

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 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:

*Have No Fear, Little Flock*

ELW 764

## 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 our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Children's Message

Peggy Burns, S.A.M.

## First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

42 The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation:

### Alleluia

p. 205



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: John 10:1-10

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

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

Jesus said: 1 “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7 So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## Sermon

*Peggy Burns, S.A.M.*

## Song of the Day:

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

*ELW 392*

## 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:

*David Husser*

### 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:**

**Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us  
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart**

**ELW 789  
ELW 484**

## **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:**

## **Good Lord**

When I look back, I can see that  
It's You who met my needs, every time  
Every moment, You were holding  
Even smallest details of my life  
I can testify

### **Pre-chorus**

Oh, You never let me down  
So I know You won't stop now

### **Chorus**

I may not know what tomorrow holds  
But I know one thing for sure  
Good Lord, I got the good Lord  
Every day, every step of the way  
It's You who opened the door  
Good Lord, I got the good Lord  
Good Lord, I got the good Lord

### **Verse**

It's still amazing, how You saved me  
How You took a million wrongs  
And made them right  
And it's crazy how you raised me  
From six feet under shame, back to life  
I got to testify

### **Chorus**

I may not know what tomorrow holds  
But I know one thing for sure  
Good Lord, I got the good Lord  
Every day, every step of the way  
It's You who opened the door  
Good Lord, I got the good Lord  
Good Lord, I got the good Lord

### **Bridge**

God is good, all the time, all the time, God is good  
God is good, all the time, all the time, God is good *(continued on next page)*

God is good, all the time, all the time, God is good  
God is good, all the time, all the time, God is good

### Chorus

I may not know what tomorrow holds  
But I know one thing for sure  
Good Lord, I got the good Lord  
Every day, every step of the way  
It's You who opened the door  
Good Lord, I got the good Lord  
Good Lord, I got the good Lord

Good Lord, I got the good Lord

### Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.



**Bethlehem** April 26, 2026  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880  
[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4/26—Roy DuMond  
4/30—Carolyn Burns

4/30—Jeanne Bowling  
5/1—Carolyn Mann

5/2—Lincoln Dohm  
5/3—Christine Hubert

### Worship Servants for April 26

Presiding—Pr. Paul Busekist

Preaching—Peggy Burns S.A.M.

Assisting Minister—Doug Cunningham

Lector—Pam Reid

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By the Congregation in thanks for all of God's blessings.*

Hospitality—Susie Burton

A/V—Jim Monroe / Barbara Oster

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Gail Goldsmith

Front Door Monitor: Craig & Maureen Bauer

Altar Guild—Mary Ann Tanis / Gail Goldsmith

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Kate Holtfreter / Cindy Cuba

**SPRING FLING: TODAY at Noon.** Salad Potluck lunch: Caesar salad and rolls will be provided. You may bring another type of salad to share: i.e. tuna, chicken, macaroni, etc. **THEME:** "Pampered: Inner & Outer Beauty". Speaker is from the GT Beauty Academy who will focus on skin, hair and nail care and she will provide us with a couple of surprises. Join us for a fun day of pampering!

**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! 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!

**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.

**NOISY OFFERING** continues this week. We thank you for your generous giving of \$264.95 We are well on our goal of \$500! We will be collecting through May 10. This year the Synod has chosen to donate the money collected toward Lutheran World Response-Ukraine and Samaritas- New Americans. The money will be taken to Synod Assembly on May 15-16. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns, Jim Monroe or Cindy Monroe, BLC voting delegates.

**Going to the Theatre:** One of BLC's own Kathi Ivany-Mort and her husband Jef will be performing in a reader's theatre **COSMO ST. CHARLES IS DEAD AND SOMEONE IN THIS ROOM KILLED HIM** May 8-May10. Tickets cost \$10.00. Cindy Monroe has a block of tickets for Sat May 9 at 2:00. Contact her if you want one of those tickets, or contact the Old Town Playhouse if you want a ticket for a different day.

**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).

**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.

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

**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:

4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20 – The Pub TC, Traverse City 7:00pm

**Chair Yoga** will continue meeting at 3:00pm on Mondays only. It is \$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.

**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.

**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.

**Prayer Requests:**

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at [jstretlien@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org)

**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.

**The May issue of the STAR will be available next Sunday.** If you receive the weekly email, your May issue will be emailed on May 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](http://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>.

**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

**Today's Prayer Recipients: Please send any changes or additions by email to [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org)**

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

Judy Fenton,  
Cindy Hitesman,  
Richard Fernholz,  
Julie Lapeer,  
Lee,  
Chris,  
Cheryl,  
Julie Barrett,  
Patti,  
Sharon,  
Kyle,

Christine,  
Janet,  
Cheryl  
Pat,  
Jan Schmidt,  
Pat Burton,  
Gretchen  
Shelley Miller  
Pr. Zack Nelson

**The church calendar is below. Please be sure to notify the office ([admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is on the calendar.**

**Sunday, April 26**

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

**Monday, April 27**

2:30pm—Choir (S)  
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)  
3:30pm—Bell Ensemble (S)

**Tuesday, April 28**

**Bulletin articles due today**

9:00am—Property Work Group  
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)  
11:00am—Prayer in the Sanctuary  
12:30pm—Constitution/By-Laws (CR)

**Wednesday, April 29**

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

**Thursday, April 30**

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

**Friday, May 1**

10:00am—Sew Pieceful (FH)  
6:00pm—Game Night (FH)  
6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

**Saturday, May 2**

8:00pm—AA (FH)

**Sunday, May 3**

9:15am—First Communion (Library)  
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)  
9:15am—Sunday School  
10:00am—Worship Service (S)  
11:15am—Mac'n Cheese Cook-Off (FH)

