

## 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 26, 2023

Stefan Swanson, Interim Vicar

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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 "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" ELW #886

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

**Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death.  
Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in  
Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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 "In Remembrance"

(Words by Ragan Courtney, Music by Buryl Red, and Choral Setting by Lloyd Larson)

## WORD

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

First Reading      Ezekiel 37:1-14 (insert)      The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 130 (read responsively)

Second Reading      Romans 8:6-11 (insert)      The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

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

The Gospel according to John the eleventh chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading      John 11:1-45      The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day      "Beautiful Things" ACS #925

Apostles Creed (p. 105)

Prayers of Intercession      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

Special Music

Emily Koehler, Flute

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...**

"What Wondrous Love Is This" ELW #666

Prayer after Communion

## SENDING

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

Blessing

Sending Hymn      "You Are the Way" ELW #758

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

Postlude

# WELCOME

## Bethel Lutheran Church—March 26, 2023, Fifth 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](mailto:bethellutheranlp@gmail.com) or [pastor@lpbethel.org](mailto: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: 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

### TODAY

- **Hearing assist devices are available:** Speak to an usher for assistance.
- **Noisy Offering** (supports Bethel youth camperships)
- **Sunday school and Confirmation class:** 10:15 am

### MONDAY

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

### WEDNESDAY

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

### SUNDAY (Palm Sunday)

- **Worship:** 9:00 am
- **Sunday school and Confirmation class:** 10:15 am

**March 29—**Mid-week Lenten worship service: 6:30 pm

Lenten supper: 5:15 pm-6 pm

This week's Menu: Barbeques and more! Free will offering

**April 6—**Maundy Thursday worship: 6:30 pm

**April 7—**Good Friday worship: 6:30 pm

**April 9—**Easter Sunday worship: 8:00 am; Breakfast: 9:00 am, Free will offering to support Bethel youth camperships

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. Sign up by March 31.

**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 asap before they are offered to the community if you want 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: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11**

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**