

Ascension of Our Lord
May 25, 2025 – 10am
Modern Worship, ELW Setting 10



Prelude Music

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: In the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life,

C: let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

P: Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

ELW 393

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!

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, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign 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 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

Luke writes: 1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning 2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

p. 205

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



Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

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

44 Jesus said to the eleven and those with them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ELW 579

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 together.

C: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. 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: *Open the Eyes of My Heart* (words below)
 Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

ELW 492

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart; I want to see You, I want to see You.
 Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart; I want to see You, I want to see You.

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory. Pour out your pow'r and love;
 as we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy; holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

Final Blessing

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song: *America the Beautiful*

Bates

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
 America! America! God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern impassioned stress a thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!
 America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw, confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life!
 America! America! May God thy gold refine till all success be nobleness, and ev'ry gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
 America! America! God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!



Bethlehem May 25, 2025
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

5/25—Amy Haara
5/28—Julie Lapeer
5/28—Kathleen Ivany

5/29—Cody Smith
5/31—Lois Gray

6/1—Kevin Kurkowski
6/1—Don Sheehan

Worship Servants for May 25

Presiding & Preaching—Pastor Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Bethany Uhl

Lector—Tim Goebel

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denise Bossardet, Pr Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: *by Marilyn & John Halstead In Honor and Celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 5/23/25*

Hospitality—Tim & Peggy Goebel

A/V—Jim Hinds / Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitor: Craig & Maureen Bauer

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Cindy Cuba / Jane Passmore

Sunday Morning Adult Education: Today was the last meeting of the Adult Education class until the Fall. Look for the opening date here in the bulletin later in the Summer.

Sunday School: The last day for Sunday School will be June 8th. Look for the Fall opening date here in the bulletin later in the Summer.



BOOK CLUB NEWS: We are changing our location AND our date this month to the 4th Wednesday.. The next meeting will be Wed, May 28 at 5:30. We will be reading "Signal Fires" by Dani Shapiro. We will again be at the home of Betsy Morley for a potluck picnic. If you plan to come please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net to indicate what you would like to bring for the meal.

WELCA Appreciation Dinner for ALL MEN of the congregation on June 1 at 11:45am (after church service). Old Fashioned Roast Beef dinner with all the trimmings will be served. Come for dinner and an uplifting program. There is a sign-up sheet next to the sign in the Narthex.

Congregational Meeting: Hope as many of you as possible can attend the annual Congregational meeting on Sunday June 8 immediately after the service. We will be voting for new council members, members for the endowment committees and hear reports from Visioning, Solar, and the lower level.

What IS GRIEVING? Could it be the loss of a marriage, your home, or community, good health, a dream or something else? The list can go on and on. No matter the loss you have a family here at Bethlehem that loves you, wants to support you, and be here for you! We meet here on the **first Monday of the month from 3:30-4:30 and on the third Monday from 5:30-6:30**. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns 231-392-6913.

More Chair Yoga: Bethlehem has added another Chair Yoga class per week. You now have two opportunities to attend: Monday and Wednesday at 3:00pm. The cost is \$5 and Janet Weaver will be the instructor. People can attend one or both classes per week. Gail Goldsmith will continue to be the church representative for the Monday class and Cindy Monroe will be the church representative for the Wednesday class. It is a great opportunity to stretch and work on balance issues.

Thank You Note: Dear Friends at Bethlehem Lutheran Church On behalf of the GT Baby Pantry, I'd like to thank you for your gift of \$181.50. Your support of this service has been so important to our success. We appreciate the donation of space, the involved volunteers and the monetary donations you have gifted us over the years. Thank you again! Sincerely, Sally Hanley GT Baby Pantry

National Cherry Festival Volunteer Opportunity Bethlehem Lutheran Church has the opportunity to volunteer 3 times at the National Cherry Festival to earn money for Pastor Paul's future Sabbatical. We are asking for 5 volunteers for each event to earn \$200 per shift from the Community Share Group. The sign up to volunteer has changed this year. Every person who volunteers will need to go online to the Festival Foundation Website and complete the waiver form and read the volunteer handbook.

This year we have volunteered for Monday, June 30th from 9:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Souvenir tent.

We are also signed up for Tuesday July 1st from 9:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Pepsi tent.

And Thursday July 3rd from 9:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Pie and Ice Cream tent. We will need 7 people for this tent.

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex for each event. You can sign up for one or more events. Each day after our work shift we are invited to go to the Oasis to have lunch. It is nice to be able to sit down as a group and eat and have time to talk. If you have any questions please talk to Gail Goldsmith.

BLC partners with Old Town Playhouse for the musical telling the story of Moses in THE PRINCE OF EGYPT: How exciting that this summer we will have rehearsals for this amazing musical here in this building! If you want to audition to be on stage or be part of the supporting community choir you can follow this link to sign up: www.OLDTOWNPLAYHOUSE.COM/EGYPT Performances will be Aug 21 and 22 at 7:00 and Aug 23 at 2:00 at Milliken Auditorium. The youth will be running the concessions on Thursday, Aug 21 and their youth fund will receive the benefits. We need other volunteers for the two other performances and the funds earned can be designated to the charity or cause recommended by the volunteers. Bethlehem's Good Samaritan Fund? Project Feed the Kids? Safe Harbor? Grand Traverse Baby Pantry? Another idea? It's easy to sell items before the show and during intermission. Sign up in the gathering space or contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or 231 631 0887 if you can help one of those days. Also, do you want to reserve tickets to see the show? If tickets are purchased in groups of 6 each will cost \$42 for an adult and \$18 for youth under the age of 18. Sign up sheets for the tickets will also be in the gathering space.

SAVE YOUR PAPER SACKS: Please check the nooks and crannies of your home for paper sacks. The Baby Pantry fills requests from preschool teachers for their students whose parents cannot make it to the pantry. Paper sacks are the perfect size to place the needed items for each child. Just place your bags on the Care table in the coat room. Thank you!!



HOW DO WE CARE AND SERVE? John 12:26 "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant will also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me". YOU ARE LOVED BY YOUR CHURCH FAMILY. If you would like to have a visit and you would like to receive Communion, Christian Care Giving is here for you! Please let Peggy Burns at 231-392-6914 know and we will have one of our Care Givers come and see you.

Bethlehem's support of Safe Harbor's Summer has begun. On May 20, we assisted Safe Harbor professionals with check-in, dispensing guest's medications, allocating shower and washing machine time, and helping them find their places and get settled for the night. The following morning, we assisted with coffee brewing and serving, packing and storing their gear, and getting them ready for the day. We will do this again on 17 June, 15 July, 19 August, and 16 September. Please help us fulfill our commitment by volunteering for one of these evenings. Again, about 5:30-8:30 PM... or for the following morning at about 7:00 AM-9:30 PM. We really need your participation. Please call, text or e-mail Tom Rockne to volunteer... Thank you!

DRIVING VOLUNTEERS: Thanks to those who have already said "yes" to being a regular or substitute driver to transport a delightful member couple to church. They have good mobility but due to other health issues currently cannot drive. They live just north of the east end of 14th street. If you would like to be added to the list of volunteers please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or 231 631 0887.

PROTECT OUR CARPET: spills always happen, but we now have TWO consistent ways to deal with them. Thanks to an anonymous donor we now have an actual carpet cleaning machine stored in the maintenance closet. **If you cause one or see a spot, please grab the spot cleaner in the squirt container below the sink in the fellowship hall ASAP. Just follow the directions on the bottle and we should be able to keep our carpet in good condition. But, if the stain is too big or too resistant, please use the carpet cleaning machine. The longer the stain sits, the harder it is to clean. Thank you!!**

Alcoholics Anonymous: TC Groups are holding their Open Talk here at Bethlehem on three Saturday nights of each month from 8:00-9:00 pm. They will not meet here on the second Saturday due to Contra on that night where they will meet at their TC Group office across from Sara Lee.

Coffee and Cookies on Sunday: Remember that treats and a drink on Sunday are appreciated by all. The sign-up sheet has many BLANK spaces so 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.

A big thank you to all who have turned in Olesons' slips. On March 31st, we received a check from Olesons for \$275.60 from receipts turned in. This makes a grand total of \$592.66 for the year 2025. Olesons' slips never expire. Please continue to turn in your Olesons receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks so much!!! Also, the area for the Oleson receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside. Unfortunately, we are no longer collecting the receipts from Family Fair.

Volunteers for Watching the Front Door During Worship: The Safety and Security Committee has the new sign up sheets available. We need volunteers who can be available to stay in the Gathering Space to lock the doors and let in late comers for Sundays. We appreciate all of the volunteers. If you have any questions, the committee members are Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer, and Jana Rockne.



The May issue of the STAR is now available. If you receive the weekly email, your May issue was emailed on May 1st. The shut-ins will receive an issue by mail. There will also be a few copies available on the counter by the mailboxes. You may also contact the office at 947-9880 to request that mail delivery continues. 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>.

Wednesday Bible Studies:

The Adult Bible Study which meets from 9:30 am—11:30 am has ended for the summer. They will resume in September.

The Zoom Bible Study meets from 1:30 pm—3:00 pm -- The class is studying the book, *A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World* by Paul Miller. We plan on ending on Wednesday, June 4th. Contact either Pr. Paul or Barbara with questions.

Food pantry news: Finally we are seeing glimpses of Spring. Hopefully it will stick around. The food pantry supplies are running low and could certainly use some donations. When shopping for donations, please consider items with protein like peanut butter, canned ravioli or spaghetti, tuna, and chicken. The items that we do not need any more of are dried beans, peas, and lentils. Right now we have plenty of soaps but can always use feminine care products. We don't have to worry about items in the pantry freezing any more so anything you donate can be used immediately. Thank you all for your continuing generosity and willingness to serve our community. Suzanne and Kathie REMEMBER, YOU CAN GET A THRIVENT GRANT FOR UP TO \$250 FOR FOOD PANTRY ITEMS.

The Grand Traverse Baby Pantry works out of our church to provide a variety of baby items to almost 100 families each month. You may not know it, but they also provide food items and cleaning products when they are available. Right now the pantry is in critical need of household cleaning products. They have completely run out. Next time you're out shopping, please consider picking up a few cleaning products for the baby pantry. You can leave your donations in the coat room on the table. On behalf of the Grand Traverse Baby Pantry, thanks to all who continue to donate so that we can provide this much needed resource to the community.



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:

Wed 6/4—The Pub, Traverse City 7:00pm **Fri 6/6**—Mt Holiday, Traverse City 6:00pm

Offerings: Even though the offering plates are passed during the service, you may use the vase in the back of the Sanctuary if you prefer not to touch the offering plate.

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 Thursday. **(this is Phil's summer schedule)**

Alanna Steffunick-Boomer/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday and from home on Thursday – **Please note that this is a new schedule**

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 or admin@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.

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.

Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations? It is now located inside the coat room to the right. Your donations are very much appreciated.

LOST AND FOUND: If you lose something in the church building, please check our new Lost and Found box located in the Coat Room. Also, if you find something, please put it in the box.

Yarn Available: There is yarn available free for the taking located in the cabinets located under the mailboxes in the Narthex. Take what you need.

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.



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 \$45 (This is a new amount.) The check should be 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.

We are wanting to update the list of people we pray for. If everyone could look at the list and let us know of any changes, whether it is people who can be taken off, or should be added, we would appreciate it. Please respond by email to admin@bethlehemtc.org

Harper Wiemerslage,
Jerry Hill,
John Block,
Roy DuMond,
Mary Woodring,
Norm Fred,
Lynn Hoyt,
Steve,
Sherry,
Bob Pierce,
Milt & Carol Bowes,
Debbie Knopf,
Ron Hellenga,
Jim Rumbach,
John Stretlien,
Judy Fenton,
Cindy Hitesman,
Richard Fernholz,
Julie Lapeer,

Tom & Lee Miller,
Chris Rhee,
Holman Family
Dale and Cheryl Leider,
Leroy Schlagel,
Earl Manuel,
Julie Barrett,
Patti McCracken,
Jennifer Mowers,
Sharon Vanmeter,
Kyle Scheunaman,
Ben,
Marianne,
Christine,
Janet Burmeister

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 25

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

Monday, May 26

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, May 27

Bulletin articles due today

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

Wednesday, May 28

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study (Zoom and In-Person)
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)
5:30pm—Book/Supper Club (Offsite)

Thursday, May 29

5:30pm—ACA (Library)

Saturday, May 31

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)
8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, June 1

9:15am—Sunday School
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:45am—WELCA's Men's Appreciation Dinner (FH)

