
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

Pastor Sue Sinclair

MARCH 2026

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FROM THE PASTOR...

“Who is this Moses?”

This was my husband’s favorite quote from the movie The Ten Commandments. When I was a kid, it was on TV every year. It tells the story of God calling and empowering Moses to bring God’s people out of slavery in Egypt.

In Waterlife, the synod’s newsletter, Bishop Scott talks a bit about Moses. It raises the question “Who is this Moses?”

He mentions Moses’ importance in scripture in all the ways that we see in the movie. Yet there was more to Moses than the powerful personality portrayed by Charlton Heston. Moses was important, but not perfect.

In Exodus Chapters 3-4 Moses argues with God that he doesn’t have what it takes to do what God is asking of him. Scot reminds us that, while in the wilderness, “Despite his long history of leadership and guidance, there were issues. For every moment of wisdom and strength, we also have examples of Moses whining and complaining” even losing his temper.

Once he accepted God’s purposes for him, Moses did his ‘human best’ to listen to God and follow where God guided him. The people followed Moses out of slavery in Egypt, but in leaving, they found themselves in unknown territory.

Bishop Scott reflects, “Moses tried his best to be faithful in the role that God gave him. But we often see that Moses didn’t have it all together either. At times, I think maybe his faithfulness (if we want to use that word) boiled down to his ongoing willingness to

walk alongside God’s chosen people in the midst of the unknown.”

Though we are not walking out of slavery into a wilderness, we are facing very real challenges in being the Church in our time and place. Our world has changed tremendously during the lifetimes of our members. With it, has come changes in music, technology, culture, and a myriad of other ways that impact how we are the church together and how we can continue to be who Christ calls us to be as the church.

As Bishop Scott puts it, “Maybe what we’re being called to now, in this moment, is to keep being faithful as we plug along. To embody a willingness to try new things or ideas and see what works, also what doesn’t. And maybe, just maybe, as we do our best to be faithful in THAT regard, just faithfully continuing to be the church and serve our communities... Maybe that pathway will become more clear as we move along...a pathway towards something that will prove to be amazing... different but amazing. AND...maybe in the meantime...God is preparing something amazing for our kids.”

~ Pastor Sue



Mid-Week Lenten Meal

We will once again be serving a midweek Lenten meal before our Lenten worship. Thank you to all the board members for serving these weekly meals.

The Meal will begin at 6 pm in the fellowship hall.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Board Serving</u>	<u>Menu</u>
3/4	Lay Ministry	Casseroles
3/11	Education	Tacos
3/18	Stewardship	BBQ's/hotdogs
3/25	Properties	Pulled Pork

Lenten Worship Service will begin at 7:00 pm.

**The Offering from Midweek Lenten Services will be going to The Banquet in Sioux Falls, and our local food pantries.*



Palm Sunday – March 29

Maundy Thursday,

with Holy Communion – April 2 @ 7pm.

Good Friday – April 3 @ 7 pm.

Easter Sunday – April 5

- **Breakfast at 7:30 am – 8:30 am**
- **Egg Hunt at 8:30 am**
- **Easter Worship 9 am!!**



Board of Lay Ministries welcomes members to donate an Easter Lily for the Easter Service on April 5, 2026. Please deliver the lilies to church by Saturday morning, April 4. Please put the lilies in the Lounge at church.



Prayer Requests: Holly Rozeboom, Phillips Family, Nathan Huyser, Bev Jackson, Grant & Trent Hoogendoorn, Tara Hoogendoorn, Matt, Kendra Michael, Austin, Erin Van Der Brink and Hazel Mae, Olson Family, McKenna Bouwman, Holly Horstman, Arnie Van Voorst, Arlyn Schreurs, Ed Baatz, Don Eiesland, Wayne Kollis, Michelle Johnson, Sarah Krupke, and all our Nursing Home residents (Joy, Marion, Bev B, Jean M. Connie, June)

Congregational Reps Needed

The Western Iowa Synod Assembly is scheduled for April 17-18 and will be held in Sergeant Bluff at their community center.

The Assembly will begin Friday with check-in at 5 pm. Followed by opening worship at 6 followed by dinner and the first plenary session at 7:15.

We will gather again on Saturday morning at 8:15 and will finish in the early afternoon.

Only those pre-registered can attend. The deadline for Synod Assembly registration is just around the corner. We have the opportunity to have 2 lay members attend as voting members—registration costs are covered by the congregation.

Please contact Pastor Sue if you are interested in participating in the assembly this year



SPECIAL DATES IN MARCH

- March 6 – World Day of Prayer
- March 8 – Daylight Saving Time begins
- March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day
- March 20 – First day of Spring
- March 29 – Palm Sunday



In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberated us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We celebrate the March baptismal anniversaries of the following members of Bethlehem Lutheran:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Taylor Rentschler – 3/2 | Bronx Kramer – 4 |
| Paige Thiessen – 4 | Korey McKenney – 6 |
| Briggs Van Dyke – 11 | Kristi Gramstad – 11 |
| Alexis Knutson – 12 | Jerry Van Voorst – 14 |
| Wyatt Bomgaars – 17 | Zach De Smet – 18 |
| Chelsea Snyders– 21 | Stan Haugland – 25 |
| Trevor McKenney-27 | Jane Niemeyer – 27 |
| Damon Bahnson – 28 | Chase Thiessen – 28 |
| Mike Van Dyke – 28 | Bennett Munger – 29 |
| David Phipps – 30 | |



Though Confirmation Classes do not meet during Lent, confirmation students are expected to participate in the Lenten activities at church.

That is especially true of mid-week Lenten worship that takes place during the normal class time. An added bonus is that you begin at 6 with the Lenten meal with your family!



**Spring Ahead!
Don't forget
to turn your
clocks
ahead one
hour before
going to bed on Saturday, March 7!!**



The following couples will celebrate the gift of marriage this month by observing their wedding anniversaries:

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| March 13 | Clint & Becky Berentschot – 2010 |
| March 23 | Kim & Judy Hage – 1973 |
| March 27 | Darrel & Pat Bonnema – 1965 |



- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 4 | Damon Bahnson |
| 5 | Easton Cartmill, Greg Twedt |
| 6 | Rhonda Jensen |
| 9 | Tracy Gayer, David Phipps |
| 10 | Cindy Moen-Nogueras |
| 11 | Kim Gayer |
| 13 | Cheryl Twedt |
| 15 | Andraya Bahnson, Dylan Snyders |
| 16 | Christy Bahnson |
| 17 | Macy Brueggeman |
| 18 | Deb Kleeman |
| 19 | Conrad Kerkvliet, Jessica Van Dyke |
| 20 | Becky Berentschot, Tripp Olson |
| 24 | Bev Jackson |
| 27 | Logan Underberg |
| 31 | Jake Kruse |

WORSHIP HELPERS THIS MONTH

Reader: David Lantz
Altar Guild: Barb Pedersen and
Deb Van Roekel



CIRCLES

Fellowship Thursday March 12, 2:00 pm
Circle Hostess: Myrt Kruse



March Acolyte



1 – Macy Brueggeman
8 – Easton Cartmill
15 – Memphis Van Dyke
22 – Hallie Brueggeman
29 – Ryker Rentschler



GREETERS SCHEDULE

March 1: Steve & Lori Ahrendt
March 8: Aaron & Lori Kock
March 15: Bob & Lori Tracy
March 22: David & Sandy Lantz
March 29: Jon & Gloria Bonjour



March 1

Noah & Teresa Kerkvliet, Tracy & Kim Gayer,
Caleb Gayer

March 8

Emersyn Rentschler Family
Nate & DJ Cartmill

March 15

Clint & Becky Berentschot
David & Sandy Lantz

March 22

Sam & Deb Kroger
Dan & Liza Brueggeman
Kristi Haffner

March 29

Scott & Pam Hanson
Randy & Betty Kock



Bethlehem Lutheran Church, thank you for your generous donation to Wiggles & Giggles Childcare Center. Your kindness and support make a meaningful difference in the lives of the children we serve and help us continue to provide a safe, nurturing, and enriching environment. We are truly grateful for your generosity.

- Thank you!

Wiggles & Giggles Board



Thank you so much for your continued support and donations to the Larchwood UCC Food Pantry. Our visits by families in the area continue to increase through the winter months and your continued support for this ministry is appreciated by so many families in the area. It is because of people and organizations like you that helps to keep our shelves stocked and keep this mission going.

- **Larchwood Food Pantry**
Nancy Eiesland



BOARD REPORTS

Board of Lay Ministry

February 11, 2026

David Lantz, Marilyn Caswell, Kay Twedt, Jim Jensen, Dustin Hoogendoorn Dave Phipps, Pastor Sue,

1. Reviewed the minutes of the January Board meeting – Minutes were approved
2. Pastor gave her monthly report.
 - Pastor reviewed the **Thriving Ministry in Small Congregations** Zoom Meeting On January 20 – Relationships are important, People want to practice religion in community with others and many people will attend a church activity if invited.
 - Pastor will order 50 ASC Hymnal Supplements (Blue) and place in the sanctuary.
 - Reviewed the Caring Love program - **Journeying through Grief**. There was a big response to the testimonials given by Glennie Wiltgen, Marilyn Caswell, and Pastor Sue. 25 more sets were ordered and paid for with a Thrivent Action Team grant submitted by Kim Gayer. Thanks Kim.
 - Pastor reported plans for Lenten Worship, which starts February 18 with Ash Wednesday. Pastor use the Misadventures of Mango and Pastor Ed for the Wednesday evening service after the meal.
 - Pastor shared Lenten season dates.
 - Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026 (Communion)
 - Maundy Thursday, April 2 (Communion)

- Good Friday Service, April 3
- Easter is April 5, 2026

3. Reviewed the finalized Lenten meal Schedule

February 25	Board of Evangelism	Soups
March 4	Board of Lay Ministry	Hot Dishes
March 11	Board of Education	Tacos
March 18	Board of Stewardship	Taverns & Hot Dogs
March 25	Board of Properties	Nate's Special Pulled Pork

Board of Lay Ministry	
The following will bring a	
<u>Hot Dish</u>	<u>Cookies & Bars</u>
David Lantz	Kay Twedt
David Phipps	Pastor Sue
Jim Jensen	
Dustin Hoogendoorn	
Marilyn Caswell	

4. David will check with Dan Brueggeman of the Stewardship Committee, to determine designation of the Lenten Service Offering. In the past the offering has been used to pay for the meal at the Banquet with any remaining funds to be disbursed to the local food pantries.
5. David shared that R & D Industries is coming to the church on Thursday, February 12, 2026 to complete a tune-up to the sound system. Doug Wiltgen and Dan Brueggeman will meet with the R & D Technician.
6. Finalized Services for Lent and Easter
 - Communion for Ash Wednesday (Communion Assist. - Dave Phipps)
 - Maundy Thursday (Communion Assist. - Jim Jensen)
 - Palm Sunday – Pastor will order palm branches
 - Good Friday Service - Set times & publish
 - Easter Service – Sunrise Breakfast – 7:30 Start – Pastor will contact Noah & Theresa about breakfast.

April 5, 2026 Easter Egg Hunt – 8:30 AM
Easter Service – 9:00 AM

 - Music for Easter Service – Brass Choir – Pastor will coordinate Brass Choir
7. Discuss ordering Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday – Jim Jensen will purchase 10 lilies for Easter Service. **The congregation will also be**

encouraged to provide an Easter Lilies for the Easter service.

Board members will deliver lilies to Fellowship Village

8. The group discussed the new proposed lease agreement for a new printer – copier from Access Systems. David will discuss with Dan Brueggeman.

OLD BUSINESS

9. Dave Phipps will recognize the members of the Parsonage Committee this month.
10. Alter Guide – The purchasing agent will order a 6 month supply of Communion wafers, communion cups and oil for the candles. Wine will be in a bottle with a screw tops.
11. Update the Storage Closet for the Alter Banners - No Action at this time

Board of Education

Attendance: DJ, Megan, Michelle, Glennie

Old business:

- No new Sunday school materials needed
- Sing Feb 22nd
- Bible Study is good next suggestion is book of the bible

New Business:

Lenton Supper: March 11th

- 16# taco meat and 3 pans of bars - each do 3# of hamburger, 1 dozen baked goods
- Sour cream - Glennie (3, 16 oz)
- Onion - Megan (1 large)
- Cheese - DJ (4-5 8 oz packets)
- Salsa - 2 jars - Michelle and 1 big jar of Taco Sauce
- Gauc - Megan
- Lettuce - Michelle
- Doritos - DJ (38 small ones)
- Tomato - Deb (6 large)
- Soft shells - Glennie (40 soft shells)
- Olives - Deb (3 large cans)
- Hard shells - Becky (3 packs)

Easter Craft for Fellowship Village

- Dark Chocolate candy
- Order craft from Oriental Window sun catcher (48)
- Sing April 19th at Fellowship - Talk to Regan

Pastor Sue will do Summer Bible Study

Social Emotional Learning Community

- Michelle will chat with Kate Gerber about a program? Could be January event

Board of Properties

Present: Aric, Brett, Nate, Clint, Gary and Larry.

We will continue the Appex lawn care service same as last year. There was a possible proposal for hosting Kids Club that was tabled until next meeting. Waiting for a bid from Vander Zwaag on the Timber beams. There was a new furnace put in the parsonage. Brett and Nate are looking into pumps for the boiler system.

Board of Evangelism

Board Members Attending: Pam Hansen, Barb Pedersen, Lori Ahrendt, Sue Kippley, & Sandy Lantz

New Business:

1. Assemble Valentine treats for Fellowship/Friendship Village residents.
2. Easter treats for residents? Check with Sunday School teachers.
3. Serve Lenten Service Meal-February 25th (5:00 set up)

Rhonda Chili & Fritos (1 bag)
Barb Chili & Cheese (1 box salteens)
Sandy Chicken Noodle & oyster crackers (1 Bag)
Lori Chicken Noodle & bowls
Sue Bars (2 pans)
Pam Bars (1 pan)

4. March Manna Market:

Shall we request personal hygiene items in March as we did last year? Answer: **Yes**, so this will be posted in the bulletin and March newsletter: **The Board of Evangelism requests a collection of personal hygiene items to be delivered on the week of March 15 to Manna Market. Suggested items: (alcohol-free products)**

**toothpaste
toothbrushes floss
deodorant
shampoo
conditioner
shower soap
feminine hygiene products
tissues
Q-tips
toilet paper
hairbrush/combs
cotton balls
laundry soap
dryer sheets
nail clippers**

Sandy Lantz–Chair



BLC MISSION STATEMENT:

“To welcome all people to seek and serve God as members of the Body of Christ.”

BLC VISION STATEMENT:

We will be:

A welcoming Church:

Opening our doors and hearts to all who enter.

A Church that seeks after the heart of God:

Maturing in faith.

Trusting His word.

Living God’s love.

A Church that is committed to one another:

Through fellowship.

Through love and service.

Through grace and forgiveness.

A Church that ministers to the world around us.

A Church that brings its gifts back to God:

Through good stewardship of time, talent, and treasures.

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