

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 10



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.
C: **Amen.**

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

C: **... you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Song:

Mighty to Save

Ev'ryone needs compassion, love that's never failing. Let mercy fall on me.
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior. The hope of nations.

Savior, He can move the mountains. My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation. He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as You find me, all my fears and failures. Fill my life again.
I give my life to follow, ev'rything I believe in. Now I surrender.

Savior, He can move the mountains. My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation. He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

Shine your light, and let the whole world see. We're singing for the glory of the risen King.
Jesus. Shine your light, and let the whole world see. We're singing for the glory of the risen King.

Savior, He can move the mountains. My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.
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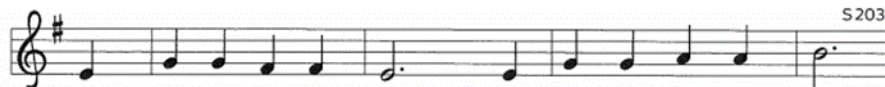
Shine your light, and let the whole world see. We're singing for the glory of the risen King.
Jesus. Shine your light, and let the whole world see. We're singing for the glory of the risen King.

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

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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

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

A: Let us pray together,

C: **O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Message

Pr Paul

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

15 Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" 16 So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 17 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." 19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? 20 Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. 21 So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L: The Word of the Lord C: **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

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S205a

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 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

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

21 Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23 “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Canticle of the Turning

ELW #723

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 power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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:

The Peace of the Lord In Thee Is Gladness

ELW #646

ELW #867

Final Blessing

P: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Sending Song:

My Lighthouse

In my wrestling and in my doubts, in my failures you won't walk out.
Your great love will lead me through.

You are the peace in my troubled sea. –whoa-oh-
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

In the silence you won't let go. In the questions, your truth will hold.
Your great love will lead me through

You are the peace in my troubled sea. –whoa-oh-
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

My lighthouse, my lighthouse shining in the darkness
I will follow you, Oh- my lighthouse, my lighthouse.

I will trust the promise you will carry me
safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore.

I won't fear what tomorrow brings. With each morning I'll
rise and sing. My God's love will lead me through.

You are the peace in my troubled sea. –whoa-oh-
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

My lighthouse, my lighthouse shining in the darkness.
I will follow you, Oh-my lighthouse, my lighthouse.

I will trust the promise you will carry me
safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore.

Fire before us you're the brightest. You will lead us
through the storms (hey). REPEAT 3 times

My lighthouse, my lighthouse shining in the darkness.
I will follow you, Oh-my lighthouse, my lighthouse.

I will trust the promise you will carry me
safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. God is at work in you. **C: Thanks be to God.**



Bethlehem September 17, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9/18—Katie Pearce
9/19—Nancy Ammann

9/20—Joe Friedli
9/21—Makena Dohm

9/21—Meg Sheehan
9/21—Daniel Deutsch

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

Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm 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: *Kate Holtfreter in Memory of her mother's 100th birthday on September 16th.*

The rose on the baptismal font today is in celebration of: *Miles Karsch who was born on September 2, 2023. His parents are Darlen and Kevin Karsch and his great-grandmother is Jacqueline Rossfeld.*

The September issue of the STAR is now available. The October STAR will be distributed on Sunday, September 24th. 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>.

The October/November/December Christ In Our Home is now available. Please take a copy for yourself and also for friends and family.

DON'T MISS OUT...COME JOIN IN!!!! Adult Education has started and we are getting ourselves organized for a great year. We will begin by looking at each Sunday's lessons and as the year ensues...we may want to try other resources...we are open to options! You are an important part of the plan...you are an important part of the Body of Christ! Please come and see; join in the learning and sharing! We hope you will consider making this a priority!! Sunday morning from 9:15 to 9:45 in the Youth Room! See you there!! All are welcome!!! Sherri Helman

Sunday School resumes today at 9:15am

The next Third Thursday service will be a Taize "1" service on September 21st at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed.

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.

Counters are needed! Jim Monroe is looking for offering counters for the calendar year of 2024. Counters will be assigned for a month at a time. Depending on the number of volunteers, it could only be a couple of times per year. To volunteer, please contact Jim at 231-941-0788 or by email at xcski@chartermi.net

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:

Wed 9/20—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00
Sat 9/23—Bel Lago Winery in Cedar at 3:00

Wed 9/27—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00
Fri 9/29—Brady's Bar at 6:30
Sat 10/7—Hotel Indigo at 6:00

BLC Book Club resumes: The TC library has upgraded their book club bag selection so there are more choices!!! For **Sept 26** the book Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver. This has turned out to be a very popular book so all of the books from the club bag have been taken. You will need to obtain your own copy of this book if you have not already taken one. This book is a Pulitzer Prize winner and has been on the "Best seller" list for weeks. Please try to join in person in the office conference room at 5:30 that Tues. If you need us to include you via ZOOM, please contact Cindy at cmonroe@chartermi.net so a connection can be established.

Our Care Giving Committee has put up a "Communitas" Board on the wall of our Coat Room! This "BOARD" is needed and helpful for ALL of us! Following is a suggestion of some things YOU and our YOUTH can do to "interact" with the board and other members of our congregation. The purpose of our "Auxilium Communitas" BOARD (Latin for "Community/Congregation Assistance") is to SHARE our gifts, talents, or skills to others that might be in NEED of something like: Gardening, Organizing, Painting, Raking leaves, Shoveling, Household tasks, Carpentry, Manicures, Pedicures, Companionship, Care giving, etc. - This list is Endless! You never know when YOU will be in need of some extra help personally, in your home or yard – let's make this "reciprocal" - All ages are Welcome to Help Service our Congregation!

XYZ Potluck: Join us for good food, laughter and fellowship on Friday, October 13th at 12 Noon. While predominately geared toward seniors, we welcome any adult who would like to attend. After lunch, we will have a program Hali McRoberts of Northern Health Care Management. NHCM's mission is to walk with people and assist them to live their most independent life possible while ensuring choice, dignity, and quality of life. We serve elderly and disabled persons and their caregivers, and also offer assistance with navigating Medicare and Medicaid.

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, 9:30-11:30am, with the Gospel of John.

The Zoom Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00pm, with a study the Book of Isaiah. Contact Pr Paul or Barbara Oster if you are interested in attending.

Food Pantry: 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.

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, September 17

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

Monday, September 18

3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, September 19

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
9:30am—Midwest Brass & Gas Antique Cars (GS)
6:30pm—Executive Committee (CR)
7:00pm—Lautner SG

Wednesday, September 20

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, September 21

5:30pm—ACA
7:00pm—Third Thursday – Taize 1

Sunday, September 24

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

From the Inside Out

Discovering a Deeper, More Transformative Life with God

Through the joint efforts of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Christ Church and facilitator Jo Panter, President of TST, a program on Christian spiritual formation, *Inside Out*, is being offered. This experiential offering is intended for those who are interested in revisiting their faith from the point of view of six big questions. For those trained in discipleship and who have practiced following Jesus for many years, this may be a helpful refresher. For those new to the idea of Christian spiritual formation based on the life and model of Jesus, this will be an exciting introduction. You need not be a member of either church to participate. Anyone hungry for a deeper life with God is encouraged to come. Six sessions will explore six big ideas.

What Is Spiritual Formation?

What Is My Picture of God?

What Is My Picture of Myself?

What Is My Picture of the Gospel?

How Do People Change?

How Do I Follow Jesus?

COST: There is no participation fee except for the expectation of attending all six sessions. All resources will be provided free of charge.

FORMAT: The program will be a combination of a teaching video*, small group discussions, weekly recommendations for reflection, and handouts.

SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS:

CHRIST CHURCH: CONSECUTIVE WEDNESDAYS FROM 6-7:30PM, BEGINNING OCTOBER 11TH. ***Registration: Call 231-392-9687 before Monday, October 9th***

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN: CONSECUTIVE THURSDAYS AFTERNOONS FROM 1-2:30pm, BEGINNING OCTOBER 12TH. ***Registration: Call 231-645-5796 or 231-947-9880 before Monday, October 9th***

****Carolyn Arends will be the primary video presenter. She is the Education Director for Renovare and leader of the Renovare Institutes. Renovare is an ecumenical Christian nonprofit that models, resources, and advocates fullness of life with God experienced by Grace, through the spiritual practices of Jesus and the historical Church.***