



Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

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

The Chimes



2024 Annual Meeting

The 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting will be on

Sunday, January 19, 2025

Immediately following worship!

Annual reports will be out on Sunday, January 12, so be sure to stop and pick one up. Take some time to review the document and come prepared with any questions you may have.



Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Burlington, Iowa
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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

The new year brings new beginnings. At LSI, we walk alongside Iowans for all sorts of beginnings. We walk alongside parents-to-be as they prepare for the birth of their child. We welcome immigrants and refugees as they begin their new lives in Iowa. We train parents looking to adopt a child and create a new beginning for their family.

This January, we offer Thomas's story of his new beginning.

In 1996, Congolese civil war broke out in the present-day countries of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Republic of the Congo, forcing then two-year-old Thomas Mbuthu into exile in a refugee camp in neighboring Zambia. After growing up in a refugee camp, now 27-year-old Thomas applied to come to the United States.

When Thomas landed at the Des Moines airport in an entirely foreign land in a state called Iowa, LSI caseworker Patrick Karemera greeted him.

“I said, ‘Welcome! This is your new home now! I am your brother. This is a new life. Feel free and feel safe,’” shared Patrick, recounting his initial meeting with his client Thomas.

Thomas thanked him, explaining he had not expected to see someone like Patrick welcome him – someone who looked like himself and spoke his native languages of Lingala and Swahili.

“As a refugee, I wanted a better life. But I didn’t know where I was going. ‘What is going to happen to me?’” wondered Thomas aloud.

“When Patrick came to me, I could see the future.”

Patrick is from the same country as Thomas, coming to America just a few years prior. He works as a caseworker to welcome refugees to Iowa and helps them resettle, pursue their goals, and navigate the challenges of an entirely foreign place.

“I immigrated here, like Thomas. It’s rewarding to welcome somebody like me to come here to Iowa. This is my second home,” said Patrick.

Patrick admires how courageous, open-minded, and curious Thomas is. He encourages his client to dream big and work hard to achieve his goals.

“Life is about helping each other,” shared Patrick.

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.





And now, O Lord, you are God, and you have promised this good thing to your servant; therefore, may it please you to bless the house of your servant so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord, have blessed and are blessed forever. - 1 Chronicles 17:26-27

Well, we have made it to the end of 2024! Since I began serving Bethany and Messiah, I have celebrated baptisms and new members. I have also mourned with family and friends as I presided at funerals. We have experienced my ordination together (both in-person and online) and we shared in my installation (in-person, online, and via radio in the parking lot). Bruce left for internship and returned to complete his internship. We have blessed backpacks, affirmed baptisms, celebrated Friendsgiving, worshiped for Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve, Blue Christmas, experienced our first Advent season together, and learned a new vesper service - Bless This Night. It has been a packed 7 months together! I am so excited to see what 2025 will bring!

I want to thank everyone who has served during worship, special events, to make sure our churches are clean and safe, and that the parsonage is mowed, leaves are collected, and snow is removed. You are all amazing! Thank you to everyone who gives of your time, talents, money, and resources to help spread the good news of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit. We wouldn't be the amazing congregations we are without each and every one of you!

We are going to start off 2025 strong with a couple of baptisms taking place at Bethany. One is on January 12th and one on February 16th.

We have annual meetings coming up soon. Bethany's is January 19, 2025 and Messiah's is February 2, 2025. We will have joint worship services both days. On January 19th worship is at 9am at Bethany followed by the annual meeting. On February 2nd worship is at 10:30am at Messiah with the annual meeting preceding at 9:15am. Please attend worship for our joint services. It is great to come together to celebrate God and fellowship together. Working and worshiping together makes us stronger and helps us use gifts and talents that work better together than apart. I love seeing us all together!

I will be away on vacation at the end of January to celebrate my birthday! I will be away January 20-26. I love the outdoors and will spend a week in the woods! There will be pastoral coverage while I'm away. That information will be provided closer to when I leave.

Before you know it, it will be Ash Wednesday and Lent and then Easter. We will have midweek Lenten services using Holden Evening Prayer. The midweek services will be held at Messiah. There are 5 midweek services during Lent, and I would love to hear a variety of voices as preachers. Please let me know if you would like to give a 5 minute sermon.

Blessings in 2025!

Pastor Misha

Meetings

The meetings for January, 2025 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, Jan. 9 @ 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee
Thursday, Jan. 9 @ 6:00 p.m.

Church Life Committee
Sunday, Jan. 12 @ 10:15 a.m.

Property Committee
Monday, Jan. 13 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Council
No Council meeting this month

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, Jan. 18 @ 8:00 a.m.

Church Outreach
No Outreach meeting this month

Annual Congregational Meeting
January 19 @ 10:15 a.m.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

December ATTENDANCE

December	1	62
December	8	55
December	15	57
December	22	64

**November 24 48*

December GIVING

December 1	\$2,317.50
December 8	\$1,842.70
December 15	\$1,471.75
December 22	<u>\$1,546.00</u>
Total:	\$7,177.95

**November 24 \$2,338.00*
November Total \$8,662.80

**November 24 attendance & giving was added to the January issue due to time restraints due to the holiday season.*

**December 29 attendance & giving totals will be added in the February issue due to time restraints due to the holiday season.*

December VANCO total: \$1,560.00

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

January

January Usher: Susan Swanson

Communion Assistants

5 - Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt

12 - Steve & Sue Rogers

19 - Mike Hopp; Julie Wischmeier

26 - Jim & Sharon Martindale

Lector

5 - Rachel Lindeen

12 - Todd Chelf

19 - Pam Taylor

26 - Bill Mundt



Greeters

5 - Carol Dodge

12 - Mel & Judy Craven

19 - Marlys McClurg & Vanette Wooldridge

26 - Dan & Julie Wischmeier

Flowers

New flower chart for 2025

out now! Stop on Sunday

and choose your special day!

Missionary Support

New chart for 2025

out now! Stop on Sunday

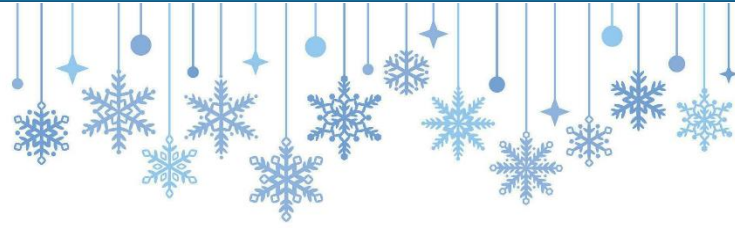
and choose your special day!

Altar Guild

Sarah Loots

Debbie Hoxie

Announcements



Office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1st for New Year's Day.

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19. Meeting will start immediately following service at 10:15 a.m.

Annual Reports will be distributed on Sunday, January 12.

There will be a Joint service with Messiah @ Bethany, also, on Sunday, January 19 and a joint service @ Messiah on Sunday, February 2.

Pastor Misha will be on vacation from January 20-January 26.

Council will not be meeting in January.

Outreach will not be meeting in January and will not be taking donations for the food pantry in January. Stay tuned for what will be for February.

The Flower Chart and Missionary Support Chart are both up in the hallway for 2025! Please stop on Sunday and pick your special day!

A thank you from Carol Dodge: Outreach would like to say a big Thank You to the congregation! Whenever we ask or there is a need, everyone steps up! What a wonderful feeling that is! Thank you one and all! - Carol Dodge -



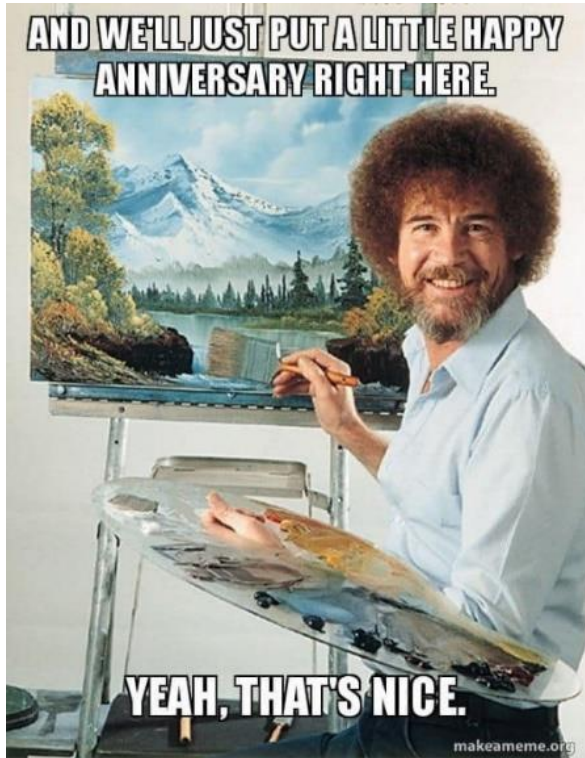
January Anniversaries

16 - Ron & Carlene Woodside



January BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Andrew Shepherd
- 4 - Michelle Cox; J.T. McCarthy;
Brian Rosenberg
- 6 - Pam Luder
- 9 - Aunika Johnson; Tyler Shofe
- 11 - Melissa Milton
- 12 - Kaye Sladky
- 14 - Taylor House
- 15 - Mary Honsey
- 21 - Bradley Johnson
- 23 - Conni Boyer; Joyce Timberlake
- 27 - Pam Taylor





January 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Paraments: White: 5, 12 Green: 19, 26			1 	2 Annual Reports are Due!	3	4
5 2nd Sunday of Christmas 9:00 am Worship 10:55 am Hope Service <i>No Outreach this month</i>	6 	7	8	9 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah Exec. Comm. Mtg @ 6:00pm Finance mtg @ 6:30pm	10	11
12 Baptism of Our Lord 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Church Life 10:55 am Hope Service <i>Baptism of Jim Webb</i> <i>Annual Reports to be distributed</i>	13 Property mtg @ 6:30pm	14	15	16 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah Questers Group mtg @ 1:30pm	17 	18 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany <i>Joint Service w/Messiah</i> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 a.m. Annual Meeting 10:55 am Hope Service <i>Annual Congregational Meeting</i>	20 Pastor Misha Away on vacation 	21 	22 <i>Pastor Misha on Vacation Jan. 20-26</i>	23 Bible Study @ 9:30am @ Messiah Lutheran	24	25
26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Worship 10:55 am Hope Service <i>Pastor Misha on Vacation Jan. 20-26</i> 	27 Pastor Misha returns	28	29	30 	31	