

# Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



**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:**

***Let Us Go Now to the Banquet***

***ELW 523***

**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, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## Children's Message

Pr. Paul

## First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7a

*The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.*

6 Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great, 7a for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

## Gospel Acclamation:

### Alleluia



## Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

*Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.*

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

1 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. 7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. 8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, 9 and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. 10 But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. 11 For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." 12 He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Song of the Day:

*O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts*

ELW 658

## Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

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

## Offering

## Offering Song:

Zeke Clemons

## Offertory:

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## 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:**

***Break Now the Bread of Life  
I Received the Living God***

***ELW 515  
ELW 477***

## 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:** ***O Beautiful for Spacious Skies (America the Beautiful)***

***ELW 888***

## Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.  
C: Thanks be to God.



**Bethlehem** *August 31, 2025*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

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

9/1—Mary Belle Woodring  
9/3—Sue Allen  
9/4—Barb Svalstad

9/5—Dennis Merrifield  
9/5—Jacob Graf  
9/5—Gail Goldsmith

9/5—Janet Landis  
9/6—Linda Hansen

### **Worship Servants for August 31**

Presiding & Preaching—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Peggy Burns

Lector—Pam Reid

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Barbara Oster in Honor and Memory of the People of New Orleans on the 20th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina*

Hospitality—Dan and Laura Hahn

A/V—Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Dave Susalski

Front Door Monitor—Frank and Pat Wall

Altar Guild—Barbara Oster

Counters—VOLUNTEER / Jane Passmore

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** The Fellowship Hall floor will be stripped during this week. It will take three days – Wednesday, September 3rd through Friday, September 5th. Please do not walk into the Fellowship Hall on any of those days. Plans for the future will be the kitchen, then the two restrooms.

**Chair Yoga:** will not meet on Monday, September 1st as it is Labor Day. We will now meet on Mondays and Wednesdays at Bethlehem at 3:00. It will continue to be \$5 per class.

**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.

**Choir News:** The choir will resume its practice schedule on Mon Sept 8 at 2:30. Come and join in the musical fun!

**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.

**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-uxYFy4aZXyWFJ2lzbVPqnz9AnohTUBUQkxNWTE3SDU2NktWSEE1OFdTSIhCUoc4VC4u&route=shorturl>

**Let's Play Bunco** 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 a 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>

**XYZ is resuming on Friday, September 26th! Please note that this is a different date than our normal second Friday, to accommodate other church activities.** We will enjoy a delicious potluck lunch at 12pm, followed by a presentation by Jack Lankford, president and founder of Evergreen Community Group. Evergreen is a 501c3 nonprofit that specializes in social events for adults of any age to encourage community building. Their mission is to be a beacon of warmth, connection, and support for those feeling isolated or lonely in Northern Michigan. Their goal is to create a welcoming space where individuals can find solace, community, and an uplifting presence. XYZ stands for EXtra Years of Zest, and while originally intended to be primarily for seniors, adults of any age are encouraged to attend! The presentations would be enjoyable and informative for anyone. We hope to see you there!

**Garden News:** 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!

**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.

**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. Our BLC Hot Dog Picnic on June 25 was a first time ever event for Safe Harbor and a huge success. 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.

**Please note that Sunday School, Sunday's Adult Education will begin their classes on Sunday, September 14th – both at 9:15am. The Wednesday Zoom Bible Study will begin on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm with a study of Esther The Hidden Hand of God**

**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 **CASH OR CHECK WORKS TOO:** Are you one of those people like many of us who come home from the grocery store and say, "Dang... I forgot to buy some extra things for the food pantry." Never fear. The pantry has some savvy bargain hunters who are willing to shop and there is now a line item for food pantry in the budget. Feel free to put some cash or money in an envelope and label with "food pantry" (add your envelope # if you want a record of giving). Or add to your weekly/monthly donation and indicate that a specified amount goes towards the food pantry. You will truly be following the gospel command to "Feed the hungry!" And if you are of the electronic age and only use plastic, just notify Cindy Monroe to bring in the "Square" which is linked to direct money to Bethlehem... (just remember that the app takes a percentage of your donation).

**New Directory Insert Coming!** Be watching your church mailbox. There will soon be an insert of the new members who officially joined in the spring. Please tuck it in the back cover of your directory in case you want/need to contact any of these people.

**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.

**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 August 27 we received a check from Oleson's for \$232.59 for a total of \$824.25 so far this year. 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 September issue of the STAR is available.** If you receive the weekly email, your September issue will be emailed on August 31st. The shut-ins will receive an issue by mail. There will also be a few copies available on the counter by the mailboxes. You may also contact the office at 947-9880 to request that mail delivery continues. For current issues of the Star, feel free to check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org) < About Us > “The Online Bethlehem Star” or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>.

**Spotlight on Zeke:** So many of us enjoy Zeke’s talents with religious music, but did you know that he plays other kinds of music at various locations in the Traverse City area? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC:

**Tues 9/3**—The Pub, Traverse City, 7:00pm    **Sat 9/6**—MiddleCoast, Traverse City 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 **Wednesday. Please note that Phil will work these days until next summer**

Alanna Steffunick-Boomer/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday and from home on Thursday – Please note that this is a new schedule

**Looking for a link to last month’s full Council minutes?** Type this address/url into your web browser to get the latest approved minutes from Council: [bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes](http://bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes)    OR you may call the office to request a copy.

**Prayer Requests:**

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at [jstretlien@gmail.com](mailto:jstretlien@gmail.com) or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880 or [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org)

**Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font!** Cost \$10.00 per rose. Contact Barbara Oster at [beo6475@yahoo.com](mailto:beo6475@yahoo.com) or 231.668.7038.

**Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years.** They are proud people and do not like to be given charity but they will accept help in the form of donated cans that they can recycle for money. Please bring in your recyclables in for them. Leave them in plastic bags by the garage. These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

**Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations?** It is now located inside the coat room to the right. Your donations are very much appreciated.

**LOST AND FOUND:** If you lose something in the church building, please check our new Lost and Found box located in the Coat Room. Also, if you find something, please put it in the box.

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



**Name tags:** Your name tags are in your mailboxes. Please retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and with so many recent new members it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it.

**Have something important going on at Bethlehem that you'd like others to know about?** Maybe a Small Group? A Club Event? Feature it on the Screen Announcements, weekly emails and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included in any of these, please reach out to [alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org) If you are not getting the weekly emails for any reason, please contact Alanna.

**Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service.** Please use the sign-up poster in the Narthex by signing on the date you request. Then fill out a pink slip with the necessary information and place it and a check for **\$45** (This is a new amount.) The check should be payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or BLC) in the offering plate on Sunday morning (Preferable) or during the week, in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox near the church office entrance. You may select either "in honor" or "in memory" or "to celebrate". If someone has already signed on the date you would like, feel free to add your name – we welcome more than one on a Sunday.

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

Harper Wiemerslage,  
Jerry Hill,  
John Block,  
Roy DuMond,  
Mary Woodring,  
Norm Fred,  
Lynn,  
Steve,  
Sherry,  
Bob,  
Suzanne Lehto,  
Dick & Lois Gray,

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

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

**Sunday, August 31**

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

**Monday, September 1**

**Happy Labor Day**

**Church Office Closed**

**Tuesday, September 2**

**Bulletin articles due today**

9:00am—Property Work Group

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

10:45am—Staff Meeting (CR)

**Wednesday, September 3**

**Fellowship Hall Floor Stripping**

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

3:00pm—Chair Yoga

**Thursday, September 4**

**Fellowship Hall Floor Stripping**

5:30pm—ACA (Library)

**Friday, September 5**

**Fellowship Hall Floor Stripping**

**Saturday, September 6**

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

8:00pm—AA (FH)

**Sunday, September 7**

**God's Work, Our Hands Sunday**

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

11:15am—Vision Event

# New Bishop Installation



The Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas will be installed as bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod on **Saturday, September 13, 2025** in Grand Rapids.



All are invited to attend!  
RSVP by following the QR code to the left, or see your bulletin or weekly email for an RSVP link and more information.

## God's Work, Our Hands!

Help Work on Our Mission & Vision Ministries!

*Sunday, September 7th  
after church*



*Sign up now  
in the Narthex!*

## Walkers & 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.]

### Friday, September 19th

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

### Sunday, October 5th

Participate in the Northport team for the CROP Walk.

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

**CROP HUNGER WALK**  
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME