

# Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 10



**Prelude Music**

**Announcements**

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**C: Amen.**

P: Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

P: Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**Gathering Song:**

***Blessed Are Those Who Do Believe***

Blessed are those who do believe. Blessed are those who do believe. Though they have not seen they trust God faithfully.

Blessed are those who do believe. Blessed are those who do believe. Though they have not seen they trust God faithfully.

Some people doubt what they have not seen. They will not blindly follow what is said.

Others view this as a weakness but it can authenticate instead. See my nail pierced hands. Come touch my wounded side.

I give what you need for faith as you give your trust completely my Spirit will guide.

*(continued on next page)*

Blessed are those who do believe. Blessed are those who do believe. Though they have not seen they trust God faithfully.

Blessed are those who do believe. Blessed are those who do believe. Though they have not seen they trust God faithfully.

As I've been given so I give you to the world, forgive the sins of all,  
... bringing hope to doubting faces, tearing down where hatred builds a wall. And as you bring life to places here and far,  
... always keep in mind you are not loved for what you do but for whose you are.

Blessed are those who do believe. Blessed are those who do believe. Though they have not seen they trust God faithfully.

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## 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

p. 203



S203

1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: **Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

*While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.*

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy

person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold.  
35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

## Psalm: Psalm 133

1 How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

2 It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.

3 It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the Lord has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

## Gospel Acclamation:

### Alleluia

p. 205



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## Gospel: John 20:19-31

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

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

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." 24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." 26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." 30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

**Sermon**

*Pastor Paul Busekist*

**Song of the Day:**

***We Walk by Faith***

**ELW #635**

**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:**

***Come to the Table***

**ELW #481**

**Offering Prayer**

A: Let us pray together.

C: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. 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:**

***Here Is Bread***

**ELW #483**

***Eat This Bread***

**ELW #472**

**Final Blessing**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

**Sending Song:**

**Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises**

**ELW #535**

## Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



**Bethlehem** April 7, 2024  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

4/9—Zach Chaussee

4/12—Ellie Shaw

1050 Peninsula Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880  
[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

**Join us next Sunday, April 14th, for our Traditional Service at 10:00am**

### **Worship Servants for April 7**

Assisting Minister—Sherri Helman

Lector—Kathy Ancinec

Musicians: Zeke Clemons, Denice Bossardet, Pr Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: *by Lois & Dick Gray in Thanksgiving for their 72nd wedding anniversary*

Hospitality—Gary/Kathy Ancinec

A/V—Dale Wentzloff, Barbara Oster, Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—VOLUNTEER; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—Tim Goebel

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Kate Holtfreter, Cindy Cuba

**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 April issue of the STAR is now available.** For current issues of the Star, feel free to check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://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 April/May/June 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](http://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

**The next Third Thursday service will be a Holden Evening Prayer service on April 18th at 7:00pm.** The service will be livestreamed. Pr Ruth Overdier will preside and preach. 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.

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

**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:

**Sat 04/13**—Hotel Indigo 6:00pm

**Thurs 5/30**—Brady's Bar 6:30pm

**Sat 05/04**—Hotel Indigo 6:00pm

**Fri 5/31**—Grand Traverse Resort

**Fri 05/17**—MiddleCoast 6:00pm

**Join us for a Family Movie Night on Saturday, April 20th!** We'll have dinner of hotdogs, chips, and drinks at 5:30pm, and the movie will start at 6pm. We'll be watching the Disney Pixar film *Elemental*. All ages are welcome - bring a friend along with you! Seating will be provided, but you are welcome to bring a folding chair if you prefer. See you there!

**FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS:** The book club will discuss *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride during a dinner meeting at 5:30 on Tues Apr 23 at The Cottage. Extra copies will be available on the counter below the mailboxes. Just sign your name on the sheet by the corresponding number of your book. If you cannot come to church when it is open please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net and we will make other arrangements.

**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.

**DIRECTORY UPDATE:** Our correction list for the 2nd proof has been submitted. Once received, we'll review it, hopefully finding no other mistakes. We will then sign off on it and wait for final print. We have not been given any wait-time estimate for its printing.

**Council Nominations open for council 2024.** We have been blessed! Many of the council members have agreed to continue with another term. Have you been thinking this would be a good place for you to increase your involvement at Bethlehem? It involves a 3 year commitment to attend a meeting on the 3rd Tues of the month and perhaps one other meeting per month. The current members are hard-working and dedicated, and always ready with an intelligent question or a quick quip. If this sounds like your kind of people please contact the office at 947-9880 or contact any of the following: Pastor Paul, Cindy Monroe, Paul Wiermerslage, Jana Rockne, or Gary Ancinec. WE would love to have you on the TEAM!

**New member gathering to be scheduled:** Please contact Pastor Paul, the office at 947-9880 or Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net if you are considering membership at Bethlehem. The next gathering will be scheduled for April or May.

**The church council is looking for a male and female member who would be willing to serve as Bethlehem's delegates to this year's synod assembly.** This year is a virtual meeting on Sat May 11 so you can participate from the comfort of your own home as long as you have a computer or smartphone. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor Paul, council president Cindy Monroe, or contact the church office. **Please note: The deadline for registering delegates is tomorrow, April 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**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.

**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. Now that the *Red Letter Challenge* is complete, the group concludes the Book of Mark on April 10th. Look for discussion on the next book selection to begin on Wednesday, April 24th.

**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 to give our loyal volunteer Mary Ann Tanis a day off. 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. Enjoy this experience in April!!

**April's XYZ Potluck & Presentation will be on Friday, April 12th at 12pm noon.** 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. April's presenter is Lori Kroger, RN. Lori and her daughter Karla are co-owners of Northern Elderberry, a local business focused on natural, healthy living and sharing wellness with others. Their elderberry products are distributed by several local business, including Oryana and Fresh Coast Market."

**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:** It will be SPRING by the time you read this so hopefully we will not need to be concerned about the cold damaging any of our food. Please start looking for staple 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](mailto: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.** 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.



**Safety and Security: Locking the Doors** The doors were locked during services beginning in February for a 3 month trial. This will continue until the end of April. Your feedback regarding locking the door during worship services will help the church council proceed with a more long term plan. This will also assist the committee members to determine how we can best monitor the doors during services. In order to monitor the doors our volunteer force will need to increase significantly. There is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Space. The committee members are Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer, Jana Rockne and Jan Stretlien, we would be happy to answer any questions.

**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, April 7**

9:15am—Sunday School  
 9:15am—Adult Education (YR)  
 10:00am—Worship Service (S)

**Monday, April 8**

1:00pm—Finance Committee (CR)

**Tuesday, April 9**

**Bulletin articles due today**

9:00am—Property Work Group  
 9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)  
 10:45am—Staff Meeting (CR)  
 1:00pm—Friendship Bible Study (Offsite)  
 6:00pm—Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting (YR)  
 6:30pm—Executive Committee (CR)

**Wednesday, April 10**

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

**Thursday, April 11**

9:00am—Baby Pantry Set-up (FH)  
 10:00am—Baby Pantry (FH)  
 1:00pm—Rebecca Anna Circle (Library)  
 5:30pm—ACA (FH)

**Friday, April 12**

12:00pm—XYZ (FH)

**Saturday, April 13**

7:00pm—Contra Dance (FH)

**Sunday, April 14**

9:15am—Sunday School  
 9:15am—Adult Education (YR)  
 10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)

**Bethlehem**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**XYZ**  
EXtra Years of Zest

Join us for a potluck lunch,  
followed by a wonderful  
presentation!

Lori Kroger, RN

Northern  
**Elderberry**

Friday  
April 12th  
12pm

@baysidetravellersdance baysidetravellersdance@yahoo.com

**Bayside Travellers**

**Contra Dancing**

**SATURDAY**  
April 13th

Workshop 7pm  
Dances 7:30 10:30pm

Live Music  
by  
Last Minute String Band

Featuring calling by  
Dave Goodwin

**Dance by Donation**  
\$10 / person suggested

Thank you for supporting  
traditional music & dance!

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