

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 25, 2023 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

P: Merciful God,

C: ... we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Righteous God,

C: ... we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

10,000 Reasons

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, it's time to sing Your song again. Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me. let me be singing when the evening comes.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger. Your name is great and Your heart is kind. For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing. Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

And on that day, when my strength is failing, the end draws near, and my time has come; Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending., ten thousand years, and then forever more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name, worship Your holy name, Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.

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: Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Annie Slabaugh

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.

7 O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. 8 For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. 9 If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. 10 For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him." 11 But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. 12 O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. 13 Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: 69:7-18

7 Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach, and shame has covered my face.

8 I have become a stranger to my own kindred, an alien to my mother's children.

9 Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

10 I humbled myself with fasting, but that was turned to my reproach.

11 I put on sackcloth also, and became a byword among them.

12 Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, and the drunkards make songs about me.

13 But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O Lord: "In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.

14 Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.

15 Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up; do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.

16 Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind; in your great compassion, turn to me.

17 Hide not your face from your servant; be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

18 Draw near to me and redeem me; because of my enemies deliver me.

Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.

1b Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For whoever has died is freed from sin. 8 But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line of text. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

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

Jesus said to the twelve: 24 "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; 25 it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! 26 "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. 27 What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. 28 Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 And even the hairs of your head are all counted. 31 So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. 32 "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; 33 but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. 34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; 36 and one's foes will be members of one's own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; 38 and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Annie Slabaugh

Song of the Day:

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW #810

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace *(Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)*

Offering

Offering Song:

Zeke Clemons

Offertory:

Come to the Table

ELW #481

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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.

Final Blessing

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed † bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

Oh, Sing to the Lord

ELW #822

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem June 25, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

6/25—Tom Fink

6/25—Amy Rogers

6/25—Nathan Kolka

6/27—Cindy Monroe

6/27—Bill Allen

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

We welcome Barbara Oster as Worship leader for today's service. Currently the Administrative Assistant here at Bethlehem. Lifelong Lutheran who has served on Church Council, Worship and Music, Assisting Minister and Lector, Long Range Planning, AV Crew, and Worship Volunteer Coordinator.

We welcome Annie Slabaugh as Preaching for today's service. Currently childcare worker as private nanny; former Youth and Outreach Director at BLC. Annie has a strong passion for children, helping them develop and grow into the people they are meant to be.

For Pastoral Care during Pr Paul's Sabbatical time, please call Barbara in the church office. If it is after hours and it cannot wait until the next work day or Sunday, you may call Barbara at home (231.668.7038) so that she can contact someone. We have two different people for Pastoral Care.

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 and some Wednesday mornings.

Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. This will last through the summer months.

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.

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *Jim Monroe – Happy Birthday to Cindy Monroe*

Today's Rose on the baptismal font is: *In celebration of Elizabeth (Liza) Jo Friedli who was born on Father's Day 6/18/23. She is the daughter of Joe and Megan Friedli, grand daughter of Pat and Patti Friedli, and great grand daughter of Ron and Marilyn Dork.*

Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be holding its Annual Congregational Meeting after today's service. We will be electing members for Church Council, Mission Endowment and Sustaining Endowment Committees and any other business that may be brought up. The packet of reports is available. Then after the meeting, Sundaes on Sunday will be served. Please plan to attend!

The July 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.

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.

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

THANK YOU THRIVENT!!! We have been able to stretch our funds for activities by organizing some great Thrivent Action Teams. This has included our Sabbatical Send-off Sunday, the baking of cinnamon buns, subsidizing the new Bethlehem T-shirts for the Cherry Festival volunteers, and the monthly Sunday Sundaes. And there are even some more events to come.

Special music will be provided by some children joining with our band for pre-service songs on July 9. Be sure to be in the sanctuary early or have your Facebook or youtube ready to watch and listen. It should be a special treat as part of our Sabbatical.

Sunday Adult Education and Sunday School will resume in the Fall.

Sabbatical Hike with Cheryl: I'd like to encourage all ages to attend our nature hike, **Sunday, July 16, right after church.** We will meet at Seven Bridges at 12:30. Seven Bridges is a short walk across several bridges that cross the beautiful Rapid River. Everyone should bring a sack lunch that we will eat at Freedom Park in Rapid City. Next we will hike the picturesque 1.1 mile trail along the Rapid River. That hike can be cut to the length that each person feels comfortable with as it is just out and back. I hope children attend also. I will bring a kickball, and, if there is enough interest, we will have a kickball game. Again, one can do as little or as much as one feels comfortable with so this activity is great for all ages. Any questions, contact Cheryl at 384-5621.

Spotlight on Zeke: In a recent NMC Extended Education email our own Zeke Clemons was the subject of their "Instructor Spotlight: Eric "Zeke" Clemons is a musician and sought-after music instructor in Traverse City. We're so lucky to have him teach College for Kids! His popular guitar and ukulele classes are always fan favorites. New this year, we're adding Songwriting! July 31-August 4 is 'Zeke Week!' Classes include Songwriting for grades 6-12; Fun Play the Ukulele Way for grades 3-5; Ukulele University for grades 6-9; and Beginning Guitar for grades 5-12." Information on the classes can be found at <https://nmc.augusoft.net//index.cfm?fuseaction=1010> – click on Music.

SUMMER SABBATICAL ACTIVITIES: Please take a moment to review the activity sheets on the table in the Gathering Space and **SIGN-UP!!** The date has now been determined for the cookie decorating activity. It will be TUES, Aug 8 6-8 pm. Come prepared to have a good time.

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.

BLC Book Club: The BLC book club's June meeting is on the 27th at 5:30 in person in the office conference room and via ZOOM. The book is *Lottery* by Patricia Wood. This book is fiction but the author knows the topic well since her father won 6 million dollars in the Washington State Lottery in 1993!! Books will be available in the bin outside the front door. If you are not on the email list and want to be involved send your information to cmonroe@chartermi.net.

Safe Harbor is closed for the summer. We are committed to assist at Safe Harbor in January 2024 on the 27/28/30. Our superb kitchen Team Leaders B.J Christensen, Cindy Monroe, and Tina Dohm had again advised they are ready to prepare meals. And I am sure that as you all talk with those who "checked people in" and accomplished other tasks, you will find that those tasks were very doable and the staff support was always there. Plan to join the Bethlehem group at Safe Harbor in January! Thanks! Tom Rockne, BLC Safe Harbor Coordinator, 231.631.0040. Here are some numbers on those served this past season:
Guest Demographics

338 individuals entered shelter	81 women
22 veterans	5 reported they identify as transgender or no single gender
24 young adults	93% from the Greater Grand Traverse area
252 men	

Copies of the 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: will resume in the Fall with the Gospel of John.

The Zoom Bible Study: will resume in the Fall. Look for the next topic at the end of summer.

BABY PANTRY: Suggested donations for June are: paper towels, toothpaste and brushes, baby shampoo and any other cleaning products. Thank you!

Food Pantry: With the return of good weather we have re-opened our outdoor food pantry to the community. Please be watching for special deals so you can help us restock our pantry. The shelves are labeled so if the church is not open you can put your gifts right in. Or, when the church is open you can bring them to the “offering” table in the coat room. **PLEASE CONSIDER BRINGING A FOOD OFFERING IN TRADE FOR THE WONDERFUL ICE CREAM SUNDAE YOU WILL RECEIVE ON JUNE 25.**

Freedom Builders: Bethlehem’s week for volunteering at Freedom Builders will be July 17-22. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Please sign up for the dates that you are able.

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 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, June 25

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:15am—Congregational Assembly (S)
12:00pm—Sundaes on Sunday (FH)

Monday, June 26

4:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, June 27

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
5:30pm—Book/Supper Club (CR and Zoom)

Wednesday, June 28

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:00pm—Johnson SG (Offsite)

Thursday, June 29

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Saturday, July 1

10:00am—Parking Lot Fundraiser

Sunday, July 2

9:15am—Parking Lot Fundraiser
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:15am—Worship and Music (CR)

