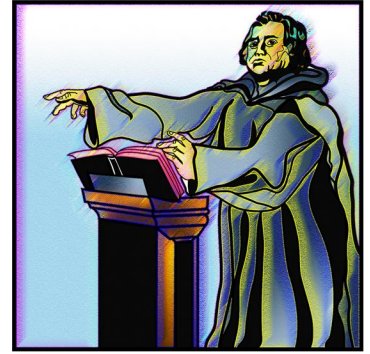


Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2020



Stewardship Temple Talk (Carl Lehto)

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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!

A: Let us pray together,

C: O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Verse 1

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious; he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious. The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.

Verse 2

No strength of ours shall match his might! We would be lost, rejected. But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected. You ask who that may be? The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.

Verse 3

Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us, we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpower us. Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage! His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him.

Verse 4

God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it; for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever.

First Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom

God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

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!

²**Their 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.

⁴**It 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.

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

Gospel: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

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

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free?'" ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Paul

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 / 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.

Announcements / Confirmation Video / Final Blessing / Dismissal

P: Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.
C: Amen.

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.
C: Thanks be to God.

Blessed Be Your Name

Verse 1

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful,
where Your streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your name.

Verse 2

Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place,
though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your name.

Pre-Chorus

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise. When the darkness closes in Lord, still I will say,

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name.

Verse 3

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me,
when the world's "all as it should be," blessed be Your name.

Verse 4

Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering,
though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name.

Pre-Chorus

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise. When the darkness closes in Lord, still I will say,

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name.

Bridge

You give and take away, You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say, "Lord blessed be Your name." (*Sing twice*)

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

October 25, 2020

Stewardship Encouragement 2021 is On the Way! Greetings Fellow Bethlehemites! We are in the fall season again, and it is time for us to look forward to Bethlehem's ministry in the coming year. We thank you for the way you have given your support to Bethlehem with your time, your talents and your treasure in 2020. It has been a very difficult year for many. However, we hope and pray that you will find many new blessings in 2021. Our emphasis on financial stewardship will be rolled out very soon. Please be mindful of all the ways you can contribute in ways big and small (including automatic giving), as we invite you to start now to pray and think about how you can generously support your church and its ministry as it does the will of our Lord Jesus. *Your BLC Stewardship Committee*

Next Sunday is All Saints Sunday where we remember those who have passed on in the past year.

Fall Back – Next Sunday is also the end of Daylights Saving Time so turn your clocks back before you go to bed on Saturday – don't be late to church!

"2.0" is here! We are excited to announce that a new experience is now here for our online worship, and we're calling it "2.0"! On **Wednesday Nights**, join Pastor Paul and others for an online **Holden Evening Prayer or Taize service**, as we begin melding some of our typical "Celebrate!" content, along with footage from outdoor communion and other gatherings into a new Wednesday experience. We may also look to YOU for help with readings if you are willing/able!

The OCTOBER issue of the STAR is ready! The STAR is no longer being subsidized by anonymous donors. We thank them for the generosity for 3 months and their hard work in preparing it for mailing. (There is even a rolling pin involved!!!) They are continuing to complete the lion's share of the work after it is printed, collated, and stapled, but now the cost of postage is being taken from the membership budget. If you read the STAR on line and have not told us, please make certain you contact the office or tell the Sunday greeter or hospitality team so we are not sending out copies needlessly. Printed STARS will also be available in the "Shooting Star box" outside the church entry later this week. 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>

The outdoor **"Shooting STAR Dispenser"** at BLC is now full with several paper publications, including the September STAR. If you would like a copy of a DVD, please contact the church and one will be produced for you.

Christ in Our Home Devotionals for Oct, Nov, Dec have arrived. They can be picked up at the name tag table on Sunday mornings, from the STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion. The newest *Living Lutheran* magazine is also available in the same locations.

Your individual giving statements are now available in your mailbox in the Narthex. The statement covers giving from January through September 2020. Please pick them up at your convenience. To save on postage, I will mail out the ones not picked up by the end of October. Thank you for your generous support for the programs and ministries of your church even during these uncertain times. *Your Bookkeeper*

Altar flowers have returned to our worship services. If you would like to sign up for a particular weekend, you can call Sharon at 231-947-9880 or email her at admin@bethlehemtc.org – the cost is \$40 per week.

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *by the Congregation in thanks for all of God's blessings.*

The daughter of one of our members, Kathi Ivany-Mort, is in need of a vehicle. She is a single parent of three children, two of which have special needs. She has limited funds but would be open to a fair price and/or payment plan if desired. If you have a vehicle that would seat five people and possibly AWD or 4WD, please contact Kathi on her cell at 231-313-1647 or Kathi's husband, Jef Mort, at their home phone 231-929-4911.

"Help the Children School Supplies Project": So far, we have been able to send school supplies to Traverse City High School and Blair Elementary. We were also able to provide gift cards to two families at Silver Lake Elementary so they could purchase fall/winter clothing for their children. Pr. Paul has received a phone call from one of those moms who gave her sincere thanks for this assistance. We thank our Bethlehem family for the support of this important project.

Share your name please! It can be hard to think of someone's name when you do not see the entire face because of a mask and when someone is wearing glasses. Please retrieve your name tag from your mailbox. Even though we are mainly at a distance of 6 feet, it is still nice to hear you own name especially when you come forward for communion.

The BLC book club will be meeting by ZOOM on Tuesday Oct 27 at 5:30. We will discuss *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes which is fiction based on the real women who rode horseback to deliver library books in a program developed by Eleanor Roosevelt. If you are not already on the list to receive the ZOOM link just send an email to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net.

Keep "Hope Spreading": Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to *Pastor Paul* at paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org or *Sharon* at admin@bethlehemtc.org if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

We're still collecting Oleson's receipts, and we're hoping you've been saving yours for Bethlehem. Please drop them off in the bin under the mailbox counter. Thanks.

Christ in Our Home Interesting Fact: If you have a Kindle, Amazon has *Christ in Our Home* available at \$2.99 per quarter – if you are interested in having a digital copy, search for Augsburg Fortress Christ in Our Home.

Pecans are ordered but are still available The Worship and Music committee, with the help of Thrivent, are still selling the popular Schermer pecans again this Fall. Instead of having a table set up inside the church, we will take orders for *Dark Chocolate Pecans, Caramel Cluster Pecans and Cinnamon Glazed Pecans*. The \$12 bags are perfect for holiday or hostess gifts or just plain munching. **Please note that we have less than 10 bags available of the Caramel Cluster Pecans and between 15-20 of the Dark Chocolate Pecans and Cinnamon Glazed Pecans.** Please contact Barbara Oster (231-668-7038 or beo6475@yahoo.com) if you still want to order.

The Annual Chili Cook Off has been postponed to a later date. Please stay on the lookout for more updates, and we can't wait to see you and share some chili with you all when we can (likely in the spring!)

Online Fellowship Time on ZOOM continues and will start as soon as worship is over, or approximately 7:30pm on Wednesdays with a crossover to WBLC on Facebook around 7:45pm. We will **not** be sharing the Zoom information publicly on Facebook or our website, so we can avoid hacking. An email will be sent out the day before either the Fellowship or the Bible Study. If someone you trust wants to join our Zoom Fellowship time or the Wednesday Bible Study, feel free to share this information with them privately.

"Zoom Bible Study", gathering via Zoom is going strong each Wednesday from noon until about 1:15pm, and each week we are having great conversation and fellowship. Pastor Paul and Annie co-lead this study. The group will finish the *Paul: A Novel* book this week and then transition into an Augsburg Fortress study of two of Paul's letters: 1st and 2nd Corinthians.