

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



Prelude Music

Announcements

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:

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

ELW #519

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: **Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

Moses said: 15 The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. 16 This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." 17 Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. 19 Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. 20 But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

L: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm: Psalm 111

1 Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are your works, O Lord, pondered by all who delight in them.

3 Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

4 You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.

5 You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

6 You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands [of the nations].

7 The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

8 They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.

9 You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.

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 1:21-28

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

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

21 Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. 22 They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. 23 Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, 24 and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" 26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. 27 They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." 28 At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

O God, Our Help in Ages Past
(vs. 1-4)

ELW #632

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:

David Husser

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:

***O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts
Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup***

**BLC Choir
ELW #492**

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: ***My Lighthouse***

In my wrestling and in my doubts, in my failures you won't walk out.
Your great love will lead me through.

You are the peace in my troubled sea. –whoa-oh-
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

In the silence you won't let go. In the questions, your truth will hold.
Your great love will lead me through

You are the peace in my troubled sea. –whoa-oh-
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

My lighthouse, my lighthouse shining in the darkness
I will follow you, Oh- my lighthouse, my lighthouse.

I will trust the promise you will carry me
safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore.

I won't fear what tomorrow brings. With each morning I'll
rise and sing. My God's love will lead me through.

You are the peace in my troubled sea. –whoa-oh-
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

My lighthouse, my lighthouse shining in the darkness.
I will follow you, Oh-my lighthouse, my lighthouse.

I will trust the promise you will carry me
safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore.

Fire before us you're the brightest. You will lead us
through the storms (hey). REPEAT 3 times

(continued on next page)

My lighthouse, my lighthouse shining in the darkness.
I will follow you, Oh-my lighthouse, my lighthouse.

I will trust the promise you will carry me
safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore.

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem January 28, 2024
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1/28—Jim Monroe
1/28—Zeke Clemons

2/1—Karen Feahr
2/3—Elly Froehlich

Worship Servants for January 28

Assisting Minister—Jana Rockne

Lector—Mary Ann Tanis

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Cindy Monroe in Celebration of Jim Monroe's Birthday*

Hospitality—Dan/Laura Hahn

A/V—Jim Monroe, The Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—Kathie Bair; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Altar Guild—Mary Ann Tanis/Kate Holtfreter

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 February 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>.

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.

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

Giving Statements Available: Your individual giving statements will be available in your mailbox in the Narthex beginning Sunday January 28, 2024. The statement covers giving from January 1st through December 31, 2023. Please pick them up at your convenience. To save on postage, I will mail out the ones not picked up by the end of March 2024. Thank you for your generous support for the programs and ministries of your church. We are all blessed by your faithful giving. Your Bookkeeper

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.**

SPECIAL MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY: During the budget meeting it was mentioned that the congregation would like more information on the proposal for solar panels on the fellowship roof, and would like the privilege to vote on taking this step. For these reasons there will be 2 meetings on Sundays in Feb. **The first will be informational on Feb 11.** We will have a chance to hear directly via ZOOM from the leader of the company who has led other congregations in this new venture. Since it will be right after church and on Super Bowl Sunday we will have some tasty hot soups for you to enjoy...nourishment for the tummy and for the mind. And don't worry... you'll be home in plenty of time for the 6:30 kick-off.

Two weeks after that, on **Feb 25**, we will have a congregational meeting to determine if we will go forward with the panels. We hope as many of you as possible can attend and voice your opinion and vote.

FOR BOTH OF THE MEETINGS THERE IS ONE NEW REQUEST. TO STREAMLINE THE MEETINGS, WE WILL SET UP MICROPHONES ON STANDS AND YOU WILL BE ASKED TO COME FORWARD TO THE MIC. (A lot of time is lost while someone is walking a mike between members.) If you have mobility problems that day, please alert the hospitality team so a mike can be brought to you.

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.

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:

Wed, 1/31 & 2/7—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour, 4:00

Sat, 2/3—Hotel Indigo, 6:00

Are you looking for something to do on Tuesday mornings? If so, the LWR Quilters could sure use some help in tying portions of the quilts. You don't have to know how to sew just know how to tie. They meet every Tuesday from 9:00-11:00am in the fellowship Hall. For questions, please call Betty Rutila 231-947-1013.

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 Paczkies 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.

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS: The book club will discuss *The Mystery of Mrs. Christie* during a pizza dinner meeting at 5:30 on Tues Feb 20. This is a novelized account of the true disappearance of Agatha Christie for 2 weeks. There will be some copies of the book in the plastic bin outside the front door. Just sign your name on the sheet by the corresponding number of your book. 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.

DIRECTORY UPDATE: Unfortunately, the first draft of the directory sent to our fearless team did not measure up to their expectations. They are currently in negotiation with the company to provide what was promised. Our team spent hours making certain that every member's email and cell phone was correct, and that is NOT what they received in the sample copy. So, there is no tentative date at this time.

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.

New member acceptance: Peggy Burns, Joe Thomas, Maureen McGerty (and possibly another person or two!) will be accepted on a Sunday in Feb when most or all of them can attend. Please come and support them on their special day.

Ski Trip: Join us for an Intergenerational Ski Trip to Crystal Mountain on Sunday, February 18th at 1:00pm. 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.

Changes In Church Security: In an attempt to be proactive, not reactive, the Church Council has approved a trial of 90 days to lock the church doors 10 minutes after church services begin. **This will begin on Sunday, February 4th. We will be asking congregation members to volunteer to be in the Gathering Space to let late comers into the church.**

The Safety and Security Committee have contacted over a dozen churches in the Traverse City area. All of them report feeling vulnerable and are increasing their safety measures during services. Our cameras will allow the person in the Gathering space to monitor and take action if a situation arises. We also have an outside buzzer to alert someone that someone wishes to come into the church.

Safety and Security, in addition to council, staff members and interested parties, have participated in the Active Shooter Presentation by Officer Mike Makowski from the Grand Traverse Sheriff Department. He also conducted a walk through our church to give us advice on a plan for our church. His biggest advice to all is to Run-Hide-Fight if an intruder would enter our church. Remember to:

- **EXIT QUIETLY.**
- **LEAVE YOUR BELONGINGS**
- **IF YOU HAVE A CELL PHONE ON YOU, SILENCE IT.**
- **DO NOT CALL 911 AS THERE ARE DESIGNATED PEOPLE TO DO THIS.**

Our community is vulnerable to attacks. No matter where you are, be aware of your surroundings, who may be around you, exits, what you can use to protect yourself in case of an emergency. We want everyone to be safe in our church and in our community. Blessings to you all!

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 usually have the final Sunday of the month be a time when we join in the Fellowship Hall. We can sit at a table and chat with someone new while we munch on a treat. Already we have some exceptions... this will not occur in February due to the congregational meeting and also not in March due to the celebration of Easter. So be ready to enjoy that new experience in April!!

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 have turned in Olesons' slips. On January 14, we received a check from them for \$255.85. Olesons' slips never expire. Please continue to turn in your receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks so much!!!

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 28

SAFE HARBOR

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

Tuesday, January 30

Bulletin articles due today

SAFE HARBOR

- 9:00am—Property Work Group
- 9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

Wednesday, January 31

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

Thursday, February 1

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

Saturday, February 3

- 5:00pm—Kurkowski/Lotan Wedding (Offsite)

Sunday, February 4

- 9:15am—Sunday School
- 9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
- 10:00am—Worship Service (S)
- 11:15am—Worship and Music Meeting (CR)
- 12:30pm—Confirmation Class at Advent

Bethlehem LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Contra Dance
with
Bayside Travellers

Saturday February 10th
Beginner Workshop 7pm Dances 7:30 - 10:30pm

Dances called by Pat Reeser

No partner or dance experience needed!

Live Music by Dag Nabbit

Dance by Donation Suggested \$10

LOCATION:
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1050 Peninsula Dr
Traverse City MI 49686

@baysidetravellersdance
baysidetravellersdance@yahoo.com

