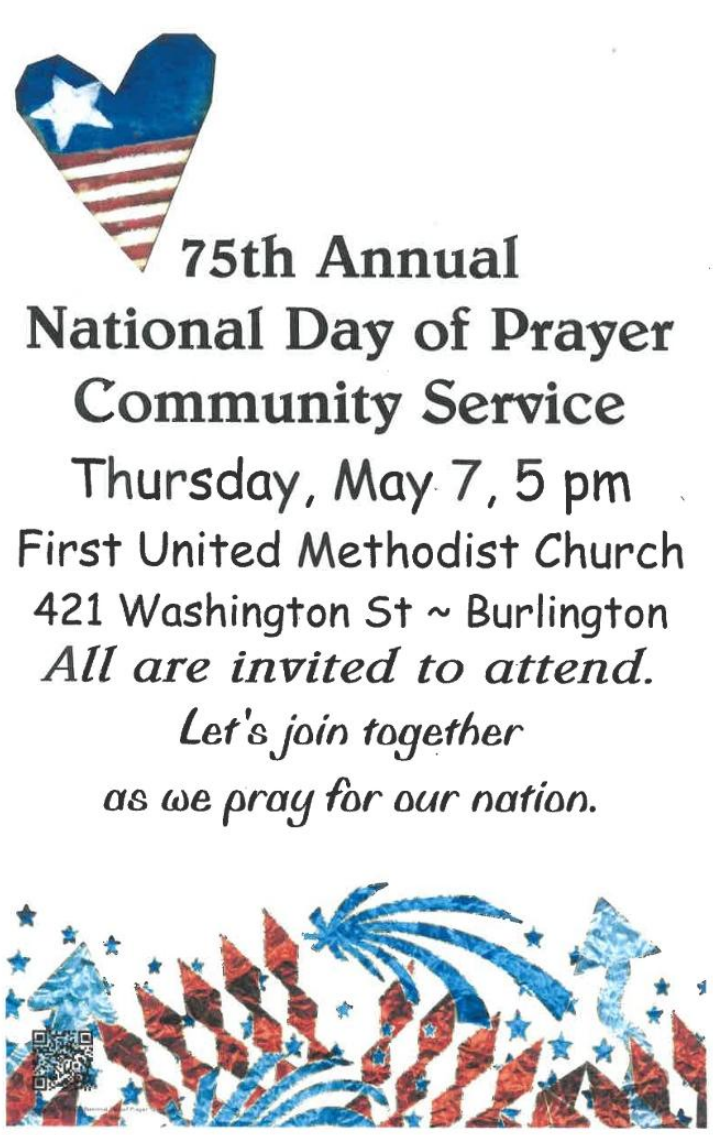


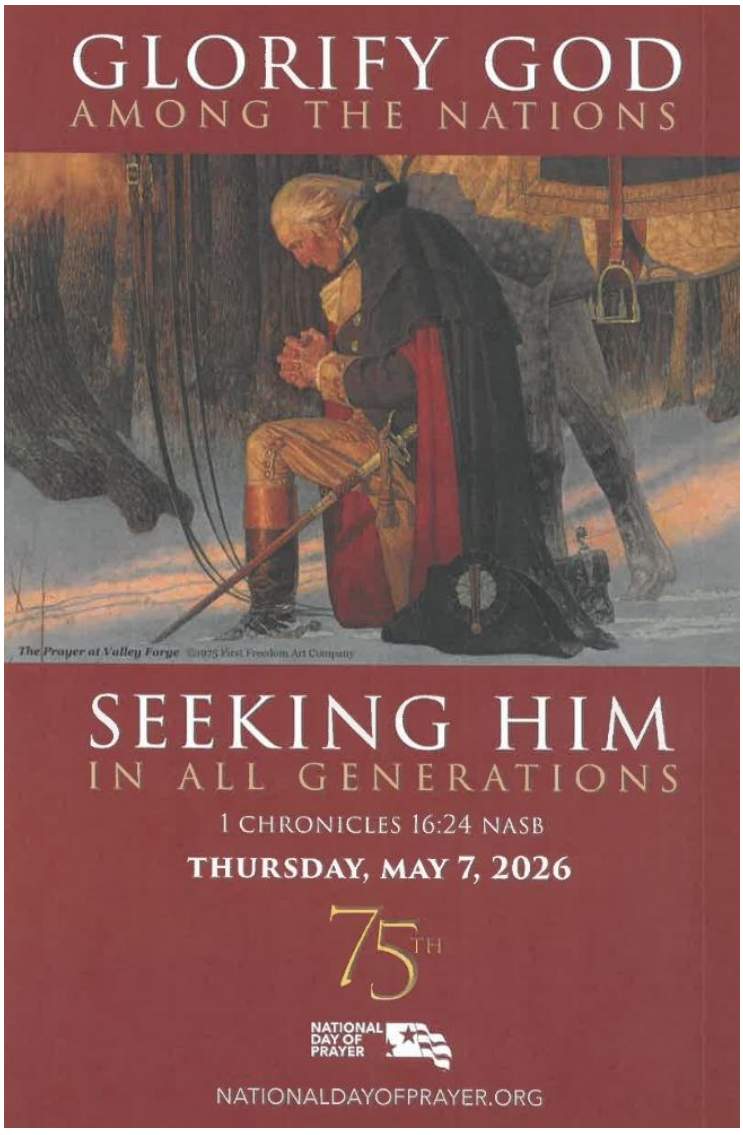
Revamped Front Sign

Thank you to Scott and Jan Creighton for all their hard work they did on our front sign! In memory of Marian Creighton, this project started last fall, along with help from other property members as well, the old bushes and plants were taken out and the ground cleared out and tarped over the winter. During this past month as the weather got nicer and warmer, new flowers have been planted, new mulch added, sign cleaned up and updated! Below is a photo of our revamped sign!

75th Annual National Day of Prayer Community Service

The 75th Annual National Day of Prayer Service will be held on Thursday, May 7 at 5:00pm at First United Methodist Church. Pastor Misha will be speaking on education at this event!





Congratulations to our Seniors – Aaron Morehead and Mason Fritz and anyone else not named that are graduating this year!

The Senior Class of 2026 will be walking across the stage and receiving their High School Diplomas towards the end of this month.

Congratulations on all your achievements and good luck to you all in your future endeavors.

The best is yet to come!

Graduation Party!

Please join us in celebrating the accomplishments of two of our Bethany youth, and their good friend, as Aaron Morehead, Mason Fritz, and Zachary Grieves hold a Graduation party on Friday, May 29, here at Bethany, from 5-8 pm. Our Bethany family has been a strong influence in the lives of these young people, and we invite you to help them celebrate their graduation from Burlington High School, and usher in the next adventures in their lives! We hope to share this evening of food and fellowship with you!

Sincerely,

The Morehead, Fritz, and Grieves families

Congratulations to Aaron Morehead on earning the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Scholarship Award!

Below is the article about Aaron and this wonderful achievement, written by John Flaherty and shared with his permission. Thank you to Teresa Morehead for sharing this with us!

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

John Flaherty SE IA Rep

2026 Joey Schlader Scholar Winner

Burlington High School senior, Aaron Morehead has been awarded the Joey Schlader MVFCA schlolarship for 2026. Aaron's brother, Samuel also won the award in 2024. Aaron joins three other award winners around the MVFCA area this year.

Aaron participates in Ctoss Country, swimming, Track, Orchestra, Student Council, and has been a member of BHS's FCA all four years and the leadership team for the last two years.

Aaron describes FCA's impact on him over his four years at Burlington High School:

I give so much credit to FCA for how I've grown in my faith. I have been a Christian my whole life, but before FCA, it didn't matter to me a whole lot. I thought I was a good person. I knew Jesus was there and that he loved me, but I kept my faith separate from the rest of my life. Since joining FCA, my perspectivechanged significantly, especially after joining the leadership team. Now, I feel like I'm more purposeful in my walk with Christ. Everything I do, I actively purse God, and pray that God is reflected in my character. Looking back,

I've always tried to pursue excellence, and I have grown in that area, but now by joining FCA even more, no longer believing I'm doing all I can, but always taking the next step towards bettering myself for His glory.

Congratulations, Aaron.

Sidelined! (sort of)

On February 11th, I underwent surgery for a rotator cuff injury resulting from a fall in November. The surgery went well, and rehab is just around the corner.

I was told that I would not be able to drive until I had the sling removed. That came as a blow to me as I felt sidelined and in truth, useless. I love meeting with the coaches and athletes, and not being able to go to huddles and coaches has been a struggle.

But praise God for His Word, His Holy Spirit and the fellowship of brothers and sisters. Phil. 4:8 has run through my mind, that God is in control, & the extra time has moved me to additional time of prayer, and the volunteers on each campus have been amazing! PTL! Special shout out to my friend and teammate Josh Helscher for being my chauffer to our staff meeting.

Bethany Lutheran Church
Minutes of the Church Council Meeting
March 19, 2026

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

1) The meeting was called to order by President Hopp at 6:35 p.m. Pastor Misha read a short devotion from the Christ in Our Home devotional booklet.

2) Approval of Minutes – President Hopp asked everyone to review the minutes. There were no additions or deletions. Dave Neubel moved to approve minutes and Bev Sherbondy seconded. Motion carried.

3) Pastor's Report – Pastor provided a written report. Holy Week services were highlighted.

4) Financials
   a) Treasurer Wischmeier shared that Pastor's moving expenses weren't reimbursed. The total was around $12,000, making our half approximately $6,000. Michelle Huppenbauer moved to pay up to $7,000 out of the Endowment Fund to reimburse Pastor for her moving expenses. Dirk Zaiser seconded. Motion carried.
   b) The checking account balances and the income/expense report numbers were reviewed. Sherbondy brought up the question again of how long can we sustain the church with the Endowment Fund we have. Discussion about options we can look into.
   c) President Hopp shared the weekly flower cost is going up beginning April 1. There has not been a raise from Hy-Vee for over 25 years, so this was bound to happen. President Hopp will reach out to Stephanie Burgus about doing the flowers for the amount we've been charged.

5) Committee Reports/Discussion
   a) Church Life – Bill Mundt had no written report, but did thank everyone for the help with the Lenten meals. The question was asked about the donations received for the meals and where that money should go. M Huppenbauer moved to use the meal money to assist the Ward family with their water bill. Mundt seconded. Motion carried. Hopp will see about getting this done.
   b) Church Outreach – Vice President Sherbondy reported they will begin meeting with Church Life as their projects and mission cross frequently. Meetings will be the 2nd Sunday of each month.
   c) Finance – written report provided. Discussion about paying for advertising our Easter services. The cost would be split with Messiah. The decision was made to decline.
   d) Property – Vice President Sherbondy noted the carpets will be cleaned after Easter. There will be a yard clean-up day on March 21. All are welcome. Dirk Zaiser then shared that he would like to distribute Time & Talent sheets to the congregation to see where people would be willing to volunteer. Dave Neubel shared there is still an investigation being done about where the water in the organ pipe/box area is coming from. Neubel also mentioned the ceiling in the balcony needs some attention.

Zaiser moved to accept the committee reports and Wischmeier seconded. Motion carried.

6) Old Business
    a) Goals – President Hopp reviewed the goals the Council has worked on this year. Two additional goals were added:
        a. Reinvigorating congregational participation of committees and daily tasks. This marries with Time & Talent.
        b. Becoming an affirming congregation. Pastor Misha shared to become an RIC (Reconciled in Christ) congregation takes formal education and training.

    The council was surveyed on their top two choices, and after discussion President Hopp will have a temple talk some Sunday after Easter and we would hold an informal discussion during fellowship hour one Sunday in May. This will allow the congregation to get involved, provide suggestions and ask questions.
    b) Annual Council Dinner – The council will gather on Sunday, April 19 at 5:00 p.m. Location to be determined.
    c) Nominating Committee – We are looking for people willing to serve. If someone served on this committee last year, they aren't able to do it again this year.

7) New Business – None

8) Adjourn – Neubel moved to adjourn the meeting and Zaiser seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Huppenbauer
Secretary Pro-tem

Announcements

Pastor Misha will be at 1st Call Retreat from the evening of Sunday, May 3 through Tuesday, May 5. She will return to the area later that evening.

The 75th Annual National Day of Prayer Community Service will be taking place on Thursday, May 7 at 5:00pm at First United Methodist Church in downtown Burlington. Pastor Misha will be speaking on education at this event!

Pastor's Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday, May 12 at 5:00pm at Bethany. All are welcome to attend. Pastor Misha has several copies of this month's book "See Me, Believe Me" by Yolanda Denson-Byars, so anyone who would like to participate, can do so for free for the month of May. Also, anyone who would like a copy, even if not participating in book club, can have a copy while supplies last! Please see Pastor Misha, if interested.

Pastor Misha, along with our delegates Michelle & Tiffany Huppenbauer, will be attending SEIA Synod Assembly Friday, May 15 through Saturday, May 16.

Lunch Bunch will meet next on Wednesday, May 13 @ 12:30pm @ Buffalo Wild Wings. All are welcome! To sign up, have questions, or need transportation arrangement, please call Dave Nuebel at 319-237-6933.

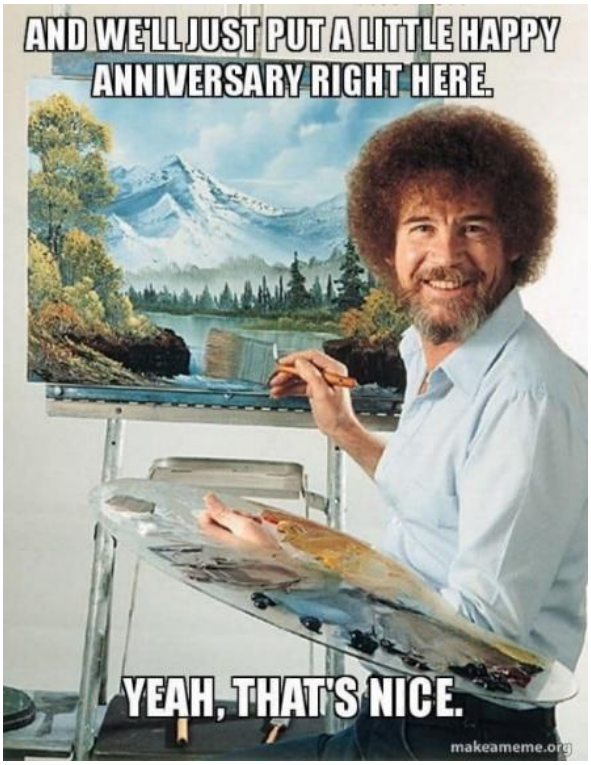
Pastor Misha will be in Des Moines for the conclusion of the Faith Forward program from Monday, May 18 through Wednesday, May 20.

The office will be open late by mid-late morning on Wednesday, May 20, due to an appointment.

The office will be closed on Friday, May 22 and also on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25. Normal office hours will resume on Tuesday, May 26.

May Anniversaries

10 – Mel & Judy Craven
11 – Jeff & Heidi Schreiner
18 – Scott & Jan Creighton
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 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Paraments: **White: 3, 10, 17, 31** **Red: 24**	Office Hours Mon.-Wed.-Fri.: 9:00am-1:00pm Tues. & Thurs.: 1:30pm-4:30pm				1 Nurses mtg. @ 9:30am	2 Arnhild "Ann" Zaiser Funeral @ Bethany 11am-1pm Visitation 1pm Funeral *Luncheon to follow*
3 Service of the Word w/Bishop Amy Current Preaching Online 9:00 a.m. Worship – ***no Communion this week*** 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	4 Retired School Personnel mtg @ Noon *Pastor Misha @ 1st Call Retreat May 3-5*	5 Pastor Misha @ 1st Call Retreat	6 Joint Exec. Mtg. @ Messiah @ 6:30pm	7 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah 75th Annual National Day of Prayer Community Service @ 5pm @ First United Methodist Church	8 	9
10 6th Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m. Worship **10:15 a.m. Church Life & Outreach** 10:55 a.m. Hope Service *Happy Mother's Day!*	11 Property mtg. @ 6:30pm	12 Pastor's Book Club @ 5pm @ Bethany	13 Lunch Bunch @ 12:30pm @ Buffalo Wild Wings Joint Council Mtg. @ Bethany @ 6:30pm	14 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah Exec. Comm mtg @ 6:00pm Finance Mtg. @ 6:30pm	15 SEIA Synod Assembly	16 8:00am Men's Breakfast SEIA Synod Assembly
17 7th Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	18 Pastor Misha @ conclusion of Faith Forward program in Des Moines May 18 – May 20	19 Pastor Misha @ conclusion of Faith Forward program in Des Moines May 18 – May 20	20 *Office will open late-by late morning* Council Mtg. @ 6:30pm *Pastor Misha in Des Moines*	21 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah Chimes Deadline	22 Office Closed Wendy out of office	23
24 Day of Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	25 	26	27	28 Fellowship Hall Reserved all evening for Morehead/Fritz/ Grieves	29 Fellowship Hall Reserved-all day Morehead/Fritz/ Grieves Graduation Party 5pm-8pm	30
31 The Holy Trinity 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service						