

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
September 11, 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. 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 3, page 138

Pre-Worship Music/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

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 Hymn *Shall We Gather at the River*

ELW 423

Greeting

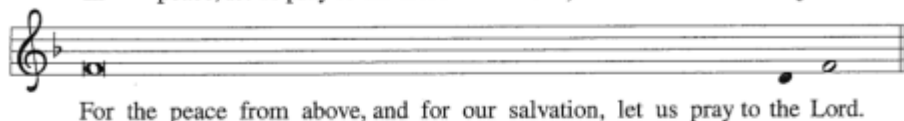
A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Kyrie (lead by cantor)

S 138



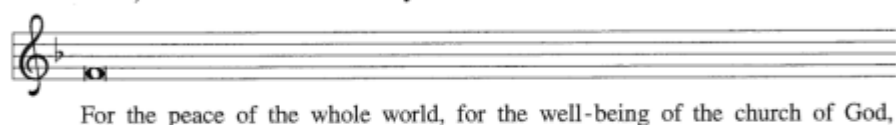
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



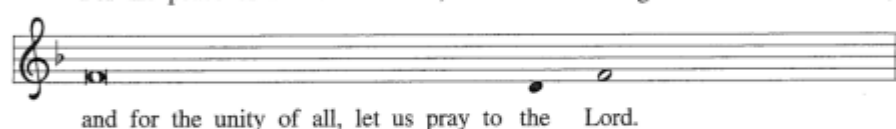
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



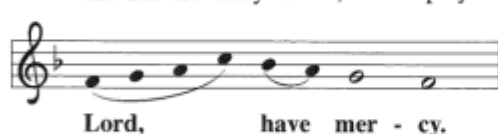
Lord, have mer - cy.



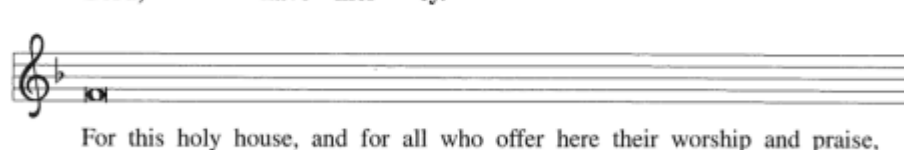
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



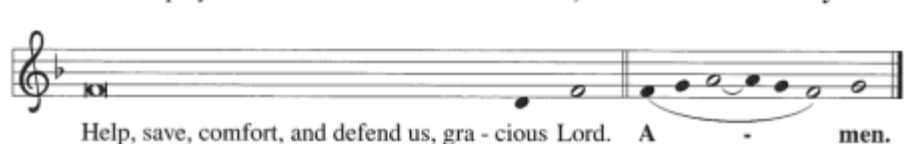
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



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



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

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

Assisting minister S 139



Glory to God in the highest, 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, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

Children's Message

Annie Slabaugh

First Lesson

Exodus 32:7-14

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.

7The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; 8they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" 9The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. 10Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." 11But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. 13Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" 14And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 51:1-10

1Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**2Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

3For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

4Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

5Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

6Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

7Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

8Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.

9Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

10Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Second Lesson

1 Timothy 1:12-17

The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

12I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, 13even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. 16But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. 17To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel**Luke 15:1-10**

The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

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

1Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. 2And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” 3So he told them this parable: 4“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ 7Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. 8“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ 10Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon**Pastor Paul Busekist**

Hymn of the Day *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* ELW 779

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: **"hear our prayer."**
(*Before prayer*) A: As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation. (*Conclusion*) P: Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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



bles - 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.

The 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.

SENDING

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 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

ELW 588

Dismissal

A: Go in peace, with Christ beside you. **C: Thanks be to God.**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9/11—Nancy Smith
9/12—Monica Graf
9/12—Jana Rockne

9/15—Cynthia Cuba
9/16—Meghan Denton

9/16—Jan Stretlien
9/18—Katie Pearce

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

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is today! - After today's worship we hope to roll up our sleeves to help both the community abroad and the ministries of the church. Today we will assemble mini-work crews for (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. We have re-scheduled the lunch and listening session for September 25th (see below):

Please note: 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!

Our first "Third Thursday" service will be Holden Evening Prayer THIS Thursday, September 15th at 7:00pm.

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.

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. 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>.

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.

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: *the Congregation in thanks for all of God’s blessings.*

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 newest Living Lutheran magazine and the Oct/Nov/Dec *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.

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.

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.

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!

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.

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 Pastor 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.

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.

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 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 on Sunday, September 18th for a service project. Reach out to Annie for more information.

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!

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.