



Bethlehem Lutheran Church



## Bethlehem News



### Theodicy

The term “theodicy” –introduced into the philosophical vocabulary of Europe in the eighteenth century – concerns the question of God’s goodness and power in a world that is manifestly marked by disorder and evil.

The logic that has dominated the discussion is this unanswerable riddle:

God may be powerful and good if there is no evil.

God may be good and there can be evil if God is not powerful

God may be powerful and there can be evil if God is not good

Of the three elements of the question – goodness, power and evil – any two together can be affirmed, but in no logical way can all three elements hold together.

**First, there is only one God who all-powerfully governs all according to his will.**

**Second, God is good and loving**

**Third, human suffering is real.**

We discussed this in bible class and it is wonderful how God works His will in us. A question we might ask would be “Why do the Righteous serve God? “Why do we serve as followers of Christ. ?”

We find in scripture that God is good and not evil and that God is all powerful. Deuteronomy 8:7 “*For the Lord your **God is bringing you into a good land – a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills;***” Good shows up 372 times in the Old Testament and 238 in the New. 124 times good is describing God’s character. So we know that God is good and He would not give us what would harm us.

Deuteronomy 10:17 “*For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.*” Here is just one of the many passages telling about the greatness of God.

We often focus on the negative- on the pain and suffering and by paying too much attention to that we turn inwards towards self. Focusing on God’s purpose is good and spiritually healthy. Ask yourself what does God want from me? 1 Timothy 2:3-4 “*This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*” That is His purpose for us after all He LOVES YOU! You are His workmanship.

Why do the Righteous serve God? Why do we serve as followers of Christ? We are in awe in Reverence of Him, profound respect of Him. It is when we respect or have reverence for Him that we truly, freely serve. Serving not out of compulsion or duty put out of reverence and Love.

This is that Love that allows us to share the Love of Christ with others. We don’t expect anything in return. And as a matter of fact that Love freely flows from us. From God to the Cross to Jesus to Us. Continue to be faithful staying in communion with God and His people and through His Word. Hebrews 4:12 “*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*”

May the Lord Bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you and be gracious upon you, and may the Lord’s Favor be upon you now and. Forever. Amen

*Pastor Karl P Glander*





# MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	2	3 LWM Lunch 12 PM	4 Lenten Service 7PM	5	6	7
8 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	9	10	11 Lenten Service 7PM	12 Church Dinner 4-7 PM	13	14
15 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	16	17 	18 Lenten Service 7PM	19	20	21
22 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	23	24	25 Lenten Service 7PM	26	27	28
29 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	30	31				

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES	
11	Barbara Bulmahn & Vern Stork
15	Terri & Richard Gerlach
21	Audrey & Al Vine
30	Pam & Paul Rugenstein

MARCH BIRTHDAYS	
9	Pam Barkhaus
10	Mary Tobeck
11	Ben Smith
13	Ruthann Thornton
15	Lillian Taylor
17	Jennifer Morosey; Rudy Rugenstein
23	Kay Remmers
25	Sue Hartman
26	Robert Hedrick, Harlan Spurgin Jr.
28	Sharon Schafer, Judy Lawrence
29	Rick Ryback

*May God Bless Each One of You As  
We Celebrate Your Special Day!*

**Daylight Savings begins Sunday March 8.**  
 Remember to turn your clocks ahead Saturday night so your not late for church Sunday.

**Significance of Palm Sunday in the Lutheran Church**

Palm Sunday holds significant meaning in the Lutheran Church as it marks the beginning of Holy Week, a period of reflection, celebration, and anticipation of the events leading up to Easter. The day commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where he was greeted by crowds waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna!" This event is recorded in all four Gospels and signifies the fulfillment of prophecy and the beginning of Jesus' journey to the cross.

In Lutheran worship, Palm Sunday is observed with special services that often include the distribution of palm branches to congregants. These branches symbolize the palms laid before Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. The service typically begins with a procession, mirroring the joyous welcome Jesus received. The themes of Palm Sunday in Lutheran worship focus on both celebration and solemnity. While the day begins with the joyous recognition of Jesus as the Messiah, it also transitions into the somber reflection of his impending suffering and sacrifice.

Palm Sunday serves as a gateway to Holy Week, encouraging Lutherans to prepare their hearts and minds for the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and ultimately, Easter Sunday. It is a time for deep reflection, prayer, and anticipation of the resurrection.



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

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**Sunday Worship**

**10:30 AM** Worship Service

**Rev. Karl Glander**

[pastorkarlglander@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkarlglander@gmail.com)

239-293-1489

Organist: **Holly Bell**

Church Secretary: **Linda Kirsch**

**Prayer Chain Needs**

Do you know that Bethlehem has a prayer chain that prays for the sick, dying and hurting needs of our church family?

Call or email Linda at (239) 693-5026 or [jlkirsch3@comcast.net](mailto:jlkirsch3@comcast.net)

Your needs will be taken to the Lord!



Last Month:

Offering: \$13,988

Expenses: \$11,393



LWM's "noisy offering" on Feb. 22nd raised \$444 for their missions

