

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 31, 2022 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: ... we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

P: Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song: **The Church's One Foundation (v 1-3-5)**

ELW 654

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: **Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a “vanity of vanities.” Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one’s work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

²Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. ¹²I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, ¹³applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. ¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. ^{2:18}I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me ¹⁹—and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 49:1-12

¹Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all you who dwell in the world,
²**you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.**

³My mouth shall speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on understanding.
⁴**I will incline my ear to a proverb and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**

⁵Why should I be afraid in evil days, when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,
⁶**the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess, and boast of their great riches?**

⁷One can never redeem another, or give to God the ransom for another’s life;
⁸**for the ransom of a life is so great that there would never be enough to pay it,**

⁹in order to live forever and ever and never see the grave.

¹⁰**For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**

¹¹Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, though they had named lands after themselves.

¹²**Even though honored, they cannot live forever; they are like the beasts that perish.**

Gospel Acclamation:

*Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.*

Alleluia

Sinclair

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

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

¹³Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Richard Anderson

Song of the Day:

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 583

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

Offering

Offering Song:

I Come with Joy

ELW 482

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: **God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. 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

Communion Songs:

**O Living Bread from Heaven
On Eagle's Wings**

ELW 542

ELW 787

Final Blessing

P: The God of peace, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Song:

I Will Follow

Where You go, I'll go; where You stay, I'll stay; when You move, I'll move.
I will follow. Oh, oh, oh.

All Your ways are good, all Your ways are sure; I will trust in You alone.
Higher than my sight, high above my life; I will trust in You alone.

Where You go, I'll go; where You stay, I'll stay; when You move, I'll move.
I will follow You.

Whom You love, I'll love; How You serve, I'll serve; If this life I lose,
I will follow You, yeah.
I will follow You, yeah.

Light into the world, Light into my life – I will live for You alone.

You're the One I seek, knowing I will find all I need in You alone.
In You alone.

Where You go, I'll go; where You stay, I'll stay; when You move, I'll move.
I will follow You.

Whom You love, I'll love; how You serve, I'll serve; If this life I lose,
I will follow You, yeah.
I will follow You, yeah.

In You, there's life everlasting.
In You, there's freedom for my soul.
In You, there's joy, unending joy; and I will follow.

Where You go, I'll go; where You stay, I'll stay; when You move, I'll move.
I will follow You.

Whom You love, I'll love; how You serve, I'll serve; If this life I lose,
I will follow You, yeah.
I will follow You, yeah.

Where You go, I'll go; where You stay, I'll stay; when You move, I'll move.
I will follow You.

Whom You love, I'll love; how You serve, I'll serve; If this life I lose,
I will follow You, yeah.

I will follow You, yeah.
I will follow You, yeah.
I will follow You.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 31, 2022

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8/2—Pat Wall

8/4—Judy Strickland

8/4—Reid Glenn

8/4—Caleb Slabaugh

8/6—Margaret Hutchinson

We welcome Pastor Richard Anderson as our Presiding/Preaching Minister this Sunday.

Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.

COVID NEWS: According to the CDC and Munson Hospital, Covid-19 is once again on the rise in Grand Traverse County, and our county now has one of the highest transmission rates in Michigan. Council voted on May 17th to adopt a guideline 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.

The August 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

Today’s altar flowers are donated: *Giving Thanks by Betty Rutila*

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.

The newest Living Lutheran magazine and the July/August/September Christ in Our Home can be picked up at the welcome table on Sunday mornings, from the Shooting STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion.

There will be a Youth Group Parent Meeting in the Youth Room right after today’s service to discuss some major changes that are being considered for youth groups starting in the fall. Before any plans are finalized however, Annie wishes to discuss the potential changes with parents and get feedback as well as get any ideas from parents. Every youth family will be invited and welcomed to this meeting!

All Church Forum: Please stay after the service on Sunday, August 14th, to help cast a vision and provide input for Annie’s replacement and the future of Y2A, etc.

Children's Message Corner: The next Message Corner is scheduled for Sunday, August 21st at 2:45pm. To be put on the email list to receive the Zoom link please see Annie after worship or contact her at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org.

Coffee and Cookies have returned! You are welcome to stay after the 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 will be sign-up sheets available near the cookies.

Last week Bethlehem's Youth and a few other congregants joined **Freedom Builder's Missions Week here in Traverse City!** It was so amazing watching everyone gather together to help other members in our community in the name of Christ! Thank you to...(alphabetized by last name)

Kathy Ancinec	Lincoln Dohm	Shelly Nellist
Gary Ancinec	Courtney Leatherman	Annie Slabaugh
Pastor Paul Busekist	Carl Lehto	Paul Ton
Tina Dohm	Suzanne Lehto	Dale Wentzloff
Makena Dohm	Cindy Monroe	

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 Wednesday and printed on Thursday morning.) (Please note Bulletin or Announcement in subject line)
- **Screen Announcements/Weekly BLC Emails:** Tuesday of the week sent to annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org (Annie works Sunday – Wednesday)

Grief Workshop: In the Informational Meeting we had in March to discuss Pastor's Sabbatical activities, grief counseling was brought up as a need in our congregation. In some of our discussions with the Sabbatical Team and the Church Council we thought this is a need to be met now and not in a year. Munson Hospice is willing to come in and do some workshops free of charge. We are calling them workshops as it will be once a month from September through March with a break in December. They can provide group counseling, music and/or art therapy. What we need to know is who is interested? The time you would like to have it, afternoon or evening? And also are there any children you would like to have join you. Munson Hospice is willing to meet our needs and maybe small groups, separate children's groups or possibly a combination. We would have it at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and if you know someone outside of our church family with this need, they would be welcome to come. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex or call Gail Goldsmith at 231-633-2630.

Refresh Committee Update: Our Committee would like to thank those who have pledged to help us in our efforts to update the look of our church. We know the economy is presenting challenges for all of us. If you are able to make a pledge, any amount would be welcome. As we discussed during our open meetings, we indicated we would keep the Congregation updated on reaching our \$10,000 goal. As such, here are the current totals:

Pledges	\$3450
Received Donations	\$4300
Total so far	\$7750

Music news at BLC: The adult choir is taking a break for the summer and will resume rehearsals 2-3 Thursdays per month at 7:00pm on Sept 8. It's time to return to a favorite pastime or start a new one. Plan to come to the first rehearsal or contact Tony Bero at bero.tony@gmail.com or 942-1162.

Name tags: Yes, your name tags are back in your mailboxes, but please walk a little farther and retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have more visitors in the summer and it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it.

LAUNDRY BASKET PROJECT FOR 2022: We are collecting cleaning items to be given out during the Baby Pantry here at Bethlehem. There is an example basket in the Narthex along with a list of items needed. You may fill an entire basket OR bring single items if you prefer. Thank you for your participation!

BLC Book Club: The BLC book club continues to meet during the summer. Our meeting in August is on the 23rd at 5:30 via ZOOM. The book, *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett (one of New York Times 10 best books of 2020), will be available in the Book Club box outside of the church. If you are not on the email list and want to be involved send your information to cmonroe@chartermi.net.

Monthly STAR: Thanks to all of you who have said that you will read the STAR on line or pick it up at church. Those of you who come to church, be thinking if there is any member close in your neighborhood that you could deliver their copy to them. If you have recently decided to read on line or pick-up at church please call the office and let them know.

24 hr food pantry: Remember to take advantage of BOGO offerings and bring your extras of staple foods for our outdoor food pantry. Those who are hungry will be appreciative. There is a teal bin below the table by the mailboxes for placing your goodies.

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 Annie at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org.

Our interim tech support person is Trent Slabaugh. He welcomes your comments on the audio or video system. You may contact him by email at tslabaugh93@gmail.com

We have heard from former members, Dale and Cheryl Leider. They miss all of their friends here at Bethlehem and wish them well. Dale and Cheryl would love to hear from you. Their address is 1200 Wright Avenue, Alma, MI 48801 and their phone is 231-499-1774.

A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons receipts. Please continue to drop your Olesons receipts off at church.

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 Annie at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org.

The church calendar has returned below. Please be sure to notify the office (admin@bethlehemtc.org or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is on the calendar.

CALENDAR

Sunday, July 31

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion
11:30am—Youth Group Parent Meeting (YR)

Tuesday, August 2

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)

Wednesday, August 3

12:45pm—Music Rehearsal (S)

Thursday, August 4

5:30pm—ACOA (GS)

Saturday, August 6

12:00pm—Caleb Slabaugh Birthday Party (FH)

Sunday, August 7

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion
11:15am—Worship and Music Committee (CR)