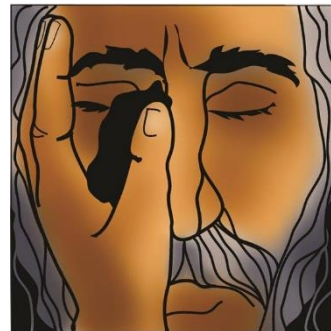


Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: ... we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Lord, I Need You

Lord, I come, I confess. Bowing here, I find my rest.

And without You, I fall apart. You're the one that guides my heart.

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.

My one defense, my righteousness; Oh, God, how I need You.

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more. Where grace is found is where You are.

And where You are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me.

Where You are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me.

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.

My one defense, my righteousness; Oh, God, how I need You.

So teach my song to rise to You when temptation comes my way. And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You.

Jesus You're my hope and stay. And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay.

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.

My one defense, my righteousness; Oh, God, how I need You.

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.

My one defense, my righteousness; Oh, God, how I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness; Oh, God, how I need 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: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr Paul

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

1 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." 2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." 4 Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. 6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." 11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." 12 He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and

anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Return to the Lord

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.

S 151b

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

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

1 As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” 6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, 7 saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” 9 Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” 10 But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” 11 He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” 12 They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” 13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” 16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. 17 So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” 18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 19 and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” 20 His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 21 but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. 23 Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” 24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” 25 He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” 26 They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” 27 He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” 28 Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” 30 The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” 34 They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. 35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36 He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” 37 Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” 38 He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” 40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” 41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message/Sabbatical Update

Cindy Monroe

Song of the Day: *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

ELW #843

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 e a Clean Heart*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The image shows a musical score for the offertory. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music is a simple, hymn-like setting.

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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
 and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. 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:

Be Thou My Vision
Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

ELW #793
ELW #814

Final Blessing

P: God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

This is Amazing Grace

Wickham, Riddle, Farro

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness, whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of glory, the King above all kings.

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder, and leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love, that you would take my place, that you would bear my cross.
You laid down your life that I would be set free. Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.

(interlude)

Who brings our chaos back into order, who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.

Who rules the nations with truth and justice, shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of glory, The King above all kings.

Who rules the nations with truth and justice, shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of glory, The King above all kings.

Yeah, this is amazing grace, this is unfailing love, that you would take my place, that you would bear my cross.

You laid down your life, that I would be set free. Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy, worthy, worthy! Oh, this is amazing grace,

... this is unfailing love, that you would take my place, that you would bear my cross. You laid down your life that I would be set free.

Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me, all that you've done for me.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem March 19, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/21—Susie Burton
3/23—Neal Kibby

3/24—Verna Farley
3/26—Terry Lautner

3/26—Kristine Smith

This week's Lenten service will be Taize "A" at 7:00pm on March 23rd – it will not be livestreamed.

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The giving envelopes have arrived! Please pick your box up in the Narthex. Phil Anderson, Bookkeeper

COVID: Please note that masks are required for unvaccinated persons in worship and highly encouraged for those who are vaccinated.

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.

Third Thursday: The next Third Thursday service will be a Taize "A" service on April 20th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed.

The March issue of the STAR is now available. The April issue will be distributed on Sunday, April 2nd. 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>.

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

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.

Living Water Ministries Stony Lake Summer Camp is a faith based experience for all ages. Registration open now for dates June – August 2023 at elcalivingwater.com.

Picture Directory: We have a chance to make a new directory this year, but with any project like this we need volunteers. Please leave your name in the office if you can help on this project in any way.

Choir announcement: The choir has some cool music planned for the Lent and Easter season. We will be rehearsing Tuesdays at 7:00 to accommodate Lenten mid-week services. Our next rehearsal will be held on April 4. The choir will sing on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. If you'd like to know more, talk to Tony Bero at a Thursday mid-week service or contact him at 231-942-1162, email: bero.tony@gmail.com.

KITCHEN CLEANING: We will be doing a little more kitchen cleaning on Wednesday, March 22nd at 1PM. If you would like to join us, we'd love to have you.

The season of Lent is here, and the promise of Easter is just around the corner. Lenten Thursdays will have:

6:00pm Meal: two soups, bread/rolls, a salad, dessert and beverages. The menu for March 23rd includes “Morley” Soup, Cheryl Wegener’s Mashed Potato Rolls, Salad by Kate Holtfreter, a veggie/gluten free soup by Barbara Overdier and Jim Muratzki, and Connie’s Pies Please contact Laura Hahn with any questions: dandlhahn@gmail.com, 231-929-1339 (home), 231-499-1948 (cell) Thank you!

7:00pm Services. These Lenten services will not be Livestreamed.

- March 23: Taize “A” (No Communion)
- March 30: Holden Evening Prayer (No Communion)

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.

Sabbatical Team Update: Something to keep in mind. A ministry sabbatical is different from a traditional academic or business sabbatical. A pastor’s sabbatical is about the spirit and soul being refreshed, renewed, and redirected. The intent of a sabbatical, Sabbath, is a time to be silent and listen to God, not attend lectures or write papers. It is a time to be in solitude and to be with God, not “interact” with fatigued peers. If help is to be given to a pastor, it is not going to come by infusion of intellect, but by renewal of the spirit. Depending on what a pastor does while he is gone from his day to day pastoral duties, he will come back even more skilled and talented than when he left.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the Sabbatical Fund. As of Sunday, March 12th, we have collected \$13,100. Our goal is \$15,000 so if you would still like to contribute, we welcome it.

The synod assembly will be back in person this year instead of on-line. It will be held May 7-9 in Mt Pleasant.

Immanuel/Bethlehem choir director Tony Bero will be leading the music. Our church is allowed to send one male and one female as voting members in addition to our pastor. Perhaps this is the year that you feel you are being called to do something new and different in your spiritual life? If so, please tell Pastor Paul or leave your name in the office.

The newest Living Lutheran magazine and the April/May/June *Christ in Our Home* can be picked up at the welcome table on Sunday mornings or from the Shooting STAR box below the outside mailbox

Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations? It has been moved inside the coat room to the right.

Coffee and Cookies: You are welcome to stay after the Sunday service for coffee, cookies and conversation. This will be done as many Sundays as there are volunteers to make the coffee and/or bring cookies, etc. There is a sign-up sheet available near the cookies. There are open dates, so please sign up!

Name tags: Your name tags are back in your mailboxes. Please retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it. If you notice a visitor, please encourage them to make a nametag which are kept with the welcome notebook.

Adult Bible Study gets together on Wednesdays from 9:30am-11:30am. It is a casual discussion of the Gospel of Luke. Bring your bibles and come, share, learn and grow with us.

The Zoom Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30pm—3:00pm. This group will study the Book of Faith: Romans. Contact Pr Paul for Zoom information.

BABY PANTRY: Cleaning supplies cannot be purchased with food stamps, etc so there is a huge need for these items. There is also a need for food items. Anything you bring is most appreciated. You may place them on the Caring Table in the coat room. Thank You!

A big thank you to all who have turned in Oleson’s receipts. We just received a check from them for \$186.58 for a grand total of \$651.20 for the year 2022. Please continue to drop off your Oleson’s receipts at Bethlehem!!! Also note that they do not expire. Thank you 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 1100am – 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. Please note that they are anticipating an increased need over the winter.

2023 Relay for Life: The American Cancer Society will be holding their annual 24-Hour Relay for Life event on Saturday, June 10, 2023 starting at 10 AM with an opening ceremony to Sunday, June 11, 2023 ending at 10 AM at the Grand Traverse Mall. As a long-time volunteer with the organization, I would like to request your support in the form of monetary donations to the American Cancer Society in support of this great cause, which will impact so many wonderful people who need your help. Thank you very much for your generous donations in the past, which helped the American Cancer Society provide more programs and do more research and advocacy for cancer patients and their caregivers. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is really appreciated!

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. Note that flowers are not placed on the altar during Lent (now through April 2nd) and will resume on Easter Sunday. 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 19

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
12:30pm—Confirmation (YR)

Monday, March 20

5:00pm—All Star DE (FH)
6:30pm—Sabbatical Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, March 21

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
5:00pm—All Star DE (FH)
6:30pm—Council Meeting
7:00pm—Lautner SG (Offsite)

Wednesday, March 22

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:00pm—Johnson SG (Offsite)
1:00pm—Kitchen Cleaning (FH)
5:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

Thursday, March 23

5:30pm—ACA
6:00pm—Lenten Dinner (FH)
7:00pm—Lenten Service/Taize “A”
7:00pm—All Star DE (YR)

Sunday, March 26

10:00am—Worship Service (S)





Chili cook-off is back! It's been several years since we've been able to have this event, and we are so excited to enjoy it again!

We're also including a soup category this year!

We are in need of people to sign up, both to enter soups/chili for the competition, and to volunteer to help with the event itself! Sign up sheets will be available in the narthex.

You can also sign up to submit a soup/chili entry online here:

See the weekly email for online sign up information

You can also sign up by either emailing Alanna at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org or calling her on Tuesday or Thursday at 947.9880. Reach out to her with any questions!



Easter Brunch

Sunday, April 9, 2023, 9:00am

The Fellowship Committee will supply beverages and sausage links.

Please consider donating food to be shared at the meal.

Suggested items: Breakfast casseroles, hardboiled eggs, deviled eggs, quiche, pastries, rolls, bread, muffins, bagels, fruit, yogurt.

A sign-up sheet will be located in the Narthex

All food must pre-cooked.

Ovens will available to keep food warm as needed.

We hope to see you there!