

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Lenten Theme – “The Message & The Messenger”

April 3, 2022 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

C: ... we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Trading My Sorrows

(words below)

I'm trading my sorrows, I'm trading my shame. I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.

I'm trading my sickness, I'm trading my pain. I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.

Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord. Yes Lord, yes Lord, Yes, yes Lord. Yes Lord, yes Lord, Yes, yes Lord. Amen

I am pressed, but not crushed, persecuted not abandoned. Struck down, but not destroyed.

I am blessed beyond the curse for his promise will endure – that his joy's gonna be my strength. Though the sorrow may last for the night, his joy comes with the morning.

I'm trading my sorrows, I'm trading my shame. I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.

I'm trading my sickness, I'm trading my pain. I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.

Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord. Yes Lord, yes Lord, Yes, yes Lord. Yes Lord, yes Lord, Yes, yes Lord. Amen

Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord. Yes Lord, yes Lord, Yes, yes Lord. Yes Lord, yes Lord, Yes, yes Lord. Amen

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: Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message

Annie Slabaugh

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21 – “The Message” Translation

The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.

16 This is what God says, the God who builds a road right through the ocean, who carves a path through pounding waves, 17 The God who summons horses and chariots and armies - they lie down and then can't get up; they're snuffed out like so many candles: 18 "Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. 19 Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands. 20 Wild animals will say 'Thank you!' - the coyotes and the buzzards - Because I provided water in the desert, rivers through the sun-baked earth, Drinking water for the people I chose, 21 the people I made especially for myself, a people custom-made to praise me.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Hear Our Prayer

ELW 178

Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
peach to all people, hope for each soul
God of Grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

Gospel: John 12:1-8 – “The Message” Translation

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

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

1 Six days before Passover, Jesus entered Bethany where Lazarus, so recently raised from the dead, was living.
2 Lazarus and his sisters invited Jesus to dinner at their home. Martha served. Lazarus was one of those sitting at the table with them. 3 Mary came in with a jar of very expensive aromatic oils, anointed and massaged Jesus' feet, and then wiped them with her hair. The fragrance of the oils filled the house. 4 Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, even then getting ready to betray him, said, 5 "Why wasn't this oil sold and the money given to the poor? It would have easily brought three hundred silver pieces." 6 He said this not because he cared two cents about the poor but because he was a thief. He was in charge of their common funds, but also embezzled them. 7 Jesus said, "Let her alone. She's anticipating and honoring the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you. You don't always have me."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross

ELW 335

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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: Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. 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:

**Restore in Us, O God
Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

**ELW 328
ELW 338**

Final Blessing

P: You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✠ bless you this day and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

40 Days

(words below)

Forty days to wander, forty days to die to self. Forty days to grow stronger as faith breaks open the gates of hell. The jubilee is over, but grace is far from gone in the hearts of the faithful, broken on the wheels of love.

'Cause in the desert of temptation lies the storm of true conversion, where springs of living water drown and refresh you.

As the Jordan pours out change, your true self is all that remains, where springs of living water bind and break you, bind and break you.

Forty days to remember the Paschal sacrifice. Forty days to discover His passion calls us to new life. The jubilee is over, but mercy's far from gone in the arms of the Father as the wayward child comes home.

'Cause in the desert of temptation lies the storm of true conversion, where springs of living water drown and refresh you.

As the Jordan pours out change, your true self is all that remains, where springs of living water bind and break you.

Bind and break you. Bind and break you, bind and break you, bind and break you.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Alternate NRSV Lesson/Gospel Translations

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸Do not remember

the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Gospel: John 12:1-8

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Traverse City, MI 49686
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April 3, 2022

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4/3—Caleb Kelly
4/6—Jim Kriesel
4/9—Zach Chaussee

4/4—Danny Vipond
4/6—Jon Kirk

Please note the change: A COVID update from Council:

Last 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, have transitioned 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. 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 April 6th, we are having 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 for the majority of Lent nights. Here's our schedule for each night:

5:30pm - 1st Communion Class in the Youth Room (others welcome to socialize in the Gathering Space) There will also be activities for the younger youth at 5:30pm in the Sunday School room at the end of the hallway.

6:00pm - "A Simple Soup* at Six" – this week the soup will be Ham & Bean Soup (ham has been donated by Honey Baked Ham) with a dessert of various sweet breads.

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

DOLLARS AND SENSE: Bethlehem Lutheran Church has greatly expanded our outreach into the community and the world with our live streaming programming. We feel blessed to be able to do this and all of our ministries here at Bethlehem. We need your support to continue this work.

Through mid-March our contributions are running behind where we should be by \$13,585.00. That is a significant shortfall that we as a congregation need to address. We encourage you to stay current with your pledge. Together we can do more and accomplish our vision for the future. Thank you for your support.

Jim Monroe, Your Financial Secretary

This year's North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly will be held virtually on Saturday, May 14th. **We currently have one member and Pr. Paul signed up. However, we are looking for one individual or a couple from the congregation to accompany Pastor Paul for Bethlehem's participation.** For more information, see the synod's website at the link below. The deadline for registration is April 20th. Please let the office or Pr. Paul know if you are interested:

<https://www.mittensynod.org/events/assembly/>

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD STEWARD


~A good steward is trustworthy. 1 Corinthians 4:2, 2 Kings 12:15

~A good steward is faithful regardless of the size of the job he's been given

~A faithful steward remembers that ultimately we work for God and everything belongs to him. Colossians 3:23, Psalm 24:1

After God created man, he planted a garden and put Adam there to tend and keep it.

He made Adam a steward.

We are all stewards of BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  And as such we need to keep you updated to how the funds and resources needed to run our church are doing.

January income was \$24,206 compared to a budgeted income of \$29,894 or a shortfall of \$5,683.

Expenses were \$35,181 compared to a budget of \$29,383 resulting in spending \$5,798 more than budgeted. On a cash basis, expenses exceeded income by \$10,975.

Year to date income was \$49,504 compared to budgeted income of \$60,017 for a shortfall for \$10,513. Expenses were \$65,909 compared to the budget of \$60,718 resulting in spending \$5,191 more than budgeted. On a cash basis, expenses exceeded income by \$16,405.

As you can see above from the finance committee we are behind in income because the donations have been down so far in 2022. We appreciate everyone and every donation received but we kindly ask if you are able to contribute to our wonderful church it would be especially appreciated in these tough financial times we are currently experiencing.

Thank you very much for your consideration

Scott Farley

Stewardship Chairman

The April issue of the STAR is now available. 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>.

Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at jstretlien@gmail.com or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call Rebecca in the church office 231-947-9880

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.

Due Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screen Announcements:

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 newest Living Lutheran magazine and the April/May/June 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.

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

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!

Children's Message Corner: Children's Message Corner on Zoom takes place every other Sunday on Zoom at 2:45PM and all are invited. We take a few minutes of Fellowship before going over the Children's Message and have a more in depth discussion of the gospel lesson and message. To be put on the email list to receive the Zoom link please see Annie after worship or contact her at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org.

For April the BLC book club will be reading "The Stranger in the Lifeboat" by Mitch Albom. It is a very appropriate and thought provoking book to be reading during Lent. THIS BOOK IS NOT AVAILABLE IN A LIBRARY BOOK BAG SO YOU WILL NEED TO PURCHASE OR BORROW YOURSELF FROM THE LIBRARY. Plan to join us on ZOOM on Tues, Apr 26 at 5:30. If you are not already on the list send your email to cmonroe@chartermi.net.

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.

The Living Last Supper, based on Leonardo Da Vinci's painting, will be presented three times next weekend:

Friday, April 8, 7:00pm at First Congregational Church, 6105 Center Road, Traverse City

Saturday, April 9, 1:00pm at St Mary Cathedral, 606 N. Ohio Ave., Gaylord

Sunday, April 10, 5:00pm at St Francis Catholic Church, 1025 South Union Street, Traverse City

A free will offering will be taken.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS: Northern Michigan weather is NOT cooperating so the opening of the BLC outdoor 24/7 food pantry will be postponed to May 1. If you see special deals at the stores you can be buying them and place them in the teal container under the table by the mailboxes. The community will appreciate your generosity.

Upcoming Worship Services:

April 10th, 10:00am -	Palm Sunday Service (<i>Livestreamed</i>)
April 14 th , 7:00pm -	Maundy Thursday Service (<i>Livestreamed</i>)
April 15 th , 7:00pm -	Good Friday Service (<i>Livestreamed</i>)
April 17 th , 8:00am -	Easter Sunday Service
April 17 th , 9:00am -	Easter Continental Breakfast
April 17 th , 10:00am -	Easter Sunday Service (<i>Livestreamed</i>)

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. While we do not have Altar Flowers during Lent, there are plenty of dates available for the rest of the year. 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.

"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 note that we will not be meeting on April 13 or April 20.

A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons receipts. We have received \$276.88 from Olesons so far this year. Please continue to drop your Olesons receipts off at church.

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.

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 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, April 3

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion
11:15am—WELCA Board (CR)
11:15am—Worship and Music Meeting

Monday, April 4

4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)
6:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)

Tuesday, April 5

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
9:00am—Property Work Group
10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)
4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)
6:00pm—Bell Choir (S)
6:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)
7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Wednesday, April 6

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Bible Study (YR)
1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study
4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)
5:30pm—1st Communion (YR)
6:00pm—Drive My Way (LL)
6:00pm—A Simple Soup Dinner (FH)
6:30pm—Lenten service (S)

Thursday, April 7

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
4:00pm—Drive My Way (FH)
5:30pm—ACOA (GS)

Friday, April 8

6:00pm—Faith & Family SG (FH)

Sunday, April 10

Palm Sunday

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion
11:15am—1st Communion (YR & S)