

# Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 4, 2022 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



**Prelude Music**

**Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days.

**C: Amen.**

P: Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of mercy and forgiveness,

**C: ... we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

P: Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Gathering Song:**

***My Country 'Tis of Thee***

My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing:

Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride from every mountain side let freedom ring!

My native country, thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love:

I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills; My heart with rapture thrills like that above.

Let music swell the breeze and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song:

Let mortal tongues awake, let all that breathe partake; Let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.

Our fathers' God to Thee, author of liberty, to Thee we sing:

Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King!

**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: Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.*

15See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. 16If 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. 17But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, 18I 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. 19I 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, 20loving 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 1

1Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**2Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

3They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

**4It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

5Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**6For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

## **Gospel Acclamation:**

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

*Alleluia*

*Sinclair*

## **Gospel: Luke 14:25-33**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

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

25Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, 26“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. 27Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? 29Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, 30saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. 33So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Sermon**

*Pastor Paul Busekist*

## **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:

**Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory**

ELW 890

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 bring it in  
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: Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. 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:

**Will You Come and Follow Me**

ELW 798

## Final Blessing

P: God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

C: Amen.

**Sending Song:** *America the Beautiful (O Beautiful for Spacious Skies)*

ELW 888

## Dismissal

A: Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

C: Thanks be to God.



**Bethlehem** September 4, 2022  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880  
[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

9/4—Barb Svalstad

9/5—Jacob Graf

9/5—Dennis Merrifield

9/5—Gail Goldsmith

9/8—Carole Luttinen

9/11—Nancy Smith

**2nd Sunday Traditional Service is next week, September 11<sup>th</sup>**

**God's Work, Our Hands Sunday Next Week (September 11)! - Outreach and Check-in...with Food!** Next Sunday after worship we hope to roll up our sleeves to help both the community abroad and the ministries of the church. The following ideas have been proposed, and we'll see how many we can accomplish in an hour's time: (1) cleaning up Bryant Park of litter; (2) helping Christian Caregiving volunteers assemble flowers for shut-ins/homebound folks; (3) assisting Christian Ed to get ready for the Sunday School "debut" the following week; and (4) helping get the ball rolling with the Refresh team as they begin to move furniture and paint the last upstairs classroom on the right. After the "work hour," we can order pizza or sandwiches and assemble in the Fellowship Hall for a second listening forum on staffing and new sabbatical updates and strategy moving forward. We hope all who would like can voice their ideas and concerns - for our ministry here and beyond our walls. Peace and see you then!

**Our first "Third Thursday" service will be Holden Evening Prayer on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.**

**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 September issue of the STAR is now available.** The September issue will be available on August 28th. For current issues of the Star, feel free to check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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:** *Carl & Suzanne Lehto in Celebration of our 59th 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](mailto:beo6475@yahoo.com) or 231.668.7038.

**The newest Living Lutheran magazine and the October/November/December *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:** We will be taking a break from Children's Message Corner for the foreseeable future. If you would like to schedule a one on one with Annie instead, please reach out to her directly.

**HELP NEEDED:** We are looking for volunteers for our A/V Team – specifically to advance the PowerPoint slides and/or pressing the button to change the angle for the Livestream camera. You don't need to be proficient on computers, just able to follow the service and press a button. Training will be available. Contact Barbara Oster if you are interested. If you would like to watch the procedure on a Sunday, that can be arranged.

**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:** Your name tags are back in your mailboxes. Please walk a little farther and 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.

**Choir announcement: IT'S BACK!!** Come add some music into your life. The adult choir will resume rehearsals 2-3 Thursdays per month at 7:00 on Sept 8. 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](mailto:bero.tony@gmail.com) or 942-1162.

**XYZ (Xtra Years of Zest) Organizational Potluck** will be held on Thursday, September 15th at 12 Noon. We have not met since before COVID so we need to plan so we would like to get together to discuss plans for this year. Please bring a potluck selection for lunch (i.e. meats, sides, dessert). Any questions, please contact Barbara Oster. Hope to see you there.

**Sunday "Sundae"(AKA Ice Cream Social):** Join us on September 18th after the service for the 2nd annual Sunday Sundae. We will all have "dessert first" as we celebrate the installation of all council members and Christian Ed staff. Please consider bringing an item for the food pantry to "pay" for your treat.

**Adult Bible Study** will resume on Wednesday, September 21st from 9:00am-11:00am. It is a casual discussion of the Gospel of Mark. Bring your bibles and come, share, learn and grow with us.

**The Wednesday Zoom Bible Study** will begin on September 14th from 1:30pm—3:00pm. We will discuss the Book of Revelations from the Book of Faith. If you are interested, please contact either Pr Paul or Barbara Oster.

**Christian Education committee is seeking discussion leaders for adult education on Sundays from 9:15am-9:45am, starting on September 18th.** Discussion will be about the Lessons/Gospel for the day. If interested, please call Barb Graf 946-5120.

**Refresh Committee Update:** We are continuing to make progress with our goal to raise \$10,000. **Pledges and Actual donations so far are \$8,925.** 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 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.

**Remember that CHARGE was rescheduled for Friday November 4th - Sunday, November 6th here in TC at the Great Wolf Lodge.** If your youth is already signed up you don't have to do anything more, but if you have a youth who is still interested please let Annie know by Wednesday, September 14th at 4:30PM. We are also looking for a male chaperone to be with the boys at night. If you are able to help, please consider reaching out to Annie ASAP so we are able to do this activity.

**Starting this September, Bethlehem's entire congregation will have the opportunity to join the youth in our brand new Intergenerational Events.** These are fun opportunities to gather in fellowship with Bethlehem's youth to connect and become a supportive and strong Christian influence. For September, we will be joining Au Sable after the Ice Cream Social on Sunday, September 18th for a service project. Reach out to Annie for more information.

**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)

**LAUNDRY BASKET PROJECT UPDATE:** The laundry basket project is ongoing. Please drop off any cleaning items in the Narthex. Families who visit the baby pantry have been most appreciative. Blessings to you all!

**BLC Book Club:** The BLC book club's Sept meeting is on the 27th at 5:30 via ZOOM. The book, Isadore's Secret, a local mystery by Mardi Jo Link, 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](mailto:prund@freeway.net)



**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 11:00am – 2:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month with your donations.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:tslabaugh93@gmail.com)

**A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts.** We 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](mailto:annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org).

**The church calendar is below. Please be sure to notify the office ([admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is on the calendar.**

## **CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, September 4**

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

### **Monday, September 5**

**HAPPY LABOR DAY**  
**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

### **Tuesday, September 6**

**Bulletin articles due today**  
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)  
9:00am—Property Work Group  
10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)

### **Wednesday, September 7**

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

### **Thursday, September 8**

9:00am—Baby Pantry  
1:00pm—Rebecca Anna Circle (FH)  
5:30pm—ACOA (FH)  
7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

### **Friday, September 9**

6:00pm—Faith & Family (FH)

### **Sunday, September 11**

#### **God's Work Our Hands Sunday**

10:00am—Worship Service (S)  
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion  
11:15am—Service Day, Lunch & Listening Forum