

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 2025 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



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

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: O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Peggy Burns, S.A.M

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

23 Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? 24 Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. 25 I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" 26 How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? 27 They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. 28 Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. 29 Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalmody: Psalm 82

1 God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

2 **"How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?**

3 Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;

4 **rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

5 They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

6 **Now I say to you, 'You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;**

7 nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.'"

8 **Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own.**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia



Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

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

Jesus said: 49 "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! 50 I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! 51 Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! 52 From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; 53 they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." 54 He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. 55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. 56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Peggy Burns S.A.M.

Song of the Day: **Open the Eyes of My Heart** (words below)

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart; I want to see You, I want to see You.
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart; I want to see You, I want to see You.

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory. Pour out your pow'r and love;
as we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy; holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

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 the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. 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.

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 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:

Blessed Be Your Name

Redman

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful, where Your streams of abundance flow blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place, though I walk through the wilderness blessed be Your name.

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise. When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,

"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name."

(continued on next page)

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me, when the world's "all as it should be" blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering, though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name. Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise. When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,

"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name."

You give and take away, You give and take away. My heart will choose to say, "Lord, Blessed be Your name."
You give and take away, You give and take away. My heart will choose to say, "Lord, Blessed be Your name."

"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name."

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem August 17, 2025
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8/17—Brita Williams
8/20—Kathie Bair

8/21—Jennifer Anderson
8/22—Cindy Peterson

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

Worship Servants for August 17

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

Assisting Minister—Barbara Oster

Lector—Tina Dohm

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Ken and Kris Smith in Celebration of their wedding anniversary*

Hospitality—Tim and Peggy Goebel

A/V—Acker Family / Jim Hinds

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitor—Tina Dohm

Altar Guild—NO COMMUNION

Counters—Bonnie Gamble / Jane Passmore

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 and **third Monday of the month from 3:30-4:30**. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns 231-392-6913.

BLC partners with Old Town Playhouse for the musical telling the story of Moses in THE PRINCE OF EGYPT: Four members of Bethlehem are part of the Community Choir which is augmenting the cast for this show: Barb Overdier, Cindy Monroe, Kathi Ivany-Mort and Jim Hutchison. You can sign-up to reserve tickets to see the show in the gathering space for Aug 22 or 23. If tickets are purchased in groups of 6 each will cost \$42 for an adult and \$18 for youth under the age of 18. IF WE DON'T HAVE THAT MANY PEOPLE FOR THE PREFERRED DAY, TICKETS WILL COST MORE.

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY: This is the final update! Our summer Bible study will be held on Thursday, August 28th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to pass; meat and beverages will be provided. Our study will be taken from Sessions 2 and 3 in the June/July/August Gather magazine: "Where two or more are gathered: Flourishing in relationships" when we will discuss relationships that sustain us and relationships that help us grow. There is a signup sheet in the gathering space through August 24th. Please indicate if you need a copy of the lessons and one will be provided for you. Join us for an afternoon of good food, great fellowship and a lot of fun!

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 AND SQUASH ARE BEING HARVESTED!!!!. Carrots 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). If something needs to be picked please do so. If no collection boxes are out, please take the produce into the Faith building. Enjoy meeting some new people from other churches when you are there. If questions contact Cindy at cmonroe@chartermi.net

BOOK CLUB NEWS: The book club meeting on Sept 10 at 5:30 will meet at the home of Betsy Morley. The book will be *This Is Your Life, Harriet Chance!* By Jonathan Evison. The book should be available on Hoopla or Libby. This book is described as: part love story, part poignant exploration of the mother-daughter relationship... nothing is what it seems in this tale of acceptance, reexamination, and forgiveness. Contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net for any details.

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

Chair Yoga: 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 August Safe Harbor Update: Bethlehem support for Safe Harbor's Summer has been Red Hot! The third Tuesday of each month MAY-SEP we provide staff to assist with check-in, meds, guest assistance, and more. August 19 and September 16 yet to come. Our BLC Hot Dog Picnic on June 25 was a first time ever event for Safe Harbor and a huge success. We are going to host another on August 27! Check the display in the Gathering Space and see how much fun serving can be! Thank you to a wonderful, overflowing group of volunteers!

Tom Rockne, Bethlehem Safe Harbor Coordinator tomrockne@gmail.com or M.231.631.0040.

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

- **"Saturdays in the Park":** 7-9 in the Civic Center all summer (donation bucket available but optional)
- **Sat Aug 30 11:00am** at the TC Phil 1724 S Garfield Ave Saturday Family Concert (shorter than 1 hr.)

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!!

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.

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.

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 August issue of the STAR is available. If you receive the weekly email, your August issue will be emailed on August 1st. 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>.

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 8/20—The Pub, Traverse City 7:00pm **Sat 8/23**—The Dam Shop, Elk Rapids 6:00pm

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 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 or 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 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.

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 \$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 any 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,

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,
Renae Wells,
Patti,
Sharon,
Kyle,
Ben,
Marianne,
Christine,
Janet,
Cheryl

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, August 17

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

Monday, August 18

3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

3:30pm—Grief Group (YR)

Tuesday, August 19

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

6:30pm—Council (Library)

Thursday, August 21

12:00pm—Music Rehearsal (S)

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, August 22

STAR ARTICLES DUE TODAY

Saturday, August 23

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, August 24

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

