

Second Sunday in Lent
Little Prairie United Methodist Church
February 25, 2024, 9:30 a.m.



For the Sake of...

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 *"Beneath the Cross Of Jesus"/"Lead Me to Calvary" by St. Christopher/Frederick C. Maker & Duncannon/Willaim J. Kirkpatrick arr. Don Wyrzten
Luann Alderks*

Welcome
Centering Time

Pastor Penny Bonsell

Call to Worship

Lenten travelers, who is this Jesus whom we follow?

He is the Messiah.

What kind of Messiah is Jesus?

He is the Messiah who teaches that he will lose his life and who calls us to lose our lives in order to save our lives.

How does it feel to follow a Messiah whose teachings and call are so hard and uncomfortable?

Some feel fear and anger, while others feel uncertain and anxious, and still others feel resolute and ready to follow.

Lenten travelers, we are not alone in our feelings about following Jesus as our Messiah. It is a hard road. The blessing is that we do not travel it alone.

Thanks be to God that we share this journey with Jesus and one another as we lose our lives for the sake of the gospel to save our lives through Jesus, our Messiah.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise

And Are We Yet Alive? UMH #553

All

Opening Prayer

Come let us turn to our God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Let us pray.

Holy Friend, our God and Savior, we have talked much about faith yet have been slow to take its risks, we have admired forgiveness, yet sometimes we have been stingy in giving it,

We have praised truth yet sometimes we have fudged our own integrity,

We have applauded love, yet have placed conditions on how we love, we have urged hope for others yet sometimes, we have, ourselves lived like cynics,

We have honored Christ's Cross yet have avoided our own.

Most faithful God, please forgive us, hold each of us when we betray the Gospel we love and embrace. By your Spirit enter the secret caverns of our souls and there expose, counsel, cleanse, love and reform us.

Forgive us repeatedly, we pray, until forgiveness is such a part of us that it may become a way of life, as we deal with those around us. In the name of Christ our Redeemer. Amen!

Sharing the Peace

Children's Moment

THE WORD

Psalm 22:23-31

Mark 8:31-38

Message

“For the Sake of...”

Pastor Penny Bonsell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn

Take Up Thy Cross UMH # 415

All

Joys and Concerns and Prayers of the People

Dear God, Holy One, we come to you this day with heavy hearts of those who have lost their lives this week, those who lived their lives carrying their crosses of call, purpose, love, compassion, and service. We give thanks for them. Be with those who are in the desert, in struggle and in pain, hold them. Help us be your hands to consol. Help us hear your Word of love and peace that is beyond all understanding.

Help us when we try to dictate our fears and anxieties. Help us hear you as you invite us to follow you into self-denial and service in the Gospel of Love.

As we struggle to shape our lifestyle to yours, you carry us with you wherever we go.

You speak your Good News, teach us to begin by just opening our hearts.

Though we have done nothing to earn this, you pour out the gifts of grace and mercy upon us.

When we stumble over our lack of trust, you set us back on our feet, to follow you into the kingdom, a Kin-dom of Love.

Offering

"My Tribute" by Andrae Crouch Performed by Jeff Sator

Doxology

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of Boundless Goodness: We have come to this place this day to worship you with our songs, with our words, with our gifts, and with our whole hearts.

We are reminded that our discipleship decision involves more than what we bring this day to the altar; it calls us to a place where a cross that is ours alone must be picked up and carried.

This, more than anything else, is why we need the community of your church.

Strengthen us, we pray, not just to carry our own cross, but to help sisters and brothers carry their crosses as well. In the name of the one who bore his cross for us. 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 *The Summons FWS# 2130*

All

SENDING

Beloved, go from this place in the love and power of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—to meet your neighbors and *yourself* with an open heart as we take up our cross and follow Jesus for the sake of the gospel. Amen.

God Bless! Go in love, joy, and peace. Shalom. Amen.

Postlude

"Living for Jesus A Life That is True"

by C. Harold Lowdeen arr. Julia Tsien

Luann Alderks

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 Lucas Ostermann for shoveling this week.

Week of Feb 25th-Mar 2nd: Tom Stowe

Website



Online giving



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sun. Feb 25: Little Prairie Moving Forward meeting

Mon. Feb 26, 8:30 am: Breakfast Club, L& M (every Monday)

Tues. Feb 27, 7pm: Choir Rehearsal

Wed. Feb 28, 9-10:30 am Pastor Penny is at James Gang coffee shop

Wed. Feb 28, 5:30 pm: Lenten Soup Suppers begin with the Art of Lent

Sat. Mar 2: 9am Soul Sisters (See Theresa Siemers for details)

Thurs. Mar 14, 6pm: Finance meeting

Sun. Mar 17: New member Sunday

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.