

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Sunday, February 12, 2023 – 10 a.m.
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 3, page 138

Pre-Worship Music/Announcements

Prelude – Teach New Taize Song – *Nothing Can Ever*

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff covers measures 1 through 3, with lyrics: "No-thing can e-ver come be-tween us and the love of God, the". The second staff covers measures 4 through 6, with lyrics: "love of God re-vealed to us in Christ Je - sus." and ends with a "Fine" marking. The third staff covers measures 7 through 9, with lyrics: "O". The chords indicated above the notes are: G, Em, Am/C, D, Em, C, Bm, Em, Am/C, Am, Em, Bm, C, G, Em, D, Am, D/F#, Em, G/D, Am, Am/C, D.

GATHERING

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 Hymn

Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW #765

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 (lead by Pastor Paul)

S 138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, 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,

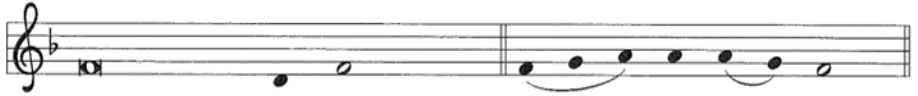
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



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



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

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

Assisting minister

S 139



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



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

A: Let us pray together...

C: O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

First Lesson

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

The Lord sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God's presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.

Moses said to the people: 15 See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. 16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth to

witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 119:1-8

1 Happy are they whose way is blameless, who follow the teaching of the Lord!

2 Happy are they who observe your decrees and seek you with all their hearts,

3 who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.

4 You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.

5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!

6 Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.

7 I will thank you with a true heart, when I have learned your righteous judgments.

8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are coworkers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

1 Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, 3 for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? 4 For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? 5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. 9 For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

S 142a

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 5:21-37

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

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

Jesus said to the disciples: 21 “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. 26 Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. 31 “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32 But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 33 “Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ 34 But I say to you,

Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Hymn of the Day *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways-ELW772*

Recognition of New Members *(see insert)*

Apostle's 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 Intercession: response after each petition: **"Receive our prayer"** *(Before prayer)* A: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *(Conclusion)* P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **C: Amen.**

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

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

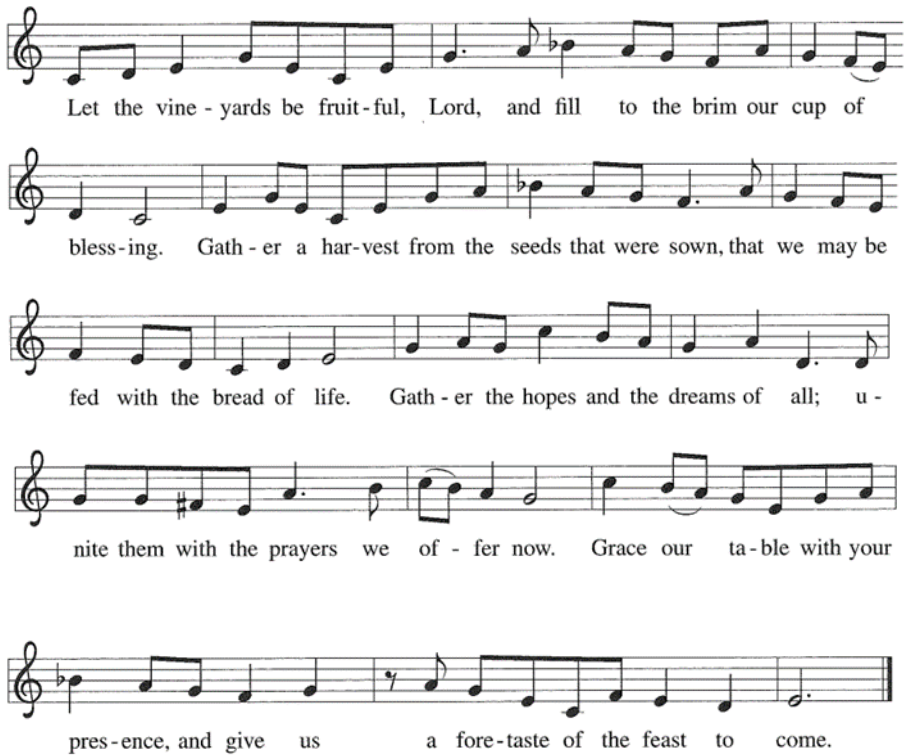
Offering

(Please be seated.)

Offering Song:

Zeke Clemons

Offertory (Please stand, as able.) *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 the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. 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.

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

S 144a

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Great Thanksgiving (continued)

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. 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 146

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

Communion Hymns

*Come, We That Love the Lord
One Bread, One Body*

*BLC Choir
ELW #496*

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: **Amen.**

Post-Communion Canticle

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.
5 Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

C: Amen.

SENDING

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 *O Master, Let Me Walk with You*

ELW #818

Dismissal

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



Bethlehem February 12, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2/12—Nathan Goebel

2/17—Rodney Rice

2/13—Ellie Tacke

2/18—Harper June Wiemerslage

2/14—Kelly Thompson (Bauer)

2/19—Chuck Ardingo

2/15—Martha Sheehan

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 on Tuesday and Thursday

New Members Today: Please join us in welcoming today those who have been worshipping for us for some time and have made the decision to become a part of our BLC family. We welcome John and Judi Block; Tim, Peggy and Nathan Goebel; Sherri Helman; and Rob, Niki, Mason, and Connor Hengartner

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

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *Judi Block in Memory of her dad, John Sima.*

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.

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

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.

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.

- There will be a meal on Shrove Tuesday, February 21. Stay tuned for more details.
- 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!