



Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

Reaching out in Worship, Fellowship, Learning, and
Love - We Are God's People.

☀️ Christmas Eve ☀️

Bethany's Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00pm on December 24. Messiah will have a Christmas Eve service at 7:00pm & 11:00pm if you need a later service time.



Midweek Advent Services

This year Bethany and Messiah are having joint mid-week Advent services! Mid-week Advent services will be held at Bethany on Wednesdays during Advent (12/4, 12/11, 12/18). There will be a meal before each service, starting at 6:00pm with the Vesper Service "Bless This Night" starting at 7:00pm. We have invited Unity to join us! *Please see announcements section and watch your bulletins for more information on meals.



The Chimes



Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

2515 Madison Ave.
Burlington, Iowa
Phone: (319) 752-3621
www.bethanyburlington.org

Our Staff

Rev. Misha McFarland-Pollock, Pastor
Cory Byrne, Choir Director/Organist
Kim Engle, Stephen Ministry Coordinator
Wendy Bell, Office Administrator
Michelle Huppenbauer, Temporary Financial Secretary
Pam Crable, Custodian

A note from Renee Hardman, President and CEO of Lutheran Services in Iowa:

Dear friends,

I hope this finds you safe and warm. As I am closing in on my first year as President and CEO at LSI, I am filled with gratitude for our generous donors, dedicated staff members, and kind supporters. Thanks to caring people like you, LSI had another incredible year serving our neighbors. Your donations ensured young parents had access to resources and support. Your in-kind items provided comforting beds for immigrants and refugees to rest upon. Your prayers lifted the spirits of our LSI team members and those we serve. As we enjoy this holiday season, I want to thank you for supporting LSI.

If you would like to serve more neighbors in need, please give at LSIowa.org/donate.

Eternally Grateful,

Renee

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.





If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
-- 1 John 1:8-9

The end of 2024 is fast approaching! Time is flying! November began with each of us voting in a national election and ended with a Friendsgiving for the youth at Messiah and a joint Thanksgiving Eve service held at Messiah. Bethany participated in the Burlington Holiday Parade to kick off the holiday season. The church year is unique in that a new liturgical year begins as the calendar year ends. Soon churches and houses will be decorated for the holiday season!

We have a lot going on at Bethany and Messiah! Advent begins December 1! Both churches will have the hanging of the greens that day. Bethany in the afternoon and Messiah right after church. It is a wonderful time to come together in a festive way while making the churches beautiful for Advent and Christmas.

We will have joint midweek Advent services held at Bethany. There will be a meal at 6pm and a vesper service at 7pm. This year we will use a new service from Holden Village called Bless This Night. It is a beautiful service that highlights the sacredness of night and darkness.

New this year is a joint Blue Christmas Service that will take place at 6pm on December 19th at Unity Lutheran Church. I am working with Pastor Cosgrove on this service. Blue Christmas is a service for individuals who need a gentle service for the holidays - a place where they don't have to ignore their grief, sadness, or loneliness. Christmas can be hard for some people and a Blue Christmas service is a place where they can be themselves without any judgement.

Christmas Eve is full of services - 3 to be exact! The early service will be at 5pm at Bethany. The evening service will be at 7pm at Messiah and the night service will be at 11pm at Messiah. You are welcome to attend the service that suits your needs.

December 29th will be a hymn sing. Start taking time now to look through the hymnal (the ELW) to find your favorite hymns! The hymns sung on 29th will come from the congregation. There will be communion on this Sunday and lots and lots of hymns!

Confirmation is going well! We are in the middle of the commandments. As part of our learning we will have two special services led by the confirmation students. A confession and forgiveness service and a service of healing. The service of healing will take place in February. The confession and forgiveness service will take place Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 7pm at Messiah Lutheran Church. It is important to support the youth of our congregations, so we hope to see you all there!

I can't wait to spend the holidays with you! I love Advent and Christmas hymns! I enjoy decorating for Christmas! Please come check out my offices during the holidays to see my trees!

Blessings,
Pastor Misha

[A Thank You Message From Bishop Amy Current](#)

Dear Bethany Lutheran Church-Burlington,

Below is a link to a short video I made for you and the members of your congregation. I want to express my gratitude for your support and for the generous ways you and your congregation give to the Southeastern Iowa Synod, our partners, and your local community efforts.

<https://www.dropbox.com/t/CxFqzIRfsSHmfTV6>

Thank you again for your ministry,

Bishop Amy Current
Southeastern Iowa Synod

If viewing the newsletter on your computer, press the ctrl button and then click on the link provided, to view the short video message.

Meetings

The meetings for December, 2024 that have been scheduled as of the publishing of this newsletter are listed below. Watch your bulletins for any date and time changes, or additional meetings that may be scheduled.

Finance Committee
Thursday, Dec. 12 @ 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee
Thursday, Dec. 12 @ 6:00 p.m.

Church Life Committee
Sunday, Dec. 8 @ 10:15 a.m.

Property Committee
Monday, Dec. 9 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Council
Thursday, Dec. 19 @ 6:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast
Not meeting in December

Church Outreach
Sunday, Dec. 1 @ 10:15 a.m.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

November ATTENDANCE

November 3	58
November 10	49
November 17	63

November GIVING

November 3	\$2,740.40
November 10	\$1,307.40
November 17	<u>\$2,277.00</u>
Total:	\$6,324.80

**November 24 attendance & giving will be added to the January Chimes issue. This is due to time restraints due to the Holidays. Thank you for your understanding.*

October VANCO total: \$1,530.00



PLEASE NOTE

Because of Federal Privacy laws, if you or a member of your family are hospitalized and would like the Pastor to visit, you must contact the church and let us know.

LAY LEADERS

December

December Usher: Susan Swanson

Communion Assistants

- 1 - Steve & Sue Rogers
- 8 - Mark Rosenberg; Rachel Lindeen
- 15 - Scott & Jan Creighton
- 22 - Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt
- 29 - Jim & Sharon Martindale

Lector

- 1 - Vicki Stoller
- 8 - Mikie Hopp
- 15 - Ron Kastner
- 22 - Carlene Woodside
- 29 - Jessica King

Greeters

- 1 - Bill Mundt
- 8 - Carol Dodge
- 15 - Dan & Julie Wischmeier
- 22 - Vicki Stoller
- 29 - Mark & Bonnie Rosenberg

Flowers

- 1 - Jim & Sharon Martindale
- 8 - Kathy Beach
- 15 - Michelle & Tiffany Huppenbauer
- 22 - Poinsettias
- 29 - Poinsettias

Missionary Support

- 1 - Open
- 8 - Open
- 15 - Open
- 22 - Open
- 29 - Open

Altar Guild

- Sharon Martindale
- Lynda Johnson
- Kim Engle



Ukrainian Donations Update

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who generously gave items to welcome our new Ukrainian friends to Burlington. They were overwhelmed with your love and kindness, which greatly alleviated a very stressful time for them.

There are more families moving to this area from Ukraine and also from other countries where violence and hardship are prevalent, such as Haiti and Venezuela. World Relief, based in the Quad Cities, helps them and they rely on donations to outfit a home. The families often arrive with only a few items of clothing. If you have any spare furniture you would like to donate, they would be very welcome for other families. If you let me know, I can arrange for pickup.

Small items are also needed--especially bath towels, dishes, glasses, mugs, silverware, and other kitchen items, and sheet/blanket sets. Thank you so much for so clearly modeling Christ's love for these good people! -Kim Engle



Angel Tree

We started our Angel Tree! Please choose an angel (or angels), from the tree to fulfill the wish on the tag. At this time, there are still a few tags left for wishes to be fulfilled, the angel tree started on Sunday, November 17. Return your unwrapped gift in a sack, with the angel tag, and place under the tree. All angel tree tags and gifts must be under the tree by December 11. To add to this, we will have envelopes on the Angel Tree for monetary donations for the Ukrainian family that Kim Engle is sponsoring! If you have any questions, please contact Kim Engle! Thank you for your generosity!



Announcements



Last day for Poinsettia orders will be Sunday, December 1! If you have not ordered yet and would like one, please get your order and payment in, as no orders will be taken after this date! You may also drop off your order and payment in the office during office hours if you are not able to attend on Sunday.

Hanging of the Greens will be on Sunday, December 1 @ 12:00pm! Come help decorate the church for the Christmas Season!

The Choir will be singing a Christmas Anthem on Sunday, December 22.
Rehearsal will be on Sunday, December 15 @ 8:00am.

If anyone is interested in providing special music at any time (solo, duet, instrument), please let Cory (and Wendy) know what you would like to perform and when so it can be added to the calendar.

There will be a Blue Christmas service @ 6pm on December 19 @ Unity Lutheran Church. This is a service of music and readings for those who struggle with loss during the Christmas season.

All Angel Tree tags and unwrapped gifts need to be under the Angel Tree before December 11. Please see the article further up for more details.

Christmas Eve service on December 24 will be at 5:00pm at Bethany. Messiah Lutheran will have service at 7:00pm & 11:00pm if you are needing a later time.

Midweek Advent will be on Wednesdays during the Advent Season. Meal is at 6:00pm with the Vesper Service "Bless this Night" starting at 7:00pm.

Bethany will be providing the meal for Advent service on Wed. Dec. 4. Maid-rites and drinks will be provided. Please bring a covered dish, sides, or dessert to share. Watch your bulletins for the 12/11 & 12/18 plans for meals.

Men's Breakfast will not be meeting in December.

December 29 will be a Hymn Sing! Hymns will come from the congregation, so get your favorite Hymns ready from the ELW to shout out!

Wendy will be out of the office on Monday, December 9. The office will be closed.

The office will be closed on December 25 for Christmas Day!



December Anniversaries

- 13 - Tiffany & Michelle Huppenbauer
- 21 - William & Dee Dee McAlister



December BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Annette Peterson
- 5 - Scott Creighton; Nancy House; Megan Rogers; Becky Ward
- 7 - Matt Morris
- 9 - Savanna Evans
- 11 - Shayla McIntyre
- 14 - Samantha Gerdes; Patricia Milton; Holly Williamson
- 18 - Adam Cox; Betty Stanley; Chris Wallace
- 21 - Jaelyn Adam; Bev Felland
- 26 - Nathaniel Johnson
- 27 - Linda Hermann
- 29 - Kandance Durbin
- 30 - Jackie Shofe; Julia Wischmeier
- 31 - Benjamin & Jonathon Chelf





December 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Church Outreach 10:15 am Ukrainian family mtg & fellowship 10:55 am Hope Service 12:00 pm Hanging of the Greens	2 Retired School Personnel mtg @ Noon	3 	4 Advent Service Meal @ 6pm Vesper Service "Bless this Night" @ 7pm Bethany to provide meal	5	6 Nurses mtg @ Noon	7
8 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Church Life 10:55 am Hope Service	9 Property mtg @ 6:30pm	10	11 Advent Service Meal @ 6pm Vesper Service "Bless this Night" @ 7pm	12 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah Exec. Comm. Mtg @ 6:00 pm Finance mtg @ 6:30pm	13 	14
15 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Church Life 10:55 am Hope Service	16 	17 	18 Advent Service Meal @ 6pm Vesper Service "Bless this Night" @ 7pm	19 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah Blue Christmas @ 6pm @ Unity Council mtg @ 7pm	20	21
22 4th Sunday of Advent 8:00 am Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:55 am Hope Service Choir will sing during Worship	23	24 Christmas Eve Service @ 5:00pm	25 Office Closed 	26 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah Lutheran	27	28
29 1st Sunday of Christmas Hymn Sing! 9:00 am Worship 10:55 am Hope Service	30	31 				Paraments: Blue: 1, 8, 15, 22 White: 29