

CONFLICT

The last few Sundays we have been reflecting on conflict. Jesus experienced conflict in the wilderness with the tempter. Jesus faced conflict with both religious leaders and political influencers. We all experience conflict.



Palm Sunday was tense with conflict.

There was always a messianic tension in Jewish life. An intense expectation of a Savior. This is what brings conflict to the Palm Sunday story - a messianic twist. Israel was a nation with a couple of characteristics: [1] they had an underdog complex & [2] they had a promise.

For a large part of their history, the people of Israel were under the oppression of various superpowers. From Egypt to Rome, being oppressed and overruled by the enemy was a big part of the Israelite identity. But, Israel was also a nation with a Book filled with promises that a Messiah would save and send its enemies into flight. Texts like Isaiah 49 were formative, "This is what the Lord says: ...in the day of salvation I will help you... I will restore the land and reassign its desolate inheritances... I will say to the captives, 'Come out!' And to those in darkness, 'Be free!'"

For the most part, words such as these were viewed through the lens of nationalism. Therefore, the people were looking for a political, military type of savior. And so, embedded in their national identity was the anticipation of this type of deliverer / King, and at this point in time, Jesus seemed to be the perfect candidate. Jesus had a three-year resume of healing and teaching, and doing it all with a convincing essence of Divine authority & power. And Lazarus was the lynchpin. If you are looking for a Messiah and you are going through the resumes, and there is a candidate on the list who can raise the dead—he's your man!

Jesus was their man. Or so it appeared. Palms were waved in the air as Jesus entered Jerusalem. Jesus was given a conquerors welcome into the city. Palm waving was a victory celebration. The war is over, and we won!

Yes, may the conflict begin. The crowds were welcoming a victor, but little did they know it was the wrong war. Jesus came to wage a much greater struggle, the cause and source of all the others, the struggle "not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12).

This is the struggle that Jesus would win, but it was a struggle that first required the shedding of blood. "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (Hebrews 9:22). It would be the victory in this struggle through which Jesus would claim the title Savior, Lord, King and Victor. His resurrection would secure this, but the crowds couldn't wait. Their eyes went elsewhere. Their expectations and their impatience would get the best of them and in just a few days they would cry, "Crucify him!"

Yes, it's Palm Sunday. May the conflict begin.

matthew will

Bethany Church

Reach. Serve. Love.



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 9:00AM - masks required

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 10:30AM - masks optional

- **10-10:30 AM Sunday School**
- **7 PM Wednesday Night Classes**
- **Jr & Sr High Youth Group check the website**

Every other pew will be roped off to help maintain proper distancing.

Sanctuary and communal spaces will be sanitized between services.

Disposable masks are available at the welcome center desk.

Facebook livestream times may vary. Notices will be sent out with livestream information.

222 MAIN STREET N | CLARA CITY MN

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 687

320.847.3322

*Bethany Doors will be open: Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday 8:00 am – 1:00 pm*

Office email : bethany@hcinet.net

Bethany Prayer Chain email : info@bethanychurch-mn.com

[Give | Bethany Church - MN](#)

Anyone who would like a DVD of the services or know of someone who would like to receive one call the church office at 847-3322 or send an email to bethany@hcinet.net.

BETHANY DIRECTORY. <https://mobiledirectory.lifetouch.com/158305/bethany-reformed-church>

Access code is BRC20. The information can also be changed. If your contact information and anything else in your listing has changed, please contact the church office at 847-3322 or email at bethany@hcinet.net

SUNDAY GATHERINGS

“Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing...” Heb 10:25

Directives

Bethany will have disposable masks available.

Hand sanitizer is provided.

NO nursery or Children’s Church.

NO gathering in The Hub after the service.

Offering plates are set out at the back of the sanctuary.

Please exit the sanctuary after the service and visit outside.

Maintain proper distances while entering & exiting the sanctuary.

Please be seated in family groups and social distanced from others.

Remain in primary gathering spaces; sanctuary, entrance and bathrooms.

Singing is great! But not required.

If you are feeling sick or are anxious about returning, please remain at home and join in on our FACEBOOK PAGE LIVESTREAM

Directives for General Building Use

Please note that throughout the church building, rooms contain a spray bottle with a cleansing solution in it and a clean rag. Anyone using rooms during the week are asked to spray and wipe the areas used. Any questions can be directed to staff.

Stay Safe Guidance for Places of Worship

- Stay home when sick.
- Stay at least 6 feet apart from other people.
- Wear face coverings.
- Wash your hands often.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.

Winter Weather Notifications. In the event of Sunday morning winter storms, closure announcements will be posted on the Bethany Facebook Page, the Bethany website, sent out via Prayer Chain, KDMA Radio in Montevideo or KWLM - Willmar and website: willmarradio.com

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR CHURCH MAILBOXES!!



Open House Bridal Shower honoring Lauren Spaeth
bride-to-be of Corey Abbas

Saturday, April 10th, from 10 am ~ 12 pm

Bethany Reformed Church ~ The Hub

Registered at: Amazon & Target

Congratulations to the following 11th graders on their Profession of Faith!

Landin Ahrenholz | Brooks Asche | Ella Bourne | Hallye Foster

Elizabeth Koenen | Tyler Loe | Benny Miller | Olivia Naatjes | Gavin Nord

Breanna Ostendorf | Isaac Strommer



Join us for a Bridal Shower honoring **Hailey Vreeman**
bride-to-be of Riley Aeikens

Saturday, April 24th from 9:30-11:30 at Bethany

Registered at: Target, Zola, and Crate & Barrel

NEWS

ON THE HORIZON. The Consistory unanimously approved a date to return to a single Sunday morning worship service. *Beginning May 30, Bethany will resume with one service at 9:30 AM.* Rationale: [1] COVID vaccination availability. [2] The Memorial Day weekend typically marks an entry point to summer and a subsequent decline in attendance.

HUM Audio Bible App. Hum is a free mobile app that provides recordings of the Bible in both official and heart languages of India. HUM is a mission venture of the Reformed Church in America (RCA).

Easter Sunday Evening Celebration - You are invited to conclude your Easter Sunday with an Area-Wide Community worship celebration, Sunday Evening, April 4, at 6:00pm. To accommodate for size and spacing, the service will be held in the gym at CMCS in Prinsburg. This service will also be live online (YouTube - channel TBD) and broadcast over KDJS radio. Pastor Joel DeBoer, interim pastor at Bunde CRC, will be bringing the message. An offering will be taken to bless Hope Pregnancy Center and Campus Ministries at Ridgewater. If attending in person, please adhere to health protocols as you discern best for you and your family for attending a public indoor gathering. Let's join together to celebrate the Risen King!

LENTEN CALENDAR

Men's Lenten Breakfast. Wednesday morning's at 6:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and rolls will be available.

Profession of Faith. Palm Sunday, March 28 during the 9:00 AM morning worship service.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service.

Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 PM

Good Friday Women's Service.

Friday, April 2 at 6:30 AM

Featured Speaker: Tara (Lalim) Griess
"Bound for Glory"



CALENDAR



Wednesday, March 24

- 6:30 am Men's Lenten Breakfast
- 5:30 pm Elders Meeting w/ *Profession of Faith* students
- 7:00 pm Jr High Youth (YA)
- 8:00 pm Sr High Youth (AFC)

Sunday, March 28

- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- 9:00 am PROFESSION OF FAITH WORSHIP SERVICE**
- 10:30 am Worship Service**
- 4:30 pm The Truth Project (Sanctuary)

Monday, March 29

- 1:00 pm Mission Quilters (Basement)
- 7:00 pm Deacon's Count

Tuesday, March 30

- 1:30 pm Amazing Collection Bible Study (Library)

Wednesday, March 31

- 6:30 am Men's Lenten Breakfast
- 7:00 pm Jr High Youth (YA)
- 8:00 pm Sr High Youth (AFC)

Thursday, April 1

- 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service

Friday, April 2

- 6:30 am Women's Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 4

- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- 9:00 am Easter Service**
- 10:30 am Easter Service**

Monday, April 5

- 1:00 pm Mission Quilters (Basement)

Tuesday, April 6

- 1:30 pm Amazing Collection Bible Study (Library)

Wednesday, April 7

- 7:00 pm Catechism Awards Night (Grades 1-6)
- 7:00 pm Jr High Youth (YA)
- 8:00 pm Sr High Youth (AFC)

Saturday, April 10

- 10 am - noon Lauren Spaeth Open House Bridal Shower (Groom: Corey Abbas)

PRAYER

PRAYERS of PRAISE!

- ✝ Alan and Lori Petersen welcomed new grandchildren into their lives on March 2nd. Twin boys, born to Jeff and Beci Eliason: Maxwell Anders & Theodore Aksel.

PRAYERS for HEALING, STRENGTH, PEACE:

- ✝ Bruce Hinrichs
- ✝ Ruth Johnson
- ✝ Deanna Meints
- ✝ Milt Wubben
- ✝ Vivian Reiners
- ✝ Darren Melin
- ✝ Gary Slagter – is home and continues to heal from ankle surgery.
- ✝ Heather Thielen – will have surgery on April 15 to remove a noncancerous tumor.
- ✝ Kathryn Klinghagen and family

The Care Center is open for visitors. There is a limit of 10 guests in the facility at any given time, so please contact the Care Center office before coming to ensure they are within the limit — (320) 847-2221.

Leonard Klinghagen passed away Thursday, March 18 at the Clara City Care Center. Leonard was a member of Bethany and served as elder, deacon, and chairman of the building committee. Funeral services were held at 10:00 AM on Monday, March 22, at Bethany.

THANKS

Prayer Shawl Ladies,

On behalf of Easton and my family I would like to thank you for thinking of Easton during his stint in the hospital. I cannot thank you enough for praying for my little man during that difficult time. It was so reassuring to hear that so many people were thinking and praying for him. Thank you so much for the prayer shawl it is beautiful. Every time I look at it in his room, I am reminded it is not just Michelle and I watching over him. Again, thank you so much for this thoughtful gift and praying for Easton, he has made a full recovery and is back to being energetic and smiley self and the center of our world.

God Bless
The Epema's

YOUTH NEWS

Power Connection registration closes on Wednesday, April 14th. To register go to Bethany website under Junior High Page.

ROCKY

- **Needed 1 female sponsor for Rocky Mountain High.**
- **Leaving the evening of July 30 – Mid afternoon August 4th.**
- **Contact Todd if interested.**

AFC & YA will continue to meet ...May 5th will be the last night!

Baccalaureate Service will be on May 12th. Site to be determined.

Bethany VBS: Kids Under Construction

Monday, May 17 – Thursday, May 20 from 6 – 8 pm

Kids currently in K – 6th Grades

- ✝ If you are planning to send your children to VBS please fill out the forms by the welcome center (before Easter) & leave in the basket when complete. We are trying to plan for crafts. Thanks!!

NO Sunday School

- ✝ Palm Sunday – March 28th
- ✝ Easter Sunday – April 4th
- ✝ Mother's Day – May 9th

NO Wednesday Night Catechism Classes

- ✝ March 24^h
- ✝ March 31st



Catechism Awards Night – April 7th @ 7 pm *(final night for grades 1-6)*

- **Come & have a fun night!!**

WORSHIP NOTES

*"For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."
John 3:16&17*

We anticipate gathering to worship in special ways through this coming week. Know you are welcome. Know you are loved!

Palm Sunday - March 28

Songs of the morning:

- *Sing Alleluia*
- *Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)*
- *How Great Is Our God*
- *His Mercy Is More*

Maundy Thursday - April 1

Songs of the evening:

- *Living Hope*
- *Graves Into Gardens*
- *The Wonderful Cross/There is a Redeemer / We Fall Down*

Good Friday - April 2nd

Songs of the morning:

- *My Jesus I Love Thee - With Every Breath*
- *You Gave*
- *There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do*

Easter - April 4

Songs of Easter:

- *Christ Our Hope In Life And Death*
- *Stronger*
- *You Alone Can Rescue*

Ladies, come and join us on Good Friday morning as we gather to hear a story of HOPE. Tara Lalim/Griess shares her story . . . a story of challenge, difficulties, fear . . . and ultimately, healing. Come to encourage Tara and to be encouraged yourself, for our God IS with us.

Consistory Positions & Committees 2021

President

Pastor Matthew Miller

Vice President

Dan Wrede

Clerk

Chip Goeman

Chairman of the Deacons

Keith Klinghagen

General Fund Treasurer

Mark Hilbrands

Mission Fund Treasurer

Keith Klinghagen

Building Fund Treasurer

David Hinrichs

Cemetery Fund Treasurer

Wade Buss

Worship Committee

*Chip Goeman

Cory Sietsema

Kim Sandry

Pam Knapper

Leadership Committee

*Dan Wrede

Chuck DeGrote

Keith Klinghagen

Brad Hebrink

Riley Aeikens

Pastor Matt Miller

Education & Youth Committee

*Mark Hilbrands

Riley Aeikens

Wade Buss

Todd Henker

Mission/Outreach Committee

*Keith Klinghagen

Calvin Harms

Scott Ruiter

Fellowship/Congregational Care

*Dan Niemeyer

Roger Knapper

Ron Thomton

Property Committee

*Chuck Ammermann

David Hinrichs

John Hagemeyer

APRIL

Anniversaries

- 2 Blaine & Sheila Westerman
- 5 Steven & Bonnie Andresen
- 5 Marly & Erma Andresen
- 13 Chuck & Paulene Ammermann
- 16 Galen & Ardis Gerdes
- 18 Darrell & Julie Schoep
- 26 Lester & Willie TerWisscha
- 27 Lyle & Sandy Koenen



Birthdays

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Gordon Grussing | 14 Lanae Pieper | 23 Renae Epema |
| 2 Bonnie Andresen | 14 Crew Wrede | 24 Jen Dirksen |
| 2 Greg Ammermann | 15 Marlene Harguth | 24 Allison Pauling |
| 2 Mark Plowman | 15 Mary Ellen Folkerts | 24 Kinslee Hilbrands |
| 3 Ella Pauling | 16 Aleah Schwitters | 25 Taylor Grussing |
| 5 Kelsey Butler | 17 Agnes Carlson | 26 Aubrie Hagemeyer |
| 8 Kara Dirksen | 17 Kari Asche | 26 Amanda Tebben |
| 9 Marsha Harms | 17 Alan Boonstra | 27 Gloria Hilbrands |
| 9 Dan Wrede | 18 Annie Bourne | 27 Darla Koenen |
| 9 Emily Torkelson | 18 Annie Sandry | 29 Anna Gilbertson |
| 10 Tim Beseman | 20 Chantell Slagter | 29 Julie Abbas |
| 13 Carter Asche | 21 Hayden Boonstra | 29 Linda Cavaness |
| | 22 Aaron Ahrenholz | |
| | 22 Lindsay Grussing | |