

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 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 Could Sing of your Love Forever

Over the mountains and the sea Your river runs with love for me, and I will open up my heart, and let the Healer set me free.

I'm happy to be in the truth, and I will daily lift my hands, for I will always sing of when Your love came down, yeah.

I could sing of Your love forever, I could sing of Your love forever,

I could sing of Your love forever, I could sing of Your love forever.

Over the mountains and the sea Your river runs with love for me, and I will open up my heart, and let the Healer set me free.

I'm happy to be in the truth, and I will daily lift my hands, for I will always sing of when Your love came down, yeah.

I could sing of Your love forever, I could sing of Your love forever,

I could sing of Your love forever, I could sing of Your love forever.

Oh, I feel like dancing; it's foolishness, I know. But when the world has seen the light,

They will dance with joy like we're dancing now.

I could sing of Your love forever, I could sing of Your love forever,

I could sing of Your love forever, I could sing of Your love forever.

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: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

1 Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. 2 Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. 3 "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! 4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. 5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord." 6 "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" 8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 15

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;

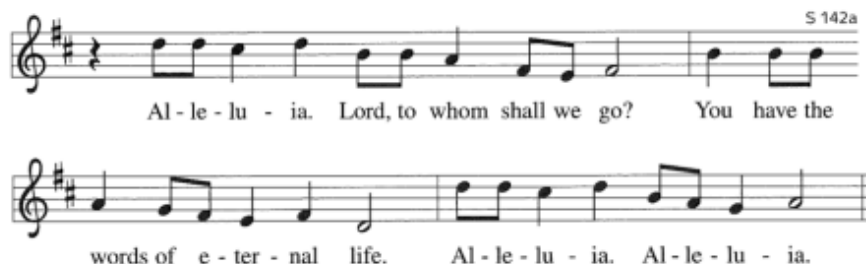
3 they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

4 In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

5 They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia



Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

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

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

O Master, Let me Walk with You

ELW #818

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:

**For the Bread Which You Have Broken
United at the Table**

**ELW #494
ELW #498**

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:

All the People Said Amen

Maher, Morgan & Moak

You are not alone if you are lonely. When you feel afraid, you're not the only.
We are all the same, in need of mercy, to be forgiven and be free.
It's all you got to lean on, but thank God, it's all you need.

And all the people said, "Amen." Whoa.
And all the people said, "Amen."
Give thanks to the Lord, for His love never ends. And all the people said, "Amen."

If you're rich or poor, well, it don't matter. Weak or strong, love is what we're after.
We're all broken, but we're all in this together. God knows we stumble and fall,
and he so loved the world, He sent His Son to save us all.

And all the people said, "Amen." Whoa.
And all the people said, "Amen."
Give thanks to the Lord, for His love never ends. And all the people said, "Amen."

Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart. Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart.
Blessed are the people hungry for another start, for theirs is the kingdom, the kingdom of God.

And all the people said, "Amen." Whoa.
And all the people said, "Amen."
Give thanks to the Lord, for His love never ends. And all the people said, "Amen."

And all the people said, "Amen." Whoa.
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Give thanks to the Lord, for His love never ends. And all the people said, "Amen."
And all the people said, "Amen."

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem January 29, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

(Apologies that these were not in the Bulletin last week)

1/25—Laura Hahn

1/26—Patricia Duzenbery

1/28—Zeke Clemons

1/25—Jane Kurkowski

1/27—Mathew Branch

1/26—Ronald Hellenga

1/28—Jim Monroe

This week's birthdays

2/1—Karen Feahr

2/3—Elly Froehlich

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www.bethlehemtc.org

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. **There are supplemental envelopes on the table in the Narthex if you need some.** 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: *In Memory on the Jan. 31st wedding anniversary of Betty and Cal Cole.*

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 brand new Taize service on February 16th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed.

The February 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.

COLLEGE & MILITARY LOVE PACKAGES: The Christian Education Committee is sending love packages to Bethlehem's college students and military people who are away from home. We need names and exact, complete addresses of these people by February 5th. You may email these names and addresses to Nancy Ammann at nmammann@gmail.com or place in my mailbox at church. Thank you!

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

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 today, January 29.**

New Members will be accepted on Sunday Feb 12. Please join us in welcoming those who have been worshiping for us for some time and have made the decision to become a part of our BLC family. If you wanted to be a part of this group and have missed an invitation, please contact membership chair, Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or the office at 947-9880

Bethlehem Docks at Safe Harbor! Our days/nights start next Saturday, 04FEB. **Those donating snack items – please deliver to Bethlehem kitchen clearly marked “SAFE HARBOR/XXFEB”. I will assure they get to Safe Harbor. If for Saturday, 4FEB-deliver by Thursday 02FEB; if for Sunday, 5FEB-deliver on that Sunday morning to church; if for Tuesday, 7FEB- deliver Monday or Tuesday AM to the church. Need special times? Call me and we’ll work it out. 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

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.

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), 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.

Congratulations are in order for the gifted middle school student, Ava Zeratsky who blessed us with her talent on Reformation Sunday. She auditioned and has been awarded a seat in the state middle school orchestra. If anyone wants to send her a note of congratulations Cindy Monroe can make certain that they are delivered to her.

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.

Pecans Are Still Available: The Worship and Music committee has a limited supply of Milk Chocolates (3 bags) and Mammoth Halves (1 bag). 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 a rehearsal on Feb 2nd 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. 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 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!!! Also note that they do not expire. Thank you so much!!!

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.

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 29

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

Tuesday, January 31

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

Wednesday, February 1

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

11:30am—WELCA Board meeting

1:00pm—Johnson SG (Offsite)

1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, February 2

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Saturday, February 4

SAFE HARBOR TONIGHT

Sunday, February 5

SAFE HARBOR TONIGHT

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

11:15am—Worship and Music (CR)

12:30pm—Ski Trip

