

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 22, 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.

C: **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. Amen.**

Gathering Song:

Miracles

(words below)

The One who made the blind to see is moving here in front of me, moving here in front of me.
The One who made the deaf to hear is silencing my every fear, silencing my every fear.

I believe in You. I believe in You. You're the God of miracles.
I believe in You. I believe in You. You're the God of miracles.

The One who does impossible is reaching out to make me whole, reaching out to make me whole.
The One who put death in its place, His life is flowing through my veins, His life is flowing through my veins!

I believe in You. I believe in You. You're the God of miracles.
I believe in You. I believe in You. You're the God of miracles.

The God who was and is to come, the power of the Risen One, the God who brings the dead to life:

You're the God of miracles!
You're the God of miracles!

I believe in You. I believe in You. You're the God of miracles.
I believe in You. I believe in You. You're the God of miracles.
I believe in You. I believe in You. You're the God of miracles.

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: Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 16:9-15

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. ¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalmody: Psalm 67

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

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 14:23-29

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

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

²³Jesus answered Judas (not Iscariot), "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. ²⁵"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631

Recognition of New Members:

Bill & Sue Allen

Reception of New Members

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for our new friends in Christ, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life of this congregation:

A representative of the congregation introduces the new member/s:

We welcome Bill and Sue Allen to the family, mission & ministry of Christ at Bethlehem.

Address and Questions to New Members

P: In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

P: Bill and Sue, our brother and sister in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: *(The minister addresses the assembly)* People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Those being welcomed face the assembly. The pastor addresses all.

P: Let us welcome Bill & Sue to this community of faith:

C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

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

Offering Song:

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Offertory:

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:

**When Peace Like a River
This is My Father's World**

**ELW 785
ELW 824**

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:

Unstoppable God

(words below)

Heaven thundered and the world was born. Life begins and ends in the dust you form.
Faith commanded and the mountains moved. Fear is losing ground to our hope in you.

Unstoppable God, let your glory go on and on. Impossible things in your name shall be done.

Freedom conquered, all our chains undone. Sin defeated, Jesus has overcome.
Mercy triumphed when the third day dawned. Darkness was denied when the stone was gone.

Unstoppable God, let your glory go on and on. Impossible things in your name shall be done.
Unstoppable God, let your glory go on and on. Impossible things in your name shall be done.

Nothing shall be impossible. Your kingdom reigns, unstoppable. We'll shout Your praise forevermore.
Jesus, our God, unstoppable.

Nothing shall be impossible. Your kingdom reigns, unstoppable. We'll shout Your praise forevermore.
Jesus, our God, unstoppable.

Oh! Oh, oh, oh.

Unstoppable God, let your glory go on and on. Impossible things in your name shall be done.

Unstoppable God, let your glory go on and on. Impossible things in your name shall be done.

Oh, oh.

Dismissal

A: 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 22, 2022*

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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
5/29—Cody Smith

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.

COVID NEWS: According to the CDC and Munson Hospital, Covid-19 is once again on the rise in Grand Traverse County, and our county now has one of the highest transmission rates in Michigan. Council voted on May 17th to adopt a guideline that masks are required for unvaccinated persons in worship and highly encouraged for those who are vaccinated.

Today, we welcome Bill and Sue Allen as new members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Their sponsors are John and Jan Stretlein.

Sunday Coffee and Conversation: Interior Renovations for the Future: Chuck Ardingo and the Refresh sub-committee invite you to join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall today immediately following the service for a conversation about refreshing and updating the functionality and appearance of our church spaces. Please consider stopping in and meeting with us to share your perspective and thoughts. What would you like to see? How could our spaces be made more useful, impactful, and attractive? We want to hear from you!

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. The June issue will be available next Sunday, May 29th. 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: *in Honor of the dedicated volunteers on Council.*

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.

Due Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screen Announcements: PLEASE NOTE NEW DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN

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 Wednesday and 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: The next Message Corner is scheduled for Sunday, May 29th. 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.

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 cmmonroe@chartermi.net.

The Wednesday morning bible study has completed its study of Matthew and the "Zoom Book Study" has completed its study of Home By Another Way. These two groups will take the summer off. Look for more information later in the summer. The Wednesday morning leader is Barbara Graf if you have any questions. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining the Zoom Bible/book study.

Love Thy Neighbor will have an Open House on Tuesday, May 24, from 3 - 7pm to show off our newly renovated office. Enjoy light refreshments while checking out our new look and finding out what programs and services we offer. Our office is located at 1109 E. Front Street on the campus of Faith Reformed Church.

Our interim tech support person is Trent Slabaugh. He welcomes your comments on the audio or video system. You may contact him by email at tslabaugh93@gmail.com

Bethlehem's 24/7 outdoor food pantry has reopened!! And thanks to our friends at Thrivent Financial we have some extra incentives to encourage you to remember to pick up some extra staples when you are at the store. Take along one of the cloth Thrivent bags and find some items you would like to share with the pantry. Return the food to the table in the narthex and the bag will be emptied so someone else can use it. Feel free to pick up a free shirt, pen, or note pad to use yourself or to pass on to someone who would like one. First come-first served so please join in the fun of "Jumping into June"!

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.

A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons receipts. 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 22

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

Monday, May 23

7:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

Tuesday, May 24

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
9:00am—Property Work Group
10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)
5:30pm—Book/Supper Club (Zoom)
6:30pm—Newcomers (FH)
7:00pm—All Star DE (GS)

Wednesday, May 25

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:00pm—Johnson SG (Offsite)
7:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

Thursday, May 26

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

Friday, May 27

5:00pm—BLUES Night

Saturday, May 28

9:00AM—All Star DE (FH)

Sunday, May 29

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