

# Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 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:

*Gather Us In*

*ELW #532*

## 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: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

*Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.*

5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." 6 And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. 7 And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. 8 And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. 9 Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" 10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 11 God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, 12 I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Psalm: 119:129-136

129 Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

**130 When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

131 I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

**132 Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

133 Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

**134 Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

135 Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

**136 My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

## Gospel Acclamation:

*Alleluia*

*Sinclair*

Alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia.

## **Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

*Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.*

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

31 Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." 33 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." 44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 51 "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." 52 And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

*Tom Rockne*

## **Song of the Day:**

***Be Thou My Vision***

***ELW #793***

## **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:**

***If My People Will Pray***

*Denice Bossardet*

### **Offertory:**

***Come to the Table***

***ELW #481***

## Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

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.

## 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.

## 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:

*Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*

WOV #783

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and its righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you.

Allelu, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;  
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.

Allelu, alleluia.

We do not live by bread alone, but by ev'ry word  
that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Allelu, alleluia.

## Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.



**Bethlehem** July 30, 2023  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

7/30—Maureen Bauer

7/30—Jim Parkinson

8/2—Pat Wall

8/4—Judy Strickland

8/4—Reid Glenn

8/6—Margaret Hutchinson

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

**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.

**We welcome Jana Rockne as our Worship Leader for today's service.** Jana (along with husband Tom) has been a member of BLC since 2000, the year they moved from Eden Prairie, Minnesota to beautiful northern Michigan. She was raised in the American Lutheran Church and has belonged to Lutheran churches in Fargo, St. Paul, Eden Prairie, Downers Grove (IL) and Cerritos (CA). She currently serves as secretary on our church council. She and Tom have two adult sons, Dan and Pete.

**We welcome Tom Rockne as Preaching for today's service.** Tom is a lifelong Lutheran and a BLC member for 23 years. He has served on the Church Council including two terms as President. He currently coordinates the BLC effort with Safe Harbor.

**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:** *Carolyn Mann in Loving Memory of David Mann*

**The August issue of the STAR is now available.** 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>.

**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](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

**Due Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screen Announcements:**

- STAR: The third Friday of the month sent to [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) (Please note STAR in subject line)
- Bulletin/Verbal Announcements: Tuesday of the week sent to [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](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 by the garage. These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

**The Paint workshop will be Sunday August 13th from 4-6:30** at The Hang Workshop on Woodmere Ave. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Wright at [mzbright9006@yahoo.com](mailto:mzbright9006@yahoo.com). There are no more spaces available.

**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 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:

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

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

**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.

**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 7:30 pm at the Presbyterian Church. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students

**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](mailto: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!

**Two Thank You notes received:**

**From Sarah Denton** – Thank you so much for the card and Target gift Card. The love and kindness shown has filled my heart so much. Thank you. BLC has always, and will always hold a very special place in my heart. I'm excited for Sunday mornings on a lake kayaking, or getting all the sleep between babysitting jobs, and coming to BLC to enjoy seeing everyone. Thank you all so much for everything, I appreciate and love you all! With all my love, Sarah Denton

**From the Family of Frank Watz, Sr** – Dear Bethlehem Friends, Thanks to all who came to visit, the gift of the teddy bear, all who sent cards or attended Frank's Memorial service – we are truly grateful. Most of all, thank you for your love and prayers.

**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 September with the Gospel of John.

**The Zoom Bible Study:** will resume in September. 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!

**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](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 \$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.

**BLC Calendar on back page**



**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 30**

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

**Monday, July 31**

4:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

**Tuesday, August 1**

**Bulletin articles due today**

9:00am—Property Work Group

**Wednesday, August 2**

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

11:30am—WELCA Board Meeting

**Thursday, August 3**

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

**Friday, August 4**

3:00pm—Gray/Reid Wedding rehearsal (S)

**Saturday, August 5**

3:00pm—Gray/Reid Wedding (S)

**Sunday, August 6**

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

11:15am—Worship and Music Committee (CR)

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

# Contra Dancing

with Bayside Travellers

Live Music  
by  
Rigs & Jeels

Dance  
by  
Donation

suggested  
\$10/person

*Saturday, August 12th*

Beginner Lesson 7pm  
Dances 7:30-10:30pm

**No partner or experience needed!**

@baysidetravellersdance    baysidetravellersdance@yahoo.com