



## Bethel Lutheran Church

24 Cameron Road  
North East, MD 21901

[office@blcne.com](mailto:office@blcne.com)

[www.blcne.com](http://www.blcne.com)

Pastor Zach: 301-395-3753

Email: [pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com](mailto:pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com)

### ***FRIENDS OF CHRIST ~ ALL OF OUR PEOPLE***

The Rev. Zachary Wright ~ *Pastor*

Mike Beiter (410-808-1074) ~ *Council President*

Sylke Bargsten (254-394-0582) ~ *Director of Music*

Hazel Shutt (609-865-7752) ~ *Flower Coordinator*

The Rev. Bill Gohl ~ *Delaware-Maryland Synod Bishop*

***We celebrate the promise that all people are loved  
and enough in Jesus Christ as we worship, learn,  
and serve together.***

# *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

## *March 30, 2025*

*In our Lutheran Tradition, liturgy reminds us that we are one in Christ, so we do it together! You are invited to respond in community with the **bold print** and stand in body or spirit when indicated by the asterisks (\*).*

WELCOME

CHORAL PRELUDE

\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Now, let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

*~time of silent confession~*

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. May the almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins, + time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

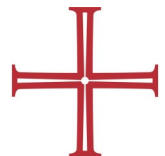
\*OPENING HYMN: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (ELW 807)*

\*APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

\*KYRIE (*Setting Three, page 138*)



\*PRAYER OF THE DAY *(in unison)*

**God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: *Joshua 5:9-12 (page 152)*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL READING: *Psalms 32*

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;**

**when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

<sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND LESSON: *2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (page 138)*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Return to the Lord, Your God*  
(Setting Three, page 142)

\*GOSPEL LESSON: *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (page 59)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*~Gospel is read~*

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

\*HYMN OF THE DAY: *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (ELW 608)*

\*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 THE PEOPLE

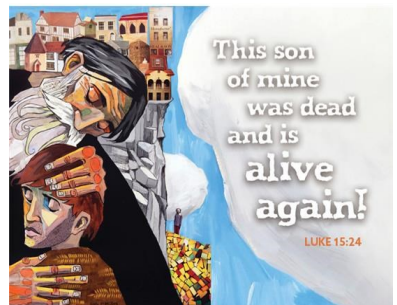
God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

THE PEACE OF THE CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

*Offerings can be placed in the offering  
plate on the small table as you walk in the  
sanctuary.*



\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Setting Three, page 144*)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

\*SANCTUS (*Setting Three, page 144*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of pow'r and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*BENEDICTION

\*SENDING HYMN: *Restore in Us, O God (ELW 328)*

\*SENDING

\*POSTLUDE



## FLOWERS

The flowers are dedicated to the glory of God in memory of Carl Killian and his service to the Lord.

### SERVER SCHEDULE

	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>
3/30	Carol Ann Connors	Linda Stoflet	Phil Igo	Alex Pelino
4/6	Stacy Carey	Steve Bird	Bill Matthews	Mitchell Brown

If you would like to help serve on a Sunday morning, let Pastor Zach know ([pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com](mailto:pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com)).

### SERVICE NOTES

A **special and warm welcome** to everyone here this morning – seekers, members, and guests. We are glad you are here to join our church family for worship!

For worship, you'll need the bulletin and the cranberry-colored hymnal in the pew back in front of you. The liturgy is indicated by page number and can be found in the front half of the hymnal. The hymns are indicated by hymn number and found in the back half of the hymnal.

If you find yourself needing to leave the worship space for any reason (cough, noisy child, overstimulated, etc.), the service is being livestreamed to the television in Fellowship Hall. Feel free to worship in there and come back into the sanctuary when you're ready.

### COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

**The communion table is God's table.** Jesus invites all who desire to partake of His body and blood to come forward and receive God's amazing grace in the promises of forgiveness and eternal life. At **communion distribution**, please come forward to the altar rail, filling in the space from right-to-left. Pastor Zach will hand you a wafer to eat. You may then take wine from the tray (center ring is grape juice), drink it, and dispose of your cup in the basket as you return to your seat. If you want a blessing instead, please indicate this by folding your arms across your chest.

*All hymns are under Bethel's CCLI license (#11313912) and streaming license (#20849338). All rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our next Youtherans gathering is today after worship from 12:30-2:30pm. We'll be hanging out at Retro Ray's Arcade in Elkton.

Join us every Wednesday during Lent for Lenten Soup Suppers. We'll have soup and bread from 6-6:30pm followed by a study on the Nicene Creed. Sign-up to bring soup or bread on the sheet in the back.

Sign-up today to get your Easter Lily! Each lily cost \$12. You can leave cash or check in the offering plate. Fill out the sheet in the back to order your lily and fill in the dedication.

If you took home Easter eggs to fill for our Easter Egg Hunt, please bring them back by Palm Sunday, April 13. You can place them in the bin in the back of the sanctuary

Kids Club went so well that we're starting up another 10 week session on April 16. If you're available to hang out on Wednesday afternoons, sign-up in the back.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Vacation Bible School will be July 28-July 31. We'll need group helpers, station leaders, and support people. Please keep these dates open! More information to come.

### OUR STEWARDSHIP

March 16	Worship—33	Offering—\$886
March 23	Worship—39	Offering—\$1,925

Please fill the wood food basket in the back for the St. Mary Anne's food pantry. Specific needs: **shelf-stable milk, add-water-only pancake mix, canned meat (tuna, chicken, Vienna sausages), peanut butter & jelly, and cereal** \*Make sure to check those expiration dates.



If you would like to give online, you can use the QR, which will redirect you to our giving platform.

*Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.*

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mike Beiter	Cathy Heaps	Terry Fuss	Rayanne Lavery
Steve Bird	Linda Stoflet	Stacy Igo	Pastor Zach

If you have a question, concern, or a new idea, make sure to tell someone!

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

*Blue print indicates a church event.*

*Regular print indicates an outside community event.*

## **Sunday, March 30th—Fourth Sunday in Lent**

- 9:30am Youth Sunday School
- 10:30am Traditional Worship Service
- 12:30pm Youtherans at Retro Ray's Arcade
- 1:00pm Korean Church Bible Study

## **Monday, March 31st**

- 6:30pm Pastor Tom Bible Study
- 7:00pm Sisters of Serenity NA Group

## **Tuesday, April 1st**

- 6:30pm North East AA Group

## **Wednesday, April 2nd**

- 10:30am Korean Church Bible Study
- 5:00pm Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00pm Lenten Soup Supper
- 7:00pm Praise Team Practice

## **Thursday, April 3rd**

- 8:30am Men's Bible Study (meet at JoJo's in Elkton)
- 11:30am Synod Chrism Mass for Rostered Leaders
- 12:00pm Children's Sermon (via Facebook, YouTube, and Beacon)
- 4:00pm Nicanor
- 6:30pm Women's AA Group

## **Friday, April 4th**

## **Saturday, April 5th**

## **Sunday, April 6th —Fifth Sunday In Lent**

- 9:30am Youth Sunday School
- 10:30am Traditional Worship Service
- 11:45am Celebration Sunday Fellowship
- 1:00pm Korean Church Bible Study