

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.

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Praise Service

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

Gathering Songs Green Binder #102 "Here I Am to Worship"
 Green Binder #127 "Sanctuary"
 Green Binder #45 "In His Time"

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.**

Entrance Song GB #43 "I Come to the Cross"

Prayer of the Day

**Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your
gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and
anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

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

First Reading 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (insert)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 (read responsively)

Second Reading Ephesians 5:8-14 (insert)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

Gospel Song GB #11 "Thy Word"

Gospel Reading John 9:1-41

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Song of the Day GB #87 "I Believe, I Do Believe"

Apostles Creed

Prayers of the People

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Passing of the 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 Song GB #26 "Give Thanks"

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.

Communion

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Communion Song ACS #970 "We Come Now to Your Table"

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

Benediction Song GB #29 "Exodus XV"

Blessing

Sending Song GB #73 "Lamb of God"

Sending Words

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—March 19, 2023, Fourth 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.
- **Special offering for March FoodShare Campaign** to benefit the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf (write "Food Shelf" in your check memo line)
- **Sunday school and Confirmation class**: 10:15 am

MONDAY (First day of Spring!)

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

WEDNESDAY

- **Quilting**: 1:00 pm-4:30 pm
- **Lenten supper**: 5:15 pm-6:00 pm
- **Choir practice**: 6:00 pm (during Lent)
- **Lenten service**: 6:30 pm

SUNDAY (Fifth Sunday in Lent)

- **Worship**: 9:00 am (Noisy Offering-supports Bethel Youth Camperships)
- **Sunday school and Confirmation class**: 10:15 am

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

Lenten suppers: 5:15 pm-6 pm

This week's Menu: Shredded Cheesy Chicken Sandwich and Chicken Tortilla Soup, Free Will Offering

Please remember to return the church key to the lockbox after you lock up the church.

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

A group of about 16 Bethel folks has viewed Seasons 1 and 2 (16 episodes)

of The Chosen during the last several months. It has been a wonderful time growing our understanding of Scripture, discussing what we've viewed, and enjoying fellowship together. We will take a break at this time and will join together again in September to view Season 3. If you would like to borrow the DVDs to view them on your own time, please contact Jill Duncan.

Family Game Night is scheduled for Sunday, April 16, from 5-8 pm at church. Please bring a hotdish or salad to share, your own beverage, and your favorite game to play.

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

Roasters for sale: The Kitchen Committee has decided to downsize our church roasters. Contact LuAnn Weisenburger or Judy Angvall as soon as possible if you would like to purchase a roaster.

Creative Souls Retreat: March 31-April 2, 2023, Green Lake Bible Camp, \$175. Whatever your hobby may be, bring your supplies and join us for a great weekend of crafting at Green Lake Bible Camp. You will enjoy fellowship, and a supportive Christian atmosphere in the company of other creative women. You will also have time for devotions, taking a walk, or even a nap.

Spring Fever Youth Retreat: April 28-April 30, 2023, Green Lake Bible Camp, Grades 2-6, Fee \$175. Are you getting the itch for summer? This is the retreat for you! Come, join us for Bible studies, games, arts and crafts, worships, campfires and more! This retreat is great for new campers who want to give camp a try before doing a full week. Sign up today and get ready for some fun!

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.