

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 23, 2022 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: ... we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.

P: Rejoice in this good news: In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Open Your Ears O Faithful People

ELW 519

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: Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Children's Message

Annie Slabaugh

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that "the joy of the Lord is your strength."

¹All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation: The Joy of the Lord is Your Strength

The joy of the Lord is my strength
The joy of the Lord is my strength
The joy of the Lord is my strength
The joy of the Lord is my strength

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

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

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

We are Marching in the Light

ELW 866

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: Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. 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:

**Be Still My Soul (In You I Rest)
Here is Bread**

(words below)
ELW 483

Be Still My Soul (In You I Rest):

Be still, my soul, the Lord is on thy side. Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide. In every change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul, thy best, thy heav'nly friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul, thy God doth undertake to guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake. All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul, the waves and winds still know His voice, who ruled them while he dwelt below.

In You I rest; in You I found my hope. In You I trust; You never let me go. I place my life within Your hands alone.
Be still, my soul.

Be still, my soul, the house is hast'ning on When we shall be forever with the Lord.
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, Love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past; all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

In You I rest; in You I found my hope. In You I trust; You never let me go. I place my life within Your hands alone.
Be still, my soul.

In You I rest; in You I found my hope. In You I trust; You never let me go. I place my life within Your hands alone.
Be still, my soul. Be still, my soul. Be still, my soul.

Final Blessing

P: God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name,
✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.
C: **Amen.**

Sending Song:

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

ELW 551

Dismissal

A: Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.
C: **Thanks be to God.**



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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January 23, 2022

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1/25—Laura Hahn
1/26—Ron Hellenga
1/28—Jim Monroe

1/25—Jane Kurkowski
1/27—Mathew Branch
1/28—Zeke Clemons

A COVID update from Council:

“For several months, Grand Traverse County has topped the 14-day average 17% 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 well above 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.

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *Ron & Sherryl Hellenga in Memory of Thad Hellenga*

The 2022 Giving envelopes are available in the Narthex. Please pick your box up at your earliest convenience.

COLLEGE/MILITARY PACKAGES: The Christian Education Committee once again wants to let our college students and military personnel know that they are in our thoughts and prayers. We are asking for the **names and complete addresses** of all college students and military personnel who are living away from home. Please contact Nancy Ammann with this information before January 30th. Phone 946-8433
email nmammann@gmail.com Thank you.

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>.

Due to the current positivity rate in Traverse City, we will be cancelling the Pancake Breakfast that was originally scheduled on Sunday, January 23rd. While we are disappointed, we are excited to announce that the Ski Trip scheduled for Saturday, February 26th, 9:00am – 6:00pm, is still on! Details will be coming out soon but please reach out to Annie with any questions or concerns.

Book Club News: The book has been decided for the January 25 book club meeting at 5:30 on ZOOM. It will be *The Women of the Copper Company* by Mary Doria Russell and the books are in the plastic bin outside of church. Be sure to sign your name on the sheet next to the number that matches the number on your book. This book tells the story of the mining industry in the upper peninsula especially near Calumet. If you are not already on the email list and would like to join the discussion please send your email to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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



BLC Safe Harbor Supervision

BLC will provide support for the Safe Harbor Emergency Housing Shelter for the period Saturday, February 5 through Tuesday, February 8. This is our part of a shared full week of service with the Northern Lakes Community Church. Two types of support are needed: Donations of Snack items and On-site Volunteer Service

Donations of Snacks

We are seeking donations of sack items for guests to enjoy in the evening hours. Suitable snacks include granola bars, easily peeled fruit (bananas, clementines), commercially prepared snacks in individual packages (chips, pretzels, etc.), homemade goodies (cookies, brownies) that are packaged in individual-sized kitchen baggies.

If you wish to donate snacks, please call, text, or email Jim Hutchison for more details: 231-668-1916, hutchison@alma.edu. Contact with him should be made by Thursday, Feb. 3. You will be asked to deliver your items to the shelter building.

On-site Volunteer Service

The need for volunteers is lower than in past years since Safe Harbor staff directly supervises guests during the 6 pm to 10 am period that the shelter is open. Volunteers serve in the following three ways:

1. Evening Welcoming Volunteers 5:30PM - 9PM

Two volunteers (men or women) each evening will assist the professional staff with checking in the guests. These volunteers provide an important service because guests are literally coming in from an often unwelcoming and even threatening world and a kind welcome is so important. Our kindness helps them relax and trust.

These volunteers also maintain a coffee cart and are the eyes and ears of the professional staff, observant while being welcoming, bringing to them any concerns about guest behavior, especially in the dining room and the tent and smoking areas.

During this period guests will eat in shifts at tables divided by plexiglass shields. Otherwise, guests will lounge in an outside heated tent and sleep in bunks that are separated from one another by plastic sheeting.

2. Morning Volunteer 6AM -8:15AM

The Morning Volunteer (one or two) assists the Safe Harbor Staff with providing coffee, making the guests' own medications available to them, and giving guests a warm send-off.

3. Evening meal preparation

Groups in the congregation have already committed to provide these meals. Those involved with meal preparation and dinner service will not have duties outside the kitchen.

How to volunteer. It is not expected that BLC will provide all the needed volunteers. Community volunteers are available to assist our efforts. You may sign up be a volunteer at this web site: https://gtsafeharbor.ivolunteer.com/beth_luthe_nlcc Please call, text, or email Jim Hutchison, 231-668-1916, hutchison@alma.edu for more information.

Shelter operating procedures are designed to provide a safe environment for both guests and volunteers. Guests and volunteers are given temperature checks before they are admitted. We are not asking you to volunteer out of a sense of obligation to our congregation, rather we seek volunteers who are comfortable with working at the shelter and who are motivated by a personal desire to participate in this ministry of service to others in this difficult time.

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 has returned on Wednesdays at 1:30pm for the new year. Besides the thought-provoking discussions, we also have great conversation and fellowship. For this series, we are discussing the Gospel of Matthew. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining.

Please continue to turn in your Olesons' receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks for your support.

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.

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 23

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion

Tuesday, January 25

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
9:00am—Property Work Group
10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)
5:30pm—Book/Supper Club (Zoom)
6:30pm—Newcomers (FH)

Wednesday, January 26

Bulletin articles due today

Star articles due today

9:00am—Bible Study (YR)
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:00pm—Johnson SG (Offsite)
1:30pm—ZOOM Bible Study

Thursday, January 27

5:30pm—ACOA (GS)

Sunday, January 30

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion
1:00pm—Confirmation Class (Offsite)