

Welcome to
Bethania Lutheran Kirke

FIRST SUNDAY IN
LENT



February 26, 2023

10:30 a.m.

BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

<http://www.bethanialutheran.org/bulletins/>

Thank you for worshipping with us today, in an effort to keep everyone safe:

1. Masks are Optional

2. The offering plate will be at the door of the sanctuary.

3. Worshippers are to take bulletins home with them or deposit in recycle bin near the narthex doors.

4. Communion will be by intinction. Dipping the wafer into the wine filled chalice. Grape juice and Covid cups will be available for those who request them.

5. Use of Hand sanitizer is required when entering and leaving the sanctuary.

6. Contact Tracing -

A digital image of the congregants will be taken during the service to act as a reference should an individual become COVID positive within 5 days of church service.

Prayer List

Dan Cruz, Ann Marie, Pat & Pete
Nelson, Jeff & Sue O.,

Austin Imhoff, Kevin Dahlen, Ryan Nelson, Irma
Anderson, Tom & Anita Nielsen.



TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:

Pastor: Rev. Paul Ihlenfeld

Communion Assistant: OPEN

Lector:OPEN

Acolyte: Dominic Shawhan

Coffee Hour: Anita & Chris

Altar Flowers: OPEN

Building Host: Kelly Imhoff

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Worship Leader	Rev. Paul Ihlenfeld	Rev. Paul Ihlenfeld	Pastor Chad Kline	Pastor Kara Baylor
Communion Assistant	Anita Neilsen			
Lector	Brad Larsen	Anne Woodward	Anita Neilsen	
Acolyte	Eli Imhoff	Brooke McIntosh	(Open)	Dominic Shawhan
Coffee Hour		Altar Guild - Cathi		
Altar Flowers	Brad Larsen			
Building Host	Brad Larsen	Aldersons	John Barnes	Ed Young

**Order of Worship
for
Sunday, February 26, 2023**

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

GATHERING

(Please rise)

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Today the journey begins. Are you ready?

C: There is so much I still have to do. I am not sure I'll ever be ready.

P: Let go of those things THAT chain you to despair.

C: Lord, help me look and see the ways in which I have abandoned you.

P: Come, let us worship and feel the power of freedom in God.

C: Open our hearts today to receive your freeing love, O Lord. AMEN.

PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress ”

#229

Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

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.

SALUTATION

L : 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil
rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces
that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us stead-
fast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and re-
store us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

WORD

OUR FIRST LESSON is from the book of Genesis, chapter 2, verses 15 through 17 and Chapter 3, verses 1 through 7.

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY - PSALM 32

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

²Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

OUR SECOND LESSON is from the book of Romans; chapter 5, verses 12 through 19.

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

L: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Please rise)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ACS #994)

Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken



Lis-ten to the word that God has spo-ken; lis-ten to the One who is



close at hand; lis-ten to the voice that be - gan cre - a - tion;



lis - ten e - ven if you don't un - der - stand.

Text: Anonymous, Canada

Music: LISTEN TO THE WORD, Anonymous, Canada; adapt. *Church Hymnary*, 4th Edition, 2005

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

(Please be seated)

MESSAGE

(Please rise)

HYMN OF THE DAY -

"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me " #660

With One Voice—Blue Hymnal

UNISON LENTEN PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

**C: You were a man of suffering, acquainted with grief,
loved and despised in equal measure.**

**You understand humanity, know our failings,
love us despite the people that we are.**

**When we, like Peter, deny you by word or action,
forgive us.**

**When we, like Judas, are tempted to follow a different path,
forgive us.**

**When we, like those in the crowd allow you to be crucified,
forgive us.**

**Bring us to the foot of the Cross to stand next to the one who,
looking into your eyes declared 'Surely this is the Son of
God'. Amen**

PRAYER SONG

(ELW #741)

Your Will Be Done *Mayenziwe*



Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma -
Your will be done on earth, O Lord. Your

ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi -
will be done on earth, O Lord. Your will be

we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta -
done on earth, O Lord. Your will be done on

ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho.
earth, O Lord. Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

Text: South African, based on the Lord's Prayer

Music: MAYENZIWE, South African traditional, as taught by Gobingca George Mxadana

PRAYERS

P: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P: You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards, that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love *especially* Dan, Ann Marie, Pat & Pete, Jeff & Sue O., Austin, Kevin, Ryan, Tom, Anita. and all those we name in our hearts, Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially worship greeters, coffee hour hosts, and nursery attendants. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

PRAYER SONG (repeated)

(ELW #741)

Your Will Be Done
Mayenziwe

Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma -
Your will be done on earth, O Lord. Your

ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi -
will be done on earth, O Lord. Your will be

we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta -
done on earth, O Lord. Your will be done on

ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho.
earth, O Lord. Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

Text: South African, based on the Lord's Prayer
Music: MAYENZIWE, South African traditional, as taught by Gobingca George Mxadana

Because of Covid the offering is collected at the center door before worship and will be brought down the center aisle during the repeated prayer song.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

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.

C: Amen

INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAL

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy one, great God of judgment and mercy, we give thanks to you through your beloved son, Jesus Christ.

From earliest days, you turned toward your creation, bringing light from darkness, firm ground from the deep, life from the dust.

Adam and Eve turned from the garden to toil and struggle. Abraham and Sarah turned from a life of wandering to the land that you showed them. Your people Israel turned from captivity to cry unto you, and you delivered them from captivity. And in the wilderness Jesus turned away from the tempter and toward his proclamation of the heavenly kingdom.

You ordained for everything a season, a time to break down, and a time to build up, a time to keep, and a time to put aside. Let this now be a time of healing, a time of justice, a time of reconciliation and peace.

On the night in which he turned to his friends, our Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take; eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he also took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the New Covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Remembering, therefore, Christ's turn toward the world, his journey to the cross, and his resurrection from the dead, we turn toward you in the gifts of bread and wine, signs of your mercy and balm for our souls.

C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that these gifts may be healing and redemption for us and for your world, the turning toward a new day of righteousness.

C: Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

And now, may all creation turn toward you, seeking your mercy and trusting in your word, that we may share in your glory with all the saints in light.

P: Let us join together in the prayer that our Lord taught us to pray:

**C: 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

(Please be seated)

SHARING THE MEAL

For in person, come up the center aisle, receive your communion wafer, carefully dip your wafer into the wine/grape juice. If covid safe is preferred let the assistant know.

For at home using plain bread/crackers and wine/grape juice.

COMMUNION HYMN -

“When Peace Like A River”
Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

#346

(Please rise)

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us Pray,
Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Be with us, Lord, as we go from this place. Give us
confidence in your loving presence, and help us witness
to that love as we encounter others.

C: AMEN!

SENDING HYMN -

“Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer”

#343

Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

RECESSIONAL

A: We follow the cross of Christ into the world.

(Congregation turns as the cross passes them—so they are facing
the back of the church)

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve with Love!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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BETHANIA HOSTS COMMUNITY MEAL NEXT SUNDAY MARCH 5, 2023

If you can help please see Jeff or Shelly Alderson.

CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTIONALS

(for April –June)

are available on the table just inside the sanctuary doors.

Remember the food pantry. Suggested items: Canned dinners, Peanut butter, toilet paper, hygiene items, soup, and pastas.



LENTEN SCHEDULE

SUNDAY SERVICES -
10:30 a.m.

MIDWEEK SERVICES -
7:00 p.m.

March 5 –God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life.

March 12 –Christ offers us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness

March 19 -God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children.

March 26 –We remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

“Ways of the Cross”

March 1 - **JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH**

March 8 -**JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS**

March 15 - **THE CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON OF CYRENE**

March 22 -**JESUS MEETS THE**

If you need a ride to church please call the church office: 262-632-7267.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANIA....

Sunday, February 26, 2023 -

9:30 a.m. – COFFEE HOUR

10:30 a.m. -Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

Monday, February 27, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

6:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 242 - F.H.

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

10:00 to 2:00 p.m.- Thread by Thread OPEN

4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.-Office Open

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service, Hearth room

Thursday, March 2, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Friday, March 3, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

5:00 p.m.—Vow Renewal, Sanctuary

Sunday, March 5, 2023

9:30 a.m. – COFFEE HOUR

10:30 a.m. -Worship In Person & on Facebook Live