

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Vibrantly open to the spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God
and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.*

First Sunday in Lent
February 26, 2023

Stefan Swanson, Interim Vicar
Jan Smith, Accompanist
GivePlus Text 866-298-7547

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who journeys with us in the wilderness,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance
and God's mercy. *(Silence is kept for reflection)*

Holy God,

**We confess to you our faults and failings. We neglect and do not trust your holy
word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than
steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose
fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow
in your way of life. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive
life. God embraces you with divine mercy, +forgives you in Christ's name, and
revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn "The Glory of These Forty Days" ELW #320

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Kyrie (ELW p. 138)

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray,

**Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and
around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty
promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and
restore us 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.**

Choir Anthem "Come Follow Me" by John Carter

(The congregation will join in singing the last verse with the choir.)

Let your song be "Alleluia!" Come, follow me!
Let your prayer be "For God's glory!" Come, follow me!
I have chosen you and named you, with the Word and water claimed you.
Come, my child, you hear me calling; Come, follow me!

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32 (read responsively)

Second Reading Romans 5:12-19 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 142) **Return to the Lord, your God...**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the fourth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Matthew 4:1-11 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "In the Lord Alone" Green Binder #24

Apostles Creed (p. 105)

Prayers of Intercession Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

Peace The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Jesus Christ, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving (ELW p. 144)

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer (p. 145)

Communion

Communion Hymns (ELW p. 146) **O Lamb of God...**

"When Peace Like a River" ELW #785

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

Sending Hymn "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song" ELW #808

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—February 26, 2023, First Sunday in Lent

OUR MISSION STATEMENT—Vibrantly open to the Spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS? Please contact the church office at 320-395-2125 at bethellutheranlp@gmail.com or pastor@lpbethel.org. For emergency pastoral care needs, please call the church office first, and if nobody answers, call Vicar Stefan at 320-434-7113. Bulletin submissions due: Wednesdays at noon. Newsletter deadline: 25th of the month.

TODAY

- **Noisy offering** (see other side for explanation)
- **Hearing assist devices are available**: Speak to an usher for assistance.
- **The Chosen video series-Season 2**: 6:00 pm-7:30 pm (Everyone is welcome to join at any time! Stream the episodes you missed or view them on your phone app.)

MONDAY

- **Coffee hour**: 8:30 am-9:30 am

WEDNESDAY

- **Lenten supper**: 5:15 pm-6:00 pm, chili and hotdogs
- **Choir practice**: 6:00 pm (during Lent)
- **Lenten service**: 6:30 pm

SUNDAY (Second Sunday in Lent)

- **Worship**: 9:00 am
- **Congregational meeting**: The meeting will follow the worship service. This is in regard to the purchase of a new organ for the sanctuary. More information about the proposal will be presented at the meeting. Any questions can be directed to finance board members Nancy Krull or Mitch Overbye.
- **The Chosen video series-Season 2**: 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29—Lenten worship services: 6:30 pm

Lenten suppers: 5:15 pm-6 pm, free will offering, the menu is posted in the narthex

March Book Club: *Aftermath* by Terri Blackstock

Three best friends are rocking to the music of their favorite band—until an explosion rips through the venue. Later, the police stop army veteran and security systems expert Dustin Webb and discover a trunk full of incendiary devices in his car. How did they get there? Can attorney and childhood friend Jamie Powell discover who's framing Dustin—and why?

Discussion date: Wednesday, March 15, 7:30 pm

Save the Date! Bethel Women's Retreat at Green Lake Bible Camp's Medayto Lodge, September 8-10, 2023.

Next WELCA planning meeting: Tuesday, March 7, 6:30 pm at church. All women of Bethel are welcome to join in!

Bethel Quilting: The group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month in the Fellowship Hall from 1:00 pm-4:30 pm-come and go as you wish. (*If you are interested in evening quilting, call Judy or Roxanne.*) Quilts worked on are for baptized babies, graduates, GLLM Quilt auction, and Don't Cry I'm Here (homeless shelter).

On the fourth Sunday of the month the "Noisy" offering supports camperships for Bethel youth attending Green Lake Bible Camp. On your way out of the sanctuary, drop your loose change into the metal can with a clang! Although paper bills and checks won't have the same noisy effect, they will be accepted and appreciated! (2/26)

Volunteer sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board. Please consider how you can serve here at Bethel in 2023! If you have questions contact the chairperson listed at the top of the sign-up sheet. *Experience is not necessary-you will have help!*

Church Directory: The sign-up sheet is in the narthex if you want a hard copy.