

Ascension of Our Lord
May 17, 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:

God Is Here

ELW 526

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

5203

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: Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

Luke writes: 1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach 2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 47

1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.

2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,

3 who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;

4 who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.

5 God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn.

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.

7 For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.

8 God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.

9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

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 24:44-53

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

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

44 Jesus said to the eleven and those with them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

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:

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:

***Lamb of God
One Bread, One Body***

ELW 336

ELW 496

Special Announcement / 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:

Bind Us Together

WOV 748

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

There is only one God. There is only one King. There is only one Body; that is why we can sing:

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

You are the family of God. You are the promise divine. You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

Dismissal followed by Fire Drill

A: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem May 17, 2026
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5/17—Sally Erickson
5/17—Barbara Oster
5/18—Jim Achard
5/19—Jennifer Gaston

5/20—Brandon Bugai
5/20—Brandon Williams
5/23—Ally Leatherman

5/23—Courtney Leatherman Young
5/24—Cindy Hitesman
5/24—Tom Rockne

Worship Servants for May 17

Presiding & Presiding—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Sherri Helman

Lector—Mary Ann Tanis

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Barbara Oster in Celebration of her great-nephews: Nelson, Luke and Jon and great-niece Annie*

Hospitality—Phil Anderson / Susie Burton

A/V—Barbara Oster / Jim Hinds

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Gail Goldsmith

Front Door Monitor: Craig & Maureen Bauer

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Bonnie Gamble / Jane Passmore

Wear Red next Sunday, May 24th for Pentecost

Emergency Information and Drill During today's Worship the Safety and Security Committee will be discussing tornado/bad weather preparations, along with active shooter information. At the end of the service we will be having a fire drill where we will meet out at the garage. Reminder to not take your belongings and we will exit through the east side of the sanctuary. For those who can not walk far, we will just ask you to exit the building and come back in. The committee will be wearing their fire hats and directing you where to go. You can return to gather your belongings and have fellowship in the Gathering Space. It is so important to know what to do in an emergency. Thank you for participating with us.

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. later today from 5:30pm-7:00pm at The Workshop 221 Garland St.

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

Third Thursday Service on May 21st will be Taize 1. The meal of Sloppy joes, pulled chicken, baked macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, potato salad, assorted chips and assorted desserts will start at 5:45pm. The service begins at 7:00pm. We hope to see you there.

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. Every 4th Tues. starting at 11:00, we will be offering a time and place in church to pray. Please join us. The next date is May 26th. If any questions, please contact Peggy Burns at 231-392-6913 or cobaltblues2003@yahoo.com

BOOK CLUB: We will meet at The Cottage on Wed May 27 at 5:30 to discuss *HORSE* by Geraldine Brooks. If you are not on the email list please contact cmonroe@chartermi.net if you want to attend so there are enough places set for us at the restaurant. The book club will NOT be meeting during the summer.

NEW MEMBERS: Three new members will be accepted on May 31: Kathy Blume (sponsored by Barbara Oster) and Marilyn and Mark Farnwall (sponsored by Laura and Dan Hahn). If you are interested in membership, please contact the office or membership co-chairs Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or John Halstead at marilynjohnhc@hotmail.com

BLC T-shirts/Cherry Festival Once again this year we are volunteering for The National Cherry Festival. All shifts will be day shifts during the week. We will need 15-20 volunteers, the Cherry Festival pays us and the money goes to Pastor's sabbatical fund. As soon as the Volunteer Coordinator gives me exact times and dates I will have a sign up sheet in the narthex. In anticipation of our future volunteer projects, we want our volunteers to have BLC T-shirts. Price of the shirts will be based on how many we order. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex, deadline to order is May 31st. Please note: we plan to find v-neck and crew neck models this time.

The Social Ministry/Food Pantry Committee is planning a food drive for Sunday, May 31st. Our community seems to be in great need right now, and any food items or monetary donations would be appreciated. Items needed specifically for the outdoor food pantry include single serving items that are more portable as this is typically our unhoused population without the means to actually cook. It is easiest to have cans that have a pull top.

Tuna packet

Peanut butter

Granola bars

Nut bars

Peanut butter crackers

Cheese crackers

Ramen

Noodle cups

Oatmeal packets

Crackers

Vegetable cups

Fruit cups

Jerky

personal products (toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine products)

The baby pantry food needs are more diverse with larger servings and ability to cook. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

Flower Deliveries: If you are interested in delivering flowers and visiting to our shut-ins. We are looking for volunteers. It would involve doing this once a month or six weeks, depending on the number of volunteers. Please contact Lindsay Susalski @ 231.534.0020 or Peggy Burns @ 231.392.6913

New Life Together We are looking for some folks to be at the volunteer table to welcome visitors to our church-just to say hello and we are glad that are here. Please see Peggy Burns 231-392-6933.

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).

NOISY OFFERING We reached our goal. Thank You! We thank you for your generous giving of \$684.61. We met our goal of \$500! This year the Synod has chosen to donate the money collected toward Lutheran World Response-Ukraine and Samaritas- New Americans. The money was 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.

Thank you Sustaining Endowment Committee: Thanks to funds approved by this committee we are starting a gradual changeover of our round tables in the fellowship hall. You may have noticed that many of our current tables have chips on the side edges which can scrape you or snag your clothing. Also, those tables are very HEAVY!! We will have 10 new tables before the end of April and a dolly which can move 8 tables at a time and which has a softer bottom on which the tables can rest. If you know anyone who wants a 6 ft folding diameter table, please check with the property team about availability and appropriate donation. (A nice tablecloth will cover the worn spots.)

Good Samaritan Fund During the last Good Samaritan Fund drive in August 2025, \$11,453.00 was collected from our generous congregation. Since January 2026, \$0.00 has been collected and \$1,735.92 has been given to those in need by Pastor Paul. Donations include partial rent payments, food cards, auto repair, gas cards, and energy costs. This leaves a fund balance of \$5,399.71. It is predicted that by summer, much of the money in the fund will be depleted. Because of that, we will have a new Good Samaritan fund drive this coming August. If anyone has a “creative” idea for our next drive, please contact Maureen Bauer or Jana Rockne.

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 Ecclesiastes. See Pr. Paul or Barbara if you have any questions.

Teddy Bear Ministry Do you know that we have a Teddy Bear ministry? Teddy bears are given to folks, including children who are feeling lonely, who have an illness, having surgery, are homebound, or are in an assisted living place. Really anyone who needs to feel the comfort only a Teddy Bear can give. We would love to give one to any and all when in need of extra love. Please let Jan or Peggy know and we will make sure you are given one. Please contact Jan Stretlien 231-947-3265 or Peggy Burns 231-392-6913 with any questions.

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:

Wed 5/20, 5/27 – The Pub TC, Traverse City 7:00pm; **Fri 5/22 & Sat 5/23** –Grand Traverse Resort, Acme 7:00pm;
Mon 5/25—Memorial Day French Valley Vineyard, Cedar 7:00pm

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

SAVE YOUR PAPER SACKS: Please check the nooks and crannies of your home for paper sacks. The Baby Pantry fills requests from preschool teachers for their students whose parents cannot make it to the pantry. Paper sacks are the perfect size to place the needed items for each child. Just place your bags on the Care table in the coat room. Thank you!!

BELATED THANK YOU: A delayed note of appreciation to those in the bell choir who worked hours in order to present joyful music during communion on Easter Sunday: Crystel Fernholz, Laura Hahn, Kate Holtfreter, Carl Lehto, Jim Monroe, Jan Mudgett, Sheila Mosley, Brad Schuler, Scott Sorenson, Lindsay Susalski Director: Cindy Monroe Videographer: Jim Muratzki.

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 Olesons’ 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**

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 **Thursday**. **Please note that beginning May 20th, Phil will work these days during 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 or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880 or admin@bethlehemtc.org

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

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|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 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, | Pat Burton, |
| Steve, | Cheryl, | Gretchen |
| Sherry, | Julie Barrett, | Shelley Miller |
| Bob, | Patti, | Pr. Zack Nelson |
| | | Colleen |

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, May 17

9:00am—First Communion (Library)
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
9:15am—Sunday School
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
12:30pm—Youth Discipleship Class (YR)
5:30pm—Verse O.N.T.A.P.

Monday, May 18

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

Tuesday, May 19

Bulletin articles due today

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

Wednesday, May 20

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

Thursday, May 21

5:30pm—ACA (FH)
5:45pm—Third Thursday Meal (FH)
7:00pm—Third Thursday/Taize 1 (S)

Friday, May 22

STAR Articles Due

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

Saturday, May 23

8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, May 24

PENTECOST SUNDAY

9:00am—First Communion (Library)
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
9:15am—Sunday School
10:00am—Worship Service/First Communion Graduation (S)
1:00pm—Community Meal at Grace Episcopal