



4th Sunday in Lent
March 26, 2017

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

Pastor Ben Squires

Cell phone: 224-419-5519 or email: pastor@bethelgurnee.org

Website: www.BethelGurnee.org

Welcome, Cynthia (Cindy) Twillman

Cindy is one of our candidates for the Equipping Coordinator position. She is visiting Bethel this weekend for an in-person interview.

Cindy currently serves in Wichita, Kansas, as a DCE (Director of Christian Education) for Education and Family Ministry at Ascension Lutheran Church. She is a graduate of Concordia University – St. Paul, MN. Cindy also has a Master of Arts degree from Friends University in Wichita. Cindy has 20 years of church work experience as a DCE.



Position Title: Equipping Coordinator

Full time position

for a called Commission Minister (Non-Ordained) worker

(for example, Dir. Of Christian Educ, Dir. Of Christian Outreach, Lay Minister, etc.).

Purpose

To coach, train, equip, and encourage people in missional living and for multiplying the ministry and leadership of the gathering of believers at Bethel. Biblically speaking: “To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12).

Responsibilities

- **Discovery of gifts**
 - Intentionally seek to initiate and assist the people of Bethel to discover their unique design for missional living and congregational ministry & leadership
- **Provide opportunities for Bethel people to be equipped for missional living and ministry that align with the spiritual direction and policies as defined by Church Leadership**
 - Train, coach, and encourage individuals to serve in ways that match their God-given abilities and qualities;
- **Build up ministry teams for various areas and tasks in the congregation that align with the spiritual direction and policies as defined by Church Leadership**
 - Ensure that ministry teams have defined their purpose, goals, and responsibilities
- **Organizing and communicate the equipping plan and results**
 - Ensure that the congregation regularly hears about how God is using people in missional living, ministry service/leadership through celebration and storytelling in the congregation, etc.

Desired Outcomes

- The people of Bethel will be encouraged and empowered to frame their daily living as being part of God's Gospel mission;
- Leaders of ministry areas are equipped to lead and develop their area;
- Leaders will be trained and empowered to invite others into serving, utilizing connections and information from the Equipping Coordinator in order to do their own recruitment of servants;
- Teams and individuals will receive further training and ongoing support;
- Stories of God at work will be shared with the congregation, highlighting how He is using individuals—not just how He is using the church staff.

LENT LECTONARY

This service carries the themes of the Lent Lectionary—the selected readings for this season in the Church Year, as we gather in sorrow over our sin, recognize our need for a Savior, and anticipate His salvation accomplished through the cross and resurrection.

Opening Hymn

Just as I Am, without One Plea

LSB 570



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Invocation and Call to Worship

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

Hebrews 12:2

C: the author and perfecter of our faith,

P: who for the joy that was set before him

C: endured the cross, disregarding the shame,

P: and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

C: Now is the time of God's favor; now is the day of salvation.

2 Corinthians 6:2b

P: Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

Psalm 85:4, 4:6, 37:6, 113:7

C: that the light of Your face may shine on us.

P: May Your justice shine like the sun;

C: and may the poor be lifted up.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

1 Peter 5:6-11, 1:3-5

P: Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God

so that at the proper time he may exalt you.

Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober-minded; be watchful.

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion,
seeking someone to devour.

Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering
are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

C: We humble ourselves before the Lord.

**We confess that we have sinned against heaven and earth,
against the Lord, His Creation, and one another.**

Please come to us, Lord, and forgive. Amen.

P: We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

1 John 2:1

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Mark 10:33

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Psalm 32:1

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P: We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people. Amen.

Silence for meditation on our need for Christ's forgiveness.

P: At the command of the Lord, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy God the Father provided a ram as a substitute. We give thanks to the Father that on Calvary He did not spare His only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. The God of all grace has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, and He Himself restores, confirms, strengthens, and establishes you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. According to his great mercy, he has caused you to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Song of Thanksgiving

Here I Am to Worship



1. Light of the world, You stepped down in - to dark - ness, o - pened my eyes, let me -
2. King of all days, oh so high - ly ex - alt - ed, glo - rious in heav - en a -



— see. — Beau - ty that made this — heart a - dore — You, hope of a life spent with —
—bove. — Hum - bly You came to the earth You cre - a - ted, all for love's sake be - came.

Chorus



— You. — So, here I am to wor - ship, here I am to bow down, here I am to
— poor. —



say that You're my God. — And You're al - to - geth - er love - ly, al - to - geth - er

1., 2, return to chorus 3.



wor - thy, al - to - geth - er won - der - ful to me. —

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Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Anthem**“Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners”****Adult Choir**

- Use the anthem’s music and words to help you to meditate on God’s Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

Jesus, what a friend for sinners,
 Jesus, lover of my soul.
 Loving those despised and forsaken,
 Jesus makes the sinner whole.
 Dying there, He took my blame
 on a cruel cross of shame.

Jesus, what a friend in sorrow,
 while the sadness o’er me rolls.
 Even when my heart is breaking,
 He, my comfort, stills my soul.
 What a friend in sorrow’s night,
 Jesus Christ, the morning light.

I will sing the wondrous story of
 the Christ who died for me.
 How He left His home in glory
 for the cross of Calvary.
 On the cross He suffered and died,
 Jesus Christ, the crucified.
 Christ, the crucified.

Epistle (New Testament Letter)**Ephesians 5:8–14 (ESV)**

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
 and Christ will shine on you.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel**John 9:1–41 (ESV)**

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.

²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No,

but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in

him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you."
³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

O Son of God, in Galilee

LSB 841



1 O Son of God, in Gal - i - lee You
 2 O lis - ten to the si - lent prayer Of
 3 The speech - less tongue, the life - less ear You
 4 Mean - while to them the lis - t'ning ear Of
 5 Then in Your prom - ised hap - py land Each



made the deaf to hear, The mute to speak, the
 Your af - flict - ed ones. O bid them cast on
 can re - store, O Lord; Your "Eph - pha - tha," O
 stead - fast faith im - part, And let Your Word bring
 loss will prove a gain; All mys - t'ries we shall



blind to see; O bless - ed Lord, be near.
 You their care; Your grace to them make known.
 Sav - ior dear, Can in - stant help af - ford.
 light and cheer To ev - 'ry trou - bled heart.
 un - der - stand, For You will make them plain.

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Sermon

"Who's Really Walking in Darkness Here?"

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory

Create in Me

LSB 192

Sung as our Offerings are brought forward to the Altar



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.—And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.—I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

LSB 849



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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Announcements

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. and Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday of the month

Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,
Mandi Stilson – Choir/New Music Accompanist

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God's word and serve His mission. We'd love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

NURSERY

We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

SERVING TODAY

8:00 a.m.

Elder: JJ Jones
Comm/Asst. Elder: Al Diercks
Acolytes: OPEN, Nathan Faitsch
Ushers: Morrie Cook, OPEN, OPEN
Lay Readers: Bill Oesterreich, Al Diercks
Greeters: Ardell & Sharon Maatta,
Don & Joanne Heidlauf
Fellowship: Squires & Jones families
March Altar Guild: Kathy Schwartz
March Counters: Mary Kay Ams

10:45 a.m.

Jack Warneke
Randy Gifford
Allyson Adams, Hillary Fleming
John Schultz, Monte Stoltzman
Larry Peters, Linda Peters
Marie Hupp,
Craig Johnsen
Sheila Bunnell
Joan Blasko

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

Dave Ross in celebration of Cheryl's birthday,
Bill and Lynda Oesterreich in memory of Bill's father, William Oesterreich, and
Larry Peters in celebration of Linda's birthday.

Acknowledgments

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