

# Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



## Prelude Music

*O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*

*BLC Choir*

## Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Holy God,

**C: ... 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.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## Gathering Song:

### *Here I am to Worship*

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see.  
Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.

So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You're my God.  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above.  
Humbly You came to the earth you created, all for love's sake became poor.

So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You're my God.  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.  
And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.

So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You're my God.  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

## Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all!

**C: And also with you!**

## Kyrie

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

**C: O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

*As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.*

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. 2 And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." 3 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7 I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." 15 God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Psalm: Psalm 22:23-31

23 You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel.

**24 For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the Lord's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the Lord hears them.**

25 From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

**26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**28 For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.**

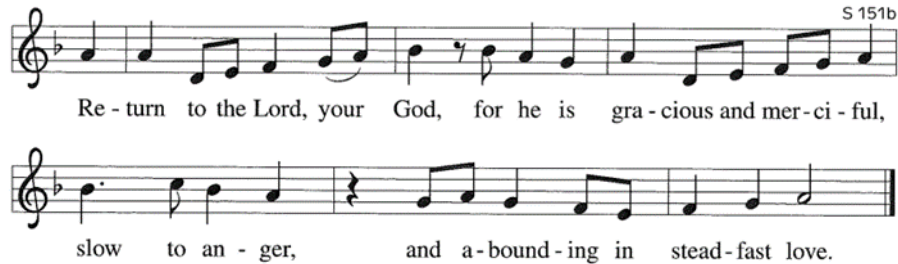
*(continued on next page)*

29 Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

**30 Their descendants shall serve the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

31 They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

## **Gospel Acclamation:                   Return to the Lord Your God**



## **Gospel: Mark 8:31-38**

*After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.*

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

31 Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." 34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

*Pastor Paul Busekist*

**Song of the Day:**

***Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus***

**ELW #802**

**Reception of New Members** *(see insert)*

**Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and**

was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace *(Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)*

#### Offering

Offering Song:

David Husser

Offertory:

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

ELW #185

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.  
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me  
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,  
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

## Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: 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.

## Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**Communion** (*Please note: gluten-free wafers and white grape juice cups are available*)

### Communion Songs:

***Around You, O Lord Jesus  
We Come to the Hungry Feast***

**ELW #468**

**ELW #479**

### Final Blessing

P: 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.

C: Amen.

### Sending Song:

***I Have Decided to Follow Jesus***

I have decided... to follow Jesus, I have decided... to follow Jesus,  
I have decided... to follow Jesus; no turning back... no turning back.,

Though I may wonder, still I will follow; though I may wonder, still I will follow;  
... though I may wonder, still I will follow; no lookin' back, no lookin' back!

The world around me, the Lord before me, the world around me, the Lord before me,  
... the world around me, the Lord before me, I'm movin' on, I'm movin' on!

I have decided... to follow Jesus, I have decided... to follow Jesus,  
I have decided... to follow Jesus; no turning back... no turning back.

### Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.



**Bethlehem** February 25, 2024  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880  
[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

2/26—Crystal Fernholz

2/26—Barb Beyer

2/26—Fay Miller

**Worship Servants for February 25**

Assisting Minister—Jana Rockne

Lector—Jill Fenton

Musicians: David Husser, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr Paul

Hospitality—Phil Anderson/Susie Burton

A/V—Dale Wentzloff, The Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—Linda Hansen; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table— VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Altar Guild—Mary Ann Tanis and Gail Goldsmith

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Betty Rutila and Suzanne Lehto

**We welcome Peggy Burns and Janet Landis as new members today.** Please make an effort to attend and introduce yourself to them, and support them on their special day!

**Today's Rose on the baptismal font is in:** celebration of Layton Theodore Jones, born February 19th, son of Gary and Britney Jones, grandson of Tim and Peggy Goebel.

**Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** We often find the front door and/or the kitchen door unlocked when there is no one in the building. Please be sure that the doors are locked when you leave.

**Please Note:** \_\_\_\_\_

Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Alanna Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on Wednesday

**Offerings:** The offering plates are now passed during the service. The vase in the back of the Sanctuary is still available for those who prefer not to touch the offering plate.

**The March issue of the STAR is now available.** For current issues of the Star, feel free to check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org) < About Us > “The Online Bethlehem Star” or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>.

**The April/May/June Christ In Our Home is now available.** Please take a copy for yourself and also for friends and family.

**Sunday School and Adult Education (Youth Room)- every Sunday at 9:15am.**

**Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes?** Type this address/url into your web browser to get the latest approved minutes from Council: [bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes](http://bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes) OR you may call the office to request a copy.

**Prayer Requests:**

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at [jstretlien@gmail.com](mailto:jstretlien@gmail.com) or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880

**Season of Lent 2024: Red Letter Zoom and Book Info** This year's Lenten journey will be based in-part on a series by Zach Zehnder called The Red Letter Challenge. Based on a book and video series, we will focus on the 5 weeks of Lent, and engage in some fun collaboration with Pastor Dana Hendershot and Immanuel Lutheran Church folks from Mount Pleasant along the way. The five weeks and their subthemes are:

February 21st (Wed-Tues) "Week of Being"

March 13th (Wed-Tues) "Week of Giving"

February 28th (Wed-Tues) "Week of Forgiving"

March 20th (Wed-Tues) "Week of Going"

March 6th (Wed-Tues) "Week of Serving"

Each Wednesday through March 20th, the 1:30pm ZOOM Bible Study and all others interested will begin studying this series, touching in on the days and themes (above) for that week. Pr. Paul will also engage the Thursday Lent Night dinner and worship participants with thoughts on that week's Red Letter Challenge Book topics. *For example, on Wednesday and Thursday, February 21 and 22, we will touch on the different thoughts by Zehnder for Days 6-12 of the "Week of Being."* See your emails for the Zoom link.

**Giving Statements Available:** Your individual giving statements will be available in your mailbox in the Narthex beginning Sunday January 28, 2024. The statement covers giving from January 1st through December 31, 2023. Please pick them up at your convenience. To save on postage, I will mail out the ones not picked up by the end of March 2023. Thank you for your generous support for the programs and ministries of your church. We are all blessed by your faithful giving. Your Bookkeeper

**March's XYZ Potluck & Presentation will be on Friday, March 8th at 12pm noon.** While primarily geared toward seniors, the group is open to any adult who would like to attend! XYZ meets monthly September through May for a potluck lunch, followed by a program or presentation. March's presenter is Bethlehem's own Paul Wiemerslage of the Au Sable Institute.

**The next Third Thursday service will be a Holden Evening Prayer service on March 21st at 7:00pm.** The service will be livestreamed. The BLC Fellowship Committee will be providing a meal at 5:45 p.m. Please come early and share in fellowship and stay for the service.

**Today's Roof and Solar meeting:** Please stay after the service today for this important meeting. FOR OUR MEETING THERE IS ONE NEW REQUEST. TO STREAMLINE THE MEETINGS WE WILL SET UP MICROPHONES ON STANDS AND YOU WILL BE ASKED TO COME FORWARD TO THE MIC. (A lot of time is lost while someone is walking a mic between members.) If you have mobility problems that day, please alert the hospitality team so a mic can be brought to you.

**Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font!** Cost \$10.00 per rose. Contact Barbara Oster at beo6475@yahoo.com or 231.668.7038.

### **Lenten/Holy Week Service Schedule:**

February 29 – Taize 2

March 7 – Taize 1

March 14 – Behold Our Light

March 21 – Holden Evening Prayer, Live Streamed

### **Holy Week services – all are Live Streamed**

March 24 – Palm Sunday service

March 28 – Maundy Thursday service

March 29 – Good Friday

March 30 – Easter Vigil service

March 31 – Easter Sunday 8:00am and 10:00am

**Lenten Meals:** Our Lenten Services will be held on Thursday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. There will be 5 weeks of Lenten meals prior to the services, our next will be on February 29th at 5:45 in the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Committee is planning on having soup suppers. We are asking for volunteers to make soup. We would like 2 pots of soup each week. So if you would like to make soup there are sign up sheets in the Narthex. The Fellowship Committee will be providing bread, crackers, peanut butter and jelly, desserts and beverages. We are also asking for volunteers to help each week with set up and clean up. So please sign up in the Narthex. We can enjoy food and fellowship before our Lenten Services.

**Spotlight on Zeke:** So many of us enjoy Zeke's talents with religious music, but did you know that he plays other kinds of music at various locations in the Traverse City area? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC:

**All Wednesdays in February and March**—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour, 4:00pm

**Fri, 03/15**—Middle Coast 6:00pm

**Sat 03/23**—Hotel Indigo 6:00pm

**FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS:** The book club will discuss *Mad Honey* by Jodi Piccolt during a pizza dinner meeting at 5:30 on Tues Mar 26. We have not read a novel by this author for some time. There will be copies of the book in the plastic bin outside the front door. Just sign your name on the sheet by the corresponding number of your book. Please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net if you want to participate and cannot come to church in order to give plenty of advance notice so that ZOOM can be set up.

**Are you looking for something to do on Tuesday mornings?** If so, the LWR Quilters could sure use some help in tying portions of the quilts. You don't have to know how to sew just know how to tie. They meet every Tuesday from 9:00-11:00am in the fellowship Hall. For questions, please call Betty Rutila 231-947-1013.

**DIRECTORY UPDATE:** Yep... we are all still waiting... Unfortunately, the first draft of the directory sent to our fearless team did not measure up to their expectations. Our team spent hours making certain that every member's email and cell phone was correct, and that is NOT what they received in the sample copy. So, there is no tentative date at this time.

**Are you grieving something from a death or something else?** It could be any kind of loss, and it hurts. We have a place for you here at Bethlehem on the 3rd Monday of the month from 6:00 to 7:00 in the library. If you have any questions please contact Peggy Burns at 231 392-6913.

**Thank You Note Received:** Dear Bethlehem Lutheran, Thank you so much for your continued support. Our Christmas Program wouldn't be so amazing without your help. Have a wonderful holiday! Thank you! -Holly Decker (Social Worker) & TCHS Staff

**Another Thank You Note Received:** Dear Bethlehem Lutheran: Heartfelt thanks for the use of your Community Room over the past year. Your generosity has made it possible to become fully functional again. Julie Brown, Bayside Travellers President. Other members signed their names and some comments are: Thank you for your kindness, Thanks for sharing your space with us, This event sustains joy. Thanks for the space.

Our Care Giving Committee has put up a "Communitas" Board on the wall of our Coat Room! This "BOARD" is needed and helpful for ALL of us! Following is a suggestion of some things YOU and our YOUTH can do to "interact" with the board and other members of our congregation. The purpose of our "Auxilium Communitas" BOARD (Latin for "Community/Congregation Assistance") is to SHARE our gifts, talents, or skills to others that might be in NEED of something like: Gardening, Organizing, Painting, Raking leaves, Shoveling, Household tasks, Carpentry, Manicures, Pedicures, Companionship, Care giving, etc. - This list is Endless! You never know when YOU will be in need of some extra help personally, in your home or yard - let's make this "reciprocal" - All ages are Welcome to Help Service our Congregation!

**Adult Bible Study:** meets on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30am in the Youth Room, with a study of the Acts of the Apostles.

**The Zoom Book and Bible Study:** meets on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00pm but will take a break from the Book of Mark until after Easter while they participate in the Red Letter Challenge.

**Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations?** It has been moved inside the coat room to the right. Also, the area for the Oleson and Family Fair receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside.

**Coffee and Cookies on Sunday:** Remember that treats and a hot drink on Sunday are appreciated by all. Please take a moment to sign up to bring cookies or some other tasty treat on the Sunday that works best for you. Or sign up to prepare the coffee. As requested by some of our new members there is a plan in the works to usually have the final Sunday of the month be a time when we join in the Fellowship Hall. We can sit at a table and chat with someone new while we munch on a treat. Already we have some exceptions... this did not occur in February due to the congregational meeting and also will not in March due to the celebration of Easter. So be ready to enjoy that new experience in April!!

**Name tags:** Your name tags are in your mailboxes. Please retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and with so many recent new members it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it.

**A big thank you to all who have turned in Olesons' slips.** On January 14, we received a check from them for \$255.85. Olesons' slips never expire. Please continue to turn in your receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks so much!!!



**Food Pantry:** We will NOT be closing our outdoor pantry for winter this year. We have a new member who ran an outdoor pantry downstate and she has given us lots of ideas of foods that can be stored there during the cold months including: hamburger helper, stuffing mix, dry milk, instant potatoes, cookies, and rice. Also, there is always room for dry goods such as toilet paper, paper towels etc. Please start looking for some of these items when they are on sale and bring your extras to the coat room. Your generosity is so appreciated.

**Hoop's Pet Food Pantry:** This is the only pet food pantry in NW lower Michigan. They primarily provide dry food, wet food, treats, cat litter and toys for mostly dogs and cats but they will support any type of pet to the best of their ability. Please visit them at the Square Deal Country Store, 900 Woodmere Ave, TC from 11:00am – 2:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month with your donations OR you may leave donations in the tub on our “donations” table in the coat room. The volunteers have expressed their appreciation when receiving our donations.

**Have something important going on at Bethlehem that you'd like others to know about?** Maybe a Small Group? A Club Event? Feature it on the Screen Announcements, weekly emails and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included in any of these, please reach out to [alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org) If you are not getting the weekly emails for any reason, please contact Alanna.

**Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service.** We will not have altar flowers during Lent. You may sign up as of Easter Sunday, March 31st. Please use the sign-up poster in the Narthex by signing on the date you request. Then fill out a pink slip with the necessary information and place it and a check for \$40 (payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or BLC) in the offering plate on Sunday morning (Preferable) or during the week, in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox near the church office entrance. You may select either “in honor” or “in memory” or “to celebrate”. If someone has already signed on the date you would like, feel free to add your name – we welcome more than one on a Sunday.

**Safety and Security:** Locking the Doors BLC has started locking the front door during Worship Services for a three month trial. The Safety and Security Committee is asking for volunteers to be in the Gathering Space during services. We would like to ask 1 member of each family to volunteer. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. We lock the door 10 minutes after the service begins and unlock the doors as the service ends. The volunteer is there to let latecomers into the church. The volunteer will not miss the service as there is a way to listen to the service or if you have a smart phone you are able to live stream the service. Also you may leave the Gathering Space to go into the sanctuary for communion or you can choose to have communion at the end of service. (The musicians and people working the audio/visual in the choir loft receive communion right after services.) If you have any questions please talk to a Safety and Security Committee member: Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer, Jana Rockne or Jan Stretlien. Thank you for assisting in keeping our members safe.

**The church calendar is below. Please be sure to notify the office ([admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is of the calendar.**

**Sunday, February 25**

9:15am—Sunday School  
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)  
10:00am—Worship Service (S)  
11:15am—Congregational Meeting (S)  
1:00pm—Confirmation Class

**Tuesday, February 27**

**Bulletin articles due today**

9:00am—Property Work Group  
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)  
5:30pm—Book/Supper Club (FH)

**Wednesday, February 28**

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)  
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)  
1:30pm—Zoom Red Letter Bible Study

**Thursday, February 29**

5:30pm—ACA (FH)  
5:45pm—Lenten Meal (FH)  
7:00pm—Lenten Service (S)

**Saturday, March 2**

9:00am—Council meeting (FH)

**Sunday, March 3**

9:15am—Sunday School  
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)  
10:00am—Worship Service (S)  
11:15am—Worship and Music Meeting (CR)  
1:00pm—Confirmation Class at Advent

