

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 2, 2022 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

C: Amen.

P: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. † In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

O Come All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all!

C: And also with you!

Kyrie

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20

¹²Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

¹³who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.

¹⁴God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.

¹⁶God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?

¹⁸The Lord sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.

²⁰The Lord has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

Gospel Acclamation: Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Glo-ria in excelsis De-o; glo-ria in excelsis De-o.

Gospel: John 1:1-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Paul

Song of the Day:

He Came Down

ELW 253

Apostles 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 Church / Sign of the Peace

Offering (*encouraged for before or after service, using vase only and not ushers*)

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Words of Institution

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 and ever. Amen.

Communion

Communion Songs:

The First Noel
What Child is This?

ELW 300

ELW 296

Final Blessing

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Traverse City, MI 49686
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www.bethlehemtc.org

January 2, 2022

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1/03—Carol Bowes
1/05—Jacque Rossfeld
1/06—Michael McCarty

1/04--Jennifer Cilluffo
1/05—David Glenn
1/08—Cecilia Kurkowski

A COVID update from Council:

“For several months, Grand Traverse County has topped the 14-day average 7% Covid positivity threshold set up by Council for our current precautions. At the last Council Meeting, it was voted upon that **if the positivity rate rises to 17.5% that Bethlehem will once again require mandatory masks regardless of vaccination status.** This will ensure that we are doing our part to keep our parishioners and community safe.

Currently, Munson Healthcare has activated Pandemic Response Level Red for the first time in history (<https://www.munsonhealthcare.org/services/community-health/covid19/pandemic-status>), as they are seeing the most Covid cases since last year. At the time of Tuesday's Council vote, the rate was 15%, and **the latest update, as of time of printing, GT County positivity rate is very close to our new threshold, so we ask that ALL worshippers wear masks.** Stay safe, pray for all good things, and see you soon!

-Your Bethlehem Church Council”

Please note that the new Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday. Also, note that the Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 3rd

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *the Congregation in thanks for all of God's blessings.*

The 2022 Giving envelopes will be available in the Narthex beginning December 22nd. Please pick up at earliest convenience.

The January issue of the STAR is ready. Feel free to check online at www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > “The Online Bethlehem Star” or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>.

We are currently not having Sunday School on January 2nd. However, regular classes will begin on January 9th. **Due to personal reasons, Nancy Ammann will not be able to teach her 3rd-6th graders until further notice. Annie has been filling in for her during December; however, we need someone to step up to take over on a more regular basis.** If enough people volunteer, you can share Sundays. Classes are held during sermon time each Sunday - approximately 20-25 minutes. All materials are provided. Please step up to fill in this much needed ministry. Please contact Annie Slabaugh. Thank you.

A special Thank You to Mary Ann Tanis for **ALL** her help with set up/decorating for the Christmas Eve services. I very much appreciated it. Kate Holtfreter

The Annual Pancake Breakfast & Ski Trip is back and is scheduled for Sunday, January 23rd 8:30AM - 9:30AM! The Ski Trip is scheduled for Sunday, February 20th right after church.

The Y2A Committee and Christian Education Committee are looking for volunteers both youth and adult alike!

Due to Omicron council has asked us to put a cancellation policy in place. If the Traverse City area is at a 17% positivity rate 2 weeks before our Pancake Breakfast, we will have to cancel the fundraiser but the Ski Trip would still be on.

If you are interested in volunteering there is a sign up sheet out on the old contact tracing table. There is also a virtual sign up sheet so see Annie after church or contact her at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org if you need that or have questions!

Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. You may use the sign-up poster in the Narthex by signing on the date you request. **Then fill out a pink slip with the necessary information and place it and a check for \$40 (payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or BLC) in the offering plate on Sunday morning (Preferable) or during the week, in the Administration Assistant's mailbox near the church office entrance.** You may select either "in honor" or "in memory" or "to celebrate". If someone has already signed on the date you would like, feel free to add your name – we welcome more than one on a Sunday. **The 2022 dates are now on the sign-up poster.**

Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font! Cost \$10.00 per rose. Contact Barbara Oster at beo6475@yahoo.com or 231.668.7038.

The outdoor food pantry is closed until spring to make sure that none of the food is damaged by the cold. You can still bring in your staples at any time and place it in the teal bin under the table by the mailboxes. One BLC member knew of an apartment complex for low income residents with food needs and delivered 12 overflowing bags of what had been outside to the very grateful recipients. Please keep the residents of the 72 unit Brookside Commons Apartments in your prayers. Watch for the pantry to jump back into full swing in the spring.

Our blog has been renamed "Paths of Hope". Check it out on the Bethlehem website: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/new-blog-paths-of-hope>.

The Worship & Music committee appreciates the support of our Bethlehem family during our recent Schermer Pecan fundraiser. It was touch and go for a while on the delivery but the pecans arrived in time for Christmas gifts. We also thank Thrivent for funding of the initial purchase.

After two years of cancellations due to COVID-19, Living Water Ministries has decided to make camp a gift freely given for all campers of Stony Lake. This means that there are no registration fees for any program at Stony Lake for the summer of 2022!! Adult Leaders from Bethlehem are planning on being there for Week 1 (June 19-24) as long as there are youth interested. Please note that the Living Water Ministries Board of Directors made the decision to make full vaccination a requirement for attendance at any Living Water Ministries event, including camp. **If your youth is interested in attending camp this summer, please see Annie after service or reach out to her via email at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org no later than Wednesday February 9th.**

Annie is looking for a male co-leader for the upcoming CHARGE Event (Friday March 18 - Sunday March 20 at the Great Wolf Lodge) the male co-leader would be staying with the boys who have registered. Please see Annie after church or reach out to her at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org for more information!

CHARGE - Living Water Ministries has made the decision to cancel the Great Lakes Youth Gathering in January and will instead combine it with CHARGE this year in a hybrid type event! Therefore, grades for CHARGE will be **6th - 12th** and the event will take place from **March 18th - 20th** here in Traverse City at the Great Wolf Lodge! As registration to fills up fast, Annie needs to know who is interested so that we can figure out cost for families right away. **Please let her know if your youth is interested in attending CHARGE in 2022.** She will send further information such as forms to fill out and what the family cost will be once we know the total number of people interested!

Thanks to the dedicated BLC members who joined together to prepare special music for the Advent and Christmas season:

Bell Choir: Crystel Fernholz, Laura Hahn, Kate Holtfreter, Carl Lehto, Cindy Monroe, Jacky Putman, Erin Word. Thanks also to guest Nan Worthington for playing the harp.

Singing Choir: Denice and Phil Bossardet, Crystel Fernholz, Cindy Monroe, Carl Lehto

Video Taping of Bell Choir: Cassidy White & Pastor Paul

The newest Living Lutheran magazine and the January/February/March Christ in our Home can be picked up at the welcome table on Sunday mornings, from the Shooting STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion. We still have copies of the October/November/December *Christ in our Home* available.

The Wednesday morning bible study of Matthew meets from 9-11am. All are welcome. Bring your own bible. We read the bible and then talk about what we read. We say a prayer for any needs that are shared. Come. Join a fellowship. Leader is Barbara Graf.

Quilters need help! We meet on Tuesdays 9:00am-11:00am. It is not traditional quilting. We tie three layers of fabric together. The "quilts" are sent all over the world when needed by Lutheran World Relief. So if you can tie or even cut, please join us on Tuesday mornings.

"Zoom Book Study" gathering via Zoom is on a break until after New Year's. Besides the thought-provoking discussions, we also have great conversation and fellowship. For this series, we will discuss the Gospel of Matthew. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining.

A big thank you to all who turned in their Olesons' receipts to Bethlehem. We just received a check from them for \$179.90. So far this year, we have received \$435.52 total from Olesons' receipts. Please continue to turn in your Olesons' receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks again.

Have something important going on at Bethlehem that you'd like others to know about? Maybe a Small Group? A Club Event? Feature it on the Screen Announcements and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included for either Screen Announcements or Facebook Events please reach out to Annie at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org.

Bethlehem sends weekly emails directly to your inbox with important announcements and information! If you are not getting them for any reason or if you have something you'd like to have added please reach out to Annie at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org.

Still time to Pledge...paper-free!

There is still time to pledge, and your stewardship committee is making it easier than ever to take that next step to help our BLC ministry! See www.bethlehemtc.org/pledge

The church calendar has returned below. Please be sure to notify the office (admin@bethlehemtc.org or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is on the calendar.

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 2

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

11:00am—Parking Lot Communion

Monday, January 3

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, January 4

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

9:00am—Property Work Group

10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)

5:00pm—All-Star DE (FH)

6:30pm—Christian Ed Meeting (GS)

Wednesday, January 5

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Bible Study (YR)

11:30am—Music Rehearsal

1:30pm—ZOOM Bible Study

Thursday, January 6

5:30pm—ACOA

Friday, January 7

6:00pm—Faith & Family SG (FH)

Sunday, January 9

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

11:00am—Parking Lot Communion