

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Sunday, September 10, 2023 – 10:00 am
Traditional Worship



Welcome to All! We are glad that you are able to worship with us today. **Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like.** During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion at the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill out one of the Visitor cards available at our Welcome Table in the Gathering Place.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 10, page 203

Pre-Worship Music/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

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 Hymn *As We Gather at Your Table*

ELW #522

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



- 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 (All)

A: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

A: Let us pray together... **C: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson

Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

7 So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. 8 If I say to

the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. 9 But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. 10 Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” 11 Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 119:33-40

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.

35 Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

36 Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.

37 Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.

39 Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

40 Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.

Second Lesson

Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. 11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12 the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13 let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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 18:15-20**

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

C: ...Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: 15 “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon***Pr Paul Busekist*****Hymn of the Day** *Oh, Praise the Gracious Power****ELW#651****(Verses 1-5 only)***Baptisms of Maple Melody McFaul and Luke Kevin Wenzel***(see special folder)*

Prayers of Intercession: response after each petition: **“Receive our prayer.”** (*Before prayer*) A: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors...

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

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

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

MEAL

Offering / Offering Song

Zeke Clemons

Offertory (*Please stand, as able.*) **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
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.

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.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

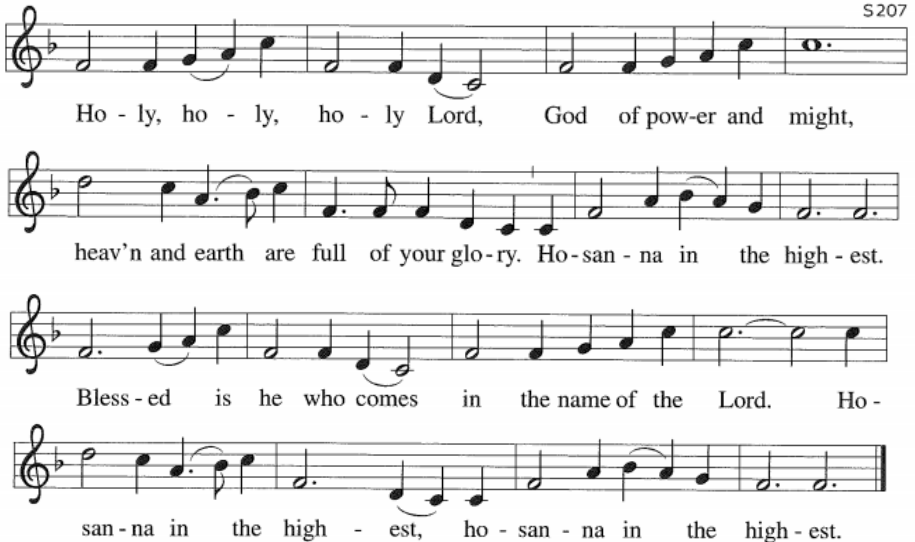
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Holy, Holy, Holy

S207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

The 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.

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

***Please note: Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

Communion

Lamb of God

S208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Hymns

I Come with Joy
Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue

ELW #482
ELW #644

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: **Amen.**

Post-Communion Canticle

Thankful Hearts



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al-le-lu - ia.

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

SENDING

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

We Praise You, O God

ELW #870

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. God is at work in you. **C: Thanks be to God**



Bethlehem *September 10, 2023*
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9/11—Nancy Smith

9/15—Cynthia Cuba

9/12—Monica Graf

9/16—Meghan Denton

9/12—Jana Rockne

9/16—Jan Stretlien

9/13—Shelly Nellist

Today's altar flowers are donated by:

Carl & Suzanne Lehto in Celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary

Ron & Marilyn Dork in Celebration of their Wedding Anniversary

Today we welcome by Baptism:

Maple Melody McFaul, daughter of Sarah and Andy McFaul and granddaughter of Jim and Patty Leibenguth

Luke Kevin Wenzel, son of Kayla and Kevin Wenzel and grandson of Craig and Maureen Bauer

Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.

Safety and Security message: Please check in with the office if you enter the building during office hours whether you use a key or the doors are open.

“I GET TO”: Last Sunday Pastor Paul talked about some things being “Have to’s” and other things being “Get to’s”!! Well, this falls in the realm of **“I GET TO”** as I will be helping us get organized for Adult Sunday School. I say “helping” as this is not my class but our class! I look forward to us growing participation, enhancing enthusiasm, and learning along side one another!! Please come next Sunday, the 17th, at 9:15 and we will spend our time talking about possibilities. The class will meet in the Youth Room from 9:15 to 9:45 each Sunday and we will most likely start the year with the continued study of the lessons for the day. I anticipate seeing you and learning together as we study God’s Word! See you on the 17th! Sherri Helman

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.

Our Care Giving Committee has put up a “Communitas” Board on the wall of our Coat Room! This “BOARD” is needed and helpful for ALL of us! Following is a suggestion of some things YOU and our YOUTH can do to “interact” with the board and other members of our congregation. The purpose of our “Auxilium Communitas” BOARD (Latin for “Community/Congregation Assistance”) is to SHARE our gifts, talents, or skills to others that might be in NEED of something like: Gardening, Organizing, Painting, Raking leaves, Shoveling, Household tasks, Carpentry, Manicures, Pedicures, Companionship, Care giving, etc. - This list is Endless! You never know when YOU will be in need of some extra help personally, in your home or yard – let's make this “reciprocal” - All ages are Welcome to Help Service our Congregation!

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. This has turned out to be a very popular book so all of the books from the club bag have been taken. You will need to obtain your own copy of this book if you have not already taken one. 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.

Choir News: The first rehearsal that was scheduled for this past week had to be cancelled due to illness. Please join the choir this Thursday, September 14th at 7:00pm. The choir will begin preparing, For the Beauty of the Earth, by John Rutter. We will also set dates and times for September rehearsals.

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:

Sun 9/10—Bel Lago Winery in Cedar at 3:00

Sat 9/23—Bel Lago Winery in Cedar at 3:00

Wed 9/13—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00

Wed 9/27—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00

Wed 9/20—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

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!!! 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.

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.

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!

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

The same ministry partner who helped bring the Apprentice Series book group to Bethlehem 6 years ago hopes to host a 6-week series on Spiritual Formation at BLC this October and November. Bethlehemers Welcome! Keep on the lookout for more information on "Inside Out" in next week's bulletin.

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

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.

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 10

Rally Day – God’s Work, Our Hands

Sunday

10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)

11:30am—Rally Day Party

11:30am—BLC Clean-up

Monday, September 11

1:00pm—Finance Committee (CR)

3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, September 12

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

12:00pm—Sarah Circle (FH)

1:00pm—Friendship Bible Study

6:00pm—Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting (YR)

6:30pm—Executive Committee (CR)

Wednesday, September 13

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, September 14

9:00am—Baby Pantry Set-Up (FH)

10:00am—Baby Pantry (FH)

1:00pm—Rebecca Anna Circle

5:30pm—ACA

7:00—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Friday, September 15

STAR articles due

10:00am—Sew Pieceful (FH)

Saturday, September 16

7:00pm—Contra Dancing/Bayside

Travellers (FH)

Sunday, September 17

9:15am—Sunday School

9:15am—Adult Education (YR)

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

