

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 10



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † 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 † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song: Hallelujah (Your Love is Amazing)

Brown & Doerksen

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, Your love makes me sing.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, Your love makes me sing.

Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging. Your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet.

Your love is a myst'ry, how You gently lift me. When I am surrounded Your love carries me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, Your love makes me sing.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, Your love makes me sing.

Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising, all the joy that's growing deep inside of me.

Ev'ry time I see You all Your goodness shines through. I can feel this God song rising up in me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, Your love makes me sing.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, Your love makes me sing.

Yes, You make me sing. Lord, You make me sing, sing, sing. How you make me sing.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, Your love makes me sing.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, Your love makes me sing.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, Your love makes me sing.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, Your love makes me sing.

Lord, You make me sing. How You make me sing.

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

p. 203



S203

1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol-emn prayer.
2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a-way our sin.
3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de-part.

We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be-gin.
Re-new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre-ate in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr. Paul

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

1 Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. 2 Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. 3 "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! 4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. 5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord." 6 "With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

**Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

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

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Blest Are They

ELW 728

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**Offering**

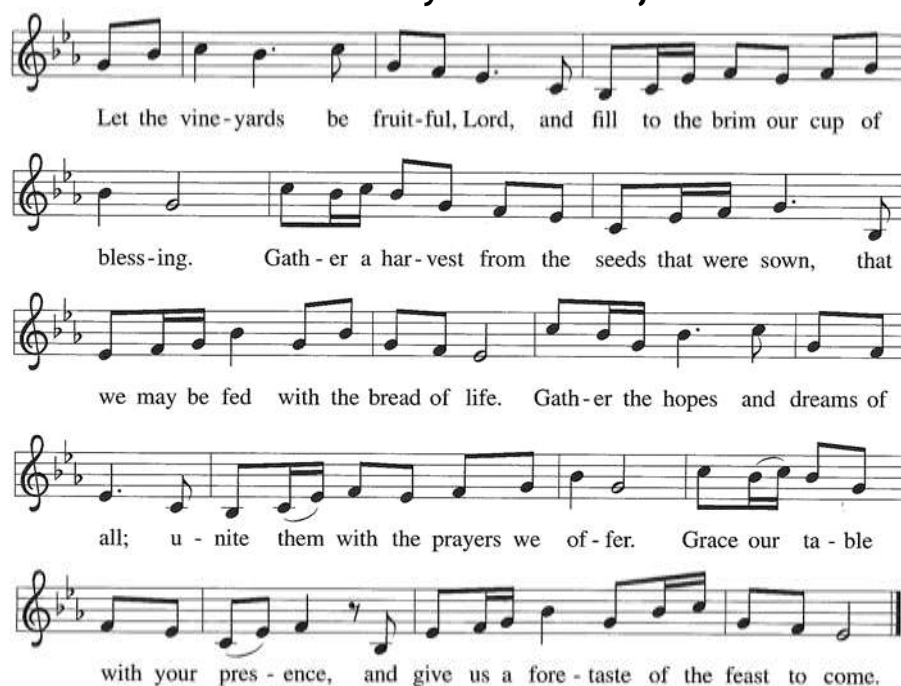
Offering Song:

Zeke Clemons

Offertory:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 184



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 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: *The Word of God Is Source and Seed* (words below)
Eat This Bread

WOV 658
ELW 472

The Word of God is source and seed; it comes to die and sprout and grow.
So make your dark welcome warm; root deep the grain God bent to sow.

In the Lord let us rejoice,
in the Lord let us rejoice,
in the Lord let us rejoice!

(continued on next page)

The Word of God is breath and life; it comes to heal and wake and save.
So let the Spirit touch and mend and rouse your dry bones from their grave.

In the Lord let us rejoice,
in the Lord let us rejoice,
in the Lord let us rejoice!

The Word of God is Flesh and grace who comes to sing, to laugh and cry.
So dare to be as Jesus was, who came to live and love and die.

In the Lord let us rejoice,
in the Lord let us rejoice,
in the Lord let us rejoice!

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: *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth* **ELW 538**

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem February 1, 2026
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

2/1—Karen Feahr

2/8—John Stretlien

Worship Servants for February 1

Preaching & Presiding—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Doug Cunningham

Lector—Kathi Ivany

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Judi Block in Memory of her father John Sima*

Hospitality: Phil Anderson / Susie Burton

A/V—Dale Wentzloff / Barbara Oster

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—Kathi Ivany

Bell Ringer—Gail Goldsmith

Front Door Monitor—Pat & Frank Wall

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Counters: Kate Holtfreter / Mike McCarty

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.

Let's sing! Join us **this afternoon**, at 3 p.m. here at Bethlehem 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!

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.

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.

Join us on Friday, February 13th for another XYZ Potluck & Presentation! After our delicious potluck at noon, we will enjoy a presentation by Tom Fordyce, a local Leelanau expert in rocks and stones. He will be bringing some of his personal collection to show and tell. He also invites you to bring a rock to identify! You can read a great 2007 article about Tom from the Glen Arbor Sun in your weekly BLC email. We hope you can join us for a wonderful afternoon - open to adults of all ages!

NEW MEMBERS: The new member meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 15th immediately after church. If you are interested in membership, please contact the office or membership co-chair Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net

Giving Statements Available Your individual giving statements are available in your mailbox in the Narthex. 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

Food Pantry: After 3 years of managing the food pantry, I have made the decision to step away from this project. With the help and support of many, the food pantry project has been strengthened and supported by the congregation. It is my belief that this support will continue and the food pantry will continue to be supported and to serve our community in the future. Please continue to donate to support the food pantry going forward as our community continues to rely on it on a regular basis. You can support the pantry with monetary donations and food staples. Blessings, Kathie Bair

Outdoor food pantry update from Linda Hansen: Our congregation provides food for two different missions: The Baby Pantry and the Outdoor Food Pantry. The needs are very different. This is the focus for the Outdoor Food Pantry: Food or toiletries in individual or small packaging. We have found the needs to be serving sizes of items that are portable. Some examples are:

tuna fish or chicken pouches (not tuna or chicken salad),
protein bars
granola bars,
trail mix
crackers or crackers with peanut butter or cheese filling
plastic fruit or vegetable cups

ramen, rice or potatoes in the individual serving cups or foil packets
oatmeal packets
small containers of peanut butter
jerky/meat sticks
dried soup mixes
dried fruits
Toiletries/other:
toothbrushes

toothpaste
feminine products
small first aid kits,
toilet paper
wet wipes
glasses wipes
hand/toe warmers
NO CANS or GLASS containers in the winter months.
No expired food.

BOOK CLUB: We are returning to the home of Betsy Morley, but on a different day this month. We will meet Monday Feb 16 at 5:30 to discuss “*How to Read a Book*” by Monica Wood. It is an excellent book involving grief, second chances and forgiveness. Please contact Betsy at betsymorley@charter.net if you are NOT on the mailing list and would like to attend.”

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 the book of James in the Bible using the study book *James: Walking in Wisdom* by Lydia Brownback. Please note: we will not meet on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. 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

Social Ministry/Outreach update:

Monthly outreach meal: We have a confirmed interested group of 10 volunteers to prepare a community meal the 4th Sunday of the month at Grace Episcopal. We would like to have 6 more volunteers so each volunteer is only needed about 6 times per year. Please prayerfully consider this service which we will begin offering in April. Even if you can only come once or twice in a year, your help will be appreciated.

Freedom Builders: Orientation meeting is July 21 at 6pm and work days July 22-25 7:30am ‘til done meeting at their new warehouse at 571 West Commerce Drive

Habitat for Humanity build: It helps to plan ahead... could you assist with a build project in Florida in late October or early November? Or perhaps a different build project? Dates are not certain at this time, but you could set aside some time and money.

REMEMBER: If questions, concerns, or ideas contact Cindy Monroe or Jim Hutchison. Next meeting for the full group will be on a Sunday in March after the service.

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. Please note that Phil will work these days until next summer

Alanna Steffunick-Boomer/Ministry Coordinator 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.

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, February 1

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

Monday, February 2

2:30pm—Choir (S)
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)
3:30pm—Grief Group (CR)

Tuesday, February 3

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
10:45am—Staff Meeting (CR)

Wednesday, February 4

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

Thursday, February 5

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, February 6

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

Saturday, February 7

8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, February 8

9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
9:15am—Sunday School
10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)
11:15am—Souper Sunday (FH)

