

Baptism of Our Lord

January 15, 2023 – 10am
Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,

C: ... we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

I've Just Come from the Fountain

WOV 696

I've just come from the fountain, I've just come from the fountain, Lord, I've just come from the fountain,
his name's so sweet. O Lord, I've just come from the fountain, I've just come from the fountain,
Lord, I've just come from the fountain, his name's so sweet.

O brother, do you love Jesus? Yes, yes, I do love my Jesus. Brother, do you love Jesus? His name's so sweet.

O Lord, I've just come from the fountain, I've just come from the fountain, Lord, I've just come from the fountain,
his name's so sweet.

O sister, do you love Jesus? Yes, yes, I do love my Jesus. Sister, do you love Jesus? His name's so sweet.

O Lord, I've just come from the fountain, I've just come from the fountain, Lord, I've just come from the fountain,
his name's so sweet.

O sinner, do you love Jesus? Yes, yes, I do love my Jesus. Sinner, do you love Jesus? His name's so sweet.

O Lord, I've just come from the fountain, I've just come from the fountain, Lord, I've just come from the fountain,
his name's so sweet.

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 our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. 2 He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; 3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. 4 He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. 5 Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: 6 I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, 7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. 8 I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. 9 See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 29

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

6 the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

7 The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.

8 The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

9 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.

11 O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child

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

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

ELW #304

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



bles-sing. 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: Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus 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:

Let Us Break Bread Together
I Come with Joy

ELW #471

ELW #482

Final Blessing

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod † bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

Better is One Day

Redman

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord almighty. For my soul longs and even faints for You.
How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord almighty. For my soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence. I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house, better is one day in Your courts
than thousands elsewhere.

Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house, better is one day in Your courts
than thousands elsewhere, than thousands elsewhere.

One thing I ask and I would seek: To see Your beauty, to find You in the place Your glory dwells.
One thing I ask and I would seek: To see Your beauty, to find You in the place Your glory dwells.

Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house, better is one day in Your courts
than thousands elsewhere.

Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house, better is one day in Your courts
than thousands elsewhere, than thousands elsewhere.

My heart and flesh cry out for You, the living God. Your Spirit's water to my soul.
I've tasted and I've seen. Come once again to me. I will draw near to You, I will draw near to You, to You.

Better is one day, better is one day, better is one day than thousands elsewhere.

Better is one day, better is one day, better is one day than thousands elsewhere.

Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house, better is one day in Your courts
than thousands elsewhere.

Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house, better is one day in Your courts
than thousands elsewhere, than thousands elsewhere.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem January 8, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

1/15—Noah Froehlich
1/18—Kathleen Endline

1/18—Debra Jean Knopf
1/19—Ron Dork

1/19—Tracey Moyer
1/21—Sue Allen

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

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

Pledges: As Bethlehem Lutheran Church prepares for a new year, it is important to know what support we can depend on from our congregation members. By knowing what you are willing to commit financially, we are able to better plan for the future. If you have already turned in your pledge card, we sincerely thank you. If you have not, please prayerfully consider doing so in the coming weeks. The “2023 open pledging season” will last through December 2022. Please be assured that we will happily accept your pledge at any time in 2023. Jim Monroe, Financial Secretary, Phil Anderson, Bookkeeper

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to manufacturing problems and supply shortages, our supplier for your giving envelopes, Church Budget Envelope Company, has informed me that they will be late with our order for 2023 giving envelopes. They are working hard to get caught up with orders but cannot provide me with a guaranteed ship date. As a result, we ask that you place your contribution in a standard envelope. Please include your name on the envelope so we can properly record your contribution. On behalf of our supplier, I apologize for the delay and assure you that everything possible is being done to fulfill our order. Thank you for your patience and understanding, Phil Anderson, Bookkeeper

COVID: Please note that masks are required for unvaccinated persons in worship and highly encouraged for those who are vaccinated.

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *Jana and Tom Rockne in Celebration of the New Year.*

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.

Third Thursday: The next Third Thursday service will be a service of Holden Evening Prayer on January 19th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed.

The January 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>.

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

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.

Apologies to Tom & Cheryl Wegener: Their Christmas poinsettia donation was inadvertently left off the list on Christmas weekend. Their donation was in Memory of Cheryl's parents: Kenneth and Hazel Lautner.

Registration begins today, January 15th, for 2023 Summer Camp in New Era at Stony Lake - presented by Living Water Ministries. The website is <https://elcalivingwater.com>

Intergenerational for January 21: since Mother Nature is in charge and we do not have any snow for sledding, we will meet at church at 1:30 to set up for the pancake breakfast. From 3-4:30 we will head to open skate at Howe Arena at the Civic Center. All are welcome!!

Pancake breakfast is January 22 from 8:45am-10:15am. All proceeds go to our youth and the ski trip. For those volunteering, please plan to be there from 8:45-10:15.

Ski trip at Crystal Mtn. on February 5th. We are meeting there and skiing from 12:30p-4:30p. We will have dinner and fellowship at Gino's, in Thompsonville, following. Lift tickets will be provided to youth, and as many adults as possible, for those who have helped with pancake breakfast set up and serving. Please reach out to Tina Dohm 231-218-1915 to RSVP by January 29.

Bethlehem Docks at Safe Harbor! The primary responsibility for Bethlehem volunteers will be to prepare and serve a meal on three nights- February 4, 5, And 7. That food preparation talent is largely set as I have previously noted. A number of other jobs are available that are simply opportunities to interact with the Safe Harbor guests. We will also offer a sign-up to provide snacks, milk, and more in the Gathering Space January 8th. The change of Safe Harbor to it's own staff- that we will assist- is a positive. As you will see on the sign-up sheets- most require no training... just your friendly face and outgoing personalities to offer a welcome. As you know, we are sharing our week with Northern Community Church and "Five Loaves; Two Fish" of Leland that does every Monday night through the winter season. We have jointly coordinated our meal plans so guests do not have the same meals day by day. I plan on being there each night to help where needed. Come join me! Tom Rockne, Bethlehem Lutheran Safe Harbor Coordinator M231.631.0040

SABBATICAL FUNDS: It is so gracious of so many members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church to contribute to the Sabbatical Fund. The Sabbatical Committee is aware there are members who feel very strongly about how they would like to direct their donated funds. Please, write on the memo line of your check what you would like your funds to be designated to, such as Pastor's activities (e.g. special family trip to Holden Village), or Congregational activities only. Any donations which are not marked will be placed in the general Sabbatical fund.

There are a wide variety of costs involved with the Sabbatical, from pulpit supply, extra costs for staff doing some of Pastor's day to day tasks. There are a variety of church activities being planned such as; painting classes, skits, cooking classes, Sundaes on Sunday and many more.

Pastor Paul will be with Bethlehem 12 years in 2023 and he has not had a Sabbatical. Bethlehem developed a policy in 2018 for the Pastor to have a Sabbatical after 7 years of employment. There was a motion made to give Pastor Paul a Sabbatical in the summer of 2023 and it was approved by the Church Council.

The Committee has also reviewed the Sabbatical Policy from the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, which recommends a 3-month Sabbatical every 5 years. According to synod sabbatical recommendations, "although the congregation is not responsible to fund the Pastor's sabbatical activities, parishioners may consider "gifting" as a means of providing financial assistance." If there are any questions please feel free to contact any of the committee members: Gail Goldsmith, Pastor Paul Busekist, Maureen Bauer, Carolyn Mann, Cindy Monroe, Barbara Wright or Kathi Ivany-Mort.

Pecans Are Still Available: The Worship and Music committee has a limited supply of Cinnamon Glazed (2 bags), Milk Chocolates (4 bags) and Mammoth Halves (3 bags). They are good for a hostess gift, Valentine's Day, baking or just plain munching. To order, please contact Barbara Oster at 231.668.7038 or beo6475@yahoo.com or call her at the BLC office (Monday, Tuesday or Thursday – 947.9880).

The newest Living Lutheran magazine and the January/February/March Christ in Our Home 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.

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 back in your mailboxes. Please retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it. If you notice a visitor please encourage them to make a nametag which are kept with the welcome notebook.

Choir announcement: The choir will be taking a break during the beginning of Jan. and will resume rehearsals on 1/26 at 7:00. Make a resolution to add some music into your life! Rehearsals are 2-3 Thursdays per month at 7:00. Contact Tony Bero at bero.tony@gmail.com or 942-1162.

Adult Bible Study gets together on Wednesdays from 9:30am-11:30am. It is a casual discussion of the Gospel of Luke. Bring your bibles and come, share, learn and grow with us.

The Zoom Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30pm—3:00pm. This group will study the book, Liturgy in the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life. Contact Pr Paul for Zoom information.

BLC Book Club: The BLC book club's Jan meeting is on the 24th at 5:30 via ZOOM. The book is The Sunflower by Paul Evans. If you are not on the email list and want to be involved, send your information to cmonroe@chartermi.net.

UPDATE ON BABY PANTRY SUPPORT PROJECT: Our Baby Pantry Food donations are down – like empty. These families are really appreciative of our help. Anything such as food items or toilet paper you can donate would be great. The basket is under the table in the coat closet. Thank you for sharing in your abundance. WELCA

A big thank you to all who have turned in Oleson's receipts. We just received a check from them for \$186.58 for a grand total of \$651.20 for the year 2022. Please continue to drop off your Oleson's receipts at Bethlehem!!! Thank you so much!!!

New Members: Many of you have been visiting for some time and the start of the new year may be the time to make your presence here "Official". Feel free to contact membership chair, Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or the office at 947-9880

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 1100am – 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. Please note that they are anticipating an increased need over the winter,

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 and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included for either Screen Announcements or Facebook Events please reach out to admin@bethlehemtc.org.

Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. The signup sheets for 2023 are now up on the poster. 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.

Bethlehem sends weekly emails directly to your inbox with important announcements and information! If you are not getting them for any reason or if you have something you'd like to have added please reach out to admin@bethlehemtc.org

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, January 15

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

Tuesday, January 17

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

6:30pm—Council Meeting

7:00pm—Lautner SG (Offsite)

Wednesday, January 18

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, January 19

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

7:00pm—3rd Thursday/Holden EP (S)

Friday, January 20

STAR articles due today

10:00am—Sew Pieceful (FH)

Saturday, January 21

1:30pm—Intergenerational Prep for Pancake Breakfast (FH)

3:00pm—Intergenerational Skating (Offsite)

Sunday, January 22

8:45am—Pancake Breakfast (FH)

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

12:30pm—Confirmation (YR)