

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
July 9, 2023
Sunday 10:00 a.m.



Welcome to All! We are glad that you are able to worship with us today. **Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like.** During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion near the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold it up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill out one of the Visitor cards available at our Welcome Table in the Gathering Place.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 3, page 138

Pre-Worship Music/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

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.

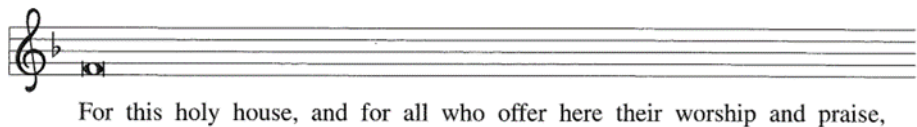
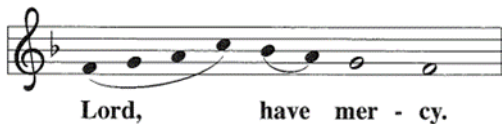
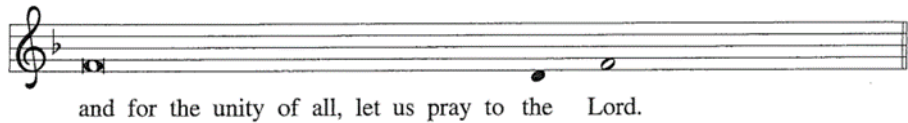
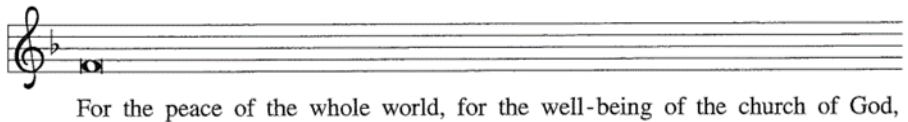
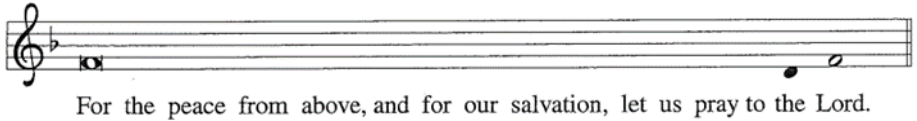
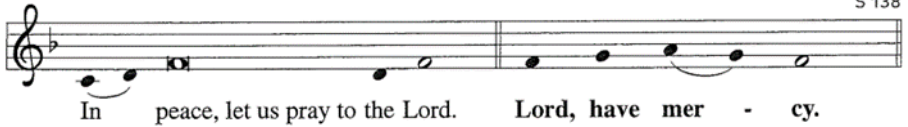
C: Amen.

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 (lead by Soloist)

S 138





Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together...

C: You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Cindy Monroe

WORD

First Lesson

Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. 10 He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. 11 As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. 12 Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 145:8-14

8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

9 Lord, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.

10 All your works shall praise you, O Lord, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

11 They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,

12 that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

14 The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

Second Lesson

Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. 17 But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, 23 but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25a Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

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

Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

C: ...Glory to you, O Lord...

Jesus spoke to the crowd saying: 16 “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 17 ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; 19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” 25 At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; 26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 28 “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Andrew Monroe

Hymn of the Day

Day by Day

ELW #790

Apostle’s 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 Intercession: response after each petition: **“Hear our Prayer”**

(Before prayer) A: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

(Conclusion) P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

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

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

MEAL

Offering (Please be seated.)

Offering Song: Zeke Clemons

Offertory (Please stand, as able.) **Come to the Table** *ELW #481*

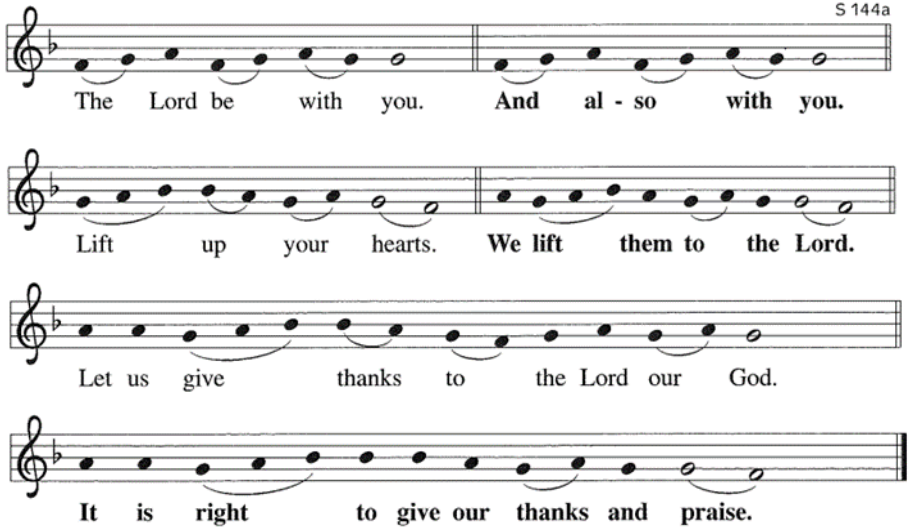
Offering Prayer

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.

Great Thanksgiving

S 144a



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

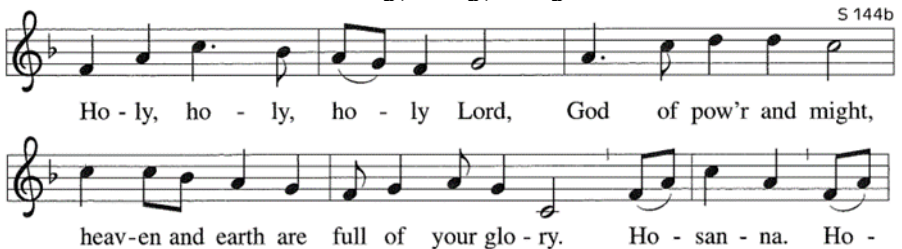
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Great Thanksgiving (continued)

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Holy, Holy, Holy

S 144b



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

The 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.

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.
 **Please note: *Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

Communion *Lamb of God*

S 146

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

*The Love of God Goes On
Now We Join in Celebration*

*BLC Choir
ELW #462*

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: **Amen.**

Post-Communion Canticle

Thankful Hearts



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom-is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al-le-lu - ia.

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

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

Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW #765

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Bethlehem July 9, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

7/11—Jane Passmore

7/15—Connie Christopherson

7/12—Lindsey Mosley

7/15—Connie Barrow

7/15—Dick Gray

We welcome Pastor Ruth Overdier as Presiding for today's service. Currently stated supply for Feast of Victory in Acme. Previously served several years at Bethany, Northport and at Shepherd of the Lakes, Walled Lake. She has provided interim pastoral services to numerous churches in the Grand Traverse Conference.

We welcome Andrew Monroe as Preaching for today's service. Is a true product of Bethlehem having been baptized and confirmed here. He received his degree in operations management from GVSU. He currently works as Director of technology and project manager for 36 McDonald's restaurants. He serves as a deacon at Macedonia Baptist Church in Holland where he delivers Bible studies and sermons in Spanish.

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.

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 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

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *Cindy Monroe in celebration of the Monroe family.*

We have not received the next issue of Christ in Our Home – they are being re-shipped.

Special music will be provided by some children joining with our band for today's pre-service songs. 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.

Thank you and congratulations to Jacob and Aleah Graf, Makena and Lincoln Dohm, Sammy Steffunick and Hunter Antol (especially because he was almost solo)!!!! You worked very hard at our parking lot fundraiser and earned help in any upcoming events such as Gathering....National & State, Camp and other opportunities to provide financing to help you in these events!!!--Y2A and Christian Ed Committee

Congratulations to those who were elected at the recent Congregational Assembly:

COUNCIL: Gary Ancinec, Tina (Christina) Dohm, Scott Schlagel

MISSION ENDOWMENT: Paul Ton

SUSTAINING ENDOWMENT: Phil Anderson, Barbara Oster

Sabbatical Hike with Cheryl: I'd like to encourage all ages to attend our nature hike, **next 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.

Saturday July 22nd is the BLC Wine Tour. We will be leaving from The Bethlehem parking lot at 11:00 and return at 3:00. Snacks and water will be provided on the Brew Bus. We have the Hawaiian Bus. So it will be fun if we wear Hawaiian shirts or bright colors. We will be going to Bowers Harbor, Bonobo and Peninsula Cellars. We will have an hour at each location. You may purchase bottles of wine to take home. If there is a charge for samples or what you would like to have at the wineries you will be responsible for purchasing those items. The gratuity for the driver has already been paid, so if you would like to contribute to the gratuity, please give it to Cindy Monroe or Gail Goldsmith the day of the tour or place it in Phil Anderson's box in an envelope and let him know what it is for. July 16th is the last day to sign up.

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 around town? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC:

Sat 7/22 -- Brady's Bar at 6:30

Thurs 7/27-- Park Place at 8

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.

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, July 9

10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)

Monday, July 10

1:00pm—Finance Committee (CR)

4:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, July 11

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

11:00am—Pastors Conference (CR & S)

1:00pm—Friendship Bible Study

6:30pm—Executive Committee (CR)

Wednesday, July 12

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

Thursday, July 13

9:00am—Baby Pantry Set-up (FH)

10:00am—Baby Pantry (FH)

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Saturday, July 15

7:00pm—Contra Dance (FH)

Sunday, July 16

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

12:30pm—Hiking with Cheryl

Bayside Travellers
CONTRA FOLK DANCE

LIVE FOLK MUSIC
by
Tommy McKinney
&
Mason Brown

No partner
or
experience
needed!

dance by donation
\$10/person
recommended

JULY 15TH, 2023
Beginner Workshop 7pm Dances 7:30 - 10:30pm
all led by caller PAT REESER

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

dancetc.com
@baysidetravellersdance
baysidetravellersdance@yahoo.com