

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 18, 2022 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



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:

Come, Now is the Time to Worship

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God. One day ev'ry knee will bow.
Still, the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose You now.

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives. Willingly our knees will bow.
With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength we gladly choose You now.

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

Come... Come... come.

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: God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

4Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, 5saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, 6buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.” 7The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 113

1Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

2Let the name of the Lord be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.

3From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the Lord be praised.

4The Lord is high above all nations; God’s glory above the heavens.

5Who is like the Lord our God, who sits enthroned on high,

6but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

7The Lord takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

8enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.

9The Lord makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

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: Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

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

1Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. 2So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ 3Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ 5So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ 6He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ 7Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ 8And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. 9And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. 10“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. 11If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? 13No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Blest Are They

ELW 728

Recognition of Church Leaders – Council Members and Sunday School Teachers

P: The following people have volunteered to teach or have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brother will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

Council Members:

Gail Goldsmith, President
Maureen Bauer, V. P. & Personnel
Jana Rockne, Secretary
Leonard Graf, Treasurer
Jim Monroe, Financial Secretary

Jim Hinds, Christian Care Giving
Paul Wiemerslage, Y2A and
Christian Ed
Laura Hahn, Fellowship

Cindy Monroe, Membership/
Evangelism
Scott Farley, Stewardship
Denice Bossardet, Worship Music
(Pr. Paul Busekist)

Sunday School Teachers:

Nancy Ammann Tina Dohm Paul Wiemerslage Erin Word

P: A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

P: You have been entrusted to positions of leadership in this congregation.

You are to see the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to see to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

*P: On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:
Will you accept and faithfully carry the duties of the position to which you have been called?*

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

*P: People of God, I ask you:
Will you support these, your leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?*

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

P: I now declare you are officers / teachers of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

C: Amen.

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:

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

ELW 461

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 the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. 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:

**I Come with Joy
Remember and Rejoice**

ELW 482

ELW 454

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:

Sing, Sing, Sing

Chorus

(We will) sing sing sing
And make music with the heavens
We will sing sing sing
Grateful that You hear us
When we shout Your praise
Lift high the name of Jesus

Verse 1

What's not to love about You
Heaven and earth adore You
Kings and kingdoms bow down
Son of God You are the One
You are the One we're living for

Verse 2

You are the love that frees us
You are the light that leads us
Like a fire burning
Son of God You are the One
You are the One we're living for

Dismissal

A: Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem September 18, 2022
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

9/18—Katie Pearce
9/19—Nancy Ammann
9/20—Joe Friedli

9/21—Makena Dohm
9/21—Meg Sheehan

9/21—Daniel Deutsch
9/23—Kim McNeil

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

Sunday “Sundae”(AKA Ice Cream Social): Join us 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.

God’s Work Our Hands was a very productive day. On Sunday September 11th after church we had a group of parishioners stay after to clean classrooms, make cards, make bouquets from the alter flowers and go to Bryant Park to clean up. Thank you all: Kathi Ivany, Jacqui Rossfeld, Paul Ton, Dale and Barb Wentzloff, Dan and Laura Hahn, Tom and Jana Rockne, Cheryl Wegener, Sherryl and Ron Hellenga, Carolyn Mann, Jim Hinds, Erin and Kate Word, Nancy Ammann, Annie and Caleb Slabaugh, Barbara Wright, Patty Leibenguth, Steve Kramer, Carl and Suzanne Lehto and Barbara Oster. Great job everyone and God Bless you!

WOMEN’S RETREAT: There will be a mini retreat in Big Rapids for all women of the Lower Michigan Synod on Saturday, September 24th from 9:30 to 4PM. Check out the poster in the Narthex where you must sign up by today! Car pooling is available.

On Sunday, September 25th after worship, lunch will be served while we 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!

The Refresh Committee has started work in cleaning and painting the last classroom at Bethlehem. There is a bit more wear and tear in the classroom than we anticipated so it is going to take us a little more time to update. This classroom will be a Conference/Library Room when done. New LED lighting and painting will be completed in the next few weeks. We will continue to update everyone as we continue our projects. In terms of Fund Raising please see below:

Actual Cash on Hand :	\$8105
Pledged but not yet Received :	\$2200
TOTAL. :	\$10,305

As you can see we have reached our Goal of \$10,000 and we Thank Everyone who supported Our Refresh Project. If you have not contributed and still wish to, we appreciate any additional contributions to further our Refresh efforts. You can make a contribution and place it in the collection plate (Write Refresh on your check) or see Phil Anderson in the church office.

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.

Today’s altar flowers are donated: *In honor of the Ladies’ Quilting Groups and in appreciation of the Y2A & Christian Education Committee for the love and care they show our children.*

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 service on October 20th at 7:00pm.

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 < 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

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 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.

"Let Your Light Shine" All women are invited to join us for an inspiring evening: September 28th, 6:30pm Potluck Supper with an inspiring skit, music, food... and just being together as God's family. Any questions, call Nancy Ammann at 946-8433.

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. There are open dates after today, so please sign up!

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: The adult choir has resumed rehearsals! We meet 2-3 Thursdays per month at 7:00 in the sanctuary. No previous choir experience is necessary. If you can sing along to a song on the radio in your car, you have what it takes to sing in a choir. Why join? Singing is fun, and is a great social activity. You also get an opportunity to deepen your faith and the faith of others by contributing to the musical life of the church. Scheduling is flexible! I make it as easy as possible to be a part of the fun. If you're a bit unsure, you can always try it out by attending a few rehearsals to see what it's like. You can also reach out to me at a Third Thursday worship to talk more about it. Either way, I'll be happy to meet you. If you have any questions you can email me at bero.tony@gmail.com or text/call me at 231-942-1162. Thank you for considering!

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 21st 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. Discussion will be about the Lessons/Gospel for the day. If interested, please call Barb Graf 946-5120.

Remember that CHARGE was rescheduled for Friday November 4th - Sunday, November 6th here in TC at the Great Wolf Lodge. We are now looking for a female chaperone to be with the girls 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 today for a service project. Reach out to Annie for more information.



Bethlehem Week at Safe Harbor Coming in February: Yes, Bethlehem Lutheran will be joining with Northern Lakes Community Church (a Presbyterian congregation) to provide a week of evening meals again this winter. We will be serving from February 4 through February 10. Bethlehem will take Saturday February 4, Sunday February 5, and Tuesday February 7. "Five Loaves; Two Fish" of Leland is taking February 6- and all Mondays throughout the winter! Northern Lakes will handle the 8, 9, and 10 February. We are coordinating menus as we can to assure variety. Here are a couple other updates:

-I already have the Tina Dohm group committed to February 4th with a lasagna dinner and the Cindy Monroe group signed up for February 5th with a chicken and rice dinner. Still looking for a lead for the February 7th, but I do already have kitchen workers ready to assist. Reach me anytime at 631-0040. Come January we will have sheets to sign-up to assist in a number of ways outside of the kitchen with guest interaction and providing breakfast and other items. You may have also seen that Safe Harbor is going to be open days on the weekends. Safe Harbor will be looking for volunteers to assist the professional staff with supervision on Saturdays and Sundays during the day. Those shifts will be from 8AM to 1PM and 1PM to 6PM. If you have never volunteered at Safe Harbor before, this could be a good place to start. I can assist you in signing up for one of these opportunities. Look forward to a regular great response from Bethlehem members. More to come. Mark your calendars!
Thank you. Tom Rockne/Bethlehem Safe Harbor Coordinator M.231.631.0040

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.

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

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 next to the mailboxes.

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.

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.

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, September 18

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
10:00am—Recognition of Church Leaders (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion
11:15am—Sunday Sundaes (Ice Cream Social)
12:30pm—All Youth Event: Au Sable Service Project

Tuesday, September 20

Bulletin articles due today

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

Wednesday, September 21

9:00am—Adult Bible Study
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, September 22

5:30pm—ACOA (FH)

Saturday, September 24

9:30am—N W Lower Michigan WELCA Retreat

Sunday, September 25

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion
11:15am—Listening Meeting & Luncheon (FH)

