



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

March 16, 2025 - Setting 3

Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding

Naomi Tracy-Hegg, Musician

218-387-2227 | blc@boreal.org |

www.sharingchrist.org

Belonging to Christ, Sharing Christ on the North Shore & Beyond!

Introduction - The Second Sunday in Lent

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

Prelude

Naomi Tracy-Hegg

Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Compassionate One, you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. **Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

ELW page 138

Prayer of the Day

God of the covenant, **in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Time

On the way up the aisles, the children will be collecting coins for the "Holy Cow" fund, which will support ELCA World Hunger. *Find that loose change and help feed kids around the world!*

**First Reading:****Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a

turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from **the** river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm:

Psalm 27

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

² When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴ One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

**⁸My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

¹⁰Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in.

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

¹²Subject me not to the will of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.

¹³This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

¹⁴Wait for the LORD and be strong. Take heart and wait for the LORD!

Second Reading:

Philippians 3:17—4:1

17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. 18 For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. 19 Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. 21 He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. 4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

ELW page 142

**Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.**

Gospel:

Luke 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." 32 He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. 33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Calvin Konop

Hymn of the Day

When Twilight Comes

ELW 566

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of God's People

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. (*A brief silence.*)

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless your churches in the Holy Land, and all

persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need especially *the people affected by the conflict between Russia and the Ukraine, the conflict between Isreal and Palestine, and the conflit in the Sudan; Lute, Gene, Soren, Duane, Joan, Christy, Lynn, and Bruce.* We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. *(A time of silence.)* May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity, welcome and love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering Prayer

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.

Great Thanksgiving

ELW page 144

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW page 144

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness

to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

The 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.

Invitation to Communion

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread. All are welcome!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church believes in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality. All persons, whether visiting or a member, are welcomed to Communion.

Communion Music

Lamb of God

ELW page 146

Thy Holy Wings

ELW 613

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, † bless you now and forever. Amen.

Sending Hymn *God of Grace and God of Glory* ELW 705

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Naomi Tracy-Hegg



Our Lenten journey has begun! Please join us Wednesday evenings for a community meal at 5:30 pm followed by a Taizé-style worship service at 6:00 pm. This Lenten season Pastor Calvin will walk us through the Lord's Prayer. Confirmation during Lent will pair students with adult mentors for an intergenerational faith-based journey. (If you can be a member, please talk to Pastor Calvin today.)



Communion Classes finishes up today after worship. For anyone interested in learning more about Holy Communion, including third-graders and anyone who may have missed these classes in the past. Parents should plan to attend with their student. Please join Pastor Calvin in the library for this short course.

Your prayers are requested for healing: Lute Jansen, Gene Erickson, Soren Wahlstrom, Duane Ege, Joan Bieber, Christy Buetow, Lynn Schulte, Bruce & Stacey Johnson, Shae Lindholm, Rhonda Silence, Rhonda Schulte, Emily Ulhorn, Vera Finn, Char Anderson, Les Donek, Betty Jones, Stacey Schulte, Carol Ann, Mark LaKosky, Hank Ferland, and Jack Anderson. *If you have any updates on these prayer requests, or any new requests, please call the office at 218-387-2227.*

This week we lift up these members: *Mike & Barb Youngquist, Barbara Johnson; Gene & Wendy Hagen; Peter & Susan Backlund -Dixon; Nadine Abel; and Ken & Jean Bratsch.* May God walk with these friends in their Lenten journey.



FREE MONEY! Attention Bethlehem High School Seniors: Bethlehem's Mission Endowment Committee offers scholarships toward post-secondary schooling. Applications can be found on

our website (www.sharingchrist.org/forms) and on the Youth bulletin board (down stairs). There is a one-time Mission Endowment scholarship to high school seniors every year. Also available is a Concordia College scholarship for \$1000 which is renewable up to 4 years. **Deadline to receive applications is March 21, 2025.** Scholarships will be awarded at the CCHS Senior Awards Ceremony on May 22nd.

Hospitality Teams: Revised lists are posted on the window in front of Denise's office, in the Narthex (additional copies) and in Fellowship Hall. Come and see which team you are on! Add your name to join in this ministry. Showing our hospitality is so incredibly important to make members and guests feel welcomed, involved and part of this ministry. Please share your love.





The March Mission of the Month will raise funds to have a “Free Laundry” Day on April 5th, for local individuals and families. We plan to have an event on the first Saturday in April at **Squigg’s Laundry**. Bethlehem will provide quarters for the machines, and any laundry supplies needed. We will also have coffee and some kind of food available. We want to create a comfortable time for people to get to know each other, socialize, and learn about Bethlehem if they wish. We want to extend our welcoming atmosphere out into the community. Please support this project and consider coming that day to get to know someone new. Members can donate rolls of quarters or make checks payable to Bethlehem for Mission of the Month.



Member Challenge: Join in the Laundry Day at Squigg’s. Bring snacks and your stash of quarters. Plan on spending some time with your neighbors. Details regarding time of event to come.

2025 EcoFaith Summit of the Upper Midwest: Earth's Cries, Earth's Call: Becoming Midwives of Hope for the Healing of Creation: Saturday, April 5, 9:30am - 5:00pm, First Lutheran Church in Duluth and Online. The day includes impactful speakers, action-oriented engagement sessions, vibrant worship, inspiring art, table exhibits, and networking time to equip disciples in congregations, camps, campuses and communities to respond to God’s call in the cries of Creation. To register and for more information including a carpool discount, **free registration under age 30 and free childcare provided:** ecofaithnetwork.org/ecofaith-summit-2025 Bethlehem will pay for your registration—talk to Denise in the office.

Middle Schoolers: Diaper Wars! Friday March 21st 6:30-8:00 pm



*The Gauntlet has been thrown down.
The Challenge is on for **Diaper Wars!!***



All Middle School Youth and parents are invited
to partake in a rousing night of Fun!
Join Pastor Calvin on Friday, March. 21. 6:30–8 pm.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

417 First Avenue West, PO Box 638
Grand Marais, MN 55604
218-387-2227

www.sharingchrist.org | blc@boreal.org

This Week at Bethlehem:

Sun Mar 16	8:40 AM	Choir practice
	10:00 AM	Worship Service with Sunday School
	11:15 AM	Communion Class in library
	11:15 AM	High Schoolers: Shamrock shakes
	2:00 PM	Care Center Worship Service
Mon Mar 17	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
	3:30 PM	Girl Scouts
	6:30 PM	Church Council
Tue Mar 18	6:30 PM	Worship Planning
Wed Mar 19	12:30 PM	Text Study
	5:30 PM	Community Meal
	6:00 PM	Lenten Worship
	6:30 PM	Confirmation
Thurs Mar 20	8:00 AM	Bible Study
	9:00 AM	Quilting
	6:30 PM	Ping Pong
Fri Mar 21	- - - -	Clarity Hearing
	6:30 PM	Diaper Wars
Sun Mar 23	10:00 AM	Contemporary Worship Service with Sunday School

Midweek Lenten Services: are a study of the Lord's Prayer. Join us for a meal at 5:30 and service at 6:00 pm Wednesday evenings.



Confirmation during Lent:



Students will meet with mentors for an inter-generational interaction after Wednesday worship.

Traveler Cards and Local Grocery Cards are available from Bethlehem to members of the community that need help. Please contact the office.

Coffee An': *Have you taken a turn serving for our fellowship time on Sundays?* Please sign up to bring some treats to share.

Wednesday Text Study: Join us at 12:30 pm on Wednesdays for a study of the scripture lessons. Zoom link is available.

Men's Bible Study: Every Thursday morning, beginning at 8:00 to 9:15 am. Contact Mike Chmelik for information, 218-387-1790. Zoom link is available.

Free Bibles: Help yourself to a large print English Standard Version Bible, on the counter in the Narthex.

Quilters are seeking more helpers! Every Thursday morning at 9 to 11:30am. No experience necessary. You are invited to the fun!

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS005993.
New Revised Standard Version Bible. Copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.
Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.



*On-line giving is encouraged using this QR Code or through automatic transfer.
(Forms are available online & the office.)*