

First Sunday in Lent
Little Prairie United Methodist Church
February 18, 2024, 9:30 a.m.



God Has Come Near

2980 130th ST E, Dundas, MN 55019
507.663-6150

www.littleprairieumc.org

Our vision: Creating a welcoming community that worships well, disciples well, and serves well; transforming the world for Jesus Christ.

WELCOME AND GATHERING

Gathering Music

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

Tune: St. Margaret arr. Mark Hayes

Luann Alderks

Welcome

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Centering Time

Call to Worship

Lenten travelers, when you feel the security of God's love, affirmation of God's call, and covered in God's grace...

God comes near.

When you feel deserted and alone, starving and parched for a caring hand or an encouraging word, troubled and uncertain as the ground under you shifts like sand...

God comes near.

When you feel emboldened to act, inspired to speak, energized to live as bearers of the good news that the Kingdom of God is here...

God comes near.

In all seasons of our lives, God comes near to us and does not forsake us.

We gather to come near to God whose ever-present love remains near no matter where our journey takes us. Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days (UMH # 269)* **All**

Opening Prayer

Lord and Shepherd of our journeys in the desert, we come to you during this Lenten season as servants of Jesus Christ.

We remember how you liberated Moses and the Israelites; we remember also how you liberated the prophet Elijah in his journey to escape from a corrupt king.

Now, in our Lenten journey, we implore your direction, your patience, and your spiritual support. As you sent your angels to care for the Israelites, to the prophet Elijah in his journey, and to Jesus during his forty days in the desert,

Send them also to us in our earthly journeys. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Sharing the Peace
Children's Moment**

THE WORD

Psalm 25:1-10

Mark 1:9-15

Message

"God Has Come Near"

Pastor Penny Bonsell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn

Come, Thou Almighty King UMH #61

All

Joys and Concerns and Prayers of the People

Jesus says: “The time is ready, the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe the Gospel.”

O come, let us return unto our God, who will have mercy and abundantly pardon.

Let us pray.

Most holy God, we admit to you and each other that we are sometimes dazzled by the false gods of this age, that we find it hard to recognise who we are, where we came from, or where we are going.

We easily become caught up in selfishness, seduced by cynicism, waylaid by glittering consumerism, and led by the highways and byways created by powerful, vested interests.

Please open our hearts that we may know ourselves more clearly, and seek you more diligently.

Most loving God, arrest the false god’s that have diverted us, show us the deceits that have blurred our vision, unmask the poverty of our goals and longings,

Please bring us to an honest repentance, the forgiveness of sins, and the renewal of our faith and love. Through Christ Jesus our Saviour, Amen!

Words of Assurance

Fellow travellers on the road to Easter, always remember that there is much more forgiveness in God than we could ever exhaust.

Receive from God, through the grace of Christ, the blessing of sins forgiven and a right relationship restored. Amen.

Offering *"Forever" by Chris Tomlin arr. Carol Tornquist Luann Alderks*

Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (UMH # 95)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, we bring our tithes and offerings to your altar, understanding that on the journey in Lent, we can’t avoid or detour around the wilderness. It is essential that we hear Jesus call us to repentance!

Bless our gifts for your unfinished kingdom work.

Remind us, as we worship here, that this redemption of our lives did not come without a price; without our own repentance, we can miss the enormity of the gift Jesus gave.

Knowing we cannot earn this redemption and forgiveness, this wiping clean of our ledger, we can only hope to reflect such grace and compassion in our encounters with others. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

And the Prayer in which Christ unites us . . .

The 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. Amen.

Hymn *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley TFWS# 2112*

All

SENDING

Beloved, God comes near and proclaims the good news all around us. Go, now, in the blessed company of the Triune God to discover the inbreaking of the good news wherever you may go! May a stranger see in you a friend and neighbor. God sends you, the Spirit fills you, Christ goes with you and you with Christ, always and everywhere. **Amen. God Bless! Go in love, joy, and peace. Shalom. Amen.**

Postlude *"Great Is the Lord" by Michael W. Smith & Deborah D. Smith*
arr. by Mark Hayes

Luann Adlerks

INFORMATION

Pastor: Penny Bonsell, Administrator: Sara French

Music Director and pianist: Luann Alderks

Youth Director: Theresa Siemers, assistants Maddy Heinz-Kline and Kory Larson,

Technology Administrator: Jesse Steed

Admin Council Chair: Kevin Larson, Admin Secretary: Sue Rollins

SPRC Chair: Deb Little, Treasurer: Lori Noreen

Finance Committee Chair: Larry Alderks, Trustees Chair: Tom Stowe,

Missions: Karen Nelson, Outreach and Nurture Chair: Jeff Sartor

Snow Shoveling

Thank you to Larry Alderks for shoveling this week.

Week of Feb 18th-24th: Lucas Ostermann

Website



Online giving



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mon. Feb 19, 8:30 am: Breakfast Club, L& M (every Monday)

Mon. Feb 19, 7pm: Admin Council Meeting

Wed. Feb 21, 9-10:30 am: Pastor Penny is at James Gang coffee shop

Wed. Feb 21, 10 am 5:30 pm: Lenten Soup Suppers begin with the Art of Lent

Fri. Feb 23: 5:30 pm Youth Group

Sun. Feb 25, 11:00am: Moving Forward meeting

Thurs. Mar. 14, 6pm: Admin Meeting

Fri. March 22, 3-8:00 pm: Fish Dinner **tickets required.**

If you would like to help, talk to Christina Keilen, Emily Burt, or Lori Larson.

See our website for more details at www.littleprairieumc.org.