

**THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**  
Saturday, February 28 and Sunday, March 1, 2026



# Bethlehem

---

LUTHERAN CHURCH

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**1926 - 2026**

*Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope.*

## ***Welcome to Worship***

*We're so glad you're here. For a century, Bethlehem has gathered God's people around His gifts. Rooted in the historic liturgy and the teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, worship here has always centered on what God does for us. We gather around His Word and His Sacraments, where Jesus Himself is present—speaking forgiveness, sustaining life, and giving hope. Worship is not first about what we bring, but about how God serves us, and how we respond with praise, prayer, and thanksgiving.*

*For one hundred years, this has been our shared calling: Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope. Generation after generation, God has been at work here—gathering His people, forming them through His Word and gifts, and sending them into the world. And He is not finished yet. As a Gospel presence in our neighborhood, we trust that the same faithful God who carried us through the past is shaping what is to come. Whether this is your first visit or your spiritual home, you belong here. May this time of worship nurture your faith, fill you with Christ's hope, and send you out ready to proclaim His love in word and deed.*

## **REGARDING THE LORD'S SUPPER**

At Bethlehem, we believe that in the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us more than a symbol—He gives us Himself. In, with, and under the bread and wine, we receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, the strengthening of faith, and the unity of His people. This is how Christ continues to proclaim His saving work and nurture our faith today.

As we prepare to receive this gift, we follow the Scriptures and the Small Catechism in examining ourselves: Do I believe I am a sinner in need of God's grace? Do I trust in Jesus as my Savior? Do I believe that Christ is truly present in this meal? Do I desire to turn from sin and live in faith and love? Whoever answers yes to these is truly worthy and well prepared.

Bethlehem is a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and we ask that all who commune share our confession of faith. If you are not yet instructed in this teaching or have questions, we warmly invite you to come forward for a blessing—simply cross your arms over your chest—or speak with our pastor after the service. We are glad you're here, and we would love to walk with you as we grow in Christ together.

***(Children's Activity bags are available in the Narthex.  
Please remember to return them to the rack after the service.)***

# + PREPARATION +`

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

### WELCOME

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

### HYMN

LSB #434

### LAMB OF GOD, PURE AND HOLY



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,  
2 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,  
3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.  
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.  
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:  
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:  
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!  
Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!  
Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546

Text and tune: Public domain

*(Stand)*

### INVOCATION

Pastor

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation

Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor From where does my help come?

**Congregation My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor The LORD will preserve your going out and your coming in,

**Congregation from this time forth and forevermore.**

*(Silence for meditation and reflection.)*

Pastor O almighty God, merciful Father,

**Congregation I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

Pastor Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation Amen.**

Pastor May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Congregation Amen.**

## GOD IS SO GOOD

1 God is so good, God is so good.  
3 He saved my soul, he saved my soul.  
4 I praise his name, I praise his name.

God is so good, he's so good to me.  
he saved my soul he's so good to me.  
I praise his name, he's so good to me.

Text: traditional  
Music: God Is So Good, traditional

*+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor The Lord be with you.

**Congregation And with thy spirit.**

Pastor Let us pray. O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation Amen.**

(Sit)

**OLD TESTAMENT**

Genesis 12:1–9

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>And 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. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Leader                      This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation            Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup>And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup>just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,  
and whose sins are covered;

<sup>8</sup>blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” . . .

<sup>13</sup>For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup>That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup>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.

Leader                      This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation            Thanks be to God.**

*(Stand)*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

John 3:1–17

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Pastor                      This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Congregation            Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

(Sit)

# HYMN OF THE DAY

TFBF #66

## I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system includes three numbered verses. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system concludes the piece with a final line of lyrics.

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1937-1986 and Verolga Nix, b. 1933

Arr. © 1981 Abingdon Press, admin. The Copyright Company

**SERMON**

*“Glimpses of Jesus: The Blessing”*

*(Stand)*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

LSB pg.192

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting.  
Amen.

*(Sit)*

**OFFERING**

*(Stand)*

**OFFERTORY**

LSB pg. 192

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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

*(Sit)*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

## + SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

(Stand)

### PREFACE

LSB pg. 194

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation **And with thy spirit.**

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

Congregation **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Pastor Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

Congregation **It is meet and right so to do.**

### PROPER PREFACE

### SANCTUS

LSB pg. 195



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## LORD'S PRAYER

LSB pg. 196

**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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB pg. 197

## PAX DOMINI

LSB pg. 197

Pastor                   The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation       Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*(Sit)*

## DISTRIBUTION

Prayerful Meditation

(Stand)

## NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB pg. 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## THANKSGIVING

Pastor O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
Congregation and His mercy endureth forever.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

### BENEDICTION

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.  
Congregation Amen.

### BE NOT DISMAYED WHATE'ER BETIDE

1 Be not dis-mayed what-e'er be-tide, God will take care of you;  
2 Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you;  
3 All you may need he will pro-vide, God will take care of you;  
4 No mat-ter what may be the test, God will take care of you;

be - neath his wings of love a - bide, God will take care of you.  
when dan - gers fierce your path as - sail, God will take care of you.  
noth - ing you ask will be de - nied, God will take care of you.  
lean, wea - ry one, up - on his breast, God will take care of you.

*Refrain*

God will take care of you, through ev - 'ry day, o'er all the way;

God will take care of you, God will take care of you.  
take care of you.



## MINISTRY TEAM

### **The Reverend Ben Ahlersmeyer**

Office ..... 744-3228 ext. 302 Cell ..... (989) 907-9481

Email ..... [pastorben@bethlehemlcms.com](mailto:pastorben@bethlehemlcms.com)

**Jon Dize, Fieldworker** ..... Email ..... [Jonathan.dize@ctsfw.edu](mailto:Jonathan.dize@ctsfw.edu)

### **Rhonda Cheng, Office Manager**

Office ..... 744-3228 ext. 300 Email ..... [bethfw@yahoo.com](mailto:bethfw@yahoo.com)

### **Sharon Shediack, Accounting Manager**

Office ..... 744-3228 ext. 307 Email ..... [bethfwfin@gmail.com](mailto:bethfwfin@gmail.com)

### **Kasey Needham Hapner, Music Director**

Email ..... [kaseyneedham92@gmail.com](mailto:kaseyneedham92@gmail.com).

### **Janelle Deal, Organist**

Email ..... [janelle.buford@my.wheaton.edu](mailto:janelle.buford@my.wheaton.edu).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President – Greg Shediack**

**Vice President – John Stafford**

**Secretary – Blake Sebring**

**Treasurer – Brian Bates**

## At Large Members:

**Dan Bates**

**John Bates**

**Rachelle Dance**

**David Schult**

## SCHOOLS

**Lutheran South Unity School.....[lsusfw.org](http://lsusfw.org).....744-0459**

**Concordia Lutheran High School....[clhscadets.com](http://clhscadets.com).....483-1102**

## COUNSELING NEEDS

*Please talk to Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer for a referral for counseling to Cross Connections.*

## BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

3705 South Anthony Boulevard, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806-4329

[www.bethlehemlcms.org](http://www.bethlehemlcms.org)

Church Office, (260) 744-3228 Fax Number, (260) 744-3229

Office Hours: 10:00am – 4:00pm (Monday – Friday)

### ***Our Worship Schedule:***

*Saturday Afternoon Worship Service at 4:00pm*

*Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9:00am*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.