



Welcome to Bethesda Lutheran Church

A place of healing and reconciliation in Christ

nonviolent.

WALKING THE WAY WITH JESUS



The disciples want a blame story; Jesus offers a healing story. The community responds with interrogation and expulsion—the violence of scapegoating dressed as righteousness. nonvioLENT compassion refuses the blame game and stays close to the cast-out.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

WITH HOLY COMMUNION

✝ March 15 2026 | 9:30 a.m. ✝

✠ GATHERING ✠

*THE ASTERISK INDICATES WHEN THE ASSEMBLY RISES THROUGHOUT THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

PRELUDE

TYLER PYLE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

One Holy God.

***Many* we confess we have loved blame because it makes us feel safe.
We have turned suffering into suspicion.
We have used religion to police rather than to heal.
We have excluded those you welcome.
Forgive us, and teach us compassion that costs something. Amen.**

One Jesus seeks out the excluded and calls them beloved.
The light of Christ does not expose you to shame you; it exposes you to free you. In Christ, you are forgiven—now go and see your neighbor with new eyes.

***Many* Amen.**

KYRIE Excerpts from Mass of a Peaceful Spirit PG 2

GLORIA Excerpts from Mass of a Peaceful Spirit PG 3

GREETING

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

***Many* And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

***Many* Jesus, Light of the world,
heal the blindness we prefer—
the blindness that looks away from suffering**

**and then asks who to blame.
Give us compassion with courage:
solidarity that stays, love that risks,
truth that restores.
We pray in your name. Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

1 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." 2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." 4 Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." 11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." 12 He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 5:8-14

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

One Word of God, Word of Life
Many Thanks be to God.

We rise for the reading of the Gospel.

*LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Excerpts from Mass of a Peaceful Spirit

PG 4

One The holy Gospel according to John.
Many Glory to you, O Lord.

*GOSPEL | John 9:1-41

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the

Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

One The Gospel of our Lord.
Many Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Grant Vanderford

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate

ELW 722

* 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.**

WOW

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**MANY I WONDER, I WONDER. THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
I WONDER, I WONDER. THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
COME AND SEE! COME NOW AND SEE!**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

One Hear us, O God.
Many Your mercy is great.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

One The peace of Christ be with you always.
Many And also with you.

✠ MEAL ✠

NOISY OFFERING

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. You may place your offering in the plates as they are passed by the ushers. You may also scan the QR code to the right for online giving.



MUSICAL OFFERING

Composed by Jason W. Krug © 2024 Grassy Meadow Music

○ SACRED HEAD

BELL CHOIR

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

ELW 188

OFFERTORY PRAYER

One God of mercy,
 you have given yourself to us without violence—
 in bread broken, in a cup poured out,
 in a love that refuses to dominate.
 Receive these offerings of money, time, and life.
 Make what we bring a witness to your nonviolent reign:
 food for the hungry, shelter for the vulnerable,
 welcome for the stranger, and repair where harm has been done.
 Form us, too—so that our hands become generous,
 our voices become truthful,
 and our feet learn the way of Jesus:
 to practice mercy, to seek justice, and to make peace.
 Use these gifts and use us
 to bless the others, to disarm the world's cruelty,
 and to embody your divinely favored love
 until all creation is reconciled in Christ, in whose name we pray.

Many Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

One The Lord be with you.

Many **And also with you.**

One Lift up your hearts.

Many **We lift them to the Lord.**

One Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many **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 do not see as mortals see: we look on appearances, but you look on the heart.
You sent your Son as light into the world, not to condemn the world, but to heal it—to
open eyes clouded by fear, to unbind lives trapped in shame, to draw your children
from darkness into your marvelous light.

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 Excerpts from Mass of a Peaceful Spirit PG 5

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

COMMUNION ACCLAMATION Excerpts from Mass of a Peaceful Spirit PG 6

One: Send now your Holy Spirit upon this meal, and upon us.
Make this bread the body of Christ for us. Make this cup the blood of
Christ for us. And make us—fed by this mercy— a people who live as
children of light: truthful, courageous, tender, and free. Open our eyes to
your presence. Open our hands for your neighbors. Open our lives for
your peace.

AMEN Excerpts from Mass of a Peaceful Spirit PG 7

*LORD'S PRAYER

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

Many **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those**

**who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

ONE If you hunger for healing, come.
If you long to see with new eyes, come.
If you are weary of darkness, come—
Christ is here.

HOLY COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD Excerpts from Mass of a Peaceful Spirit PG 6

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION Shepherd Me, O God ELW 780
Be Thou My Vision ELW 793

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

One 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.

Many Amen.

BLESSING

One May the God of peace guard your heart and steady your hands.
May Christ, the nonviolent One, go before you and beside you.
May the Spirit make you brave with mercy, fierce with love, and gentle
with truth— so you walk the way of Jesus, and become a blessing in a
weary world.

Many Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

*DISMISSAL

One Go in peace. Walk the way of Jesus—until God's reign is seen among us.
 Many **Thanks be to God.**

*POSTLUDE

Tyler Pyle

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, SOURCES, & PERMISSIONS

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	SERVING TODAY - MARCH 15, 2026	SERVING NEXT SUNDAY - MARCH 22 2026
SUNDAY	4 th Sunday of Lent	5 th Sunday of Lent
PRESIDING MINISTER	Grant Vanderford	Grant Vanderford
PIANIST	Tyler Pyle	Tyler Pyle
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Jillian Jaros	Jillian Jaros
ASSISTING MINISTER	Joel Westby	Terrie Jo Wold
READER	Dan Westphal	Julie Phillips
ALTAR GUILD	Jennifer Knutson	Paulette Knutson
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Dan Westphal Aaron Wenaas	Dan Westphal Mary Wenaas
CLICKER	Shannon Vanderford	
CAMERA	Jane Johnson	Becky Erickson
USHERS		
CPOD	Joel Westby	

MARCH SIGN UP: [HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10C0545A5AE29A5F4C52-61400087-MARCH](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545A5AE29A5F4C52-61400087-MARCH)
APRIL [HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10C0545A5AE29A5F4C52-62354481-APRIL](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545A5AE29A5F4C52-62354481-APRIL)

IF YOU WANT HELP SIGNING UP-AND/OR TRAINING CALL 218-236-1420 OR EMAIL JANEJ@BETHESDAMHD.ORG.

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH
✠ MARCH 15-21, 2026 ✠

TIME	DAY	Event
	SUNDAY	
9:30 AM		Worship
10:30		Coffee Fellowship
	MONDAY	
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.		Office Hours [†]
10:00 A.M.		Lectionary Study -Lounge
6:30 P.M.		Outreach Committee -Lounge
	TUESDAY:	
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.		Office Hours
10		Worship

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ MARCH 15-21, 2026 ✠

9:30 A.M.

Women's Bible Study-Lounge

6:00 P.M.

Bell Set up

6:30 P.M.

Bell Rehearsal

7:30 P.M.

Bellfest rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

9:00 A.M.

Quilting

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Office Hours

5:30 P.M.

Meal

6:30 P.M.

Lenten service

7:00 P.M.

Choir

THURSDAY

3:45 P.M.

BAS Chapel

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Office Hours

6:30 P.M.

Evergreen Board, Lounge

FRIDAY

ALL DAY

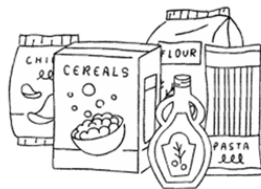
Office Closed

9:00 P.M.

NA Meeting

Lent Supper
Freewill Offering

COLLECTED FOR THE MOORHEAD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS HOMELESS
& DISPLACED STUDENT PROGRAM



Sponsored by Outreach Ministries

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

5:30 P.M. MEAL

6:30-7 P.M. VESPERS

Feb 18

Soups & breads

Feb 25

Taco bar

Mar 4

Pizza & salad

Mar 11

Scalloped potatoes & ham

Mar 18

Pulled pork sandwiches & beans

Mar 25

Pancakes, eggs & sausage

**vegetarian options will be available*

Fill the Pew Donations

MARCH 18 -

INDIVIDUAL SERVINGS:

TUNA OR CHICKEN PACKETS
MAC & CHEESE, RAMEN, SOUPS
ISPAGHETTIOS, ETC.

Looking ahead...

MARCH 25

BODY + FACE WASH
FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS
TRAVEL SIZE TISSUES
BAND AIDS
FIRST AID SUPPLIES





ADULT FORUM
MARCH 15 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

JOIN US FOR A CONVERSATION ON "PRE-PLANNING FUNERALS" PRESENTED BY TOM PENCE, LICENSED FUNERAL DIRECTOR AT KORSMO FUNERAL SERVICE

Bethesda
CUB SCOUT PACK

MEETINGS ON FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAYS AT 6PM

Bethesda Lutheran Church
 401 40th Ave S, Moorhead

Participants don't need to be Bethesda members. Contact Heath Baxter (605-231-0892-Bethesda Member) or Tyler Benson (701-219-0520-Cubmaster) for more information.

For more information or to register, visit beascout.org



BLOOD DRIVE
at Bethesda

THURSDAY, APRIL 30
 3:30 - 7:00 P.M. BLOOD DONATIONS
 + ICE CREAM SUNDAE BAR FOR DONORS & VOLUNTEERS!

SIGN UP >



OR FIND THE LINK AT BETHESDAMHD.ORG/EVENTS

March prayer prompt "Reflect"

As we reflect and repent during Lent, we pray for God's guidance on how to live more like Jesus.

