

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 20, 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:

Softy and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

ELW 608

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 Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message

Annie Slabaugh

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (x2)

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 6:27-38

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

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

Jesus said: ²⁷"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³²"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those

who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726

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 Christ There Is No East or West

(words below)
ELW 650

Be Still My Soul:

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.
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul, they 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 wind 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 hour 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:

Marvelous Light

(words below)

Into marvelous light I'm running, out of darkness, out of shame. Through the cross You are the truth, You are the life, You are the way.

I once was fatherless, a stranger with no hope. Your kindness wakened me, wakened me from my sleep, now.
Your love, it beckons deeply, a call to come and die. By grace now I will come and take this life, take this life.

Sin has lost its power, death has lost its sting. From the grave You've risen victoriously.

Into marvelous light I'm running, out of darkness, out of shame. Through the cross You are the truth, You are the life, You are the way.

My dead heart now is beating, my deepest stain's now clean. Your breath fills up my lungs; Now I'm free, now I'm free.
My dead heart now is beating, my deepest stain's now clean. Your breath fills up my lungs; Now I'm free, now I'm free.

Sin has lost its power, death has lost its sting. From the grave You've risen victoriously.

Into marvelous light I'm running, out of darkness, out of shame. Through the cross You are the truth, You are the life, You are the way.

Lift my hands and spin around, see the light that I have found. Oh, the marvelous light, marvelous light. It's Christ in you.

Lift my hands and spin around, see the light that I have found. Oh, the marvelous light, marvelous light.

Into marvelous light I'm running, out of darkness, out of shame. Through the cross You are the truth, You are the life, You are the way.

Dismissal

A: Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880
www.bethlehemtc.org

February 20, 2022

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2/21—Daniel Hahn
2/24—Paul Rundhaug
2/26—Crystal Fernholz
2/26—Fay Miller

2/22—Sarah Denton
2/25—Doug Stowe
2/26—Barb Beyer

Please note the change: A COVID update from Council:

This week, the Grand Traverse County Covid positivity dipped below the 14-day average 17.5% Covid positivity threshold set up by Council for our current precautions. **Therefore, we will transition to a new worship masking standard of "masks optional for vaccinated persons and required for unvaccinated persons."** This will ensure that we are doing our part to keep our parishioners and community safe. At the time of printing this bulletin, Munson Healthcare is still at its historic Pandemic Response Level of Red (<https://www.munsonhealthcare.org/services/community-health/covid19/pandemic-status>). Stay safe, pray for all good things, and see you soon!

-Your Bethlehem Church Council

Lent Update: As Covid numbers seem now to be heading in an encouraging direction, we hope to ease back into Fellowship supper gatherings this Lenten season. For March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6th, we are planning to have a "simple soup and bread*" dinner in the Fellowship Hall, followed by worship at 6:30. Our 1st Communion students will have class before dinner. Here's our schedule for each night:

5:30pm - 1st Communion Class in the Youth Room (others welcome to socialize in the Gathering Space)

6:00pm - "A Simple Soup* at Six"

6:30pm - Brief Worship (Holden Evening Prayer, Taize, or Scripture with Songs and short message for approximately 30 minutes)

****Our soup each night will be served also with bread, a veggie tray, dessert, coffee and punch.***

Our Lenten theme this year is "The Message and the Messenger" and will focus during the worship message on an eclectic mix of biblical and modern messengers of the gospel. We hope to see you then!

Please note that the new Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.

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

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!

LADIES' AFTERNOON OF FUN - TODAY! 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!
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.

LAUNDRY BASKET PROJECT FOR 2022: We are collecting cleaning items to be given out during the Baby Pantry here at Bethlehem. There is an example basket in the Narthex along with a list of items needed. You may fill an entire basket OR bring single items if you prefer. We would like to have baskets available beginning in March. Thank you for your participation!

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.

CHOIR NEWS: The choir hopes to continue singing one time per month on weekends when the majority of singers are in town. If you are interested, please contact Tony Bero at 231 942-1162 or bero.tony@gmail.com

Stony Lake Camp Registration is open and free to all young campers interested! The deadline has been extended indefinitely and there is still room! Please register online as soon as possible and let Annie know! The week Bethlehem Adult Leaders will be there is Week 1 (June 19 – 24) so make sure you register for that week! Reach out to Annie either after worship or at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org with any questions or concerns.

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.

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 have 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 20

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

Monday, February 21

4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)

Tuesday, February 22

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
9:00am—Property Work Group
10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)
4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)
5:30pm—Book/Supper Club (Zoom)
6:30pm—Newcomers (FH)

Wednesday, February 23

Bulletin articles due today

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

Thursday, February 24

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

Friday, February 25

5:00pm—BLUES Night (FH)

Saturday, February 26

9:00am—Youth Ski Trip (Offsite)

Sunday, February 28

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