

Bethel Lutheran Church

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

Second Sunday in Lent | Sunday, March 1, 2026 | ELW Holy Communion Setting 4



Welcome! We're glad you're here!

If you are new to Bethel, here is some helpful information about worship services. We use the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (red hymnal) and the supplement *All Creation Sings* (purple hymnal), which contain liturgy and hymns. Liturgy pages are at the front of each hymnal, with the page numbers at the bottom and in the bulletin as (red ELW p.) or (purple ACS p.) Hymn pages are in the back two-thirds of the hymnal, with the page numbers at the top and in the bulletin as (red hymnal #) or (purple hymnal #). The songs from the Green Book are in the bulletin as (green binder #). **Hearing assistive devices are available; speak to an usher for assistance.**

Gathering

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

MEDITATION TIME “On My Heart Imprint Your Image” (Words for Meditation - ELW 811)
“A Celtic Set for Lent” - Both songs arr. by Thomas Keesecker

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP SONG “God Welcomes All” (purple hymnal #978) (2x)

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin before God...

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love...**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness...and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG “For All” (This song was inspired by the Gospel reading for today)

FOR ALL

Larry Olson
Karol Baer

(guitar: capo 3)

♩ = 95
Refrain F (D) B \flat (G) Gm7 (Em7) C (A) F (D) B \flat (G) Gm7 (Em7) C (A)

Your love, your love has no bor-ders. Your love, your love has no walls.

F (D) B \flat (G) Gm7 (Em7) C (A) B \flat (G) F/A (D/F \sharp)

Your love, your love has no lim - its. You love the world.

Gm7 (Em7) C (A) F (D) B \flat (G) 1, 2, 3, 4. to Verse Gm7 (Em7) C (A) Final Gm7 (Em7) C (A) F (D) *Fine*

Your love is here for all.

Verse Dm (Bm) Gm (Em) B \flat (G) F (D)

For all who are wand - 'ring, for all who are weak,
For all who are strug - gling, for all who have dreams,
For all who have plen - ty, for all who have need,
For all who are suff - 'ring, for all who seek change,

Dm (Bm) Gm (Em) B \flat (G) C (A) to Refrain

for all who seek shel - ter, for all who seek peace.
for all who are cap - tive, for all who are free.
for all who are doubt - ing, for all who be - lieve.
for all who are sin - ners, for all who are saints.

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 (red ELW p. 147)

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (red ELW p. 148) Glory to God in the highest...

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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 12:1-4a

¹ The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

PSALM: Psalm 121 (responsive reading)

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?

² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where

there is no law, neither is there transgression. ¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (red ELW p. 151) **Return to the Lord...**

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17 The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “Lift High the Cross” (red hymnal #660)

APOSTLES’ CREED (red ELW p. 105)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY “As the Winter Days Grow Longer” (Suo Gan) arr. by Anne Krenz

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, you provide generously for us. Today we return to you a portion of what you have entrusted to us. Help us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (red ELW p. 152)

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (red ELW p. 153)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (red ELW p. 153)

LORD’S PRAYER (red ELW p. 154) **Our Father, who art in heaven...**

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG (red ELW p. 154)

SONG DURING COMMUNION “We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus” (red hymnal #451)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sending

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

BLESSING

May God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creations, + bless you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (red hymnal #803)

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Trust the good news. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE “O the Deep, Deep, Love of Jesus” arr. by Carol Tornquist

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NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS: Ps 95; Jn 4:5-42

Thank you to those serving today!

GREETER:

ALTAR GUILD: Judy Angvall

CANDLELIGHTER:

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Cathy Houg

USHER: Weisenburger family

LECTOR: Cathy Houg

COFFEE:

TREATS:

Serving next Sunday, March 8

GREETER:

ALTAR GUILD: Judy Angvall

CANDLELIGHTER:

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Cathy Houg

USHER:

LECTOR: Cathy Houg

COFFEE:

TREATS: Endowment Committee

Bethel's 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.

This week at Bethel

Sunday, March 1 (Lent 2)

- Worship: 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday school: following worship

Tuesday, March 3

- Quilting: 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4

- Bulletin submissions due: noon
- Lenten meal: 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
- Holden Evening Prayer: 6:30 p.m.
- Choir practice: following the worship service

Sunday, March 8 (Lent 3)

- Worship: 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday school: following worship
- Intergenerational Sunday school with Pastor Molly: following worship

QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS? Contact the church office at 320-395-2125 or bethellutheranlp@gmail.com. If you need emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Molly Wills at 320-339-8169 or email her at pastor@lpbethel.org.

ADDRESS: 77 Lincoln AVE N, Lester Prairie, MN 55354, (Mailing USPS: PO Box 207)

WEBSITE: www.lpbethel.org | **FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/lpbethel

BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Wednesday at noon

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 25th of the month

VANCO GIVING: Scan the QR code or visit www.lpbethel.org under the "Give" section, or complete an application and submit it to the church office.

TEXT GIVING: To give, text dollar amount to **866-298-7547**



Hi! My name is Stewie! I'll be your 2026 Stewardship Guide.

You can find me in the church bulletin each Sunday for tips, tricks, and tasks associated with Stewardship.

I'll see you soon!

Announcements and Upcoming Events

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER: Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., March 4, 11, 18, & 25.

LENTEN FAITH STORIES: Please listen to the Holy Spirit and consider signing up on the narthex board to share your faith story/journey. **We specifically need people for March 4, 18, and 25.** This year, our Wednesday night readings will focus on food and how it connects us to God. Some questions are new to connect with the readings, but you do not need to follow them or even talk about food. It is simply another way to think about your relationship with God. For more information, please check the sign-up sheet. For questions, talk to Pastor Molly or send her an email (pastor@lpbethel.org).

LENTEN MEALS: Help is needed with serving and cleaning up. A free-will offering will be taken every week to support WELCA's yearly projects. If you have questions, contact Diane Horsman.

LENTEN PROJECT – DIAPER DRIVE: During the Lenten season, WELCA will be collecting diapers for Common Cup, the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf, and DAV (Disabled American Veterans), all in McLeod County. The greatest need is baby size 4-6 and adult diapers. Thank you!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS: If you believe your child is ready for a First Communion class, please email Pastor Molly at pastor@lpbethel.org. We will have the class on Sunday, March 29th, after the worship service, and celebrate First Communion during the worship service on Sunday, April 26.

FARE FOR ALL: Thursday, March 5, 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Oak Heights Covenant Church, 1398 S Grade RD SW, Hutchinson. This is a pop-up grocery store in our community that offers quality, nutritious, budget-friendly food packs featuring fresh fruits and vegetables and frozen meats. No pre-orders necessary-just stop by and shop at the monthly event! Visit fareforall.org to learn more.

BETHEL BOOK CLUB – MARCH: *Tigers Between Empires* by Jonathan C. Slaght **Discussion date: Wed., Mar. 18, following choir practice.** A copy of each book for the 2026 Bethel Book Club is available on our library shelf, along with a schedule of discussion dates. We invite you to join us on the third Wednesday evening of each month as we learn and grow together

HUTCHINSON EMPTY BOWL EVENT: Coming up March 21st, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Hutchinson High School, 1190 Roberts RD SW, Hutchinson. The event will feature handmade bowls made by professionals, hobbyists, and students. The community will be able to purchase a bowl for a suggested donation of \$20.00. (Some mini \$5 bowls) There will also be a small silent auction. The community can purchase a bowl and have it filled with hearty soup. The bowl becomes a keepsake as a reminder of those whose bowls are empty. Everyone is welcome to this event, and all proceeds go to our local food shelf and the Common Cup weekend feeding program.

REMINDER TO THRIVENT MEMBERS: The annual deadline for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars is coming up on March 31, 2026. Please consider directing these dollars to Bethel Lutheran Church. If you do not direct these dollars to an organization of your choice by the deadline, they will be directed elsewhere. If you have any questions or need help, contact the church office. Thank you!

COUNCIL SEEKING TO FILL ONE EDUCATION BOARD POSITION: The council is looking to add a member to the Education Board. This role involves acting as a liaison with the Sunday school teachers, working with the current Education Board, and attending monthly meetings. If you have questions or would like a complete job description, feel free to reach out to any council member.

BETHEL MEMBERS: The Council has compiled a list of items needed for our church and congregation, including both wishes and urgent needs. Please remember that any donations toward these items should be in addition to your regular contributions that help maintain our budget. Your support is greatly appreciated, and donations can be made anonymously. For more information, feel free to contact any member of the Executive Board. Thank you for considering a donation!

Riding lawn mower: pre-owned-\$2,000 to \$4,000; new-\$13,000 to \$18,000

Battery-operated weed whip: *Thank you for your donation!*

Paper shredder: \$35 to \$485

Security camera system: \$1,200 to \$5,000

Doorbell for the [locked] front door: \$600 to \$1,000

Two paper towel dispensers: *Thank you for your donation!*

CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: (1 yr. term) David Gohl

952-358-0201; david.g.m.gohl@gmail.com

Vice-President: (2 yr. term) Jean Hallberg

507-430-2671; jhallberg59@icloud.com

Council Secretary: (1 yr. term) Julie Hanson

320-485-7870 or 612-396-8038; j3hanson@tds.net

Treasurer: (2 yr. term) Jill Duncan

320-420-6284; treasurer@lpbethel.org

Financial Secretary: (1 yr. term) Stacy Meyer

320-620-1040; finsec@lpbethel.org

CHURCH COUNCIL BOAR MEMBERS

Trustee Board: (1 yr. term) Bryon Weisenburger

320-282-4747; bryonw@usa.com

Trustee Board: (2 yr. term) Jeff Hanson

320-485-7870 or 612-396-8374;

j3hanson@tds.net

Finance Board: (1 yr. term) Sara Jepsen

605-760-0685; candsjepsen@gmail.com

Finance Board: (2 yr. term) Peggy Wick

612-499-0186; sully72828@gmail.com

Education Board: (1 yr. term) Katie Radtke
952-215-6878; gemini.radtke@gmail.com

Education Board: (2 yr. term)

