

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



Prelude Music

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

C: Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. Amen.

Gathering Song:

Have No Fear, Little Flock

ELW #764

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 our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

42 The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

2 **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

3 You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

S 142a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

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

Jesus said: 1 “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7 So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

ELW #789

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: **Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. 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:

***Shepherd Me, O God
I Love to Tell the Story***

***ELW #780
ELW #661***

Final Blessing

P: The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Song:

The New Song We Sing

Andrews, Ingram & Smith

You are the God Who reconciles the wayward heart through Christ.
The old has gone, the new has come; we are reconciled by love, we are reconciled by love.
You are the God Who reconciles the wayward heart through Christ.
The old has gone, the new has come; we are reconciled by love, we are reconciled by love.

And this is the new song we sing to the King of heaven. This is the new song we bring after all you've given.
And we stand before You redeemed as Your children. This is the new song we sing.

We who were once so far away are brought near by Your blood.
The barrier has been destroyed; by Your grace we freely come, by Your grace we freely come.

And this is the new song we sing to the King of heaven. This is the new song we bring after all you've given.
And we stand before You redeemed as Your children. This is the new song we sing.
And we live in You. We live for You. We live to You, our King.
We stand in You. We stand for You. We stand as Your redeemed.
And we live in You. We live for You. We live to You, our King.
We stand in You. We stand for You. We stand as Your redeemed. Your redeemed.

And this is the new song we sing to the King of heaven. This is the new song we bring after all you've given.
And we stand before You redeemed as Your children. This is the new song we sing.
And this is the new song we sing to the King of heaven. This is the new song we bring after all you've given.
And we stand before You redeemed as Your children. This is the new song we sing.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem April 30, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880

www.bethlehemtc.org

4/30—Carolyn Burns
5/1—Carolyn Mann
5/2—Lincoln Dohm

5/2—Matt Russell
5/3—Christine Hubert
5/4—Sherryl Hellenga

5/4—Lauren Glenn
5/6—Cathy Lautner

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 UPDATE: As of 4/18/2023, masks are no longer required, regardless of vaccination status. A supply of masks will still be available for anyone who may be more comfortable wearing one. Please reach out to BLC Council with any questions or concerns.

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.

Third Thursday: The next Third Thursday service will be Holden Evening Prayer service on May 18th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed. This will be our last Third Thursday service until September.

Today's altar flowers are donated by: the Congregation in thanks for all of God's blessings.

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>.

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

Due Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screen Announcements:

- **STAR:** The third Friday of the month sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Please note STAR in subject line)
- **Bulletin/Verbal Announcements:** Tuesday of the week sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Bulletin/Worship Folder is prepared on Tuesday and printed on Thursday morning.) (Please note Bulletin or Announcement in subject line)
- **Screen Announcements/Weekly BLC Emails:** Tuesday of the week sent to alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org

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.

Our next New Member Orientation is scheduled for today after the service. Please join us to find out more about Bethlehem. If you became a member during the time of COVID and did not have the opportunity to enjoy such an orientation, please feel free to join us.

Photo Directory: We have a chance to make a new directory the final week of September, 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: Warm greetings to you! You're still invited to join the choir! We will rehearse on May 2 as we prepare to sing, "He Is Alive," by Joel Raney on May 7 (the fifth Sunday of Easter). In May, we will rehearse on Thursday, May 11, as we prepare to sing, "For All Good Things," by J. Paul Williams, Joseph M. Martin, and Vicki Tucker Courtney. That anthem will be sung on May 21 as a musical send-off for Pastor Paul as he begins his sabbatical. After that, we will be on summer break until Thursday, September 7. We hope to see you become part of the fun. Lastly, I will be providing music at the upcoming Synod Assembly. If you will be there representing Bethlehem, stop by and say hello! Peace be with you - Tony Bero.

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.

We are Ready for Sabbatical!!! Beginning the week of May 22nd the Sabbatical begins. Plans are in place for Pastor Paul to engage in activities that renew the spirit and refresh the soul! Guest pastors will lead worship. We will have activities that will bring us closer as a church family. Sign up in the narthex.

The first activity for Shepherding a Sabbatical begins with the Send Off Sabbatical Luncheon for Pastor Paul. We hope that you will be able to attend this time of fellowship that will be held on **Sunday, May 21, 2023 immediately after service**

- Please bring your favorite side dish
- Brats and hot dogs grilled by the Men's Group
- "Sunday Sundaes" served for dessert by Y2A
- Coffee & lemonade will be provided

It would be greatly appreciated if we could have more volunteers to assist The Sabbatical Team with this festivity. Please contact Gail Goldsmith.

Blessings and Thank you, The Sabbatical Team

SUMMER SABBATICAL ACTIVITIES: Please take a moment to review the activity sheets on the table in the Gathering Space and SIGN-UP!! Two activities (beginners' Pickleball and Cookie decorating) request you to write in your availability so we can schedule the activity for when the most people can participate. Please remember to complete that portion of the activity also.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the Sabbatical Fund. At last count, we have collected over \$14,000. Our goal is \$15,000 so if you would still like to contribute, we welcome it.

BLC Book Club: The BLC book club's May meeting is on the 23rd at 5:30 via ZOOM or IN-PERSON!!! There are copies of the book *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah in the Book Club bin just outside the front door of the church. If you want to ZOOM and are not on the email list, send your information to cmonroe@chartermi.net. Otherwise, just come to the church office conference room at that time.

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!

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.

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 *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation* by Parker Palmer. Contact Pr Paul for Zoom information.

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.

BABY PANTRY: Suggested donations for April are: tissues, toilet paper, cleaning products such as hand soap, all purpose cleaner, laundry soap. Thank you!

Freedom Builders Needs Our Help: Freedom Builders is a wonderful ministry in our area. They help to build ramps and make homes accessible for people in need. Now they are in need of a large building to store their supplies. If you have such a space or know of one for sale at a reasonable price, they would appreciate your input. If they have to purchase a place they will need size-able donations dedicated towards their building fund. For any questions or assistance contact Skip Brown at 231-642-7140 or skip@fbmissions.org.

Join the Grand Traverse Conservation District for their upcoming workbee:

- May 13th: Hickory Meadows Volunteer Workbee-register and information at <https://natureiscalling.org/events/hickory-meadows-volunteer-workbee-1>

A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts. We just received a check from them for \$304.88. Last year received \$651.20. Let's see if we can do even better this year! Please continue to drop off your receipts at Bethlehem. Please note they do not expire. Thank you!

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 1100am – 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.

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!

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 30

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:30am—New Member Meeting
2:00pm—WELCA Fun Day (FH)

Tuesday, May 2

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
10:00am—Staff Meeting
7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Wednesday, May 3

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

Thursday, May 4

5:30pm—ACA

Saturday, May 6

11:00am—Funeral – Kathy Myers (S)
12:00pm—Luncheon – Kathy Myers (FH)

Sunday, May 7

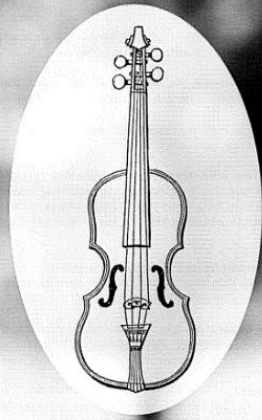
Synod Assembly in Mt Pleasant (until May 9th)

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:15am—Worship and Music Meeting
12:30pm—Confirmation (Offsite)

**LIVE
MUSIC**

by
The Johns

Feel
free
to bring
a snack
to
share!



**NO
PARTNER
OR
EXPERIENCE
NEEDED!**

The
workshop
will teach
you
everything
you need
to know.

Bayside Travellers

Contra Dance

dancetc.com

@baysidetravellersdance

baysidetravellersdance@yahoo.com

SATURDAY May 13th, 2023

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

LOCATION:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1050 Peninsula Dr, Traverse City MI 49686

-dance by donation-

suggested \$10/person



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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

COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, May 20th, 2023 6:30pm

**FREE ADMISSION
POPCORN & DRINKS PROVIDED
ALL AGES WELCOME!**



Feel free to bring a
blanket and pillow,
and wear your
comfiest PJs!

