



## Bethany Lutheran Church

### Mission Statement

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

# The Chimes



## Ice Cream Social



To everyone who helped in some way with this year's Ice Cream Social, be it donating food items, cooking, serving, set up and clean up, etc... We thank you very much for your help! Without you, this event could not go on! Over 200 people were served at our event and we made \$2,290.00 after expenses! Half of this year's proceeds are going to Messiah Youth and half to the Neighborhood Center! Another successful year in the books!



### Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

2515 Madison Ave.  
Burlington, Iowa  
Phone: (319) 752-3621  
[www.bethanyburlington.org](http://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

*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.*

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## **Your Support makes this Testimony possible...**

### **A New Beginning: Carmen's Journey to Safety and Self-Reliance**

Carmen Ortiz was born in Charco, Nariño, Colombia. At 11, her family relocated to Buenaventura, where she finished high school and watched her father build a small business. Violence in the region forced the family to move again — this time to Bogotá, in search of safety and stability.

In Bogotá, Carmen reconnected with a childhood friend who would become her life partner. Together, they launched *Frutería*, a fruit-selling business Carmen successfully operated for 17 years. During that time, she also became a mother to her son, Adiel Jesús.

In 2023, violence once again disrupted their lives. Fearing for their safety, Carmen and Adiel fled to Ecuador and applied for asylum through the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Life in Ecuador was grueling.

“We were homeless. I had to sleep with my son under a bridge,” she recalls. “He got sick and had to be hospitalized.”

After more than a year, IOM helped process their immigration status and arranged travel to the U.S. In July 2024, they arrived in Houston — exhausted, hungry, and unsure of what came next. The guide assigned to help them was rarely available. Desperate for help and food, Carmen approached airline staff to ask about a delayed flight.

“We were so hungry. I just wanted to know when our flight would leave and instead, three employees brought us full meals. I started to cry. I had just arrived, and people were already helping me.”

Their flight to Des Moines departed at midnight and landed at 2 a.m., where they were welcomed by Chuck, a caseworker from LSI (Lutheran Services in Iowa). He brought them to a hotel, where Carmen remembers feeling overwhelmed.

“I was scared and confused. I remember thinking: Are we safe? Are we okay?”

Sixteen days later, LSI helped Carmen and Adiel move into their first apartment. From that point, life began to change. Carmen enrolled in English classes, received assistance with legal paperwork, healthcare, and food — and soon found two jobs: one with Des Moines Public Schools, and another at Sam's Club.

“I'm incredibly grateful. LSI helped me with everything.”

But life without a car in a Midwestern winter was difficult. Carmen walked long distances through the snow, waited for buses, or spent \$60 a week on rideshares, just to get to work and get her son to school. During a routine check-in, Carmen's caseworker Shaima heard about these challenges and referred her to Duaa, an IDA Specialist at LSI.

Duaa introduced her to the matched savings program, which helps participants purchase essential assets — like a car — through financial education and support.

“I’d wake up my son very early so we could catch the school bus from our old address. Then I’d rush to work and still be late.”

Carmen had already saved \$2,000 on her own, knowing a car would be vital for her family's stability. Through LSI's Individual Development Accounts program, she opened an account at Veridian Credit Union, completed budgeting and asset-specific classes, and received one-on-one coaching from Juan Lourido, Business Development Specialist at LSI. Juan helped her understand financing, credit, and how to identify reliable used cars online. With his help, Carmen purchased a safe, fuel-efficient 2015 Toyota Prius that fits her family's needs and budget. “I never thought I could buy a car especially one that was safe and good quality. Now I take my son to school and go to work. That means everything to me.”

She also opened a secured \$500 credit card to begin building her credit history.

“These classes helped me prepare for when income slows down in the summer. I feel independent now, especially with the car.”

Today, Carmen is preparing for her driving test, building a new life, and planning for the future.

“When we left Colombia, we were running from threats and violence. Now I’m getting used to a new life, looking for opportunities to grow, maybe buy a house, and support my son’s education.”

When asked to describe her journey in one word, she answers without hesitation:

**“Apoyo” — Support.**





*Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you. - Deuteronomy 31:6*

I recently attended the ELCA Churchwide Assembly that was held in Phoenix, AZ July 28 – August 2. It was an amazing experience full of learning, networking, worship, research, and voting – lots of voting. Here are some highlights from the week.

The Churchwide Assembly voted to adopt the edited (updated) social statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*. This places in writing an expanded understanding of marriage that includes same gender marriages in addition to marriage comprised of a man and a woman. The Churchwide Assembly also voted to adopt the social statement *Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All*. Expanding the role and number of youth and young adults serving on churchwide committees was also approved. Many other items were discussed – some approved and some not. I will talk about them in future newsletters.

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly also elected a Presiding Bishop and a Secretary. Bishop Yehiel Curry was elected Presiding Bishop. He is currently the Bishop of the Metro Chicago Synod. His six-year term as Presiding Bishop begins on October 1, 2025. His installation is on October 4, 2025, in Minneapolis, MN at Central Lutheran Church at 2pm. I will be attending and will tell you all about it when I get back!

Rev. Lucille (CeCee) Mills was elected as Secretary. Rev. Mills is currently the Assistant to the Bishop of the North Carolina Synod. She was installed as Secretary during the Churchwide Assembly. Her six-year term begins November 1, 2025. Rev. Mills is one of my mentors. I am grateful to learn from someone with such a variety of gifts and skills.

Now as far as things that I have been up to the list is quite long. A quick recap of a few items for those interested follows. I continue to do home visits which has always and continues to include providing communion. I was the preacher for the month of July at Klein for their weekly worship service. August 19 – 25 I was the pastor in residence at Chapel in the Hills located in Rapid City, SD. Bruce's internship was completed on August 17, and we met up in Rapid City. I couldn't wait to be in the same place together again with my husband!

We had a wonderful time and turnout for the Ice Cream Social at Bethany! Thank you to all who helped out and to those who attended! Half of the proceeds are being donated to the youth program at Messiah! I love it when we are church together!

We are moving to ELW Setting 3 beginning September 7, 2025. We will be in the setting for the remainder of the year. Rally Day is also on September 7, and it will be a joint service held at Messiah. Sunday School will be at 9:15am, then worship at 10:30am, followed by grilling out and a potluck! I hope to see you all there!

Blessings,

Pastor Misha

# Meetings

The meetings for Sept., 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, Sept. 11 @ 7:00 p.m.

Executive Committee  
Thursday, Sept. 11 @ 6:00 p.m.

Church Life Committee  
Sunday, Sept. 14 @ 10:15 a.m.

Property Committee  
Monday, Sept. 8 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Council  
Wednesday, Sept. 17 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Outreach  
Sunday, Sept. 7 @ 10:15 a.m.

Pastor's Book Club  
Tuesday, Sept. 9 @ 7:00 p.m. @  
Bethany

Lunch Bunch  
Wednesday, Sept. 10 @ 12:30 p.m. @  
The Broadway

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### June 29 ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Attendance	48
Giving	\$1,329.00

### July ATTENDANCE

July 6	48
July 13	53
July 20	39
July 27	45

### July GIVING

July 6	\$2,137.00
July 13	\$1,475.00
July 20	\$1,360.90
July 27	<u>\$1,595.00</u>
Total:	\$6,567.90

### August ATTENDANCE

August 3	51
August 10	49
August 17	60
August 24	46

### August GIVING

August 3	\$2,360.00
August 10	\$866.40
August 17	\$1,372.00
August 24	<u>\$1,989.72</u>
Total:	\$6,588.12

*\*Due to time constraints, August 31 attendance and giving will be included in the Oct. Chimes issue.  
\*End of June totals were added due to time constraints and previous newsletter being a joint month issue.*

### 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.

June VANCO total: \$1,530.00  
July VANCO total: \$1,530.00





# LAY LEADERS

September Usher: Susan Swanson

## **Communion Assistants**

7 - *At Messiah*

14 - Jim & Sharon Martindale

21 - Mike Hopp; Julie Wischmeier

28 - Mark Rosenberg; Rachel Lindeen



## **Lector**

7 - *At Messiah*

14 - Pam Taylor

21 - Todd Chelf

28 - Ron Kastner

## **Greeters**

7 - *At Messiah*

14 - Mark & Bonnie Rosenberg

21 - Judy Craven

28 - Bill Mundt

## **Flowers**

7 - *At Messiah*

14 - Lynda Johnson

21 - Dan Wischmeier

28 - Susan Swanson

## **Missionary Support**

7 - *At Messiah*

14 - Open

21 - Open

28 - Open

## **Altar Guild**

Debbie Hoxie

Carol Dodge



# Joint Service for Rally Day



We will be joining with Messiah for Worship on Sunday, September 7, held at Messiah, for Rally Day! 10:30am starts Worship service and 9:15am starts Sunday School and Adult Education!

Stay for some fun fellowship following Worship service! Messiah will be grilling and hosting a potluck picnic! Please bring a dish to share if you are able!





## Lunch Bunch



Lunch Bunch is a new group get together that meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month for lunch! This month's Lunch Bunch will be on Wednesday, September 10 @ 12:30pm @ The Broadway in West Burlington. Please note the time change for this month! To sign up, if you have questions, or need transportation arrangements, please contact Dave Nuebel at 319-237-6933.

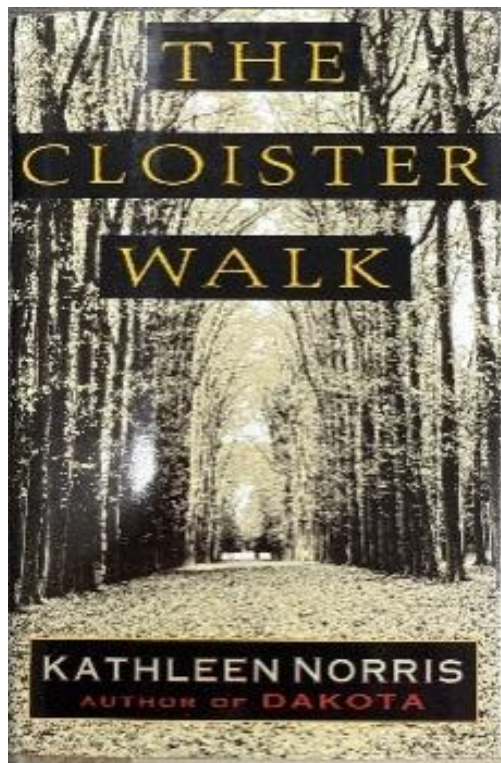


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## Pastor's Book Club



Pastor's Book Club will be meeting next on Tuesday, September 9 at 7:00pm at Bethany! This month we are reading "The Cloister Walk" By Kathleen Norris! All are welcome to join!





**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
**Minutes of the Church Council Regular Meeting**  
**June 18, 2025**

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

**Absent:** Julie Chubb, Mitchell Huston, and Tom Bonar,

Meeting was called to order by the President at 6:30 pm. Pastor read a devotional from Psalms 124.

**Minutes** Dave N motioned, Bev S seconded to approve May 21, 2025 Minutes. **Motion carried.**

**Pastor's Report** Discussed content of Pastor's reports to include home visits made. Pastor gave a verbal report on VBS, her trip to Wartburg, and the first fireside service held at Messiah. The next one is July 9 at Bethany.

**Financials** - Mike H provided written reports.

- Written reports were for both Income vs Expenses and the Checking Account Balances as of 5/31/25.
- The money from the land sale will be sent soon.

**Committee Reports**

**Church Life** - Bill M provided a written report. Ice Cream Social, August 13 will serve the same menu as last year. A portion of the proceeds will go to Messiah Youth. The committee is yet to determine where the remaining portion will go. Yard signs are available and advertisements will be run in Aug.

**Church Outreach** - Bev Sherbondy, gave a verbal report.

- Donations in June - general non-perishable goods.
- The committee is still pursuing the "caller" service to those shut-ins who may want it.

**Finance** - Mike reported that offerings are down due to summer and the loss of donations when there is a combined worship service at Messiah.

**Property** - Dirk Z presented a written report. Topics covered included the air conditioner and boiler, the burn pile, concrete on the south side of the parking lot, an outside faucet needing repair, new flood lights installed by the front door, the front sign project (Jan C will be selecting new plantings for the front signage area and men will be removing old brick).

Dave is working on designing a gutter for replacement.

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

## **Old Business**

Campfire Service - July 9. Pastor makes the arrangements.

Synod attendance - Due to unforeseen circumstances Bethany did not have attendance in May's event.

"Lunch Bunch" - Dave N. was given blessings by the council to move forward with trying to get a "lunch bunch" group started at Bethany to lunch together once a month for those interested.

Access to Council Minutes - council reviewed the process again. Bev S motioned. Dirk seconded to approve that Wendy is to send only approved minutes out with the Chimes.

**Motioned carried.** She can continue to post the DRAFTED minutes on the bulletin board. The council will continue to receive a draft as well.

## **New Business**

Zabloudil Estate - Bethany will receive a memorial from the estate.

## **Adjourn**

Vicki motioned to adjourn at 7:34. Seconded by Dirk. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted, Pam Taylor, Secretary

**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
**Minutes of the Church Council Regular Meeting**  
**July 16, 2025**

**Present:** Mike Hopp - President, Bev Sherbondy- Vice President, Vicki Stoller, Pam Taylor-Secretary, Dirk Zaiser-Treasurer, Dan Wischmeier, Dave Neubel, Tiffany Huppenbauer, Bill Mundt, and Tom Bonar. Michelle Huppenbauer (Bethany's Financial Secretary) was also present.

**Absent:** Julie Chubb, Mitchell Huston, and Pastor Misha  
The meeting was called to order by the President at 6:30 pm who also read a devotion.

**Minutes** Dave N motioned, Bev S seconded to approve June 18, 2025 Minutes. **Motion carried.**

**Pastor's Report** No report. Per the calendars passed out, Pastor will be off the last week in July and the 3rd week in August. There was no discussion of coverage in August, if needed.

**Financials** - Mike H reviewed financial reports of: Profit and Loss and Checking Account Balances as of 6/30/25. Endowment Fund Report 2nd Qtr and Endowment Scholarship 2nd Qtr Reports as of 6/27/25.

- A written report from the Finance Committee was also included. Discussions followed.
- Pam motioned and Dirk seconded the motion to approve the Scholarship committee's disbursement of checks to the 4 designated recipients in the amounts discussed. **Motion Carried.**
- Dan motioned and Bev seconded to send \$2500 each to the Synod in the categories of US Flooding and Lutheran Disaster Response. **Vote:** Eight ayes. Two nays. **Motion Carried.**

**Committee Reports**

**Church Life** - Bill M provided a written report. Ice Cream Social, August 13. Items and volunteers still needed but wrapping up. Proceeds will go ½ to Messiah Youth and the other ½ to the SEI Community Action's Neighborhood Center. Advertisements will be run in Aug. and a short talk in church on 8/3.

**Church Outreach** - Did not meet last month.

**Finance** - Report covered above under Financials.

**Property** - Bev submitted the written report. Most of the discussion held was on the status of the church air conditioners. A work day is scheduled for August 2.

Dan motioned, Dave seconded to accept the standing committees' reports. **Motion carried.**

**Old Business**

Sunday Offering Counting - There was a training. Approx 8 people may be needed in total.

Land Sale -The land money sale was received. The president called upon the council to consider how those funds could be used other than for covering the budget, such as for a program, speakers, or an event.

Lunch Bunch - Dave reported that 3 people participated last week in the first LB. They will consider going to other restaurants and this could be announced in various ways including an email blast.

Zabloudil Estate - Still processing.

### **New Business**

Coverage while Wendy on Vacation - Open to volunteers covering the office. But not likely necessary. Wendy will have tasks completed prior to leaving. No definitive plan made to cover the office, unless needed.

Quester's Meeting - this local group of approximately 40 will be using the social hall Aug. 2 for an annual meeting as they have done before. *(FYI: THE QUESTERS is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes preservation and restoration of artifacts, memorials, historical buildings, and landmarks, as well as education about these places and things. There is a group(s) in the Burlington area.)*

### **Adjourn**

Bill motioned, seconded by Dave, to adjourn at around 7:36. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted, Pam Taylor, Secretary

# Announcements



Office will be closed on Monday, September 1 in observance of Labor Day. Office hours will resume on Tuesday, September 2.

Outreach Food Pantry donations for September will be non-perishable breakfast items! (i.e.: Cereals, pop tarts, breakfast bars, granola bars, etc...)

Faith Forward parent and grandparent kits or magnets are available! Please see Pastor Misha if you would like to have one!

A joint service will be held on Sunday, September 7 at Messiah in celebration of Rally Day. Worship service starts at 10:30am and Youth Sunday School & Adult Education is at 9:15am for anyone who would like to attend. A potluck picnic will follow worship service and Messiah will be grilling! Please bring a dish to share if you are able!

Pastor's book club meeting is on Tuesday, September 9 @ 7:00pm @ Bethany. This month's book is "The Cloister Walk" By Kathleen Norris. All are welcome to join!

Lunch Bunch meets on Wednesday, September 10 @ 12:30pm @ The Broadway in West Burlington. Please note this time change for this month. Please contact Dave Nuebel at 319-237-6933 to sign up, if you have questions or need transportation arrangement.

Camp Ewalu (located by Strawberry Point, IA) is hosting their 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilt Auction, onsite, on Saturday, September 20! Admission for this event is free, though you need to bring your own lawn chair. The schedule of events starts at 9:00am with viewing of the quilts and other family friendly activities, a freewill BBQ lunch is offered at noon and 1:00pm starts the Quilt Auction! An Online Auction is also being offered and starts on Monday, September 15 @ 12:00pm and ends Sunday, September 21 @ 7:00pm. You will find the link to the online auction on their website [www.Ewalu.org](http://www.Ewalu.org).





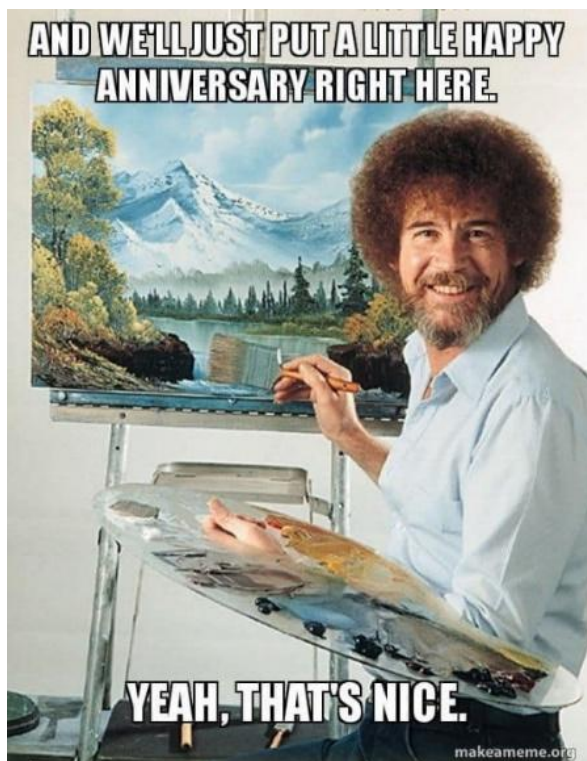
### *September Anniversaries*

11 - Gerald & Lila Janssen  
14 - Drew & Sheri McCarthy  
19 - Brian & Lori Rosenberg  
26 - Darrin & Christine Timberlake



### *September BIRTHDAYS*

2 - Elaine Loots; Matthew Miller;  
Jennifer Ward  
4 - Tyler Burch  
7 - Mark Loots  
10 - Malissa Schoof-Schleif  
11 - Erin Taylor  
13 - Carol Gard; Austin Timberlake  
14 - Sara Sladky; Vicki Stoller  
19 - Robert Staub  
22 - Lynda Johnson  
24 - Lucas Chelf; Jessica Tharp  
25 - Emmerich Adam; Dan Harken;  
Samuel Morehead; Elizabeth Roy;  
Susan Swanson  
26 - Patricia Chacey; Ruth Harken  
27 - Julie Etchison  
29 - Ken Shepherd  
30 - Jeffrey McClurg





# September 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Paraments:</b> <b>Green: 7, 21, 28</b> <b>Red: 14</b>	<b>1</b>  <b>Church Office Closed for Labor Day</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Nurses mtg @ noon</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Joint Service for Rally Day @ Messiah!</b> 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:55 am Hope Service <b>Grilling/Potluck Picnic following Worship</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Retired School Personnel mtg @ 1pm</b> <b>Property mtg. @ 6:30pm</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Pastor's Book Club @ 7pm @ Bethany</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Lunch Bunch @ 12:30pm @ The Broadway in West Burlington</b>	<b>11 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah</b> <b>Exec. Comm mtg @ 6:00pm</b> <b>Finance Mtg. @ 7:00pm</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>National Chocolate Milkshake Day September 12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Holy Cross Day</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Church Life 10:55 am Hope Service	<b>15</b>  <b>National Double Cheeseburger Day</b> <small>September 15</small>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Council Mtg @ 6:30pm</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Property work Day!</b>
<b>21 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:55 am Hope Service	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Chimes Deadline</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>Shamu the Whale Day</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:55 am Hope Service	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>World NICU AWARENESS DAY SEPTEMBER 30</b>		 <b>September is NICU AWARENESS MONTH</b> <small>nicuawareness.org</small>		<b>Office Hours</b> <b>Mon.-Wed.-Fri.: 9:00am-1:00pm</b> <b>Tues. &amp; Thurs.: 1:30pm-4:30pm</b>