

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 25, 2026 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \ddagger one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: ...you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors.

We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you.

Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in \ddagger Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Listen, God Is Calling

ELW 513

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, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

1 There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time the Lord brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. 3 You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4 For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 4-9

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

4 One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.

5 For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

6 Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

7 Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

8 My heart speaks your message—“Seek my face.” Your face, O Lord, I will seek.

9 Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

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

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. 13 He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 15 “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—16 the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” 17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. 23 Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798

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

(continued on next page)

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 together.

C: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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:

Beautiful Savior
Give to Our God Immortal Praise!

ELW 838

ELW 848

Final Blessing

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

My Lighthouse

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
C: Thanks be to God.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1/25—Laura Hahn

1/25—Jane Kurkowski

1/26—Ron Hellenga

1/26—Patricia Duzenbery

1/28—Jim Monroe

1/28—Zeke Clemons

2/1—Karen Feahr

Worship Servants for January 25

Preaching & Presiding—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Peggy Burns

Lector—Peg Peppler

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

Today's altar flowers are donated:

By Laura Okimi in Memory of her parent's wedding anniversary, Agnes and Dude McKay

Hospitality: Dan & Laura Hahn

A/V—Paul Ton / Barbara Oster

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—Volunteer

Bell Ringer—Gail Goldsmith

Front Door Monitor—Tim & Peggy Goebel

Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth / Erin Word

Counters: Carl Lehto / Barb Graf

Alanna's Back! I've missed you all! I will be working in the office on the first Tuesday of each month from 9:30am - 12:30pm, and on Wednesdays from 11:30am - 2:30pm on all other weeks. I will also work from home throughout the week. Thank you for giving me time at home with my sweet Ellie girl (and Sammy!) over the last two months - it was such precious time, and now I'm excited to be back!

Safe Harbor started last night and will continue on Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of this week. If you have any questions you can contact Tom Rockne, BLC Safe Harbor Coordinator 231-631-0040 or tomrockne@gmail.com.

Have you always wondered a little about Scottish heritage and their world renown poet, Robert Burns? If so, please come to the BLC fellowship hall on Sunday Jan 25 at 2:00 to celebrate his birthday. We will have live gentle background music on a Celtic harp, and a little of the LOUD sound from the bagpipes. We are asking you to bring a dish to pass if possible. Already on the menu are: haggis, glazed ham, cock' a leeky soup, Scottish mince with potatoes, Scottish shortbread. (You don't have to try the haggis if you don't want to.) All tableware will be provided unless you prefer to bring your own. **PLEASE RSVP TODAY** to Cindy Monroe so we know how many tables we should set up for the meal.

Please join the Creation Care Vision Committee on Saturday, January 31 as we hike at Camp Greilick. We will meet at the trailhead at 9:30a. We will plan to hike for approximately 1-1.5 hours. 4754 Scout Camp Rd, Traverse City, MI 49696. If you have snowshoes, please bring them. We will have extra pair on hand, as well. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

NEW MEMBERS: The new member meeting will be on Sunday, February 1st immediately after the service. If you are interested in membership, please contact the office or membership co-chair Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net

Let's sing! Join TC Sings! on Sunday, February 1, at 3 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (1050 Peninsula Dr., Traverse City) or on Zoom for a celebration of songs and community. We'll be sharing favorites from our fall term in three- and four-part harmony; there will be opportunities for audience participation! Admission is free; donations will be gratefully accepted to support NMCAA (Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency), helping people in our local community through programs like Meals on Wheels, Head Start, and more. Join us afterward for snacks and socializing. Hope to see you there!

Giving Statements Available Your individual giving statements will be available in your mailbox in the Narthex beginning Sunday February 1, 2026. The statement covers giving from January 1st through December 31, 2025. Please pick them up at your convenience. To save on postage, I will mail out the ones not picked up by the end of February. Thank you for your generous support for the programs and ministries of your church. We are all blessed by your faithful giving. Your Bookkeeper

COLLEGE & MILITARY LOVE PACKAGES: We will again be sending Love Packages to our college and military people who are away from home. Please furnish the name and complete address for your loved one by February 8th to Nancy Ammann at nmammann@gmail.com OR phone 946-8433. Thank you.

Souper Bowl Sunday – February 8, 2026 Immediately following the church service, join us for our first annual Souper Bowl Sunday – a delicious way to fight hunger in our community! Looking for a few “souper volunteers” to bring a crockpot or large pot of your favorite homemade soup (enough to share). This will be a take-out only event offering containers filled with warm soups, breads, and desserts. All free-will donations will benefit our Food Pantry. To volunteer by bringing soup, sign up in the Gathering Space or contact Peg Peppler at peppler6088@gmail.com or 585-414-8200.

There will not be a Third Thursday service in February as it is the day after Ash Wednesday. Below are the important dates for Lent through Easter.

February 17 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30pm
February 18 – Ash Wednesday service 7:00pm
February 26 – Lenten Meal and Service 5:45pm / 7:00pm
March 5 -- Lenten Meal and Service 5:45pm / 7:00pm
March 12 -- Lenten Meal and Service 5:45pm / 7:00pm
March 19 – Lenten Meal and Service 5:45pm / 7:00pm
March 26 -- Lenten Meal and Service 5:45pm / 7:00pm
March 29 – Palm Sunday service 10:00am
April 2 – Maundy Thursday service 7:00pm
April 3 – Good Friday service 7:00pm
April 4 – Easter Vigil service 7:00pm
April 5 – Easter services 8:00am / 10:00am
April 5 – Easter Brunch 9:00am

Choir News: The choir has resumed its practice schedule on Mondays at 2:30. Come and join in the musical fun!

Sunday School and Sunday's Adult Education hold their classes at 9:15am on Sunday. The Wednesday Zoom Book/Bible Study meets at 1:30pm with a study of James using the book *James: Walking in Wisdom* by Lydia Brownback. Please see either Pr Paul or Barbara for more information.

Chair Yoga will continue meeting at 3:00pm on Mondays only. It is still \$5 per class

Grief Group meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 3:30-4:30 in the gathering space, unless the TC schools are closed. Any questions contact Peggy Burns 232-392-6913.

Today's Prayer Recipients: Please send any changes or additions by email to admin@bethlehemtc.org

Harper Wiemerslage,
Jerry Hill,
John Block,
Roy DuMond,
Mary Woodring,
Norm Fred,
Lynn,
Steve,
Sherry,
Bob,
Ron Hellenga,
John Stretlien,
Judy Fenton,

Cindy Hitesman,
Richard Fernholz,
Julie Lapeer,
Lee,
Chris,
Dale and Cheryl,
Leroy,
Julie Barrett,
Patti,
Sharon,
Kyle,
Ben,
Marianne,

Christine,
Janet,
Cheryl
Pat,
Greg,
Joan Maule,
Jan Schmidt
Pat Burton

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, January 25

SAFE HARBOR TONIGHT

8:45am—Pancake Breakfast (FH)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
2:00pm—St Andrews Society (FH)

Monday, January 26

10:00am—Sustaining Endowment (CR)
2:30pm—Choir (S)
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, January 27

SAFE HARBOR TONIGHT

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

Wednesday, January 28

SAFE HARBOR TONIGHT

11:30am—Music Rehearsal
1:30pm—Book/Bible Study (Zoom & YR)

Thursday, January 29

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, January 30

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

Saturday, January 31

9:30am—Hike Camp Grellick
8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, February 1

9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
9:15am—Sunday School
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:15am—New Member Meeting (Library)
12:30pm—Youth Discipleship Class (YR)
3:00pm—TC Sings! (S / FH)

