Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2026

Bethany Lutheran Church
2515 Madison Ave., Burlington, IA
Phone: (319) 752-3621
www.bethanyburlington.org

Bethany's Mission Statement: Reaching out in Worship, Fellowship, Learning and Love – we are God's people.

We are so glad you chose to worship with us this morning. We hope everyone
feels welcome as we strive to serve and strengthen each other in faith toward God and in love toward all. Now, as you wait for the service to begin, please relax, enjoy the music, and quiet your heart before God.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ELW indicates that hymns or liturgy are taken from Evangelical Lutheran Worship–red hymnal

PRELUDE

Welcome, Birthday/Anniversary Bank
(money given to Bethany's Human Concerns Fund)

We Gather to Acknowledge God's Presence

(Please Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

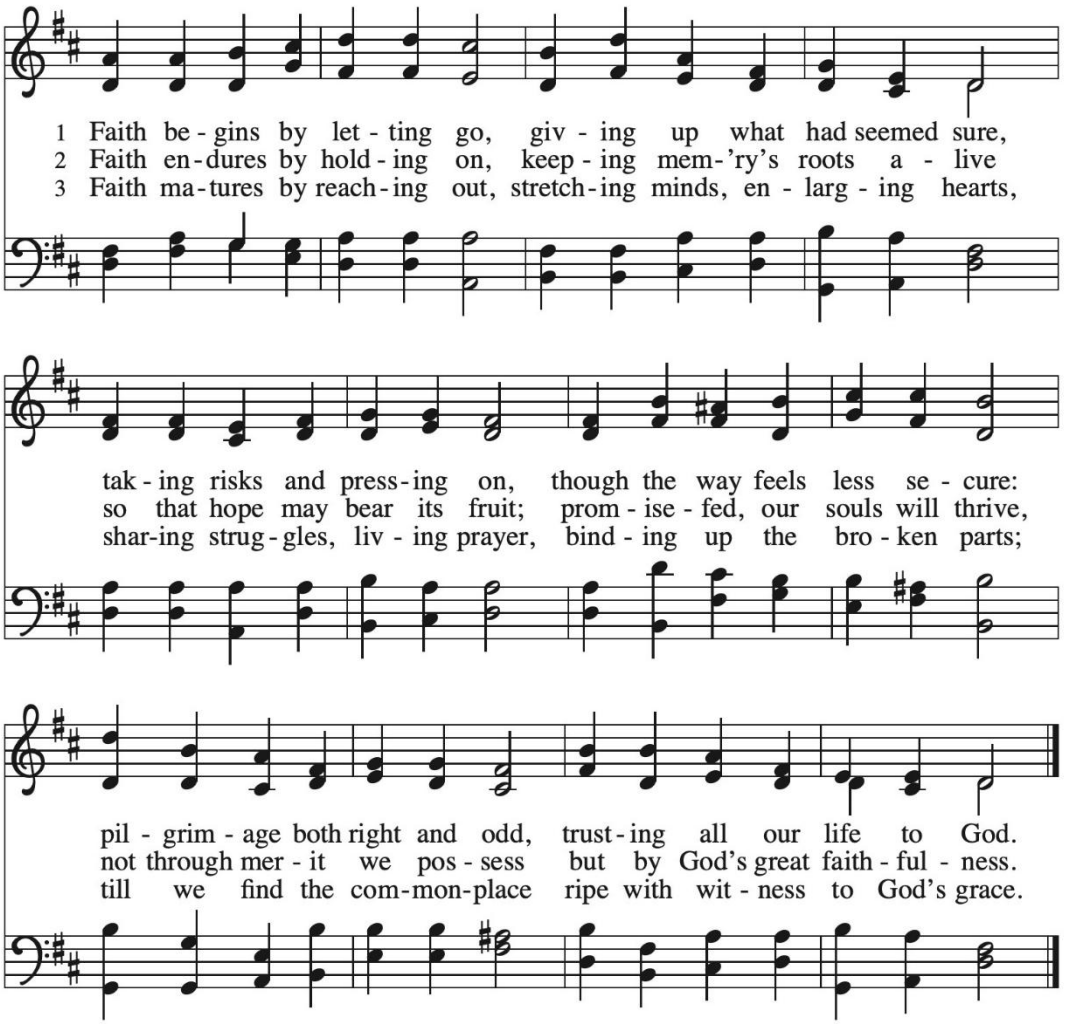
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

**C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

P: Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

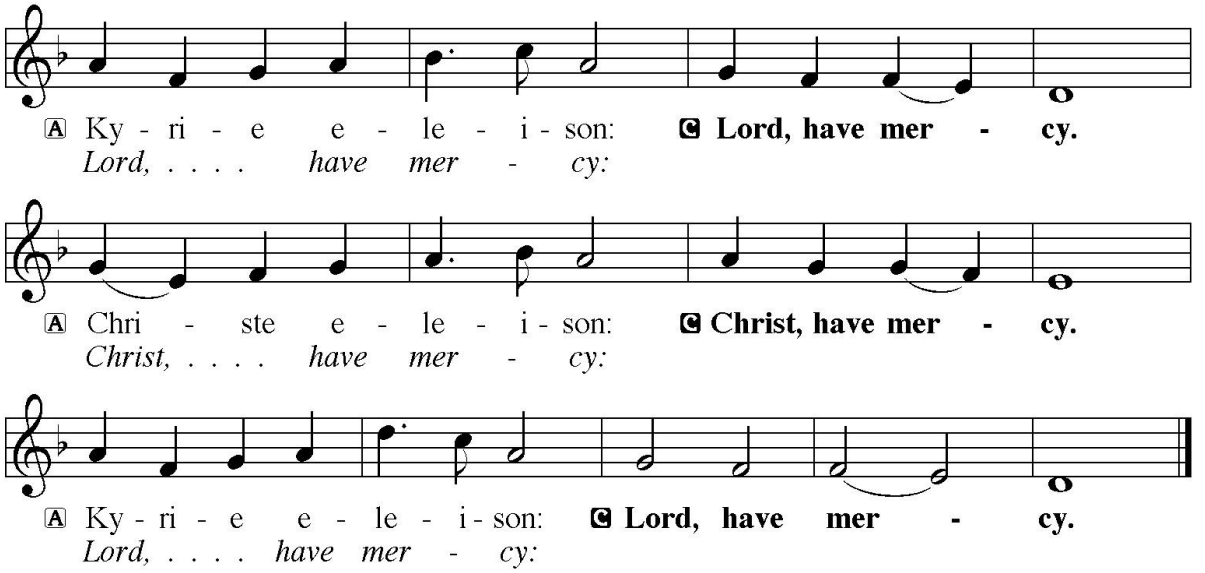
C: Amen.

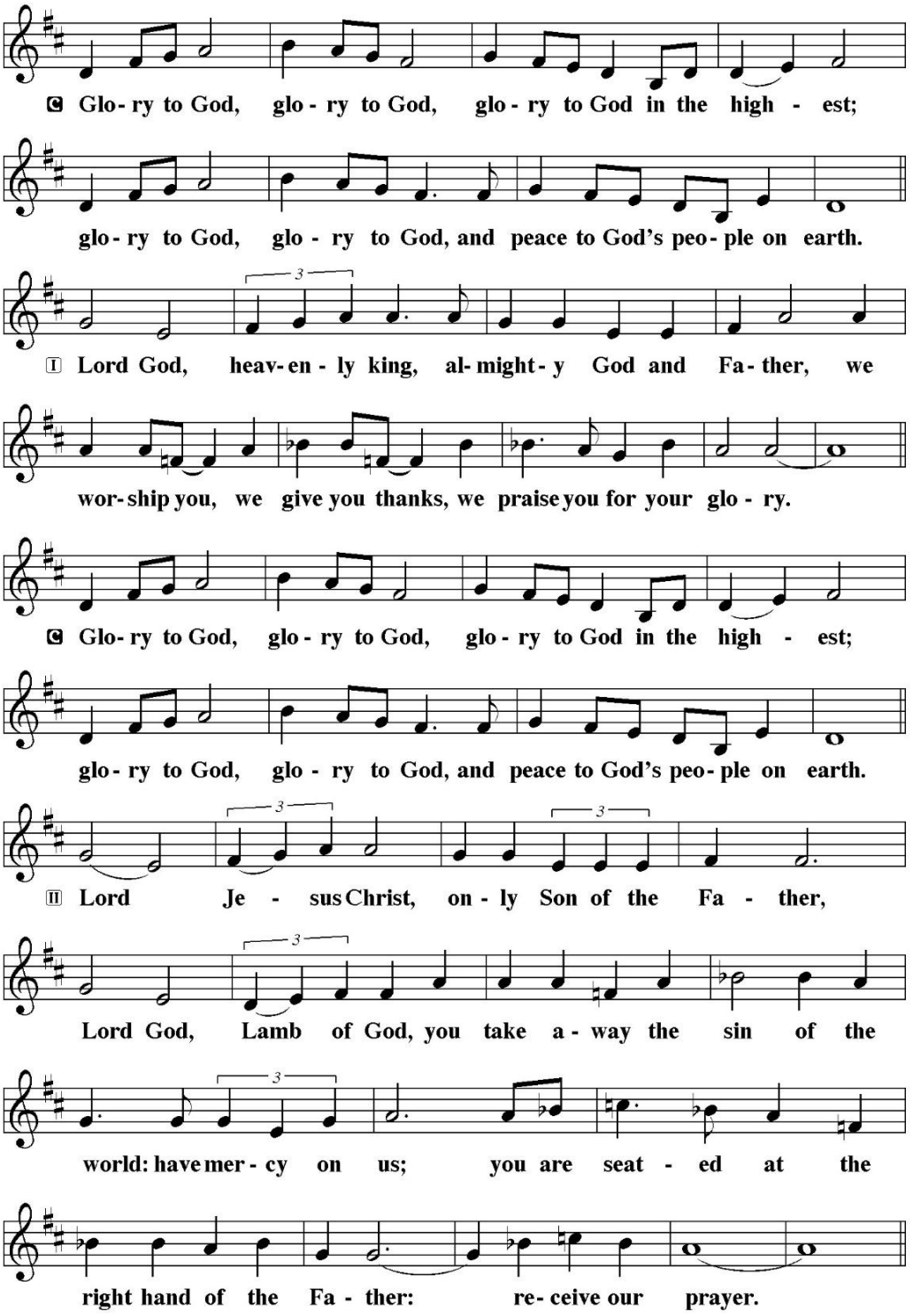
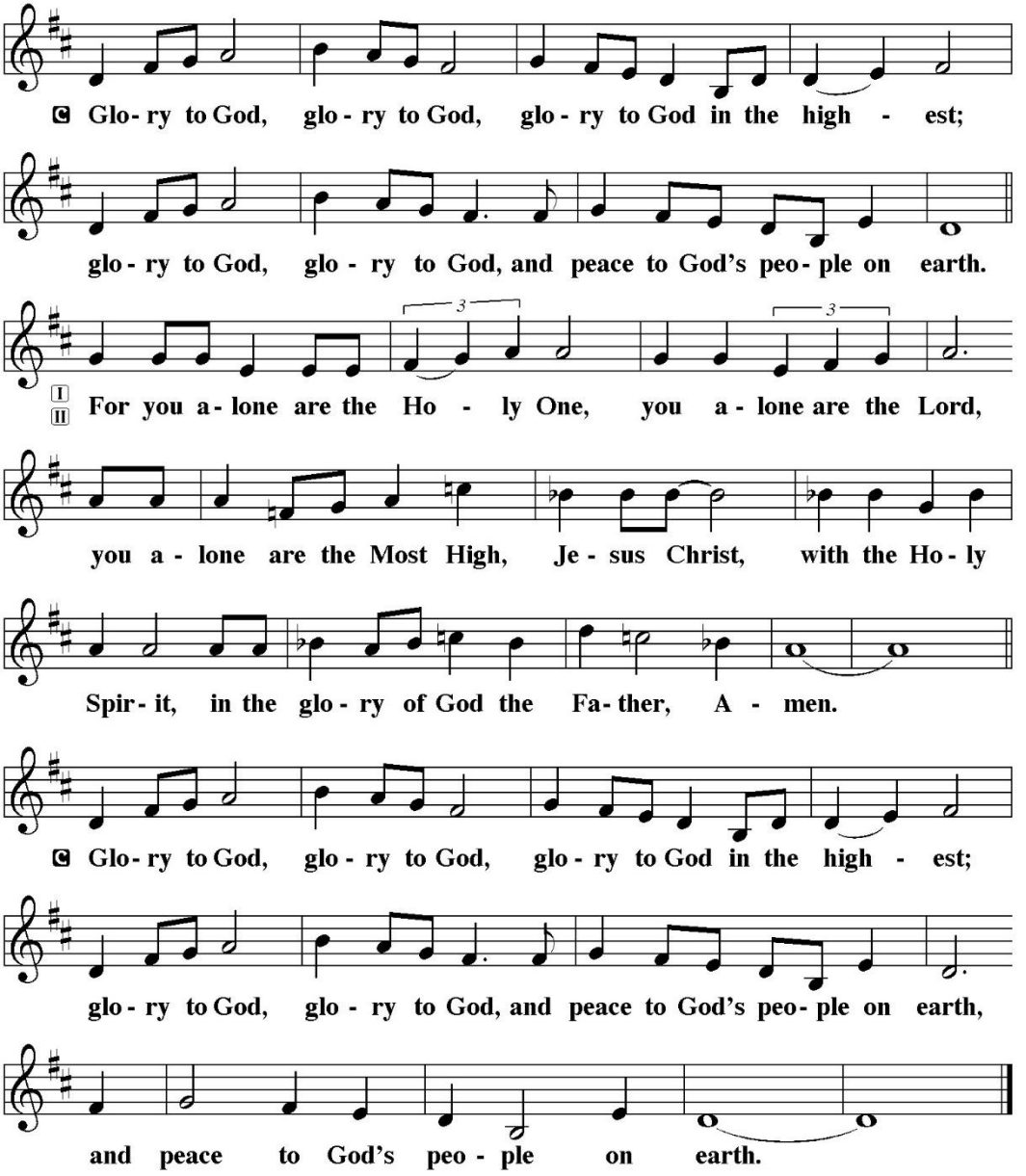
GATHERING HYMN *"Faith Begins by Letting Go "* **ACS Hymn 1004**

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE

C Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
I II For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.
C Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,
and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Our Lord Jesus, you have endured the doubts and foolish questions of every generation. Forgive us for trying to be judge over you, and grant us the confident faith to acknowledge you as Lord.
Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING **Isaiah 5:1-7**

1 I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
2 He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
4 What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

5 And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
6 I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

Continued…

7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

L: Word of God, word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *(read responsively)* **Psalm 80:7-15**

L: Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
C: You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.
L: You prepared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.
C: The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.
L: You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.
C: Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
L: The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
C: Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING **Philippians 3:4b-14**

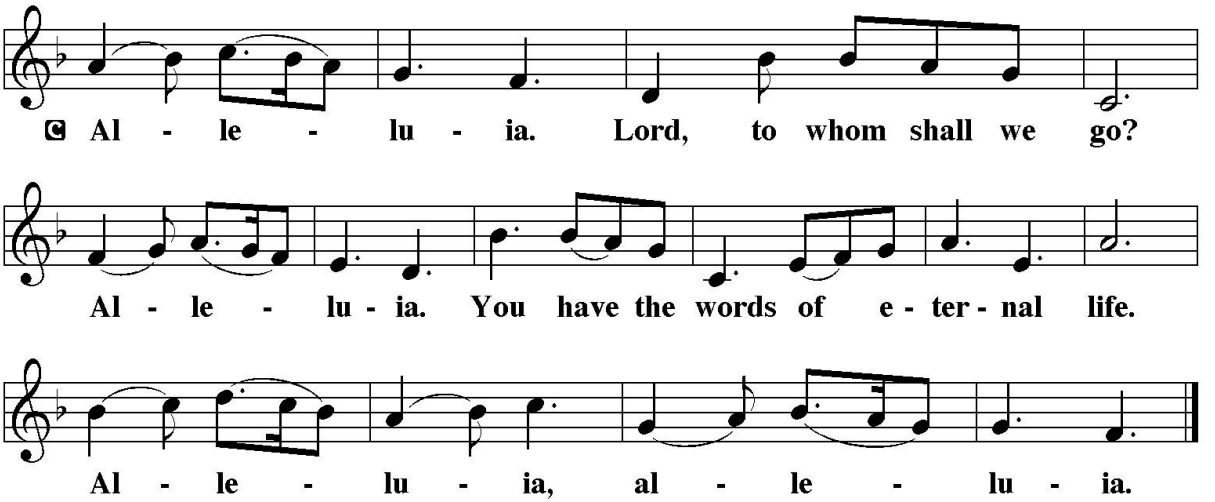
[Paul writes:] 4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:
5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of
Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a
persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.
8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of
knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things,
and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him,
not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes
through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to
know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by
becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the
dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I
press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. 13 Brothers and
sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of:
forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on
toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L: Word of God, word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL **Matthew 21:33-46**

[Jesus said:] 33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a
vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then
he leased it to tenants and went away. 34 When the harvest time had come, he sent
his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. 35 But the tenants seized his slaves
and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other slaves, more
than the first, and they treated them in the same way. 37 Then he sent his son to
them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they
said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'
39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Now when the
owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" 41 They said to him,
"He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other
tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?

43 "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given
to a people that produces its fruits. 44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken
to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

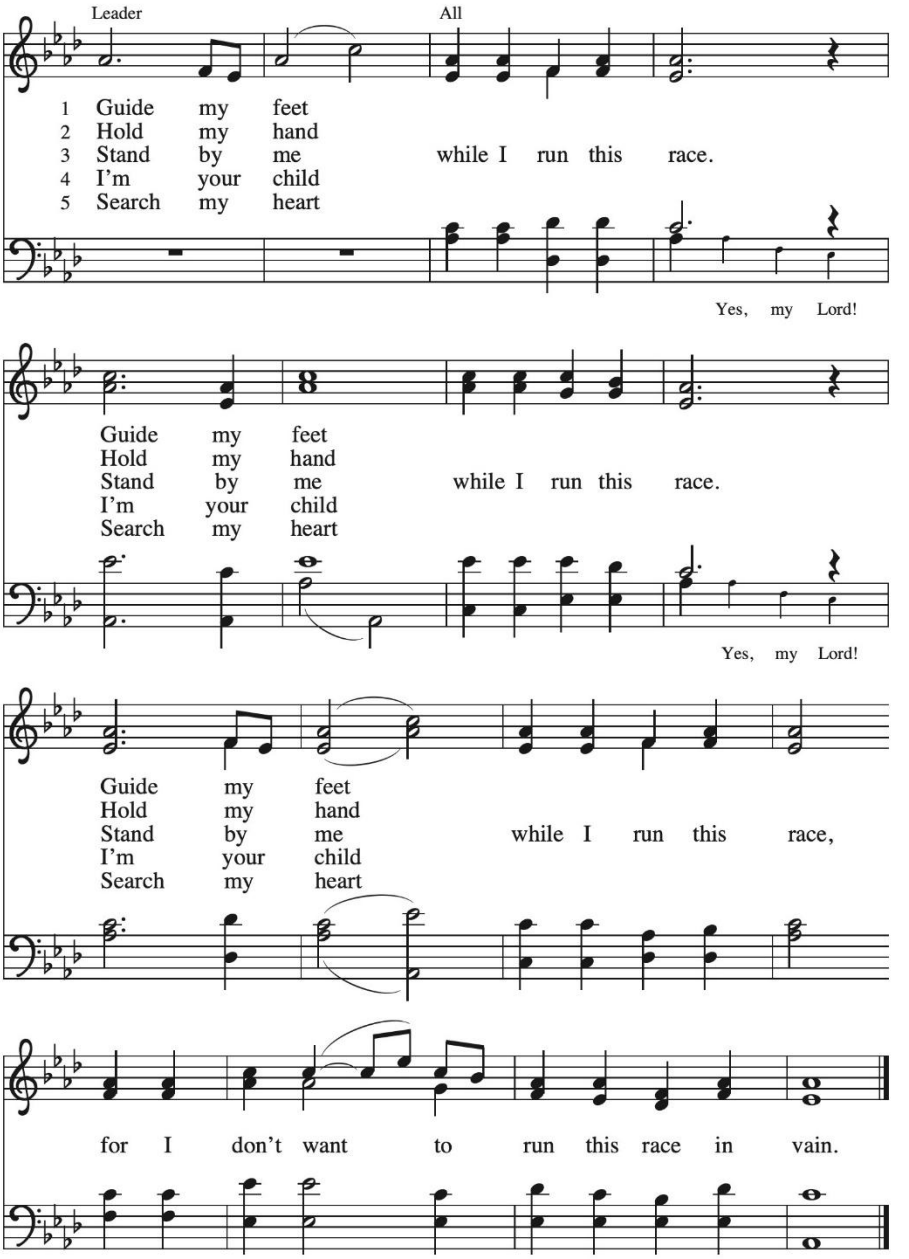
45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that
he was speaking about them. 46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the
crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

P: The Gospel of our Lord
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON ***Pastor Misha McFarland-Pollock***

(Please Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Guide My Feet"* **ACS Hymn 987**

We Respond to God's Word

APOSTLES' CREED ***(unison)***

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

(*Please be seated)*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:
P: Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.

We Share in the Holy Meal

(Please Stand)

DIALOGUE

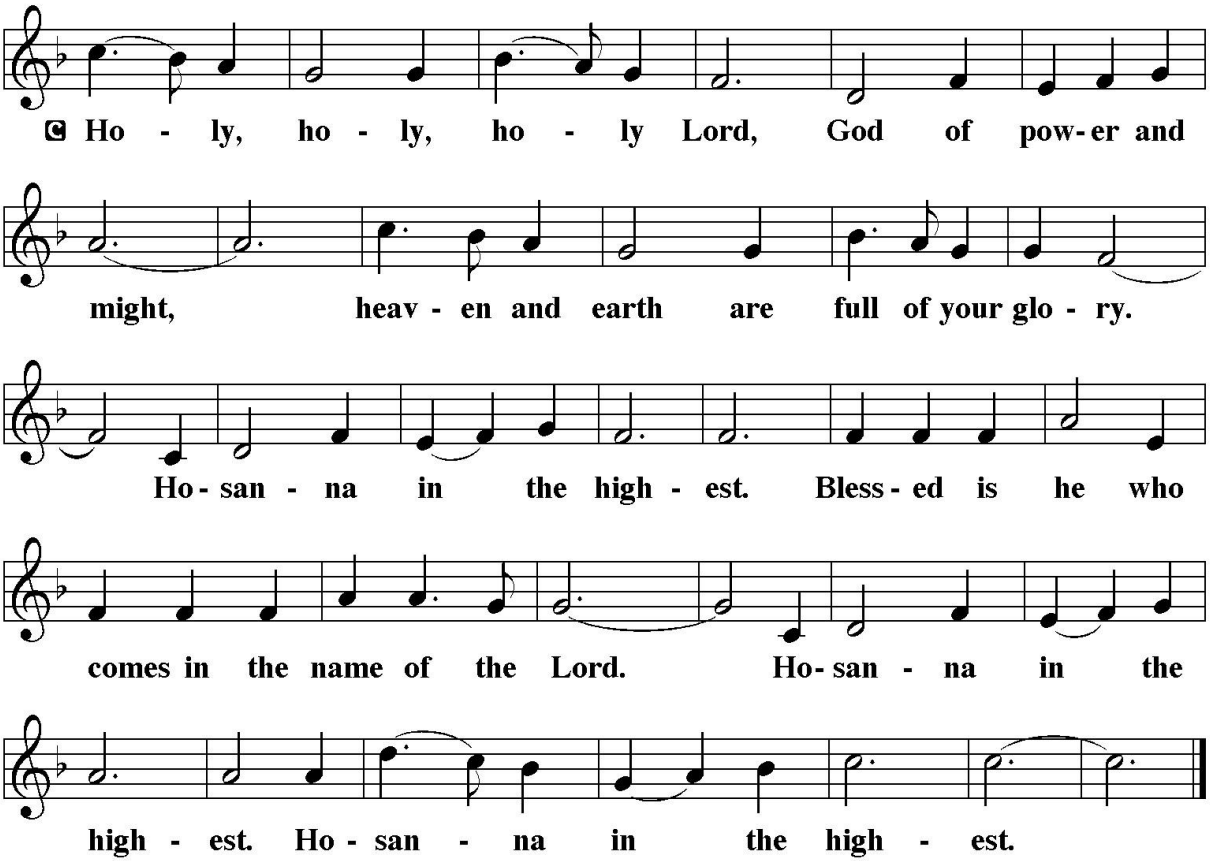
P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy….

…we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER ***(unison)***

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

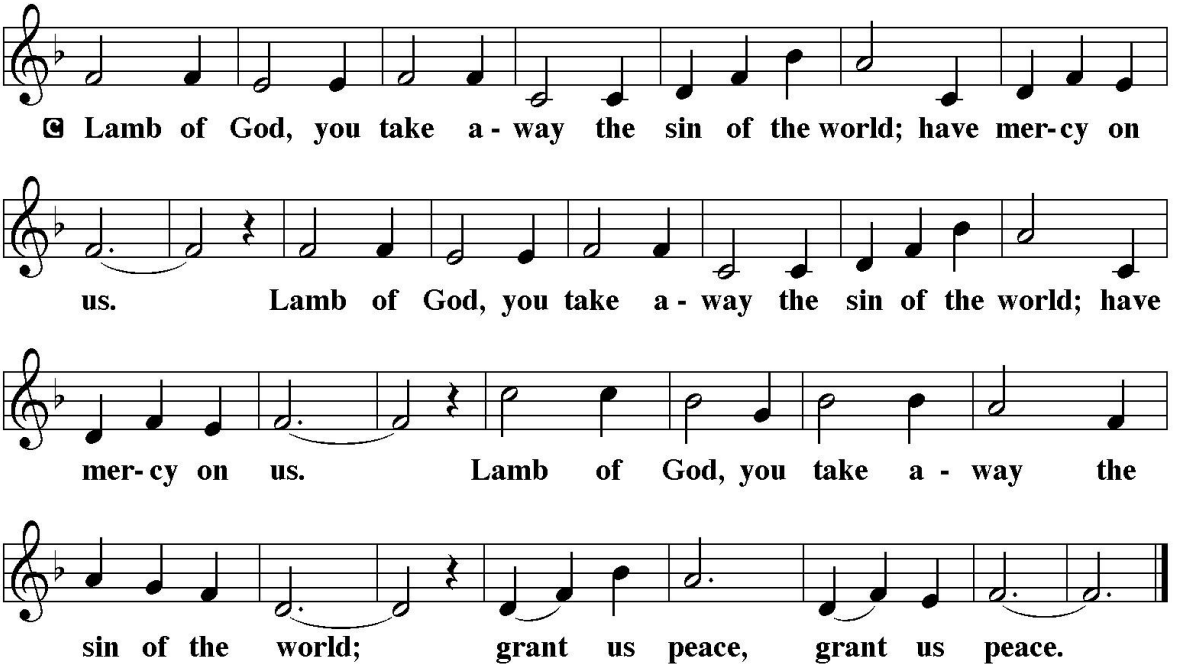
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

(Please be seated)

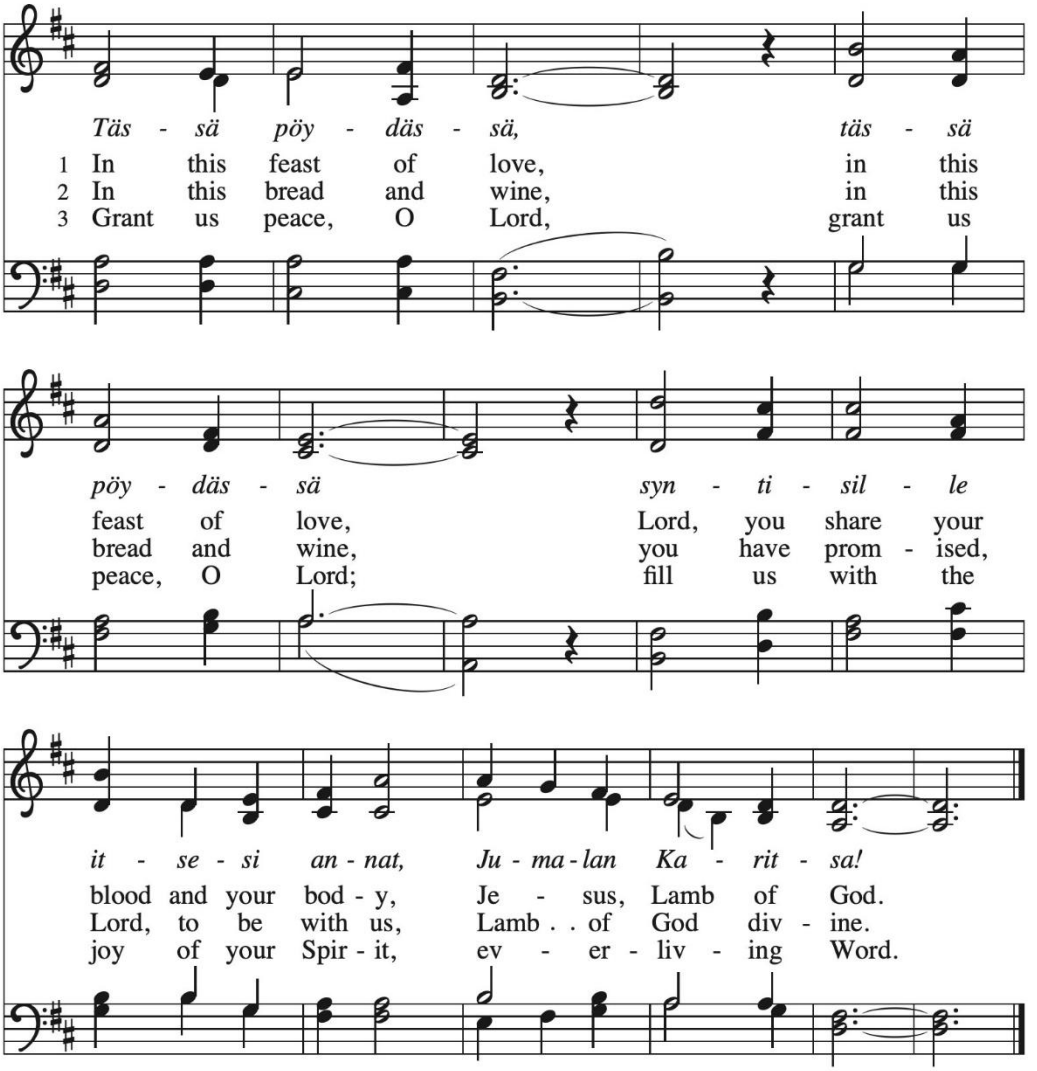
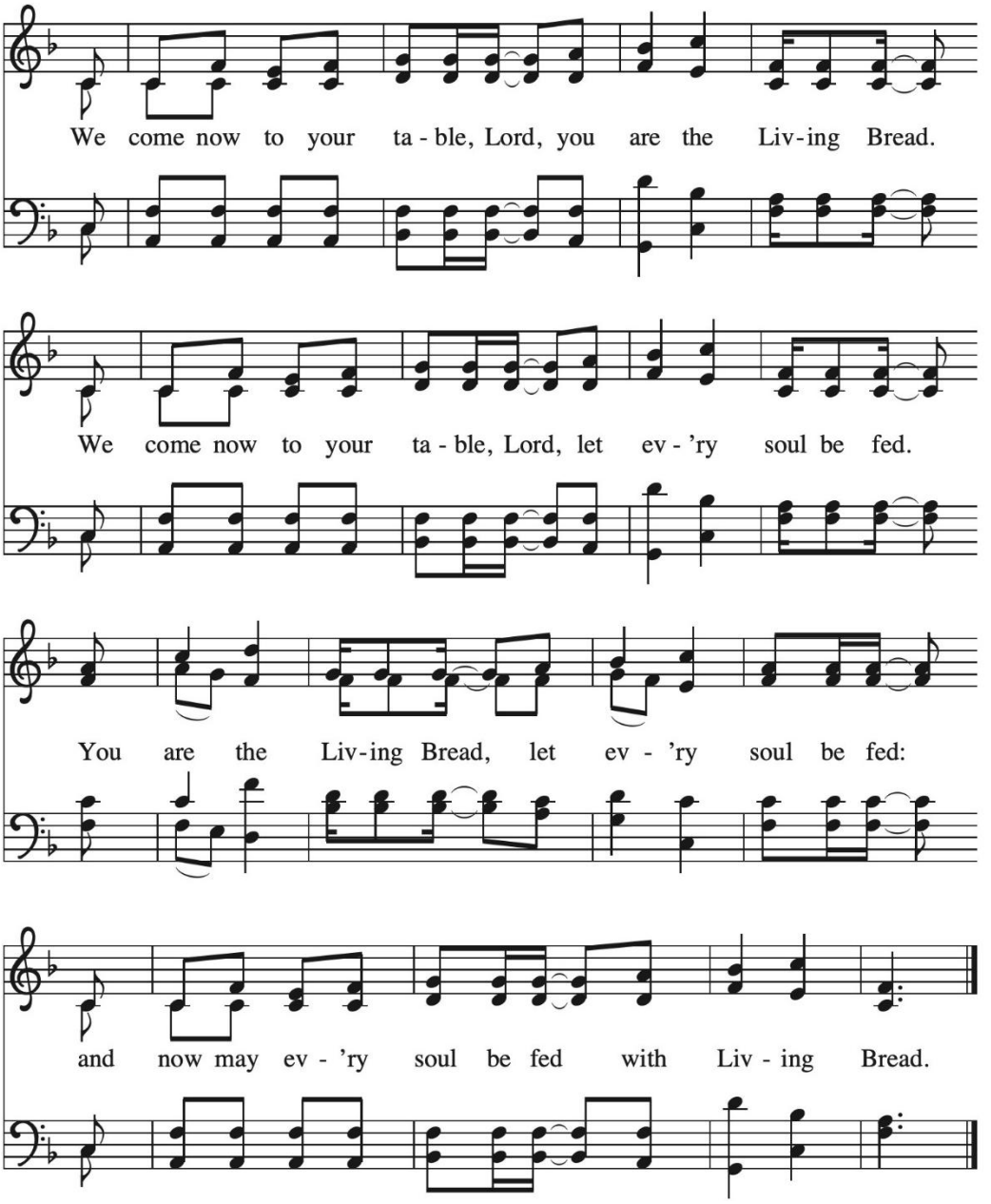
LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION BY INDIVIDUAL GLASSES

(Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)

All who believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to commune. Children who do not commune are welcome to come for a blessing. You will be given a wafer. The glasses of dark liquid are wine; the middle ring is juice. There is a bowl of water if you would like to remember your baptism.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *"In This Feast of Love"* ACS Hymn 962

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *"We Come Now to Your Table"* **ACS Hymn 970**

(Please Stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

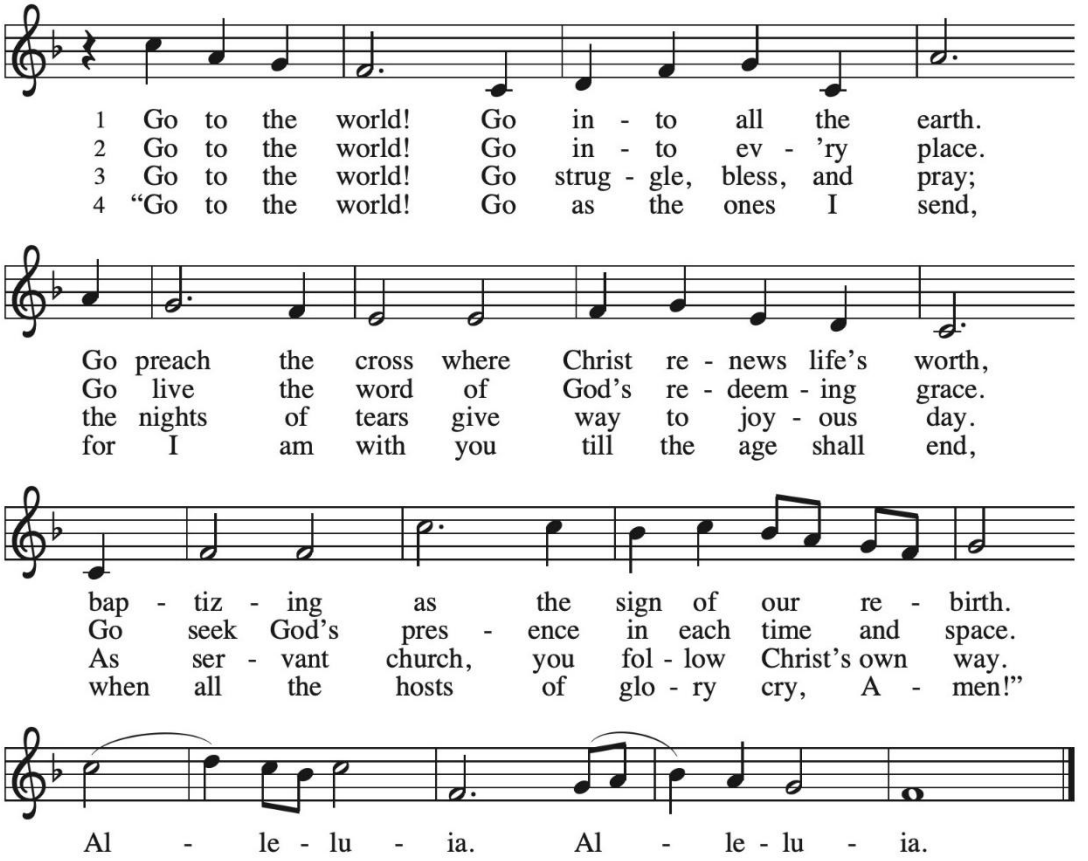
C: Amen.

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *"Go to the World"* **ACS Hymn 991**

DISMISSAL

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector:	Judy Craven
Usher:	Susan Swanson
Communion:	Tiffany & Michelle Huppenbauer
Greeters:	Carol Dodge
Lutheran Campus Ministry:	Open
Missionary Support:	Open
Altar Flowers:	Deb Hoxie
Remember in prayer:	Eleonore Benninghoven; Barb West; Norma Bock

~ ~

A Cry Room for infants is available up the stairs and to the right. There are Kids Celebrate children's bulletins available for youngsters who'd like to have their own reference to the lessons for this week. Ask our usher for help.

Please join us for coffee and donuts in the fellowship hall following the worship service. We would like to get to know you and offer our friendship.

~ ~

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Today:	**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**	
	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:55 a.m.	Lutheran Church of Hope Service
	1:00 p.m.	**Blessing of the Animals @ Messiah**
	2:00 p.m.	**11th Annual Organ Crawl @ 1st Congregational Church**
Monday:	**Noon**	**Retired School Personnel mtg.**
Tuesday:	**4:00 p.m.**	**Burlington Area Council of Churches mtg.**
Wednesday:	**1:00 p.m.**	**Women's Activity Group**
Thursday:	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study @ Messiah
Next Sunday:	**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**	
	10:30 a.m.	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	**Church Life & Outreach**
	10:55 a.m.	Lutheran Church of Hope Service

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The Annual Blessing of the Animals will take place on Sunday, October 4 @ 1:00pm at Messiah!

11th ANNUAL ORGAN CRAWL

The 11th Annual Organ Crawl, by Burlington Organists Network, will be held on Sunday, October 4 starting at 2:00pm at First Congregational Church, located at 313 N. 4th St. in downtown Burlington. From there, they will continue to First United Methodist Church & ending at First Presbyterian Church. Free and open to the public!

HAT & MITTEN TREE
It's that time of year again! Our hat and mitten tree is once again adorning our foyer! As you know, every year we collect winter hats, mittens, gloves, & scarves to donate to our local schools to be distributed to disadvantaged children.

SIGN UP FOR TRUNK OR TREAT AT MESSIAH
It's that time of year again! Messiah is asking for your help in the Trunk or Treat ministry, preschool and community outreach program to help pass out candy on Sunday, October 25! Each vehicle that set up to hand out candy will be given a bag of candy. Vehicle trunks can be decorated in any theme, but not required. Last year about 275 children participated in this ministry. Vehicle trunks will need to be parked by 3:30pm (in the first 2 rows of parking spaces nearest the church) and Trunk or Treat is from 4:00pm – 5:00pm. The sign-up sheet is out and available on the table in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Laura Carruthers at 319-759-4377.

WOMEN'S ACTIVITY GROUP
A new monthly activity group for women began with 13 women participating. The next meeting is Wednesday, October 7 at 1:00pm, in Bethany's church library. The activity is intended to offer support (personally and spiritually), friendship, information, and fun…all unrelated to government or church politics. As a whole, the group will determine the flow of each monthly meeting and future meeting times; be it small intimate conversations, group discussions, games, planning a Godly inspired activity, etc, or all of the above. Get your creative juices working! Let's come up with a good name for our group! Please pray for God's goodness to guide this Church life activity. Bring your own beverage. Hope to see you. If you have any questions, please see or contact Pam Taylor (319-750-7982) or Vicki Stoller (319-750-2384).

LUNCH BUNCH
Lunch Bunch will be meeting next on Wednesday, October 14 @ 12:30pm @ Napoli's! To sign up, have questions, or need transportation arrangement, please call Dave Nuebel at 319-237-6933.

PROPERTY REQUEST
If anyone would like to donate their Menards rebates to the property committee, they would appreciate the help to buy the things needed for maintenance. If you are interested in donating yours, please drop them off to the office or give them to a member of the property committee.

WEEKLY FINANCE REPORT

These are the numbers for where we are financially for the dates of September 20 – September 26:

September 20-September 26
Income: $3,229.09
Expense: $0

If you have any questions about these numbers, please contact a member of the Finance Committee.

OCTOBER OUTREACH DONATIONS

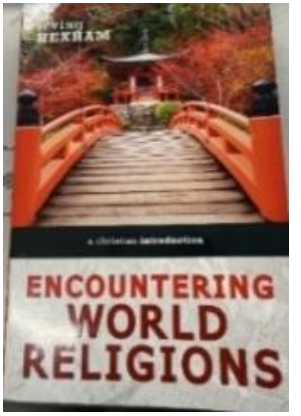
Food Pantry Donations for October: Soups and Crackers! Thank you for your generosity!

MESSIAH'S WOMEN'S GROUP "GIRLFRIENDS IN GRACE"

The ladies of Messiah would like to invite you to participate in a new women's fellowship group called "Girlfriends in Grace". Let's get excited about Jesus and meeting with like-minded women! Our meeting will be on Wednesday, October 21 at 6:00pm at Burlington Public Library. For information, please contact Jana Hayes at 319-457-0481.

OCTOBER PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB

Our October book club will meet again on Tuesday, October 13 @ 5:00 p.m., here at Bethany. All are invited to join us! For this month, we will be reading "A Christian Introduction: Encountering World Religions" By Irving Hexham!



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Bethany Lutheran Church
2515 Madison Ave., Burlington, IA Phone: (319) 752-3621
www.bethanyburlington.org

Office Hours
Monday-Wednesday-Friday – 9:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday & Thursday – 1:30pm-4:30pm

Pastor Misha's Office Hours
Bethany: Monday & Tuesday
Messiah: Wednesday & Thursday
**** Pastor Misha's hours vary in the office from week to week as she may be out of office on visits or other Pastor duties. Please call or text her to make an appointment or to see if she is in the office. ****

Pastor Misha's contact info: 412-628-6382; damisha.mcfarlandpollock@gmail.com

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Our Staff

Rev. Misha McFarland-Pollock	Pastor
Cory Byrne	Organist/Choir Director
Wendy Bell	Office Administrator
Michelle Huppenbauer	Financial Secretary
Pam Crable	Custodian