

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



Prelude Music

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

P: We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing. You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation. Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear. To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

ELW 697

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 God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, 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

Pastor Paul Busekist

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 13:31-35

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

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

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Song of the Day:

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen

ELW 377

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

(Please be seated.)

Offering Song:

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379

Offertory: *(Please stand, as able.)* **Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
 all; u - nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta - ble
 with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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:

**All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly
Where Charity and Love Prevail**

**ELW 461
ELW 359**

Final Blessing

P: God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

My Lighthouse

(words below)

In my wrestling and in my doubts, in my failures, You won't walk out.

Your great love will lead me through; You are the peace in my troubled sea, whoa oh, You are the peace in my troubled sea.

In the silence, You won't let go. In the questions, Your truth will hold. Your great love will lead me through; You are the peace in my troubled sea, whoa oh, You are the peace in my troubled sea..

My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse shining in the darkness, I will follow You!

Oh, my Lighthouse, my Lighthouse, I will trust the promise: You will carry me safe to shore, safe to shore, safe to shore safe to shore.

I won't fear what tomorrow brings. With each morning, I'll rise and sing. My God's love will lead me through; You are the peace in my troubled sea, whoa oh, You are the peace in my troubled sea..

My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse shining in the darkness, I will follow You!

Oh, my Lighthouse, my Lighthouse, I will trust the promise: You will carry me safe to shore, safe to shore, safe to shore safe to shore.

Fire before us, You're the brightest. You will lead us through the storms.

Fire before us, You're the brightest. You will lead us through the storms. Hey!

Fire before us, You're the brightest. You will lead us through the storms.

Fire before us, You're the brightest. You will lead us through the storms.

My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse shining in the darkness, I will follow You!

Oh, my Lighthouse, my Lighthouse, I will trust the promise: You will carry me safe to shore, safe to shore, safe to shore safe to shore.

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH *May 15, 2022*

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5/16—Caleb Andrew Smith
5/16—Linda Gokey
5/17—Sally Erickson

5/17—Barbara Oster
5/18—Jim Achard
5/19—Jennifer Gaston

5/20—Brandon Bugai
5/20—Brandon Williams
5/22—Nick Friedli

COVID policy remains that masks are optional for vaccinated persons and required for unvaccinated persons.

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

Offerings: The offering plates will now be passed during the service. The vase in the back of the Sanctuary is still available for those who prefer not to touch the offering plate.

DOLLARS AND SENSE: Bethlehem Lutheran Church has greatly expanded our outreach into the community and the world with our live streaming programming and other projects. We need your continued support to continue our mission. Congratulations are in order! April's contributions exceeded the budget projections by \$5,561.00. This is a significant improvement over January through March. 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

Church Council Elections: We are going to be having our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday June 12th. A part of this meeting is the election of Church Council members for a three-year term to fill expiring vacancies. The Nomination Committee is looking for referrals to contact. If you are interested in serving on the council (yes, you could submit your own name) or if you know someone else would be a good referral, please make your thoughts known. You will find a white box on a table in the entry to the Narthex for the referral. You will also find a brief form to fill out and place in the box. The Nomination Committee will contact the referrals and then nominate a slate for the election. Don't worry if someone thinks you would be a good candidate and you're not ready. Just let the committee know when contacted and be honored that someone thought of you! If you have any questions, please contact Mark McPherson at markandkjo@sbcglobal.net or 860-658-1554

The May 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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *Dale and Barbara Wentzloff in Celebration of their Anniversary; Karen and Jim Feahr in Celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary*

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 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.

The Fellowship Committee would like to send out a big Thank You to everyone who attended the continental Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday. There were approximately sixty people who participated. They enjoyed a variety of juices, yogurts, fruits, and baked goods, all donated by members of the members of the congregation. A special Thank You goes out to everybody who helped with the setup, serving, and cleanup. It is true. Many hands do make light work!

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)

This summer, we will be participating in a weeklong serving opportunity from July 18th - July 23rd with Freedom Builder's Missions Week and all of Bethlehem is invited! Freedom Builders understands that most people can only serve 1-2 days tops or possibly even only a partial day is perfectly fine. They also understand that not all want to be involved with construction so they have quite a few opportunities for those who wish to serve, but be sure to let Annie know which days you are hoping to attend and if you are looking to serve in a specific capacity. There will be an informational meeting on Sunday June 5th right after church in the youth room and all who are interested in serving are invited. Reach out to Annie at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org if you have any other questions!

We are happy to announce that we have finalized our VBS dates for this summer! Join us on a fun faithful adventure with Jerusalem: Marketplace! We will join Jesus' faithful friends and followers during His final days on earth. You'll travel back into Bible times--without setting foot outside your community! **VBS this year will be Monday, July 25th - Wednesday July 27th 8:30AM - 1:00PM!** We hope to have the VBS Registration Website up sometime next week. You can also still sign up as a volunteer as well! We are still in need of:

- A Village Playground Leader (games)
- At least 2 Tribe Leaders (small group leaders)
- At least 1 Tribe Leader Assistant (small group support, great for older youth!)
- Set Up/Tear Down Crew (day before and end of VBS)
- Decoration Coordinators (day before and end of VBS)

We will also still take Marketplace Shopkeepers if you are interested in one of those roles! Sign up sheets are still in the Narthex, or you can sign up online! Reach out to Annie for more information.

Music news at BLC: Many of you commented how much you enjoyed the choir music during Holy Week. The choir members appreciate the nice comments and we relay them to our new director, Tony Bero. It is sad that he is not on-site so he can hear from you himself. If you want to make certain he knows how much his skill in selecting the anthems and preparing the choir is appreciated, feel free to drop him a note in the "choir director" mailbox by the office or send him an email at bero.tony@gmail.com. And for all of you budding vocalists out there....just think...if he can make the 4 of us sound that good, what could he do with you?!? Don't hesitate...the choir always wants more singers.

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. **The next Message Corner is scheduled for this afternoon, May 15th.**

Book Club: For May the BLC book club will be reading "The Book of Lost Friends" by Lisa Wingate. THIS BOOK IS AVAILABLE IN A LIBRARY BOOK BAG SO YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND A COPY IN THE BIN OUTSIDE THE FRONT DOOR OF THE CHURCH. Plan to join us on ZOOM on Tues, May 24 at 5:30. If you are not already on the list send your email to cmonroe@chartermi.net.

The Wednesday morning bible study has completed its study of Matthew. They will take the summer off. Look for more information later in the summer. The leader is Barbara Graf if you have any questions.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS: The BLC 24/7 Food Pantry is OPEN!!!! 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.

Our interim tech support person is Trent Slabaugh. Even though Trent comes with a lot of experience, he welcomes your comments on the audio or video system. You may contact him by email at tslabaugh93@gmail.com

"Zoom Book Study" gathering via Zoom meets on Wednesdays at 1:30pm. 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. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining.

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.

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.

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, May 15

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion
1:00pm—Confirmation Class (Offsite)
2:45pm—Children's Message Corner (Zoom)

Monday, May 16

5:00pm—All Star DE (FH)
7:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

Tuesday, May 17

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
9:00am—Property Work Group
10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)
5:00pm—All Star DE (FH)
6:00pm—Council Meeting
7:00pm—All Star DE (FH)
7:00pm—Lautner SG (Offsite)

Wednesday, May 18

Bulletin articles due today
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study
5:00pm—All Star DE (FH)
7:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

Thursday, May 19

5:30pm—ACOA (GS)
7:00pm—All Star DE (FH)
7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Friday, May 20

STAR Articles due today
10:00am—Sew Pieceful (FH)
7:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

Saturday, May 21

5:00pm—High School Night

Sunday, May 22

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