Christ the King Sunday

November 26, 2023 – 10am Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4

Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

C: ... we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

P: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through \pm Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Lord I Lift Your Name on High

Founds

Lord I lift your name on high Lord I love to sing your praises I'm so glad you're in my life I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way. From the earth to the cross my debt to pay. From the cross to the grave from the grave to the sky. Lord I lift Your name on high.

Lord I lift your name on high Lord I love to sing your praises I'm so glad you're in my life I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way. From the earth to the cross my debt to pay. From the cross to the grave from the grave to the sky. Lord I lift Your name on high.

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: O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message Pr Paul

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

11 Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. 12 As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. 20 Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God



Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

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

Jesus said to the disciples: 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me. 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day: Crown Him With Many Crowns ELW #855

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

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. 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:

Give Thanks and Sing!
The King of Love My Shepherd Is

BLC Choir ELW #502

Final Blessing

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, & Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

He is Exalted

Twila Paris

1st Verse He is exalted

The King is exalted on high

I will praise Him

He is exalted forever exalted And I will praise His name

Chorus

He is the Lord

Forever His truth shall reign

Heaven and earth

Rejoice in His holy name

He is exalted

The King is exalted on high

2nd Verse

He is exalted

The King is exalted on high

I will praise Him

He is exalted forever exalted And I will praise His name

Chorus

He is the Lord

Forever His truth shall reign

Heaven and earth

Rejoice in His holy name

He is exalted

The King is exalted on high

Dismissal

A: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

11/26—Peg Peppler 11/28—Kay Rumbach 11/29—Dale Wentzloff 11/30—Natalee Miller 12/1—John Halstead 12/2—Frank Wall 12/2—Bart Duzenbery

Worship Servants for November 26

Assisting Minister—Sherri Helman

Lector—Nancy Ammann

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: By Dale & Barbara Wentzloff in Celebration of Family Birthdays

A/V—Paul Ton and the Acker Family

Hospitality—Phil Anderson and Susie Burton

Cookies—VOLUNTEER

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter/Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Jane Passmore and Sherryl Hellenga

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:

<u>Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant</u> works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

<u>Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper</u> works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

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

<u>Offerings</u>: 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.

<u>The December issue of the STAR is now available</u>. 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 along with the January/February/March 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 Blue Christmas service on December 21st at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed. The BLC Fellowship Committee will be providing a meal prepared by Phil Bossardet at 5:45 p.m. Please come early and share in fellowship and stay for the service.

<u>Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes?</u> 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.

<u>BABY PANTRY PROJECT:</u> Parents visiting the baby pantry really appreciate all the items you have been donating. They especially need laundry soap, cleaning products and toilet tissue. The next Baby Pantry date is Thursday, December 14th. Thank you one and all!

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)
- <u>Bulletin/Verbal Announcements</u>: 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

<u>Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font!</u> Cost \$10.00 per rose. Contact Barbara Oster at beo6475@yahoo.com or 231.668.7038.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING: Volunteers are needed to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Tom's East Bay Store on December 8, and December 9, 2023. The first shift starts at 10:00 am and the last shift starts at 6:00 pm. Each shift is 1 hour long. If you are willing to ring please call Carl Lehto at 231-223-7187 home, or 231-944-9640 cell. We need 18 ringers. You can bring a friend with you to ring. Please dress warmly. The needs are greater than ever so your help will be appreciated more than ever. Merry Christmas. Thank you.

TRAVERSE CITY HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS GIFT TREE IS UP! Please note that most of the items on the 'tree' are clothing and more 'needed' items. There is also a separate sheet that lists other items the students would love to have. You may choose one or both. Please drop off unwrapped gifts prior to Sunday, December 10th. Thank you for your generosity. The students so appreciate it!

Caroling for our Homebound (shut-in) members on December 10th: It's time to get in the spirit of the season! On Sunday Dec 10, we will have a light meal after the service and then divide into groups to go caroling. We hope to have enough people for 3 teams to cover different parts of town, so we want to get the word out early! If you feel singing is not your strong suit, that's ok - the rest of us will help carry the tune. Your smiling presence is most important! Our members who cannot get out to see us REALLY appreciate seeing other members in-person. Please mark your calendar for the 10th!

<u>Fellowship Friends</u>: We are so thankful that BLC is a giving and involved church. You (and a friend) are needed to sign -up to help with our Advent meals. You could plan/buy the food, prepare the food, serve the food, or clean up after. The sign-up sheets are on the table in the Gathering space or contact Gail Goldsmith by text or phone at 231-633-2630 or at ggoldsmith74@gmail.com

Honoring a "Blue Christmas" on the 21st: Perhaps you or someone you know is not feeling the "Joy" of the Advent and Christmas season this year. Often loss, anxiety or grief during the Holidays can leave us feeling out of sync with our culture, when in fact the true meaning of Advent includes nearly every human emotion, as we long for Christ's birth. Leaders from four local ELCA churches invite you to join them on the longest night of the year - December 21st at 7pm at Bethlehem. This year's annual "Blue Christmas" service includes words of solace and hope from Pastors Haley Vay Beaman (Feast of Victory - Acme), Jonathan Reid (Immanuel - Suttons Bay), Tim Jahn (Advent - Lake Ann) and Paul Busekist (Bethlehem - Traverse City). Peace be with you this season as we journey together.

<u>Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years</u>. 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.

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 11/29—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00

Sat 12/9—Hotel Indigo at 6:00

Wed 12/6—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00

Wed 12/13—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS: The book for Nov 28 discussion is *The Christmas Train* by David Baldacci which has been a New York Times Bestseller. This is a more light-hearted book to get a jump on the holiday spirt. If you want to join the BLC discussion it will be at 5:30 that Tues with a pizza meal. If you want to join but cannot be there in person please send a ZOOM request to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net. The book club is taking a Christmas holiday in December. The Jan book will be announced in the group email and in the Jan STAR.

<u>DIRECTORY NEWS</u> - For those who did not have their photo taken or submitted, or for those who might like an additional one, you may order a copy of our new church directory. Please contact Kathy Ancinec at 989-906-2764. The cost will be \$8.00 per copy, before December 6, 2023. After that date, it will cost \$12.00. Reserved copies will be available for future members only.

New member orientation: Arrangements are in the works for a gathering in December or January. Please contact membership chair, Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or the office at 947-9880 if you are interested in joining Bethlehem.

Dear Members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church,

It's that time of year; the leaves start to turn color and fall to the ground. It is also the time of year when we like to take some time and gratefully thank the congregation for your continued support of our wonderful church.

We are all grateful to have such abundant blessings with our location and our faithful members. It's important to remain dedicated to our Christian faith and do our best to follow through on our commitments. With love & kindness we ask that if you are able and willing to help the church in a financial way, we really need your help. Contributions are behind where we should be for the start of the fourth quarter. This is primarily because of pledged money that has not yet been received.

We respectfully ask that if you can do what you have pledged or even a little bit more, the church will put those dollars to good work. Thank you for prayerfully considering this appeal. We appreciate your support and are grateful for all you do to make Bethlehem Lutheran Church a thriving community of believers. Jim Monroe, BLC Financial Secretary and Phil Anderson, BLC Bookkeeper

December's XYZ Potluck & Presentation will be on Friday, December 8th, at 12pm noon. While primarily geared toward seniors, the group is open to any adult who would like to attend! XYZ meets monthly September through May for a potluck lunch, followed by a program or presentation. December's presentation will be by one of our own members of Bethlehem, Sherri Helman, who will give a presentation titled: "The Bible in Living Color." On Sherri's trip to the Holy Land this past January, one of the repeat travelers described her first pilgrimage there as this: "A time when the Bible went from black and white to living color." That was the experience that occurred for Sherri. In her sharing at the December XYZ Luncheon, some of those experiences will be shared from the heart! Please know this will not be a political conversation about the conflicts and unrest within Israel....it will be an intimate sharing of faith, blessing, and gratitude! We hope you will join us in December for good food, fellowship, and a wonderful presentation!"

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!

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

<u>The Zoom Book and Bible Study</u>: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00pm. The group will take a Thanksgiving break on November 22nd and will complete the study the Mitch Albom book, *Have a Little Faith* on December 6. The next study will start in January where the group will study the Book of Mark.

<u>Copies of the Living Lutheran magazine</u> can be picked up at the welcome table on Sunday mornings or from the Shooting STAR box below the outside mailbox.

<u>Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations?</u> 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.

<u>Coffee and Cookies on Sunday</u>: Remember that treats and a hot drink on Sunday are appreciated by all. Please take a moment to sign up to bring cookies or some other tasty treat on the Sunday that works best for you. Or sign up to prepare the coffee. As requested by some of our new members there is a plan in the works to have one Sunday per month when we join in the Fellowship Hall. We can sit at a table and chat with someone new while we munch on a treat. More on that to come...

<u>Name tags</u>: 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.

<u>Food Pantry</u>: We will NOT be closing our outdoor pantry for winter this year. We have a new member who ran an outdoor pantry downstate and she has given us lots of ideas of foods that can be stored there during the cold months including: hamburger helper, stuffing mix, dry milk, instant potatoes, cookies, and rice. Also, there is always room for dry goods such as toilet paper, paper towels etc. Please start looking for some of these items when they are on sale and bring your extras to the coat room. Your generosity is so appreciated.

A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts. We just received a check from Olesons for \$268.15 for a total of \$593.03 this calendar year. Please continue to drop off your Olesons' receipts at Bethlehem. Please note they do not expire. Thank you.

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, November 26

9:15am—Sunday School

9:15am—Adult Education (YR)

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

Tuesday, November 28 Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

5:30pm—Book/Supper Club (FH)

Wednesday, November 29

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

1:30pm—Zoom Book Study

Thursday, November 30

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Friday, December 1

6:00pm—All Star

Sunday, December 3

9:15am—Sunday School

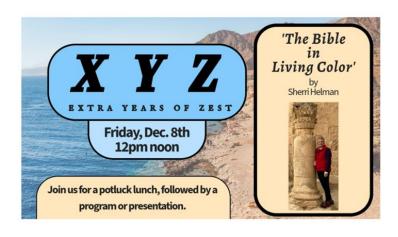
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

11:15am—Worship and Music Meeting (CR)

12:30pm—Confirmation Class at Advent

2:00pm—Christmas Tea Social (GS)







CHRISTMAS TEA SOCIAL DECEMBER 3, 2023 2:00 TO 4:00 PM GATHERING SPACE AT BETHLEHEM

Our theme is 'THE NATIVITY'. We are asking if you would bring a Nativity to use as a centerpiece. At the tea you may also tell us a little about your Nativity if you so desire. (i.e. where it came from, why it's special to you, etc.)

Please bring your Nativity to the church on Saturday, December 2nd between 10:00 am and noon.

PLEASE ALSO BRING TO THE TEA:

1/2 DOZEN COOKIES/TREATS TO SHARE

1 WRAPPED GIFT TO EXCHANGE \$8-10

CANNED/PACKAGED FOOD ITEMS FOR 2 FOOD BASKETS (TURKEYS PROVIDED BY WELCA)

PLEASE SIGN UP BY THE POSTER IN THE NARTHEX TO LET US KNOW THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING AND ALSO IF YOU ARE BRINGING A NATIVITY.

PLEASE SIGN UP BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH.

COME JOIN US!

