

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

August 14, 2022 – 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 4, page 147

Pre-Worship Songs/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

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.

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.**

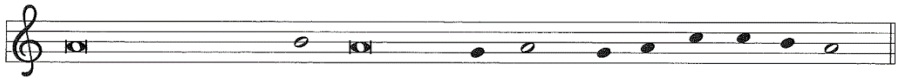
Kyrie (lead by Pastor Paul)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



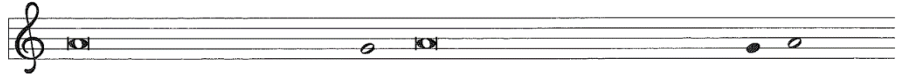
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, 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 wor-ship and praise,



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



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

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

Assisting minister S 148

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, 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, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

First Lesson

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

23Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? 24Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. 25I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" 26How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? 27They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. 28Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. 29Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 82

1God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

2"How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?"

3Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;

4rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.

5They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

6Now I say to you, 'You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;

7nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.’”

8Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own.

Second Lesson

Hebrews 11:29--12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

29By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. 30By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. 31By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. 32And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—33who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. 36Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—38of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. 39Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. 12:1Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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.

Gospel

Luke 12:49-56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

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

Jesus said: 49“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! 50I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! 51Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! 52From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; 53they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” 54He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. 55And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. 56You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Hymn of the Day

Faith of Our Fathers

ELW 812

Welcome of New Members: Gary and Kathy Ancinec (See Back Page)

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: Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer. (*Conclusion*) P: Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

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 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.

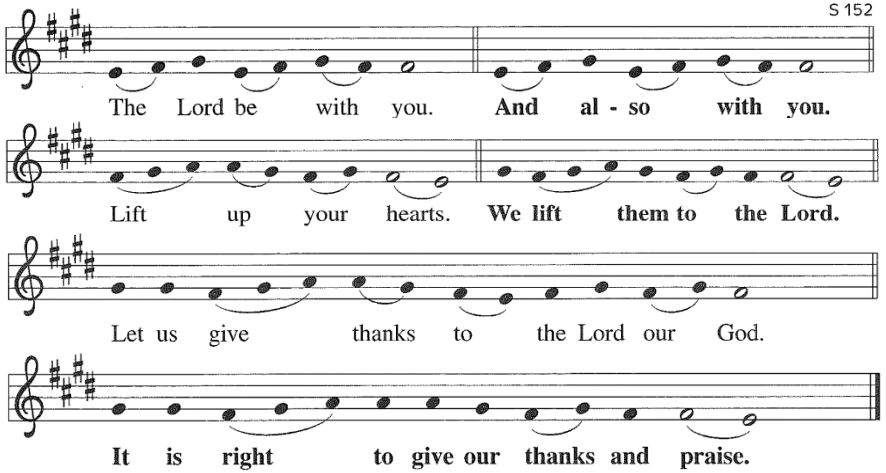
Offering Prayer

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.

Great Thanksgiving

S 152



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

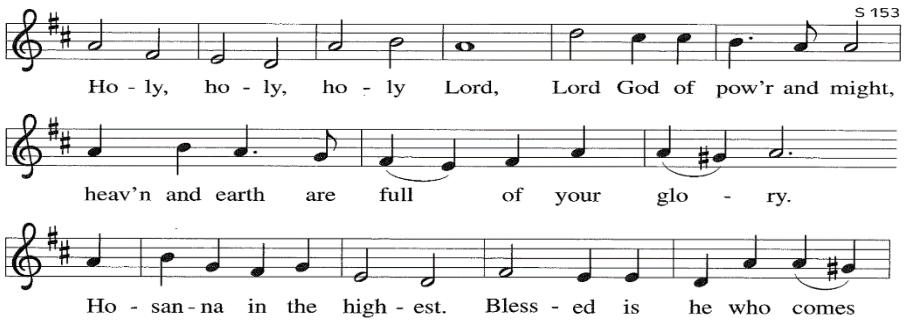
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

S 153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 154

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, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

***Soon and Very Soon
The King of Love My Shepherd Is***

***ELW 439
ELW 502***

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 Cantic

Thankful Hearts



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has



done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in



joy with shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

SENDING

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

On Our Way Rejoicing

ELW 537

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 14, 2022

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8/17—Brita Williams
8/20—Quenten Branch
8/21—Jennifer Anderson

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

All Church Forum: Please stay after the service today, to help cast a vision and provide input for Annie’s replacement and the future of Y2A, etc. This forum will be livestreamed.

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: *Ron & Sherryl Hellenga in Celebration of our 22nd wedding anniversary*

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.

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)

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.

N/W Lower Michigan WELCA Synod Mini Retreat – Saturday September 24, 9:30am – 4:00pm at Immanuel Lutheran, 726 Fuller Ave, Big Rapids. The mini retreat will include fellowship opportunities, election of officers, Bible Study, lunch and worship service. Cost is \$10, payable at the door. RSVP: Ann Rundhaug 231-938-1607 or prund@freeway.net

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 14

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion
11:15am—All Church Forum

Tuesday, August 16

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)
6:00pm—Council Meeting
7:30pm—Lautner SG (Offsite)

Wednesday, August 17

12:45pm—Music Rehearsal (S)
6:00pm—Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting (YR)

Thursday, August 18

5:30pm—ACOA (FH)

Friday, August 19

STAR articles due

10:00am—Sew Pieceful (FH)

Saturday, August 20

10:00am—Last Slice of Summer

Sunday, August 21

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion
2:45pm—Children’s Message Corner (Zoom)

"End of Summer Saunter" SOON!

Our "2nd annual 'End of Summer Saunter' " will be Saturday, August 27th at 10am. A Spirit-led hike with our friends from Central United Methodist will take place on the **Empire Bluffs Trail at Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore**. (Our "first annual" saunter with our Methodist friends



was at summer's end in 2019.) We resume in partnership and "holy wandering" on this moderate trail together and will meet at 10am at the trailhead, finishing with a "BYOB" brownbag picnic lunch for those who wish to stay and eat. Happy trails and a blessed August to all as we journey together! Feel free to contact Pastor Paul or just show up if you're interested. :) All are welcome!

Upcoming Date Reminders to put on your calendar:

8/14—All Church Forum – 11:15am -- to help cast a vision and provide input for Annie's replacement and the future of Y2A, etc. This forum will be livestreamed or by Zoom.

8/20—Last Slice of Summer – 10:00am-7:00pm – BLC's booth in downtown TC could provide crafts, bottled water and some fun materials to pass out.

8/27—2nd Annual End of Summer Saunter – Empire Bluffs Trail - 10:00am

9/11—God's Work Our Hands Sunday and Service Day

9/15—Third Thursday - Holden Evening Prayer, 7:00pm

9/18—Recognition of Church Leaders during our service

9/18—Ice Cream Social after the service.

9/24—N/W Lower Michigan WELCA Synod Mini Retreat in Big Rapids, MI

Reception of New Members

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for our new friends in Christ, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life of this congregation:

A representative of the congregation introduces the new members:

We welcome Gary and Kathy Ancinec to the family, mission & ministry of Christ at Bethlehem.

Address and Questions to New Members

P: In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

P: Gary and Kathy, our brother and sister in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: *(The minister addresses the assembly)* People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Those being welcomed face the assembly. The pastor addresses all.

P: Let us welcome Gary and Kathy to this community of faith:

C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

We will continue with the Apostles Creed found in your Worship Folder.