

# March 22, 2026 and Fifth 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:** Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing **ELW#886**

## **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**

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Pastors Question:** What is your favorite perennial?

## **+WORD+**

## **CHILDREN MESSAGE**

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

“We love because God first loved us.”

### **FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

*Ezekiel’s vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God’s life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that “I am the Lord.”*

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off

completely.’<sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.<sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people.<sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

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

## Psalm 130

Hal H. Hopson

Hal H. Hopson

### Refrain



Lord, from the depths to you I cry; Lord, hear my prayer.

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

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

### PSALM: 130

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths

I cry to you, O Lord;

<sup>2</sup> **O Lord, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

<sup>3</sup> If you were to keep watch over sins,

O Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> **Yet with you is forgiveness,**

**in order that you may be feared. R**

<sup>5</sup> I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

<sup>6</sup> **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,  
more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love;

with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

<sup>8</sup> **For the Lord shall redeem Israel**

**from all their sins. R**

### SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11

*For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.*

<sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of

righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### Lenten Acclamation

Let your steadfast 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 11:1-45

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.*

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

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

**SERMON- Pastor Greg Olsen**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: What Wondrous Love Is This ELW #666**

## **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.

COMMUNION HYMN: I Am the Bread of Life ELW#485

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.

**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: You Are the Way ELW#758

**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

**3/11 Attendance: 11am In Person–14 7pm In Person–52 Online-28  
Offering: MIA Haiti: \$275.00 Loose Community Food Pantry: \$51.00**

**3/15 In Person–133 Online-38  
Offering: \$3,839.00 Benevolence:\$431.00 MIA Haiti:\$295.00**

## IN OUR PRAYERS

**For healing:** Randi Parton (friend of Lois Hansen), Tom Dierksheide, Joyce Eisenhour, Calista (CJ) Ambrosia (Heckman), Lisa Whitaker

**Altar Flowers and Radio Broadcast** are given to the glory of God and

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

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

3/22, Sun	10:15a.m.	Sunday School
	10:20 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
3/23, Mon	6:45 p.m.	Yoga
3/24, Tues	9am-12pm	Knotting
	11 a.m.-2p.m.	Food Pantry Open
3/25, Wed.	11:00a.m.	Lent Worship
	5:30p.m.	Bells
	6:00p.m.	Lent Supper
	8:00p.m.	Choir
	7:00p.m.	Lent Worship
3/29, Sun	9 a.m.	Worship
	10:15a.m.	Sunday School

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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 cereals, ketchup, canned fruit, toilet paper and deodorants

**Volunteers are needed to help put together the living cross April 4** at 9am. We will meet in the fellowship hall.

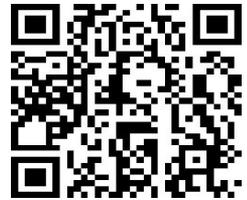
**Prayer for New Pastor- 220 Prayer**

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, so we give you thanks! Amen.

**"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)."

**ASAP (Always Say A Prayer)! If you are willing to volunteer to be a part of Bethlehem's Prayer Chain,** please complete the bottom part of the green form located on the table outside the church office and at the back of the church. You will designate the best way to contact you when we have a prayer request. Forms need to be returned to the office by the end of March. Many thanks!

**Anyone is welcome to make a one time or recurring donation** by using the QR code that links to Tithely, 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)