

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 3, 2023 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 10



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C: Amen.

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

C: ... you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW #798

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

p. 203

S203

1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr Paul Busekist

First Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflinching standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

p. 205

S205a

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

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

21 From that time on, after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be

killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? 27 "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon **"The Kingdom of God in a Baseball Universe" (Honest to Pete!)"**

Pr Paul

Song of the Day:

My Country 'Tis of Thee

My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing:

Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride from every mountain side let freedom ring!

My native country, thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love:

I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills; My heart with rapture thrills like that above.

Let music swell the breeze and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song:

Let mortal tongues awake, let all that breathe partake; Let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.

Our fathers' God to Thee, author of liberty, to Thee we sing:

Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King!

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.*)

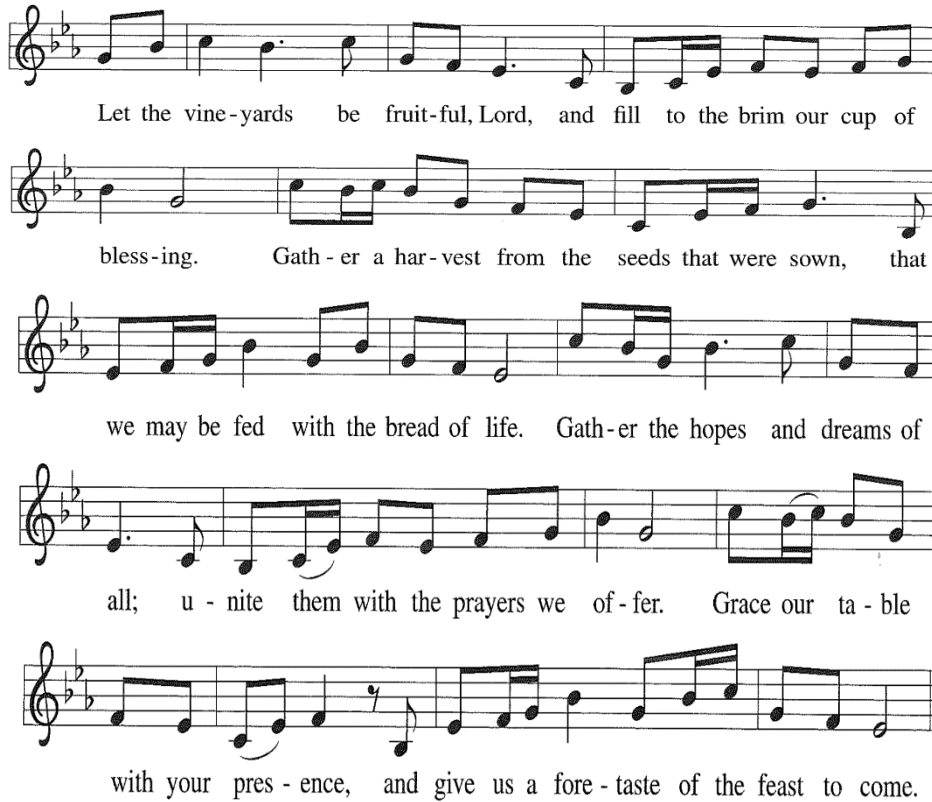
Offering

Offering Song:

Jan Mudgett

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.

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, 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:

Bind Us Together (words below)
Heaven Is Singing for Joy

WOV #748
ELW #664

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

There is only one God. There is only one King. There is only one Body; that is why we can sing:

1. (continued on next page)

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

You are the family of God. You are the promise divine. You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

Final Blessing

P: The God of glory, ✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song: *America the Beautiful (O Beautiful for Spacious Skies)* **ELW #888**

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem September 3, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9/3—Sue Allen
9/4—Barb Svalstad
9/5—Jacob Graf

9/5—Dennis Merrifield
9/5—Gail Goldsmith
9/8—Carole Luttinen

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

Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and **Wednesday**.

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: *In Thanks and Praises to God for his Love and Care.*

The September issue of the STAR is now available. 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>.

The October/November/December Christ In Our Home is now available. Please take a copy for yourself and also for friends and family.

Sunday School will resume on September 17th at 9:15am

WE NEED YOU!! We are looking for someone who would be willing to lead the Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 9:15. Last year we discussed the readings for the day which was very well received. You would be responsible for finding people who would be willing to lead the discussion. For further information, contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433.

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

Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at jstretlien@gmail.com or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880

Due Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screen Announcements:

- STAR: The third Friday of the month sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Please note STAR in subject line)
- Bulletin/Verbal Announcements: Tuesday of the week sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Bulletin/Worship Folder is prepared on Tuesday and printed on Thursday morning.) (Please note Bulletin or Announcement in subject line)
- Screen Announcements/Weekly BLC Emails: Tuesday of the week sent to alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org

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

Choir News from Tony Bero: Greetings, friends! I hope you've been having a great summer. This summer has been a busy one; I taught a session at Interlochen Arts Camp, my wife and I purchased a home in Grawn. With that purchase came lots of home improvement projects that have kept me busy in addition to teaching my piano students, working with the choir at Immanuel Lutheran, and squeezing in our annual family camping trip. As summer begins its wind-down, I invite you to consider joining the choir as we resume our rehearsals on Thursday, September 7 at 7:00 pm. We will begin preparing, *For the Beauty of the Earth*, by John Rutter. We will also set dates and times for September rehearsals. I hope you can attend!

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND UPDATE: Thank you to so many of you for your generous response to the August Good Samaritan Fund Drive!!! This was one final "welcome back surprise" for Pastor Paul organized by the Sabbatical Committee. We are waiting until the end of the month for our final total, but we know that we surpassed our goal of \$1250 which was the amount equal to the 50 numbered colored envelopes. You are such a giving congregation! Whether that money assists one of our own members or a needy member of our community we know that it will be much appreciated. Did you miss out on donating? Know that you can donate to the fund at any time by marking an envelope or your check to indicate you are directing money to that fund. You can also request the designated Good Samaritan Fund envelopes from the office.

Join us to celebrate Rally Day (a.k.a. "God's Work, Our Hands" Day) and welcome in the start of the school year! Sunday, September 10th, 2023, 11:30am - 1:00pm. We will have a variety of games set up (hopefully outside, if we are blessed with good weather!) and will be providing hotdogs, cookies, chips, and drinks for everyone. We are welcoming families from the communities to this event as well! Come join us, have some fun, and get a little bit of info about our Sunday School and Adult Education! We invite YOU!

While some of the adults and all of the kids are outside enjoying special fun activities after the service on Sunday 9/10, we hope many of the rest of you will wear your casual clothes and come prepared to spruce up the inside of BLC. This has been done twice before in the past year and it really makes a difference in our church. Feel free to bring your own special cleaning supplies or use what is available here at the church. We will work for 45-50 mins and anyone who would like to can stay to share a meal with the kids. Jana Rockne has agreed to be the "Queen Merry Maid" who will direct you to the needed locations.

Now scheduling for directory photography sessions. Please stop by our table and make your appointment on Sundays after the service, today through 9/24. Online scheduling will be available Monday-Friday. Photo dates will September 27th, 28th, 29th from 2pm - 8:30pm, and September 30th from 10am - 4pm. Each family photographed receives a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory! You can schedule your appointment online at: www.ucdir.com. Click on the appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter **mi1773** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family, please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is only available Monday - Friday. Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time. Questions? Please contact Kathy Ancinec (989) 906-2764 or Christine Hubert (231) 357-7722.

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.

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 9/6—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00
Sun 9/10—Bel Lago Winery in Cedar at 3:00
Wed 9/13—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00
Wed 9/20—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00

Sat 9/23—Bel Lago Winery in Cedar at 3:00
Wed 9/27—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00
Fri 9/29—Brady's Bar at 6:30
Sat 10/7—Hotel Indigo at 6:00

BLC Book Club resumes: The TC library has upgraded their book club bag selection so there are more choices!!! For Sept 26 the book *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver is in the book club box outside the front doors of church. This book is a Pulitzer Prize winner and has been on the "Best seller" list for weeks. Please try to join in person in the office conference room at 5:30 that Tues. If you need us to include you via ZOOM please contact Cindy at cmonroe@chartermi.net so a connection can be established.

XYZ Potluck has returned! Join us for good food, laughter and fellowship on Friday, September 8th at 12 Noon. After lunch, we will have a program by our very own Tom Rockne whose topic will be "Africa is a Huge and Diverse Continent." He will speak on his travels across Africa. While predominately geared toward seniors, we welcome any adult who would like to attend.

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.

Coffee and Cookies: You are welcome to stay after the Sunday service for coffee, cookies and conversation. This will be done as many Sundays as there are volunteers to make the coffee and/or bring cookies, etc. There is a sign-up sheet available near the cookies. There are open dates, so please sign up!

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

Adult Bible Study: will resume on September 20th, 9:30-11:30am, with the Gospel of John.

The Zoom Bible Study: will resume on September 13th, 1:30-3:00pm, with a study the Book of Isaiah. Contact Pr Paul or Barbara Oster if you are interested in attending.

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.

A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts. We just received a check from them for \$304.88. Last year received \$651.20. Let's see if we can do even better this year! Please continue to drop off your receipts at Bethlehem. Please note they do not expire. Thank you!

Hoop's Pet Food Pantry: This is the only pet food pantry in NW lower Michigan. They primarily provide dry food, wet food, treats, cat litter and toys for mostly dogs and cats but they will support any type of pet to the best of their ability. Please visit them at the Square Deal Country Store, 900 Woodmere Ave, TC **from 11:00am – 2:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month** with your donations OR you may leave donations in the tub on our "donations" table in the coat room. The volunteers have expressed their appreciation when receiving our donations.

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

Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. Please use the sign-up poster in the Narthex by signing on the date you request. Then fill out a pink slip with the necessary information and place it and a check for \$40 (payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or BLC) in the offering plate on Sunday morning (Preferable) or during the week, in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox near the church office entrance. You may select either "in honor" or "in memory" or "to celebrate". If someone has already signed on the date you would like, feel free to add your name – we welcome more than one on a Sunday.

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

Sunday, September 3

10:00am--Worship Service (S)

Monday, September 4

Church Office Closed

Happy Labor Day

Tuesday, September 5

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

10:45am—Staff Meeting (FH)

Wednesday, September 6

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

11:30am—WELCA Board Meeting

Thursday, September 7

5:30pm—ACA

7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Friday, September 8

12:00pm—XYZ (FH)

Sunday, September 10

Rally Day – God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

10:00am--Worship Service (S)

11:30am—Rally Day Party

11:30am—BLC Clean-up

