

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 2023 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 10



Pre-Worship 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:

All Are Welcome

ELW #641

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

S 203

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: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr Paul

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

1 Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. 6 And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—7 these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. 8 Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel: Matthew 15:10-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

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

10 Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: 11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” 12 Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” 13 He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14 Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” 15 But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” 16 Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? 17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters

the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? 18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. 19 For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. 20 These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.” 21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” 23 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” 24 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” 26 He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” 27 She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” 28 Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: “Out of the Mouths of... Dogs?”

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day: *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

ELW #712

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.

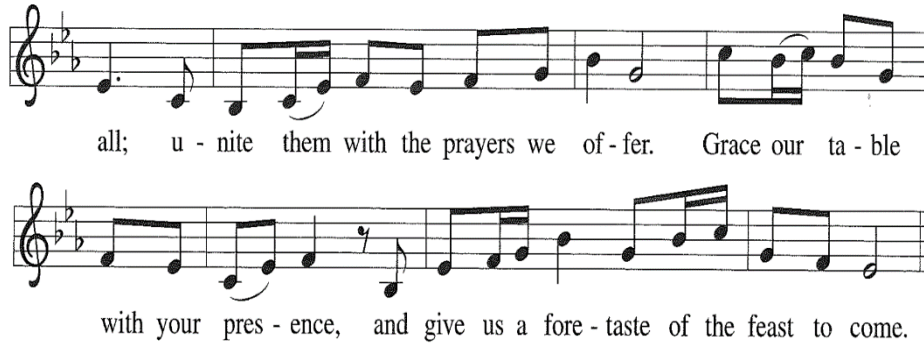
Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace *(Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)*

Offering / Offering Song:

Zeke Clemons

Offertory: *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

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.

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:

One Bread, One Body
As Rain from the Clouds

ELW #496

ELW #508

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:

Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful, where Your streams of abundance flow blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place, though I walk through the wilderness blessed be Your name.

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise. When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,

"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name."

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me, when the world's "all as it should be" blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering, though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name. Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise. When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,

"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name."

You give and take away, You give and take away. My heart will choose to say, "Lord, Blessed be Your name."
You give and take away, You give and take away. My heart will choose to say, "Lord, Blessed be Your name."

"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name."

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem August 20, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8/20—Quenten Branch
8/20—Kathie Bair

8/21—Jennifer Anderson
8/22—Cindy Petersen

8/24—Byron Pearce
8/25—Bonnie Newhouse

8/27—Jim Williams

WELCOME BACK PASTOR PAUL, MEREDITH AND PARKER

Today's Pre-Service Music will be played by Zeke Clemons' ukulele class.

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. **During the week of Labor Day, Phil will go back to working on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.**

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

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: *Jacque Rossfeld in Memory of her son, Jeffrey Henschell
Ron & Sherryl Hellenga in Celebration of their 23rd wedding anniversary*

The August issue of the STAR is now available. The September STAR will be distributed on August 27th. 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>.

WE NEED YOU!! We are looking for someone who would be willing to lead the Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 9:15. Last year we discussed the readings for the day which was very well received. You would be responsible for finding people who would be willing to lead the discussion. For further information, contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433.

We will have the October/November/December Christ In Our Home available on August 27th when we distribute the September STAR. Please take a copy for yourself and also for friends and family.

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.

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.

A Thank You note received:

To the people of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Rachel and I would like to thank you for all the help you've given us by bringing in your returnables. It has helped us out IMMENSELY. It feels good to know that there are people out in the world that still care for the less fortunate. It always gives us hope. Warmest wishes. Thank you, Rachel L. Olson & Karl Hillmann (These are the people mentioned in Norm's blurb right above this.)

Good Samaritan "Fund"raiser: During the month of August, we will kick-off our Good Samaritan "Fund"raiser with our Envelope Wall. Each envelope in the series of 1-50 will represent a donation amount. So, if the first envelope is available for a \$1 donation, the 33rd envelope is available for a \$33 donation and so on. We ask that you remove the colored envelope of your choice from the board, if you're interested in participating, and then put your donation into the inside envelope and return it to the church by putting it into the Sunday service collection plate, placing it into the mailbox of our bookkeeper, Phil Anderson, or mailing it back to the church. A reminder that the Good Samaritan Fund is one of our local outreach initiatives that allows us to be able to help our local residents when there may be a need for assistance with food, gas, a doctor bill, etc. We have been lucky in the past to help many and hope that you will help us build back this dwindling fund. Please, if paying by check, make payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church with Good Samaritan fund in the memo line.

Join us to celebrate Rally Day and welcome in the start of the school year! Sunday, September 10th, 2023, 11:30am - 1:00pm We will have a variety of games set up (hopefully outside, if we are blessed with good weather!) and will be providing hotdogs, cookies, chips, and drinks for everyone. We are welcoming families from the communities to this event as well! Come join us, have some fun, and get a little bit of info about our Sunday School and Adult Education! We invite YOU!

While some of the adults and all of the kids are outside enjoying special fun activities after the service on Sunday 9/10, we hope many of the rest of you will wear your casual clothes and come prepared to spruce up the inside of BLC. This has been done twice before in the past year and it really makes a difference in our church. Feel free to bring your own special cleaning supplies or use what is available here at the church. We will work for 45-50 mins and anyone who would like to can stay to share a meal with the kids. Jana Rockne has agreed to be the "Queen Merry Maid" who will direct you to the needed locations.

Sunday School will resume on September 17th at 9:15am

Now scheduling for directory photography sessions. Please stop by our table and make your appointment on Sundays after the service, today through 9/24. Online scheduling will be available Monday-Friday. Photo dates will September 27th, 28th, 29th from 2pm - 8:30pm, and September 30th from 10am - 4pm. Each family photographed receives a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory! You can schedule your appointment online at: www.ucdir.com. Click on the appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter **mi1773** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family, please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is only available Monday - Friday. Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time. Questions? Please contact Kathy Ancinec (989) 906-2764 or Christine Hubert (231) 357-7722.

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:

Thurs 8/24—Brady's Bar outside on the patio at 6:30

Sat 8/26—Bel Lago Winery in Cedar at 3:00

Fri 9/1—Brady's Bar at 6:30

BLC Book Club: The BLC book club is taking a summer vacation!!!! Please keep reading and bring your suggestions back to the group on Sept. 26 or send them in advance to cmonroe@chartermi.net. We hope to share meals at our meetings again besides discussing wonderful books.

Copies of the Living Lutheran magazine 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. Also, the area for the Oleson and Family Fair receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside.

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 on September 20th with the Gospel of John.

The Zoom Bible Study: will resume in September. We hope to have the topic soon.

Food Pantry: HELP!!! Our outdoor food pantry has finally been found by those in need and there is hardly anything left in it!!! Please take some time and buy some extra staple items when you go shopping. The shelves in the pantry are labeled. You can place your items right in the cupboard or you can bring them inside church and leave them on the CARE table in the coat room.

BABY PANTRY: Suggested donations for August are anything you feel might be needed. Thank you!

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, August 20

WELCOME BACK PASTOR PAUL

10:00am--Worship Service (S)

11:30am—Welcome Back Luncheon (FH)

11:30am—Sundaes on Sunday (FH)

Monday, August 21

4:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, August 22

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

Wednesday, August 23

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

1:00pm—Johnson SG (Offsite)

Thursday, August 24

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, August 25

6:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

Sunday, August 27

10:00am--Worship Service (S)

Contra Dance
with
Live Music
by
Lone Pine Sound
featuring calling by *Ken Gall*

Saturday, September 16
Beginner Workshop 7pm
Dances 7:30 - 10:30pm

No partner or experience needed!

Dance by Donation
\$10 / person suggested

Bayside Travellers
traditional music and dance

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

@baysidetravellersdance
baysidetravellersdance@yahoo.com