

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

July 13, 2025

Sunday 10:00 a.m.



Welcome to All! We are glad that you are able to worship with us today. **Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like.** During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion near the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold it up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill in your name, address, etc in the guest book near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 4, page 147

Bell Ringing/Welcome/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: Merciful God,

C: ...you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ☩ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen.

GREETING

A: 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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



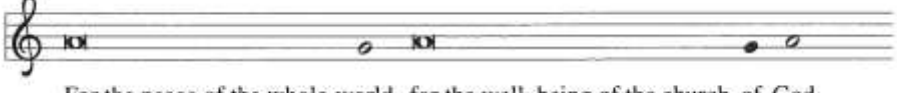
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



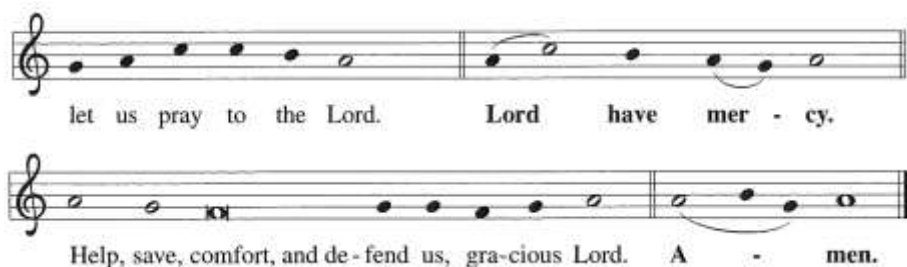
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

S 148

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

A: Let us pray together... C: **O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's hearts.

9 The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, 10 when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 11 Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" 13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" 14 No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

2 My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

3 Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

4 Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

6 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

7 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

8 You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

9 You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

10 All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

Second Lesson

Colossians 1:1-14

The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

2 To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

3 In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

4 for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints,

5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word

of the truth, the gospel

6 that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from

the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God.

7 This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of

Christ on your behalf,

8 and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

9 For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all

spiritual wisdom and understanding,

10 so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you

grow in the knowledge of God.

(continued on next page)

11 May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia



Gospel

Luke 10:25-37

Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.

C: **...Glory to you, O Lord...**

25 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” 27 He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” 28 And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” 29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” 30 Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

(continued on next page)

35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

Sermon

Peggy Burns, S.A.M.

Hymn of the Day *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* **ELW 588**

Apostle's 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 Intercession: response after each petition: "**hear our prayer.**"
(*Before prayer*) A: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world....
(*Conclusion*) P: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: **And also with you.**

MEAL

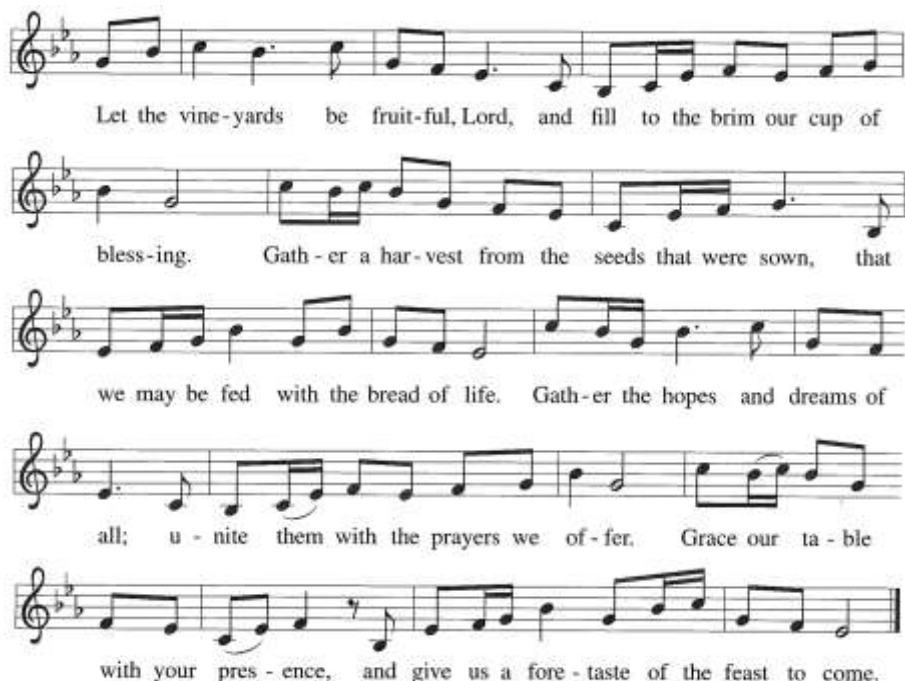
Offering

Offering

Zeke Clemons

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 together:

C: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

The 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.

SENDING

Blessing

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Song

Let All Things Now Living

ELW 881

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem July 6, 2025
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

7/15—Dick Gray

7/15—Connie Barrow

7/15—Connie Christopherson

7/17—Martin Graf

Worship Servants for July 13

Presiding & Preaching—Peggy Burns, S.A.M.

Assisting Minister—Barbara Oster

Lector—Barb Graf

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: By the Congregation in thanks for all of God's blessings

Hospitality—Leonard & Barb Graf

A/V—Jim Hinds / Paul Ton

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Dave Susalski

Front Door Monitor—Paul Wiemerslage

Altar Guild—NO COMMUNION

Counters—Laura Hahn / Mike McCarty

Return of Chair Yoga to Bethlehem Chair yoga is back at 3:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays to Bethlehem. Cost is still \$5. Invite your friends. It is a great stretching exercise and we work on balance issues.

FOOD PANTRY: With summer in full swing, it is important to remember that there are still hungry community members amongst us. When I checked the pantry on arriving to church last Sunday I found it was almost completely empty. The storage room where we keep the food to restock was also almost completely empty. I urge each and every one of you to bring just one non-perishable item to donate to the food pantry the next time you come to church. If every member brings one item to donate, we can quickly restock our supplies. The need never ends and we are counting on you to step up to the plate to support community members in need. Thanks for your support, Suzanne and Kathie

"Many hands make fast work" Mark your calendars and gather your gear! Sunday, July 20, immediately following our church service, we will do a church clean and polish. We will spend 45-60 minutes cleaning inside windows (as safety permits), vacuuming, dusting, giving bathrooms a good cleaning, eliminating unused items (decluttering), and any other tasks that are identified by staff, the Property committee or other members of the congregation. Please bring any equipment from your home that would be helpful: bucket, paper towel, rags, small hand broom, window cleaner, vinegar mixture - whatever you like to clean with that is also eco-friendly. If we have items with us, we don't diminish the church's supply, although the church does have supplies. Questions: check with Jana Rockne, 231-632-6886.

Bethlehem's Summer Support at Safe Harbor is in Full Swing! Thank you to Patty Leibenguth, Kristen Rivard, Kristen's friend Cindy Gokey, Tom & B.J. Christensen, Tina Dohm, Jim Hutchison, Kathie and Mark Bair, Doug and Diane Cunningham, Makena Dohm, Tim and Peggy Goebel, Lincoln Dohm, Sherri Helman, Claire Hutchison and for taking one or more shifts assisting Safe Harbor Guests. The Bethlehem Lutheran "Hot Dog Picnic" at Safe Harbor was a huge success! Our volunteers brought salads, baked beans, and vegetable trays and grilled, served and cleaned up. Great Lakes Potato Chip Company and Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling provided chips and beverages. It was a "first" for Safe Harbor... courtesy of Bethlehem! More opportunities the third Tuesday in July, August, and September! Maybe another picnic in September! Tom Rockne Bethlehem Safe Harbor Coordinator, M.231-631-0040 or at tomrockne@gmail.com.

BOOK CLUB NEWS: We are hoping to go to the home of Barb Beyer and our date this month is the final Wednesday, **July 30 at 5:30**. We will be reading "*Caste, The Origins of Our Discontent*" by Isabel Wilkerson. Our back-up location will be BLC fellowship hall. Please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net if there are any questions. A list to sign up for items for the potluck will be sent to all those who are interested.

Coffee and Cookies: Our wonderful volunteers Mary Ann Tanis and Diane Cunningham have indicated a willingness to continue offering this after the Sunday service during the summer as long as there are volunteers who bring the goodies and help with clean-up after. Our thanks to these two women for their wonderful display of the goodies and the clean-up after. Thanks to all of you who have shared goodies, and please feel free to continue to do so.

Garden News: Thanks to all who have been involved in the garden in any way. If you have not been across the street to check on what's happening, the biggest news is, THE RADISHES ARE UP!!!!. Feel free to go there at any time. Do a little weeding. If any part of the garden looks stressed due to the heat, feel free to sprinkle using the hose on the north fence (irrigation only runs on alternating days). There will be more information when it is time to begin picking. You may meet some new friends from other churches when you are there. If questions contact Cindy at cmonroe@chartermi.net

BLC partners with Old Town Playhouse for the musical telling the story of Moses in THE PRINCE OF EGYPT: Still looking for some volunteers to run concessions at Milliken Auditorium on Aug 22 for the 7:00 show and Aug 23 for the 2:00 show. (The youth will be running the concessions on Thursday, Aug 21 and their youth fund will receive the benefits.) For the other days funds earned can be designated to the charity or cause recommended by the volunteers. Bethlehem's Good Samaritan Fund? Project Feed the Kids? Safe Harbor? Grand Traverse Baby Pantry? Another idea? It's easy to sell items before the show and during intermission. Sign up in the gathering space or contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or 231 631 0887 if you can help one of those days. You can also sign-up to reserve tickets to see the show. If tickets are purchased in groups of 6 each will cost \$42 for an adult and \$18 for youth under the age of 18.

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 7/16—The Pub, Traverse City 7:00pm **Fri 7/18**—Brady's, Traverse City 6:30pm

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.

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!!

FREE ENTERTAINMENT: When you just want to do something or take your out-of-town visitors somewhere...

- **Every Wed at 5:30 until the end of July** enjoy classical music from IPR at Little Fleet at the corner of Front and Wellington. You can buy food and drink but you don't have to.
- Hear the NMC Concert Band **Fri July 18 7:30 pm** at Milliken Auditorium
- **“Saturdays in the Park”:** 7-9 in the Civic Center all summer (donation bucket available but optional)

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 for the year 2025. 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 or any other grocery store. We just collect for Olesons

The July issue of the STAR is now available. If you receive the weekly email, your July issue was emailed on June 29th. 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>.

Today's Prayer Recipients: Please send and changes or additions by email to admin@bethlehemtc.org

Harper Wiemerslage,
Jerry Hill,
John Block,
Roy DuMond,
Mary Woodring,
Norm Fred,
Lynn,
Steve,
Sherry,
Bob,
Suzanne Lehto,
Dick & Lois Gray,

Milt & Carol Bowes,
Debbie Knopf,
Ron Hellenga,
Jim Rumbach,
John Stretlien,
Judy Fenton,
Cindy Hitesman,
Richard Fernholz,
Julie Lapeer,
Tom & Lee,
Chris,
Dale and Cheryl,

Leroy,
Julie Barrett,
Patti,
Sharon,
Kyle,
Ben,
Marianne,
Christine,
Janet,
Cameron,
Cheryl