

# First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



## Prelude Music

## 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:

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

**ELW # 325**

## 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, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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: Genesis 9:8-17

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

8 God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." 12 God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." 17 God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation:

### Return to the Lord Your God

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the acclamation, with lyrics underneath: "Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,". The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics underneath: "slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love." A small "S 151b" is written above the end of the first staff.

## Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

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

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." 12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the

wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. 14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

## Song of the Day:

**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

**ELW #504**

## 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:**

***I Am the Bread of Life  
Eat This Bread***

**ELW # 485**

**ELW #472**

## 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:

## 10,000 Reasons

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, it's time to sing Your song again. Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me. let me be singing when the evening comes.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger. Your name is great and Your heart is kind. For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing. Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

And on that day, when my strength is failing, the end draws near, and my time has come; Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending., ten thousand years, and then forever more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name, worship Your holy name, Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.

## Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



**Bethlehem** February 18, 2024  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2/18—Harper Wiemerslage

2/20—Peggy Goebel

2/21—Daniel Hahn

2/22—Sarah Denton

2/24—Paul Rundhaug

### Worship Servants for February 18

Assisting Minister—Sherri Helman

Lector—Dave Pepler

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

Hospitality—Dan/Laura Hahn

A/V—Barbara Oster, Jim Hinds, The Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—Linda Hansen; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter and Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Betty Rutila and Suzanne Lehto

**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 February issue of the STAR is now available.** The March issue will be available on February 25th. 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 January/February/March 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

**Giving Statements Available:** Your individual giving statements are now available in your mailbox in the Narthex. 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

**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*. We will focus on the 5 weeks of Lent, and engage in collaboration with Pastor Dana Hendershot and Immanuel Lutheran Church folks from Mount Pleasant. The five weeks and their subthemes are below. Please check <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/red-letter-lent-2024> for more info.

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"

Beginning on **Wednesday, February 21st, 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. We will hold our Wednesday Zooms in "Hybrid" fashion, so people who wish to join in-person can come to the Bethlehem Youth Room. 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.

**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, beginning on February 22nd 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.

**FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS:** The book club will discuss *The Mystery of Mrs. Christie* during a pizza dinner meeting at 5:30 on Tues Feb 27. This is a novelized account of the true disappearance of Agatha Christie for 2 weeks. There will be some 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](mailto: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.

**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.

**SPECIAL MEETING IN FEBRUARY:** We had a very informative Q&A last Sunday concerning the roof and solar panels. **Next Sunday, February 25,** we will have a congregational meeting after the service to determine if we will go forward with the panels. We hope as many of you as possible can attend and voice your opinion and vote. FOR OUR MEETINGS 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 mike between members.) If you have mobility problems that day, please alert the hospitality team so a mic can be brought to you.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO PHIL BOSSARDET:** Phil prepared delicious soups for our Q&A meeting last Sunday. Phil's minestrone and chicken noodle soups were so good along with the salad and cookies that were prepared by Laura Hahn and the Fellowship Committee. Thanks to all who helped set-up, serve and clean-up.

**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](mailto: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:

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

**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:** Unfortunately, the first draft of the directory sent to our fearless team did not measure up to their expectations. They are currently in negotiation with the company to provide what was promised. 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.

**New member acceptance:** We have a couple of new members who will be accepted on Sunday, February 25th. Please come and support them on their special day.

**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 will not occur in February due to the congregational meeting and also 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.

**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.** As of February 18th, 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** We have started locking the front door during Worship Services. 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 or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is of the calendar.**

**Sunday, February 18**

9:15am—Sunday School  
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)  
10:00am—Worship Service (S)  
1:00pm—Skiing at Crystal Mountain

**Monday, February 19**

6:00pm—Grief Group (Library)

**Tuesday, February 20**

**Bulletin articles due today**

9:00am—Property Work Group  
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)  
12:00pm—Sarah Circle (Library)  
6:30pm—Council Meeting (Library)  
7:00pm—Lautner SG (Offsite)

**Wednesday, February 21**

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)  
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)  
1:30pm—Zoom Red Letter Bible Study  
7:00pm—Indian Woods Neighborhood Assn (FH)

**Thursday, February 22**

5:30pm—ACA (FH)  
5:45pm—Lenten Meal (FH)  
7:00pm—Lenten Service (S)  
8:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

**Sunday, February 25**

9:15am—Sunday School  
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)  
10:00am—Worship Service (S)  
11:15am—Congregational Meeting (S)  
12:30pm—Confirmation Class (YR)

# RED LETTER CHALLENGE




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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  
February

| SUN          | MON          | TUE          | WED  | THU             | FRI         | SAT         |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
|              |              |              |  | 1               | 2           | 3           |
| 4            | 5            | 6            | 7  | 8               | 9           | 10          |
| 11           | 12           | 13           | 14<br>                      | 15<br>Intro Day | 16<br>Day 1 | 17<br>Day 2 |
| 18<br>Day 3  | 19<br>Day 4  | 20<br>Day 5  | 21<br>Week of being<br>     | 22<br>Day 7     | 23<br>Day 8 | 24<br>Day 9 |
| 25<br>Day 10 | 26<br>Day 11 | 27<br>Day 12 | 28<br>Week of Forgiving<br> | 29<br>Day 14    |             |             |