

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 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.

Second 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 disdainning 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.

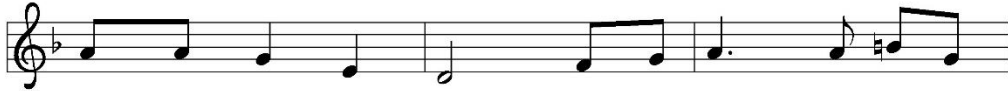
Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the
righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are
forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells
in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (Lent 2)" 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 2


In our call to be a blessing,
may we be a blessing true;
may we live and die confessing
Christ as Lord of all we do.

GREETING

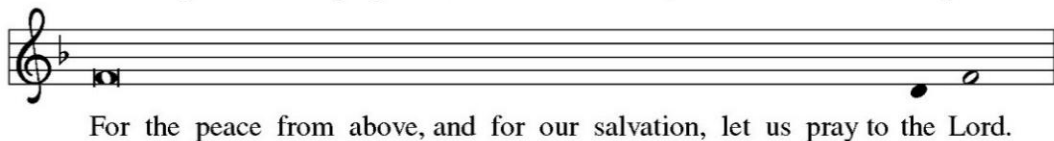
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

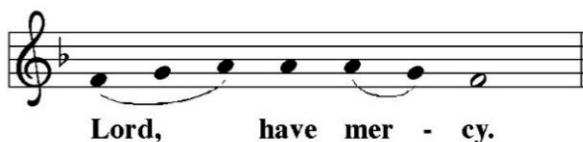
KYRIE



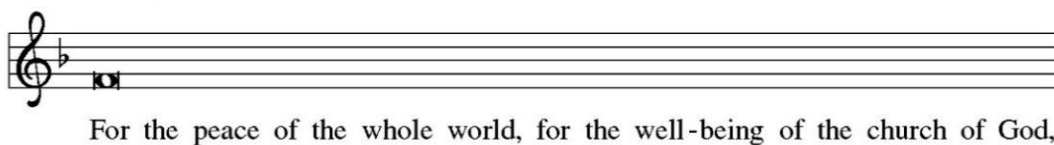
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



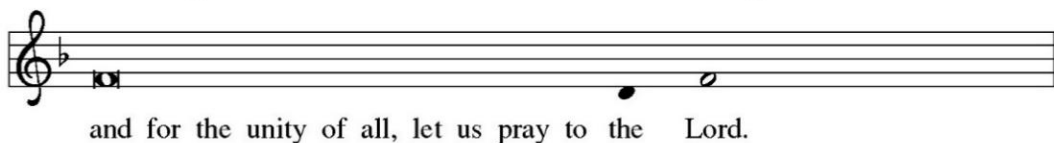
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



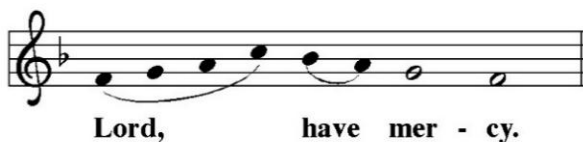
Lord, have mer - cy.



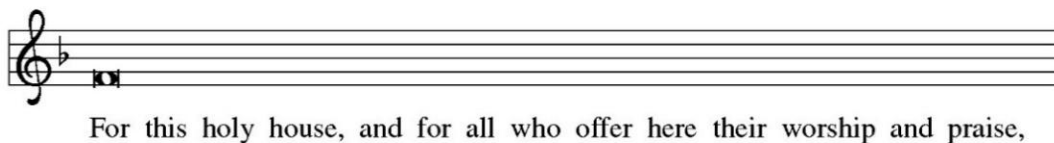
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



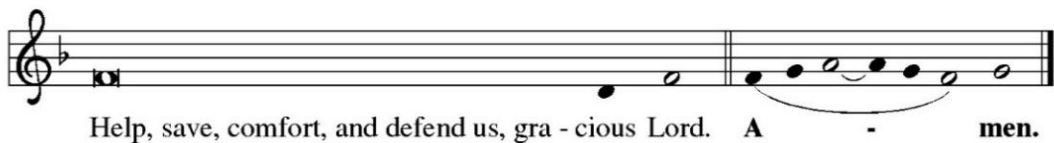
Lord, have mer - cy.



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




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



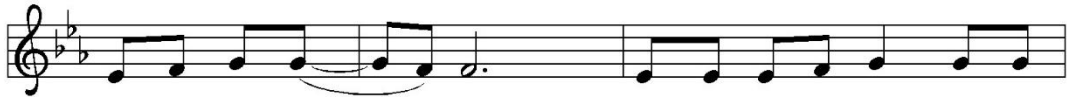
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”


ELW Hymn 185



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.



Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me



with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,



and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: **O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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

Genesis 12:1-4a

¹The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *(read responsively)*

Psalm 121

L: I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

C: **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

L: The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

C: **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;
the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

L: The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

C: **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

(Please be seated)

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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 3rd chapter.

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

GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

"God Loved the World"

ELW Hymn 323

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

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

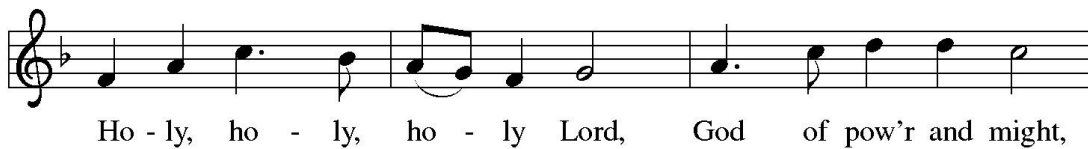
(Please Stand)

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)*

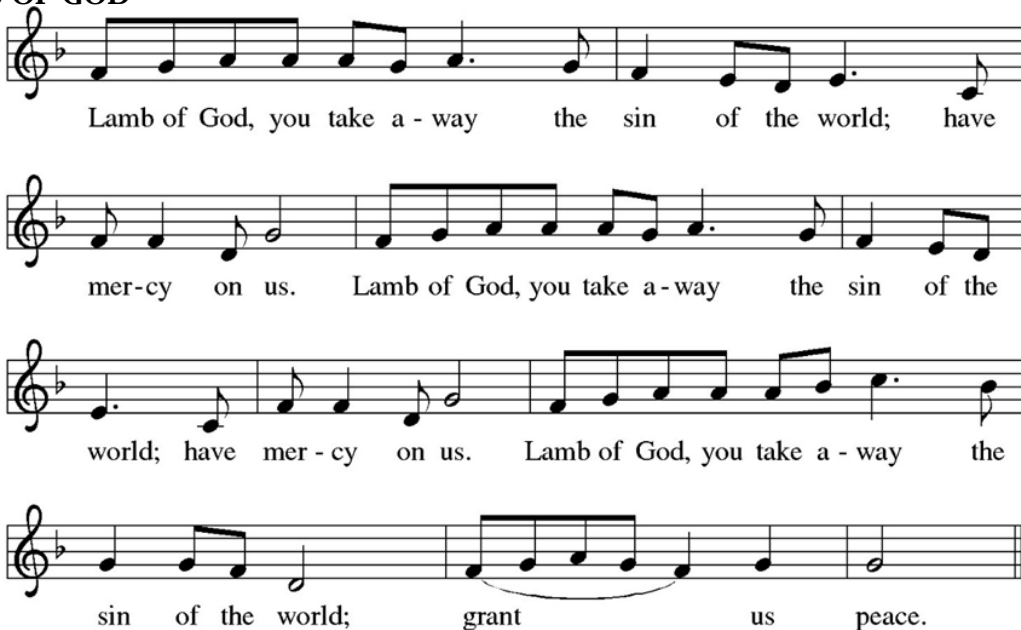
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is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

"What Wondrous Love is This"

ELW Hymn 666

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ - teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

1 All who be - lieve and are bap - tized shall see the Lord's sal -
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray, grant us your Ho - ly

va - tion; bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, they are a
Spir - it; help us in our in - fir - mi - ty through Je - sus'

new cre - a - tion; through Christ's re - demp - tion they will stand a -
blood and mer - it; grant us to grow in grace each day by

mong the glo - rious heav'n - ly band of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.
ho - ly bap - tism, that we may e - ter - nal life in - her - it.

(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 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in

brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
 God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector: Rachel Lindeen
Usher: Susan Swanson
Communion: Mike Hopp; Julie Wischmeier
Greeters: Mark & Bonnie Rosenberg
Missionary Support: Open
Altar Flowers: Ginny Mesecher - In Memory of loved ones.
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.*

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ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Today: **Second Sunday in Lent**
9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion
10:15 a.m. Church Outreach
10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service
Monday: Noon Retired School Personnel mtg.
Wednesday: Mid-Week Lenten Service @ Bethany
6:00 p.m. Soup Supper meal provided by Messiah
7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer
Thursday: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study @ Messiah
Next Sunday: **Third Sunday in Lent**
9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion
10:15 a.m. Church Life
10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service

WEEKLY FINANCE REPORT

The Church Council, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee has decided to begin providing a weekly snapshot of how our church is doing financially. You will begin seeing this in next week's bulletin. The numbers will be a total for the month of February and include a year-to-date picture, as well. We believe providing this will help everyone stay aware of where we are in relation to our 2026 budget. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Church Council or Finance Committee.

MARCH OUTREACH DONATIONS

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

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES @ BETHANY

Mid-Week Lent Services will be hosted at Bethany this year! Every Wednesday, starting on Wednesday, February 25 through Wednesday, 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 Feb. 25 & March 18. Messiah will provide the meal for March 4 & March 25. Unity will provide the meal for March 11.

EASTER LILY ORDERS

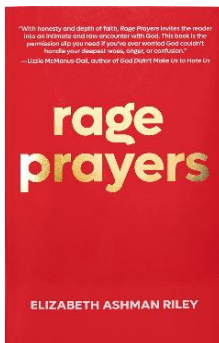
It's that time of year again! Easter lily orders have started! Lilies are \$18.00 with purple foil and no bows. Order forms are available in your bulletins and will be included in the March Chimes Newsletter as well. Some extra forms will be available in the office. Deadline for lily orders is Sunday,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

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet again on Wednesday, March 12 @ 12:30pm @ location to be announced. 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 on 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!



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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**

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Our Staff

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

Pastor
Organist/Choir Director
Office Administrator
Financial Secretary
Custodian