

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 10



Prelude Music

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

P: Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479

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



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: O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

14a Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 36 "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."
37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." 40 And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 I love the Lord, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

2 for the Lord has given ear to me whenever I called.

3 The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

4 Then I called upon the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

12 How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things God has done for me?

13 I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

14 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people.

15 Precious in your sight, O Lord, is the death of your servants.

16 O Lord, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

17 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord.

18 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people,

19 in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

S205a

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

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

13 Now on that same day two disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" 19 He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." 25 Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. 28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Thine Is the Glory

ELW 376

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:

Come to the Table

ELW 481

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, 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:

*Come, Let Us Eat
Bread of Life from Heaven*

ELW 491

ELW 474

Final Blessing

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

ELW 535

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem April 19, 2026
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4/20—Parker John Busekist
4/21—Sage Hill

4/22—Sharon Stowe
4/23—Linda Williams

4/25—Sandy Parkinson
4/26—Roy DuMond

Worship Servants for April 19

Preaching & Presiding—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Cindy Monroe

Lector—Peg Pepler

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Kathie & Mark Bair in Celebration of Mark's 70th birthday on April 4th*

Hospitality—Jim & Dorene Boyd

A/V—Jim Monroe / Jim Hinds

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Dave Susalski

Front Door Monitor: Kathie & Mark Bair

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Kate Holtfreter / Cindy Cuba

Join Your Creation Care Team on our next hike. We are scheduled for TODAY at 12 Noon at Timber Ridge Campground. Plan to pack a picnic as weather permits. They have a pavilion on site. God's creation is plentiful.

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.

New Life will have their meeting on Monday, April 20th from 6:00-7:30 in the Gathering Space.

Here is an invitation for our Creation Care team, men's group and congregation. On April 22 (Earth Day) from 4p-8p the Community Garden is hosting its first 'Worker Bee'. Our task list consists of cleaning up the garden, planting clover, building 2 herb beds and possibly a stone ring. Bethlehem has two beds and we will be planting green beans and yellow squash in them, when the time comes. As we know, many hands make light of God's work. The Community Garden is utilized to fulfill Community Meals. We are grateful to be a part of this ministry. Kathie Bair and Tina Dohm attended their first garden meeting last night. Kathie also has a bed that will have cauliflower in it.

Where 2 or more are gathered in my name. (Matt 18:20) In our world today there are a lot of things that we need prayer for. Starting on April 28th and every 4th Tues. after starting at 11:00, we will be offering a time and place in church to pray. Please join us. If any questions, please contact Peggy Burns at 231-392-6913 or cobaltblues2003@yahoo.com

Board games, card games, Wii games, and food! Join us for a fun night on Friday, May 1st at 6pm! (Please note that this is a new date!) We'll have the big TV screen set up for Wii games, board and card games galore, and hotdogs to keep us all fed and happy. It'll be a fun time, so mark it on your calendar and plan to be there! Bring a friend and be ready to play!

BLC will have 3 vacancies this year on Church Council. If you have thought about being involved with our church and are interested in being on council, please talk to Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer or Tina Dohm. We will be happy to explain the position and the process to you. You will be a great asset to Bethlehem.

A NOISY OFFERING: We have not had one for years. Our synod is requesting that all participating congregations make an offering of coins to bring to the synod assembly May 15-16. From April 12 thru May 10 we will be collecting coins which will be divided between Lutheran Disaster Response Ukraine and Samaritas-New Americans. So search those pockets, purses, cushions etc. and bring in any coins you can spare. (Bills and checks also accepted even though they don't jingle-jangle). Any questions can be directed to BLC's voting delegates, Peggy Burns, Jim Monroe, and Cindy Monroe.

Mac 'n Cheese Cook-Off: Raise Funds for Youth! Get ready to get your competition on! We're changing it up from our traditional chili cook-off fundraiser this year and trying something new with a mac 'n cheese cook-off, all to raise funds for our youth program! If you have a delicious mac 'n' cheese recipe that you want to enter in the competition, let Alanna Steffunick-Boomer know and she'll add you to the list! And of course, even if you don't want to enter, plan to be here on **Sunday, May 3rd after worship** with your tasting spoon ready - we'll need people to vote for their favorites so we can crown our winners!

Creation Care Team update: our next Creation Care core team meeting will be Monday, May 4th at 6pm in the Youth Room. Subcommittee members may be meeting before as needed. Contact Paul Wiemerslage, Tina Dohm or Pastor Paul for any updates.

Verse O.N.T.A.P.: Do you like the Beatles, Pat Benatar, Bob Marley, Elvis (and other artists from the last few decades)? Turns out that scripture has some things to say about love, relationship, and some connections to these rockers' lyrics! Check out Verse O.N.T.A.P. on Sunday, May 17th 5:30pm-7:00pm at The Workshop 221 Garland St.

Let's Celebrate! Bethlehem paid off the mortgage to the church in November, so let's celebrate. Our Congregational meeting will be on June 14th, so after the meeting we will have a party and burn the old mortgage (copy). We can use a few people to be on the planning committee. Please sign up in the Narthex if you would like to help out.

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 a new book, *Mary's Memoirs The Hidden Years*. See Pr. Paul or Barbara if you have any questions.

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. Or see the separate announcement about the fundraiser at Culver's this month.

REMEMBER: If questions, concerns, or ideas contact Cindy Monroe or Jim Hutchison.

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:

4/22, 4/29 – The Pub TC, Traverse City 7:00pm

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),	ramen, rice or potatoes in the individual serving cups or foil packets	toothpaste
protein bars	oatmeal packets	feminine products
granola bars,	small containers of peanut butter	small first aid kits,
trail mix	jerky/meat sticks	toilet paper
crackers or crackers with peanut butter or cheese filling	dried soup mixes	wet wipes
plastic fruit or vegetable cups	dried fruits	glasses wipes
	Toiletries/other:	hand/toe warmers
	toothbrushes	NO CANS or GLASS containers in the winter months.
		No expired food.

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

Chair Yoga meets at 3:00pm on Mondays only. It is \$5 per class. The class will not meet on April 20.

Coffee and Cookies: Our wonderful volunteers Mary Ann Tanis and Diane Cunningham have indicated a willingness to continue offering this after the Sunday service as long as there are volunteers who bring the goodies and help with clean-up after. Our thanks to these two women for their wonderful display of the goodies and the clean-up after. Thanks to all of you who have shared goodies, and please feel free to continue to do so.

A big thank you to all who have turned in Olesons' slips. On March 8, 2026, we received a check from Olesons for \$294.24. In 2025, we received a total of \$1031.80 from people turning in their Olesons receipts. We will see how well we do this year! Thank you so much to everyone who turned in their Olesons receipts. Also, the area for the Oleson receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the last names beginning A-C). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside. Unfortunately, we are no longer collecting the receipts from Family Fair or any other grocery store. We just collect for Olesons

Volunteers for Watching the Front Door During Worship: The Safety and Security Committee has the new sign up sheets available. We need volunteers who can be available to stay in the Gathering Space to lock the doors and let in late comers for Sundays. We appreciate all of the volunteers. If you have any questions, the committee members are Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer, Jana Rockne, and Dave Pepler.

The April issue of the STAR is available. If you receive the weekly email, your April issue was emailed on April 1st. The shut-ins will receive an issue by mail. There will also be a few copies available on the counter by the mailboxes. You may also contact the office at 947-9880 to request that mail delivery continues. 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>.

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 the summer months
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.

Yarn Available: There is yarn available free for the taking located in the cabinets located under the mailboxes in the Narthex. Take what you need.

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 or admin@bethlehemtc.org

Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years. 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 in plastic bags by the garage.** These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

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 \$45 (This is a new amount.) The check should be 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.

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

Harper Wiemerslage,	John Stretlien,	Sharon,
Jerry Hill,	Judy Fenton,	Kyle,
John Block,	Cindy Hitesman,	Christine,
Roy DuMond,	Richard Fernholz,	Janet,
Mary Woodring,	Julie Lapeer,	Cheryl
Norm Fred,	Lee,	Pat,
Lynn,	Chris,	Jan Schmidt,
Steve,	Cheryl,	Pat Burton,
Sherry,	Leroy,	Gretchen
Bob,	Julie Barrett,	Shelley Miller
Ron Hellenga,	Patti,	

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 on the calendar.

Sunday, April 19

9:15am—First Communion (Library)
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
9:15am—Sunday School
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
12:00pm—Hike at Timber Ridge

Monday, April 20

10:00am—Sustaining Endowment
2:30pm—Choir (S)
3:30pm—Grief Group (GS)
3:30pm—Bell Ensemble (S)
6:00pm—New Life Meeting (GS)

Tuesday, April 21

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
6:30pm—Council Meeting (Library)

Wednesday, April 22

11:30am—Music Rehearsal
1:30pm—Zoom Book & Bible Study (Zoom & YR)
4:00pm—Community Garden "Worker Bee" (Offsite)

Thursday, April 23

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, April 24

STAR Articles due today

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

Saturday, April 25

11:00am—AAUW (FH)
1:30pm—Youth Discipleship Class (J & S Hamburg)
8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, April 26

9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
9:15am—Sunday School
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
12:00pm—WELCA (FH)

