

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 7, 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: Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
for this work's almost done.

Children, don't grow weary, children, don't grow weary, children, don't grow weary,
for this work's almost done.

Darker midnight lies before us, darker midnight lies before us, darker midnight lies before us,
for this work's almost done.

Children, don't grow weary, children, don't grow weary, children, don't grow weary,
for this work's almost done.

Lo, the morning soon is breaking, lo, the morning soon is breaking, lo, the morning soon is breaking,
for this work's almost done.

Children, don't grow weary, children, don't grow weary, children, don't grow weary,
for this work's almost done.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
for this work's almost done.

Children, don't grow weary, children, don't grow weary, children, don't grow weary,
for this work's almost done.

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 God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 33:12-22

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

¹³**The Lord looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.**

14 God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth.

15 God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.

16 A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

17 The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.

18 Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O Lord, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

19 to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.

20 Our innermost being waits for you, O Lord, our helper and our shield.

21 Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.

22 Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

Sinclair

Alleluia, alleluia,

alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia,

alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

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

Jesus said: 32 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 35 "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; 36 be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. 37 Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. 38 If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. 39 "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. 40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

We Are Called

ELW 720

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:

Just As I Am, without One Plea

ELW 592

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 harvest and joyous 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:

**Break Now the Bread of Life
Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal**

**ELW 515
ELW 464**

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:

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

ELW 774

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 7, 2022

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8/9—George Paddack

8/10—Tina Dohm

8/12—John Sheehan

8/12—Jake Sheehan

8/12—Debbie Hissong Fink

8/13—Pat Friedli

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

Please welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Mandi Brown, who will begin on Tuesday, Aug 9th.

She will work Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week while Barbara Oster will work on Monday of the week.

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 by: *Carolyn Mann in Loving Memory of David Mann
Ron & Marilyn Dork in Honor of Cameron (their grandson) and Jenny’s Wedding*

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.

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. This forum will be livestreamed. Access info will be noted in this week’s email.

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.

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.

Refresh Committee Update: We are continuing to make progress with our goal to raise \$10,000. Pledges and Actual donations this week are \$8,300. Thanks to all of you who have donated. We are going to continue our pledge program into 2023 as the current economy has provided challenges for everyone. We feel that we are at a point where we can begin our improvements. By late August / early September you will begin seeing changes. We are trying to incorporate all the input we

received by the Congregation into our plans. If you have any questions, please reach out to us. Since there is more work to do and we continue our pledge drive into 2023, please see or contact Phil Anderson in the office if you are able to make a pledge or donation. Thanks to all for your continued support.

Last Slice of Summer - Traverse City Art Fair Bethlehem Lutheran Church has the opportunity to be represented in the community. We can have a booth at the Last Slice of Summer/TC Art Fair on August 20th. The event runs from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. downtown Traverse City. We need volunteers to help during this time. We will need to set up a table and tent. Hand out water, Bethlehem information and Business cards. During this time we will provide a simple craft for children to do. This is our chance to be out in the public and do God's Work. We need 6 volunteers for 2 to 3 hour shifts with help setting up the tent and tables. Please sign up in the Narthex or contact Gail Goldsmith 231-633-2630. Let's show our love for the Church, our Neighbors and Community.

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.

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.

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.

News from the Tackes: "Hi Everyone – Happy Sunday! Ellie and I thank you for all the well wishes and prayers for our move. Our memories will last a long time of the wonderful people and good times. So far everything is going well, it's not the same but with God's help things will get better. Love, Hugs & God Bless, Carl & Ellie." Their address is 29250 Heritage Parkway, Warren, MI 48092. We do not have telephone numbers for them yet.

We have also 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.

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

A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts. We just received a check from Olesons for \$187.74. So far this year we have received a total of \$464.62 just for people turning in their Olesons' receipts. Please continue to drop your Olesons' receipts off at church.

Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. There are plenty of dates available for the rest of the year. You may 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 Annie at annie.slabaugh@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 on the calendar.

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 7

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion

Monday, August 8

11:00am—Doug Stowe Visitation
12:00pm—Doug Stowe Funeral
5:00pm—Finance Committee (CR)

Tuesday, August 9

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)
1:00pm—Friendship Bible Study (GS)
4:30pm—Executive Committee (CR)

Wednesday, August 10

12:45pm—Music Rehearsal (S)

Thursday, August 11

9:00am—Baby Pantry (FH)

2:00pm—Rebecca Ann Circle (FH)

5:30pm—ACOA (FH)

Sunday, August 14

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

11:00am—Parking Lot Communion

11:15am—All Church Forum (S)