

# Epiphany of Our Lord

January 7, 2024 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



**Prelude Music**

**Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of life,

**C: ... you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

**C: Amen.**

**Gathering Song:                    *Bright and Glorious Is the Sky (vs 1, 3, 4 & 6)***

***ELW #301***

**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: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Children's Message

*Pr Paul*

## First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

1 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 2 For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. 3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 4 Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. 5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation: **Angels We Have Heard on High (Refrain)**

**ELW #289**

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

## Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

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

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then,

opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## Sermon

*Pastor Paul Busekist*

## Song of the Day:

***Brightest and Best of the Stars***

**ELW #303**

## 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 *(Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)*

## Offering/Offering Song:

*Zeke Clemons*

## Offertory:

***He Came Down***

**ELW #253**

## Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. 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 *(Please note: gluten-free wafers and white grape juice cups are available)*

## Communion Songs:

***The First Noel***  
***What Child Is This***

**ELW #300**

**ELW #296**

## Final Blessing

P: God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## Sending Song:

*As With Gladness Men of Old*

ELW #302

## Dismissal

A: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God.



**Bethlehem** January 7, 2024  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880  
[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1/08—Cecilia Kurkowski

1/10—Patti Friedli

1/14—Judy Fenton

1/08—Jill Fenton

1/13—Brian Acker

### Worship Servants for January 7

Assisting Minister—Barbara Wright

Lector—Kathy Ancinec

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr Paul

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

Hospitality—Leonard/Barbara Graf

A/V—Dale Wentzloff, Jim Hinds, The Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—Jacque Rossfeld

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter/Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Carl Lehto/Norm Fred

### Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** We often find the front door and/or the kitchen door unlocked when there is no one in the building. Please be sure that the doors are locked when you leave.

### **Please Note:**

Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Alanna Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on Wednesday

**Offerings:** The offering plates are now passed during the service. The vase in the back of the Sanctuary is still available for those who prefer not to touch the offering plate.

**The January issue of the STAR is now available.** For current issues of the Star, feel free to check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://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>.

**The January/February/March Christ In Our Home is now available.** Please take a copy for yourself and also for friends and family.

**Sunday School and Adult Education (Youth Room)- every Sunday at 9:15am.**

**Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes?** Type this address/url into your web browser to get the latest approved minutes from Council: [bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes](http://bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes) OR you may call the office to request a copy.

**Prayer Requests:**

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at [jstretlien@gmail.com](mailto:jstretlien@gmail.com) or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880

**2024 Giving Envelopes are Ready for Pick Up** - I am happy to report that the 2024 giving envelopes have arrived! They are available for pick up at your convenience. The boxes are in the narthex in alphabetical order by last name. Please pick yours up as soon as possible so you will have them ready for January giving. If you have any questions or need help, please contact me during regular business hours. Your Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson

**The next Third Thursday service will be a Taize 1 service on January 18th at 7:00pm.** The service will be livestreamed. The BLC Fellowship Committee will be providing a meal at 5:45 p.m. Please come early and share in fellowship and stay for the service.

**All ages are invited to join us for BLC's annual sledding party!** Join us at Twin Lakes Park at 2:30pm on Sunday, January 21st to enjoy some outdoor time in the winter wonderland. If there is not quite enough snow for sledding, Twin Lakes also has a playground, hiking trails, and a wonderful view of the lake - something for everyone! Snacks and drinks will be provided - bring your warm clothes, a sled, and be ready to have some great outdoor fun together!

**Pancake Breakfast:** BLC's annual Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, January 28th beginning at 8:45am! The breakfast is a fundraiser for BLC's Youth Program and the upcoming ski trip, so come enjoy a delicious breakfast while also supporting the kids of the congregation!

**It's Time For Safe Harbor!** Bethlehem will be hosting at Safe Harbor on January 27, 28, and 30. Cindy Monroe and her kitchen team will be offering a chicken & rice dish on Saturday the 27th; Tina Dohm and her group an Italian lasagna on Sunday the 28th, and B.J. Christensen and friends a ham and scalloped potatoes dinner on Tuesday the 30th. As a reminder, "Loaves & Fishes" handles each and every Monday night throughout the winter season. Sign-up sheets for other jobs at Safe Harbor and for donating snacks will be posted in the Gathering Space at Bethlehem on January 7th. It will be important to fill those quickly. If you have any questions on job responsibilities you are considering, please call me. Full-time Safe Harbor personnel will always be with you. Food donations will be due as follows- at BLC on 25 JAN for 27JAN; at BLC by 28JAN for 28JAN; at BLC 30JAN for 30JAN. Tom Rockne, Bethlehem Safe Harbor Coordinator, Mobile 231.631.0040

**Due Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screen Announcements:**

- STAR: The third Friday of the month sent to [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) (Please note STAR in subject line)
- Bulletin/Verbal Announcements: Tuesday of the week sent to [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) (Bulletin/Worship Folder is prepared on Tuesday and printed on Thursday morning.) (Please note Bulletin or Announcement in subject line)
- Screen Announcements/Weekly BLC Emails: Tuesday of the week sent to [alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org)

**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](mailto:beo6475@yahoo.com) or 231.668.7038.

**Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years.** They are proud people and do not like to be given charity but they will accept help in the form of donated cans that they can recycle for money. Please bring in your recyclables in for them. Leave them by the garage. These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

**Spotlight on Zeke:** So many of us enjoy Zeke's talents with religious music, but did you know that he plays other kinds of music at various locations in the Traverse City area? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC:

**Every Wednesday in January**—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour, 4:00

**January's XYZ Potluck** & Presentation will be on Friday, January 12th at 12pm noon. While primarily geared toward seniors, the group is open to any adult who would like to attend! XYZ meets monthly September through May for a potluck lunch, followed by a program or presentation. January's presenter is Ali LeJeune of Simply Ali. Ali is a locally based professional that focuses on helping you find peace and calm in both your life and your home.

**FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS:** The book club will discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus at its Jan 23 pizza dinner meeting at 5:30. Don't be deceived by the title of this book. It actually should make you laugh outloud!!! Yes, some chemistry is involved, but so much more! There are still some copies of the book in the bin outside the front door. Just sign your name on the sheet by the corresponding number of your book. Please contact Cindy Monroe at [cmonroe@chartermi.net](mailto:cmonroe@chartermi.net) if you want to participate and cannot come to church in order to give plenty of advance notice so that ZOOM can be set up.

**DIRECTORY NEWS UPDATE** – The company producing the directory is moving slower than anticipated. We are now looking at January or February for delivery.

**New member orientation:** We hope to schedule a gathering in January or February for anyone considering membership. Please contact Pastor Paul, membership chair, Cindy Monroe at [cmonroe@chartermi.net](mailto:cmonroe@chartermi.net) or the office at 947-9880 if you are interested in joining Bethlehem.

**Our Care Giving Committee has put up a “Communitas” Board** on the wall of our Coat Room! This “BOARD” is needed and helpful for ALL of us! Following is a suggestion of some things YOU and our YOUTH can do to “interact” with the board and other members of our congregation. The purpose of our “Auxilium Communitas” BOARD (Latin for “Community/Congregation Assistance”) is to SHARE our gifts, talents, or skills to others that might be in NEED of something like: Gardening, Organizing, Painting, Raking leaves, Shoveling, Household tasks, Carpentry, Manicures, Pedicures, Companionship, Care giving, etc. - This list is Endless! You never know when YOU will be in need of some extra help personally, in your home or yard – let's make this “reciprocal” - All ages are Welcome to Help Service our Congregation!

**Adult Bible Study:** meets on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30am in the Youth Room, with a study of the Gospel of John.

**The Zoom Book and Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00pm.** The next study will start on January 10th with a study the Book of Mark.

**The final print issue of the Living Lutheran magazine** can be picked up at the welcome table on Sunday mornings. Please note that beginning with the January issue, the Living Lutheran will be digital at [www.livinglutheran.org](http://www.livinglutheran.org). There is no charge for the digital.

**Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations?** It has been moved inside the coat room to the right. Also, the area for the Oleson and Family Fair receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside.

**Coffee and Cookies on Sunday:** Remember that treats and a hot drink on Sunday are appreciated by all. Please take a moment to sign up to bring cookies or some other tasty treat on the Sunday that works best for you. Or sign up to prepare the coffee. As requested by some of our new members there is a plan in the works to have one Sunday per month when we join in the Fellowship Hall. We can sit at a table and chat with someone new while we munch on a treat. More on that to come...

**Name tags:** Your name tags are in your mailboxes. Please retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and with so many recent new members it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it.

**Food Pantry:** We will NOT be closing our outdoor pantry for winter this year. We have a new member who ran an outdoor pantry downstate and she has given us lots of ideas of foods that can be stored there during the cold months including: hamburger helper, stuffing mix, dry milk, instant potatoes, cookies, and rice. Also, there is always room for dry goods such as toilet paper, paper towels etc. Please start looking for some of these items when they are on sale and bring your extras to the coat room. Your generosity is so appreciated.

**A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts.** We just received a check from Olesons for \$268.15 for a total of \$593.03 this calendar year. Please continue to drop off your Olesons' receipts at Bethlehem. Please note they do not expire. Thank you.

**Hoop's Pet Food Pantry:** This is the only pet food pantry in NW lower Michigan. They primarily provide dry food, wet food, treats, cat litter and toys for mostly dogs and cats but they will support any type of pet to the best of their ability. Please visit them at the Square Deal Country Store, 900 Woodmere Ave, TC from 11:00am – 2:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month with your donations OR you may leave donations in the tub on our “donations” table in the coat room. The volunteers have expressed their appreciation when receiving our donations.

**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, weekly emails and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included in any of these, please reach out to [alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org) If you are not getting the weekly emails for any reason, please contact Alanna.

**Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service.** The sheets for 2024 are ready. Please 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 Administrative 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 church calendar is below. Please be sure to notify the office ([admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is of the calendar.**

**Sunday, January 7**

9:15am—Sunday School  
9:15am—Adult Ed  
10:00am—Worship Service (S)  
11:15am—Congregational Assembly  
1:00pm—Confirmation Winter Hike

**Monday, January 8**

1:00pm—Finance Committee (CR)

**Tuesday, January 9**

**Bulletin articles due today**

9:00am—Property Work Group  
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)  
12:00pm—Sarah Circle (Library)  
1:00pm—Friendship Bible Study (Offsite)  
6:00pm—Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting (YR)  
6:30pm—Executive Committee (CR)

**Wednesday, January 10**

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)  
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)  
1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study

**Thursday, January 11**

9:00am—Baby Pantry Set-up (FH)  
10:00am—Baby Pantry (FH)  
1:00pm—Rebecca Anna Circle (Library)  
5:30pm—ACA (FH)  
7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

**Friday, January 12**

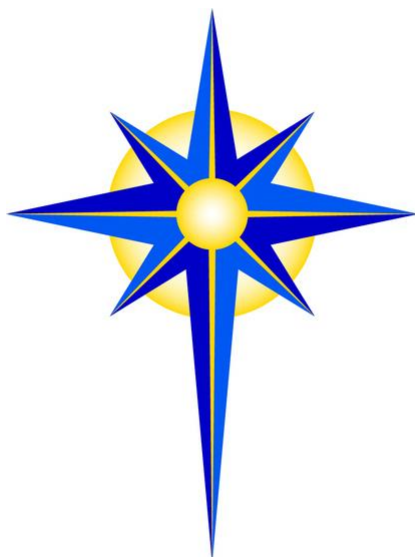
12:00pm-XYZ Potluck (FH)

**Saturday, January 13**

7:00pm—Contra Dance (FH)

**Sunday, January 14**

9:15am—Sunday School  
9:15am—Adult Ed  
10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)  
11:15am—Worship and Music (CR)





**X Y Z**  
extra years of zest

Join us for a potluck lunch,  
followed by a  
program or presentation.

Friday  
*January 12th*  
12pm




**SIMPLY ALI**

Traverse City based professional  
organizer and home simplification expert  
Ali LeJeune  
partners with you to bring calm and  
clarity to your spaces.



baysidetravellersdance@yahoo.com  
@baysidetravellersdance

**Saturday**  
**January 13th**

*Beginner Dance Workshop 7pm*  
*Dances from 7:30 - 10:30pm*



# Contra Dance

*Music provided by Dag Nabbit*  
with dances called by  
Dave Goodwin

**Dance by Donation**  
\$10 / person suggested

*Thank you for  
supporting traditional  
music and dance!*

No partner or dance  
experience needed!

All dance levels welcome!

**LOCATION**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
1050 Peninsula Drive  
Traverse City MI 49686

## **SLEDDING AT TWIN LAKES**

Sunday, January 21st  
2:30pm



Snacks and drinks provided!