

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 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.

Third Sunday in Lent

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 forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs
of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

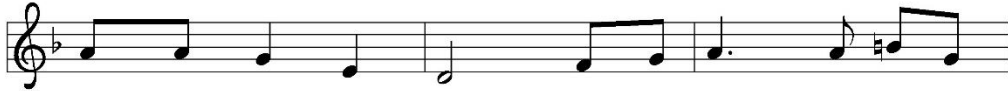
Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the
righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are
forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells
in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (Lent 3)" ELW Hymn 334



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

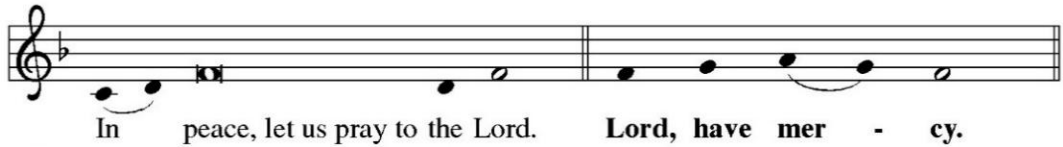
Lent 3
Living Water of salvation,
be the fountain of each soul;
springing up in new creation,
flow in us and make us whole.

GREETING

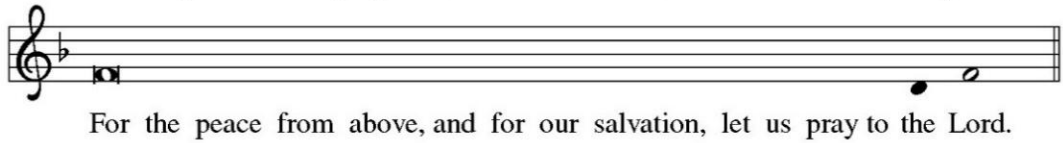
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

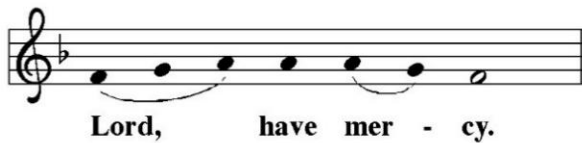
KYRIE



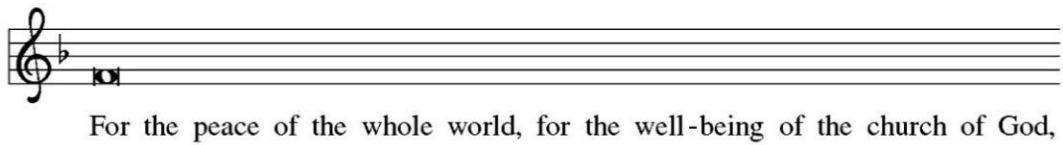
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



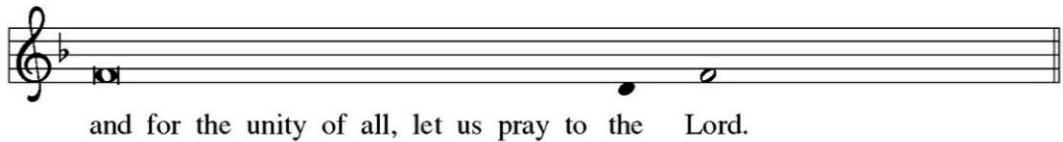
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



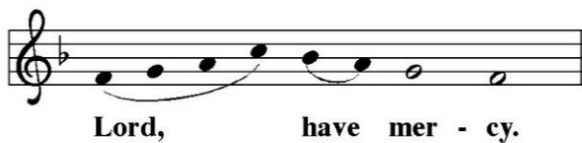
Lord, have mer - cy.



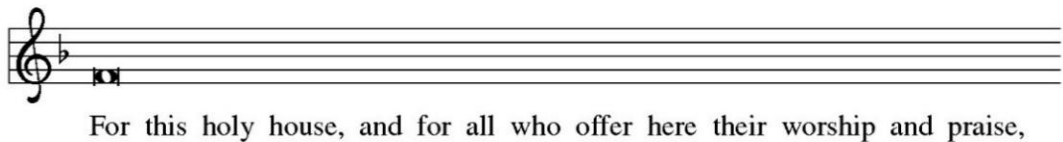
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



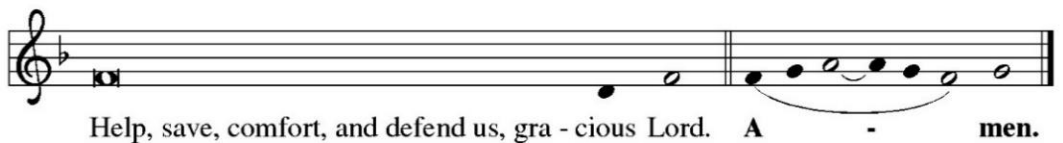
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



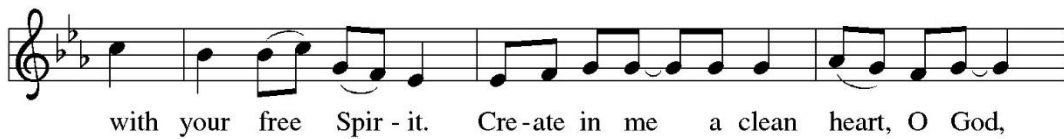
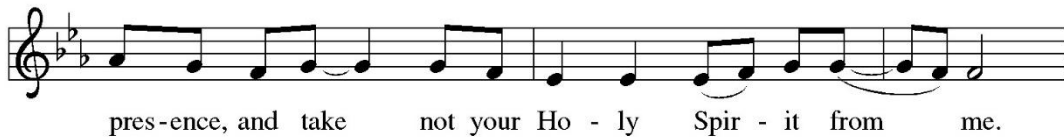
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW Hymn 185



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: **Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Exodus 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

- L: Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
- C: **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**
- L: For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
- C: **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**
- L: The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
- C: **Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**
- L: For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the
sheep of God's hand.
Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!
- C: **"Harden not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**
- L: There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.
- C: **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**
- L: Indeed I swore in my anger,
'They shall never come to my rest.'"

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-11

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Continued...

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P: The Gospel according to John the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL

John 4:5-42

⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Continued...

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” ¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’ ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” ¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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

“Before the Waters Nourished Earth”

ACS Hymn 1049

1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness

ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -

u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

We Respond to God's Word

THE APOSTLES' CREED *(unison)*

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

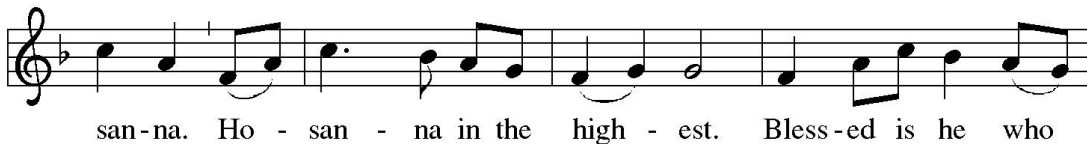
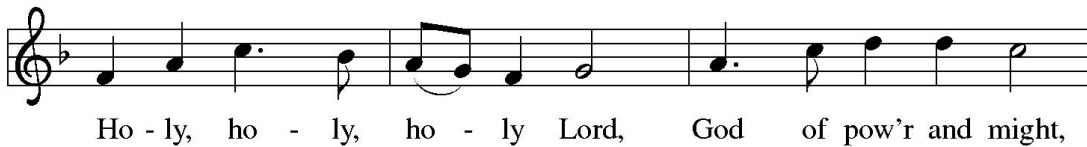
(Please Stand)

DIALOGUE



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

**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: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

(Please be seated)

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

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

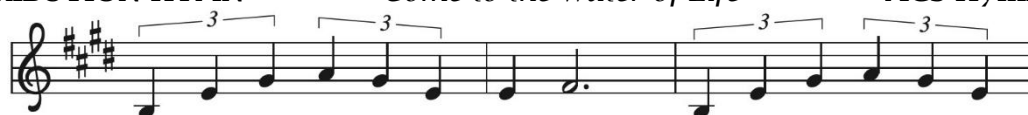
"In This Feast of Love"

ACS Hymn 962

Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä, täs - sä
1 In this feast of love, in this
2 In this bread and wine, in this
3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

pöy - däs - sä syn - ti - sil - le
feast of love, Lord, you share your
bread and wine, you have prom - ised,
peace, O Lord; fill us with the

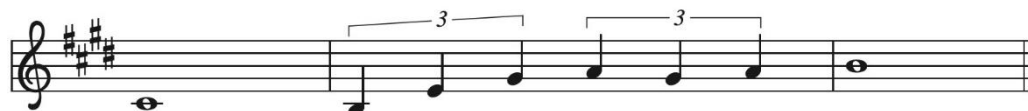
it - se - si an - nat, Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!
blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.
Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.
joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.



1 All who are thirst - y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for
 2 All who are thirst - y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for
 3 All who are thirst - y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for
 4 All who are thirst - y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for



love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
 touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,
 truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,
 peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,



come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

(Please Stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us Pray,

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.**



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress SundaysandSeasononline.com license #25124
 Reprinted from *Sundays and Seasons* copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector: Todd Chelf
Usher: Susan Swanson
Communion: Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt
Greeters: Vicki Stoller
Missionary Support: Open
Altar Flowers: Jan & Scott Creighton
Remember in prayer: Norma Bock; Bill Ward, Jr.; Mark Hermann

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*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.*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Today: **Third Sunday in Lent**
9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion
10:15 a.m. Church Life & Outreach
10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service

Monday: 6:30 p.m. Property mtg.

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

Wednesday: 12:30p.m. Lunch Bunch @ Toast of Burlington
Mid-Week Lenten Service @ Bethany
6:00 p.m. Soup Supper meal provided by Unity
7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study @ Messiah
6:00 p.m. Executive Committee mtg.
6:30 p.m. Finance Mtg.

Next Sunday: **Fourth Sunday in Lent**
9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion
10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES @ BETHANY

Mid-Week Lent Services are in full swing! Every Wednesday, through March 25. Soup Supper Meal will start at 6:00pm, with Holden Evening Prayer following at 7:00pm. Bethany will be providing the meal for March 18. Messiah will provide the meal for March 25. Unity will provide the meal for March 11.

MARCH OUTREACH DONATIONS

Food Pantry Donations for March will be: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Crackers, & Coffee!

MID-WEEK LENTEN MARCH 18 MEAL SIGN-UP

The sign-up sheet for the March 18 soup supper meal is now available on the table in the Fellowship Hall! This meal we are doing Casseroles and also breads, puddings, jello, & desserts!

FEBRUARY FINANCE REPORT

As was announced in last Sunday's bulletin, here is a snapshot of our February 2026 financials. This is very simply stated and there will be more in-depth information shared as we move through the year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of the Finance committee. Those people are: Dan Wischmeier, Treasurer; Mike Hopp; Michelle Huppenbauer; Jim Martindale & Pam Taylor. Thank you.

February 2026

Budgeted income: \$10,310.00

Actual income: \$9,127.00

Budgeted expenses: \$14,150.30

Actual expenses: \$15,104.54

EASTER LILY ORDERS

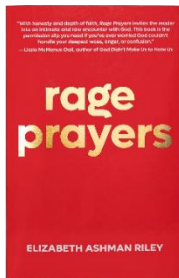
It's that time of year again! Easter lily orders have started! Lilies are \$18.00 with purple foil and no bows. Order forms are available in your bulletins and will be included in the March Chimes Newsletter as well. Some extra forms will be available in the office. Deadline for lily orders is next Sunday, March 15!

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet again this Wednesday, March 11 @ 12:30pm @ Toast of Burlington, located in Fairway Center. To sign up, have any questions, or need transportation arrangement, please call Dave Nuebel at 319-237-6933.

MARCH PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB

Our March book club will meet again this Tuesday, March 10 @ 5:00 p.m., here at Bethany. All are invited to join us! For this month, we will be reading "Rage Prayers" by Elizabeth Ashman Riley!



LETTER FROM ELCA ABOUT REV. BRIAN PALMER



February 26, 2026

Isaiah 54:10 – *For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.*

Dear ELCA congregations,

I write to you today with deep sadness and grief to notify you of the death of Rev. Brian Palmer, a missionary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serving in Totota, Liberia. Rev. Palmer tragically passed away on February 25, 2026, succumbing to injuries sustained in a vehicle accident.

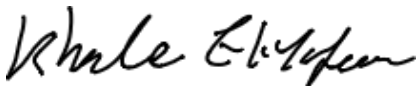
Rev. Palmer was serving as the Dean for the College of Theology at the main campus of the Lutheran University of Liberia in Totota, Liberia, at the time of his death, and had been serving as a missionary of the ELCA in West Africa since 2010.

We are deeply grateful for the ministry of Rev. Palmer in the area of leadership formation and the positive impact his life had on so many individuals across West Africa and within the United States.

We ask that you keep Rev. Palmer's family and friends, the Lutheran Church in Liberia, the students and communities he accompanied, and the Global Mission team in your prayers during this time of grief.

If you would like to send a message of comfort or prayers to Rev. Palmer's family, they have asked the ELCA Churchwide Office to receive these words of consolation on their behalf. These messages can be sent to globalchurch@elca.org. When we have more information regarding memorial service arrangements, we will provide these details to you.

In the Promise of Eternal Life in Christ,



Pastor Khader El-Yateem
Executive Director, Service and Justice Unit

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
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***

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Our Staff

Rev. Misha McFarland-Pollock
Cory Byrne
Wendy Bell
Michelle Huppenbauer
Pam Crable

Pastor
Organist/Choir Director
Office Administrator
Financial Secretary
Custodian