

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



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:

I've Just Come from the Fountain

WOV 696

I've just come from the fountain, I've just come from the fountain, Lord, I've just come from the fountain,
his name's so sweet. O Lord, I've just come from the fountain, I've just come from the fountain,
Lord, I've just come from the fountain, his name's so sweet.

O brother, do you love Jesus? Yes, yes, I do love my Jesus. Brother, do you love Jesus? His name's so sweet.

O Lord, I've just come from the fountain, I've just come from the fountain, Lord, I've just come from the fountain,
his name's so sweet.

O sister, do you love Jesus? Yes, yes, I do love my Jesus. Sister, do you love Jesus? His name's so sweet.

(continued on next page)

O Lord, I've just come from the fountain, I've just come from the fountain, Lord, I've just come from the fountain, his name's so sweet.

O sinner, do you love Jesus? Yes, yes, I do love my Jesus. Sinner, do you love Jesus? His name's so sweet.
O Lord, I've just come from the fountain, I've just come from the fountain, Lord, I've just come from the fountain, his name's so sweet.

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: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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 Paul

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

26 An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) 27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. 33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." 34 The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" 38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

(continued on next page)

39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

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

Jesus said: 1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

ELW #377

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:

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:

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts
Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW #658

ELW #471

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:

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

ELW #538

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



Bethlehem April 28, 2024
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4/30—Carolyn Burns
4/30—Jeanne Bowling
5/1—Carolyn Mann

5/2—Lincoln Dohm
5/3—Christine Hubert
5/4—Sherryl Hellenga

5/4—Lauren Glenn

Worship Servants for April 28

Assisting Minister—Karen Feahr

Lector—Mary Ann Tanis

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *by Jacque Rossfeld in Celebration of all of her family's special days this week.*

Hospitality—Phil Anderson / Susie Burton

A/V—Jim Hinds, Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—Barbara Oster; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—Gail Goldsmith

Bell Ringer—Gail Goldsmith

Front Door Monitors—Tom and Jana Rockne

Altar Guild—Mary Ann Tanis, Gail Goldsmith

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 May 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 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 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 Behold Our Light service on May 16th 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. This will be our last Third Thursday service until September.

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.

Safety and Security: Locking the Doors During Worship The Church Council has approved having the doors locked during worship on a permanent basis. Every Sunday the front doors will be locked and there will be people monitoring the doors to let late comers in. At this point we have a base of 5 people to be the monitors. We would like 3-4 more people so we can rotate only having to monitor once every 2 months. Please sign up in the Gathering Space if you would like to be on the rotation and what Sunday you would like to volunteer. Thank you for those who have volunteered.

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 in plastic bags 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 05/04—Hotel Indigo 6:00pm

Thurs 5/30—Brady's Bar 6:30pm

Fri 05/17—MiddleCoast 6:00pm

Fri 5/31—Grand Traverse Resort 7:00pm

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS: The book club will discuss *We Are the Light* by Matthew Quick during a dinner meeting at 5:30 on Tues May 28 at The Cottage. Look for extra copies 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 such as a book in the wooden STAR box attached to the outdoor mailbox post.

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.

GET A TREAT AND TAKE A SEAT!!! Remember that the final Sunday of each month (which is TODAY), we are moving our coffee hour into the Fellowship Hall. This allows each person to sit for a moment and perhaps visit with someone new. So, on that Sunday each month be sure to take a turn into the Fellowship Hall. We will have a reminder sign on the counter in the Gathering Space to help you remember. Thank you!

Safety and Security: TORNADO AND BAD WEATHER DRILL BLC will present a Temple Talk on Sunday, May 5, to give instructions on a Severe Weather Drill. The drill will be held at the end of service with congregants moving to the basement hallway. If unable to go downstairs, we will ask you to move safely to the hallway by the classrooms outside of the Sacristy. This should take only a few minutes and we thank you in advance.

BIKE AND HIKE ADVENTURE Well Spring is here and nice weather is upon us so let's go outside and have some fun. The Social Ministry and Fellowship Committee has combined to plan some activities for this year. So we are planning a Bike and Hike Adventure on the Boardman Lake Trail. **It will start at Medalie Park off of South Airport Road on May 4th at 10:00.** Cheryl Wegener will start the group off with warm up and get to know each other games. She will lead the bike portion of the adventure for the whole 4 mile loop around the lake. Jana Rockne will lead a group of hikers around the whole loop and Cindy Monroe will lead a group who want walk a smaller distance. The hikers will be asked to pick up trash along the way and the bikers can help to clean up the park. **In case of inclement weather Sunday May 5th after church will be a back up day.** Cindy Monroe has applied for a Thrivent Grant to supply a picnic after the adventure. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex, so we know how many will be staying for lunch. **We will have water available, but bring your water bottles.** If you have any questions contact Gail Goldsmith.

DIRECTORY UPDATE: After 5 proofs, our directory has been sent to printing. We are hopeful that it can be completed within their expected 4 week timeframe, which should be mid-May.

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!

STAR DELIVERY-WE FOUND A BETTER WAY!! All of us are aware that the price of postage keeps increasing. Since so many of you have returned to church we are returning to an “old” way and starting a “new” way of dispersing the STAR. You can pick-up a copy in church, or if you have reliable e-mail, you will receive an automatic STAR each month without any extra clicking. We know that neither of these ways are possible for some of you so simply contact the office at 947-9880 to request that mail delivery continues. We will change to these new ways at the end of June for the July issue.

New member gathering scheduled: The next gathering for anyone considering membership at Bethlehem will be May 19 immediately after the service. We want to make certain we gather in a large enough location, so please confirm your attendance at the meeting by contacting Pastor Paul, the office at 947-9880 or Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net. Also, please mention if there is anyone you have already met at Bethlehem who you would like to have as your sponsor. We find it is very helpful to have your own personal “go-to” person for questions or concerns.

Choir News: Greetings, my friends! I've enjoyed my time with you at our Third Thursday services, and I've had lots of fun working with the choir. We are preparing music to sing on May 5 and for Pentecost on May 19th after which the choir will break for the summer. You're invited to join us during our rehearsals on 5/2 and 5/9 at 7:00pm. Secondly, another round of hymn selection will begin soon. The hymns chosen will be sung during the summer months. If you would like to suggest a hymn, or have any other musical ideas, send me an email at bero.tony@gmail.com. Peace!

May's XYZ Potluck & Presentation will be on Friday, May 10th at 12pm noon. Our presenters in May will be Tiffany & Jason McQueer, local business owners and nonprofit directors. The McQueers own J & S Hamburg South Airport, and in the midst of the pandemic in 2020 they saw a need in the community that inspired them to launch their nonprofit. Project Feed the Kids operates multiple coolers packed with free bag lunches in the local area to help fight hunger and food insecurity. They currently provide 3,000 free lunches every week to children and adults in need, with the help of volunteers and community support.

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.

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. We are studying *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. This group will be transitioning into a hybrid class with not only Zoom participants but anyone who would like to attend in-person in the Youth Room. If you are interested in this book and need a copy, please contact Barbara Oster in the office. We will be taking a break on Wednesday, May 1st and will meet again on May 8th.

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. Please see the message elsewhere about having the final Sunday of the month be a time when we join in the Fellowship Hall for this activity. We can sit at a table and chat with someone new while we munch on a treat!!

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's SPRING, so hopefully we do not need to be concerned about the cold damaging any of our food in the outdoor pantry. 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 April 8th, we received a check from Olesons for \$206.60. Olesons' slips never expire. Please continue to turn in your Olesons 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. 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, April 28

- 9:15am—Sunday School
- 9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
- 10:00am—Worship Service (S)
- 11:15am—Coffee/Cookies in Fellowship Hall

Monday, April 29

- 10:00am—Sustaining Endowment (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 30

Bulletin articles due today

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

Wednesday, May 1

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

Thursday, May 2

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

Saturday, May 4

- 10:00am—Bike and Hike Adventure at Medalie Park
- 12:00pm—WP Association Meeting (FH)

Sunday, May 5

- 9:15am—Sunday School
- 9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
- 10:00am—Worship Service (S)
- 11:15am—Worship and Music Meeting (FH)
- 1:00pm—Confirmation Class (YR)



X Y Z

EXtra Years of Zest

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

Friday
May 10th
12pm

PROJECT
FEED THE KIDS!

Tiffany & Jason
McQueer

Dance by Donation
\$10 / person suggested

PayPal

Bayside Travellers
Contra Dance

SATURDAY
May 11th, 2024

Beginner Workshop 7pm Dances 7:30 - 10:30pm

Live Music
by
Woodland Celtic
&
dances called by
Larry Dyer

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

@baysidetravellersdance
baysidetravellersdance@yahoo.com