

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession, ahem... Declaration of Intent(!)

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 (addressing Group 1): Sisters and brothers of the East side of Bethlehem and this community, will you have these West siders as brothers and sisters and God's children of every walk and faith, to live together in the covenant of discipleship? Will you love and respect them, comfort and walk with them, honor, befriend and repeatedly forgive them, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all earthly distractions from the gospel, be faithful to your call of discipleship, as long as you both shall live (and answer "I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.")?

East siders: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

(Pastor repeats for the "West Siders"...))

P: Brothers and sisters of the West side, will you have these East siders...

West siders: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: ALL of you, and ALL of us, Brothers and sisters of the assembly, from east and west - will ALL, by God's grace, uphold and care for this collective body of Christ we call the church, everyone in it and beyond these walls, being and doing this in our renewed life together (and answer "We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.")?

All: We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Friends, 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:

40 Days

Forty days to wander, forty days to die to self. Forty days to grow stronger as faith breaks open the gates of hell.
The jubilee is over, but grace is far from gone in the hearts of the faithful, broken on the wheels of love.

'Cause in the desert of temptation lies the storm of true conversion, where springs of living water drown and refresh you.
As the Jordan pours out change, your true self is all that remains, where springs of living water bind and break you,
bind and break you.

Forty days to remember the Paschal sacrifice. Forty days to discover His passion calls us to new life.
The jubilee is over, but mercy's far from gone in the arms of the Father as the wayward child comes home.

'Cause in the desert of temptation lies the storm of true conversion, where springs of living water drown and refresh you.
As the Jordan pours out change, your true self is all that remains, where springs of living water bind and break you.

Bind and break you. Bind and break you, bind and break you, bind and break you.

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: Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr Paul

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

1 God spoke all these words: 2 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; 3 you shall have no other gods before me. 4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, 6 but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. 7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. 8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work. 10 But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. 12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. 13 You shall not murder. 14 You shall not commit adultery. 15 You shall not steal. 16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Return to the Lord

S 142b

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Gospel: John 2:13-22

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

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

13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15 Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16 He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." 18 The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

In Christ There Is No East or West

ELW #650

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: Zeke Clemons

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:

The Table (words below)
Eat This Bread (Sung three times)

ELW #472

The Table

I will feast at the table of the Lord. I will feast at the table of the Lord.

I won't hunger anymore At His table.

I will feast at the table of the Lord. I will feast at the table of the Lord.

I won't hunger anymore At His table.

Come all you weary, come and find His yoke is easy, His burden light.

He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord.

There is peace at the table of the Lord. There is peace at the table of the Lord.

I won't worry anymore At His table.

There is healing at the table of the Lord. There is healing at the table of the Lord.

Oh and I won't suffer anymore At His table.

Come all you weary, come and find His yoke is easy, His burden light.

He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord.

I know he has a place for me. Oh, what joy will fill my heart

With the saints around the mercy seat of God.

Come all you weary, come and find His yoke is easy, His burden light.

He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord, at the table of the Lord.

I'm invited to the table of the Lord. I'm invited to the table of the Lord.

He says come just as you are to His table.

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:

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

ELW #333

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem March 3, 2024
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880
www.bethlehemtc.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/04—Kenneth Smith
3/04—Joann Stepka
3/05—Jodi Kelly

3/05—Cheryl Wegener
3/07—Lisa Schlagel
3/08—Corinne Hill

SPRING FORWARD: Don't forget to turn your clocks forward next Saturday night to be prepared for Daylight Saving Time returning on Sunday, March 10th

Worship Servants for March 3

Assisting Minister—Cindy Monroe
Lector—Kathy Ancinec
Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr Paul
Hospitality—Gary/Kathy Ancinec
A/V—Jim Monroe, Jim Hinds, The Acker Family
Cookies/Coffee— VOLUNTEER; Mary Ann Tanis
Welcome Table— VOLUNTEER
Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel
Altar Guild—Erin Word
Tech Support—Julia Acker
Counters—Laura Hahn/Mike McCarty

Today's Rose on the baptismal font is in: *celebration of Elijah Nathan Goldsmith, born December 6, 2023, son of Nathan and Jessica Goldsmith, grandson of Gail Goldsmith*

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 < 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 OR you may call the office to request a copy.

Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at 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"

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years. They are proud people and do not like to be given charity but they will accept help in the form of donated cans that they can recycle for money. Please bring in your recyclables in for them. Leave them by the garage. These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

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:

Wed, 03/06—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour, 4:00pm

Fri, 03/15—Middle Coast 6:00pm

Sat 03/23—Hotel Indigo 6:00pm

Lenten/Holy Week Service Schedule:

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 Soup Suppers: Thank you everyone who signed up to make soups for our Lenten meals. We have plenty of soups lined up now. We continue to need help with set up and clean up. Please sign up in the Narthex. Come for dinner at 5:45 on Thursday nights through March 21st. Enjoy food and fellowship be for the worship service at 7:00 p.m.

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.

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.

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.

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!!!

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.

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.

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 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.

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

Sunday, March 3

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

Tuesday, March 5

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
 9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
 7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Wednesday, March 6

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

Thursday, March 7

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

Friday, March 8

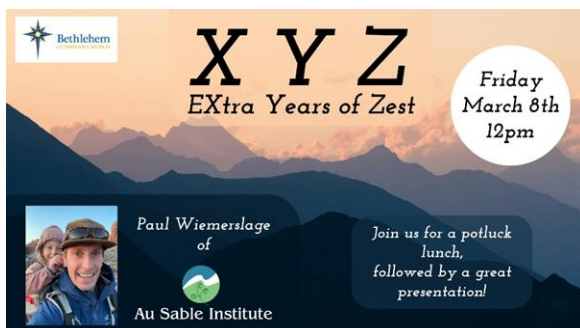
12:00pm—XYZ (FH)

Saturday, March 9

7:00pm—Contra Dance (FH)

Sunday, March 10

9:15am—Sunday School
 9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
 10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)



RED LETTER CHALLENGE

© 2023 Red Letter Living, LLC. All rights reserved.



Bethlehem's Lenten journey this year will be based in-part on the Red Letter Challenge. We will focus on the five weeks of Lent and the subthemes shown above.

If interested in participating, contact Pastor Paul.

2024
March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
					Day 15	Day 16
3	4	5	Week of Serving Day 20	7	8	9
Day 17	Day 18	Day 19	Day 20	Day 21	Day 22	Day 23
10	11	12	Week of Giving Day 27	14	15	16
Day 24	Day 25	Day 26	Day 27	Day 28	Day 29	Day 30
17	18	19	Week of Going Day 34	21	22	23
Day 31	Day 32	Day 33	Day 34	Day 35	Day 36	Day 37
24	25	26	27	28 Maundy Thursday	29 Good Friday	30
Day 38	Day 39	Day 40				
31 Easter						