

# The Holy Trinity

May 31, 2026 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



## Prelude Music

To God Be the Glory

BLC Choir

## Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Compassionate God,

C: ... we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

*Come, All You People*

ELW 819

## 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: Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## First Reading: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

*At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.*

1 When God began to create the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. 6 And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” 7 So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. 8 God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. 9 And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. 10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. 14 And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. 16 God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. 17 God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, 18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. 20 And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” 21 So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” 23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. 24 And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. 25 God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. 26 Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” 27 So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” 29 God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. 31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. 2 On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. 4a These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

L: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

## Psalm: Psalm 8

1 O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

**2 you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,  
**4 what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?**

5 Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

**6 You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:**

7 all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

**8 the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

9 O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## 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 28:16-20

*After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

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

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

*Pastor Paul Busekist*

**Song of the Day:**

**Come, Join the Dance of Trinity**

**ELW 412**

## Reception of New Members

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for our new friends in Christ, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life of this congregation:

***A representative of the congregation introduces the new members:***

We welcome Kathy Blume and Mark & Marilyn Fornwall to the family, mission & ministry of Christ at Bethlehem.

### **Address and Questions to New Members**

P: In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

P: Kathy, Mark & Marilyn, our brothers and sisters in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

*Those being welcomed respond: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

P: *(The minister addresses the assembly)* People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

**C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*Those being welcomed face the assembly. The pastor addresses all.*

P: Let us welcome Kathy, Mark & Marilyn to this community of faith:

**C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

## 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*



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: **Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. 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:

***We Come to the Hungry Feast  
I Received the Living God***

**ELW 479**

**ELW 477**

## Final Blessing

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

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  
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)*

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: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: **Thanks be to God.**



**Bethlehem** May 31, 2026  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5/31—Lois Gray

6/1—Kevin Kurkowski

6/1—Don Sheehan

6/3—Christian Stretlien

6/4—Stewart Nunnolley

6/4—Leonard Graf

6/5—Marilyn Dork

6/7—Megan Acker

### **Worship Servants for May 31**

Presiding & Presiding—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Cindy Monroe

Lector—Kathi Ivany

Musicians: Dorothy Vogel, Zeke Clemons; Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr Paul

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

Hospitality—Phil Anderson / Susie Burton

A/V—Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Dave Susalski

Front Door Monitor: Gail Goldsmith

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Bonnie Gamble / Jane Passmore

**NEW MEMBERS:** Three new members will be accepted today: Kathy Blume (sponsored by Barbara Oster) and Marilyn and Mark Fornwall (sponsored by Laura and Dan Hahn).

**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, the deadline to order is today. Please note: we plan to find v-neck and crew neck models this time.

**The Social Ministry/Food Pantry Committee's food drive is today.** 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 un housed population without the means to actually cook. It is easiest to have cans that have a pull top. The baby pantry food needs are more diverse with larger servings and ability to cook. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

**ALL MEN OF BETHLEHEM!** You are invited to join us for a chance to become a kid again! The Women of Bethlehem are hosting a fun afternoon for you on June 7th beginning at noon. "Take me out to the ball game!" Fun! Food! Fellowship! Games! Prizes! We invite you to wear apparel highlighting your favorite team! **Sign up by the poster in the Narthex by today.** And bring a friend!

**Grief Group** meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 3:30-4:30 in the gathering space. They will not meet tomorrow, June 1st – the next meeting will be June 15th. Any questions contact Peggy Burns 232-392-6913.

**Creation Care:** Join us tomorrow, June 1<sup>st</sup>, at 9:00am for planting day at the Community Garden. It is across Garfield at Faith Reformed Church. Any questions, see Tina Dohm.

**Hammer'd Music CD's Available!** If you attended XYZ on May 8th and enjoyed the beautiful music provided by the band Hammer'd, there is an opportunity for you to take some of that music home with you! Hammer'd put together a CD of some of their music several years ago, and have given several to BLC. If you would like one, Hammer'd asks that instead of paying them for the CD, you make a donation to BLC's Good Samaritan Fund to support community members in need. If you would like to make a donation and receive one of these CD's, please reach out to Alanna Steffunick-Boomer!

**Looking for people to give rides to some members of our congregation on Sunday mornings.** Please see Peggy Burns for more information or questions 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).

**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 June 23rd. If any questions, please contact Peggy Burns at 231-392-6913 or cobaltblues2003@yahoo.com

**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 there is anyone has a "creative" idea for our next drive, please contact Maureen Bauer or Jana Rockne.

**Sunday School** holds class at 9:15am on Sunday throughout the summer.

**Chair Yoga** meets at 3:00pm on Mondays only. It is \$5 per class.

### **Five fun facts from Synod Assembly:**

1. Our national presiding Bishop Curry selected our assembly to attend and gave a wonderful talk and answered questions. When Bishop Curry was a congregational pastor he did a youth swap with a church in Connecticut, and our members Kathy and Mark McPherson had the pleasure of working with him.
2. There were 73 registered clergy and 147 lay members attending the assembly.
3. The resolution to encourage Mitten Synod Members to increase their care of creation passed and any BLC members who signed had their names included in the official assembly program.
4. The synod exceeded their \$10,000 offering goal with \$10,427 (BLC contributed \$637.11)
5. All future assemblies will be held at churches to be more cost effective. Plan now for May 14/15 2027 in Midland.

**New Adventure to the north sponsored by Membership Committee:** The membership committee tries to make certain that there is contact with as many members as possible. What about when some of those members live in the U.P.? Those who are interested can go on an adventure! Mark and Kathy McPherson live in Cedarville and now have retirement jobs as local tour guides for some Great Lakes ships. They have graciously offered any BLC members a free tour of Sault Ste Marie. Yes, it will be a long day, but except for the drivers you can sleep in the car! **The date of the tour had to be rescheduled from Sat May 30 to sometime in the fall.** More info will be in the gathering space for you to indicate preferred dates and activities. Contact Cindy or Jim Monroe if 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 6/3, 6/10, 6/17, 6/24** – The Pub TC, Traverse City 7:00pm; **Fri 6/5**—The Dam Shop, Elk Rapids, 6:00pm  
**Sat 6/6, Fri 6/26**—Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, 7:00pm

**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!!

**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 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 works 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)

**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,  
Pat Burton,  
Gretchen  
Shelley Miller  
Pr. Zack Nelson  
Mike & Fredricka

**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, May 31**

9:15am—Adult Education (YR)  
9:15am—Sunday School  
10:00am—Worship Service/New Member Recognition (S)

**Monday, June 1**

9:00am—VBS Registration Opens  
9:00am—Planting Day at Community Garden (Offsite)  
3:00pm—Chair Yoga

**Tuesday, June 2**

**Bulletin articles due today**

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

**Wednesday, June 3**

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

**Thursday, June 4**

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

**Friday, June 5**

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

**Saturday, June 6**

8:00pm—AA (FH)

**Sunday, June 7**

9:15am—Sunday School  
10:00am—Worship Service (S)  
12:00pm—WELCA Men's Appreciation (FH)

