

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 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:

*You Are the Way*

*ELW #758*

## 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 Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

55 Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" 57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. 58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

**2 Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

**4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.**

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

**15 My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

16 Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

## Gospel Acclamation:

**Allelu**

*Repp*

Allelu! Allelu!

Ev'rybody sing, "Allelu!"

For the Lord has risen, it is true.

Ev'rybody sing, "Allelu!"

Allelu! Allelu!

Ev'rybody sing, "Allelu!"

For the Lord has risen, it is true.

Ev'rybody sing, "Allelu!"

## Gospel: John 14:1-14

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

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

Jesus said to the disciples: 1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” 8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

*Pastor Paul Busekist*

## Song of the Day:

***Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing***

***ELW #389***

## 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*

**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:**

*He Is Alive  
I Received the Living God*

**BLC Choir  
ELW #477**

**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:**

*You Are My All in All*

**Verse 1**

You are my strength  
When I am weak  
You are the treasure  
That I seek  
You are my all in all  
Seeking You as a precious jew'l  
Lord to give up I'd be a fool  
You are my all in all

**Chorus 1**

Jesus Lamb of God  
Worthy is Your name  
Jesus Lamb of God  
Worthy is Your name

**Verse 2**

Taking my sin  
My cross my shame  
Rising again I bless Your name  
You are my all in all  
When I fall down You pick me up  
When I am dry You fill my cup  
You are my all in all

**Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



**Bethlehem** May 7, 2023  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5/9—Russ Luttinen  
5/9—Joanne Badger  
5/10—Kate Holtfreter

5/11—Summer Kolka  
5/12—Shannon Nemeth  
5/12—Mary Ann Tanis

5/12—Barbara Wentzloff  
5/13—Kathy McPherson  
5/14—Landen Branch

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

**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 (**Beginning with the week of May 22nd, Phil will work Monday, Tuesday and Thursday**)

Alanna Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on Wednesday

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.

**Spring Cleaning the Church TODAY!** Spring has sprung and it's time for cleaning the church. We will be cleaning today right after church. We plan on washing the sanctuary windows, vacuuming the sanctuary and hallway, cleaning all bathrooms, and dusting the alter. We hope to have new Evacuation maps to hang in all of the rooms and Sanctuary. It will be so nice to have a clean church for activities happening at the church. Snacks and water will be provided. And remember many hands make light work.

**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:** *Judy Strickland in Honor of the Caretakers of God's creation.*

**The May 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>.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) (Please note STAR in subject line)
- Bulletin/Verbal Announcements: Tuesday of the week sent to [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:beo6475@yahoo.com) or 231.668.7038.

**XYZ Potluck!** Join us for good food, laughter and fellowship on Friday, May 12th at 12 Noon. While predominately geared toward seniors, we welcome any adult who would like to attend. This will be our last potluck until September. At that time, we will be adding a program to our get-togethers.

**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). In May, we will rehearse on Thursday, May 18, 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.

**The Sunday Adult Education will have its last class on May 21st and the Sunday School will have its last class on May 28th.** They will resume in the Fall.

**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 \$15,700. Our goal is \$15,000 so contributions are still welcomed.

**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](mailto: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

**We have heard that our friend and former Choir Director, Billie Thompson, has had a stroke.** She cannot communicate but would love to get any well wishes. Her address is 3436 29th Street, San Diego, CA 92104

**Seeking three or four people that would like to play friendly – beginner – Mah Jongg weekly over the summer.** Day and time to be determined. If you are interested, please call Barb Graf 946-5120

**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.

**Adult Bible Study has completed its study of the Gospel of Luke.** They will resume in the Fall with the Gospel of John.

**The Zoom Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30pm—2:45pm.** 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 May are: cleaning/paper products plus toothpaste and shampoo – especially baby shampoo. 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 sizeable 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!

**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.

**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, 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)

**Monday, May 8**

**1:00pm—Finance Committee (CR)**

**Tuesday, May 9**

**Bulletin articles due today**

9:00am—Property Work Group

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

12:00pm—Sarah Circle (FH)

1:00pm—Friendship Bible Study

6:00pm—Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting (YR)

6:30pm—Executive Committee (CR)

**Wednesday, May 10**

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study

**Thursday, May 11**

9:00am—Baby Pantry Setup (FH)

10:00am—Baby Pantry

1:00pm—Rebecca Anna Circle

5:30pm—ACA

**Friday, May 12**

12:00pm—XYZ Potluck (FH)

**Saturday, May 13**

7:00pm—Bayside Travellers-Contra Dancing (FH)

**Sunday, May 14**

10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)

**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  
bethlehemtc.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!