

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

P: Merciful God,

C: ... we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Righteous God,

C: ... we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

Gathering Song:

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

ELW #680

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: Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr. Lane

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.

6 Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. 7 Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. 8 Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW #583

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

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

24 Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' 28 He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' 29 But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" 36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." 37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; 38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, 42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“The Lion in Every Human Heart”

Pastor Chris Lane

Song of the Day:

Hymn of Promise

Natalie Sleeth

In the bulb there is a flower; In the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: Butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; What it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In the end is our beginning; In our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; In our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; At the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

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:

Come to the Table

ELW #481

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: **God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, 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:

I Am the Bread of Life
Here Is Bread

ELW #485
ELW #483

Final Blessing

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed † bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

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. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem July 23, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

7/23—Jim Hutchinson
7/25—Betty Rutila
7/26—Helen Rafeld

7/26—Jalen Provo
7/26—Sandy Merrifield
7/28—Julia Acker

7/29—Tim Johnson
7/30—Maureen Bauer
7/30—Jim Parkinson

We welcome Pastor Chris Lane as Presiding and Preaching for today's service He is retired from Central United Methodist Church, Traverse City. His primary role was administration and visioning, collaborating with all staff, and growing Central's witness in the community.

For Pastoral Care during Pr Paul's Sabbatical time, please call Barbara in the church office. If it is after hours and it cannot wait until the next work day or Sunday, you may call Barbara at home (231.668.7038) so that she can contact someone. We have two different people for Pastoral Care.

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

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 and some Wednesday mornings.

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

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.

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *Betty Rutila in Memory of her parents.*

The July issue of the STAR is now available. The August issue will be available on July 30th. 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>.

We received the July/August/September Christ In Our Home – we apologize for the delay. Please take a copy for yourself and also for friends and family.

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.

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.

THANK YOU, Parking Lot Fundraiser Volunteers! BLC hosted the annual Parking Lot Fundraiser on July 1st, 2nd, and 4th. All the proceeds from this fundraiser go toward supporting Bethlehem's youth. This year, the fundraiser was very successful once again - in total for those three days, we earned \$3,028!

Youth Volunteers:

*Makena Dohm
Lincoln Dohm
Aleah Graf
Jacob Graf*

*Hunter Antol
Sammy Steffunick
Harper Wiemerslage*

These kids showed such great responsibility, teamwork, and leadership as they worked the entrance of the parking lot. They took money from customers, made change, gave directions, communicated with each other, and worked as a team to make sure cars were moved through quickly and efficiently. They really took this opportunity and ran with it, and did such a wonderful job. I am so proud of you all!!!

Adult Volunteers:

*Erin Word
Forest Bowling
Frank Wall
John Halstead
Kay Rumbach
Linda Hansen
Mark and Kathie Bair
Martin Graf
Norm Fred*

*Paul and Jessica Wiemerslage
Randy Eisemann
Renee Wells
Scott Farley
Shawn Antol
Sherri Helman
Tina Dohm
Tracey Moyer*

All of the work that these adult volunteers put in is so appreciated. From putting up/taking down signs and barriers, to directing cars, to answering questions, to filling in wherever needed, you all kept this fundraiser running smoothly, and made sure that the kids had a safe place to work and volunteer!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for this event! I appreciate all of you so much. Special thanks to Norm Fred and Frank Wall, who also supervised the parking lot on July 8th in addition to volunteering for normal fundraiser days. Your care and love for the church is appreciated. Pictures from the fundraiser can be seen on BLC's website and Facebook page. Thank you, everyone! -Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator

SUMMER SABBATICAL ACTIVITIES: Please take a moment to review the activity sheets on the table in the Gathering Space and SIGN-UP!! The date has now been determined for the **cookie decorating activity. It will be TUES, Aug 8 6-8 pm.** Come prepared to have a good time.

The Paint workshop will be Sunday August 13th from 4-6:30 at The Hang Workshop on Woodmere Ave. There are only a few spaces left, so please contact Barbara Wright at mzbright9006@yahoo.com or see me after church today July 23rd. This will be the last opportunity to sign up.

Good Samaritan "Fund"raiser: During the month of August, we will kick-off our Good Samaritan "Fund"raiser with our Envelope Wall. Each envelope in the series of 1-50 will represent a donation amount. So, if the first envelope is available for a \$1 donation, the 33rd envelope is available for a \$33 donation and so on. We ask that you remove the colored envelope of your choice from the board, if you're interested in participating, and then put your donation into the inside envelope and return it to the church by putting it into the Sunday service collection plate, placing it into the mailbox of our bookkeeper, Phil Anderson, or mailing it back to the church. A reminder that the Good Samaritan Fund is one of our local outreach initiatives that allows us to be able to help our local residents when there may be a need for assistance with food, gas, a doctor bill, etc. We have been lucky in the past to help many many and hope that you will help us build back this dwindling fund. Please, if paying by check, make payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church with Good Samaritan fund in the memo line.

THANK YOU THRIVENT!!! We have been able to stretch our funds for activities by organizing some great Thrivent Action Teams. This has included our Sabbatical Send-off Sunday, the baking of cinnamon buns, subsidizing the new Bethlehem T-shirts for the Cherry Festival volunteers, and the monthly Sunday Sundaes. And there are even some more events to come.

Sunday Adult Education and Sunday School will resume in the Fall.

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 around town? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC:

Thurs 7/27-- Park Place at 8:00

Tues 8/15—Bel Lago Winery in Cedar at 5:00

Sat 8/19 & Thurs 8/24—Brady's Bar outside on the patio at 6:30

Sat 8/26—Bel Lago Winery in Cedar at 3:00

The Sabbatical committee has decided that our Welcome back celebration on Aug 20 should include a "white-out" characteristic of many big athletic events. Anyone who obtained a new BLC logo t-shirt is asked to wear it that day. Everyone else is asked to wear a white top of their choosing. There are a few more shirts available in size L or 2X for anyone who still would like to obtain one for a \$10 donation to the Sabbatical fund.

BLC Book Club: The BLC book club is taking a summer vacation!!!! Please keep reading and bring your suggestions back to the group on Sept. 26 or send them in advance to cmonroe@chartermi.net. We hope to share meals at our meetings again besides discussing wonderful books.

Copies of the Living Lutheran magazine can be picked up at the welcome table on Sunday mornings or from the Shooting STAR box below the outside mailbox.

Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations? It has been moved inside the coat room to the right. Also, the area for the Oleson and Family Fair receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside.

FREEDOM BUILDERS EVENT: You're Invited to **Freedom Fest 2023 happening on Wednesday, August 16th**, at 6:30 p.m. at BlueBridge. It will be a night of celebrating what the Lord has done through Freedom Builders in the past year and looking forward to what the Lord is inviting us to do in the days ahead. You'll have the opportunity to spend time with friends and meet new people, hear amazing stories from Freedom Builders clients and volunteers, enjoy great food from Dawn Fresh Catering-Ebels Market, and learn how you can be a part of the work of Freedom Builders. For tickets, go to <http://www.fbmissions.org/freedomfest>. I look forward to seeing you there! In Christ, Skip Brown

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: will resume in the Fall with the Gospel of John.

The Zoom Bible Study: will resume in the Fall. Look for the next topic at the end of summer.

Food Pantry: HELP!!! Our outdoor food pantry has finally been found by those in need and there is hardly anything left in it!!! Please take some time and buy some extra staple items when you go shopping. The shelves in the pantry are labeled. You can place your items right in the cupboard or you can bring them inside church and leave them on the CARE table in the coat room.

BABY PANTRY: Suggested donations for July are: tissues, laundry soap, toothpaste and brushes, baby shampoo and regular cleaning products. Thank you!

Night of Harmony: For those of you who really enjoyed our musical guests on June 11, the entire Cherry Capital Chorus of Barbershop music is presenting a performance on Aug 5 at 7:00 pm at the Presbyterian Church. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students

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.

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, July 23

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:30am—Sundaes on Sunday

Monday, July 24

4:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, July 25

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

Wednesday, July 26

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

Thursday, July 27

5:30pm—ACA (FH)
7:00pm—Sabbatical Meeting (Offsite)

Saturday, July 29

9:00am—All Star DE (FH)

Sunday, July 30

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

