

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025



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.

Twelfth 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: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Merciful God,

C: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen.

A BLESSING OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Let us pray for all who are beginning a new school year,
that both students and teachers
will be blessed in their academic endeavors.
Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge.
Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight,
and students the gift of diligence and openness,
that all may grow in what is good and honest and true.
Support all who teach and all who learn,
that together we may know and follow your ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

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



2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the

3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for

4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

wa - ter and the word; that you



we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,

life and for love, for our work and our play,

nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you



for your glo - ry. *Refrain* Glo - ry to God in the high-



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and

peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 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. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's

peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

C: O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Proverbs 25:6-7a

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *(read responsively)*

Psalms 112

L: Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!

C: **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

L: Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

C: **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

L: It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

C: **For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

L: They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

C: **Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

L: They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast
forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

C: **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine
away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

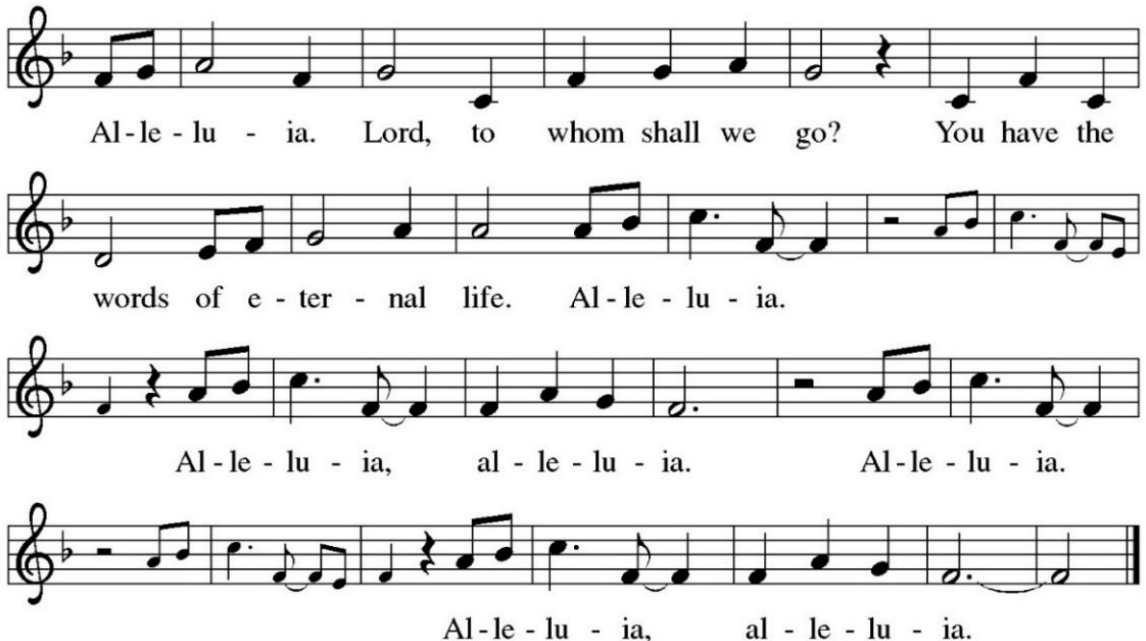
⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Gospel according to Luke the 14th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

GOSPEL

Luke 14:1, 7-14

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

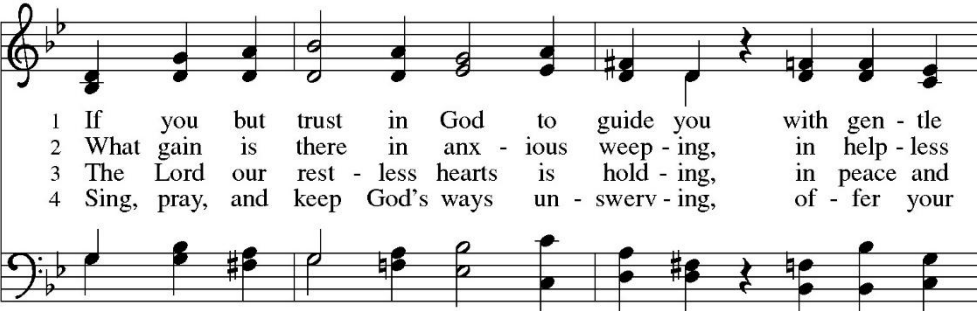
(Please be seated)

SERMON


Rev. Misha McFarland-Pollock

(Please stand)

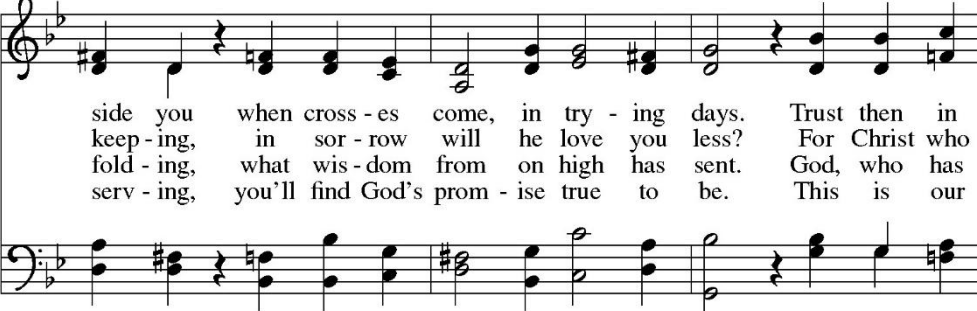
HYMN OF THE DAY "If You But Trust in God to Guide You" ELW Hymn 769




1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

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)

THE 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:

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The hymn consists of five lines of music. The first line ends with a comma, and the second line ends with a period. The third line ends with a dash, indicating it continues on the fourth line. The fourth line ends with a period, and the fifth line ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.'

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

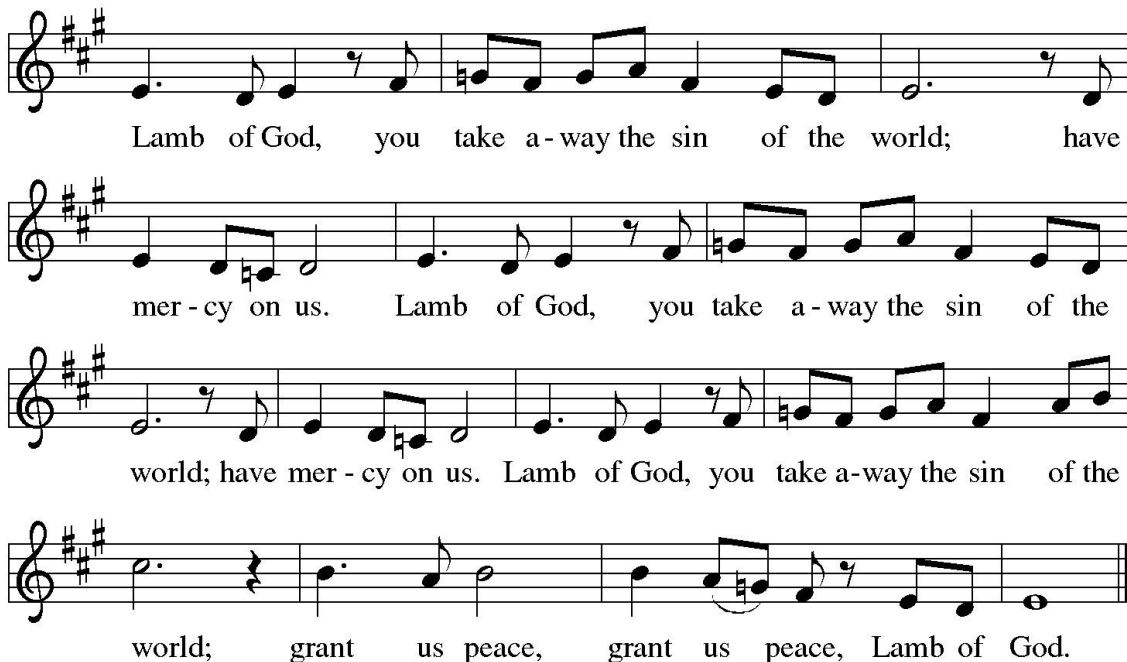
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

(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, grant us peace, 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

"God is Here!"

ELW Hymn 526

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

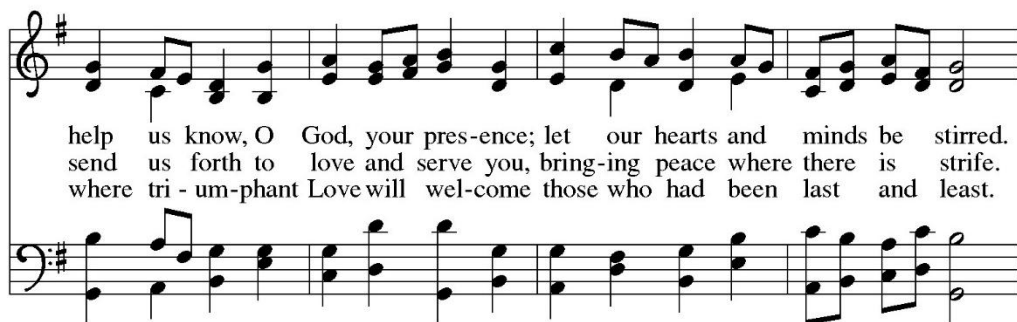
what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach-ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com-ing of the Spir-it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new-ness and re - new-al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with-out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!



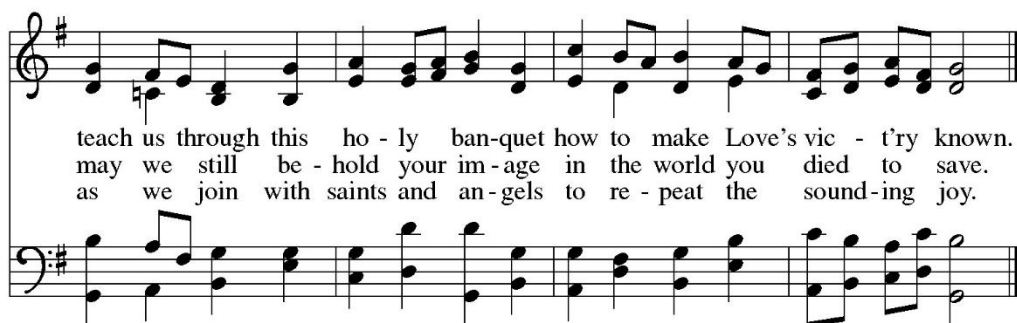
1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;
 3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri-um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for-give as you for-gave;
 There no more will en-vy blind us nor will pride our peace de-stroy,



teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic-t'ry known.
 may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

(Please stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

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.**

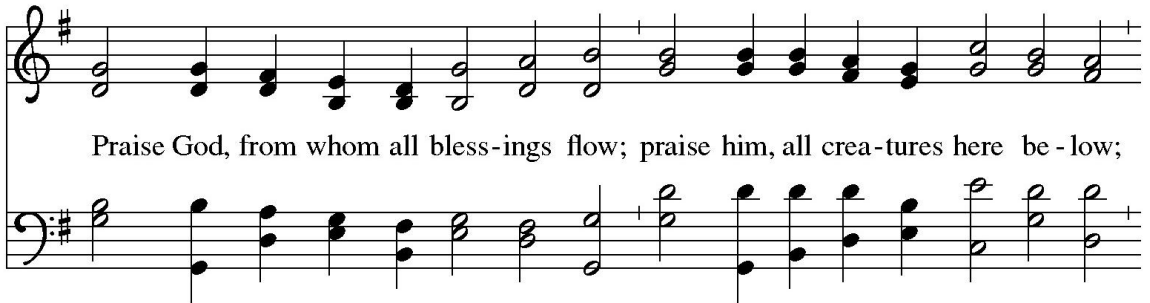
P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may
abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

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

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"* ELW Hymn 884



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;



praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector: Mike Hopp
Usher: Susan Swanson
Communion: Todd & Laurie Chelf
Greeters: Dan & Julia Wischmeier
Missionary Support: Open
Altar Flowers: Judy Craven
Remember in prayer: Eleonore Benninghoven; Bev Felland; Genieve Hingst

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*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: **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**
9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service
Monday: Office Closed in observance of Labor Day
Thursday: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study @ Messiah
Friday: Noon Retired Nurses Mtg.
Next Sunday: **Rally Day! Joint Worship @ Messiah**
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service

RALLY DAY JOINT SERVICE @ MESSIAH

We will be having a joint service @ Messiah on Sunday, September 7 for Rally Day! Worship service will start at 10:30am. Sunday School and Adult Education start at 9:15am for anyone who would like to attend. A Potluck Picnic will follow the Worship service! Please bring a dish to share with everyone, if you are able!

SEPTEMBER LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will be meeting next on Wednesday, September 10 @ 12:30pm @ The Broadway in West Burlington! Please note the time change for this month. To sign up, if you have any questions or need travel arrangements, please contact Dave Nuebel at 319-237-6933.

FAITH FORWARD KITS

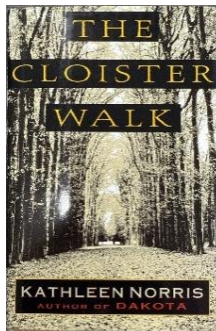
Faith Forward parent and grandparent kits or magnets are available! Please see Pastor Misha if you would like to have one!

SEPTEMBER OUTREACH DONATIONS

Outreach Food Pantry Donations for September will be non-perishable Breakfast items, (i.e.: Cereals, breakfast bars, pop tarts, etc...)

SEPTEMBER BOOK CLUB

Our September book club gathering will be Tuesday, September 9, 7:00 p.m. here at Bethany. All are invited to join us! For this month, we'll be reading "The Cloister Walk" by Kathleen Norris.



EWALU'S 38TH ANNUAL QUILT AUCTION

Camp Ewalu (located by Strawberry Point, IA) is hosting their Annual Quilt Auction on-site, on Saturday, September 20! Admission for this event is free, though you need to bring your own lawn chair. Schedule of events starts at 9:00am, a freewill BBQ lunch is offered at noon and the 1:00pm starts the Quilt Auction! An Online Auction is also being offered and starts on Monday, September 15 at 12:00pm and ends Sunday, September 21 at 7:00pm. You will find the link to the online auction on their website www.Ewalu.org.

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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
Cory Byrne
Kim Engle
Wendy Bell
Michelle Huppenbauer
Pam Crable

Pastor
Organist/Choir Director
Stephen Minister Coordinator
Office Administrator
Financial Secretary
Custodian