

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 10



## Prelude Music

## Announcements

### Call to Worship

P: God's reach is endless.

**C: God's mercy is unstoppable.**

P: God's grace is lavish.

**C: God's love is constant.**

P: God's wisdom is vast.

**C: God's hope is stubborn.**

P: God's presence is here—

**C: with us, among us, moving through us.**

P: Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

**C: We are in God's house.**

P: Let us worship the One who welcomes us home.



### Call to Confession

A: If you ask any parent with a teenager what it's like to wait up for their child to meet curfew, they will tell you—they're standing at the door. The porch light is on. No one can sleep until that child is home safe. Friends, I think God is like that for us. The porch light is on. The door is unlocked. We might be late for curfew, but God is just so glad we're home. So let us pray the prayer of confession together, trusting that no matter what we do or what we leave undone, the porch light is always on. Let us pray. . .

### Prayer of Confession

**C: The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name. It sounds like ours. And we know his story. It sounds like ours. For who among us hasn't burned a bridge? Who among us hasn't forgotten that we belong to one another? Who among us has not ached for home? The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name. Forgive us God. We want to come home.**

### Words of Forgiveness

P: Family of faith, the word 'prodigal' can be defined as wasteful or imprudent, hence the name, "Prodigal Son." However, 'prodigal' can also be described as extravagant and excessive. Friends, we worship a prodigal God—a God who is extravagant in mercy and excessive in grace. For no matter how many times we run, no matter how far we go or how lost we get, God is standing at the end of the driveway waiting for us. The doors are open. The feast is for you. This grace is extravagant.

**C: Thanks be to God, amen.**

**Gathering Song:**

***Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling***

**ELW 608**

### 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!**

S203



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

**C: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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: Joshua 5:9-12

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.*

9 The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. 10 While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. 11 On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12 The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation:

## Lenten Acclamation

**ELW 176**



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

## Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.*

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

1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” 3 So he told them this parable: 11b “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 17 But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ 20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. 25 “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27 He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ 31 Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

*Pastor Paul Busekist*

**Song of the Day:**

***Our Father, We Have Wandered***

**ELW 606**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

P: God of open doors, We often long to come home to you, to love, and to ourselves, but we aren't always sure how to get there. We know that we need you, but the road back to you is heavy with distractions. So if we can dare to be so forward, we pray—reach into the cacophony of our hearts and minds and make yourself known. Quiet everything but your Word for us today. Leave us awestruck. Drown out the distractions. Come as thunder or come as a still, small voice; we don't care which, we just pray that you will come. Turn on the light. Speak through these words. Find the parts of us that are lost. With hope we pray, amen.

## Affirmation of Faith

C: We believe in a God who waits in the driveway for us. We believe in a God who leaves the porch light on and throws a feast when we are found. We believe in a God who doesn't stop looking for us when we get lost. We believe in a God of prodigal grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace. In response to this grace, we hold tighter to each other. We remember that humans are not meant to go through life alone; so we look for ways to welcome each other in, to live like we are family, and to lead with grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace. We believe that this is our call. Let it be so. Amen.

## 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 188*

## Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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:**

**Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal  
My Life Flows On in Endless Song**

**ELW 464**

**ELW 763**

## **Final Blessing**

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Sending Song:**

## ***Your Grace is Enough***

### **Verse 1**

Great is Your faithfulness O God; You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart. You lead us by still waters into mercy and nothing can keep us apart.

### **Pre-Chorus**

So remember Your people, remember Your children, remember Your promise O God.

### **Chorus 1**

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough for me.

### **Verse 2**

Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob; You use the weak to lead the strong. You lead us in the song of Your salvation, and all Your people sing along.

### **Pre-Chorus**

Remember Your people, remember Your children, remember Your promise O God.

### **Chorus 1**

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough for me.

### **Chorus 2**

Yeah, Your grace is enough; heaven reaches out to us. Your grace is enough for me. God, I sing Your grace is enough; I'm covered in Your love. Your grace is enough for me for me, for me.

## **Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



**Bethlehem** March 30, 2025  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

3/30—Erin Word

3/31—April Kurkowski

4/1—Haven Hill

4/3—Caleb Kelly

4/3—Nancy Pflasterer

4/4—Danny Vipond

4/5—Britney Jones

4/6—Jim Kriesel

4/6—Jon Kik

4/6—Brad Schuler

### **Worship Servants for March 30**

Assisting Minister—Doug Cunningham

Lector—Dave Peppler

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *No Flowers during Lent*

Hospitality—Tom Fink / Deb Hissong

A/V—Acker family

Cookies/Coffee— Gail Goldsmith / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table— Frank & Pat Wall

Bell Ringer—Dave Susalski

Front Door Monitors—Frank & Pat Wall

Altar Guild— Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Laura Hahn / Mike McCarty

**WE NEED YOU!!!!** Can you do something more? What about stepping forward to being on council? There will be three-3 year positions and two-2 year positions open because of some unexpected relocations of some council members during the past year. There will also be openings on the Sustaining Endowment and Mission Endowment Committees. Please submit your names to anyone on council, on those committees or in the office. **And even if you cannot volunteer, please try to be at the Congregational Meeting on June 8 after the service to learn what's going on and to VOTE.**

**THRIVENT FUNDS BENEFIT BETHLEHEM:** Many of you hear about the special grants we receive from Thrivent for action teams. But there are also "Thrivent Choice Dollars" designated by Thrivent members to benefit Bethlehem. As of this date \$1,359 was sent to Bethlehem from 2024 as requested by Thrivent members. If you are a Thrivent member you only have until March 31 to direct any remaining 2024 funds. If not done, the money goes into a general donation "pot", never to be seen by Bethlehem. It's as easy as a few computer clicks.

**Dear Bethlehem Family and Friends,** I am writing to thank each one of you for your prayers, cards, calls, notes, flowers, and small gifts. I appreciate them so much! It has also been wonderful for the folks who have stepped up and provided transportation to a myriad of doctor appointments. I am improving since my fall in January, but it seems like a slow process. The doctor granted me permission to drive locally and only for short time spans. The frontal lobe of my brain is still healing and it is hoped I will make a full recovery in about three months. It has been great to know that when I have needed it, an abundance of support and love have made my situation much easier. With love and gratitude, Carolyn Mann

**We are wanting to update the list of people we pray for.** If everyone could look at list and let us know of any changes, whether it is people who can be taken off, or should be added, we would appreciate it. Please respond by email to [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org)

**First Communion Classes continues.** The final date is April 6 at 9:00am. For any questions, please see either Pr Paul or Sherri Helman.

**April's XYZ meeting will be on Friday, April 11th, at 12pm noon.** Our presenter in April will be Annie Solem from Thrive Medical Clinic (formerly the Pregnancy Care Center), sharing their most recent patient story video and their newly developed education resource for the faith community, "How to Be a Safe Place for Someone in An Unplanned Pregnancy." We hope you can join us for lunch and a great presentation! All adults are welcome!

**BOOK CLUB NEWS:** The next meeting will be a potluck on **Wed, Apr 16 at 5:30.** We will be reading "*Remarkably Bright Creatures*" by Shelby Van Pelt. Since the group had such a fun time at Betsy Morley's house she has offered to host again. Please RSVP to her at [betsymorley@charter.net](mailto:betsymorley@charter.net) or 231 499-4483 with what you would like to bring for the meal.

**CHAIR YOGA:** Chair Yoga continues every Monday at 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5.00 per person. It is slow paced stretches that helps with balance, flexibility and relaxation. Come and try it out.

**What IS GRIEVING?** Could it be the loss of a marriage, your home, or community, good health, a dream or something else? The list can go on and on. No matter the loss you have a family here at Bethlehem that loves you, wants to support you, and be here for you! We meet here on the first Monday of the month from 3:30-4:30 and on the third Monday from 5:30-6:30. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns 231-392-6913.

**The season of Lent is here, and the promise of Easter is just around the corner.**

From the Fellowship Committee's perspective, that means planning for food and fellowship during this holy season.

- There will be a meal before the Lenten service on April 3.
- The meal will be at 5:45 followed by the service at 7:00.
- **Living Last Supper:** Come and experience with the apostles and begin to understand the true meaning of the Last Supper. It is based on Leonardo da Vinci's painting. The apostles will join us for a Seder meal at 5:30pm with the presentation at 7:00pm April 10th. A free will offering will be collected.

**Lenten Service/Dinner Schedule:**

- April 3—Terry Farmer is making Italian beef, we will have cheese and buns for the sandwiches. Also coleslaw, cheesy potatoes, carrot cake, lemonade and iced tea. The dinner will begin at 5:45 and the Taize 1 service will begin at 7:00pm
- April 10th will be the Last Supper Reenactment at Bethlehem and we will invite community members and the actors for dinner. We will have foods similar to a Passover Seder. Norm Fred is making matzo ball soup, Terry Farmer is making brisket, the Fellowship Committee will make baked chicken, a vegetable rice dish, salad, Charoset with matzo crackers with macaroons for dessert and drinks. This dinner will begin at 5:30 with the Reenactment at 7:00pm.

**Holy Week services – all services are Live Streamed except Easter 8:00am**

April 13 – Palm Sunday, 10:00am

April 17 – Maundy Thursday, 7:00pm

April 18 – Good Friday, 7:00pm

April 19 –Easter Vigil, 7:00pm

April 20—Easter Brunch 9:00am

April 20 – Easter Sunday 8:00am and 10:00am (only 10:00am Live Streamed)

**NEW MEMBER RECEPTION:** We welcome the following new members on either April 27 or May 4 during the 10:00 service. Please greet them after the service.

Linda Hansen sponsored by Brian and Laura Acker and family

Fred and Linda Reyelts sponsored by Chris and Renna' Walter

Brad Schuler sponsored by Zeke Clemons

Dave and Lindsay Susalski sponsored by Peggy Burns

Gail Tokie (returning member) sponsored by Jacky Putman

**Scottish Country Folk Dancing at BLC:** Some of you have come to the Contra dance on Sat nights here at BLC. Here is a chance to watch or try something a little different. The first gathering will be held on Sunday Apr 27 beginning at 12:30. You can have "dessert first" with your BLC friends and then meet some friendly Scottish folks in their plaid kilts who will share a potluck meal including haggis and shortbread. Then you can have a chance to try some basic moves in Scottish country folk dancing. This first event will be free for anyone who is interested.

**Bethlehem will take the third Tuesday of the month for May, June, July, August, and September to staff volunteer positions at Safe Harbor.** That's tentatively May 20; June 17; July 15; August 19; and September 16.

Need four volunteers for each of those nights (Remember, 3 professional staff will lead); one Bethlehem volunteer in the morning.

Volunteer staffing - 4 total in evening and one in the morning; Please sign up; I'll be in touch.

- Facility Manager (6:00 or so to 9:30 or so)
- Shelter Prep/Check-in (6:00 to 8:30)
- Shelter Prep/Floater (runner, guest meds, FM assist) (6:00 to 8:30)
- Check-in Assistant (6:00-8:30)
- Morning Volunteer (7:00AM to 9:30AM) This is the following morning...

(I have noted 6:00PM for all positions- until 8:30PM- Facility Manager may run an hour later)

This costs us nothing but our efforts... Sign up in the Gathering Space. Please call BLC Safe Harbor Coordinator Tom Rockne with questions... and your commitment! 231-631-0040... **Yes, also planning a BLC Hot Dog Picnic at Safe Harbor on June 25...**

**Check with Tom on this... Make a green salad? Potato salad? Macaroni salad? A pot of beans? Cheesy potatoes?**

**SAVE YOUR PAPER SACKS:** Please check the nooks and crannies of your home for paper sacks. The Baby Pantry fills requests from preschool teachers for their students whose parents cannot make it to the pantry. Paper sacks are the perfect size to place the needed items for each child. Just place your bags on the Care table in the coat room. Thank you!!

**HOW DO WE CARE AND SERVE?** John 12:26 “Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant will also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me”. YOU ARE LOVED BY YOUR CHURCH FAMILY. If you would like to have a visit and you would like to receive Communion, Christian Care Giving is here for you! Please let Peggy Burns at 231-392-6914 know and we will have one of our Care Givers come and see you.

**DRIVING VOLUNTEERS?:** Thanks to those who have already said “yes” to being a regular or substitute driver to transport a delightful member couple to church. They have good mobility but due to other health issues currently cannot drive. They live at the east end of 14th street so it should be an easy pick-up and drop off for any members coming from the south or west side of town. They will be out of town with their family during the months of Feb and March, so rides will need to be lined up as of the beginning of April. If you would like to be added to the list of volunteers please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or 231 631 0887.

**PROTECT OUR CARPET:** spills always happen, but we now have TWO consistent ways to deal with them. Thanks to an anonymous donor we now have an actual carpet cleaning machine stored in the maintenance closet. **If you cause one or see a spot, please grab the spot cleaner in the squirt container below the sink in the fellowship hall ASAP. Just follow the directions on the bottle and we should be able to keep our carpet in good condition. But, if the stain is too big or too resistant, please use the carpet cleaning machine. The longer the stain sits, the harder it is to clean. Thank you!!**

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** TC Groups are holding their Open Talk here at Bethlehem on three Saturday nights of each month from 8:00-9:00pm. They will not meet here on the second Saturday due to Contra on that night where they will meet at their TC Group office across from Sara Lee.

**Coffee and Cookies on Sunday:** Remember that treats and a drink on Sunday are appreciated by all. The sign-up sheet has many BLANK spaces so 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 to give our loyal volunteer Mary Ann Tanis a day off.

**Looking for A/V Volunteers!** Would you be interested in volunteering to help with audio/visual up in the choir loft during services? We are looking to add a few more A/V volunteers to our list! Our current volunteers are absolutely fantastic! We would love to add a few more people to the rotation and have a few more people on the list. If you would be interested in learning, please contact Barbara Oster.

**Volunteers for Watching the Front Door During Worship:** The Safety and Security Committee has the new sign up sheets available. We need volunteers who can be available to stay in the Gathering Space to lock the doors and let in late comers for Sundays. We appreciate all of the volunteers. If you have any questions, the committee members are Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer, and Jana Rockne.

**The April issue of the STAR is now available.** If you receive the weekly email, your April issue will be emailed on April 1st. The shut-ins will receive an issue by mail. There will also be a few copies available on the counter by the mailboxes. You may also contact the office at 947-9880 to request that mail delivery continues. 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>.

#### **Wednesday Bible Studies:**

The Adult Bible Study meets from 9:30am—11:30am with the topic of the Book of Colossians

The Zoom Bible Study meets from 1:30pm—3:00pm – They will end the study of the Book of Isaiah on April 9th (no class on April 2nd) The next class will begin on April 30th with a study of the book, A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World by Paul Miller. Contact either Pr. Paul or Barbara with questions.

**Food pantry news:** In a recent message Pastor reminded us that God's love is abundant and urges us to truly live into God's word and share our abundance with others. We can give God's love to others and help others find their way out of the desert. We urge you to continue donating non-perishable goods to stock our food pantry. With food prices on the rise, your help is more important than ever. Now that the weather is getting warmer, we can again make canned goods available. Remember, you can use a Thrivent grant for up to \$250 to help us restock our supplies. We appreciate your continued support. In God's love, Suzanne and Kathie

**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 4/2—The Pub, Traverse City 7:00pm**



**You are Invited to Sunday Morning Adult Education:** it is that time again, time to power up our learning and sharing of Scripture. Adult Education has resumed. We will meet in the Youth Room from 9:15 to 9:45 each Sunday to discuss the lessons for the day. This is a relaxed venue, with inquisitive sharing, practical application, and an opportunity to get better acquainted with your brothers and sisters in Christ! We hope you will join... All Are Welcome!!!!

**Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday. Office Phone #: 231-947-9880**

**Offerings:** Even though the offering plates are passed during the service, you may use the vase in the back of the Sanctuary if you prefer not to touch the offering plate.

**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-Boomer/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday and from home on Thursday – Please note that this is a new schedule

**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 or [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org)

**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 in plastic bags by the garage. These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

**Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations?** It is now located inside the coat room to the right. Your donations are very much appreciated.

**LOST AND FOUND:** If you lose something in the church building, please check our new Lost and Found box located in the Coat Room. Also, if you find something, please put it in the box.

**Yarn Available:** There is yarn available free for the taking located in the cabinets located under the mailboxes in the Narthex. Take what you need.

**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 7th, we received a check from Olesons for \$317.06. Olesons' slips never expire. Please continue to turn in your Olesons receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks so much!!! Also, the area for the Oleson receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside. Unfortunately, we are no longer collecting the receipts from Family Fair.

**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. NOTE: There are no altar flowers during Lent.** 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](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is of the calendar.**

**Sunday, March 30**

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

**Monday, March 31**

2:30pm—Choir rehearsal (S)  
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (YR)

**Tuesday, April 1**

**Bulletin articles due today**

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)  
9:00am—Property Work Group

**Wednesday, April 2**

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (Library)  
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

**Thursday, April 3**

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

**Saturday, April 5**

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)  
8:00pm—AA (FH)

**Sunday, April 6**

9:00am—First Communion (YR)  
9:15am—Sunday School  
9:15am—Adult Education (Library)  
10:00am—Worship Service (S)  
11:15am—Worship and Music meeting (CR)  
12:30pm—Youth Discipleship Class (FOV)  
2:00pm—Girl Scouts (Library)

