# Fifth Sunday in Lent March 26, 2023 – 10am Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4

**Prelude Music** 

Announcements

# **Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: ... we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, + forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

# O Living Breath of God

ELW #407

# 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, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **Children's Message**

## Pr Kara Shaw

# First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."

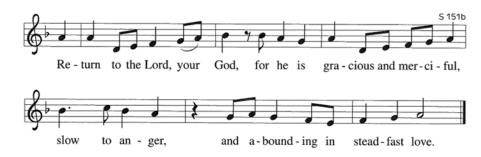
1 The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." 4 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." 7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." 10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. 11 Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' 12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14 I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

# **Gospel Acclamation:**





# Gospel: John 11:1-45

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

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

1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 4 But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. 7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." 8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. 10 But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." 11 After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." 12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." 13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. 15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." 17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." 28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." 29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus began to weep. 36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" 38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." 45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pr. Kara Shaw

Song of the Day:

ELW #328

# **Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace (Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)

Offering

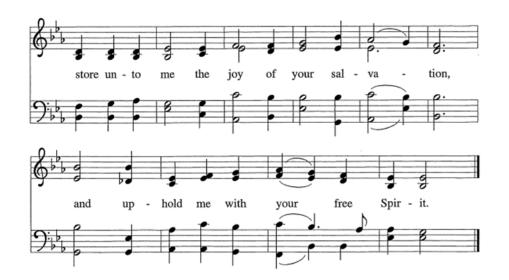
### **Offering Song:**

Zeke Clemons

**Offertory:** 

Create in Me a Clean Heart





# **Offering Prayer**

#### A: Let us pray.

C: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. 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:	There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	ELW #588
	All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly	ELW # 461

#### **Final Blessing**

P: God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

C: Amen.

#### Sending Song:

40 Days

Forty days to wander, forty days to die to self. Forty days to grow stronger as faith breaks open the gates of hell. The jubilee is over, but grace is far from gone in the hearts of the faithful, broken on the wheels of love.

'Cause in the desert of temptation lies the storm of true conversion, where springs of living water drown and refresh you.

As the Jordan pours out change, your true self is all that remains, where springs of living water bind and break you, bind and break you.

Forty days to remember the Paschal sacrifice. Forty days to discover His passion calls us to new life. The jubilee is over, but mercy's far from gone in the arms of the Father as the wayward child comes home.

'Cause in the desert of temptation lies the storm of true conversion, where springs of living water drown and refresh you.

As the Jordan pours out change, your true self is all that remains, where springs of living water bind and break you.

Bind and break you. Bind and break you, bind and break you, bind and break you.

# Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve in love. C: Thanks be to God.



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

3/26—Kristine Smith	3/27—Dale Thiel	3/29—Betsy Morley	4/1—Scott Farley
3/26—Terry Lautner	3/27—Shawn Antol	3/30—Erin Word	4/1—Haven Hill
3/27—Miriam "Beth" Chan	3/28—Paul Ton	3/31—April Kurkowski	

#### We welcome Pr Kara Shaw of Reed City as our Presiding and Preaching Minister today

#### This week's Lenten service will be Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00pm on March 30th – it will not be livestreamed.

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

#### 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

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The giving envelopes have arrived! Please pick your box up in the Narthex. Phil Anderson, Bookkeeper

**COVID:** Please note 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 rose on the Baptismal font today is in celebration of Luke Kevin Wenzel, born March 16, 2023. His parents are Kevin and Kayla Wenzel and his grandparents are Craig and Maureen Bauer.

**Third Thursday:** The next Third Thursday service will be a Taize "A" service on April 20th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed.

<u>The March issue of the STAR is now available.</u> The April issue will be distributed on Sunday, April 2nd. 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.

**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:

- <u>Prayer Chain:</u> 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

#### Our last Lenten Thursday is this week on March 30th:

<u>6:00pm Meal</u>: The menu for this week includes Potato Soup, Veggistrone Soup, bread/rolls, a salad, dessert and beverages. Please contact Laura Hahn with any questions: dandlhahn@gmail.com, 231-929-1339 (home), 231-499-1948 (cell) Thank you! <u>7:00pm Service</u>: Holden Evening Prayer (No Communion). This service will not be Livestreamed.

#### The promise of Easter is just around the corner. Our Holy Week schedule includes:

April 2nd at 10:00am - Palm Sunday service. Please note that this service will begin in the Narthex.

April 6th at 7:00pm – Maundy Thursday service. This service includes Foot Washing, Communion and Stripping of the Altar.

April 7th at 7:00pm – Good Friday. This service will be a Tenebrae service of Light and Darkness

April 8th at 8:00pm – Easter Vigil service at Advent Lutheran Church in Lake Ann. Our confirmands will participate in this service.

- April 9th at 8:00am Resurrection of Our Lord Easter service
- April 9th at 9:00am Easter Brunch in the Fellowship Hall

April 9th at 10:00am – Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter service

All of the BLC services except for the 8:00am service on Easter morning will be Livestreamed.

**Soup/Chili Cook-Off:** Have a family recipe? A go-to comfort soup? A new recipe you want to try out? Enter it in the soup and chili cook-off! We are especially in need of people to sign up to participate, but volunteers to help are also welcome! The date is Sunday, April 2nd, beginning after service. If you're not able to bring a soup or chili, please join us anyway - we will need taste testers for the competition! To sign up to either volunteer or participate, or if you just plan to attend, reach out to Alanna at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org. Sign up sheets are also available in the narthex.

<u>Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font!</u> Cost \$10.00 per rose. Contact Barbara Oster at beo6475@yahoo.com or 231.668.7038.

**<u>Registration is now open for 2023 Summer Camp in New Era at Stony Lake</u> - presented by Living Water Ministries. The website is https://elcalivingwater.com** 

**Photo Directory:** We have a chance to make a new directory the final week of Sept,, but with any project like this we need volunteers. Please leave your name in the office if you can help on this project in any way. Thanks to those who have already volunteered. And please, try to be in town that week. We want everyone's smiling faces in our new directory. Choir announcement: The choir has some cool music planned for the Lent and Easter season. We will be rehearsing Tuesdays at 7:00 to accommodate Lenten mid-week services. Our next rehearsal will be held on April 4. The choir will sing on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. If you'd like to know more, talk to Tony Bero at a Thursday mid-week service or contact him at 231-942-1162, email: bero.tony@gmail.com.

**Choir announcement:** The choir has some cool music planned for the Lent and Easter season. We will be rehearsing Tuesdays at 7:00 to accommodate Lenten mid-week services. Our next rehearsal will be held on April 4. The choir will sing on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. If you'd like to know more, talk to Tony Bero at a Thursday mid-week service or contact him at 231-942-1162, email: <u>bero.tony@gmail.com</u>

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.

A recent search of the church refrigerator revealed some food that has expired or has been in there for an unknown period of time. These items have been marked. If you have food items in the refrigerator, please check on them ASAP. Please mark them with your name and date if you wish to keep them. All expired and mysterious foods will be thrown away in the near future, unless they are claimed. Thank you!"

<u>Contra Dance -</u> Bayside Travellers, a nonprofit organization that promotes traditional folk music and dance, will be holding a contra dance here at BLC on Saturday, April 15th. Contra dancing is very similar to square dancing, but is set up in long lines where you move through the line as the dance progresses. The dance will begin at 7pm with a learning workshop that will teach everything you need to know - no dance experience or partner required! Dances led by a caller will go from 7:30 - 10:30pm. Contra dances always include live music by local folk bands - if dancing isn't your thing, attend just to listen to the music and enjoy the experience! It's truly not something to miss. Alanna has been dancing with this group for years, so please reach out to her with any questions! alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the Sabbatical Fund. As of Sunday, March 12th, we have collected \$13,100. Our goal is \$15,000 so if you would still like to contribute, we welcome it.

#### The synod assembly will be back in person this year instead of on-line. It will be held May 7-9 in Mt Pleasant.

Immanuel/Bethlehem choir director Tony Bero will be leading the music. Our church is allowed to send one male and one female as voting members in addition to our pastor. Perhaps this is the year that you feel you are being called to do something new and different in your spiritual life? If so, please tell Pastor Paul or leave your name in the office.

**BLC Book Club:** The BLC book club's Apr meeting is on the 25th at 5:30 via ZOOM. The choice for the book is still pending because hopefully multiple copies be available in the outdoor box. Cindy is planning to learn how to do a "Hybrid" meeting this month so that in the future those who want to come to church can do so and those who want to participate on "ZOOM" can also do that. If you are not on the email list and want to be involved send your information to cmonroe@chartermi.net.

The newest Living Lutheran magazine and the April/May/June Christ in Our Home can be picked up at the welcome table on Sunday mornings or from the Shooting STAR box below the outside mailbox

Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations? It has been moved inside the coat room to the right.

**Coffee and Cookies:** You are welcome to stay after the Sunday 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 is a sign-up sheet available near the cookies. There are open dates, so please sign up!

<u>Name tags</u>: Your name tags are back in your mailboxes. Please 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. If you notice a visitor, please encourage them to make a nametag which are kept with the welcome notebook.

Adult Bible Study gets together on Wednesdays from 9:30am-11:30am. It is a casual discussion of the Gospel of Luke. Bring your bibles and come, share, learn and grow with us.

The Zoom Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30pm—3:00pm. This group will study the Book of Faith: Romans. Contact Pr Paul for Zoom information.

**BABY PANTRY:** Suggested donations for April are: tissues, toilet paper, cleaning products such as hand soap, all purpose cleaner, laundry soap. Please have donations at church prior to April 12th. Food items are always appreciated, too Thank you!.

**FOOD PANTRY:** With the return of good weather we will also be opening up our outdoor food pantry to the community. Please be watching for special deals so you can help us restock our pantry for the warmer months.

<u>A big thank you to all who have turned in Oleson's receipts.</u> We just received a check from them for \$186.58 for a grand total of \$651.20 for the year 2022. Please continue to drop off your Oleson's receipts at Bethlehem!!! Also note that they do not expire. Thank you so much!!!

**2023 Relay for Life:** The American Cancer Society will be holding their annual 24-Hour Relay for Life event on Saturday, June 10, 2023 starting at 10 AM with an opening ceremony to Sunday, June 11, 2023 ending at 10 AM at the Grand Traverse Mall. As a long-time volunteer with the organization, I would like to request your support in the form of monetary donations to the American Cancer Society in support of this great cause, which will impact so many wonderful people who need your help. Thank you very much for your generous donations in the past, which helped the American Cancer Society provide more programs and do more research and advocacy for cancer patients and their caregivers. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is really appreciated!

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.** Note that flowers are not placed on the altar during Lent (now through April 2nd) and will resume on Easter Sunday. 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, March 26 10:00am—Worship Service (S)

#### <u>Tuesday, March 28</u>

Bulletin articles due today 9:00am—Property Work Group 9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH) 5:30pm—Book/Supper Club (Zoom) 6:30pm—Newcomers (FH)

#### Wednesday, March 29

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

#### Thursday, March 30

5:30pm—ACA 6:00pm—Lenten Dinner (FH) 7:00pm—Lenten Service/Holden Evening Prayer

#### Sunday, April 2

10:00am—Palm Sunday Worship Service (S) 11:30am—Chili Cookoff (FH)





Chili cook-off is back! It's been several years since we've been able to have this event, and we are so excited to enjoy it again!

We're also including a soup category this year!

We are in need of people to sign up, both to enter soups/chili for the competition, and to volunteer to help with the event itself! Sign up sheets will be available in the narthex.

You can also sign up to submit a soup/chili entry online here:

See the weekly email for online sign up information

You can also sign up by either emailing Alanna at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org or calling her on Tuesday or Thursday at 947.9880. Reach out to her with any questions!



# **Easter Brunch** Sunday, April 9, 2023, 9:00am

The Fellowship Committee will supply beverages and sausage links.

Please consider donating food to be shared at the meal.

Suggested items: Breakfast casseroles, hardboiled eggs, deviled eggs, quiche, pastries, rolls, bread, muffins, bagels, fruit, yogurt.

A sign-up sheet will be located in the Narthex

All food must pre-cooked. Ovens will available to keep food warm as needed.

We hope to see you there!

# Saturday APRIL 15TH

Contra Dance

**Bayside Travellers** 

live music by WOODLAND CELTIC

with

Learning workshop 7pm Dances 7:30 - 10:30

calling by Pat Reeser

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

> No partner or experience needed! The workshop will teach you everything you need to know! Feel free to bring a snack to share!

dancetc.com @baysidetravellersdance baysidetravellersdance@yahoo.com (231) 313-2596