



Were not  
our hearts  
burning  
within us?

LUKE 24:32

## Bethel Lutheran Church

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

The Rev. Zachary Wright ~ *Pastor*

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

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

Ruth Ferretti (410-398-4062) ~ *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.***

# Third Sunday of Easter

## April 19, 2026

*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 (\*).*

### EASTER PROCLAMATION & WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

### PRELUDE

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! Lord God Almighty, in your great mercy, you sent your son to die for us. Grant us now the confidence we need to draw near you, to recognize and confess our sin, that we may receive your mercy and grace now and in the time of our need.

**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~*

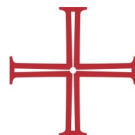
God is merciful and gracious, loving us even when we were dead in sin, and granting forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all who believe. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN: *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!* (ELW 377)

### \*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 & CANTICLE OF PRAISE (*Setting Four, page 147*)

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

**O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: *Isaiah 51:1-6 (page 528)*

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

RESPONSORIAL READING: *Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19*

<sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

<sup>2</sup> **for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

<sup>3</sup> The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;

I came to grief and sorrow.

<sup>4</sup> **Then I called upon the name of the LORD:  
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

<sup>12</sup> How shall I repay the LORD  
for all the good things God has done for me?

<sup>13</sup> **I will lift the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD.**

<sup>14</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God’s people.

<sup>15</sup> **Precious in your sight, O LORD,  
is the death of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup> O LORD, truly I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

<sup>17</sup> **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God’s people,

<sup>19</sup> **in the courts of the LORD’s house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusa-  
lem. Hallelujah!**

SECOND LESSON: *1 Peter 1:17-23 (page 179)*

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



\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (ELW 172)*

\*GOSPEL LESSON: *Luke 24:13-35 (page 68)*

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

*~Gospel is read~*

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

SERMON

\*HYMN OF THE DAY: *Day of Arising (ELW 374)*

\*THE 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

Merciful God, **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 to the sanctuary. **This Easter season, we are taking up a Noisy Change Offering for the Synod's Hunger Task Force. We're asking every household to gather their change and dollars. You can save them up and bring them on the last Sunday of the Easter season, May 17 or bring them in each week. Every cent counts. Your generosity matters!***



\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Setting Four, page 152*)

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 Four, page 153*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**Lord God of pow'r and might:**

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

**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

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy; and may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

\*SENDING HYMN: *What Is This Place (ELW 524)*

\*SENDING

\*POSTLUDE



## FLOWERS

Teh flowers are dedicated to the glory of God, by Pat and Rayanne Lavery in memory of Patrick Lavery, Jr.

### SERVER SCHEDULE

	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>
4/19	Ruth Ferretti	Linda Stoflet	Gretchen Brown	Miracle Pelino
4/26	Lily Bolton	Lori Scott	Mark Andrichyn	Chris 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

We're having a Bethel Garden work day on Tuesday, April 21st at Noon. The plan is to prepare the mulch beds (weed, get rid of old plants, and pick up trash) for Rogation Sunday.

Thanks to everyone who helped with our first Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up for the season. The next ones will be: June 13, August 15, October 10 We'll gather and head out in crews at 8:45AM to our portion of 272 and be done around 10:15AM.

Kids Club continues to meet on Wednesdays from 2-3PM. If you're available to hang out on Wednesday afternoons, sign-up in the back.

Vacation Bible School will be here before we know it! If you're interested in helping, let Pastor Zach know. Keep an eye out for a meeting in the next month.

Our next Youtherans gathering will be at the Fuller Farm in Hockessin on April 26th. We'll have hot dogs and s'mores over the fire. Let Pastor Zach know if you're able to attend.

We plan to participate in Elkton Alliance's "Jump into June" on Friday, June 5th from 5PM-8PM. We need volunteers to share about our church, pass out information, help with our activity, and have a smiling face for whoever walks by. Interested? Talk to Pastor Zach or Amy Weaver.

### OUR STEWARDSHIP

March 8	Worship—39	Offering—\$1,465
March 15	Worship—51	Offering—\$2,292

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 code, which will redirect you to our giving platform.



*Thank you for you for your faithfulness and generosity.*

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mike Beiter	Linda Stoflet	Cathy Heaps	Rayanne Lavery
Steve Bird	Terry Fuss	Stacy Igo	Lori Scott
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, April 19th—Third Sunday of Easter**

- 10:00am Youth Sunday School
- 10:30am Traditional Worship Service

## **Monday, April 20th**

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

## **Tuesday, April 21st**

- 6:30pm North East AA Group

## **Wednesday, April 22nd**

- 1:30pm Bethel Kids Club
- 7:00pm AA Meeting
- 7:00pm Al-Anon Meeting

## **Thursday, April 23rd**

- 9:00am Men's Bible Study
- 12:00pm Children's Sermon (via Facebook, YouTube, and Beacon)
- 4:00pm Nicanor Feeding Ministry
- 6:30pm Women's AA Group

## **Friday, April 24th**

- 8:00pm AA Meeting

## **Saturday, April 25th**

- 8:30am AA Meeting

## **Sunday, April 26th—Fourth Sunday of Easter**

- 10:00am Youth Sunday School
- 10:30am Traditional Worship Service