Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 24, 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:

Morning Has Broken

ELW 556

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, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14

God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

9b If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, 10 if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. 11 The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. 12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. 13 If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs; 14 then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 103:1-8

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—

3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

4 who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

6 O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

7 You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

8 Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.



Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding "sabbath work" to include setting people free from bondage.

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

10 Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. 11 And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight.

12 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." 13 When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. 14 But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." 15 But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? 16 And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" 17 When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon "Set Free Day" Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day: Healer of Our Every III ELW 612

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.

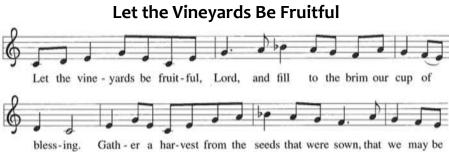
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace (Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)

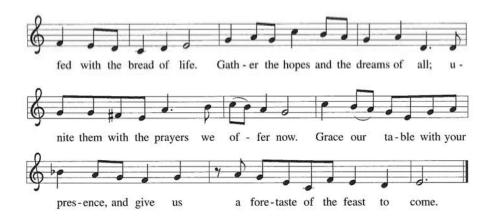
Offering / Offering Song:

Zeke Clemons





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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.

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:

United at the Table
We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 498 ELW 479

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:

10,000 Reasons

Bless the Lord, O my soul; O my soul; Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, it's time to sing Your song again. Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me. let me be singing when the evening comes.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; O my soul; Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

(continued on next page)

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger. Your name is great and Your heart is kind. For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing. Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; O my soul; Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

And on that day, when my strength is failing, the end draws near, and my time has come; Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending ten thousand years, and then forever more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name, worship Your holy name, Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8/25—Bonnie Newhouse 8/27—Jim Williams

8/28—Sheila Mosley

8/29—Katherine Word 8/29—Danna Bugai 8/29—Bethany Uhl 8/30—Bonnie Gamble

Worship Servants for August 24

Presiding & Preaching—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Cindy Monroe

Lector—Nancy Pflasterer

Musicians: Carol Man Lee, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Crystel Fernholz, Pr Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: By Tom & Julie Cole in Memory of all our loved ones who have gone before us

Hospitality—Jim and Dorene Boyd

A/V—Jim Monroe / Paul Ton

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table— VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Gail Goldsmith

Front Door Monitor—John Halstead

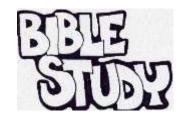
Altar Guild—Mary Ann Tanis / Gail Goldsmith

Counters—Bonnie Gamble / Jane Passmore



<u>The rose on the Baptismal font today</u> is in celebration of Arletta June Goldsmith who was born on July 6, 2025 to Alexander and Heidi Goldsmith. Her Grandmother is Gail Goldsmith. She has two big sisters, Esther and Evelyn

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 will be a signup sheet in the gathering space through today 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!





The Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas will be installed as bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod on Saturday, September 13, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids (2700 Fulton Street E). Worship will include a volunteer choir and a reception will follow. Childcare will be available. All are welcome to attend! You're invited to wear something red if desired. You must RSVP by using the link below:

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=-B7-Cl32jUe7-uxYFy4aZXyWFJ2IzbVPqnz9AnohTUBUQkxNWTE3SDU2NktWSEE1OFdTSlhCUoc4VC4u&route=shorturl

Fellowship Chair Person Needed: Since Gail Goldsmith has taken on the role of President of the BLC Council she is not able to continue as the chair person for the Fellowship Committee. There is a wonderful group of people on the committee, so there is great help in the kitchen. The primary responsibility are planning and shopping for dinners, such as Third Thursday meals before service, Advent and Lenten Dinners, Easter Brunch pot luck and Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. There are other church activities such as game days after church, community activities such as arranging Pit Spitters games. These are just some ideas that we have done in the past. Some years we have had more and some years less. This person does not need to attend Council meetings, just write up a short summary of monthly Fellowship activities for the council meeting. Please talk to Gail Goldsmith with any questions or interests.



GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!! SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7....COME AND JOIN US!! On Sunday, September 7, we will gather following worship to continue our work on our Mission and Vision Ministries! Our work together has brought us three areas of interest: Social Ministry and Outreach, Creation Care, and New Life Together. The input we have received from you, the congregation, has led us to this point... it is time to put our goals into action! We will gather immediately following worship for lite refreshments in the Fellowship Hall, hear a few directions, and then break into the three teams in order to get organized and begin our work together. We plan to have our work concluded by 12:30 p.m. Please let us know of your plans by signing up on the sign up sheet posted in the narthex. This will help us plan for refreshments, handouts, and work space. No need to feel like an "expert" or to have been involved in all of the work thus far... All are Welcome!!! We hope you will join in the day!

Our Hands are Ready to Do God's Work!!!!

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.

<u>Let's Play Bunco</u>: Cheryl Wegener is going to lead us in playing Bunco after church on **Sunday, September 14th**. If you don't know how to play, that is okay, Cheryl will teach us. Please sign up in the Narthex if you would like to play. Bring a snack item to share with the group. There will be sandwich items and beverages provided. Come have Fun and Fellowship!



Walkers and support staff needed! There are two ways Bethlehem can help our friends at Stony Lake Lutheran camp ministry and those who struggle with hunger this fall (the CROP Walk.) First, on Friday, September 19th, Pastor Paul is assembling of team of 12 or more volunteers to support the Honor, MI transfer point for the Ragnar Michigan Team Running Race from TC to Muskegon. Volunteers will be tasked with making sure the relay running team partners are ready to transfer the "baton" and have necessary support and water at the ready. The only job requirements for volunteers are a good sense of humor and ability to work a 4, 6 or 8 hour shift, somewhere between 8am to 4:15 that day. More details forthcoming. The Ragnar is a fundraiser, but our "ask" is just for people's time to support those running!

The second mission opportunity will be finding a handful of people to participate in the Northport team for the CROP Walk held this October 5th at 1pm. Talk to Pastor Paul if you are interested. We have spoken with James Thatcher who coordinates the Northport team, and he is excited to have us join. This second opportunity is a fundraiser, where CROP Walkers can raise funds on behalf of BLC to contribute to the Northport effort. For more information on hunger awareness and CROP Walk ministries, visit Northport CROP Hunger Walk https://share.google/AiLSnK93ZUO34imWk OR https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks

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 and third Mondays of the month from 3:30-4:30. The group will not meet on Labor Day. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns 231-392-6913.

<u>Chair Yoga: will not meet on Wednesdays in August</u>. We will continue to meet on Mondays at Bethlehem at 3:00. It will continue to be \$5 per class.

<u>Garden News</u>: Thanks to all who have been involved in the garden in any way. Now it's time for the fun part... harvesting. There is a group that gathers the ripe veggies every Tuesday. It doesn't have to be just Bethlehem's gardens. You can help with

anyone's garden!

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

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. September 16 yet to come. Oue 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.

<u>Pr. Ruth</u>: 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.

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 FAMLY. 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.

<u>Alcoholics Anonymous</u>: 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.

<u>Coffee and Cookies</u>: 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

<u>Volunteers for Watching the Front Door During Worship</u>: 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:

Tues 8/26—Bel Lago, Cedar 5:30pm Wed 8/27—The Pub, Traverse City 7:00pm

<u>Offerings:</u> 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:

<u>Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant</u> works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

<u>Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper</u> works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. (this is Phil's summer schedule)

<u>Alanna Steffunick-Boomer/Ministry Coordinator</u> 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
- <u>Prayers read from the altar</u>: Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880 or admin@bethlehemtc.org

<u>Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font!</u> Cost \$10.00 per rose. Contact Barbara Oster at beo6475@yahoo.com or 231.668.7038.

<u>Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years</u>. 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.

<u>Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations?</u> 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.

<u>Yarn Available</u>: There is yarn available free for the taking located in the cabinets located under the mailboxes in the Narthex. Take what you need.

<u>Name tags</u>: 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.

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 and changes or additions by email to admin@bethlehemtc.org

Harper Wiemerslage,

Jerry Hill,

John Block,

Roy DuMond,

Mary Woodring,

Norm Fred,

Lynn,

Steve,

Sherry,

Bob,

Suzanne Lehto,

Dick & Lois Gray,

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 24

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

Monday, August 25

3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, August 26

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

Wednesday, August 27

9:00am—Baby Pantry Seasonal Changeover (FH)

11:300am—Music Rehearsal (S)

12:00pm—WELCA Board Meeting (Library)

Thursday, August 28

12:00pm—WELCA Summer Bible Study (FH)

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

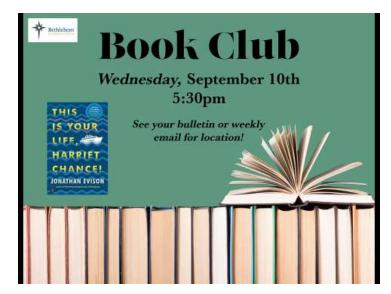
Saturday, August 30

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

Sunday, August 31

10:00am—Worship Service (S)





Walkers & Support Staff Needed! There are two ways Bethlehem can help

There are two ways Bethlehem can help our friends at Stony Lake Lutheran camp ministry and those who struggle with hunger this fall (the CROP Walk.)

Friday, September 19th

Provide support & water at the Honor, MI transfer point for the Ragnar Michigan Team Running Race.

Check your weekly email or bulletin for more details, and reach out to Pastor Paul if you are interested!

Sunday, October 5th

Participate in the Northport team for the CROP Walk.

