

Reformation Sunday

Bethlehem Lutheran Church



October 29, 2023 – 10:00am
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 near 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 it 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 4, page 147

Pre-Worship Music/Announcements

Prelude

His Love Never Fails

BLC Choir

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.**

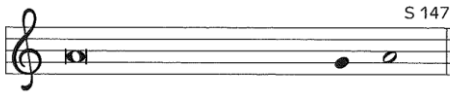
Gathering Hymn *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

ELW #504

Greeting

A: 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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Prayer of the Day (All)

A: Let us pray together...

C: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr Paul

WORD

First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

3 though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

6 The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.

7 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

8 Come now, regard the works of the Lord, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

9 behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

10 “Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Lesson

Romans 3:19-28

Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. 21 But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26 it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works?

No, but by the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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.

Gospel

John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

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

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’” 34 Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Hymn of the Day *Although I Speak with Angel’s Tongue* ELW #644

Baptism of Lennon Elizabeth Andrzejewski (See Special Folder)

Prayers of Intercession: response after each petition: **“Hear our prayer.”** (Before prayer) A: Trusting in the transformative power of God’s loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. (Conclusion) P: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

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.*) **As the Grains of Wheat** ELW #465

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

S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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...

(see next page for *Holy, Holy, Holy*)

Holy, Holy, Holy

S 153

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

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

S 154

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

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

Heaven Is Singing for Joy

ELW #664

Dismissal

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



Bethlehem October 29, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10/29—Nancy Lautner

10/31—Jim Rumbach

11/4—Beth Nunnelley

10/29—Paul Wiemerslage

11/3—Rudy Kelly

11/5—Jane Zlojutro

10/29—John Block

Reminder: Daylight Saving Time goes away next Sunday, Nov. 5th so set your clocks BACK one hour on Saturday night – FALL BACK

Worship Servants for October 29

Assisting Minister—Barbara Oster

Lector—Mary Ann Tanis

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

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *Barbara Oster in Celebration of all of Bethlehem's volunteers.*

A/V—Acker Family

Hospitality—Leonard and Barb Graf

Cookies—VOLUNTEER

Welcome Table—Gail Goldsmith

Bell Ringer—Gail Goldsmith

Altar Guild—Mary Ann Tanis and Gail Goldsmith

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Kate Holtfreter and Cindy Cuba

XYZ Potluck: Join us for good food, laughter and fellowship on Friday, November 10th at 12 Noon. For this month, we will have a Thanksgiving Dinner. Turkey, dressing and beverages will be provided. Please bring side dishes to share. After lunch, we will have a program from Victoria Stone of the Grand Traverse region of Habitat for Humanity.

Today we welcome by Baptism:

Lennon Elizabeth Andrzejewski, daughter of Brady and Hannah Andrzejewski and great-granddaughter of Corey Hughes

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH ART & CRAFT SHOW - SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 4, 2023 9:00am to 3:00pm**

Featuring over 40 local artists and crafters with original, handmade goods! Please sign up in the Narthex hallway to volunteer for our fundraiser.

Giving Statements Available Your individual giving statements will be available in your mailbox in the Narthex beginning Sunday October 15, 2023. The statement covers giving from January 1st through September 30, 2023. Please pick them up at your convenience. To save on postage, I will mail out the ones not picked up by the end of November 2023. Thank you for your generous support for the programs and ministries of your church. We are all blessed by your faithful giving. Your Bookkeeper

Counters are needed! Jim Monroe is looking for offering counters for the calendar year of 2024. Counters will be assigned for a month at a time. Depending on the number of volunteers, it could only be a couple of times per year. To volunteer, please contact Jim at 231-941-0788 or by email at xcski@chartermi.net

Please pre-order your Christmas poinsettias now. Please use the gold insert found on the counter at the back of the sanctuary. The deadline for ordering is this Wednesday, November 1st.

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.

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, November 9th. Thank you one and all!

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.

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, October 29

REFORMATION SUNDAY

9:15am—Sunday School

9:15am—Adult Education (YR)

10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)

Monday, October 30

3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, October 31

Bulletin articles due today

CRAFT SHOW SET-UP BEGINS TODAY

9:00am—Property Work Group

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

Wednesday, November 1

CRAFT SHOW SET-UP CONTINUES

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

1:30pm—Zoom Book and Bible Study

Thursday, November 2

CRAFT SHOW SET-UP CONTINUES

1:00pm—Inside Out (Library)

5:30pm—ACA (Library)

7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Friday, November 3

CRAFT SHOW SET-UP CONTINUES

Saturday, November 4

9:00am—Craft Show

Sunday, November 5

9:15am—Sunday School

9:15am—Adult Education (YR)

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

11:15am—Worship & Music committee (CR)

