

CHRIST
IS OUR
Corner  stone  **Bethel**
Lutheran Church



that he gave
his only Son.

John 3:16

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

22 Brook Street, Morris, MN 56267

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Sunday Worship: 10:00am Bible Class: 11:15am



A member congregation of the *Church of the Lutheran Confession*

✠ Fourth Sunday in Lent ✠

March 11, 2018

Pre-Service Meditation – Psalm 122

¹ I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go into the house of the LORD.” ² Our feet have been standing Within your gates, O Jerusalem! ³ Jerusalem is built As a city that is compact together, ⁴ Where the tribes go up, The tribes of the LORD, To the Testimony of Israel, To give thanks to the name of the LORD. ⁵ For thrones are set there for judgment, The thrones of the house of David. ⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you. ⁷ Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces.” ⁸ For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, “Peace be within you.” ⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good.

Hymn #140 – Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

Invocation – WS p. 12

[We invoke (call upon) the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit]

Confession & Absolution – WS p. 12

[We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness]

The Kyrie – WS p. 13

[Greek for “O Lord” ~ We approach our Lord with a cry for help and mercy]

Gloria in Excelsis – WS p. 13

[Latin for “Glory in the Highest” ~ A hymn glorifying and praising our God]

The Prayer of the Day – WS p. 14

[The main thoughts for the day are “collected” together in this prayer]

Old Testament Reading – Numbers 21:4-9

⁴ Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.” ⁶ So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. ⁷ Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray

to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 132:8-18; antiphon: v. 13

[A liturgical response of Scripture verses.]

- P** For the LORD has chosen Zion;
C **He has desired it for His dwelling place.**
P Arise, O LORD, to Your resting place,
C **You and the ark of Your strength.**
P Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness,
C **And let Your saints shout for joy.**
P For Your servant David’s sake,
C **Do not turn away the face of Your Anointed.**
P The LORD has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it:
C **“I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body.**
P If your sons will keep My covenant And My testimony which I shall teach them,
C **Their sons also shall sit upon your throne forevermore.”**
P For the LORD has chosen Zion;
C **He has desired it for His dwelling place:**
P “This is My resting place forever;
C **Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.**
P I will abundantly bless her provision;
C **I will satisfy her poor with bread.**
P I will also clothe her priests with salvation,
C **And her saints shall shout aloud for joy.**
P There I will make the horn of David grow;
C **I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed.**
P His enemies I will clothe with shame,
C **But upon Himself His crown shall flourish.”**
P For the LORD has chosen Zion;
C **He has desired it for His dwelling place.**

Epistle Reading – Ephesians 2:1-10

¹ And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now

works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Confession of Faith – Apostle’s Creed – TLH p. 12

[We boldly confess what we believe]

Hymn #723 – What Wondrous Love Is This

Sermon Text – John 3:14-21

¹⁴ “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ “that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ “But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Sermon – Rejoice in the Love of Christ

Offertory – WS p. 16

[In this prayer we offer God our hearts, asking Him for the best of all gifts: the Holy Spirit]

Offering of Thankful Hearts

[With thankful hearts, we offer our gifts to God]

General Prayer & Lord's Prayer – WS pp. 16-17

[We offer our petitions and thanks to God]

Hymn #245 – God Love the World So that He Gave

Prayer for the Church

[We ask God to bless what we have heard and learned today]

The Benediction – WS p. 21

[We receive God's blessing for another week]

Hymn #351 – Love Divine, All Love Excelling

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✠ Announcements ✠

Sunday Bible Class – In our Sunday Bible Class hour, we will continue our study of Luther's Large Catechism. We are studying Baptism.

Midweek Lenten Series – Our Midweek Lenten worship services continue this Wednesday. These worship services are held at the parsonage and available live online. This year the CLC Worship Committee has put a series together a series that we are following. The series is entitled "Keep Your Eyes on Jesus Who Endured the Cross." The schedule for the remaining Wednesdays is as follows:

- 3/14 – He is our Courage (Hebrews 12:21-24)
- 3/21 – He is our Endurance (Hebrews 13:12)

Come join us at the parsonage or online on our youtube site: <https://www.youtube.com/user/BethelLutheranCLC/live>.

Midwest Women's Retreat - The Midwest Christian Women's Retreat, sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, will be held April 20-22, 2018, at the Riverport Inn & Suites, Winona, MN. This year's theme is: "That Your Joy may be Full!"

Our Joy is Full:

- When the Gospel is preached and we are in fellowship with God
- When the Gospel is preached and we are in fellowship with each other

- Even in the midst of tribulation
- When we show joy in our service
- When we rejoice in Jesus
- With the certainty of eternity

Registration is open 2/1/18 - 3/23/18. The retreat fee is \$75. All the hotel costs and reservation information, as well as retreat registration information can be found at www.ladiesretreat.clclutheran.net.

Organ Concert - Ryan Mueller, member at St. John's Lutheran in Okabena, MN, will be presenting a pipe organ concert on Sun., March 18, 2 pm, at School Sisters Of Notre Dame Good Counsel Hill in Mankato, MN. He will be presenting on the 1877 Johnson & Son pipe organ, the program featuring works of Dupre, Vierne, Bonnet, Jongen, Grieg, and other prominent composers of the 19th and 20th centuries. Refreshments and treats will follow the program.

CLC Call News - Heidi Nelson, Grace Lutheran, Fridley MN, has accepted the call to teach lower grades at its school. < Neil Bernthal, Immanuel Lutheran, Winter Haven FL, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran school, Markesan WI. < Luther Memorial Congregation, Fond du Lac WI, has called the Rev. Nathan Pfeiffer, pastor of Trinity Lutheran, Spokane WA.

Fruits of Faith: 3/4/18

Worship Attendance: 27

Bethel Home: \$50.00

CLC Budget: \$990.00

