October, 2026 Volume 66, Issue 10

The Chimes

Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

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

Welcome to Fall!

It's that time of year again! Where the temperature starts to drop and the leaves start to change and drop to the ground! Pumpkin patches and apple orchards are becoming busy again with the sounds of children's laughter and their joy of picking their own pumpkins.

It's a time for all things fall! Including at Bethany and Messiah! Friday, October 2 kicks off with Bruce's ordination at Ascension Lutheran Church in Goose Lake, IA! Sunday, October 4 at 1:00pm is the Blessing of the Animals at Messiah's shelter house and the 11th Annual Organ Crawl starts at 2:00pm at First Congregational Church in downtown Burlington! Messiah's Trunk or Treat takes place on Sunday, October 25 from 4:00pm-5:00pm. Sign-up sheet is available now to volunteer to help pass out candy! Sunday, October 25 is also Youth Sunday at Messiah at 10:30am, where the Youth will lead service! Lots more happening this month! Check inside for more details!

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
September 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.

We Are Growing: Welcoming a New Chapter of Service

Evelyn K. Davis Center
FOR WORKING FAMILIES

We are excited to celebrate the continued growth of our ministry and our commitment to serving the Des Moines community!

Since July 1, 2026, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) has officially been operating the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families in Des Moines. This transition marks a new chapter for a Center that has been a cornerstone of opportunity, workforce development, financial empowerment, and family support for Central Iowa families and individuals since 2012.

In the caring spirit of its namesake, Evelyn K. Davis, the Center was established as a first-of-its-kind resource center to help unemployed, under-employed, and underserved residents of Central Iowa pursue their educational and career goals. Today, the Center serves thousands of Central Iowans each year through a wide range of programs and services designed to help individuals and families build stronger, more secure futures.

Through the Evelyn K. Davis Center, LSI provides resources and support including:

Financial Empowerment: The Polk County Financial Empowerment Center provides professional, confidential one-on-one financial counseling to Polk County residents at no cost.

Careers & Employability: Career Coaches are available to help individuals with their employment goals, including job searches, career development, and navigating new opportunities.

Men on the Move Clothing Closet: Community members can receive professional clothing for job interviews, career changes, and other occasions that require professional attire.

Iowa Opportunity Passport: This financial education and matched-savings program helps young people develop financial skills and make a successful transition to adulthood.

Small Business Solutions Center: Entrepreneurs and nonprofit leaders can access business coaching and development assistance.

Y-ExCL: This paid, 10-week summer work experience helps young people ages 14–21 develop and strengthen valuable employment skills.

These programs reflect LSI's commitment to meeting people where they are and helping them discover pathways toward greater stability, independence, and opportunity. Last month, LSI celebrated this exciting transition with a public ribbon-cutting ceremony, bringing together community members, partners, supporters, elected officials, and friends of the Center to recognize its history and look ahead to its future.

We are grateful for the trust placed in LSI and for the opportunity to build upon the Center's important legacy. This new chapter allows us to expand our presence and service in Des Moines while continuing the work of helping our neighbors thrive.

We are thankful for where this work has been, excited about where it is today, and full of hope for what the future holds. What a wonderful example of how partnerships, compassion, and a commitment to serving our neighbors can strengthen our entire community!

LSI's Executive Team and EKDC team gathered for a ribbon-cutting celebration on July 9, marking an exciting milestone and celebrating the continued impact of this important work in our community. We're grateful for the dedication and partnership that make moments like this possible.

Welcoming New Leadership to Our Philanthropy Team

After living across the street from LSI's Des Moines campus for 14 years, our new Director of Philanthropy, Brad Schabel, thought he had a pretty good sense of what LSI did. Since joining LSI in June, he's discovered just how much more there is to the story.

"From the inside, I've been amazed by LSI's reach, serving people in all 99 Iowa counties, and by the dedication of the staff, volunteers, congregations, and supporters who make this work possible."

He's also gained a deeper appreciation for the impact of faithful stewardship and the ways congregations and donors help LSI serve children, families, adults, older Iowans, refugees, and people with disabilities across Iowa.

"Sometimes our perspective changes not because we've moved very far, but because we've been invited to look more closely."

We're excited to welcome Brad to the LSI philanthropy team and grateful for the perspective, passion, and partnership he brings to our mission.

LSI
LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA

FROM THE PASTOR

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. – Numbers 6:24-26

School is back in full swing! We have blessed teachers, students, and backpacks. Sunday School is back in action, and Confirmation students are studying the New Testament. We have worked together to serve the people of Burlington for our God's Work Our Hands Day. The bishop visited and delivered a powerful message on grace, mercy, and love on Rally Sunday for our joint worship service. This was followed by a lovely picnic full of food, conversation, and fellowship.

I will attend the Synod Fall Gathering September 27-29. I have also been asked to be a guest on a podcast highlighting rural and small-town ministry. I will record my episodes in early October. During the month of October, I will lead weekly worship at Klein on Tuesdays at 2pm. Bethany will host monthly BACC (Burlington Area Council of Churches) meetings. They take place on the first Tuesday of the month at 4pm. October 19 – 22 I will attend The Preach Conference in Minnesota.

October brings our annual Trunk or Treat at Messiah. Reformation Sunday will be another Youth Takeover at Messiah. And then we turn our face towards Advent that begins November 29th. Our midweek Advent services will be held at Bethany. There will be a BACC Thanksgiving Service held at Bethany on November 22nd at 5pm. Our joint Thanksgiving Eve service will be held November 25th at 7pm at Messiah. Fall has a lot of opportunities for us to come together as church and to serve the people of Burlington.

Finally, October is a very happy month for me and Bruce! He will be ordained to the roster of Word and Service which means he will be a Deacon! His Ordination is on Friday, October 2nd at 5:30pm at Ascension Lutheran Church located in Goose Lake, Iowa! I'm a very proud wife indeed!

Blessings,

Pastor Misha

Meetings

The meetings for October, 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, Oct. 15 @ 6:30 p.m.

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

Church Life & Outreach Committee
Sunday, Oct. 11 @ 10:15 a.m.

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

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

Pastor's Book Club @ Bethany
Tuesday, Oct. 13 @ 5:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch
Wednesday, Oct. 14 @ 12:30 p.m. @ Napoli's

Women's Activity Group
Wednesday, Oct. 7 @ 1:00 p.m.

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, Oct. 17 @ 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

August 30 ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Attendance	51
Giving	$1,894.00

September ATTENDANCE

September 6	58
September 13	**At Messiah**
September 20	52
September 27	39

September GIVING

September 6	$1,790.00
September 13	**At Messiah*
September 20	$3,189.09
September 27	$1,655.00
Total:	$6,634.09

Due to time constraints last month, attendance and giving for August 30th is included in this Chimes issue

August VANCO total: $1,625.00

LAY LEADERS

October Usher: Susan Swanson

Communion Assistants
4 – Tiffany & Michelle Huppenbauer
11 – Mike Hopp; Julie Wischmeier
18 – Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt
25 – Mark Rosenberg; Rachel Lindeen

Lector
4 – Judy Craven
11 – Carlene Woodside
18 – Todd Chelf
25 – Mike Hopp

Greeters
4 – Carol Dodge
11 – Sharon Martindale
18 – Marlys McClurg & Vanette Wooldridge
25 – Judy Craven

Flowers
4 – Deb Hoxie
11 – Susan Swanson
18 – Vanette Wooldridge & Marlys McClurg
25 – Lynda Johnson

Missionary Support
4 – Open
11 – Open
18 – Open
25 – Open

Lutheran Campus Ministry
4 – Open
11 – Pam Taylor
18 – Open
25 – Bev Sherbondy

Altar Guild
Pam Taylor
Julie Wischmeier
Libby Mangold

Bruce's Ordination!

On Friday, October 2, 2026 at 5:30pm, Bruce Pollock will begin his Ordination into the Ministry of Word and Service to become a Deacon and installed as Director of Mission Builders! His ordination will take place at Ascension Lutheran Church, located at 155 Obrian St. Goose Lake, IA 15219. Bishop Amy Current will be presiding and Dr. Man Hei Yip will be preaching! Refreshments will follow. The service will also be streamed live on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranChurchGL/

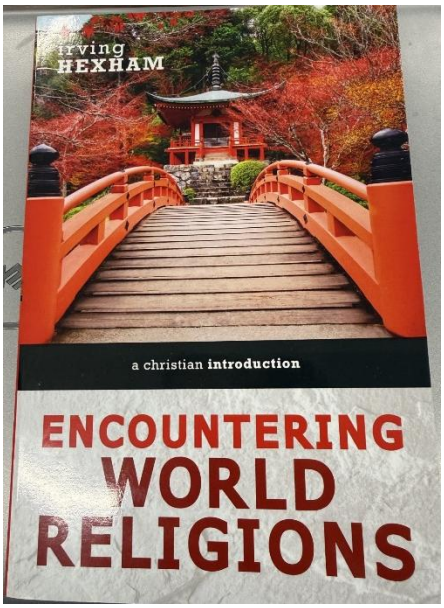
Congratulations, Bruce!

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, October 14 @ 12:30pm @ Napoli's. 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, October 13 at 5:00pm at Bethany! All are welcome to join us! This month we are reading "A Christian Introduction: Encountering World Religions" By Irving Hexham!



NEW! Women's Activity Group!

A new monthly activity for women began with 13 women participating. The next meeting is Wednesday, October 7 at 1:00pm in the Bethany church library. The activity is intended to offer support (personally & 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 ladies! If you have questions, please see or contact Pam Taylor (319-750-7982) or Vicki Stoller (319-750-2384).

Hat and Mitten Tree

It's that time of year again! That's right! The hat and mitten tree has returned to adorn our foyer! As you may know, every year we collect warm hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves throughout the month of October to donate to our local schools to be distributed to disadvantaged children! This is a wonderful ministry and helps to keep children warm during the winter months!

Organ Crawl

The Burlington Organists Network presents the 11th Annual Organ Crawl on Sunday, October 4, starting at 2:00pm at First Congregational Church (located at 313 N. 4th St. Downtown Burlington), continuing to First United Methodist and ending at First Presbyterian Church! This event is free and open to the public!

Blessing of the Animals

The Annual Blessing of the Animals will take place on Sunday, October 4 at 1:00pm at Messiah's shelter house! Bring your pets to be blessed!

Messiah's 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 Wednesday, October 21 at 6:00pm at the Burlington Public Library. For information, please contact Jana Hayes at 319-457-0481.

Trunk or Treat

Messiah will be hosting their Annual Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 25 and is asking for your help to pass out candy to church members & their families, Messiah's preschool families and to the community for this wonderful ministry, preschool, and community outreach program. Each vehicle that sets up to hand out candy, will be given a bag of candy! A sign-up sheet is already out on the table in the fellowship hall for any volunteers that would love to help!

Vehicle trunks can be decorated in any theme, but not required. Last year, about 275 children participated in this ministry. Vehicle trunks need to be parked by 3:30pm (please park in the 2 rows closest to the church) and Trunk or Treat is from 4:00pm – 5:00pm! For more information, please contact Laura Carruthers at 319-759-4377.

Youth Sunday at Messiah

Messiah's Youth will be leading worship on Sunday, October 25 at 10:30am at Messiah! Make sure to wear the color red.

Save the Date!

Italian Dinner Night at Bethany!

When: Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Time: 5:00pm – 6:30pm

Menu

Ziti with Chicken
Lasagna Rolls
Spaghetti
Various breads
Salad
Desserts

Free will donation!

Bethany Lutheran Church

Minutes of the Church Council Regular Meeting

August 19 2026

Bethany Social Hall, 6:30 pm

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mike Hopp, Pres. at 6:30pm

Present: Mike Hopp-President, Bev Sherbondy- Vice President, Pam Taylor-Secretary, Dan Wischmeier-Treasurer, Pastor Misha, Michelle Huppenbauer, Tiffany Huppenbauer, Vicki Stoller, Dave Neubell, Bill Mundt, Dirk Zaiser

Absent: Julie Chubb, Tom Bonar

The pastor shared the Aaronic blessing found in Numbers 6:24.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Dave, seconded by Dan to approve both June 17th minutes. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Dan, seconded by Dave to approve the July 15th minutes. Motion Carried.

The Pastor's Report

Pastor gave a verbal report of her full activities in July and August to date.

Financials: See written report. Dan presented the reports for the Account Balances, Income and Expense, and the Endowment Funds as of 7/31/26.

The finance committee had authorized $10,000 to be moved from the Zabloudil memorial to the General Fund.

The Endowment funds increased in the second quarter by $66,670.

The finance committee presented the motion to the council to send $5,000 from the General Fund to the Lutheran Disaster Relief. After discussion, the motion was approved by council vote.

Dan motioned, seconded by Bev, to change support from Missionary Support to Lutheran Campus Ministry starting September 1, 2026. Motion carried. There is no current missionary assigned to our area. Michelle reported that during the annual Synod meeting in May, it was observed that the Synod made comments supportive of Campus Ministry. Michelle will gather information from the Synod on what churches have Campus Ministry and how they support them. This information will be in the Sept. newsletter. The pastor may have a speaker here Nov. 1st who can also speak on Campus Ministries. Congregants can continue to support Missionary, if they so choose. Envelopes will be available to indicate area of support. Suggested support level will not change at this time following some discussion about options. Michelle volunteered to make an announcement two Sundays in a row in church, starting this Sunday.

Committees

a. **Church Life/**

b. **Church Outreach:** No written report. Bill and Bev shared information.
   - September food donations requested are to be for school lunch box items.
   - They are waiting for more information on the parade.
   - Ice Cream social numbers were down. There were weather concerns and another large community event. There was some discussion, based on feedback that we could do these more often or a similar soup supper-like event. Or a park picnic following a joint service in the spring.
   - Michelle will get information on Operation Christmas Child as a possible option for the committee to recommend in place of the Bike project for Christmas.

c. **Finance:** covered above

d. **Property:** See written report. No particular issue reported.

Dirk motioned and Pam seconded to accept Pastor's report and the Committee reports. Motion Carried.

Old Business

a. **Personnel handbook:** Some staff have provided input.
b. **Annual Employee Reviews:** Pam T has met with one staff; dates are scheduled to complete the reviews on the remaining staff by the end of August.
c. **Nominating Committee:** Pam would ask one more person. There are 4 confirmed.
d. **God's Work, Our Hands:** September 12th, Saturday, participants will meet at Bethany at 9am and choose from a number of different skill level activities being planned.
e. **Membership list:** Dan has been working on this project. There are many variables to address. He is to get his list to Michelle and she can determine in the past 2 consecutive years: 1.) who has attended church taking communion and 2.) who has given monetarily. If a person has done one of these two things in that time frame they will stay on the list. If a person has done neither of these two activities within that time frame, they may be contacted before removal from membership per constitution. The importance of filling out an attendance card was discussed and a reminder will be made to the congregation. Someone or group will have to make sure the pews are filled with cards. It is unclear whose responsibility it is to create and print the cards.
f. **Goals:** n/a
g. **Website/Facebook Update** - Dirk is to give Michelle a list of the items he wants on the website for now. She will see what she and Wendy can do, then we will go from there as to what direction to take next.

New Business

a. Fabry - organ technicians. Organ repairs were discussed. No motions made.

Meeting adjourned around 7:45 pm

Next meeting September 16th

Respectfully submitted, Pam Taylor, Secretary

Announcements

Bruce Pollock's Ordination into the Ministry of Word and Service to become a Deacon and installed as Director of Mission Builders, on Friday, October 2 at 5:30pm at Ascension Lutheran Church in Goose Lake, IA. Please see article for further details.

Blessing of the Animals takes place on Sunday, October 4 at 1:00pm at Messiah's Shelter house! Bring your pets to be blessed!

The 11th Annual Organ Crawl takes place on Sunday, October 4 at 2:00pm starting at First Congregational Church on N. 4th St. in downtown Burlington, continuing to First United Methodist Church and ending at First Presbyterian Church.

The office will open late at 2:30pm on Thursday, October 8 and 29.

Bethany's Women's Activity Group will meet again on Wednesday, October 7 at 1:00pm in Bethany's church library. Get your creative juices working to help come up with a good name for our group! Please bring your own drink. If you have any questions, please see or contact Pam Taylor (319-750-7982) or Vicki Stoller (319-750-2384).

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

Pastor Misha will be away to the Preach Conference in Minnesota from the afternoon of Sunday, October 18 through Wednesday, October 21.

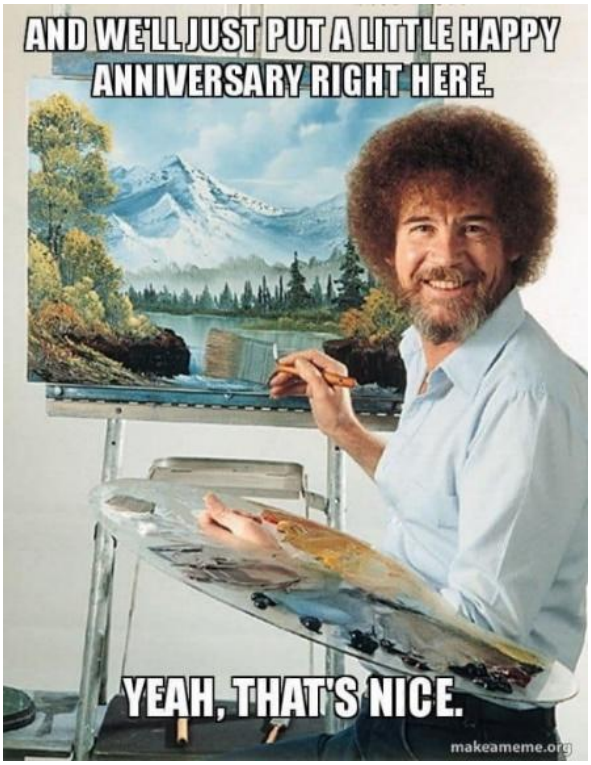
Messiah's Girlfriends in Grace Women's group will meet on Wednesday, October 21 at 6:00pm at Burlington Public Library. For more information, please contact Jana Hayes at 319-457-0481.

Trunk or Treat at Messiah takes place on Sunday, October 25 from 4:00pm – 5:00pm. Sign-up sheet for volunteering to hand out candy is out and available in the fellowship hall. Please see article for more detailed information!

Pastor Misha will be on vacation from Wednesday, October 28 through Saturday, November 14.

October Anniversaries

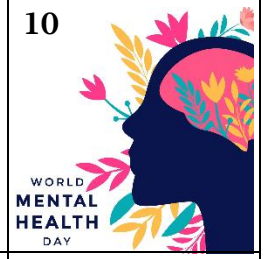
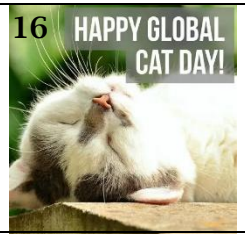
3 – Jeff & Kim Engle
6 – Dylon & Brett Kuster
7 – Michael & Hilary Kastner
8 – Tom & Michelle Cox
12 – Greg & Lynda Johnson
14 – Randy & Marlys Tharp



October BIRTHDAYS

1 – Joe Gerdes
2 – Kim Engle; Sidney Boyer
5 – Graham Oetken
7 – Bradley Howell; Shelley Wallace
8 – Teresa Morehead
9 – Annette Miller
11 – Sharyn Miller
12 – Joshua Bloomer; Ellen Shepherd
14 – Todd Chelf; Bev Sherbondy
15 – Mitchell Huston; Jeff Woodside
17 – Jamie Adam
18 – Marlys McClurg
21 – Eleonore Benninghoven; Teresa Staub
22 – Kelli Reichelt
26 – Evynne Bonar
29 – Pat Reichelt
30 – Shannon Oetken

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Paraments: Green: 4, 11, 18 Red: 25	**Office Hours** Mon.-Wed.-Fri.: 9:00am-1:00pm Tues. & Thurs.: 1:30pm-4:30pm			1 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah	2 *Nurses mtg. @ 9:30am* Bruce Pollock Ordination @ 5:30pm @ Ascension Lutheran in Goose Lake, IA	3
4 19th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service 1:00pm Blessing of the Animals @ Messiah 2:00pm Organ Crawl at 1st Congregational Church	5 Retired School Personnel Mtg. @ Noon	6 Burlington Area Council of Churches mtg. @ 4:00pm in Fellowship Hall	7 New Women's Activity Group mtg @ 1:00pm in Bethany's Library	8 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah *Office to open late by 2:30pm*	9	10 
11 20th Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Church Life & Outreach 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	12 Property mtg. @ 6:30pm	13 Pastor's Book Club @ 5pm @ Bethany	14 Lunch Bunch @ 12:30pm @ Napoli's	15 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah Exec. Comm mtg @ 6:00pm Finance Mtg. @ 6:30pm	16 	17 8:00am Men's Breakfast
18 21st Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service *Pastor Misha departs in afternoon for Preach conf. in Minnesota 10/18-10/21*	19 	20 **Chimes Deadline**	21 *Pastor Misha returns this evening* Council Mtg. @ 6:30pm *Messiah's Girlfriends in Grace Women's Group @ 6:00pm @ The Burlington Library*	22 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah	23	24
25 Reformation Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service 4:00pm-5:00pm Trunk or Treat @ Messiah. Please be parked and ready by 3:30pm.	26	27	28 *Pastor Misha departs for Vacation 10/28 - 11/13*	29 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah *Office to open late by 2:30pm*	30	31