

# **March 1, 2026 and Second Sunday in Lent**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
220 Cedar Street  
PO Box 344  
Pemberville, Ohio 43450  
9 am: In Person Worship  
9 am: Facebook Live Worship  
11:30 am: Radio Worship on 99.1 FM**



**OFFICE HOURS**  
**Monday – Thursday, 9 am – 2 pm**  
**Friday– 9 am-Noon**  
**419-287-4182**

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### +GATHER+

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,  
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,  
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,  
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,  
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead  
dwells in you,

pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: What Wondrous Love Is This ELW#666**

## **APOSTOLIC 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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **+WORD+**

## **CHILDREN MESSAGE**

### **SYNOD MEMORY VERSE: (1 John 4:19)**

“We love because Jesus first loved us.”

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a**

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.**

# Psalm 121

Hal H. Hopson

Hal H. Hopson

**Refrain**

God will be with us all a - long our way.

God will be with us ev - 'ry night and day.

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**Music:** Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.

## PSALM: 121

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The Lord will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep; R**

<sup>5</sup> the Lord watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The Lord will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore. R**

## SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither

is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### Lenten Acclamation



Let your steady love come to us, O Lord.  
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

Text: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*  
Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950  
Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who

descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Gospel of the Lord.      **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON- SAM Eric Corns**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: Lift High the Cross      ELW #660**

**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**

*Each petition ends:* Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**+MEAL+**

**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.      **And also with you.**

*We gather our tithes and offerings. Following the collection, we pray.*

**OFFERING HYMN: Jesus, Still Lead On      ELW#624 VS4**

Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly leader, still direct us, still support, console, protect us, till we safely stand in the promised land.

## OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.  
Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

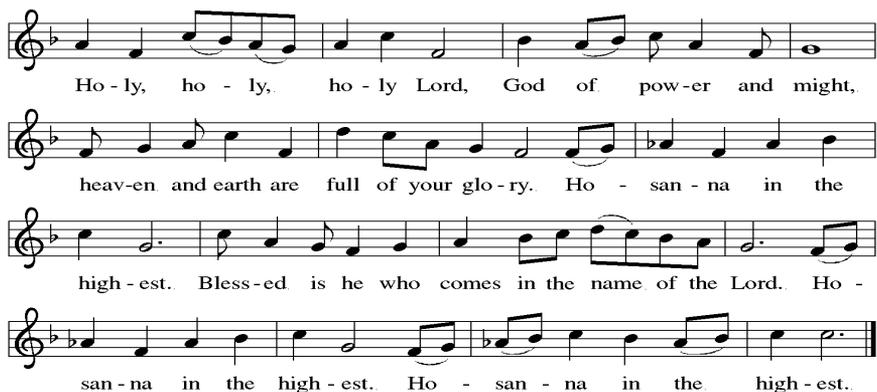
## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

## PREFACE

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.**

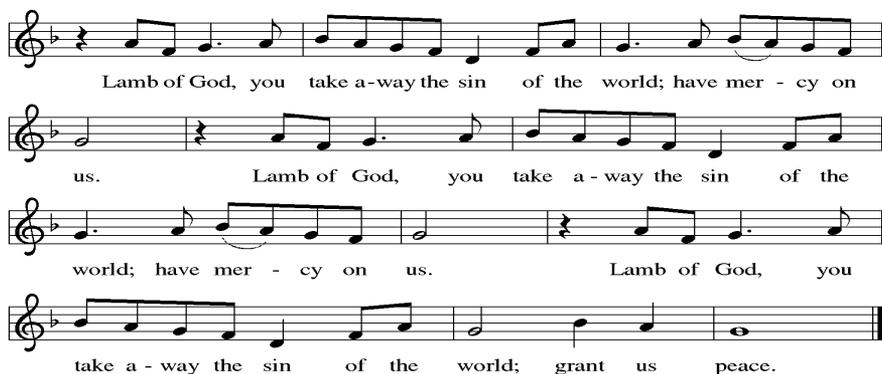
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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 COMMUNE

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN: We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus ELW#451

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## +SENDING+

### BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
+ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN: Blessed Assurance

ELW#638

### DISMISSAL

What is our mission?

**Transformed by the crucified and risen Jesus we are a loving community of disciples making disciples.**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## LAST WEEKS

**Ash Wed. Attendance: 11am In Person– 20 7pm In Person- 99 Online-4  
Genacross Lutheran Services Offering: \$665.00 Loose to Community Food  
Pantry: \$249.00**

**Attendance: In Person-115 Online-36  
Offering:\$3,406.00 Benevolence:\$255.00  
Genacross Lutheran Services Offering:\$95.00**

## IN OUR PRAYERS

**For healing:** Randi Parton (friend of Lois Hansen), Judy Keiser,  
Vic Schuerman, Eileen Schuerman,, Joan Slebos, Tom Dierksheide,  
Joyce Eisenhour

**For the grieving:** of family and friends of Dennis Everhart.

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God.

**Radio Broadcast** is given to the glory of God and from Ahrens, Connor &  
Witker family's.

**Online Streaming** are given to the glory of God.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

3/1, Sun	10:15a.m.	Sunday School
	10:20 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
3/2, Mon	6:45 p.m.	Yoga
	7:30p.m.	Dartball
	11a.m.-2p.m.	Food Pantry Open
3/3, Tues	6:p.m.	Bible Study
	11:00a.m.	Lent Worship
3/4, Wed.	5:30p.m.	Bells
	6:00p.m.	Lent Supper
	7:00p.m.	Lent Worship
	8:00p.m.	Choir
	9 a.m.	Worship
3/8, Sun	10:15a.m.	Sunday School

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Prayer for New Pastor- 220 Prayer**

220 - that's our address, the place where the Bethlehem community gathers for worship. You are invited to join this Bethlehem community each day at 2:20pm (or am if you are up) for a time of prayer centered on God's calling of a new pastor. You are welcome to use your own words, or use these: Most Holy God, we thank you for the gifts and ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We pray that you inspire and guide the pastor you will be calling to serve with us. We know you hold us in your hands of grace, se we give you thanks! Amen.

**Congratulation to Pam and Larry Heiser** on the birth of their grandson Henry J. Longfield, born to daughter Morgan.

**National Quilting (Knotting Day– Saturday March 21** Come one come all! Be apart of our National Quilting Day. If you have kids, ages 3rd grade and up bring them along! If you have grandmothers from another church bring them along! If you have neighbors or friend bring them along! Be a part of the National Quilting Day. We'll start at 9am until noon. If you can come for an hour, that's great! For 2 hours or whenever you can come! If you're not a quilter come, we'll show you how. The people who receive the blankets are so grateful for your help! Be a part pf our National Quilting Day!

**Daylight savings begins next week. Turn your clocks ahead 1 hour!!**

**The Mission Action project for March Baby Care Kits:**

Include the following items in each Baby Care Kit:

2 lightweight cotton t-shirts

2 long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)

2 receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn up to 52" square

4 cloth diapers, flat fold preferred

1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap

2 pair of socks

1 hand towel, dark color recommended

2 bath size bars (4-5 oz.) of gentle soap, in its original wrapping

2 diaper pins OR large safety pins

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. Gently used, clean items (no stains or tears) can be substituted for new ones. Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

**Food Pantry items for March** children's cereal, ketchup, canned fruit, toilet paper and deodorant

**"We're looking for musicians for Palm Sunday and Easter to complement our service music.** We have a particular interest in adding a brass quintet for Easter, so if you or someone you know may be interested, please reach out to Joe after the service or via email at [jstribr@bgsu.edu](mailto:jstribr@bgsu.edu)."

**Invitation**

Adult Sunday School 10:20 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall **Daily Discipleship discussion Based on the gospel for the day.** Bring your coffee and snack Bibles available

**There will be a meeting for parents who have children who are Sunday School age on Sunday, March 1, 2026 following the church service,** in the fellowship hall. The number of Sunday School students has increased over the last year, which is a great problem to have, but it does create a challenge to have all age groups in one group. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss options for Sunday School programming in the fall. Donuts and coffee will be served.

**If you or your organization sees a need in the community or the world, please complete a request for funding from the Endowment Fund,** identifying how you or your group would use the money. The Long-range Planning Committee will review submissions and disburse money as deemed appropriate. Money will be distributed into categories such as poverty, global missions, congregational support, leadership, and disaster relief. Forms are available in the office and the deadline for submission to the office is May 30, 2026. The decision on disbursements will be made by the end of July.

**Mick Sayen, a Thrivent representative will be visiting Bethlehem on Sunday March 8th** to answer any questions about Thrivent Choice dollars, Thrivent action teams, and qualified charitable contributions. He will be at a table in the lounge following the service.

**Anyone is welcome to make a one time or reoccurring** donation by using the QR code that links to Tithe.ly, Bethlehem's online giving portal. When you scan the QR code, you will be required to set up an account, which only takes a few minutes. There is a small transaction fee for the use of the app. The app will prompt you to indicate your choice to pay the transaction fee or have it deducted from your donation. Thank you for supporting the ministries at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.



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**Lent 2026**  **through the word**

A 40-Day Journey.  
Just 10 Minutes a Day.  
[throughtheword.org/lent](http://throughtheword.org/lent)

A square QR code with a black and white pixelated pattern, used for linking to the Lent 2026 program.