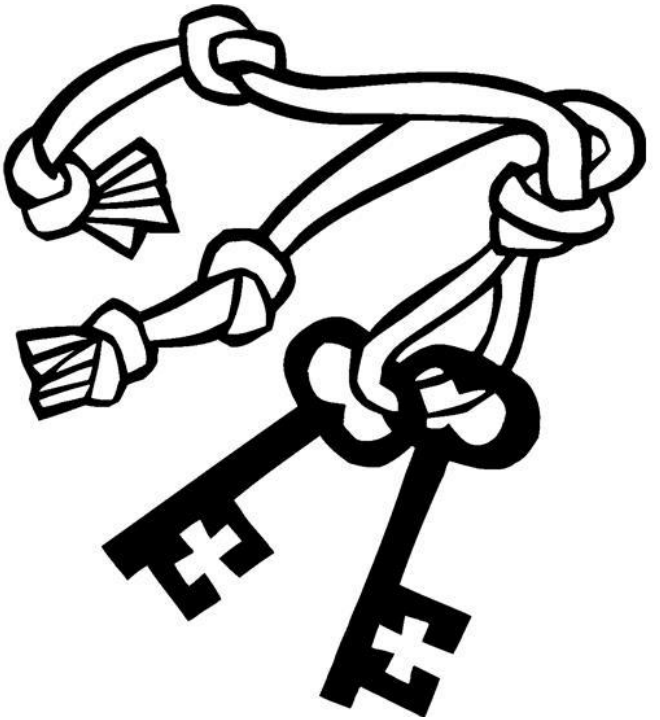
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026



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.

Thirteenth 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,
whose compassion endures forever.
C: Amen.
P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,
C: we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.
P: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.
C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Built On a Rock" **ELW Hymn 652**

5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:
"I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see;
my peace I leave with you. Amen."

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING **Isaiah 51:1-6**

[1] Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
[2] Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
[3] For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

[4] Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
[5] I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
[6] Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

PSALM *(read responsively)* **Psalm 138**

L: I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**C: I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

L: When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

**C: All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

L: They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.

**C: The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

L: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

**C: You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

SECOND READING **Romans 12:1-8**

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to
present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your
reasonable act of worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by
the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is
good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of
yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment,
each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body
we have many members and not all the members have the same function, 5 so we,
who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of
another. 6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in
proportion to faith; 7 ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; 8 the
encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the
compassionate, in cheerfulness.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL **Matthew 16:13-20**

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the
Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said
to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the
Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you,
Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father
in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the
kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and
whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he sternly ordered
the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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 *"The Church's One Foundation"* **ELW Hymn 654**

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: Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

We Share in the Holy Meal

(Please Stand)

DIALOGUE

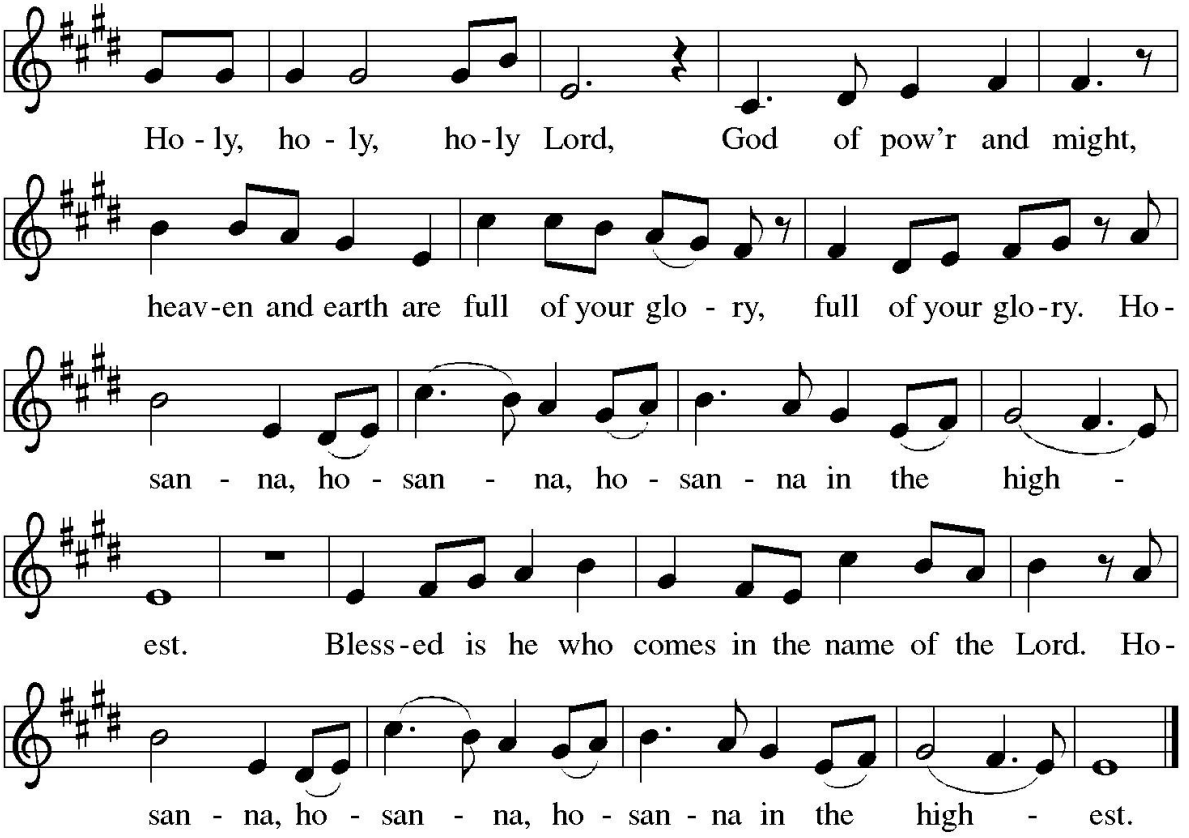
P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

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

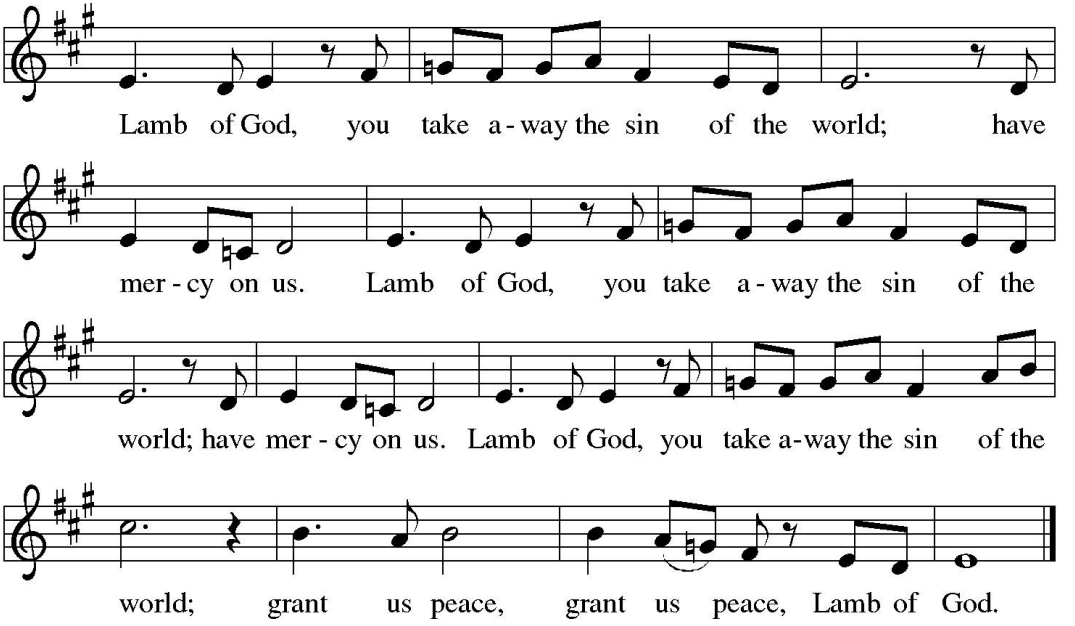
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

(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 *"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"* ELW Hymn 596

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"* **ELW Hymn 623**

(Please Stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

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 *"We All Are One In Mission"* **ELW Hymn 576**

DISMISSAL

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector:	Judy Craven
Usher:	Susan Swanson
Communion:	Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt
Greeters:	Lynda Johnson
Missionary Support:	Open
Altar Flowers:	Carol Dodge
Remember in prayer:	Eleonore Benninghoven; Genieve Hingst; Barb West

~ ~

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:	**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**	
	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:55 a.m.	Lutheran Church of Hope Service
Thursday:	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study @ Messiah
	Office Open Late @ 2:30pm	
Next Sunday:	**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**	
	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:55 a.m.	Lutheran Church of Hope Service

NEW WOMEN'S ACTIVITY GROUP

A new monthly activity for women will begin Wednesday of September 2nd at 1:00pm, in the "refreshed" Bethany church library. Take a look! 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 activity. Hope to see you ladies! If you have any questions, please see or contact Pam Taylor (319-750-7982) or Vicki Stoller (319-750-2384).

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!

WEEKLY FINANCE REPORT

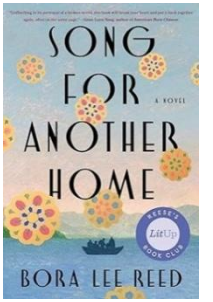
These are the numbers for where we are financially for the dates of August 9 – August 15:

August 9-August 15
Income: $11,277.00
Expense: $5,262.93
Overage: $6,014.07

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

SEPTEMBER PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB

Our September book club will meet again this Tuesday, September 8 @ 5:00 p.m., here at Bethany. All are invited to join us! For this month, we will be reading "Song For Another Home" By Bora Lee Reed.



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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