

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, February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor

Jan Smith, Accompanist

GATHERING

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

Prelude "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" and "As the Sun with Longer Journey"

Gathering Songs Green Binder #62 "We Praise You for Your Glory"

Green Binder #89 "Do Justice"

Green Binder #87 "I Believe, I Do Believe"

Green Binder #66 "Unto Thee, O Lord"

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who
draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God, and of one
another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**We confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We
hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways
that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in
our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only
you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to
us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the
promise of life through ☩ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Song of Praise ELW #529 "Jesus, We Are Gathered"

Prayer of the Day

**Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen,
and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us
in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe
may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one god, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

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

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

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

Psalm 25:1-10 (read responsively)
Second Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
Gospel Acclamation (insert) "Help Us Lord"
Gospel Reading Mark 1:9-15 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**
Children's Sermon
Sermon
Song of the Day (two-sided insert) "Made for Love"
Apostles Creed (p. 105, ELW)
Prayers of the People Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
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 "Now Is the Time of Grace"

Offertory Prayer

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

Communion

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer (p. 112, ELW)

Communion Song ELW #325 "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

Prayer after Communion

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

Benediction Song (insert) "Blessing"

Blessing

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Song ELW #446 "I'm Going on a Journey"

Sending Words Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude "Send Us Out" by James Hersch

WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—February 18, 2024-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. For emergency pastoral care needs, please call the church office first, and if nobody answers, call Pastor Molly Wills at 320-339-8169. Bulletin submissions due: Wednesdays at noon.

Newsletter deadline: 25th of the month. **GivePlus Text 866-298-7547**

SIMPLY GIVING offers convenience for you and much needed consistency for Bethel! Try it this summer! If you have questions contact Stacy Meyer, Financial Secretary, at finsec@lpbethel.org.

TODAY

- Hearing assist devices are available: speak to an usher for assistance.
- Sunday School, Confirmation, and Adult Education: following worship

MONDAY (2/19) office closed

TUESDAY (2/20)

- Quilting: 1:00-4:30 pm

WEDNESDAY (2/21)

- Worship Committee meeting: 4:00 pm
- Lenten supper: 5:00-6:15 pm
- Choir practice: 5:45 pm
- Worship (Holden Evening Prayer): 6:30 pm
- Book Club discussion: 7:30 pm, *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult

SUNDAY (2/25)

- Worship (w/ WELCA Thankoffering service): 9:00 am
- Noisy offering: drop your coins [cash or check] in the tin can on your way out of the sanctuary. (Supports Bethel Youth Camperships)
- Sunday school: following worship
- Bethel Breakfast: 10:30 am at Longhorn's
- Newsletter deadline

A Lenten meal will be served every Wednesday night throughout the Lenten season from 5:00-6:15 pm (free will offering). This week's menu: Tator Tot Hotdish and Garfield's Favorite (long spaghetti bake.) If you are willing to bring a pan of bars for 3/6, 3/13, or 3/20 please contact Diane Horsman. Help with clean up is also appreciated! **Holden Evening Prayer** begins at 6:30 pm.

Seeking Lenten worship service volunteers: Pastor Molly wants to get to know the people from the congregation! One way to do this is for her to interview people during the Wednesday night Lenten services or have people speak during the service for 5-10 minutes. She wrote up a set of questions people can choose from to answer in an interview or during the talk. If you are willing to be interviewed or speak, please email Pastor Molly (pastor@lpbethel.org) or sign up on the bulletin board so she can get you on the schedule and send you the questions to look through! Wednesday night services available: 3/6, 3/13, 3/20

WELCA Lenten Mission Project: Celebration Bank begins TODAY! The WELCA Lenten Mission Project will be the introduction of the *Celebration Bank*. Bring your change to worship on Sundays during Lent, drop it in the Celebration Bank, and tell us what you are celebrating! It could be a birthday, anniversary, losing a tooth, the "all clear" to start sports again after an injury, or whatever you are celebrating! Our goal is to purchase a goat through the ELCA Good Gifts program.

Lector and Altar Guild Sign-up sheets are up by the church offices. Please sign up for Lector and or Altar Guild. No experience necessary!

NOTE: Please contact the office if your Contact Information changes! New Church Directories will be available in February.

February Book Club: Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult

A startling and poignant story about the devastating aftermath of a small-town tragedy. A copy of the book will be available in Bethel's library. Discussion date: Wednesday, February 21, 7:30 pm.

Soup, Wrap, and Ice Cream Social: TODAY, February 18, 10:30 am-1:00 pm, Harvest Community Church, 701 1st AVE N, Lester Prairie, all proceeds benefit the Lester Prairie Youth Task Force. Suggested donation: Adults-\$9, Kids-\$5.

MEFS March Campaign: WELCA will hand out envelopes on Sunday, March 3 and 10 for the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf March Campaign. Please make checks out to Bethel Lutheran Church. Bethel will write one check to the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf at the end of the campaign.