

Second Sunday of Easter
April 27, 2025 – 10am
Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



Prelude Music

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: In the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

P: Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song: *Blessed Are Those Who Do Believe*

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.

(continued on next page)

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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 of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of 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

Peggy Burns S.A.M.

First Reading: Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

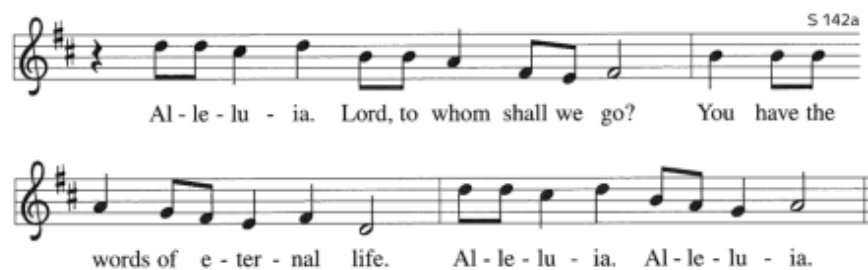
27 When they had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, 28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. 30 The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia



Gospel: John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”

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

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” 24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” 26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” 30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Peggy Burns S.A.M.

Song of the Day:

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing
(v. 1-4 and 9)

ELW 386

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:

Come to the Table

ELW 481

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. 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:

Bread of Life from Heaven
Eat This Bread

ELW 474

ELW 472

Final Blessing

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

ELW 860

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Happy Birthday*

4/30—Carolyn Burns
4/30—Jeanne Bowling
5/1—Carolyn Mann

5/2—Lincoln Dohm
5/3—Christine Hubert

5/4—Sherryl Hellenga
5/4—Lauren Glenn

Worship Servants for April 27

Presiding—Pastor Paul Busekist

Preaching—Peggy Burns S.A.M.

Assisting Minister—Cindy Monroe

Lector—Chris Walter

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: by *Carmen Svalstad in Celebration of Christina's 50th Birthday on April 20th*

Hospitality—Dan / Laura Hahn

A/V—Jim Monroe / Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—Gail Goldsmith / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—Gail Goldsmith

Bell Ringer—Dave Susalski

Front Door Monitor: Gail Goldsmith

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Kate Holtfreter / Cindy Cuba

Scottish Country Folk Dancing at BLC: Some of you have come to the Contra dance on Sat nights here at BLC. Here is a chance to watch or try something a little different. The first gathering will be held TODAY beginning at 12:30. You can have “dessert first” with your BLC friends and then meet some friendly Scottish folks in their plaid kilts who will share a potluck meal including haggis and shortbread. Then you can have a chance to try some basic moves in Scottish country folk dancing. This first event will be free for anyone who is interested.

Our last XYZ before the summer will be on Friday, May 2nd! Please note that this is the first Friday of the month, not the second as is our usual. We will have our normal potluck lunch at church at 12pm noon. Afterwards, we have a special field trip planned to Archangel Ancient Tree Archive in Copemish, to learn about their mission to restore archive the genetics of ancient trees and propagate them to help reforestation efforts. The address we will be going to is 16884 Front Street, Copemish, MI 49625. We will plan to leave BLC between 12:45-1pm, for a 1:45-2pm arrival time in Copemish. All adults who are interested are welcome to join us for lunch and this special field trip! We hope to see you there!

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION: We welcome the following new members on May 4th during the 10:00 service. Please greet them after the service.

Linda Hansen sponsored by Brian and Laura Acker and family

Fred and Linda Reyelts sponsored by Chris and Renna' Walter

Brad Schuler sponsored by Zeke Clemons

Dave and Lindsay Susalski sponsored by Peggy Burns

Gail Tokie (returning member) sponsored by Jacky Putman

What IS GRIEVING? Could it be the loss of a marriage, your home, or community, good health, a dream or something else? The list can go on and on. No matter the loss you have a family here at Bethlehem that loves you, wants to support you, and be here for you! We meet here on the first Monday of the month from 3:30-4:30 and on the third Monday from 5:30-6:30. Due to Peggy being out of town at the Synod Assembly on May 19th, there will not be a grief group on that date. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns 231-392-6913.

WE NEED YOU!!!! Can you do something more? What about stepping forward to being on council? There will be three-3 year positions and two-2 year positions open because of some unexpected relocations of some council members during the past year. There will also be openings on the Sustaining Endowment and Mission Endowment Committees. Please submit your names to anyone on council, on those committees or in the office. And even if you cannot volunteer, please try to be at the Congregational Meeting on June 8 after the service to learn what's going on and to VOTE.

CHAIR YOGA: Chair Yoga continues every Monday at 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5.00 per person. It is slow paced stretches that helps with balance, flexibility and relaxation. Come and try it out.

We are wanting to update the list of people we pray for. If everyone could look at list and let us know of any changes, whether it is people who can be taken off, or should be added, we would appreciate it. Please respond by email to admin@bethlehemtc.org

WELCA Appreciation Dinner for ALL MEN of the congregation on June 1 at 11:45am (after church service). Old Fashioned Roast Beef dinner with all the trimmings will be served. Come for dinner and an uplifting program. There will be a sign-up soon.

SAVE YOUR PAPER SACKS: Please check the nooks and crannies of your home for paper sacks. The Baby Pantry fills requests from preschool teachers for their students whose parents cannot make it to the pantry. Paper sacks are the perfect size to place the needed items for each child. Just place your bags on the Care table in the coat room. Thank you!!

HOW DO WE CARE AND SERVE? John 12:26 “Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant will also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me”. YOU ARE LOVED BY YOUR CHURCH FAMILY. If you would like to have a visit and you would like to receive Communion, Christian Care Giving is here for you! Please let Peggy Burns at 231-392-6914 know and we will have one of our Care Givers come and see you.

Bethlehem will take the third Tuesday of the month for May, June, July, August, and September to staff volunteer positions at Safe Harbor. That’s tentatively May 20; June 17; July 15; August 19; and September 16.

Need four volunteers for each of those nights (Remember, 3 professional staff will lead); one Bethlehem volunteer in the morning.

Volunteer staffing - 4 total in evening and one in the morning; Please sign up; I’ll be in touch.

- Facility Manager (6:00 or so to 9:30 or so)
- Shelter Prep/Check-in (6:00 to 8:30)
- Shelter Prep/Floater (runner, guest meds, FM assist) (6:00 to 8:30)
- Check-in Assistant (6:00-8:30)
- Morning Volunteer (7:00AM to 9:30AM) This is the following morning...

(I have noted 6:00PM for all positions- until 8:30PM- Facility Manager may run an hour later)

This costs us nothing but our efforts... Sign up in the Gathering Space. Please call BLC Safe Harbor Coordinator Tom Rockne with questions...and your commitment! 231-631-0040... Yes, also planning a BLC Hot Dog Picnic at Safe Harbor on June 25... Check with Tom on this... Make a green salad? Potato salad? Macaroni salad? A pot of beans? Cheesy potatoes?

DRIVING VOLUNTEERS?: Thanks to those who have already said “yes” to being a regular or substitute driver to transport a delightful member couple to church. They have good mobility but due to other health issues currently cannot drive. They live at the east end of 14th street so it should be an easy pick-up and drop off for any members coming from the south or west side of town. If you would like to be added to the list of volunteers please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or 231-631-0887.

PROTECT OUR CARPET: spills always happen, but we now have TWO consistent ways to deal with them. Thanks to an anonymous donor we now have an actual carpet cleaning machine stored in the maintenance closet. **If you cause one or see a spot, please grab the spot cleaner in the squirt container below the sink in the fellowship hall ASAP. Just follow the directions on the bottle and we should be able to keep our carpet in good condition. But, if the stain is too big or too resistant, please use the carpet cleaning machine. The longer the stain sits, the harder it is to clean. Thank you!!**

Alcoholics Anonymous: TC Groups are holding their Open Talk here at Bethlehem on three Saturday nights of each month from 8:00-9:00pm. They will not meet here on the second Saturday due to Contra on that night where they will meet at their TC Group office across from Sara Lee.

Coffee and Cookies on Sunday: Remember that treats and a drink on Sunday are appreciated by all. The sign-up sheet has many BLANK spaces so 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 to give our loyal volunteer Mary Ann Tanis a day off.

A big thank you to all who have turned in Olesons’ slips. On March 31st, we received a check from Olesons for \$275.60 from receipts turned in. This makes a grand total of \$592.66. Olesons’ slips never expire. Please continue to turn in your Olesons receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks so much!!! Also, the area for the Oleson receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside. Unfortunately, we are no longer collecting the receipts from Family Fair.

Volunteers for Watching the Front Door During Worship: The Safety and Security Committee has the new sign up sheets available. We need volunteers who can be available to stay in the Gathering Space to lock the doors and let in late comers for Sundays. We appreciate all of the volunteers. If you have any questions, the committee members are Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer, and Jana Rockne.

The May issue of the STAR will be available next weekend. If you receive the weekly email, your May issue will be emailed on May 1st. The shut-ins will receive an issue by mail. There will also be a few copies available on the counter by the mailboxes. You may also contact the office at 947-9880 to request that mail delivery continues. 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>.

Wednesday Bible Studies:

The Adult Bible Study meets from 9:30am—11:30am with the topic of the Book of Colossians

The Zoom Bible Study meets from 1:30pm—3:00pm – The next class will begin on April 30th with a study of the book, *A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World* by Paul Miller. Contact either Pr. Paul or Barbara with questions.

Food pantry news: Finally we are seeing glimpses of Spring. Hopefully it will stick around. The food pantry supplies are running low and could certainly use some donations. When shopping for donations, please consider items with protein like peanut butter, canned ravioli or spaghetti, tuna, and chicken. The items that we do not need any more of are dried beans, peas, and lentils. Right now we have plenty of soaps but can always use feminine care products. We don't have to worry about items in the pantry freezing any more so anything you donate can be used immediately. Thank you all for your continuing generosity and willingness to serve our community. Suzanne and Kathie

REMEMBER, YOU CAN GET A THRIVENT GRANT FOR UP TO \$250 FOR FOOD PANTRY ITEMS.

The Grand Traverse Baby Pantry works out of our church to provide a variety of baby items to almost 100 families each month. You may not know it, but they also provide food items and cleaning products when they are available. Right now the pantry is in critical need of household cleaning products. They have completely run out. Next time you're out shopping, please consider picking up a few cleaning products for the baby pantry. You can leave your donations in the coat room on the table. On behalf of the Grand Traverse Baby Pantry, thanks to all who continue to donate so that we can provide this much needed resource to the community.

You are Invited to Sunday Morning Adult Education: it is that time again, time to power up our learning and sharing of Scripture. We will meet in the Youth Room from 9:15 to 9:45 each Sunday to discuss the lessons for the day. This is a relaxed venue, with inquisitive sharing, practical application, and an opportunity to get better acquainted with your brothers and sisters in Christ! We hope you will join... All Are Welcome!!!!

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:

Wed 4/30—The Pub, Traverse City 7:00pm

Offerings: Even though the offering plates are passed during the service, you may use the vase in the back of the Sanctuary if you prefer not to touch the offering plate.

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-Boomer/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday and from home on Thursday – **Please note that this is a new schedule**

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 OR you may call the office to request a copy.

Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at jstretlien@gmail.com or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880 or admin@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 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 in plastic bags by the garage.** These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations? It is now located inside the coat room to the right. Your donations are very much appreciated.

LOST AND FOUND: If you lose something in the church building, please check our new Lost and Found box located in the Coat Room. Also, if you find something, please put it in the box.

Yarn Available: There is yarn available free for the taking located in the cabinets located under the mailboxes in the Narthex. Take what you need.

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.

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 **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. 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 or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is of the calendar.

Sunday, April 27

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (Library)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
12:30pm—Saint Andrew's Society of Northern MI (FH)

Monday, April 28

2:30pm—Choir rehearsal (S)
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, April 29

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
9:00am—Property Work Group

Wednesday, April 30

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (Library)
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study (Zoom and In-Person)

Thursday, May 1

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, May 2

12:00pm—XYZ (FH)

Saturday, May 3

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)
8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, May 4

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (Library)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
10:00am—New Member Recognition (S)
12:30pm—Youth Discipleship Class (YR)
2:00pm—Girl Scouts (Library)