

Bethel Lutheran Church
First Sunday in Lent, Year A
February 22, 2026



Pastor Lisa Ubbelohde
Music & Choir Director: Rowen Erickson

Worship Volunteers

Assisting Minister: Doug Hansen

Reader: Dar Schuurmans

Alter Guild: Peggy Hansen

Communion Assistant: Doug Hanson

Ushers: Karl & Bonnie Peterson

Video Tech: Yvonne Pamperin

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING

WELCOME

*Please rise in body or in spirit. The congregation is invited to say the **bold** words.*

OPENING HYMN *Christ, the Life of All the Living* **Cranberry 339**



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead

dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, **Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.
16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden,
17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?"
2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,
3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'"
4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die,
5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.
7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 32 (read responsively by verse)

1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**2 Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

3 While I kept silent, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;

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

**6 Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.**

7 You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

9 Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

**10 Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.**

11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

12 Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned 13 for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

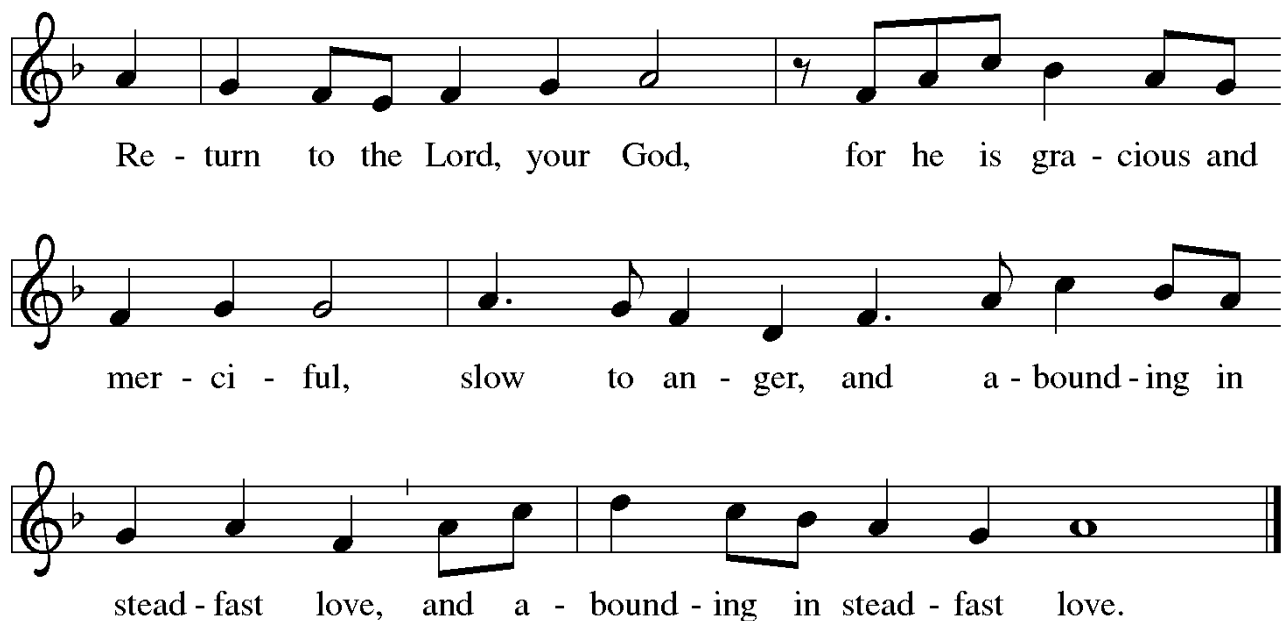
15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. 16 And the gift is not like the effect

of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. 17 If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

18 Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. 19 For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

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

1 Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. 2 He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. 3 The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, 9 and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.' "

11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

SERMON

Pastor Lisa Ubbelohde

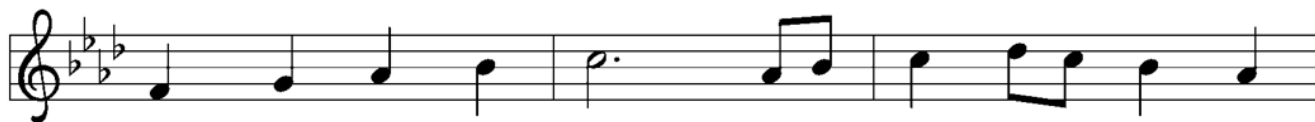
HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh Lord, throughout These Forty Days

Cranberry 319



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

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APOSTLES'S 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

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For what else do the people of God pray?

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

PEACE

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

Please share a sign of the Lord's peace with those around you.

Please be seated.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, **maker of heaven and earth,**

your steadfast love embraces all creation.

**You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.**

**Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.**

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

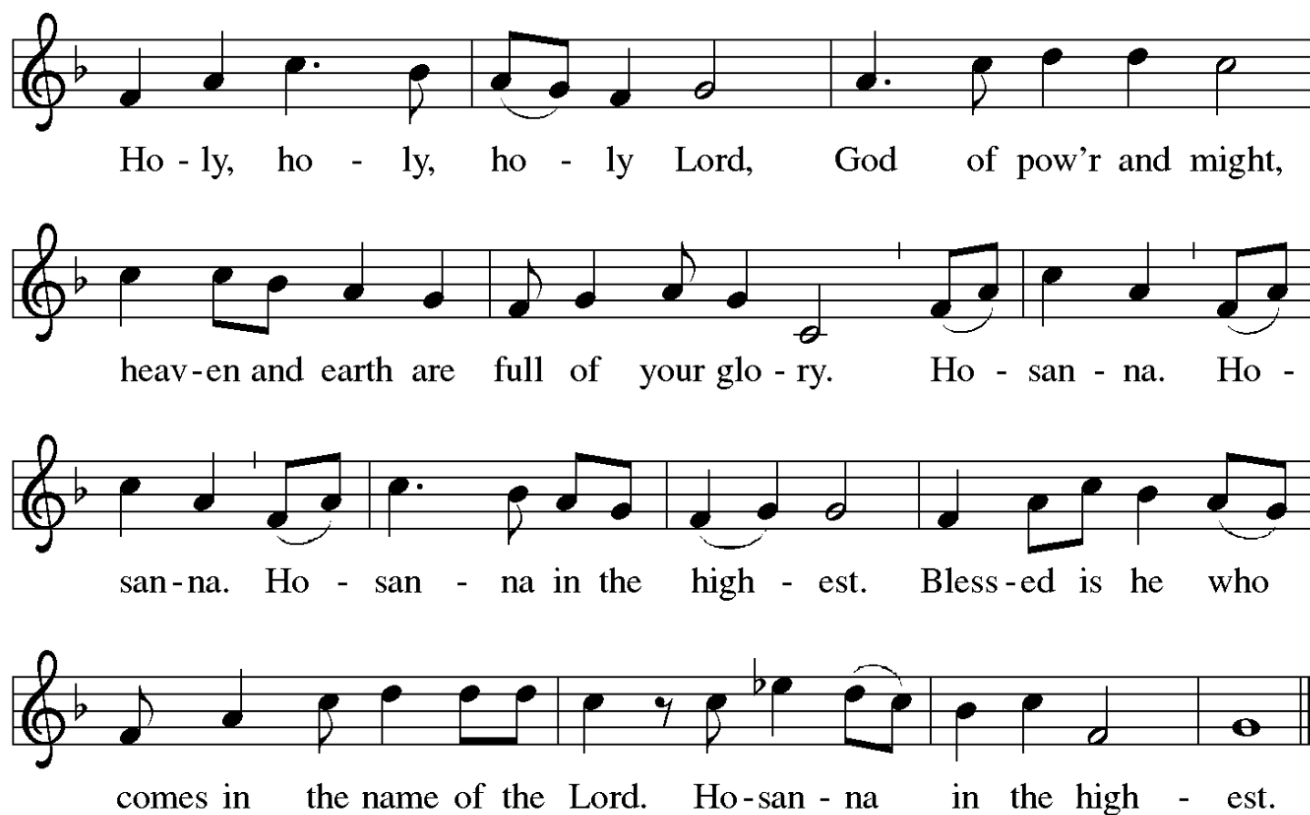
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their and prepare with
joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the
fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

On that night when he gave himself up for us, as he sat at the table and broke bread
with his friends, he said: "Take and eat; this is my body which is broken for you.
Remember me each time you do this."

After they had eaten, he took the cup, and said: "Remember me as you drink from
this, for it is my life, poured out for you—the beginning of a new relationship with God."
Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, O God, that we
may experience the presence of the Word-made-flesh—Jesus Christ. Breathe your
Spirit in us that we may be one body with him—living out his ministry in the world today
and every day. This we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN*O Jesus, I Have Promised***Cranberry 810**

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray, God of our salvation,

**we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and
strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all
creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to Pastor Lisa Ubbelohde for leading worship again today!

Choir practice for Easter service will be April 4th at 11am.

As an update to the progress your council is making:

They have had 3 meetings with the synod transition team over the last 3 months. They are talking about the possibility of hiring an interim pastor and/or a part-time pastor. They will be meeting with a transition coach at the beginning of next month. We need someone to write a history of Bethel. This will help with updating the Ministry Site Profile.

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:

God, who calls all things into existence,

Jesus Christ, who redeems us,

and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,

✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN Praise and Thanks and Adoration

Cranberry 783



1 Praise and thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, Son of God, to you we give,
2 Hold me ev - er in your keep - ing, com - fort me in pain and strife;



for you chose to serve cre - a - tion, died that sin - ers all might live.
through my laugh - ter and my weep - ing, lift me to a no - bler life.



Dear Lord Je - sus, guide my way; faith - ful let me day by day
Draw my fer - vent love to you; con - stant hope and faith re - new



fol - low where your steps are lead - ing, find ad - ven - ture, joys ex - ceed - ing!
in your birth, your life and pas - sion, in your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 2/9/26	\$ 4,944.00
Monthly Budget Expenses:	\$18,843.00
YTD Receipts through 1/31/26:	\$ 22,103.00

The Bethel Weekly

Lenten Midweek Worship: Holden Evening Prayer service are at 6:30pm Wednesdays through Lent. We will need Worship Leaders, Ushers and Video Tech for these services. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway.

Easter Flowers: Order forms are now available in the lounge for ordering Easter Lilies or Tulips. Please note that the deadline for ordering is Sunday March 8th. There are a few large print order forms available. Let Ashley know if we run out and you need one.

Palm Sunday: Please see the sign up sheet in the hallway to volunteer for Palm Sunday Brunch and delivery to in-home members.

Fellowship Hour: Please, if you are able to host a fellowship hour in February or March sign up in the hallway.

Woodside Donations: We have started collecting donations for woodside. The red wagon is for Resurrection Food Pantry and the metal basket is for Woodside. They are needing the following items:

- *Markers & Colored Pencils
- *Figurines to paint
- *New Nail Polish
- *Hygiene products (deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste)
- *Socks with grips
- *Full size candy bars
- *Seasonal Décor/ Trinkets

Bethel History: Linda Wery is writing a history of Bethel to help with updating the Ministry Site Profile. Please let her know if you can assist her with this project.

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