

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 5, 2023 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,

C: ... we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Gather Us In

ELW #532

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 God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

1 Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. 2 Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. 3 "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. 4 Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. 5 Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? 6 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? 8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. 9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, 10 if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. 11 The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. 12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

Sinclair

Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

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

Jesus said: 13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. 17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not

one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

This Little Light of Mine

ELW #677

Installation of Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator *(See back pages for liturgy)*

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

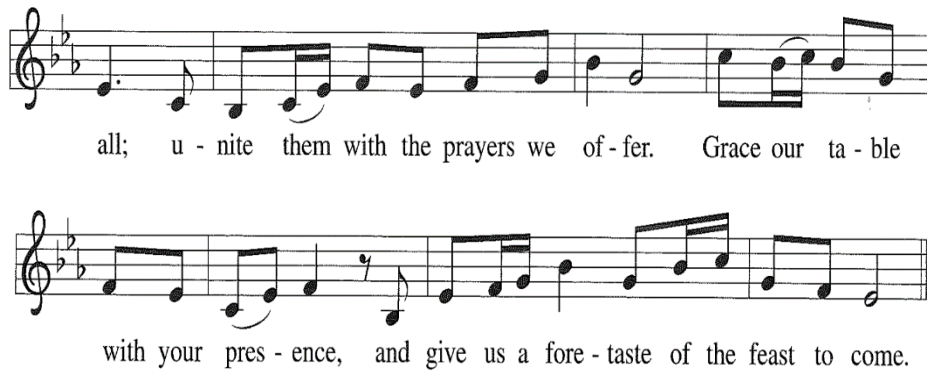
Offering Song:

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: Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus 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:

**Christ, Be Our Light
Light Shone in Darkness**

**ELW #715
ELW #307**

Final Blessing

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song/Medley:

Marching in the Light
(see slide on screen for words)

ELW #866

I Saw the Light

Williams

I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin, I wouldn't let my dear Savior in. Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night. Praise the Lord! I saw the light!

I saw the light, I saw the light, No more in darkness, no more in night. And now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight. Praise the Lord! I saw the light!

Just like a blind man I wandered along. Worries and fears I claimed for my own. Then, like the blind man that God gave back his sight, Praise the Lord! I saw the light!

I saw the light, I saw the light, No more in darkness, no more in night. And now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord! I saw the light!

I was a fool to wander and stray, straight is the gate and narrow the way. Now I have traded the wrong for the right.
Praise the Lord! I saw the light!

I saw the light, I saw the light, No more in darkness, no more in night. And now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord! I saw the light!

I saw the light, I saw the light, No more in darkness, no more in night. And now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord! I saw the light!

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 5, 2023

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2/8—John Stretlein

2/9—Zachary Word

2/10—Claudia Heindl

2/11—Joe White

2/12—Nathan Goebel

Traditional Service next Sunday, February 12th

Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.

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 on Tuesday and Thursday

WELCOME: We're pleased to welcome Alanna Steffunick into the position of Ministry Coordinator. Coming from a background of wonderful experiences with children and adults of all ages, Alanna is excited to step into this new role and see where we grow together. Alanna and her son Sammy are looking forward to meeting everyone today! Her email address is alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org

Pledges: As Bethlehem Lutheran Church prepares for a new year, it is important to know what support we can depend on from our congregation members. By knowing what you are willing to commit financially, we are able to better plan for the future. If you have already turned in your pledge card, we sincerely thank you. If you have not, please prayerfully consider doing so in the coming weeks. Please be assured that we will happily accept your pledge at any time in 2023. Jim Monroe, Financial Secretary, Phil Anderson, Bookkeeper

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to manufacturing problems and supply shortages, our supplier for your giving envelopes, Church Budget Envelope Company, has informed me that they will be late with our order for 2023 giving envelopes. They are working hard to get caught up with orders but cannot provide me with a guaranteed ship date. As a result, we ask that you place your contribution in a standard envelope. Please include your name on the envelope so we can properly record your contribution. **There are supplemental envelopes on the table in the Narthex if you need some.** On behalf of our supplier, I apologize for the delay and assure you that everything possible is being done to fulfill our order. Thank you for your patience and understanding, Phil Anderson, Bookkeeper

COVID: Please note that masks are required for unvaccinated persons in worship and highly encouraged for those who are vaccinated.

Today's altar flowers are donated: *To the glory of God.*

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.

Third Thursday: The next Third Thursday service will be a brand new Taize service on February 16th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed.

The February 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>.

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

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.

COLLEGE & MILITARY LOVE PACKAGES: The Christian Education Committee is sending love packages to Bethlehem's college students and military people who are away from home. **We need names and exact, complete addresses of these people by today, February 5th.** You may email these names and addresses to Nancy Ammann at nmammann@gmail.com or place in my mailbox at church. Thank you!

Registration is now open for 2023 Summer Camp in New Era at Stony Lake - presented by Living Water Ministries. The website is <https://elcalivingwater.com>

Ski trip at Crystal Mtn. this afternoon. We are meeting there and skiing from 12:30p-4:30p. We will have dinner and fellowship at Gino's, in Thompsonville, following. Lift tickets will be provided to youth, and as many adults as possible, for those who have helped with pancake breakfast set up and serving.

XYZ Potluck! Join us for good food, laughter and fellowship on Friday, February 10th at 12 Noon. While predominately geared toward seniors, we welcome any adult who would like to attend.

New Members will be accepted on Sunday Feb 12. Please join us in welcoming those who have been worshiping for us for some time and have made the decision to become a part of our BLC family. If you wanted to be a part of this group and have missed an invitation, please contact membership chair, Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or the office at 947-9880

Picture Directory: We have a chance to make a new directory this year, but with any project like this we need volunteers. Please leave your name in the office if you can help on this project in any way.

The season of Lent, and the promise of Easter are just around the corner. From the Fellowship Committee's perspective, that means planning for food and fellowship during this holy season.

- There will be a meal on Shrove Tuesday, February 21. Stay tuned for more details.
- There will also be meals before the Lenten services on March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. Meals will be at 6:00 followed by the service at 7:00. At each meal we will be serving two soups, bread/rolls, a salad, dessert and beverages. Signup sheets will be available if you would like to donate a food item for a meal. We are especially looking for "Soup Artists". We know you are out there and would love to share your family favorites! We would like to have one of the soups each night be vegetarian-friendly; no meat, no soup bones, no meat-based broths. Help in the kitchen would also be greatly appreciated; you pick the dates and times that work for you. Please contact Laura Hahn if you have any questions. dandlhahn@gmail.com, 231-929-1339 (home), 231-499-1948 (cell). Thank you!

The synod assembly will be back in person this year instead of on-line. It will be held May 7-9 in Mt Pleasant. Immanuel/Bethlehem choir director Tony Bero will be leading the music. Our church is allowed to send one male and one female as voting members in addition to our pastor. Perhaps this is the year that you feel you are being called to do something new and different in your spiritual life? If so, please tell Pastor Paul or leave your name in the office.

SABBATICAL FUNDS: It is so gracious of so many members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church to contribute to the Sabbatical Fund. The Sabbatical Committee is aware there are members who feel very strongly about how they would like to direct their donated funds. Please, write on the memo line of your check what you would like your funds to be designated to, such as Pastor's activities (e.g. special family trip), or Congregational activities only. Any donations which are not marked will be placed in the general Sabbatical fund. There are a wide variety of costs involved with the Sabbatical, from pulpit supply, extra costs for staff doing some of Pastor's day to day tasks. There are a variety of church activities being planned such as; painting classes, skits, cooking classes, Sundaes on Sunday and many more. Pastor Paul will be with Bethlehem 12 years in 2023 and he has not had a Sabbatical. Bethlehem developed a policy in 2018 for the Pastor to have a Sabbatical after 7 years of employment. There was a motion made to give Pastor Paul a Sabbatical in the summer of 2023 and it was approved by the Church Council.

The Committee has also reviewed the Sabbatical Policy from the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, which recommends a 3-month Sabbatical every 5 years. According to synod sabbatical recommendations, "although the congregation is not responsible to fund the Pastor's sabbatical activities, parishioners may consider "gifting" as a means of providing financial assistance." If there are any questions, please feel free to contact any of the committee members: Gail Goldsmith, Pastor Paul Busekist, Maureen Bauer, Carolyn Mann, Cindy Monroe, Barbara Wright or Kathi Ivany-Mort.

Pecans Are Still Available: The Worship and Music committee has a limited supply of Milk Chocolates (3 bags) and Mammoth Halves (1 bag). They are good for a hostess gift, Valentine's Day, baking or just plain munching. To order, please contact Barbara Oster at 231.668.7038 or beo6475@yahoo.com or call her at the BLC office (Monday, Tuesday or Thursday – 947.9880).

The newest Living Lutheran magazine and the January/February/March Christ in Our Home 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.

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 back in your mailboxes. Please retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it. If you notice a visitor, please encourage them to make a nametag which are kept with the welcome notebook.

Choir announcement: The choir will have a rehearsal on Feb 9th at 7:00pm. Make a resolution to add some music into your life! Rehearsals are 2-3 Thursdays per month at 7:00. Contact Tony Bero at bero.tony@gmail.com or 942-1162.

Adult Bible Study gets together on Wednesdays from 9:30am-11:30am. It is a casual discussion of the Gospel of Luke. Bring your bibles and come, share, learn and grow with us.

The Zoom Bible Study meets on Wednesdays from 1:30pm—3:00pm. This group will study the book, *Liturgy in the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life*. We will be starting a new lesson in a few weeks: Book of Faith: Romans. Contact Pr Paul for Zoom information.

BLC Book Club: The BLC book club's Feb meeting is on the 28th at 5:30 via ZOOM. The book is *The Orphan's Tale* by Pam Jenoff. This book will NOT be in the outdoor box so you will need to find your own copy. If you are not on the email list and want to be involved send your information to cmonroe@chartermi.net.

UPDATE ON BABY PANTRY SUPPORT PROJECT: Our Baby Pantry Food donations are down. These families are really appreciative of our help. Anything such as food items or toilet paper you can donate would be great. The basket is under the table in the coat closet. Thank you for sharing in your abundance. WELCA

A big thank you to all who have turned in Oleson's receipts. We just received a check from them for \$186.58 for a grand total of \$651.20 for the year 2022. Please continue to drop off your Oleson's receipts at Bethlehem!!! Also note that they do not expire. Thank you so much!!!

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 and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included for either Screen Announcements or Facebook Events please reach out to admin@bethlehemtc.org.

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 1100am – 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. Please note that they are anticipating an increased need over the winter,

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Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. Note that flowers are not placed on the altar during Lent (February 26th through April 2nd) and will resume on Easter Sunday. 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.

Bethlehem sends weekly emails directly to your inbox with important announcements and information!
If you are not getting them for any reason or if you have something you'd like to have added please reach out to alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org

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, February 5

SAFE HARBOR TONIGHT

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:15am—Worship and Music (CR)
12:30pm—Ski Trip

Monday, February 6

7:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

Tuesday, February 7

Bulletin articles due today

SAFE HARBOR TONIGHT

9:00am—Property Work Group
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
10:00AM—Staff Meeting (CR)
7:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

Wednesday, February 8

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study
7:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

Thursday, February 9

9:00am—Baby Pantry Setup (FH)
10:00am—Baby Pantry (FH)
1:00pm—Rebecca Anna/Sarah Circle
5:30pm—ACA (FH)
7:00pm—All Star DE (FH)
7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Friday, February 10

12:00pm—XYZ Potluck (FH)
6:00pm—Faith & Family SG (FH)

Sunday, February 12

10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)
12:30pm—Confirmation (Offsite)

Installation of Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator

The Ministry Coordinator lay professional to be installed and a representative of the employing body come before the presiding minister and assembled congregation.

A representative of the employing body addresses the residing minister.

After prayerful deliberation, we, of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, have brought on Alanna Steffunick to serve in the position of Ministry Coordinator.

The representative moves aside, and the assembly is seated.

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses the one being installed.

Our Lord Jesus, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor. You come among us as one invited to render a particular service, a gift from God to inspire us to love and good works.

Alanna, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Trusting in God's care, will you seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and adorn the gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life; will you carry out this ministry in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church and in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them. *The assembly responds: Amen*

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The assembly stands. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, will you receive Alanna Steffunick into this ministry as one sent to serve in the church of Jesus Christ? Will you pray for her, help and honor her for her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

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

The presiding minister addresses the lay professional.

Alanna, I now declare you installed as Ministry Coordinator. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be a faithful servant of Christ.

C: Amen

P: Let us pray.

Gracious God, as you have called workers to varied tasks in the world and in your church, so you have called Alanna to this ministry. Grant her joy and a spirit of bold trust, that her work may stir up each of us to a life of fruitful service; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, I present to you Alanna Steffunick, your Ministry Coordinator.

Let us welcome Alanna (and Sammy) in the name of Christ.