



Welcome to Bethesda Lutheran Church

A place of healing and reconciliation in Christ

nonviolent.

WALKING THE WAY WITH JESUS



Nicodemus comes at night—careful, controlled, afraid to be seen. Jesus offers not better information, but new birth: a life no longer governed by fear. God so loves the world not by crushing it, but by giving—so our discipleship must be love that refuses domination.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

WITH HOLY COMMUNION

✝ March 1 2026 | 9:30 a.m. ✝

✠ **GATHERING** ✠

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

PRELUDE

TYLER PYLE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CONFESION AND FORGIVENESS*

One Holy God.

***Many* we confess that we have tried to protect ourselves by controlling others.**

We have called our anxiety "wisdom" and our suspicion "discernment."

We have traded courage for respectability.

We have loved darkness when light would cost us.

Re-birth us, O God. Make us people of nonviolent love. Amen.

One God did not send the Son to condemn the world, but to save it.
In Jesus Christ you are met with mercy, re-made by Spirit, and called into the light. You are forgiven. You are free.
Walk in the way of Christ.

***Many* Amen.**

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.**

KYRIE Excerpts from Mass of a Peaceful Spirit PG 2

GLORIA Excerpts from Mass of a Peaceful Spirit PG 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

***Many* God of light,
we confess we have loved the safety of night.
Breathe your Spirit into our fear.**

**Re-birth your church into courageous love—
love that tells the truth, refuses coercion,
and dares to live as beloved.
Through Jesus Christ, the light that the darkness cannot overcome.
Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹ 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. ² 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. ³ 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."

^{4a} So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

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

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

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ 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, ¹⁷ 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.

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 3:1-17

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² 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." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ 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?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ 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." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ "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. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "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.

¹⁷ "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."

One The Gospel of our Lord.

Many Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Grant Vanderford



1 Wide o - pen are your hands to pay with more than gold
 2 Wide o - pen are your arms, a fall - en world to em - brace,
 3 Draw all my mind and heart up to your throne on high,



the aw - ful debt of guilt and sin, for - ev - er and of old.
 to win to love and end - less rest our way - ward hu - man race.
 and let your sa - cred cross ex - alt my spir - it to the sky.



Ah, let me grasp those hands, that we may nev - er part,
 Lord, I am sad and poor, but bound - less is your grace;
 To these, your might - y hands, my spir - it I re - sign.



and let the pow - er of their blood sus - tain my faint - ing heart.
 give me the soul - trans - form - ing joy for which I seek your face.
 In life, I live a - lone to you; in death, am yours a - lone.

Text: attr. Arnulf of Louvain; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, alt.

Music: HOLY HANDS, Robert Buckley Farlee

Music © 2002 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress

* 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 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** ✠

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

TYLER PYLE

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: singing your unending praise:

*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: ... God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

AMEN Excerpts from Mass of a Peaceful Spirit PG 7

*LORD'S PRAYER

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 Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

HOLY COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

Excerpts from Mass of a Peaceful Spirit

PG 6

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus
God Loved the World

ELW 451
ELW 323

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.**

WOW

LENT

**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!**

✝ SENDING ✝

*SENDING HYMN

O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days ELW 319

*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 1 2026	SERVING NEXT SUNDAY - MARCH 8 2026
SUNDAY	2 nd Sunday of Lent	3 rd Sunday of Lent
PRESIDING MINISTER	Grant Vanderford	Grant Vanderford
PIANIST	Tyler Pyle	Tyler Pyle
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Jillian Jaros	Jillian Jaros
ASSISTING MINISTER	Theo Baspaly	Julie Phillips
READER	Shannon Vanderford	Chris Carlson
ALTAR GUILD	Shannon Vanderford	
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Alex and Matthew Benson- Tuff	Chris Carlson Nancy Lund
CLICKER	Kristin Ohren	Terrie Jo Wold
CAMERA	Jane Johnson	Becky Erickson
USHERS		
CPOD	Marty Ohren	Nancy Lund

MARCH SIGN UP: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545A5AE29A5F4C52-61400087-MARCH>

APRIL SIGN UP: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545A5AE29A5F4C52-62354481-APRIL>

**IF YOU NEED HELP SIGNING UP CALL THE OFFICE 218-236-1420 OR EMAIL
JANEJ@BETHESDAMHD.ORG.**

IF YOU WANT TO TRY SOMETHING NEW AND WANT TRAINING CALL/EMAIL THE OFFICE.

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ **MARCH 1-8, 2026** ✠

TIME	DAY	Event
	SUNDAY	
9:30 AM 10:30		Worship Coffee Fellowship
	MONDAY	
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. 10:00 A.M. 7:00-8:30 P.M.		Office Hours† Lectionary Study -Lounge Executive Team meeting-lounge
	TUESDAY:	
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.		Office Hours
6:00 P.M. 6:30 P.M. 7:30 P.M.		Bell Set up Bell Rehearsal Bellfest rehearsal
	WEDNESDAY	
9:00 A.M. 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. 5:30 P.M. 6:30 P.M. 7:00 P.M.		Quilting Office Hours Meal Lenten service Choir
	THURSDAY	
3:45 P.M. 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.		BAS Chapel Office Hours
	FRIDAY	
ALL DAY 9:00 P.M.		Office Closed NA Meeting

Thank-you Terrie Jo Wold, Sandra Retzlaff, Becky Erickson and Nancy Lund for helping in the office while I was on vacation.

March prayer prompt "Reflect"

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



Fill the Pew Donations

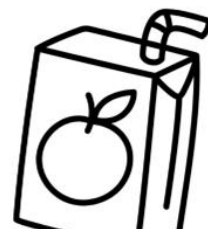
STARTING MARCH 4

FRUIT CUPS
JUICE BOXES
PUDDING/GELATIN SNACK PACKS
APPLESAUCE POUCHES
INDIVIDUAL SERVINGS OF NUTS

Looking ahead...

MARCH 11

LIP BALM
LOTION
DEODORANT
RAZORS
SHAVING CREAM



CUB SCOUT
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
FUNDRAISER

APRIL
19

POST-SERVICE

FREE-WILL
DONATION

COME SUPPORT THE NEW CUB SCOUT
PACK AT BETHESDA AND EAT PANCAKES
WITH US AFTER SERVICE ON APRIL 19.

The poster features a central illustration of a stack of pancakes with blueberries and syrup, a coffee cup, a sausage on a fork, and a pitcher of orange juice. The background is yellow with decorative flourishes.

Come support Cub Scout Pack 636 at Bethesda on **April 19**. They will be serving pancakes and sausage after the service to anyone that wants to join us! Cost is free-will so pay what you can and help us support these elementary-aged kiddos to go on their next adventure!

Grand View
University Choir Tour
FREE Concert
Saturday
March 14, 2026
3:00 PM
Sanctuary

Grand View University in Des Moines, IA is a
Lutheran University affiliated with the ELCA.

The poster features an illustration of a diverse group of children and young adults holding blue songbooks and singing. Musical notes are scattered around them. The background is light blue and white.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

5:30 P.M. MEAL
6:30-7 P.M. VESPERS

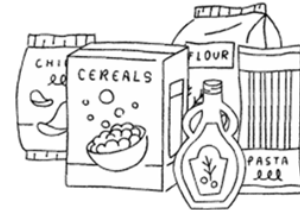
Feb 18	Soups & breads
Feb 25	Taco bar
Mar 4	Pizza & salad
Mar 11	Scalloped potatoes & ham
Mar 18	Pulled pork sandwiches & beans
Mar 25	Pancakes, eggs & sausage

**vegetarian options will be available*

Lent Supper

Freewill Offering

COLLECTED FOR THE MOORHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS HOMELESS & DISPLACED STUDENT PROGRAM



Sponsored by Outreach Ministries



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

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

Bethesda + Silver Linings

Open Knitting & Crocheting Afternoon

Gather with residents to help them make a project, work on your own, or just visit

March 11, 4 PM
Silver Linings
3350 3rd Ave NW
Moorhead

All yarn enthusiast welcome



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