

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 15, 2023 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



Prelude Music

Announcements / Temple Talk

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:

Now the Feast and Celebration

ELW # 167

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: **Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Message

Pr Paul

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

1 O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. 2 For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. 3 Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. 4 For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, 5 the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. 6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. 7 And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; 8 he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. 9 It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

p. 142

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 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

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

1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet,

but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, 12 and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 For many are called, but few are chosen."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

ELW #523

Reception of New Members

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for our new friends in Christ, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life of this congregation:

A representative of the congregation introduces the new members:

We welcome Forrest & Jeanne Bowling, Gary & Britney Jones and JoAnn Stepka to the family, mission & ministry of Christ at Bethlehem.

Address and Questions to New Members

P: In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

P: Forrest, Jeanne, Gary, Britney and JoAnn, our brothers and sisters in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: (The minister addresses the assembly) People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Those being welcomed face the assembly. The pastor addresses all.

P: Let us welcome Forrest, Jeanne, Gary, Britney and JoAnn to this community of faith:

C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

We will continue with the Apostles Creed

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:

**Now We Remain
By Your Hand You Feed Your People**

**ELW #500
ELW #469**

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:

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, Down in my heart Down in my heart Down in my heart;
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, Down in my heart Down in my heart to stay.

I've got the peace that passeth understanding, Down in my heart Down in my heart Down in my heart;
I've got the peace that passeth understanding, Down in my heart Down in my heart to stay.

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, Down in my heart Down in my heart Down in my heart;
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, Down in my heart Down in my heart to stay.

For there is therefore now no condemnation, Down in my heart Down in my heart Down in my heart;
For there is therefore now no condemnation, Down in my heart Down in my heart to stay.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Bethlehem *October 15, 2023*
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

10/15—Meredith Busekist
10/15—Sally Ton

10/19—Gary Jones
10/20—Chris Ardingo

10/20—Mark McPherson

We welcome new members today during our service:

JoAnn Stepka sponsored by Sherryl Hellenga
Forrest & Jeanne Bowling sponsored by Cindy & Jim Monroe
Gary & Britney Jones sponsored by Phil & Denice Bossardet

Worship Servants for October 15

Assisting Minister—Jana Rockne

Lector—Tim Goebel

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

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *Frank & Patti Wall in Celebration of their 57th Wedding Anniversary*

A/V—Paul Ton, Barbara Oster and Acker Family

Hospitality—Jim and Dorene Boyd

Cookies—Kathie Bair

Welcome Table—Volunteer

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth and Erin Word

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Kate Holtfreter and Cindy Cuba

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.

The October 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>.

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

Adult Education in the Youth Room plus Sunday School - every Sunday at 9:15am

The next Third Thursday service will be a Holden Evening Prayer service on October 19th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed.

Starting with the October 19th Third Thursday service, the BLC Fellowship Committee will be providing a light meal at 6:00 p.m. There will be sandwiches, salad and drinks. Please come early and share in fellowship and stay for the service.

Join us for dinner and a movie on Friday, October 20th, at 6:30pm! We will be providing hotdogs, drinks, popcorn, and balloons. Our movie feature will be the Disney/Pixar favorite, **Monsters INC.!** ALL FREE! ALL AGES WELCOME! Make it a pajama party - wear your comfiest pj's, bring a blanket or sleeping bag, and plan to join us for a super fun evening. YOU are welcome!

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.

Giving Statements Available Your individual giving statements will be available in your mailbox in the Narthex beginning Sunday October 15, 2023. The statement covers giving from January 1st through September 30, 2023. Please pick them up at your convenience. To save on postage, I will mail out the ones not picked up by the end of November 2023. Thank you for your generous support for the programs and ministries of your church. We are all blessed by your faithful giving. Your Bookkeeper

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.

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

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

The Safety and Security Committee for BLC has been working diligently this past year on creating an environment in which we can worship, socialize and serve with confidence and assurance that we are, indeed, in a safe setting. We have created a Safety and Security Policies, Procedures and Guidelines handbook and have been canvassing other places of worship in our area to determine what the standards are for ensuring safety. If you have not done so, please review the handbook. Additionally, we will be doing Temple Talks to review and rehearse emergency plans should the need ever arise. Our first Temple Talk will be today, at which time we will take a few minutes to review our emergency evacuation process and even exit the Sanctuary at the close of the service as though an emergency had occurred (sort of like a fire drill without the alarms going off). This is not intended to create fear. On the contrary, we have to let our brains be aware of what to do in case of an emergency and this only happens when we practice. Again, our goal is to plan effective responses to unexpected events. We hope you will join us in this effort.

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 10/18—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00

Wed 10/25—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00

Fri 10/20—Hotel Indigo at 6:00

Sun 10/29—TCGC Student recital at Thirsty Fish in TC at 1:00

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS AND ANY WHO LOVE TO READ: The book for **Oct 24** discussion is Firekeeper's Daughter which has been a New York Times Bestseller. This book was named the Great Michigan Read book for the year!!!! Thousands in Michigan will be reading the book at the same time. Even if there are no books left in the book club box in front of church if you live in Michigan you will be able to download an audio or print version of the book FREE by going to ReadMichigan.org. There will also be many extra books available at the library. This book is a mystery centered in Sault Ste Marie and tells the tale of a biracial female Ojibwe member who helps in an undercover investigation. If you want to join the BLC discussion it will be at 5:30 on that Tues. If you want to join but cannot be there in person please send a ZOOM request to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net.

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!

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH ART & CRAFT SHOW - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023 9:00am to 3:00pm

Featuring over 40 local artists and crafters with original, handmade goods! Please sign up in the Narthex hallway to volunteer for our fundraiser. Your help would be greatly appreciated. "Many hands make work light".

Adult Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30am in the Youth Room, with a study of the Gospel of John.

You can pre-order your Christmas poinsettias now. Please use the gold insert received with your worship folder today. The deadline for ordering is November 1st.

The Zoom Book and Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00pm, with the study of the Mitch Albom book, *Have a Little Faith*. If you are interested in obtaining this book, please contact Barbara Oster or Pr Paul.

BUGs for Christmas: “BUG” otherwise known as the Bethlehem Ukulele Group may be playing during the Christmas season. Details are still being arranged. Could you attend class right after the Sunday service on the last Sunday of Nov. and first 2 Sundays of Dec? The group could play on Dec 17 and/or Christmas eve. Please check your schedule and let Denice Bossardet know as soon as you can. Even if you could not play this summer you can still join this fun group. Denice’s contact info: 231-499-7523 or denice.bossardet@gmail.com

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.

Food Pantry: HELP!!! 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, October 15

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

Monday, October 16

11:30am—Sustaining Endowment (ZOOM)
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, October 17

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
6:30pm—Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 18

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

Thursday, October 19

1:00pm—Inside Out (Library)
5:30pm—ACA
7:00pm—Third Thursday – Holden Evening Prayer (S)
8:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Friday, October 20

STAR ARTICLES DUE

10:00AM—Sew Pieceful
6:30pm—Movie Night (FH)

Saturday, October 21

5:00pm—Audubon Group (FH)

Sunday, October 22

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
12:30pm—Confirmation Class at Advent

Toward a Brighter Future

Bishop Emeritus John Schleicher,
Environmental Stewardship Task Force

Worldwide, we just experienced the hottest month ever recorded. Yet in Christ we know that in the midst of this and other ominous signs, the future of Earth, our common home, will be renewed. We, members of his Body, the Church, are called to be agents of that renewal.

One increasingly accessible witness to that coming promised renewal is the use of solar energy. To learn more about solar energy and how you can use it in your congregation, the Synod's Environmental Stewardship Task Force will be hosting a one-hour webinar with Rob Raison of Solar Faithful. This webinar will be held on October 26, 2023 at 7:00pm ET.

Register now: <https://bit.ly/468ZUeT>

You can learn more about the options available from Solar Faithful here: <https://bit.ly/3Rlfhg1>

One of the options, a no upfront cost power purchase agreement, is already used by First Lutheran in Muskegon and Faith in Okemos.

New federal legislation makes it more feasible than ever to start moving now toward minimizing the impact of climate change. Going solar can be an important witness to God's promise to make all things new.

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

MOVIE NIGHT

Friday
October 20th
6:30pm

FREE ADMISSION



HOTDOGS,
POPCORN, DRINKS,
AND BALLOONS FOR
EVERYONE!

All Ages Welcome!

Art & Craft Show

November 4th, 2023
9am - 3pm

Featuring dozens of local artists and crafters with original, handmade goods!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686

