

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

C: ... we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

P: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **C: Amen.**

Gathering Song:

Days of Elijah

Robin Mark

These are the days of Elijah, declaring the Word of the Lord;
And these are the days of Your servant Moses, righteousness being restored;
And though these are days of great trials, of famine and darkness and sword;
Still we are the voice in the desert crying, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee, and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

And these are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh;
And these are the days of your servant, David, rebuilding a temple of praise;
And these are the days of the harvest, the fields are as white in the world;
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard, declaring the Word of the Lord.

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee, and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

There is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah.
There is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah.

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee, and out of Zion's hill salvation comes. at the trumpet call;
Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee, and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

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: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have.

Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

7 Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." 13 Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. 14 The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 90:1-12

1 Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;

5 you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6 in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7 For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
8 Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

11 Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?
12 So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

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

Jesus said to the disciples: 14 “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Lord of Light

ELW #688

Baptism of Charlie Rose Schmidt (*See Special Folder*)

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:

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW #465

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. 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:

**Christ, Be Our Light
O Christ the Same**

ELW #715

ELW #760

Final Blessing

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW #726

Dismissal

A: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem November 19, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

11/19—Art Newhouse

11/22—Mary Lou Deutsch

11/23—Carmen Svalstad

11/25—Jacky Putman

11/26—Peg Pepler

Worship Servants for November 19

Assisting Minister—Cindy Monroe

Lector—Tim Goebel

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *In Memory of 1 year of Betty Cole's passing to the beautiful flower-filled heavenly Kingdom*

In Appreciation of all the volunteers who made the craft show and bake sale a huge success – Thank You!

A/V—Jim Monroe, Barbara Oster and the Acker Family

Hospitality—Dan and Laura Hahn

Cookies—Maggie Russell

Welcome Table—Gail Goldsmith

Bell Ringer—Gail Goldsmith

Altar Guild—Mary Ann Tanis/Gail Goldsmith

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Jane Passmore and Sherryl Hellenga

Today we welcome by Baptism:

Charlie Rose Schmidt, daughter of Michael Schmidt and Jessilyn Wallington

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.

The November issue of the STAR is now available. The December issue will be distributed on November 26th. 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.

Adult Education in the Youth Room plus Sunday School - every Sunday at 9:15am

The next Third Thursday service will be a Blue Christmas service on December 21st at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed. The BLC Fellowship Committee will be providing a light meal at 5:45 p.m. There will be sandwiches, salad and drinks. Please come early and share in fellowship and stay for the service.

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.

BABY PANTRY PROJECT: Parents visiting the baby pantry really appreciate all the items you have been donating. They especially need laundry soap, cleaning products and toilet tissue. The next Baby Pantry date is Thursday, December 14th. Thank you one and all!

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.

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:

Sat 11/25—Hotel Indigo at 6:00

Wed 12/6—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00

Wed 11/29—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00

Sat 12/9—Hotel Indigo at 6:00

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS: The book for **Nov 28** discussion is *The Christmas Train* by David Baldacci which has been a New York Times Bestseller. This is a more light-hearted book to get a jump on the holiday spirit. If you want to join the BLC discussion it will be at 5:30 that Tues with a pizza meal. If you want to join but cannot be there in person please send a ZOOM request to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net.

DIRECTORY NEWS - For those who did not have their photo taken or submitted, or for those who might like an additional one, you may order a copy of our new church directory. Please contact Kathy Ancinec at 989-906-2764. The cost will be \$8.00 per copy, before December 6, 2023. After that date, it will cost \$12.00. Reserved copies will be available for future members only.

Dear Members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church,

It's that time of year; the leaves start to turn color and fall to the ground. It is also the time of year when we like to take some time and gratefully thank the congregation for your continued support of our wonderful church.

We are all grateful to have such abundant blessings with our location and our faithful members. It's important to remain dedicated to our Christian faith and do our best to follow through on our commitments. With love & kindness we ask that if you are able and willing to help the church in a financial way, we really need your help. Contributions are behind where we should be for the start of the fourth quarter. This is primarily because of pledged money that has not yet been received.

We respectfully ask that if you can do what you have pledged or even a little bit more, the church will put those dollars to good work. Thank you for prayerfully considering this appeal. We appreciate your support and are grateful for all you do to make Bethlehem Lutheran Church a thriving community of believers. Jim Monroe, BLC Financial Secretary and Phil Anderson, BLC Bookkeeper

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! The WELCA Thankoffering Service was again a beautiful reminder of the generosity of our Bethlehem congregation. Because of you, over \$700 was received to further the advancement of women in ministry! Special thank yous go out to the following for making Sunday so special: Pastor Paul, Suzanne Lehto, Barbara Wright, Ann Rundhaug, Kathy Ancinec, Jacque Rossfeld, Betty Rutila and the Tuesday morning quilting group, Jan Stretlien, Barbara Graf, Mary Ann Tanis, Sally Ton, Laura and Brian Acker, Julia Acker, Megan Acker, Jim Hinds, Barbara Oster, Phil and Denise Bossardet, David Husser, Nancy Ammann. It can't be said enough - THANK YOU! Blessings Always, WELCA of Bethlehem

Adult Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30am in the Youth Room, with a study of the Gospel of John.

The Zoom Book and Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00pm. The group will take a Thanksgiving break on November 22nd and will complete the study the Mitch Albom book, *Have a Little Faith* on December 6. The next study will start in January where the group will study the Book of Mark.

Chair Yoga will meet for the last time, tomorrow, November 20th at 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

December's XYZ Potluck & Presentation will be on Friday, December 8th, at 12pm noon. While primarily geared toward seniors, the group is open to any adult who would like to attend! XYZ meets monthly September through May for a potluck lunch, followed by a program or presentation. December's presentation will be by one of our own members of Bethlehem, Sherri Helman, who will give a presentation titled: "The Bible in Living Color." On Sherri's trip to the Holy Land this past January, one of the repeat travelers described her first pilgrimage there as this: "A time when the Bible went from black and white to living color." That was the experience that occurred for Sherri. In her sharing at the December XYZ Luncheon, some of those experiences will be shared from the heart! Please know this will not be a political conversation about the conflicts and unrest within Israel....it will be an intimate sharing of faith, blessing, and gratitude! We hope you will join us in December for good food, fellowship, and a wonderful presentation!

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!

New member orientation: Arrangements are in the works for a gathering in November or December. Please contact membership chair, Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or the office at 947-9880 if you are interested in joining Bethlehem.

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: Remember that treats and a hot drink on Sunday are appreciated by all. Please take a moment to sign up to bring cookies or some other tasty treat on the Sunday that works best for you. Or sign up to prepare the coffee.

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.

Food Pantry: We will NOT be closing our outdoor pantry for winter this year. We have a new member who ran an outdoor pantry downstate and she has given us lots of ideas of foods that can be stored there during the cold months including: hamburger helper, stuffing mix, dry milk, instant potatoes, cookies, and rice. Also, there is always room for dry goods such as toilet paper, paper towels etc. Please start looking for some of these items when they are on sale and bring your extras to the coat room. Your generosity is so appreciated.

A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts. We just received a check from Olesons for \$268.15 for a total of \$593.03 this calendar year. Please continue to drop off your Olesons' 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, November 19
 9:15am—Sunday School
 9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
 10:00am—Worship Service (S)
 12:30pm—Confirmation Class (YR)

Monday, November 20
 3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, November 21
Bulletin articles due today
 9:00am—Property Work Group
 9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
 10:45am—Staff Meeting (CR)
 6:30pm—Council Meeting (Library)
 7:00pm—Lautner SG (Offsite)

Wednesday, November 22
 9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)
 11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
 1:00pm—Johnson SG (Offsite)

Thursday, November 23
Happy Thanksgiving
Church Office Closed
 5:30pm—ACA (Library)

Sunday, November 26
 9:15am—Sunday School
 9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
 10:00am—Worship Service (S)



CHRISTMAS TEA SOCIAL
DECEMBER 3, 2023
2:00 TO 4:00 PM
GATHERING SPACE AT BETHLEHEM

Our theme is 'THE NATIVITY'. We are asking if you would bring a Nativity to use as a centerpiece. At the tea you may also tell us a little about your Nativity if you so desire. (i.e. where it came from, why it's special to you, etc.)

Please bring your Nativity to the church on Saturday, December 2nd between 10:00 am and noon.

PLEASE ALSO BRING TO THE TEA:

1/2 DOZEN COOKIES/TREATS TO SHARE

1 WRAPPED GIFT TO EXCHANGE \$8-10

CANNED/PACKAGED FOOD ITEMS FOR

2 FOOD BASKETS

(TURKEYS PROVIDED BY WELCA)

PLEASE SIGN UP BY THE POSTER IN THE NARTHEX TO LET US KNOW THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING AND ALSO IF YOU ARE BRINGING A NATIVITY.

PLEASE SIGN UP BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH.

COME JOIN US!

