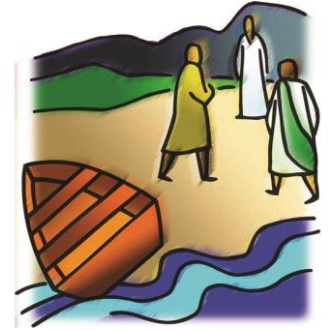


Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 24, 2021 (Real Church Virtual)



Opening and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Holy God,

C: you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C: Amen.

Opening Song – O Jesus, I Have Promised

Verse 1

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; remain forever near me, my master and my friend. I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side; nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

Verse 2

Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near. I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear. My foes are ever near me, around me and within; but Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.

Verse 3

Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will. Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.

Verse 4

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you that where you are in glory your servant shall be too. And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

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!

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

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

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Paul

Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace

Interlude ("Come, Holy Spirit")

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.

Special Announcement (Jim Hutchison – Safe Harbor)

Final Blessing

P: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter † keep you in peace.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song – Hear the Call of the Kingdom

Verse 1

Hear the call of the kingdom, lift your eyes to the King; let His song rise within you as a fragrant offering of how God, rich in mercy, came in Christ to redeem all who trust in His unfailing grace.

Verse 2

Hear the call of the kingdom, to be children of light with the mercy of heaven the humility of Christ; walking justly before Him, loving all that is right, that the life of Christ may shine through us.

Chorus

King of heaven, we will answer the call. We will follow, bringing hope to the world, filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name.

Verse 3

Hear the call of the kingdom, to reach out to the lost with the Father's compassion in the wonder of the cross, bringing peace and forgiveness, and a hope yet to come: let the nations put their trust in Him.

Chorus

King of heaven, we will answer the call. We will follow, bringing hope to the world, filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name.

Chorus

King of heaven, we will answer the call. We will follow, bringing hope to the world, filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name, salvation in Jesus' name, salvation in Jesus' name.



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(231) 947-9880
www.bethlehemtc.org

January 24, 2021

On Sunday, January 31st, we will have a "Zoom/Facebook Hymn and Song Sing" at 9:45am in place of regular 9am virtual worship. A recording of that Hymn and Song Sing will be made available online soon thereafter. **Parking Lot Communion will still occur at 11am that day.** Our Sunday Service Breakdown will return to the regular schedule the following weekend.

2021 Giving envelopes are available. Please call the church office to make arrangements to pick up your box. Those boxes not picked up will be mailed.

Covid hits our congregation! Please keep praying for all who are being hit by this illness especially one of our own council members. Even though all in that household were being careful, someone who was ill came to their home without wearing a mask and all are now very sick. Through the wonders of ZOOM this person was able to participate in the most recent council meeting, and the rest of us saw how ill someone could be even without being hospitalized. Another council member had to be in work/home only quarantine for 2 weeks due to recent multiple exposures in that person's essential job. *Know that any of the tough decisions that the council is making are with the well-being of all members in mind.*

The JANUARY issue of the STAR is ready! The STAR is no longer being subsidized by anonymous donors. We thank them for the generosity for three months and their hard work in preparing it for mailing. (There is even a rolling pin involved!!!) The cost of postage for the STAR is now being taken from the general fund. If anyone wants to make an extra donation towards postage due to the monthly cost of keeping all members informed, a notation can be made on any check or envelope. If you read the STAR on line and have not told us, please make certain you contact the office so we are not sending out copies needlessly. Printed STARs will also be available in the "Shooting Star box" outside the church entry later this week. 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 outdoor "**Shooting STAR Dispenser**" at BLC is now full with several paper publications, including the January STAR and the current week's worship folder/bulletin. If you would like a copy of a DVD, please contact the church and one will be produced for you.

Calling all Knitters!!: There is an overabundance of yarn skeins in the bin under the mailboxes in the narthex. PLEASE feel free to grab some to make hats, mittens, prayer shawls, etc.! The yarn is sorted according to kind, so you can be sure to find something appropriate for whatever project you have in mind. Questions? Call Betty R. (947-1013)

Christ in Our Home Devotionals for January/February/March. They can be picked up at the name tag table on Sunday mornings, from the STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion. The newest *Living Lutheran* magazine is also available in the same locations.

Due to the restrictions in place at ski resorts at this time we have made the difficult decision to cancel the Ski Trip for this year. While we are very disappointed, Annie would like to invite the youth and their families to the **all youth sledding party on February 20th at Twin Lakes Park.** She will be sending more information in regards to more details in early February. If you would like to make sure you are on the email list or if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Annie at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org. We promise that we will have an amazing Ski Trip in 2022!

The BLC book club is excited that another author is going to join us for a discussion of their book on ZOOM. On Tuesday Jan 26 at 5:30 we will discuss *The Marsh King's Daughter* by Karen Dionne. The author lives part of the time in northern Michigan and the setting of the book is in Michigan. There are still 2 library copies of the book in the big box on the ground by the front door of the church if you want to borrow one. Just let Cindy Monroe know if you take one or if you want to join in the fun of the discussion at cmonroe@chartermi.net

A big thank you to those who have turned in Oleson's receipts. For 2020, we received a total of \$545.66. Please continue saving your Oleson's receipts for Bethlehem. Please drop them off in the bin under the mailbox counter. Thanks.

Keep "Hope Spreading": Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to *Pastor Paul* at paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org or *Sharon* at admin@bethlehemtc.org if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

"Zoom Bible Study" gathering via Zoom is going strong each Wednesday from noon until about 1:15pm, and each week we are having great conversation and fellowship. We are using the Augsburg Fortress study of two of Paul's letters: 1st and 2nd Corinthians. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining.

Administrative Assistant Needed at Father Fred: This is a full-time Administrative Assistant position with benefits. The person filling this role must be flexible, able to function well in a highly stimulating environment, respond to interruptions as they occur and work independently to accomplish assigned tasks. The overall function of this role is to provide organizational, clerical and Executive level support.

Entry Requirements:

Education: Minimum two yr. college degree required

Experience: Three to five years of administrative/executive assistant level experience in a professional environment / Previous accounting experience preferred /Advanced level knowledge of Microsoft Office programs / Familiarity with QuickBooks preferred

More details visit fatherfred.org

Send Resume to Executive Director, Candice Hamel chamel@fatherfred.org

Safe Harbor Volunteer Service

BLC will provide volunteer support at the Safe Harbor Emergency Housing Shelter for the period Saturday, February 6 through Tuesday, February 9. This is our part of a shared full week of service with the Northern Lakes Community Church. The shelter has been operating successfully since November. Goodwill staff are present to directly supervise guests during the 6 pm to 10 am period the shelter is open. Volunteers serve in the following two ways:

Evening meal preparation. Groups in the congregation have already committed to provide these meals. Those involved with meal preparation and dinner service will not have duties outside the kitchen.

Evening Hosts. Four volunteers, men or women, are needed each evening from 5:00 to 10:00 pm. Evening Hosts work with the Goodwill staff to assist the check-in of guests, to dispense medications, to support coffee service and to sanitize the dining area. Guests will eat in shifts at tables divided by plexi-glass shields. Otherwise, guests will lounge in an outside heated tent and sleep in bunks that are separated from one another by plastic sheeting.

It is not expected that BLC will provide all the needed volunteers. Community volunteers are available to assist our efforts. Our goal is cover as many evenings as possible with groups of four BLC volunteers who are comfortable working with persons they know. To volunteer please send an email Jim Hutchison, hutchison@alma.edu specifying what evenings you are available to serve. He will organize our volunteers into service groups. You will not be asked to serve for more than one evening. Please respond as soon as possible, but no later than January 25 to allow time to recruit community volunteers to fill vacancies. Please call Jim, 231-668-1916, for more information and consult the volunteer handbook on the web site gtsafeharbor.org/volunteers/.

Shelter operating procedures are designed to provide a safe environment for both guests and volunteers. Guests and volunteers are given temperature checks before they are admitted. To date no guest has been diagnosed with the Covid-19 virus. We are not asking you to volunteer out of a sense of obligation to our congregation. Rather we seek volunteers who are comfortable with working at the shelter and who are motivated by a personal desire to participate in this ministry of service to others in this difficult time.



The cold and gray days of mid-winter are here and many of our members have little to no contact with the outside world. Please use your church directory or the addresses below to send a cheery note or make a phone call to someone. Don't have much time and not sure who to contact? How about choosing those whose last name is closest in the alphabet to your own?

List of Home Bound Members of BLC 2021
BLC = Directory

Marlene Baesch - BLC

Marinan Bradford - Traverse Manor on Draka Rd. Traverse City, MI

Carol Collins – Burcham Assisted Living 2700 Burcham Dr. East Lansing, MI 48823

Brenda Denoyer - BLC

Richard Fernholz - BLC

Jo Hasse – BLC (in French Manor)

Corinne Hill - BLC

Christian Stretlien and Julie LaPeer - 14720 Mc Coll Ave. Thompsonville, MI 49683

Tom and Lee Miller - BLC

Nancy Smith - BLC

Lois Stretlien (Jan's sister in-law) - Traverse Manor Room #24

Ellie Tacke - BLC

Inge Thomas - BLC

Priscilla Thomas - Samaritas Assisted Living 4354 Mt. Hope Rd. Williamsburg MI 49690 BLC

Jan and Butch Waisanen - BLC

Dee and Bill Springer - Boardman Lake Glens 1400 Brigadoon Ct. TC 49684 BLC

Marjorie Whitney - Traverse Manor on Draka Rd. Traverse City, MI BLC