

Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 19, 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:

Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW #671

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, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, 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: Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The "glory of the Lord" settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

12 The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." 13 So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. 14 To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." 15 Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16 The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. 17 Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. 18 Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

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 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

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

1 Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. 3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 5 While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." 8 And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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

Song of the Day:

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW #631

Apostles Creed

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

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

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

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

Offering

Offering Song:

Zeke Clemons

Offertory:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

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

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:

**Come, We That Love the Lord
Beautiful Savior**

**BLC Choir
ELW #838**

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:

We Are Marching in the Light

ELW #866

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem February 19, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

2/19—Chuck Ardingo
2/20—Peggy Goebel
2/21—Daniel Hahn

2/22—Sarah Denton
2/24—Paul Rundhaug
2/26—Crystal Fernholz

2/26—Barb Beyer
2/26—Fay Miller

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

Alanna Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on 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. Please be assured that we will happily accept your pledge at any time in 2023. Jim Monroe, Financial Secretary, Phil Anderson, Bookkeeper

Thank You for Your Generosity: As we look forward to the new year of 2023, we would like to express our gratitude for all of the generous contributions that you have made to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. As a result, we are able to continue providing services and support our congregation and those in need in our community. We thank you for your ongoing commitment and kindness. May you be blessed with an abundance of good health and God's blessings throughout the coming year. Phil Anderson, Bookkeeper; Jim Monroe, Financial Secretary

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The giving envelopes have arrived! Please pick your box up in the Narthex. 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: Norm & Jane Fred in Memory of Dr. Stephen Fred

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 Jazz Vespers service on March 16th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed.

The February issue of the STAR is now available. The March issue will be distributed on February 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>.

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.

Registration is now open for 2023 Summer Camp in New Era at Stony Lake - presented by Living Water Ministries. The website is <https://elcalivingwater.com>

Picture Directory: We have a chance to make a new directory this year, but with any project like this we need volunteers. Please leave your name in the office if you can help on this project in any way.

Easter Flowers: See the insert with today's bulletin to order your Easter flowers.

The season of Lent, and the promise of Easter are just around the corner. From the Fellowship Committee's perspective, that means planning for food and fellowship during this holy season.

- **Please join us at 6:00pm on Shrove Tuesday, February 21. We will be serving pancakes, sausages, fruit, dessert and beverages.**
- There will also be meals before the Lenten services on March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. Meals will be at 6:00 followed by the service at 7:00. At each meal we will be serving two soups, bread/rolls, a salad, dessert and beverages. Signup sheets will be available if you would like to donate a food item for a meal. We are especially looking for "Soup Artists". We know you are out there and would love to share your family favorites! We would like to have one of the soups each night be vegetarian-friendly; no meat, no soup bones, no meat-based broths.

Help in the kitchen would also be greatly appreciated; you pick the dates and times that work for you. Please contact Laura Hahn if you have any questions. dandlhahn@gmail.com, 231-929-1339 (home), 231-499-1948 (cell). Thank you!

Sabbatical Team Update: Something to keep in mind. A ministry sabbatical is different from a traditional academic or business sabbatical. A pastor's sabbatical is about the spirit and soul being refreshed, renewed, and redirected. The intent of a sabbatical, Sabbath, is a time to be silent and listen to God, not attend lectures or write papers. It is a time to be in solitude and to be with God, not "interact" with fatigued peers. If help is to be given to a pastor, it is not going to come by infusion of intellect, but by renewal of the spirit. Depending on what a pastor does while he is gone from his day to day pastoral duties, he will come back even more skilled and talented than when he left.

The synod assembly will be back in person this year instead of on-line. It will be held May 7-9 in Mt Pleasant.

Immanuel/Bethlehem choir director Tony Bero will be leading the music. Our church is allowed to send one male and one female as voting members in addition to our pastor. Perhaps this is the year that you feel you are being called to do something new and different in your spiritual life? If so, please tell Pastor Paul or leave your name in the office.

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 have a rehearsal on Feb 23rd at 7:00pm. 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*. We will be starting a new lesson in a few weeks: Book of Faith: Romans. Contact Pr Paul for Zoom information.

BLC Book Club: The BLC book club's Feb meeting is on the 28th at 5:30 via ZOOM. The book is *The Orphan's Tale* by Pam Jenoff. This book will NOT be in the outdoor box so you will need to find your own copy. If you are not on the email list and want to be involved send your information to cmonroe@chartermi.net.

UPDATE ON BABY PANTRY: March donations: laundry detergent and paper products. Note: Cleaning supplies cannot be purchased with food stamps, etc so there is a huge need for these items. There is also a need for food items. Anything you bring is most appreciated. Please bring items by March 5th so they can be ready to distribute on March 9th when the Baby Pantry is open. Thank You!

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!!! Also note that they do not expire. Thank you so much!!!

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.

2023 Relay for Life: The American Cancer Society will be holding their annual 24-Hour Relay for Life event on Saturday, June 10, 2023 starting at 10 AM with an opening ceremony to Sunday, June 11, 2023 ending at 10 AM at the Grand Traverse Mall. As a long-time volunteer with the organization, I would like to request your support in the form of monetary donations to the American Cancer Society in support of this great cause, which will impact so many wonderful people who need your help. Thank you very much for your generous donations in the past, which helped the American Cancer Society provide more programs and do more research and advocacy for cancer patients and their caregivers. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is really appreciated!

Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. Note that flowers are not placed on the altar during Lent (February 26th through April 2nd) and will resume on Easter Sunday. 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 alanna.steffunick@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, February 19

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

12:30pm—Confirmation (YR)

Monday, February 20

5:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

Tuesday, February 21

Shrove Tuesday

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

7:00pm—All Star DE (YR)

6:00pm—Shrove Tuesday Dinner (FH)

6:30pm—Council Meeting

7:00pm—Lautner SG (Offsite)

Wednesday, February 22

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

1:00pm—Johnson SG (Offsite)

1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study

5:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

7:00pm—Ash Wednesday Service (FH)

Thursday, February 23

5:30pm—ACA

7:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Sunday, February 26

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

