

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 8, 2026



Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

PEGGY TERHUNE, S.A.M., MINISTER
Cathy Williams, Organist

355 East Ridge Road Salisbury NC 28144
Phone: 704-636-0331

CHURCH WEBSITE

WIFI Bethel Guest

Bethelsalisbury.org

password **Lutheran**

ENTER TO WORSHIP – LEAVE TO SERVE

“Setting Ten”

**Congregation Stands*

Congregation responses are in bold

WELCOME

Pre-Service Music “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” rung by JOY Ringers
by McChesney

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “Kingsfold” arr. by Burkhardt

Call to Worship If you need good news,
settle into this space.
We have good news to share.
If you need a word of hope,
then trust us when we say,
there is hope enough to go around.
If you need a glimmer of joy,
then you’re in luck!
We have resilient joy abounding.
If you need to feel God’s presence in your midst,
then know that this is God’s house.
This is the good news of the gospel.
God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.
Let us worship our with-us God!

Call to Confession Friends, we are like the disciples.
The day that Jesus fed 5,000, his disciples could not imagine a solution to the crowd’s hunger. They told Jesus to send the crowds away.

We often do the same.

Like the disciples, we try to follow Jesus around, but when we run into issues, we often cannot imagine how we could play a part.

That is why we need the Prayer of Confession.
For in this prayer, we remember that we can make a difference.

So friends, join me in this moment of truth telling.
Join me in prayer:

**Prayer of Confession: Holy God, with you the impossible is possible.
5,000 can be fed.
The blind can see.
The hopeless can find hope.**

With you the impossible is possible, but we are quick to forget that.

**We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done.
We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd.
We forget that you are always with us.**

**Forgive our small-minded ways.
Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.
But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it.
With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.**

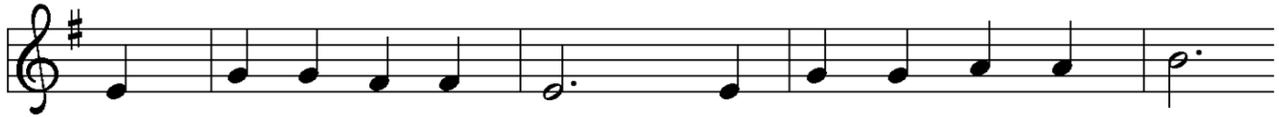
Words of Forgiveness Family of faith,
no matter how many mistakes the disciples made, Jesus still washed
their feet. Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved.
The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news:
**today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God.
We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone.
What good, good news. Amen!**

This is the good news of the gospel. **Thanks be to God! 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



- 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!

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***Prayer of the Day** Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

THE WORD

First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

A reading from the second chapter of Genesis

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD,

“What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”⁵ The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go.⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95 *congregation will read responsively*

- ¹ Come, let us sing[|] to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of[|] our salvation.
- ² **Let us come before God’s presence[|] with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the[|] LORD with psalms.**
- ³ For you, LORD,[|] are a great God, and a great ruler a-[|]bove all gods.
- ⁴ **In your hand are the caverns[|] of the earth; the heights of the hills are[|] also
yours.**
- ⁵ The sea is yours,[|] for you made it, and your hands have molded[|] the dry land.
- ⁶ **Come, let us worship[|] and bow down, let us kneel before the[|] LORD our
maker.**
- ⁷ For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture and the
sheep[|] of God’s hand. Oh, that today you would[|] hear God’s voice!
- ⁸ **“Harden[|] not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah[|] in the
desert.**
- ⁹ There your ancestors[|] tested me, they put me to the test, though they had[|] seen
my works.
- ¹⁰ **Forty years I loathed that gener-[|]ation, saying,
‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not[|] know my ways.’**
- ¹¹ Indeed I swore[|] in my anger, ‘They shall never come[|] to my rest.’”

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-11

A reading from the fifth chapter of Romans

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

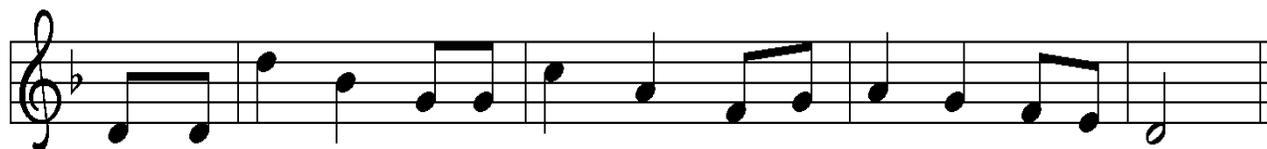
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

***Holy Gospel**

The holy gospel according to Mark & Ephesians

Mark 6:32-44

Glory to you, O Lord.

³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. ³⁵ When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; ³⁶ send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” ³⁷ But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” ³⁸ And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” ³⁹ Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And all ate and were filled, ⁴³ and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Ephesians 3:20-21

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and^[a] in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Judy Hoffman

Sermon

Peggy Terhune

*Hymn of the Day

“Human Minds Just Can’t Imagine”

Human minds just can’t imagine all that God can bring to bear
Through our small and separate beings, even when we join to share
Still we follow where Christ leads us, many pieces of one whole
That we might allow our dreaming to transform our broken world

God, expand our dreams and vision when we think our gifts too small
Help us trust your great provision and to answer when you call
You who gave us time and talents will uphold and see us through
As we join together in the work you’ve given us to do

Like the grains of wheat are gathered from the vast and rolling fields
Like the grapes from viny branches whose small fruit the wine will yield
We re-member as one body, each of us a crucial part
In the global church professing: we belong to God’s own heart

***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 THE PEOPLE**

Calling and equipping God,
many years ago,
on a hillside in Galilee,
you looked at your disciples and said,
“You give them something to eat.”

We read these ancient words again and are struck with the realization that
from the very beginning, you have seen good in us.
From the very beginning, you have known that we are capable of great love.
From the very beginning, you have believed that we could make a difference.
God of Good news, **hear our prayer.**

Calling God, help us to see that truth in ourselves.
Help us to see your fingerprints in our lives.
Help us to see the ways you have equipped us to serve.
Help us to see the ways that we are capable,
instead of only seeing the ways we stumble and get in our own way.
God of Good news, **hear our prayer.**

God, we long to see ourselves as you do because we know that like that day in the
Galilee, there is still work to do.
Like that day on the hillside, this world is full of people who are hungry. We are
hungry for justice,
hungry for companionship, hungry for reasons to hope.
Like that day on the hillside, this world is full of people who need healing.
We need healing for our bodies, healing for our minds, healing for broken
relationships.
And like that day on the hillside, there is surely enough to go around, but we
doubt and deny that truth.
So call us again, loving God.
Say our names.
Hand us the baskets of bread and fish.
Tell us it's our turn.
Help us see ourselves the way you see us, for we know that together the
impossible is possible. Today we especially pray for
God of Good news, **hear our prayer.**

Until your promised day when all are fed, all are healed, and hunger is no more, we will continue to pray. In hope, we will weave our voices together to pray the words your son taught us, saying. . .

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

The Peace is Shared

The Peace of Christ be with you always **and also with you.**

Christian Fellowship is one of the most blessed gifts given to us by our God. Please take a moment to greet those around you and extend to them the peace of Christ.

The congregation is seated.

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“A Lenten Walk”

by Hopson



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

***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. 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.**

***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** "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" Intro by Hobby ELW #623

***Dismissal** When you meet anger, speak with love. When you meet fear, speak with hope. When you meet pain, speak with gentleness. But no matter what, speak this good news. For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all. It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms. The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speak. For if you won't, then who will. **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

***Postlude**

*Our worship service has ended.
Our worship thru service begins.*

The Good News is.....

Together the impossible is possible

HOMEBOUND/HOSPITAL/NURSING HOME

Betty Shuping	Home of Daughter, 336-513-4035
Katrina Kurfees	Home of Daughter
Linda Plummer	Trinity Oaks Health & Rehab., Memory Unit
Peggy Swicegood	Continue prayers
Brenda Dwiggin	Continue prayers
Carolyn Hicks	Continue prayers
Marcia Miller	Continue prayers
Elaine Stiller	Recovering at her home
Eric & Dawn Leach	Continue prayers
Danny Norman	Continue prayers (brother of Ellen Webb)
Robert & Gathel Meachem	Brookdale, Room 34, 2201 Statesville Blvd.
Cody McDowell	Continue prayers
Wayne Chaffin	Recovering at his home

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome everyone to Bethel Lutheran Church. We are glad you have joined us for worship and bid a special welcome to guests in our midst. May you find peace, comfort, strength, and hope as our Lord comes to us in his word. Please take a moment to register your attendance by signing your name on the fellowship pad as it is passed in each pew.

Our Red Cross Blood Drive held last Sunday, March 1st was very successful. 25 units were collected, as a result as many as 75 lives were saved. Such a great outreach to be a part of; thanks to all who came out and supported the drive in any way. We could not do this without volunteers in all areas; setup, takedown, publicity, snacks, registration, etc. Thank you everyone! Remember, blood donations are still in critical supply!

Thank you all for your continued supplies of food for the Blessing Box. It is amazing how this box is being used in the community. Please continue with your contributions. These may be put in the box (assuming there is room) or bring to the office. The black cart in the narthex is only for RHM food donations, NOT blessing box.

Peggy Terhune, Synodical Approved Minister, (S.A.M.) will be installed next Sunday, March 15 by Wendy Roberts from the NC Synod. Plan to stay after worship for a covered dish luncheon; meat will be provided by the LMIM, please bring a side and/or dessert. Let's truly welcome Peggy and celebrate have her in our midst!

This Saturday, March 14th, 5 p.m. Matthew Weaver with Clay Lunsford in concert, will be performing traditional Appalachian Mtn. Gospel and old-time country music. Fellowship following the performance; bring a finger food to share. Canned and cupboard foods will be collected at this event and all donations will be given to Rowan Helping Ministries to help their depleting family assist food pantry.

Bethel's 175th Anniversary – We Need Your Ideas! Drop your anonymous suggestion for a **theme** for our 175th anniversary year in the box in the narthex. The anniversary committee is looking for the perfect **phrase, slogan, or short verse** to serve as our anniversary theme. This theme will also appear on a t shirt, so please keep submissions brief, memorable, and faith centered. Then vote for your favorite theme on Sunday, March 22nd and the final theme will be revealed on Palm Sunday.



This QR code is created to be a quick link to the bethelsalisbury.org website

Third Sunday in Lent

TODAY 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 9:45 a.m. Choir Practice
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 Church Council meets following worship
 WEDNESDAY 1:00-2:30 p.m. Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
 7:00-8:30 a.m. Bible Study ZOOM
 THURSDAY 9:30 a.m. Joy Ringers practice
 SATURDAY 5:00 p.m. In Concert
 Matthew Weaver & Clay Lunsford

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 15th

NEXT SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 9:45 a.m. Choir practice
 10:30 a.m. Worship/Holy Communion
 Children's Church
 Installation of Peggy Terhune, S.A.M.
 Covered Dish Luncheon will follow
 Cemetery Clean Up Week
 WEDNESDAY 1:00-2-30 a.m. Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
 7:00-8:30 a.m. Bible Study ZOOM
 THURSDAY 9:30 a.m. Joy Ringers practice
 THURSDAY **APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
 THURSDAY/SUNDAY **Emmaus Weekend**

Attendance/Contribution Information for 3/1/2026

Worship Service 56

	Given Given 3/1/2026	Given Year to Date	Needed Weekly to Attain 2026 Budget
Current	\$3,413.80	\$22,873.80	\$2,630.00
Benevolence	\$70.00	\$1,035.00	\$ 77.00
Building Improvement	\$25.00	\$620.00	

BETHEL'S MINISTERS

PASTOR:	Peggy Terhune, Synodical Approved Minister
CONTACT INFO	Phone - 704 305-0752 Email - peggy.terhune@gmail.com
MINISTERS:	All Members of Bethel Lutheran Church
ORGANIST:	Cathy Williams
CHOIR DIRECTOR:	Kara Thurston
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	Martha Graham 704 202-3962
2026 COUNCIL CHAIRMAN	Todd Corriher 704 433-6729
ONE CHURCH/ONE CHILD COORD:	Dave Hincemon and Lora Owen
CHURCH PHONE:	704-636-0331
CHURCH E-MAIL:	parishadmin@bethellutheranofSalisbury.com
CHURCH WEBSITE	Bethelsalisbury.org
WIFI	Bethel Guest Password Lutheran

ASSISTING MINISTERS

LECTOR:	Krista Monroe
ACOLYTE:	Jasper Blanks
CRUCIFER:	Devin Copley
COUNCIL HOST:	Mike & Monica Raney
ALTAR GUILD:	Jennifer Spry, Jo Simmons, Crystal Shock
USHERS:	Mike Spry, Capt., Mike Raney, Aaron Thurston, Crystal Shock





LENT