

Ascension of Our Lord
May 21, 2023 – 10am
Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



Prelude Music

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

C: Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. Amen.

Gathering Song:

Bind Us Together

WOV #748

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

There is only one God. There is only one King. There is only one Body; that is why we can sing:

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

You are the family of God. You are the promise divine. You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

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: Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

Luke writes: 1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning 2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 47

1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.

2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,

3 who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;
4 who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.

5 God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn.
6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.

7 For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.
8 God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.

9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham. The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

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

44 Jesus said to the eleven and those with them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ELW #579

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 ***For All Good Things*** ***BLC Choir***
Guest Flutist: Colton Bible

Offertory: ***As the Grains of Wheat*** ***ELW #465***

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: **Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our 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 *(Please note: gluten-free wafers and white grape juice cups are available)*

Communion Songs: ***Instrumental*** ***Zeke Clemons***
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say ***ELW #611***

Final Blessing

P: The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

C: Amen.

Sending Song: ***Days of Elijah*** ***Robin Mark***

These are the days of Elijah, declaring the Word of the Lord;
And these are the days of Your servant Moses, righteousness being restored;
And though these are days of great trials, of famine and darkness and sword;
Still we are the voice in the desert crying, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee, and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

And these are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh;
And these are the days of your servant, David, rebuilding a temple of praise;
And these are the days of the harvest, the fields are as white in the world;
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard, declaring the Word of the Lord.

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee, and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

There is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah.
There is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah.

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee, and out of Zion's hill salvation comes. at the trumpet call;
Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee, and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Bethlehem May 21, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

5/22—Nick Friedli

5/23—Courtney Leatherman

5/23—Ally Leatherman

5/24—Tom Rockne

5/24—Cindy Hitesman

5/28—Julie Lapeer

5/28—Kathleen Ivany-Mort

We welcome Colton Bible who is playing flute with the choir on their anthem. Colton is a student at West Middle School.
Thank you, Colton for blessing us with your talent today.

Next Sunday is Pentecost! Wear red!

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

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 **Thursday**. This will last through the summer months.

Alanna Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on Wednesday

COVID UPDATE: As of 4/18/2023, masks are no longer required, regardless of vaccination status. A supply of masks will still be available for anyone who may be more comfortable wearing one. Please reach out to BLC Council with any questions or concerns.

Offerings: The offering plates are now 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.

Third Thursday: The next Third Thursday service will be in September. Look for details later this summer.

Today's altar flowers are donated: with Blessings to Pr. Paul.

The May issue of the STAR is now available. The June issue will be available on May 28th. 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>.

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

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: Tuesday of the week sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Bulletin/Worship Folder is prepared on Tuesday and printed on Thursday morning.) (Please note Bulletin or Announcement in subject line)
- Screen Announcements/Weekly BLC Emails: Tuesday of the week sent to alanna.steffunick@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.

Thank You for Cleaning: Bethlehem Lutheran Church is so blessed to have so many members who care about our church. We had 15 people stay after church to clean on May 7th. Thank you: Craig and Maureen Bauer, Tom and Jana Rockne, Carl and Suzanne Lehto, Tim and Peggy Goebel, Deb Hissong and Tom Fink, Jim Hinds, Barbara Wright, Nancy Ammann and Mike Henke. You are all so wonderful. Gail Goldsmith

Photo Directory: We have a chance to make a new directory the final week of September, but with any project like this we need volunteers. Please leave your name in the office if you can help on this project in any way. Thanks to those who have already volunteered. And please, try to be in town that week. We want everyone's smiling faces in our new directory.

We have heard that our friend and former Choir Director, Billie Thompson, has had a stroke. She cannot communicate but would love to get any well wishes. Her address is 3436 29th Street, San Diego, CA 92104

Choir announcement: The anthem, "For All Good Things," by J. Paul Williams, Joseph M. Martin, and Vicki Tucker Courtney will be sung today as a musical send-off for Pastor Paul as he begins his sabbatical. After that, we will be on summer break until **Thursday, September 7.** We hope to see you become part of the fun. Peace be with you - Tony Bero.

The Sunday Adult Education will have its last class today, May 21st and the Sunday School will have its last class on May 28th. They will resume in the Fall.

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 by the garage. These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

The first activity for Shepherding a Sabbatical begins with the Send Off Sabbatical Luncheon TODAY for Pastor Paul. We hope that you will be able to attend this time of fellowship TODAY after the service.

- Please bring your favorite side dish
- Brats and hot dogs grilled by the Men's Group
- "Sunday Sundaes" served for dessert by Y2A
- Coffee & lemonade will be provided

Blessings and Thank you, The Sabbatical Team

We are Ready for Sabbatical!!! The Sabbatical begins this week. Plans are in place for Pastor Paul to engage in activities that renew the spirit and refresh the soul! Guest pastors will lead worship. We will have activities that will bring us closer as a church family. Sign up in the narthex.

SUMMER SABBATICAL ACTIVITIES: Please take a moment to review the activity sheets on the table in the Gathering Space and SIGN-UP!! Two activities (beginners' Pickleball and Cookie decorating) request you to write in your availability so we can schedule the activity for when the most people can participate. Please remember to complete that portion of the activity also.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the Sabbatical Fund. At last count, we have collected \$15,700. Our goal was \$15,000 but contributions are still welcomed.

BLC Book Club: The BLC book club's May meeting is on the 23rd at 5:30 via ZOOM or IN-PERSON!!!. There are copies of the book *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah in the Book Club bin just outside the front door of the church. If you want to ZOOM and are not on the email list send your information to cmonroe@chartermi.net. Otherwise, just come to the church office conference room at that time.

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 or from the Shooting STAR box below the outside mailbox.

Seeking three or four people that would like to play friendly – beginner – Mah Jongg weekly over the summer. Day and time to be determined. If you are interested, please call Barb Graf 946-5120

Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations? It has been moved inside the coat room to the right.

Coffee and Cookies: You are welcome to stay after the Sunday service for coffee, cookies and conversation. This will be done as many Sundays as there are volunteers to make the coffee and/or bring cookies, etc. There is a sign-up sheet available near the cookies. There are open dates, so please sign up!

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.

Adult Bible Study has completed its study of the Gospel of Luke. They will resume in the Fall with the Gospel of John.

The Zoom Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30pm—2:45pm. This group has been studying *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation* by Parker Palmer. The last class will be May 24th and will resume in the Fall. Look for the next topic at the end of summer.

FOOD PANTRY: The warmer weather looks to finally have arrived which means we can re-open our outdoor food pantry. Please bring in extra food to the special area in the coat room so that we can fill that pantry. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

BABY PANTRY: Suggested donations for May are: cleaning/paper products plus toothpaste and shampoo – especially baby shampoo. Thank you!

GOLF OUTING: If you are interested in a golf outing this summer, please let either Phil Anderson or Barbara Wright know. It will probably be 9 holes on a Sunday afternoon.

Love Thy Neighbor is having its annual night at the ballpark as the Traverse City PitSpitters will be taking on the Battle Creek Battle Jacks on Friday, June 16. We will be receiving a portion of each ticket purchased with the promo code "LOVE" to help fund our programs as we help our neighbors in need. It will be a wonderful night of exciting baseball, delicious food, and amazing fireworks after the game!

Freedom Builders Needs Our Help: Freedom Builders is a wonderful ministry in our area. They help to build ramps and make homes accessible for people in need. Now they are in need of a large building to store their supplies. If you have such a space or know of one for sale at a reasonable price, they would appreciate your input. If they have to purchase a place they will need size-able donations dedicated towards their building fund. For any questions or assistance contact Skip Brown at 231-642-7140 or skip@fbmissions.org. **Bethlehem's week for volunteering at Freedom Builders will be July 17-22.**

A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts. We just received a check from them for \$304.88. Last year received \$651.20. Let's see if we can do even better this year! Please continue to drop off your receipts at Bethlehem. Please note they do not expire. Thank you!

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.

2023 Relay for Life: The American Cancer Society will be holding their annual 24-Hour Relay for Life event on **Saturday, June 10, 2023 starting at 10 AM with an opening ceremony to Sunday, June 11, 2023 ending at 10 AM** at the Grand Traverse Mall. As a long-time volunteer with the organization, I would like to request your support in the form of monetary donations to the American Cancer Society in support of this great cause, which will impact so many wonderful people who need your help. Thank you very much for your generous donations in the past, which helped the American Cancer Society provide more programs and do more research and advocacy for cancer patients and their caregivers. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is really appreciated!

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, May 21

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:30am—Send-Off Luncheon (FH)
11:30am—Sundaes on Sunday (FH)
2:30pm—Confirmation Class Send-off (Offsite)

Tuesday, May 23

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
5:30pm—Book/Supper Club
6:30pm—Newcomers

Wednesday, May 24

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:00pm—Johnson SG (Offsite)
1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, May 25

5:30pm—ACA
6:00pm—All Star DE

Sunday, May 28

Have a Safe Memorial Day

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

dance by donation
suggested \$10/person

Bayside Travellers
Contra Dance

June 10th, 2023
Beginner Workshop 7pm Dances 7:30-10:30pm

LED BY CALLER DAVE GOODWIN

Live Music
by
Harbor Hoedown

NO PARTNER OR EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

LOCATION:
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1050 Peninsula Drive, Traverse City MI 49686

dancetc.com
@baysidetravellersdance
baysidetravellersdance@yahoo.com