

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.*

Third Sunday in Lent

March 12, 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 "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" ELW #335

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,

**Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash
away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that
flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

Choir Anthem

"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me" Arr. Richard Billingham

WORD

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

First Reading Exodus 17:1-7 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
Psalm 95 (read responsively)
Second Reading Romans 5:1-11 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 John the fourth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
Gospel John 4:5-42 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**
Sermon
Hymn of the Day "All Who Are Thirsty" Green Binder #103
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...**
"Eat This Bread" ELW #472 (8x)
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

Blessing
Sending Hymn "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" ELW #807
Dismissal
Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.
Postlude

WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—March 12, 2023, Third 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

- **Hearing assist devices are available**: Speak to an usher for assistance.
- **Ukrainian Egg demonstration and class**: 10:30 am-1:00 pm
- **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

- **Worship & Music meeting**: 4:00 pm
- **Lenten supper**: 5:15 pm-6:00 pm
- **Choir practice**: 6:00 pm (during Lent)
- **Lenten service**: 6:30 pm
- **March Book club discussion**: 7:30 pm

THURSDAY

- **MEFS Mobile Outreach**: 1:30 pm-3:00 pm

SUNDAY (Fourth Sunday in Lent)

- **Worship**: 9:00 am (Special offering for March FoodShare Campaign to benefit the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf (write "Food Shelf" in your check memo line)
- **The Chosen video series-Season 2**: 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

March 15, 22, 29—Lenten worship services: 6:30 pm; Lenten suppers: 5:15 pm-6 pm, free will offering, This week: Turkey Commercial & Smothered Frito Taco Bowl

Easter Flowers: A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board for purchasing Easter flowers, to adorn our sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

Ukrainian Egg Decorating at Bethel TODAY, from 10:30 am-1:00 pm. It's that time again! Easter is coming! Roxanne Simonds and Alexandra Woodmansee will be doing a demonstration and class in Ukrainian Eggs. Come and watch or make an egg to take home! Adults and children can make an egg, but kids under 10 need an adult to help them. All supplies will be provided free of charge. Alexandra has been making eggs since she was a child. Her family came here from Ukraine. Learn the history and the symbols that get dyed onto the eggs. A great family activity to celebrate Easter!

April Book Club: *Everything Isn't Terrible: Conquer Your Insecurities, Interrupt Your Anxiety, and Finally Calm Down* by Dr. Kathleen Smith—Licensed therapist and mental health writer Dr. Kathleen Smith offers a smart, practical antidote to our anxiety-ridden times. *Everything Isn't Terrible* is an informative and practical guide—featuring a healthy dose of humor—for people who want to become beacons of calmness in their families, at work, and in our anxious world. *Everything Isn't Terrible* will give anyone suffering from anxiety all the tools they need to finally...calm...down. Ultimately, living a calmer and less anxious life—one that isn't terrible—is possible, and with this book you'll learn how to do it.

Discussion date: Wednesday, April 19, 7:30 pm

Crow River Conference Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering—Saturday, April 22
Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 211 E Atlantic AVE, Dassel, MN 55325. Registration begins at 8:00 am. Brunch begins at 8:30 am. Theme: "Angel Dress Ministry" with Guest Speaker, Patty Hauer. Reservation: \$10 payable to Diane Horsman by TODAY! Questions can be directed to Jill Duncan.

Volunteer Sign Up: Check out the opportunities to volunteer on the bulletin board by the office. If something interests you sign up! Experience is not necessary to volunteer! *New people are needed!* If you have questions contact the chairperson listed at the top of the sign-up sheet.

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. The quilts 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! (March 26)