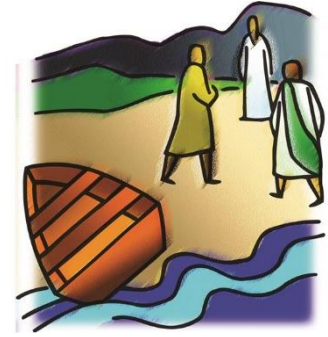


Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 21, 2024 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



Prelude Music

Announcements / Temple Talk

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our rock and refuge,

C: ... we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided... to follow Jesus, I have decided... to follow Jesus,
I have decided... to follow Jesus; no turning back... no turning back.,

Though I may wonder, still I will follow; though I may wonder, still I will follow;
... though I may wonder, still I will follow; no lookin' back, no lookin' back!

The world around me, the Lord before me, the world around me, the Lord before me,
... the world around me, the Lord before me, I'm movin' on, I'm movin' on!

I have decided... to follow Jesus, I have decided... to follow Jesus,
I have decided... to follow Jesus; no turning back... no turning back.

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: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr Paul

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 2 "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." 3 So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. 4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" 5 And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. 10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia (Setting 4)

S 151a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

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

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” 16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19 As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

I Love to Tell the Story

ELW #661

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 *(Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)*

Offering

Offering Song:

Zeke Clemons

Offertory:

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW #465

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: **Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us.**

Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. 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: **Eat This Bread** (Taize – sung three times)
United at the Table

ELW #472
ELW #498

Final Blessing

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✚ bless you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song: **The River**

I know a place where we can go, to lay the troubles down eating your soul. I know a place where mercy flows take the stains, make you whiter than snow.

Like a tide, it is rising up deep inside. A current that moves and makes ya come alive. Living water that brings the dead to life. Oh... oh.

We're goin' down to the river, down to the river, down to the river to pray.
Let's get washed by the water, washed by the water, and rise up in amazing grace.
Let's go down, down, down to the river. You. Will. Leave. Changed.
Let's go down, down, down to the river. Never. The. Same.

I've seen it move in my own life, took me from dusty roads into Paradise. All of my dirt, all of my shame, drowned in the streams that have made me born again.

Like a tide, it is rising up deep inside. A current that moves and makes you come alive. Living water that brings the dead to life. Oh... oh.

We're goin' down to the river, down to the river, down to the river to pray.
Let's get washed by the water, washed by the water, and rise up in amazing grace.
Let's go down, down, down to the river. You. Will. Leave. Changed.
Let's go down, down, down to the river. Never. The. Same.

(interlude)

soloist: Let's go down.
choir: Oo, oo, oo.
soloist: Let's go down.
choir: Oo, oo, oo.
soloist: Let's go down.

We're goin' down to the river, down to the river, down to the river to pray.
Let's get washed by the water, washed by the water, and rise up in amazing grace.
Let's go down, down, down to the river. You. Will. Leave. Changed.
Let's go down, down, down to the river. Never. The. Same.

(interlude)

soloist: Oh, down.
choir: Oo, oo, oo.
soloist: Gotta go, gotta go, gotta go
down in amazing grace.
choir: Let's go down, down, down to the river.
soloist: Gotta go, gotta go, gotta go down in amazing grace.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem January 21, 2024
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1/23—Lee Russell

1/25—Laura Hahn

1/25—Jane Kurkowski

1/26—Ronald Hellenga

1/26—Patricia Duzenbery

1/27—Matthew Branch

1/28—Jim Monroe

1/28—Zeke Clemons

Worship Servants for January 21

Assisting Minister—Karen Feahr

Lector—Peg Pepler

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: By Barbara Oster in Memory of her father, Richard Oster

Hospitality—Jim/Dorene Boyd

A/V—Paul Ton, Barbara Oster, The Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—VOLUNTEER; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter/Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Carl Lehto/Norm Fred

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE: We often find the front door and/or the kitchen door unlocked when there is no one in the building. Please be sure that the doors are locked when you leave.

Please Note:

Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Alanna Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on Wednesday

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 January issue of the STAR is now available. The February issue will be distributed next Sunday, January 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>.

The January/February/March Christ In Our Home is now available. Please take a copy for yourself and also for friends and family.

Sunday School and Adult Education (Youth Room)- every Sunday at 9:15am.

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

2024 Giving Envelopes are Ready for Pick Up - I am happy to report that the 2024 giving envelopes have arrived! They are available for pick up at your convenience. The boxes are in the narthex in alphabetical order by last name. Please pick yours up as soon as possible so you will have them ready for January giving. If you have any questions or need help, please contact me during regular business hours. Your Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson

The next Third Thursday service will be a Holden Evening Prayer service on March 21st at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed. The BLC Fellowship Committee will be providing a meal at 5:45 p.m. Please come early and share in fellowship and stay for the service. **Please note that there will not be a Third Thursday service on February 15th because of the Shrove Tuesday Pancakes on Feb 13th and the Ash Wednesday service on Feb 14th.**

All ages are invited to join us today for BLC's annual sledding party! Join us at Twin Lakes Park at 2:30pm this afternoon to enjoy some outdoor time in the winter wonderland. Snacks and drinks will be provided - bring your warm clothes, a sled, and be ready to have some great outdoor fun together!

Pancake Breakfast: BLC's annual Pancake Breakfast is **Sunday, January 28th beginning at 8:45am!** We will have several different types of pancakes, breakfast sausage, drinks, and delicious maple syrup generously donated by Still Point Farm, a local family farm in Empire, MI (syrup will be available for purchase if desired). The breakfast is a fundraiser for BLC's Youth Program and the upcoming ski trip, and many of the kids will be here cooking, cleaning, and helping! Come enjoy a delicious breakfast while also supporting the kids of the congregation! Thank you for your love and support!

TAKING A PAUSE FOR PANCAKES: On Sunday, January 28, our Bethlehem Youth are hosting a Pancake Breakfast fund raiser!! In order that we all have the opportunity to attend and give our support, the Adult Ed classes will not meet that Sunday as there is also no Sunday School that day. Please come and support our youth... pancakes are always a great way to start a new week!!

It's Time For Safe Harbor! Bethlehem will be hosting at Safe Harbor next weekend on January 27, 28, and 30. Cindy Monroe and her kitchen team will be offering a chicken & rice dish on Saturday the 27th; Tina Dohm and her group an Italian lasagna on Sunday the 28th, and B.J. Christensen and friends a ham and scalloped potatoes dinner on Tuesday the 30th. As a reminder, "Loaves & Fishes" handles each and every Monday night throughout the winter season. Sign-up sheets for other jobs at Safe Harbor and for donating snacks are posted in the Gathering Space at Bethlehem. It will be important to fill those quickly. If you have any questions on job responsibilities you are considering, please call me. Full-time Safe Harbor personnel will always be with you. Food donations will be due as follows- at BLC on 25 JAN for 27JAN; at BLC by 28JAN for 28JAN; at BLC 30JAN for 30JAN. Tom Rockne, Bethlehem Safe Harbor Coordinator, Mobile 231.631.0040

Important dates for upcoming Project/Proposal for Roof & Solar Panels

Sunday, February 11th after the service: a Q & A and possibly lunch in the Fellowship Hall to discuss this important project.

Sunday, February 25th after the service: a special meeting to vote on potential spending for solar panels and acceptance of rebates on both the Fellowship Hall roof and panel project.

Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years. They are proud people and do not like to be given charity but they will accept help in the form of donated cans that they can recycle for money. Please bring in your recyclables in for them. **Leave them by the garage.** These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

Shrove Tuesday Dinner and Fun: The Fellowship Committee has planned a Breakfast for Dinner meal for Tuesday February 13th. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The menu will consist of pancakes, sausage, egg casseroles and fruit. We will have Paczkis for dessert and beverages. We will be having fun and games with a Mardi Gras theme after dinner. We are asking for volunteers to help with dinner preparation and clean up. There will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

Lenten Meals Our Lenten Services will be held on Thursday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. There will be 5 weeks of Lenten meals prior to the services, beginning on February 22nd at 5:45 in the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Committee is planning on having soup suppers. We are asking for volunteers to make soup. We would like 2 pots of soup each week. So if you would like to make soup there are sign up sheets in the Narthex.

The Fellowship Committee will be providing bread, crackers, peanut butter and jelly, desserts and beverages. We are also asking for volunteers to help each week with set up and clean up. So please sign up in the Narthex. We can enjoy food and fellowship before our Lenten Services.

New member orientation: A meeting for those considering membership at Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be held Sunday Jan 28 after the service. Please contact the office at 947-9880, Pastor Paul, or cmonroe@chartermi.net if you plan to attend.

Spotlight on Zeke: So many of us enjoy Zeke's talents with religious music, but did you know that he plays other kinds of music at various locations in the Traverse City area? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC: Every Wednesday in January—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour, 4:00

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS: The book club will discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus at its Jan 23 pizza dinner meeting at 5:30. Don't be deceived by the title of this book. It actually should make you laugh outloud!!! Yes, some chemistry is involved, but so much more! Please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net if you want to participate and cannot come to church in order to give plenty of advance notice so that ZOOM can be set up.

Are you grieving something from a death or something else? It could be any kind of loss, and it hurts. We have a place for you here at Bethlehem on the 3rd Monday of the month from 6:00 to 7:00 in the library. If you have any questions please contact Peggy Burns at 231 392-6913.

DIRECTORY NEWS UPDATE – The company producing the directory is moving slower than anticipated. We are now looking at January or February for delivery.

Ski Trip: Join us for an Intergenerational Ski Trip to Crystal Mountain on Sunday, February 18th! The date is tentative and time is to be decided, but mark this down on your calendar so you don't miss a great day of fun on the slopes with other members of Bethlehem! If you would like to sign up, please contact Alanna at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org

COLLEGE AND MILITARY MEMBERS: We are again looking to send love packages to our college and military members. Please give us their name and the COMPLETE address by February 4th. We will be mailing packages around the middle of the month. Thank you.

Our Care Giving Committee has put up a “Communitas” Board on the wall of our Coat Room! This “BOARD” is needed and helpful for ALL of us! Following is a suggestion of some things YOU and our YOUTH can do to “interact” with the board and other members of our congregation. The purpose of our “Auxilium Communitas” BOARD (Latin for “Community/Congregation Assistance”) is to SHARE our gifts, talents, or skills to others that might be in NEED of something like: Gardening, Organizing, Painting, Raking leaves, Shoveling, Household tasks, Carpentry, Manicures, Pedicures, Companionship, Care giving, etc. - This list is Endless! You never know when YOU will be in need of some extra help personally, in your home or yard – let's make this “reciprocal” - All ages are Welcome to Help Service our Congregation!

Adult Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30am in the Youth Room, with a study of the Gospel of John.

The Zoom Book and Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00pm, with a study of the Book of Mark.

The final print issue of the Living Lutheran magazine can be picked up at the welcome table on Sunday mornings. Please note that beginning with the January issue, the Living Lutheran will be digital at www.livinglutheran.org. There is no charge for the digital.

Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations? It has been moved inside the coat room to the right. Also, the area for the Oleson and Family Fair receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside.

Coffee and Cookies on Sunday: Remember that treats and a hot drink on Sunday are appreciated by all. Please take a moment to sign up to bring cookies or some other tasty treat on the Sunday that works best for you. Or sign up to prepare the coffee. As requested by some of our new members there is a plan in the works to have one Sunday per month when we join in the Fellowship Hall. We can sit at a table and chat with someone new while we munch on a treat. More on that to come...

Name tags: Your name tags are in your mailboxes. Please retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and with so many recent new members it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it.

Food Pantry: We will NOT be closing our outdoor pantry for winter this year. We have a new member who ran an outdoor pantry downstate and she has given us lots of ideas of foods that can be stored there during the cold months including: hamburger helper, stuffing mix, dry milk, instant potatoes, cookies, and rice. Also, there is always room for dry goods such as toilet paper, paper towels etc. Please start looking for some of these items when they are on sale and bring your extras to the coat room. Your generosity is so appreciated.

A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts. We just received a check from Olesons for \$268.15 for a total of \$593.03 this calendar year. Please continue to drop off your Olesons' receipts at Bethlehem. Please note they do not expire. Thank you.

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 OR you may leave donations in the tub on our "donations" table in the coat room. The volunteers have expressed their appreciation when receiving our 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, weekly emails and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included in any of these, please reach out to alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org If you are not getting the weekly emails for any reason, please contact Alanna.

Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. The sheets for 2024 are ready. Please 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.

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 of the calendar.

Sunday, January 21

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Edadmin
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
12:30pm—Confirmation Class (YR)
2:30pm—Sledding at Twin Lakes

Tuesday, January 23

Bulletin articles due today
9:00am—Property Work Group
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
5:30pm—Book/Supper Club (FH)

Wednesday, January 24

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

Thursday, January 25

5:30pm—ACA (FH)
7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Saturday, January 27

SAFE HARBOR

Sunday, January 28

SAFE HARBOR
8:45am—Pancake Breakfast (FH)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:30am—New Member Orientation (Library)



Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, January 28th
8:45am

FUNDRAISER
Support BLC's youth program
and upcoming ski trip!

Maple syrup generously
donated
by
Still Point Farm 



 **XYZ**  
EXtra Years of Zest

Friday
Feb. 9th
12pm

Join us for a
potluck
lunch,
followed by a
great
presentation.

 Naomi Pobuda
of
 **Cherryland**
Humane Society