

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 25, 2024
Second Sunday in Lent
WELCA Thankoffering Service

Rev. Molly Wills, Bethel Pastor
Jan Smith, Accompanist
GivePlus Text 866-298-7547

GATHERING

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

Prelude "Wondrous Cross" arr. by Carol Torquist
 "As a Deer" arr. by Stan Pethel

Bethel Brass

Welcome and Announcements
Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the triune ☩ God, who pours out love, justice, and mercy in abundance. **Amen.**

Joined by water to Christ and to creation, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. For all the gifts of water, **we give you thanks, O God.** For rivers and lakes, for streams and oceans...clean water to drink: **we give you thanks, O God.** For Miriam's song of liberation...For your holy river that waters the tree of life: **we give you thanks, O God.** For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit...For justice, rolling like rivers: **we give you thanks, O God.** Blessing, honor, and glory be to you, O God,...for all your good gifts. **Amen.**

Gathering Song "Making Their Way" ACS #979

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.**

Let us pray, **God of abundance, we give thanks every time we remember your goodness. Teach us to respond to your love with faithfulness and generosity. Keep us mindful of your blessings, and especially the blessing of wholeness and salvation that you offer us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Choir Anthem "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" by Nancy Price and Don Besig Bethel

WORD

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

First Reading 1 Kings 17:8-16 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 107:1-9, 43 (read responsively)

Second Reading Philippians 1:3-11 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 205)

We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind-slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.

The Gospel according to Matthew the twenty-sixth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
Gospel Reading Matthew 26:6-13 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**
Children's Sermon
Sermon
Hymn of the Day "We Raise Our Hands to You, O Lord" ELW #690
Apostles Creed (ELW p. 105)
Prayers of Intercession God of grace, **receive our prayer.**
Sharing of Peace The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offertory "Amazing Grace" arr. by Patricia Sanders Cota Chime Choir
Offering Prayer

Gracious God, We give thanks each time we remember you and your blessings. Receive what we have offered now: our gifts, our time, and our whole selves. Bless our thankofferings and the work of the Women of the ELCA that these offerings make possible. Make us good and faithful stewards of your gifts, that all people know the bounty of your love. We pray in the name of Christ, Amen.

Great Thanksgiving (ELW p. 206)

Thanksgiving at the Table

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, **my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

Lord's Prayer (ELW p. 208) **Our Father, who art in heaven...**

Communion **O Lamb of God...**

Communion Hymn "In This Feast of Love" ACS #962

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

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

Blessing

God has filled the hungry and thirsty with good things:

Let us give thanks to God, for God's mercy endures forever!

God has done wonderful works for all people:

Let us rejoice in God's steadfast love!

God has looked upon us with grace and favor:

Let us remember God's mercy!

God has put into our hearts a song of thanksgiving and freedom:

Let us join our voices in singing our praise!

The God of abundance, Creator, ✠ Redeemer, and Spirit, bless you and keep you, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song "Let Us Enter In" ACS #985

Dismissal Go in peace. Live with gratitude. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "Faith of Our Fathers" arr. by Lorie Line

WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—February 25, 2024, Second 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 contact 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

- Celebration Bank: Drop your change in the bank and tell us why you're celebrating! (Help WELCA purchase a goat from Good Gifts!)
- Hearing assist devices are available: speak to an usher for assistance
- Noisy offering: drop your coins [cash or check] in the tin can on your way out of the sanctuary. (Supports Bethel Youth Camperships)
- Newsletter deadline
- Sunday school: following worship
- Bethel Breakfast: 10:30 am at Longhorn's

MONDAY (2/26)

- Bible study: 1:30 pm

TUESDAY (2/27)

- Quilting: 1:00-4:30 pm

WEDNESDAY (2/28)

- Lenten supper: 5:00-6:15 pm
- Choir practice: 5:45 pm
- Holden Evening Prayer: 6:30 pm

SUNDAY (3/4)

- Worship: 9:00 am
- Sunday School /Confirmation class/Adult Education: following worship
- McLeod Em. Food Shelf March Campaign: donation envelopes available

Bible study begins on Monday, February 26 at 1:30 pm and will continue every Monday unless noted otherwise.

A Lenten meal will be served every Wednesday night throughout the Lenten season from 5:00-6:15 pm (free will offering). 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! Next week's menu: barbecue sandwiches, baked beans, chips, and bars. **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: 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.

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.

March Book Club: *All the Light You We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
A book about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. A copy of the book will be available in Bethel's library.

Discussion date: Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 pm.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 17:8-16

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.' So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, 'Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.' As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, 'Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.' But she said, 'As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.' Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.' She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

Psalms 107:1-9, 43

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day

of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 26:6-13

Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, 'Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.' But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, 'Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.'

