

# Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 20, 2025 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 10



Prelude Music

Announcements

## 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.*

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.

Gathering Song:

*Open Your Ears, O Faithful People*

ELW 519

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

p. 203

S203

1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## Children's Message

Pr Paul

## First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a

*The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.*

1 The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. 2 He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. 3 He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. 4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. 5 Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." 6 And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." 7 Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. 8 Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. 9 They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." 10a Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

## Gospel Acclamation:

### Alleluia

p. 205



## Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

*During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.*

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

38 Now as Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.

*(continued on next page)*

39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. 40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; 42 there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

## Song of the Day:

## Enough (words below)

All of you is more than enough for all of me  
For ev-'ry thirst and ev-'ry need  
You satisfy me with your love  
And all I have in you is more than enough

You are my supply, my breath of life  
still more awesome than I know  
You are my reward, worth living for  
still more awesome than I know

And all of you is more than enough for all of me  
For ev-'ry thirst and ev-'ry need  
You satisfy me with your love  
And all I have in you is more than enough

You're my sacrifice of greatest price  
still more awesome than I know  
You're my coming king, you are everything  
still more awesome than I know

*(continued on next column)*

And all of you is more than enough for all of me  
For ev-'ry thirst and ev-'ry need  
You satisfy me with your love  
And all I have in you

More than all I want  
More than all I need  
You are more than enough for me  
More than all I know  
More than all I can say  
You are more than enough

More than all I want  
More than all I need  
You are more than enough for me  
More than all I know  
More than all I can say,  
You are more than enough

And all of you is more than enough for all of me  
For ev-'ry thirst and ev-'ry need  
You satisfy me with your love  
And all I have in you is more than enough

## 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:

### *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: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through 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** (Please note: gluten-free wafers and white grape juice cups are available)

## Communion Songs:

*Amazing Grace*  
*Shout to the Lord* (Repeat as Needed)

**ELW 779**  
**ELW 821**

## Final 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:

*I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*

**ELW 860**

## Dismissal

A: Go in peace.

Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.



**Bethlehem** July 20, 2025  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880  
[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

7/21—Sandra Schichtel

7/22—Stephen Kramer

7/23—Jim Hutchison

7/25—Betty Rutila

7/26—Helen Rafeld

7/26—Jalen Provo

7/26—Sandy Merrifield

### Worship Servants for July 20

Presiding & Preaching—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Steve Kramer

Lector—Tina Dohm

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Crystel Fernholz, Pr. Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Barbara Oster in Memory of her mother, Lois Oster and in Celebration of the birthday of her great-niece, Annie Igoe*

Hospitality—Jim & Dorene Boyd

A/V—Jim Monroe / Barbara Oster

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitor—Tina Dohm

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Counters—Laura Hahn / Mike McCarty

**"Many hands make fast work"** Immediately following today's 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. You were asked to 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.

**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.** If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns 231-392-6913.



**We Need to Borrow Your Christmas Trees! Help Us Decorate For VBS!** Our VBS theme this year is Happy Campers, and we want to transform BLC into a forest! We need to borrow as many Christmas trees as possible to make this happen - any size! It doesn't matter if they're pre-lit; if it's green, we want to borrow it for a week! There is no such thing as too many here, we need as many as possible. Please visit the VBS Donations table in the Gathering Space to sign up to lend a Christmas tree or other needed decoration item, or donate a snack item! Thank you for your generosity!

**Pr. Ruth:** Our beloved friend in Christ, Pr Ruth Overdier, has some devotions in the September portion of Christ in Our Home. You can read her selections from September 16 – 30.

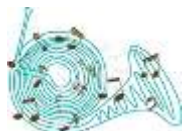
**FOOD PANTRY:** With summer in full swing, it is important to remember that there are still hungry community members amongst us. When I checked the pantry on arriving to church last Sunday I found it was almost completely empty. The storage room where we keep the food to restock was also almost completely 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

**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.

**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, Pr. Paul, 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 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.

**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!!!!. Carrots, squash and tomatoes are on the way! 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



**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.
- **"Saturdays in the Park": 7-9** in the Civic Center all summer (donation bucket available but optional)

**SUMMER BREAK:** Please note that Sunday School, Sunday's Adult Education along with the two Wednesday Bible Studies will not meet during the summer months. Look for the September start dates in the weekly email, bulletins and the STAR at the end of summer.

**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!!



**Alcoholics Anonymous:** TC Groups are holding their Open Talk here at Bethlehem on three Saturday nights of each month from 8:00-9:00pm. During July, August and September, the group will be here every Saturday night while the Contra group takes a break.

**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](mailto: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.



**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.

**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!!

**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.

**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

**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 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](http://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>.

**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 7/23 & 7/30** —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 Thursday. **(this is Phil's summer schedule)**

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 \$45 (This is a new amount.) The check should be 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.

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

**The church calendar is below. Please be sure to notify the office ([admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is of the calendar.**

**Sunday, July 20**

10:00am—Worship Service (S)  
11:15am—Church Clean-up  
5:00pm—Stony Lake Camp through Friday!

**Monday, July 21**

10:00am—Sustaining Endowment Committee (CR)  
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)  
5:30pm—Grief Group (FH)

**Tuesday, July 22**

**Bulletin articles due today**

9:00am—Property Work Group  
7:15pm—OTP Choir Rehearsal (S)

**Wednesday, July 23**

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)  
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

**Thursday, July 24**

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

**Saturday, July 26**

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

**Sunday, July 27**

10:00am—Worship Service (S)



# Join us for a Taste of

# HONDURAS



**When:** Saturday, July 26th 1-3 p.m.

**Where:** Peace Lutheran Church  
Gaylord

- Enjoy a traditional Honduran lunch
- Take a virtual mission trip to the Lutheran Church in Honduras (ICLH)
- Win a door prize
- Try your hand at a piñata.

**This event is free**, but donations are welcome and will support the *Health for Life* program which focuses on providing training and resources for basic medical care, good dental practices, and nutritional food preparations to ICLH volunteers.

**Donations up to \$3,000 will be matched dollar-for-dollar by a generous supporter.**

If you plan to participate in this event, please RSVP by July 20th

<https://forms.gle/Nv6khxYhDNH9x1y17>

Or call 989-732-1991 Mon -Thur between 9am-1pm



**THE HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS ARE GOING TO BE OUR GUESTS**  
**HEAR THEIR STORY AND SEE THEIR BEAUTIFUL OLIVEWOOD CRAFTS**

On Aug. 10, 2025 and during the service, we will be hearing about the Christians of the Holy Land, and after the service we will be hosting at the church Narthex a nice display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase. These carvings include olivewood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter and Christmas gifts. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread.

More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income. For decades those Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflict, the wars, the 12 yard wall built around Bethlehem, the COVID-19 pandemic, and nowadays the catastrophic ongoing war for the past nineteen months, due to this tourists are afraid and unable to visit the Holy Land. This made it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and forced them to immigrate and flee their homeland since they lost their source of income. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, today it is less than 1%. If it continues like this, in few years we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites.

Please help support our Christian brothers and sisters in the town of Bethlehem where Christ was born by purchasing their carvings.

A Christians family from Bethlehem will be telling us the story of the Christians of the Holy Land and they will be presenting these carvings after the services.

It is never too late to help. All proceeds go to support Christian families from Bethlehem.

Let us carefully tend to our roots, Christian children of God in the Holy Land.

And let us pray together for peace in the land where our Savior once walked to tell the world the good news of salvation.

Thank you for your support

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. George Ghanem

Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative

[www.hlcsc.org](http://www.hlcsc.org)

703 745-2604

