Service of the Word
September 27, 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.

Service of the Word

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.

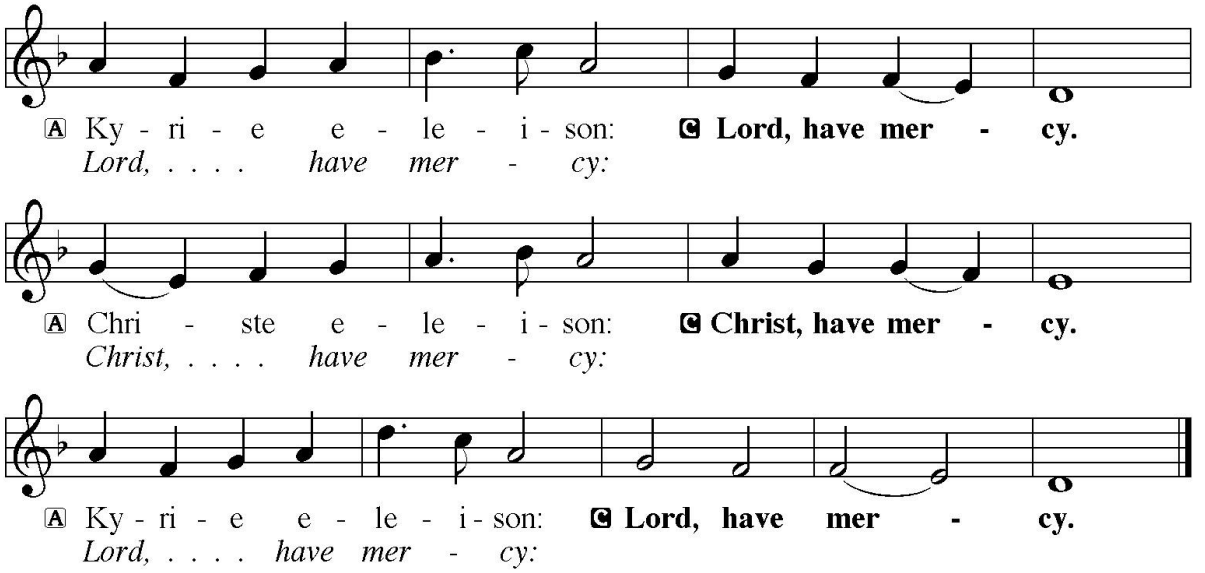
GATHERING HYMN *"God Is Here!"* **ELW Hymn 526**

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: God of love, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them; keep us from those things that harm us; and guide us in the way of salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING **Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

1 The word of the LORD came to me: 2 What do you mean by repeating this proverb
concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the
children's teeth are set on edge"? 3 As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no
more be used by you in Israel. 4 Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as
well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.
25 Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my
way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? 26 When the righteous turn away
from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity
that they have committed, they shall die. 27 Again, when the wicked turn away from
the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall
save their life. 28 Because they considered and turned away from all the
transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die.
29 Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are
my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?
30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways,
says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity
will be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have
committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will
you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the
Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *(read responsively)* **Psalm 25:1-9**

L: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

**C: Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

L: Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.

**C: Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

L: Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

**C: Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

L: Gracious and upright is the LORD;
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

**C: He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly.**

SECOND READING **Philippians 2:1-13**

[1] If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership
in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, [2] make my joy complete: be of the
same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. [3] Do
nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as
better than yourselves. [4] Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the
interests of others. [5] Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

[6] who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
[7] but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
[8] he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

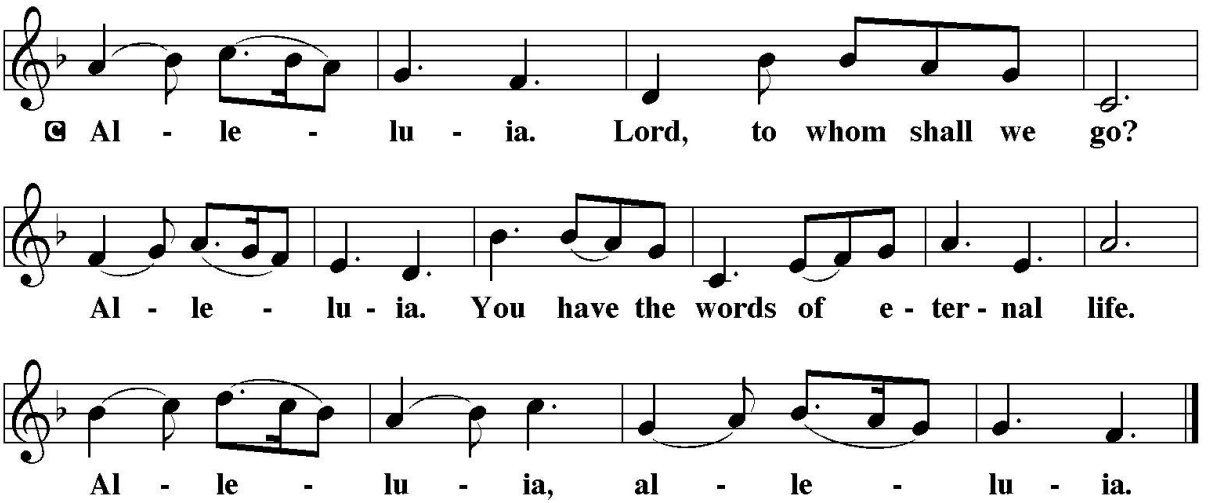
Continued…

[9] Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
[10] so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
[11] and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

[12] Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, [13] for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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 21:23-32**

23 When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people
came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these
things, and who gave you this authority?" 24 Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you
one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I
do these things. 25 Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human
origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to
us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' 26 But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are
afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus,
"We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I
am doing these things.

28 "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son,
go and work in the vineyard today.' 29 He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed
his mind and went. 30 The father went to the second and said the same, and he
answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his
father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax
collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.
32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him,
but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it
you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON ***Vicar Lotegeluaki Lengai***

(Please Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"* **ELW Hymn 517**

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.

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.

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 *"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"* **ELW Hymn 538**

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector:	Michelle Huppenbauer
Usher:	Susan Swanson
Communion:	No Communion this week
Greeters:	Bill Mundt
Lutheran Campus Ministry:	Open
Missionary Support:	Open
Altar Flowers:	Lynda Johnson
Remember in prayer:	Kerri Hermann; Patty Chacey; Julie Chubb; The Family of Geneive Hingst

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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.

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ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Today:	**Service of the Word-Lotegeluaki Lengai Preaching!**	
	9:00 a.m.	Worship – ***No Communion this week***
	10:55 a.m.	Lutheran Church of Hope Service
Thursday:	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study @ Messiah
Friday:	**9:30 a.m.**	**Nurses Mtg.**
Next Sunday:	**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**	
	10:30 a.m.	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:55 a.m.	Lutheran Church of Hope Service

THE PASSING OF GENEIVE HINGST

It is with a heavy heart that we must announce the passing of Geneive Hingst on Monday, September 21, 2026. A Visitation will be held on Saturday, November 7 from 10:00am – 12:00pm at Lunning Chapel in Burlington where the family will meet with friends. A time of sharing will be held during this time.

EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE COVERAGE SEPT. 25-27TH

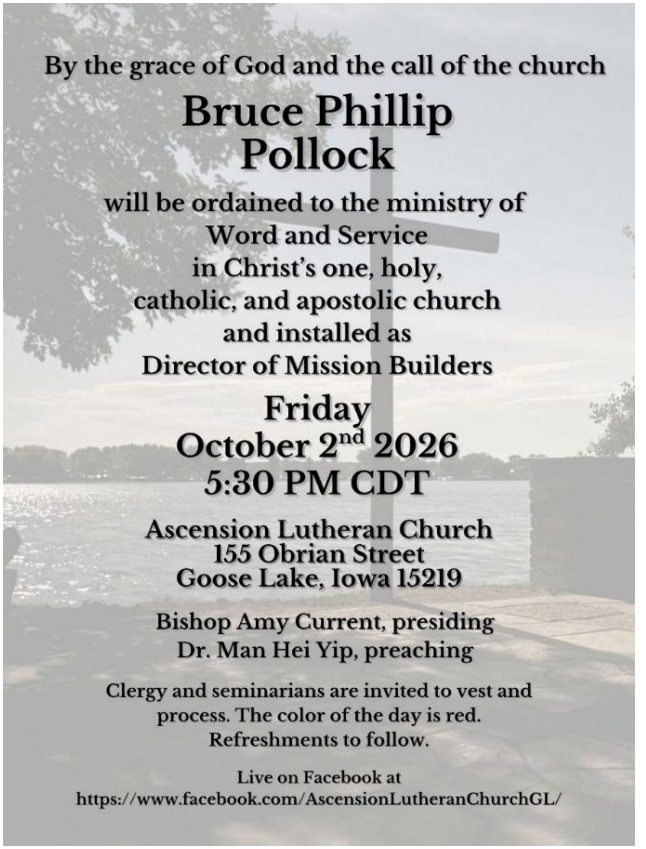
Pastor Misha will be away Friday, September 25 through Sunday, September 27. Pastor Nathaniel Adkins will be providing emergency pastoral care for any emergencies that may arise while Pastor Misha is away. Pastor Nathaniel Adkins can be reached at 641-458-4516.

PASTOR MISHA AT FALL GATHERING

Pastor Misha will be away at Fall Gathering on Monday, September 28 and Tuesday, September 29.

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

THE ORDINATION OF BRUCE POLLOCK!



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.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE
This is the final week we are taking donations for Lutheran Disaster Response to help with the communities in Nepal & Tibet after the deadly, devastating floods they encountered on August 26. If you would like to donate to this cause, please fill out the insert and return it with your donation in the offering plate.

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

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. Please pray for God's goodness to guide this Church life activity. Feel free to 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).

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.

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!

WEEKLY FINANCE REPORT

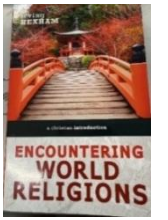
These are the numbers for where we are financially for the dates of September 13 – September 19:

September 13-September 19
Income: $745.00
Expense: $10,219.04
Shortage: ($9,474.04)

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

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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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