Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 2024 – 10am Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4

Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm 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 \pm Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved. **C: Amen.**

Gathering Song:

Healer of Our Every III

ELW #612

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: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Peggy Burns

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

21 Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; 23 who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. 24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. 25 To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. 27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. 30 Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; 31 but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

- 1 Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!
- 2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.
- 3 The Lord heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
- 4 The Lord counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.
- 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.
- 6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,
- 8 who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.
- 9 God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 10 God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,
- 11 but finds pleasure in those who fear the Lord, in those who await God's steadfast love. **20c Hallelujah!**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia



Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

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

29 As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. 31 He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. 32 That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered around the door. 34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. 35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37 When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." 38 He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." 39 And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Peggy Burns (SAM)

Song of the Day: There is a Balm in Gilead ELW #614

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.

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.

Final Blessing

C: Amen.

Sending Song: I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me ELW #860

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

02/07—Marc Fenton 02/08—John Stretlein 02/09—Zachary Word 02/10—Claudia Heindl 02/11—Joe White

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

<u>IMPORTANT NOTICE:</u> 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.

Worship Servants for February 4

Worship Leader—Peggy Burns (SAM)
Assisting Minister—Cindy Monroe

Lector—Barb Graf

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: By Kevin & April Kurkowski in Celebration of the wedding of Cecilia Kurkowski &

Benjamin Lotan on February 3, 2024

Hospitality—Leonard/Barb Graf

A/V—Jim Monroe, Jim Hinds, The Acker Family Cookies/Coffee—Cindy Monroe; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table— VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Altar Guild—NO COMMUNION

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Betty Rutila and Suzanne Lehto

Please Note:

<u>Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant</u> works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday <u>Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper</u> works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. <u>Alanna Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator</u> works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on Wednesday

<u>Offerings</u>: 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.

<u>The February issue of the STAR is now available</u>. 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.

<u>The January/February/March Christ In Our Home is now available</u>. 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

Giving Statements Available: Your individual giving statements are now available in your mailbox in the Narthex. 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 2023. 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.

<u>February's XYZ Potluck & Presentation will be on Friday, February 9th at 12pm noon.</u> While primarily geared toward seniors, the group is open to any adult who would like to attend! XYZ meets monthly September through May for a potluck lunch, followed by a program or presentation. February's presenter is Naomi Pobuda of the Cherryland Humane Society

Bethlehem's youth thank you for your support in the pancake breakfast on January 28th!

We hope you enjoyed the meal as much as the youth enjoyed serving you! This fundraiser was for the upcoming ski trip to Crystal Mountain. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers!

Youth Volunteers:

Harper Wiemerslage Jed Finch
Sophia Simpson Noah Finch
Sammy Steffunick Aleah Graf
Makena Dohm Jacob Graf
Lincoln Dohm Jane Kurkowski

Owen Munger

Adult Volunteers:

Tina Dohm Nancy Ammann
Paul Wiemerslage Monica Graf
Jessica Wiemerslage Norm Fred

Renae Wells

Special thanks to Still Point Farm for donating delicious maple syrup for our pancakes!

Bethlehem volunteers prepared and served over 300 meals to individuals experiencing homelessness at Safe Harbor shelter in Traverse City on January 27, 28, and 30. We also provided an evening snack, guest interaction, a musical interlude on Tuesday night (Thank you Zeke), and assisted with check-in, medications, and more. Approx. 60 Bethlehem members participated in the meals, snacks, and other interactions. Kitchen leaders were vital and special thanks go to Cindy Monroe, Tina Dohm, and B.J. Christensen. Financial support came from the Bethlehem Mission Endowment Fund, Thrivent Financial and the congregation. We had many first time participants and as the shelter looks to expand its annual calendar, we hope to be ready to extend continued service- always remembering Christ's words "Feed My Sheep"... Please see the photos and thank you messages in the Gathering Space.

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 February. **The first will be informational on February 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, <u>on February 25</u>, 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. <u>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.</u> (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.

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. Maple syrup has been generously donated by Still Point Farm, a local family farm in Empire, MI. 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.

New member acceptance: Peggy Burns and Maureen McGerty will be accepted on <u>Sunday</u>, <u>February 18th</u>. Please come and support them on their special day.

<u>Spotlight on Zeke</u>: 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:

All Wednesdays in February—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour, 4:00

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 23. 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.

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.

<u>DIRECTORY UPDATE</u>: 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.

Ski Trip: Join us for an intergeneration Ski Trip to Crystal Mountain on Sunday, February 18th, beginning at 1pm! All ages are invited to hit the slopes, or to watch the fun! We will plan to enjoy the outdoors until about 4:30pm, then meet at Gino's for dinner. Passes will be covered for all BLC youth who participated in fundraisers, and for as many adults as possible. Sign-ups for this event are important, so if you are planning on joining us for an afternoon of fun, please sign up by contacting Alanna at: alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org You can also sign up in the Narthex.

<u>COLLEGE AND MILITARY MEMBERS</u>: We are again looking to send love packages to our college and military members. Please give us their name and the COMPLETE address by **TODAY**, **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 Acts of the Apostles.

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 in the Gathering Space 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.

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 TODAY, 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!

<u>Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations</u>? 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.

<u>Coffee and Cookies on Sunday</u>: 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!!

<u>Name tags</u>: 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.

<u>Food Pantry</u>: 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, February 4

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

<u>Tuesday, February 6</u> <u>Bulletin articles due today</u>

9:00am—Property Work Group 9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH) 10:45am—Staff Meeting (CR)

Wednesday, February 7

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

Thursday, February 8

9:00am—Baby Pantry Set-Up 10:00am—Baby Pantry (FH) 1:00pm—Rebecca Anna Circle (Library) 5:30pm—ACA (FH) 7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Friday, February 9

12:00pm—XYZ Potluck (FH)

Saturday, February 10

7:00pm—Contra Dance (FH)

Sunday, February 11

9:15am—Sunday School 9:15am—Adult Education (YR) 10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S) 11:15am—Roof & Solar Panels Informational Lunch (FH)









