September, 2026 Volume 66, Issue 9

The Chimes

Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

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

God's Work, Our Hands Day

The workday for God's Work, Our Hands Day is set for Saturday, September 12, 2026! We will commence at 9:00am at Bethany. We will be working on some outdoor projects, including power washing at the Homeless Shelter and landscaping at Heartsong. Our low-impact projects currently are fringe tie fleece blankets for DHHS/BPD to disperse during crises and hygiene kits for local schools. Both of these projects will take place at Bethany.

We are working on expanding our list of projects and will hopefully have more projects to participate in! A sign-up sheet for both categories are available on the table in the fellowship hall!

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
August 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.

Make-A-Will Month: Create a Legacy That Reflects Your Values

August is Make-A-Will Month, an ideal time to create or update one of the most important documents you'll ever sign. A will allows you to care for the people you love while ensuring your values continue to make a difference for generations to come.

Many adults put off making a will, believing they have plenty of time or that they don't have enough assets to need one. While surveys vary, they consistently show that more than half of American adults have not created a will, leaving their families without clear guidance when the unexpected happens.

In reality, a will is important for nearly everyone. It gives you the opportunity to clearly express your wishes, provide for loved ones, appoint guardians for minor children, and simplify the administration of your estate. Without a will, state law determines how your assets are distributed, which may not reflect your intentions.

A will is also an opportunity to leave a legacy that reflects your faith and generosity. After providing for family and friends, many people choose to include a charitable gift to a church or nonprofit that has touched their lives. These gifts—often called **legacy gifts** or **planned gifts**—can be made as a percentage of your estate, a specific dollar amount, or the remainder of your estate after loved ones have been provided for.

While every gift is unique, together charitable bequests provide billions of dollars each year to strengthen nonprofit organizations and ministries, helping them continue their mission for future generations.

A legacy gift to your congregation or to **Lutheran Services in Iowa** is a meaningful way to continue sharing Christ's love long into the future. Your gift can help children find safe, loving families, empower people with disabilities to live more independently, welcome refugees as they build new lives, and provide hope and support to families facing life's challenges.

One of the greatest advantages of a charitable bequest is its flexibility. You can care for your family first while also making a lasting investment in the ministries and causes that have shaped your life and faith. Even a modest gift can have a lasting impact.

Make-A-Will Month is the perfect time to review your current estate plan or create your first will. Your will is more than a legal document—it is a reflection of your life's values, your generosity, and your commitment to the people and organizations that matter most.

If you have already included Lutheran Services in Iowa in your estate plans, thank you for your vision and generosity. If you are considering a legacy gift, we would be honored to answer your questions and help you explore options that align with your wishes and charitable goals. There is never any obligation—only the opportunity to create a lasting legacy of hope. You can reach out to us at 866-584-5293 or philanthropy@lsiowa.org.

LSI
LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA

FROM THE PASTOR

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

--- John 14: 1, 6

Fall is here! With that school is back in session. We prayed over and blessed backpacks, briefcases, and suitcases. Our Sunday School classes and Confirmation are back in session, and we are so thankful for our volunteers and staff that support our youth programming. Rally Day is Sunday, September 13th. We will have a joint worship service held at Messiah at 10:30am followed by the annual picnic. This year Bishop Amy Current will join us! I hope to see you all there!

As I fondly remember the summer, I think about all the learning that took place for me. I obtained the majority of my continuing education units in July. I need 50 continuing education credits a year and earned 45 in July by attending the Conference for Worship Theology and the Arts, the WELCA Triennial Gathering, and the Rostered Ministers Gathering. I only have 5 credits left to earn for the year and then the process begins again for the next year.

This summer I have learned about connecting liturgy to both church and community life, how to embrace diaconal ministry in church congregations who are not blessed with a deacon, and resources for clergy of color in the ELCA just to name a few of the topics I learned about. It was a rewarding and fruitful experience. I was also able to spend lots of time in worship settings where I was able to worship without being the person leading the worship. This allowed me to renew and refresh my mind, body, and spirit.

I had a wonderful vacation at Chapel in the Hills. It was a working vacation where I led three evening worship services – a healing service, Holden Evening Prayer, and a service of the Word – as well as officiated at three weddings and one vow renewal. The weddings and vow renewal all happened on the same day and that evening I also led a service. It was a jammed backed Saturday to say the least. The visiting pastors get to choose what services they will lead that week, and I enjoy leading services that I don't typically get to lead.

I am excited about what fall will bring. I love the changing seasons. There is something special about each one. For fall, I love the beautiful colorful leaves, the temperatures dropping so that comfy sweaters can be worn, and the smell of soups and stews simmering for dinner. We will soon prepare for Reformation Sunday and Thanksgiving Eve service. What a wonderful time of the year!

Pastor Misha

Meetings

The meetings for September, 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, Sept. 10 @ 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee
Thursday, Sept. 10 @ 6:00 p.m.

Church Life & Outreach Committee
Sunday, Sept. 13 @ 10:15 a.m.

Property Committee
Monday, Sept. 14 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Council
Wednesday, Sept. 16 @ 6:30 p.m.

Pastor's Book Club @ Bethany
Tuesday, Sept. 8 @ 5:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch
Wednesday, Sept. 9 @ 12:30 p.m. @ Toast of Burlington

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, Sept. 19 @ 8:00 a.m.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

July ATTENDANCE

July 5	44
July 12	46
July 19	33
July 26	60

August ATTENDANCE

August 2	54
August 9	54
August 16	53
August 23	56

July GIVING

July 5	$4,622.00
July 12	$1,060.00
July 19	$1,049.10
July 26	$3,721.00
Total:	$10,452.00

August GIVING

August 2	$2,693.00
August 9	$1,237.00
August 16	$1,180.00
August 23	$2,579.18
Total:	$7,689.18

Due to time constraints this month, attendance and giving for August 30 will be included in the October Chimes issue

June VANCO total: $1,625.00
July VANCO total: $1,665.00

PLEASE NOTE

Because of Federal Privacy laws, if you or a member of your family are hospitalized and would like the Pastor to visit, you must contact the church and let us know.

LAY LEADERS

September Usher: Susan Swanson

Communion Assistants

6 – Steve & Sue Rogers
13 – **At Messiah**
20 – Tiffany & Michelle Huppenbauer
27 – Mike Hopp; Julie Wischmeier

Lector

6 – Mike Hopp
13 – **At Messiah**
20 – Todd Chelf
27 – Ron Kastner

Greeters

6 – Carol Dodge
13 – **At Messiah**
20 – Judy Craven
27 – Bill Mundt

Flowers

6 – Lynda Johnson
13 – **At Messiah**
20 – Vanette Wooldridge & Marlys McClurg
27 – Open

Missionary Support

6 – Open
13 – **At Messiah**
20 – Open
27 – Open

Altar Guild

Debbie Hoxie
Carol Dodge

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, September 9 @ 12:30pm @ Toast of Burlington. 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, September 8 at 5:00pm at Bethany! All are welcome to join us! This month we are reading "Song For Another Home" By Bora Lee Reed.

NEW! Women's Activity Group!

A new monthly activity for women will begin Wednesday, September 2 at 1:00pm in the "refreshed" Bethany church library! Take a look!! 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. Please pray for God's goodness to guide this activity. Coffee or tea will be available. Hope to see you ladies! If you have questions, please see or contact Pam Taylor (319-750-7982) or Vicki Stoller (319-750-2384).

Joint Service for Rally Day!

On Sunday, September 13, we will be joining with Messiah for Worship Service at Messiah! Sunday School starts at 9:15am with Worship Service starting at 10:30am! Bishop Amy Current will also be joining us for Worship! Following the service will be a potluck picnic!

Ice Cream Social Recap!

To everyone who helped in some way with this year's Ice Cream Social, be it donating food, cooking/preparing food, set up, clean up, serving, etc… We thank you all so very much for your help and dedication! Special shout out to the ladies working in the kitchen Wednesday morning after the storm and through a power outage! Your dedication is very much appreciated! This event wouldn't be possible without the help of each and every one of you!

Numbers were down this year, at approximately 137 served, due to the storm that morning and another large event in town that evening. We made $1,505.29 after expenses! This year's proceeds will be going to our current college youth to help them with any miscellaneous expenses.

Thank You from The Craven Family

Many thanks for all of the thoughts & prayers, love & support that was given during this difficult time of Mel's passing. Thanks to Pastor Misha for the beautiful service and to those who attended. Precious memories for sure.

Judy Craven and Family

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

A ministry of the ELCA

For many years, Bethany has given Missionary Support that was sent on to the ELCA through our monthly Synod giving, and eventually on to Brian Palmer. With Brian's passing last Spring, the ELCA notified us it would be some time before we were assigned another missionary. Anyone is welcome to continue supporting the missionaries of the ELCA and the funds will be used where needed.

At the Synod Assembly held in May, there was a motion to move money in the Synod's annual budget from one expense line to the Lutheran Campus Ministry expense line. After much discussion within the voting membership, the motion failed. So, your Church Council has decided to support this ministry of the ELCA until we are assigned a new missionary to support. Here is some information about this ministry.

"Lutheran Campus Ministry in the ELCA is a Christ-centered, radically welcoming presence on college and university campuses, open to all students, faculty, and staff—not only Lutherans. Rooted in Word and Sacrament, these ministries build community, accompany students as their faith and questions deepen, and connect learning with the gospel's call to love, justice, and service."

We currently have six students who received scholarships for the 2026-2027 academic year and having this program available to them on their campuses is just another way we can show we care about their education and needs while away from their home, family and church. Beginning the first Sunday of September, we'll have a sign-up sheet like missionary support where you can donate to this ministry. The funds will be sent to the ELCA through our Synod giving. The weekly **suggested** amount is $25. There will be envelopes available to put your donation in.

If you have any questions about this new ministry support, please reach out to any member of your Church Council.

Bethany Lutheran Church
Minutes of the Church Council Regular Meeting
June 17, 2026
Bethany Social Hall, 6:30 pm

1. **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, Julie Chubb, Tom Bonar
   Absent: Dirk Zaiser

   The meeting was called to order by the President at 6:30pm. The pastor read from Romans and also read a devotion. Pam read a prayer.
2. **Minutes**- Pam T motioned, Dave N. seconded to approve the May 20th, 2026 BLC Council minutes. **Motion carried.**
   Bev S motioned, Michelle H. seconded to approve the minutes from the Special Council meeting that followed church services on June 14th, 2026. **Motion Carried**. Pastor Misha updated the council that the Ward family was looking to hold funeral services closer toward the end of June.
3. **Pastor's Report** - A written report was provided. Pastor Misha highlighted Lotegeluaki's graduation and ceremony from Wartburg. She shared information on the application called, "Be My Eyes," which allows the visually impaired to connect with others for assistance. This application is for anyone interested. Pam motioned, Dave seconded to accept Pastor's report. **Motion Carried**.
4. **Financials** - A written Account Balance report and an Income and Expenses report were provided and highlights were made by Dan W., Treasurer. Dave motioned, Pam seconded to accept the financial reports. **Motion Carried**.
5. **Committee Reports**
   a. **Church Life** and **Church Outreach**- Bill and Bev provided verbal reports for the combined committees. Written and verbal reports were provided by each. The Ice Cream Social (Aug 12) sign will be put up on Saturday outside the church. Bill needs to know how to create the stickers to update individual signs for the congregation to take home and put out. Tickets go on sale July 26th. The profit will be divided and go to Bethany's college students to help with miscellaneous expenses. Starting this Sunday communion apple juice cups will be placed more toward the outside of the communion wine tray to improve access in reaching for them. Going forward, starting with July, pantry donation requests will no longer be specified. Any non-perishable food items will be encouraged.
   b. **Finance** - Zabloudil estate funds will be transferred to General Funds as needed to meet ongoing expenses for the year.
   c. **Property** - the written report was missing from packets. Bev provided a verbal report. Dave continues to work on a couple of repair projects (i.e., outdoor cross). The outdoor landscape area (Sladky project) is nearing completion after trees were removed due to root issues with underground pipe lines. It was mentioned that large truck ruts were created off of 14th street. The mower can't get over the ruts, which possibly could eventually be smoothed out once the ground is soft enough.

   Vicki motioned, Bill seconded to accept the standing committee reports. **Motion Carried**.

6. **Old Business**

a) Personnel Handbook - Every staff person received a draft of the handbook. After they have all read it and made written comments, the Executive Committee will meet with them as a group. A tentative time frame was set to meet in late July.

b) Nominating Committee - Mike reported that it is the goal not to have council members serve on the committee but if we needed to consider using a council member it would be okay. Up to 6 people could serve on the committee. The nominating committee starts their work in September. Council members are to ask congregants to serve and turn names into Mike. To-date, one name has been confirmed as willing to serve on the Nominating Committee.

c) Campfire Service - The first campfire service is next week Wednesday, June 24, at Messiah with a 6 pm meal and 7 pm service. Hot dogs, chips and buns have been donated by Bare Faced Rejuvenation Lounge. Ingredients for Smores will be requested by Mike and a sign-up sheet put out this Sunday.

d) Youth Group Sleepover - A traveling church youth group will be spending the night on the floor in the social hall. They will depart immediately after services to continue their travels. Extra "treats" for their travels or morning snacks are welcomed.

e) God's Work, Out Hands - Mike encouraged the council to seek and share any project ideas.

f) Other additions -

i.) Annual goals will be refined with the congregation on June 28th after church services. Mike will announce this on Sunday, June 21.

ii.) The membership list update is being spearheaded by Dan W. He is looking for 2 more people to help him. He can meet with them this Sunday after church. Dan may announce this, this Sunday. The plan is also to contact those we have not seen for a while and invite them to church.

iii.) The question regarding Bethany's practice to assist with funeral expenses was presented. The comment was made that we do not want to establish a precedent by recent actions and that perhaps a Benevolent committee with an established fund and policy should be considered. The discussion led to comments, questions, and topics such as casemanager, skill sets of the church staff and council, confidentiality, family obligations, protocols, etc. for future consideration. More will be discussed next month. There was no motion made regarding funeral expense practices.

7. **New Business -**There was a question about updating the congregation directory. It is updated by Wendy on the computer when members change and/or their addresses and phone numbers change. The directory was last reprinted in 2025. No other new business was presented.
8. **Adjourn -** Pam motioned, Bill seconded to adjourn at 7:42 pm. **Motion carried**.

Next Month Meeting (s): BLC Council - **July 15, Wednesday, 6:30 @ Bethany**

Respectfully submitted, Pam Taylor, Secretary

Bethany Lutheran Church
Minutes of the Church Council Regular Meeting
July 15, 2026
Bethany Social Hall, 6:30 pm

1. **Present:** Bev Sherbondy- Vice President, Pam Taylor-Secretary, Dan Wischmeier-Treasurer, Pastor Misha, Michelle Huppenbauer, Tiffany Huppenbauer,
2. **Absent:** Mike Hopp-President, Vicki Stoller, Dave Neubell, Bill Mundt, Julie Chubb, Tom Bonar, Dirk Zaiser
   The meeting was called to order by the Vice President at 6:33pm. The Pastor read a devotion based on Matt 13:16 followed by a prayer.

   There was no **quorum.**

   The Pastor did inform those present of a request from LSI to use the building again. Questions were posed for the Pastor to ask of the representative. We may be asked to vote on-line for a timely decision, following the Pastor's visit with the LSI contact person.

   God's Work, Our Hands: Bev will check with Denise Hanks regarding a possible project at Heart Song. Another idea was possibly with Parks and Rec. The pastor suggested we consider two separate projects: one inside and one outside to let volunteers choose.

   For New Business next meeting we can discuss changing Mission Support funding to Campus Ministry support; and participation during "Pride at the Riverfront" in Oct.

   The group informally talked about how our congregation can prepare our hearts, minds and actions to be welcoming to people regardless of their race, sexual orientation, looks, dress, etc. so that we might prepare ourselves to become an RIC church, if so decided by the congregation.

Meeting ended at 7:35pm

Next Month Meeting(s) include the quarterly Joint Meeting with Messiah as well as Bethany's council meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Taylor, Secretary

Announcements

The office will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day! Normal office hours will resume on Tuesday, September 8.

September Outreach donations will be non-perishable lunch box items! I.e. peanut butter, jelly, fruit snacks, chips, sandwich bags, fruit cups, etc… Thank you everyone for your generosity!

New monthly women's activity group will start on Wednesday, September 2 at 1:00pm in Bethany's "refreshed" library! The group, as a whole, will decide the flow of each monthly meeting and future meeting times. This activity group is intended to offer support, information, friendship, and fun! Coffee or tea will be served. Please see article for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Taylor (319-750-7982) or Vicki Stoller (319-750-2384).

Pastor's Book Club meets on Tuesday, September 8 @ 5:00pm @ Bethany. All are welcome to join! This month we are reading "Song For Another Home" By Bora Lee Reed.

Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Wednesday, September 9 @ 12:30pm at The Toast of Burlington! To sign up, have questions or need transportation arrangement, please call Dave Nuebel at 319-237-6933.

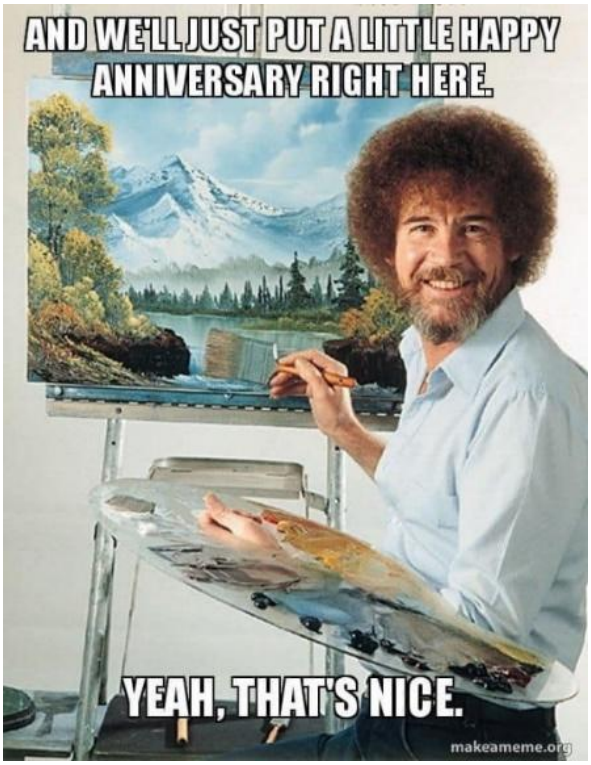
God's Work, Our Hands Day is on Saturday, September 12! Volunteer participants will meet at Bethany at 9:00am! A sign up sheet is located on the table in the fellowship hall. Please choose which category of activity, physical labor or low-impact. Please see article for more information.

Sunday, September 13 is Rally Day! This will be a joint service at Messiah and Bishop Curry will be joining us! Messiah Worships at 10:30am and Adult Education and Sunday School is offered at 9:15am for anyone who would like to join! A potluck picnic will be served following Worship service!

Pastor Misha will be away on Sunday, September 27. Preacher for that Sunday will be announced in the bulletin. She will be away at Fall Gathering on Monday, September 28 and Tuesday, September 29.

September Anniversaries

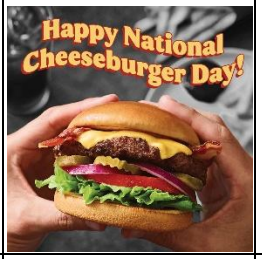
14 – Drew & Sheri McCarthy
19 – Brian & Lori Rosenberg
26 – Darrin & Christine Timberlake



September BIRTHDAYS

2 – Elaine Loots; Matthew Miller; Jennifer Ward
4 – Tyler Burch
7 – Mark Loots
10 – Melissa 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 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Paraments: Green: 5, 12, 19, 26	Office Hours Mon.-Wed.-Fri.: 9:00am-1:00pm Tues. & Thurs.: 1:30pm-4:30pm	1	2 New Women's Activity Group mtg @ 1:00pm in Bethany's Library	3 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah	4 Nurses mtg. @ Noon	5
6 15th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	7 	8 Pastor's Book Club @ 5pm @ Bethany	9 Lunch Bunch @ 12:30pm @ Toast of Burlington	10 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah Exec. Comm mtg @ 6:00pm Finance Mtg. @ 6:30pm	11	12 God's Work Our Hands Day! Meet @ Bethany @ 9:00am
13 16th Sunday after Pentecost – Rally Day! *Joint Service @ Messiah Bishop Current joining us!* 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service *Potluck Picnic following service*	14 Property mtg. @ 6:30pm	15	16 Council Mtg. @ 6:30pm	17 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah	18 	19 8:00am Men's Breakfast
20 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service	21 Chimes Deadline	22 	23	24 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah	25	26
27 18th Sunday after Pentecost – *Preacher TBA* 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:55 a.m. Hope Service *Pastor Misha on vacation*	28 Pastor Misha @ Fall Gathering	29 Pastor Misha @ Fall Gathering	30			