

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



Pre-Worship Music

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew. Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation. Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all. Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Blessed Are Those Who Do Believe

Blessed are those who do believe. Blessed are those who do believe. Though they have not seen they trust God faithfully.

Blessed are those who do believe. Blessed are those who do believe. Though they have not seen they trust God faithfully.

Some people doubt what they have not seen. They will not blindly follow what is said.

Others view this as a weakness but it can authenticate instead. See my nail pierced hands. Come touch my wounded side.

I give what you need for faith as you give your trust completely my Spirit will guide.

Blessed are those who do believe. Blessed are those who do believe. Though they have not seen they trust God faithfully.

Blessed are those who do believe. Blessed are those who do believe. Though they have not seen they trust God faithfully.

As I've been given so I give you to the world, forgive the sins of all,

...bringing hope to doubting faces, tearing down where hatred builds a wall. And as you bring life to places here and far,

... always keep in mind you are not loved for what you do but for whose you are.

Blessed are those who do believe. Blessed are those who do believe. Though they have not seen they trust God faithfully.

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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: Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr Kara Shaw

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

14a Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, 22 "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—23 this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. 24 But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. 25 For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; 26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. 27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' 29 "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Foreseeing

this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ 32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

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: John 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

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

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” 24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” 26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” 30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Kara Shaw

Song of the Day:

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

ELW #384

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:

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW #465

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. 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:

By Your Hand You Feed Your People

ELW #469

Eat This Bread

ELW # 472

Here Is Bread

ELW #483

Final Blessing

P: The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

ELW #535

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem April 16, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4/16—Pastor Paul Busekist
4/20—Parker Busekist

4/21—Sage Hill
4/22—Sharon Stowe

4/23—Linda Williams

We welcome Pr Kara Shaw of Reed City as our Presiding and Preaching Minister today

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

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.

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 Taize “A” service on April 20th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed.

Today’s altar flowers are donated by: *Mason and Connor Hengartner in Honor of the Hengartner Family*

The April 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

Due Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screen Announcements:

- STAR: The third Friday of the month sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Please note STAR in subject line)
- Bulletin/Verbal Announcements: Tuesday of the week sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Bulletin/Worship Folder is prepared on Tuesday and printed on Thursday morning.) (Please note Bulletin or Announcement in subject line)
- Screen Announcements/Weekly BLC Emails: Tuesday of the week sent to alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org

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>

Photo Directory: We have a chance to make a new directory the final week of Sept, 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. Thanks to those who have already volunteered. And please, try to be in town that week. We want everyone's smiling faces in our new directory.

Choir announcement: Happy Easter! I will miss celebrating the resurrection with you, but I will be thinking of you while I serve the congregation at Immanuel Lutheran in Suttons Bay. I want to thank those of you who have introduced yourself to me at our Third Thursday and Lenten mid-week services. The trickiest part of my job is trying to connect with a congregation that I don't see often, so I truly appreciate it when you make it a point to say hello to me before or after these services. I also hope you've enjoyed the music the choir has been preparing over the last few months and throughout Holy Week. We've been having fun in our weekly rehearsals. I'd like to thank Sherri Helman and Tim Goebel for stepping up and joining the choir as their time and schedules allow. The choir will prepare two more anthems before we take some time off for the summer, those will be sung on Sunday, May 7, and Sunday, June 4. This is a good opportunity for you to try singing in the choir without making a long term commitment. If you can sing along to a song on the radio in the car, you've got all the skills you need to sing in a choir. **Here are the upcoming rehearsal dates (all rehearsals begin at 7:00pm): Tues. April 25, Tues. May 2, Thurs. May 11.** If you want or need to contact me you may do so via email, bero.tony@gmail.com or by texting/calling 231-942-1162. Peace be with you, Tony Bero

Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years. They are proud people and do not like to be given charity but they will accept help in the form of donated cans that they can recycle for money. Please bring in your recyclables in for them. Leave them by the garage. These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

A recent search of the church refrigerator revealed some food that has expired or has been in there for an unknown period of time. These items have been marked. If you have food items in the refrigerator, please check on them ASAP. Please mark them with your name and date if you wish to keep them. All expired and mysterious foods will be thrown away in the near future, unless they are claimed. 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.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the Sabbatical Fund. At last count, we have collected over \$14,000.. Our goal is \$15,000 so if you would still like to contribute, we welcome it.

BLC Book Club: The BLC book club's Apr meeting is on the 25th at 5:30 via ZOOM. The book this month is The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Michele Richardson. Copies are available in the Book Club box outside the front doors. Cindy is planning to learn how to do a "Hybrid" meeting this month so that in the future those who want to come to church can do so and those who want to participate on "ZOOM" can also do that. If you are not on the email list and want to be involved send your information to cmonroe@chartermi.net

The newest Living Lutheran magazine and the April/May/June 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.

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. Beginning on April 26th, this group will study *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation* by Parker Palmer. Contact Pr Paul for Zoom information.

FOOD PANTRY: With the return of good weather, we will also be opening up our outdoor food pantry to the community. Please be watching for special deals so you can help us restock our pantry for the warmer months.

BABY PANTRY: Suggested donations for April are: tissues, toilet paper, cleaning products such as hand soap, all purpose cleaner, laundry soap. Thank you!

CHILI COOK-OFF: I want to extend a special thank you to everyone who participated and helped in the soup and chili cook-off. We had a great turnout, everyone had a wonderful time, and I'm so appreciative of everyone who put time and effort into making this event happen! Your hard work is SO appreciated!

Thank you to the volunteers who made this event happen! Your help with setup, cleanup, and overall help with the event is so appreciated!

-Nancy Ammann
-Renaee Wells
-Dan and Laura Hahn

-Sarah Denton
-Paul Wiemerslage
-Norm Fred

Thank you to everyone who brought an entry and participated in the cook-off! You are so talented and your entries were delicious!

Soup Category:

-Jessica Wiemerslage
-Renaee Wells
-Phil Bossardet
-Betsy Morley
-Barb Beyer

Winner: Jana Rockne



Beef Chili Category:

-Kathy Ancinac
-Laura Hahn
-Shelly Nellist
-Sally Ton

Winner: Tom Christensen



Chicken Chili Category:

-Nancy Ammann

Winner: Meredith Busekist

Veggie Chili Category:

-Norm and Jane Fred

Winner: Ron and Sherryl Hellenga

Grand Prize Winner:

-Jana Rockne

A special thank you to Norm Fred for getting photos of this event; check out the BLC Facebook page and website to see all of the photos!

-Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator

Join the Grand Traverse Conservation District for their upcoming workbees:

- April 21st and 22nd: Earth Day Volunteer Planting Workbee-register and information at <https://natureiscalling.org/events/earth-day-volunteer-planting-workbee>
- May 13th: Hickory Meadows Volunteer Workbee-register and information at <https://natureiscalling.org/events/hickory-meadows-volunteer-workbee-1>

A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts. We just received a check from them for \$304.88. Last year received \$651.20. Let's see if we can do even better this year! Please continue to drop off your receipts at Bethlehem. Please note they do not expire. Thank you!

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.

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!

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, weekly emails and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included in any of these, please reach out to alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org If you are not getting the weekly emails for any reason, please contact Alanna.

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.

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, April 16

Happy Birthday Pr Paul

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

Tuesday, April 18

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)

6:30pm—Council Meeting

7:00pm—Lautner SG (Offsite)

Wednesday, April 19

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

Thursday, April 20

5:30pm—ACA

7:00pm—Third Thursday/Taize "A" Service (S)

Friday, April 21

(STAR articles due)

10:00am—Sew Pieceful (FH)

6:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

Saturday, April 22

WELCA Spring Gathering (Offsite)

Sunday, April 23

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

12:30pm—Confirmation (YR)