

Sunday March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor Deb Hanson-Carlson

Cromwell, MN

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-279-0097

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Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or

Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

*We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH
we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS
we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Ron & Jan Aho, George Larson, Noah Elias.

COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED Please sign up so we may continue to enjoy coffee & fellowship after service. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board mounted in the Fellowship Hall next to the serving window.

LECTORS NEEDED we are looking for volunteers to read aloud the scriptures on Sunday mornings and Wednesdays during Lent. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the Narthex and include the weekly readings.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA HEARTLAND CONFERENCE SPRING

GATHERING Saturday, April 5, 2025, Lutheran Church of the Cross 5064 County Road 13, Nisswa, MN. Registration and Coffee 8:30-9:00 (\$10 Registration). See WELCA bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for more information.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY CANTATA Rehearsals have started on Sundays from 2:30 – 4:00pm at Faith Lutheran Church, 220 E Lake St, Isle, MN. All voices are welcome to join us. The performance will be on Good Friday, April 18th at 7:30pm.

CORRECTION TO APRIL’S NEWSLETTER

USHERS

GREETERS

March 30 Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Sherry Whipple & Winnie Zahradka

Join Our Crafting Community at Bethesda! Continuing with a Green Crafts theme, plan to attend ways to repurpose bottles. We will be using mod podge and decorating bottles that can be used for displaying flowers, feathers, etc. This is the last of the Winter Green Craft Sessions that are open to the public. So, join us on Monday, March 24 from 9-11 am.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

March 24, 2025 – March 30, 2025

Monday	3/24	9:00 am	Crafting Morning
		11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	3/25	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		9:00 am	Quilters

Wednesday	3/26	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
		3:30 pm	Potluck
		4:30 pm	Lenten Worship
Thursday	3/27	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
Sunday	3/30	9:00 am	Worship in Person & live stream <i>(no communion)</i>

OPENING HYMN: "Jesus, Still Lead On" #624 ELW
(Please Stand on the last Verse)



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the
 2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
 3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions
 4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
 fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
 come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
 still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
 safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
 show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
 till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection

Compassionate One,
you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God,

your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with

you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8

¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.**

³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴ **So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.**

⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.**

⁷ For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸ **My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were

all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,³ and all ate the same spiritual food,⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did.⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.”⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents.¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

Glory to you, O Lord

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it

alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord ~ **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

SERMON HYMN:

“When We Are Tested”

ACS #922



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

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

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion (*especially*). Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict (*especially*). Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

*Here other intercessions may be offered by the congregation
either aloud or in their hearts.*

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended (*especially*). May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate.

OFFERING - *Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world.

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come!

The feast of grace is spread.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” #618 ELW

1 Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God.

*Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship!
Please come again.*

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Ushers: Darrell Kelly & Dick Stebbins

Greeters: Carolyn Morris & Winnie Zahradka

Lector: Darlene Christensen

Hospitality: Brenda & Gary Sjerven

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Sunday, March 16, 2025: In Person: 9:00am 60 Online: 20

Wednesday, March 19, 2025: In Person: 4:30pm 15 Online: 8