

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 13, 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:

Blest Are They

ELW 728

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: Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

⁵Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. ⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. ⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. ⁹The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? ¹⁰I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 1

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

Gospel Acclamation: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

ELW 752

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Gospel: Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

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

¹⁷Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. ²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ²⁴“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479

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:

**Create In Me a Clean Heart Oh God
Canticle of the Turning**

**BLC Choir
ELW 723**

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:

Blessed Are Those Who Do Believe

(words below)

Blessed are those who do believe. Blessed are those who do believe. Though they have not seen they trust God faithfully.

Blessed are those who do believe. Blessed are those who do believe. Though they have not seen they trust God faithfully.

Some people doubt what they have not seen. They will not blindly follow what is said.

Others view this as a weakness but it can authenticate instead. See my nail pierced hands. Come touch my wounded side.

I give what you need for faith as you give your trust completely my Spirit will guide.

Blessed are those who do believe. Blessed are those who do believe. Though they have not seen they trust God faithfully.

Blessed are those who do believe. Blessed are those who do believe. Though they have not seen they trust God faithfully.

As I've been given so I give you to the world, forgive the sins of all,

... bringing hope to doubting faces, tearing down where hatred builds a wall. And as you bring life to places here and far,

... always keep in mind you are not loved for what you do but for whose you are.

Blessed are those who do believe. Blessed are those who do believe. Though they have not seen they trust God faithfully.

Blessed are those who do believe. Blessed are those who do believe. Though they have not seen they trust God faithfully.

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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www.bethlehemtc.org

February 13, 2022

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2/14—Kelly Bauer Thomson
2/17—Rodney Rice

2/15—Martha Sheehan
2/19—Chuck Ardingo

A COVID update from Council:

For several months, Grand Traverse County has topped the 14-day average 17.5% Covid positivity threshold set up by Council for our current precautions. **We continue to require mandatory masks regardless of vaccination status.** This will ensure that we are doing our part to keep our parishioners and community safe.

During the last few months, 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 have been seeing the most Covid cases since last year. **At the 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: *Nancy Ammann in Honor of the Prayer Chain for their diligence and faithfulness in prayer.*

Sunday flowers: Those of you who donate for the weekly flowers: you are welcome to wait a few minutes after the service in the kitchen to pick-up a bouquet for yourself or someone else. The flower brigade is so thankful for your donation they want to thank you also.

The Slabaugh Family are in need of new part-time childcare starting Monday, May 2nd. Days needed are Monday & Tuesday 9AM - 5PM (9AM - 3PM on the 2nd Tuesday of the month). If you have an interest or know of anyone please reach out to Annie to talk further!

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY! Would YOU be available to make a Call, send a Card, or thoughtful Flowers to another member of our Congregation? Please look at Corinthians 13: 4-8 and listen to what it says to YOU! Our Christian Care Giving is always open for more help with our team. Call Kathi Ivany at (231)- 929-4911 OR James Hinds at (231) 947-8545

LADIES' AFTERNOON OF FUN! ALL women of Bethlehem are invited to an afternoon of games and prizes! February 20th from 2-4PM. Potluck finger snacks are encouraged! Lots of fun and laughs! See you there!

As the Omicron variant contributes to the largest surge we've seen during this time of pandemic, people remain understandably uneasy about coming together for large group, in-person events that occur indoors. As a result, **Living Water Ministries has decided to postpone the upcoming Charge event, moving it from March 18-20, 2022 to November 4-6, 2022.** It is their hope this postponement will buy necessary time for current COVID realities to lessen so that we can gather together all of God's children this fall for a phenomenal weekend of faith formation, service, leadership, and community. Please reach out to Annie either after church or at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org for any questions or concerns.

Giving Statements Available: Your individual giving statements are available in your mailbox in the Narthex. The statement covers giving from January through December 2021. Please pick them up at your convenience. To save on postage, I will mail out the ones not picked up by the end of March 2022. Thank you for your generous support for the programs and ministries of your church especially during these uncertain times. Your Bookkeeper

The February issue of the STAR is available. Beginning with the March issue, the Star will be published on the last Sunday of the previous month. For example, the March issue will be published on February 27th. If you have an article to submit, the due date will be the third Friday of the previous month. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Oster in the church office. For current issues of the Star, 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 Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screenannouncements:

STAR: The third Friday of the month sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Please note STAR in subject line)

Bulletin/Verbal Announcements: Wednesday of the week sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Bulletin/Worship Folder is printed on Thursday morning.) (Please note Bulletin or Announcement in subject line)

Screen Announcements/Weekly BLC Emails: Tuesday of the week sent to annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org (Annie works Sunday – Wednesday)

Monthly STAR: Thanks to all of you who have said that you will read the STAR on line or pick it up at church. Those of you who come to church, be thinking if there is any member close in your neighborhood that you could deliver their copy to them. If you have recently decided to read on line or pick-up at church please call the office and let them know.

The Ski Trip will be on Saturday, February 26th, we will meet at Crystal Mountain at 9AM and ski until our heart's content! Around 12PM we will meet up over by the tents for lunch (BYO!!) and will have some fellowship time together before heading back out to hit the slopes! We will then meet up again at 4PM and head over to Geno's to continue our tradition of dinner and fellowship! If you are interested in coming to the ski trip and haven't let Annie know yet please let her know ASAP so they can finalize total costs. Also, if you need rental equipment please let Annie know this as well at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org!

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.

Book Club: The book for the Feb. 22 book club meeting at 5:30 on ZOOM is *Finding Dorothy*. Books from the library 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 bag. This book is fiction based on fact told from the point of view of the wife of L Frank Baum, the author of The Wizard of Oz. It describes the actions of Baum's wife Maud as she tries to make certain that the movie stays true to Baum's original story. 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.

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.

NEW CHOIR DIRECTOR: You have all heard of churches sharing a pastor...well BLC is about to embark on a similar kind of new adventure. We will be sharing a choir director with Immanuel in Suttons Bay!! This may sound impossible but your church council believes that we have found a way that this will work. Tony Bero has been approved as the new director. He attends Immanuel every Sunday because he is also their accompanist. Tony will be at all rehearsals and will prepare a choir member to direct the choir as necessary on Sundays. **This is the first Sunday the choir is singing after being prepared by their new director Tony Bero.** We are hoping that there may be times when we video a song in advance so all of you can also "see" Tony. Perhaps we can even join together with his other choir to make an even more powerful and joyful sound. Tony will be selecting weekly music in combination with volunteer Cindy Monroe's selection of the contemporary music, and Kate Holtfreter will continue her volunteer position of organizing all of the music. Some of you may have heard Tony's voice when he previously worked at IPR. In addition to his other church position, he has multiple piano students like our own David Husser. You may learn more about Tony in his bio in the February Star.

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 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 will complete the last chapter of Matthew on 2/16 and start with a new book, "Home By Another Way" by Barbara Brown Taylor. It contains sermons that walk us through the church year. The book can be ordered through Amazon - if necessary, Barbara Oster can help with ordering. 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, February 13

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

Monday, February 14

4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)

Tuesday, February 15

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
9:00am—Property Work Group
10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)
4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)
6:00pm—Council Meeting
7:00pm—Lautner SG (Offsite)

Wednesday, February 16

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Bible Study (YR)
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—ZOOM Bible Study
4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)

Thursday, February 17

4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)
5:30pm—ACOA (GS)

Friday, February 18

STAR articles due
10:00am—Sew Pieceful (FH)

Saturday, February 19

5:00pm—High School Night (FH)

Sunday, February 20

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion
2:00pm—WELCA Game Day (FH)