Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 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.

Seventeenth 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.

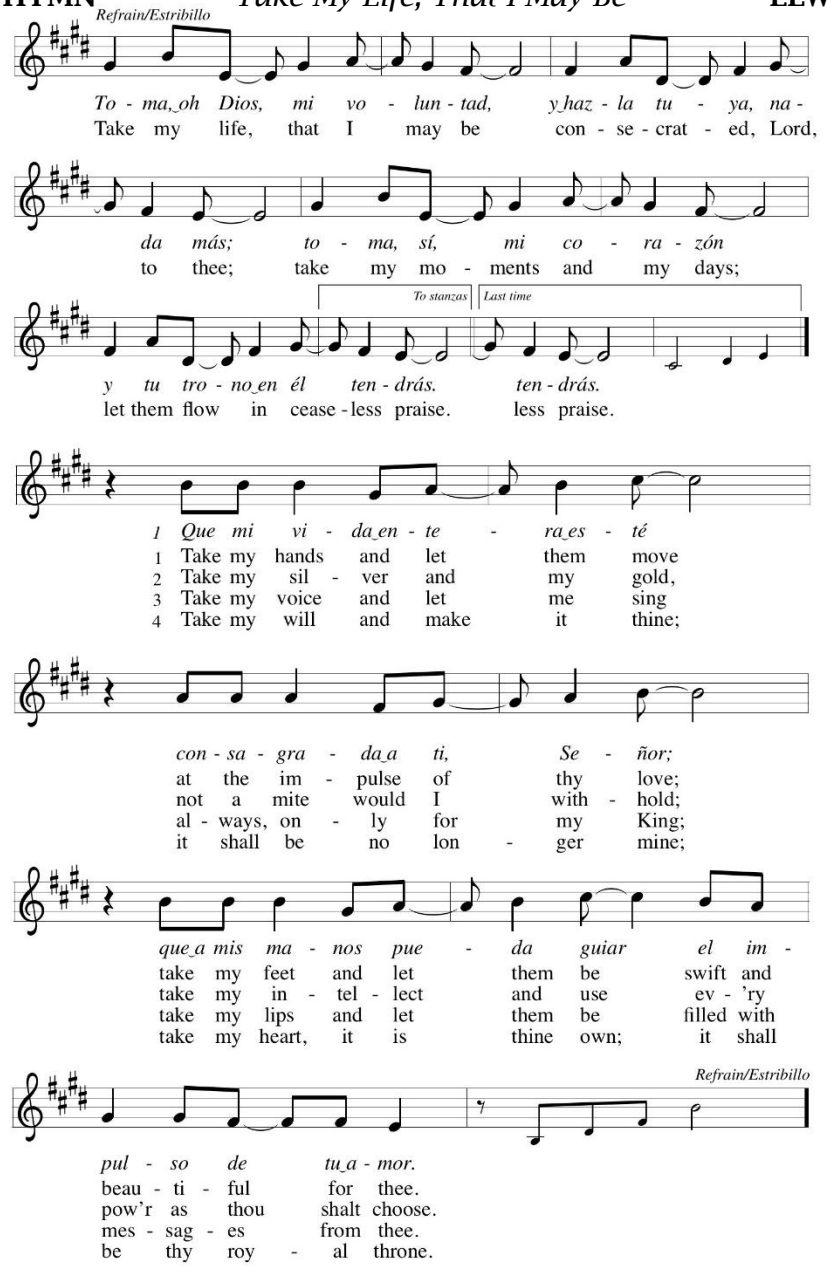
Silence is kept for reflection.

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 *"Take My Life, That I May Be"* **ELW Hymn 583**

2 *Que mis pies tan sólo en pos*
de lo santo puedan ir,
y que a ti, Señor, mi voz,
se complazca en bendecir. Estribillo

3 *Que mis labios al hablar*
hablen sólo de tu amor;
que mis bienes dedicar
yo los quiera a ti, Señor. Estribillo

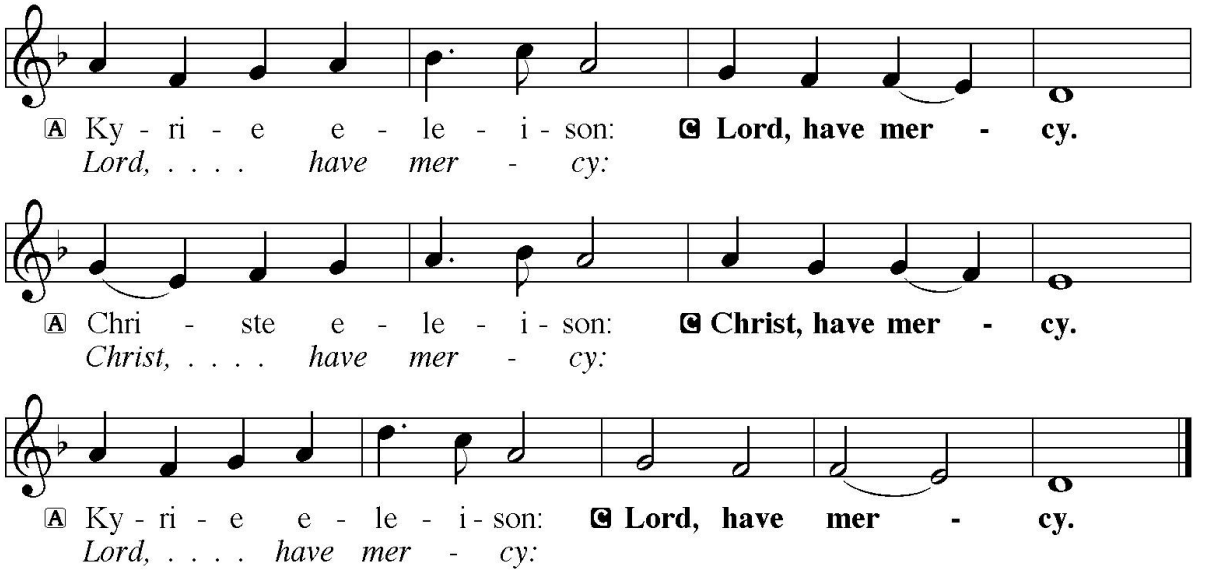
4 *Que mi tiempo todo esté*
consagrado a tu loor;
que mi mente y su poder
sean usados en tu honor. Estribillo

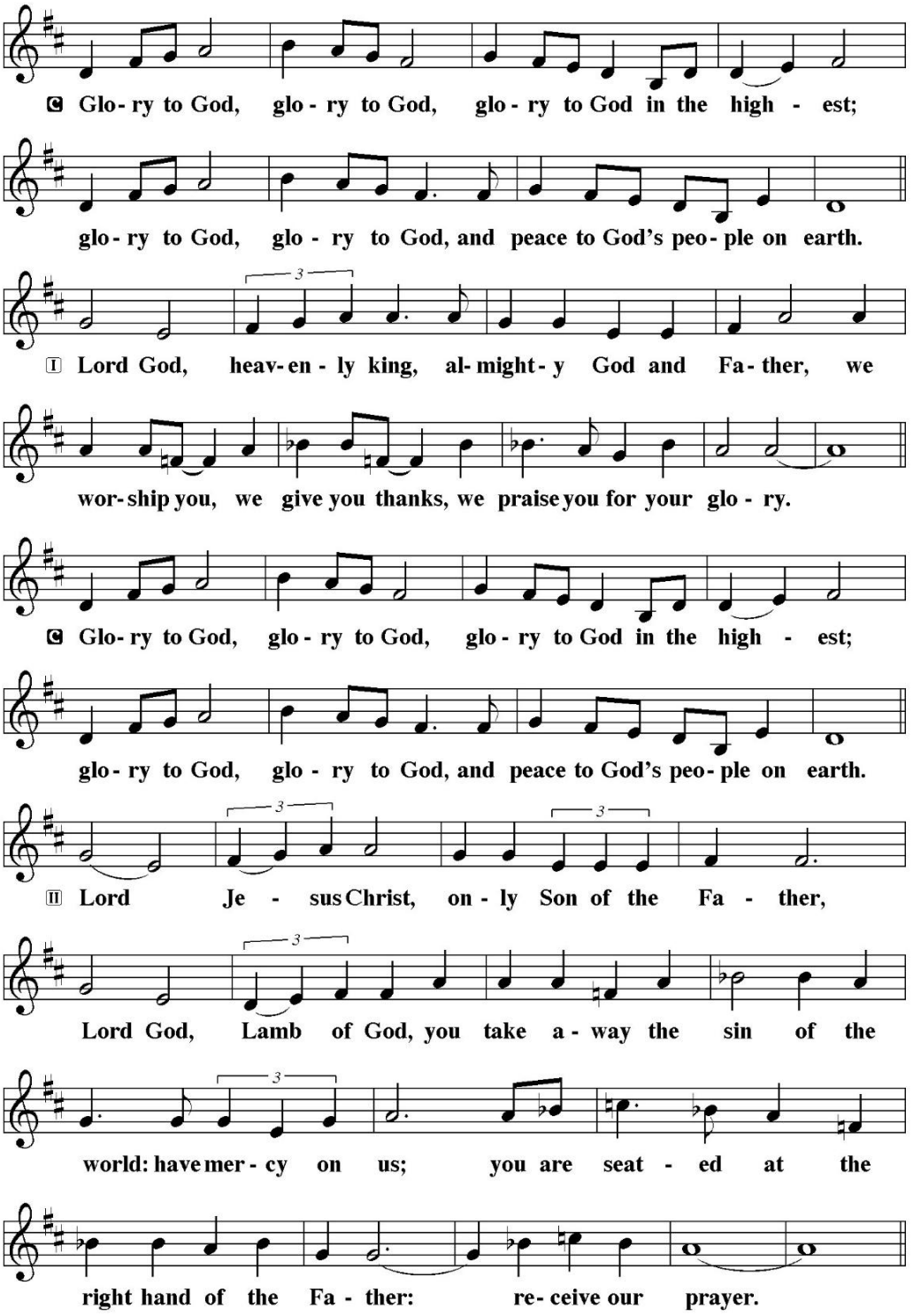
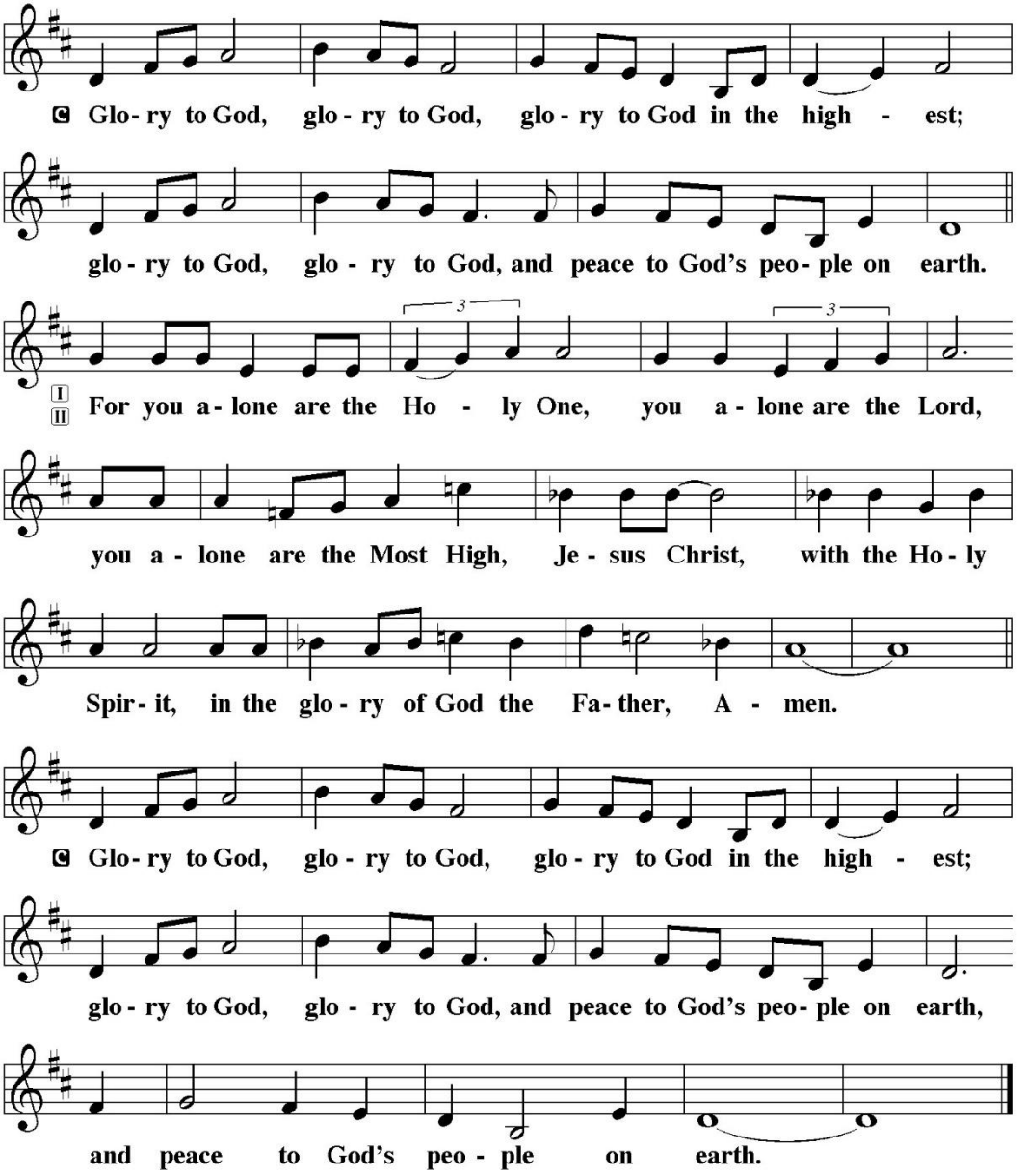
GREETING

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: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING **Jonah 3:10—4:11**

10 When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil
ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring
upon them, and he did not do it.

4:1 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the
LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country?
That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious
and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from
punishment. 3 And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me
to die than to live." 4 And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" 5 Then
Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for
himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of
the city.

6 The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade
over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the
bush. 7 But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked
the bush, so that it withered. 8 When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind,
and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he
might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

9 But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he
said, "Yes, angry enough to die." 10 Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about
the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into
being in a night and perished in a night. 11 And should I not be concerned about
Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty
thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many
animals?"

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *(read responsively)* **Psalm 145:1-8**

L: I will exalt you, O God my King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
C: Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.
L: Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
there is no end to his greatness.
C: One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.
L: I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.
C: They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will tell of your greatness.
L: They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
C: The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

SECOND READING **Philippians 1:21-30**

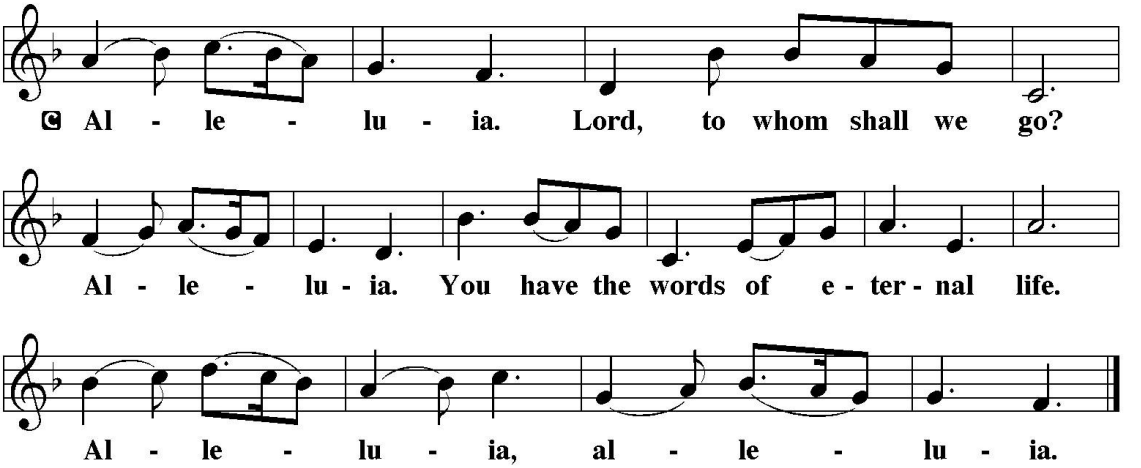
21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that
means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. 23 I am hard
pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far
better, 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25 Since I am
convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your
progress and joy in faith, 26 so that, by my presence again with you, your boast
might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether
I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are
standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the
gospel 28 and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence
of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. 29 For he has
graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering
for him as well, 30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and
now hear that I still have.

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

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL **Matthew 20:1-16**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. [2] After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. [3] When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, [4] and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. [5] When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. [6] And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' [7] They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' [8] When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' [9] When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. [10] Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. [11] And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, [12] saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' [13] But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? [14] Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. [15] Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' [16] So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

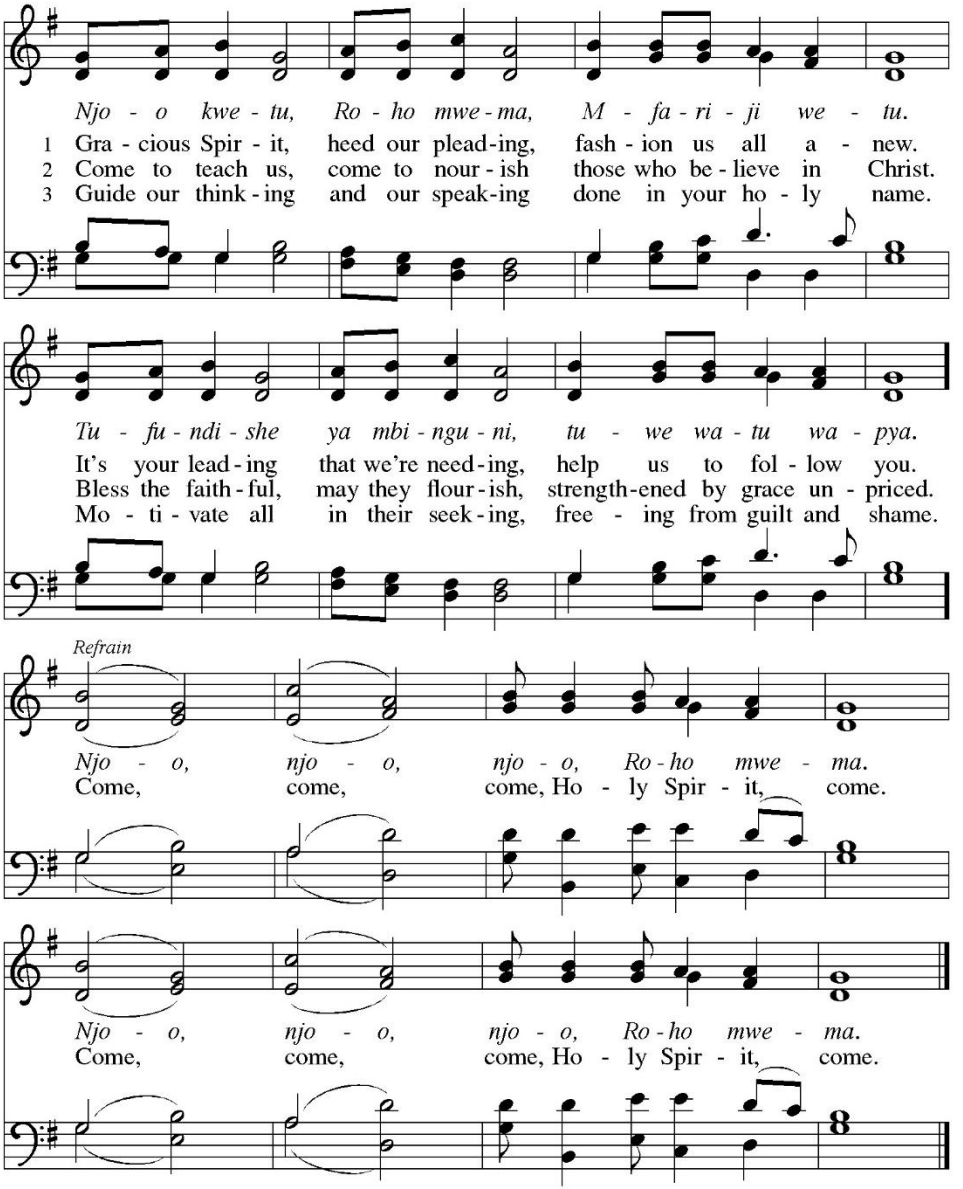
P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

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

(Please Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading"* **ELW Hymn 401**

4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment,
doubt into certainty.

5 Keep us fervent in our witness,
unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness,
which you alone assure.

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

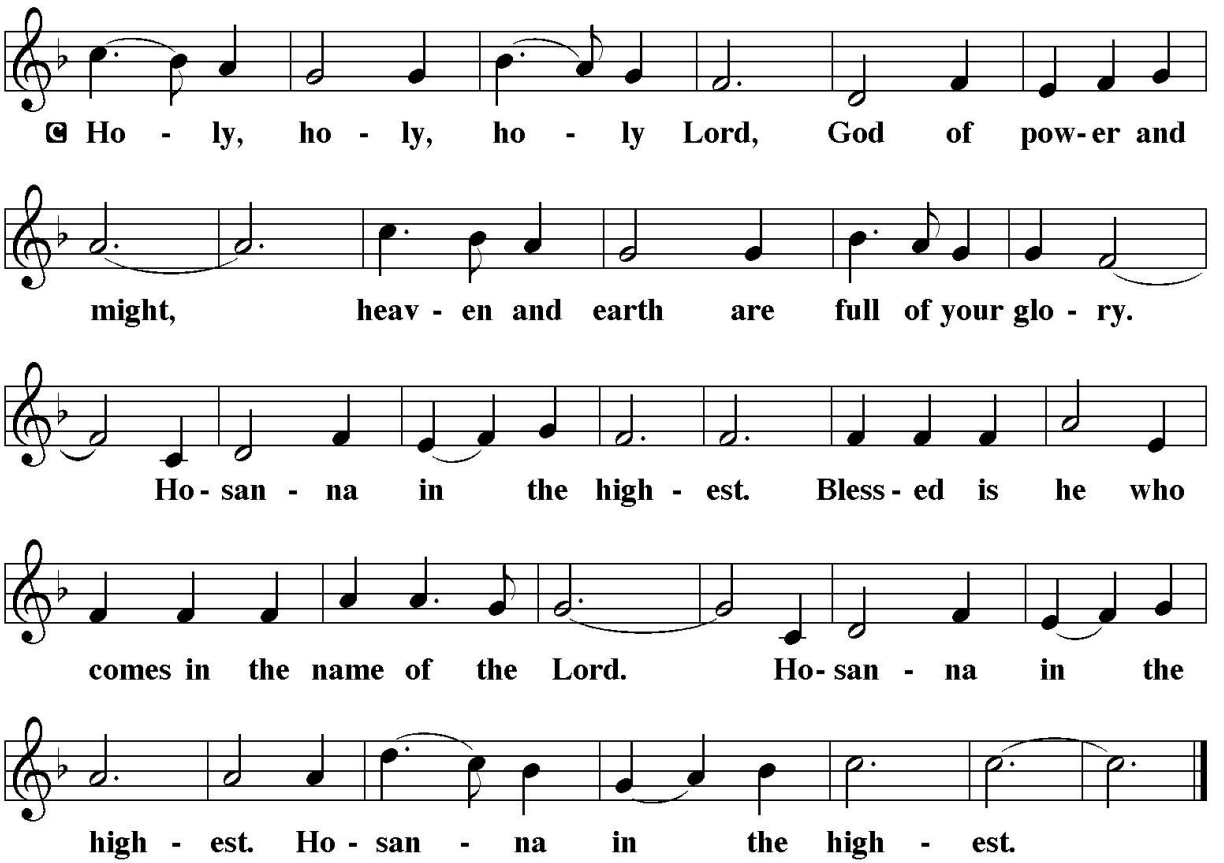
P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

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:

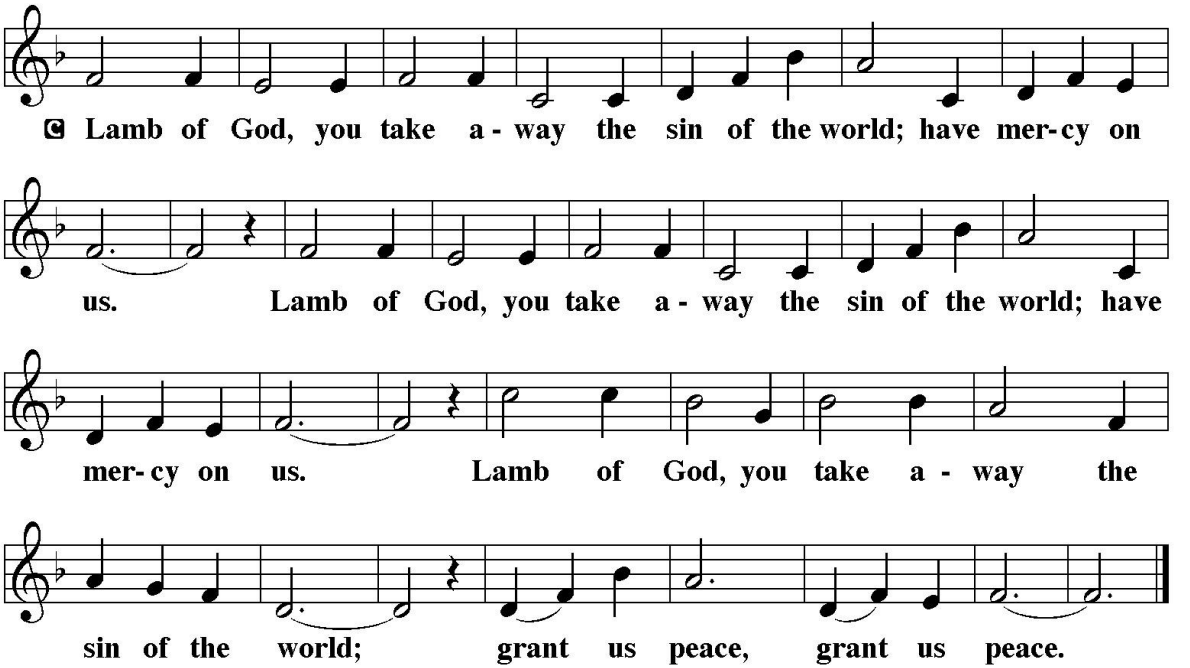
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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

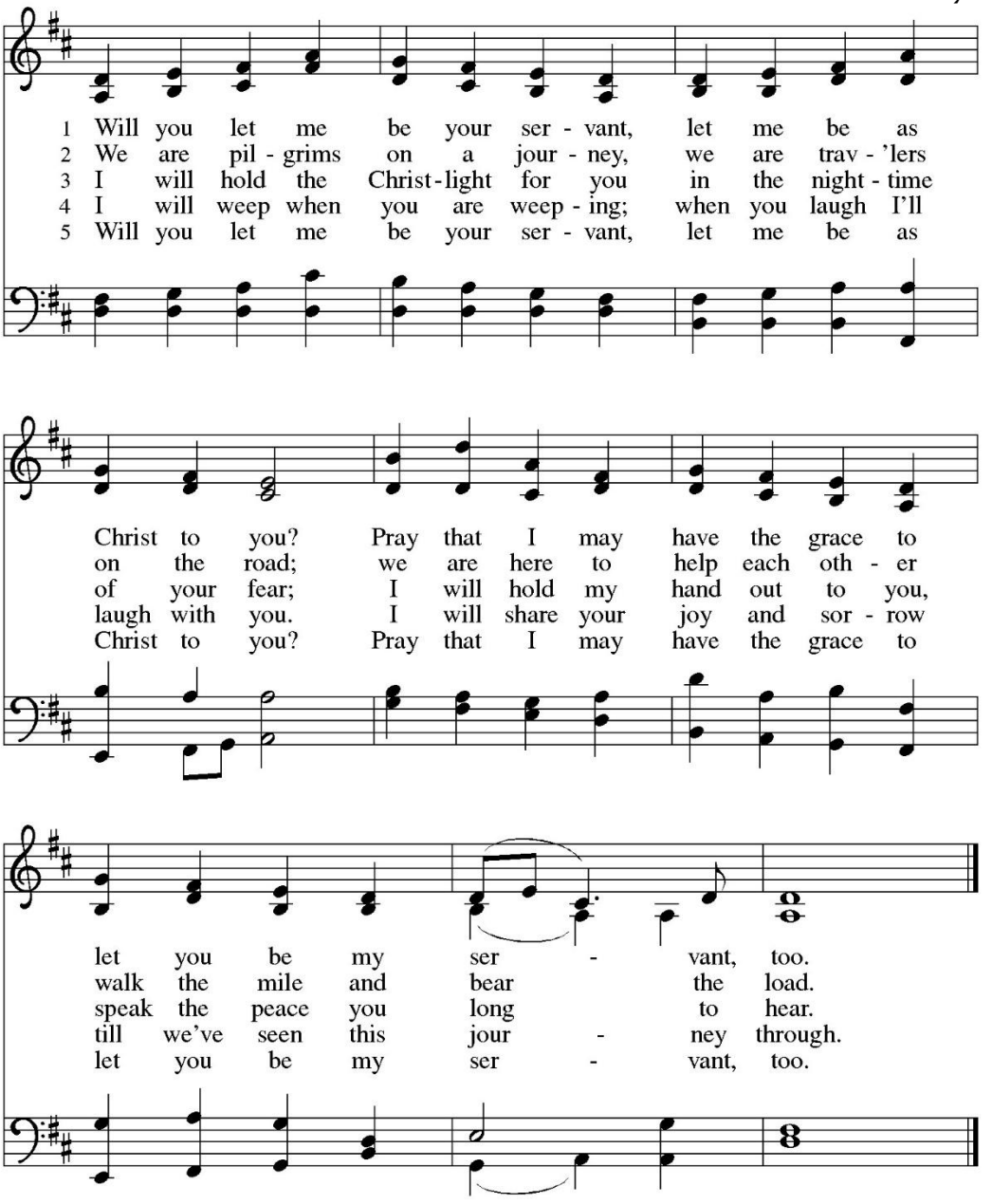
LAMB OF GOD

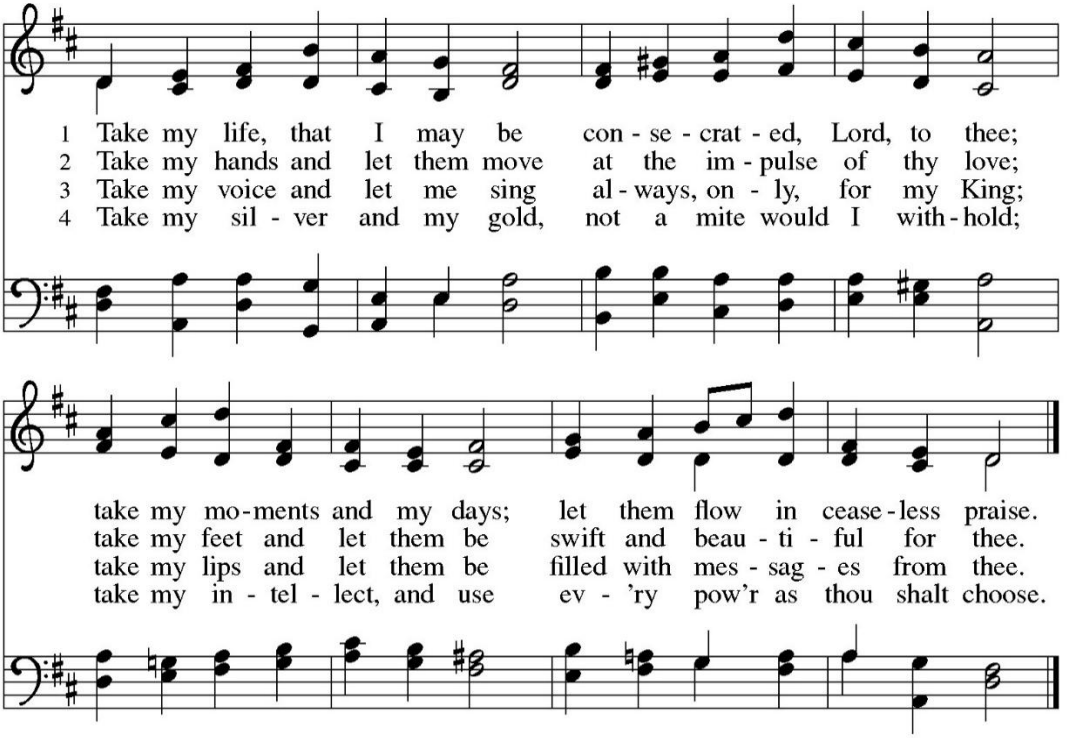


DISTRIBUTION BY INDIVIDUAL GLASSES

(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 *"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"* ELW Hymn 659

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *"Take My Life, That I May Be"* **ELW Hymn 685**



5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

(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.

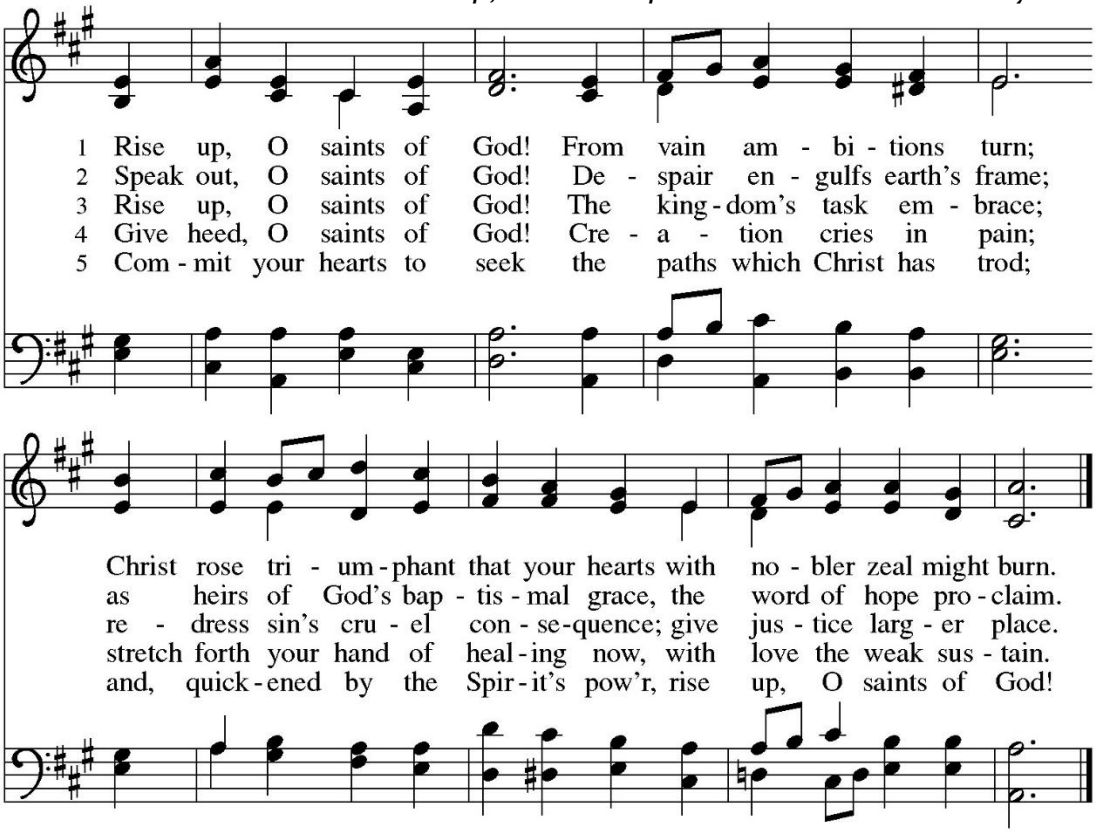
P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *"Rise Up, O Saints of God!"* **ELW Hymn 669**



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:	Judy Craven
Lutheran Campus Ministry:	Open
Missionary Support:	Open
Altar Flowers:	Vanette Wooldridge & Marlys McClurg-In Memory of Loved Ones
Remember in prayer:	Genieve Hingst; Barb West; Norma Bock; The Family of Pauline DeFosse

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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:	**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**	
	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	**Church Life & Outreach**
	10:55 a.m.	Lutheran Church of Hope Service
Thursday:	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study @ Messiah
Next Sunday:	**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost-Lotegeluaki Lengai Preaching!**	
	10:30 a.m.	Worship – **No Communion this week**
	10:55 a.m.	Lutheran Church of Hope Service

THE PASSING OF PAULINE DEFOSSE

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Pauline DeFosse, Mother of Patty Chacey, on August 23, 2026. She was laid to rest on September 12, 2026 at Prugh Funeral Home. It was a private service.

HAT & MITTEN TREE

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

SCHEDULES ARE OUT
Lector, Greeter, and Communion Assist., as well as money counter schedules for October through December are available on the table in Fellowship Hall. If you are on one or more of these schedules, please pick up your envelope. Any envelopes remaining will be sent out on Monday morning.

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

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!

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE
As you have seen the insert in your bulletin this week. We have a request for donations from the 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 on Sunday. Last chance to donate will be next Sunday, September 27.

WEEKLY FINANCE REPORT
These are the numbers for where we are financially for the dates of August 30 – September 5 & September 6 – September 12:

August 30-September 5
Income: $2,695.25
Expense: $1,585.74
Overage: $1,109.51

September 6-September 12:
Income: $1,830.00
Expense: $0

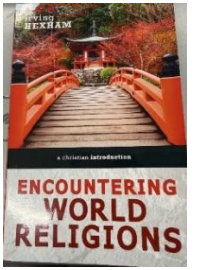
If you have any questions about these numbers, please contact a member of the Finance Committee.

SEPTEMBER OUTREACH DONATIONS

Food Pantry Donations for September: Non-perishable lunchbox items! (i.e. peanut butter, jelly, fruit snacks, chips, sandwich bags, fruit cups, etc…) Thank you all for your generosity!

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