

US Semiquincentennial
July 5, 2026 – 10am
Modern Worship, WOV Setting 5



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Let us bring every burden to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of all mercy,

C: ... we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins through the grace of ☩ Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit's power strengthen you in doing what is good.

C: Amen.

Gathering 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

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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

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

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



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Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr. Paul

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

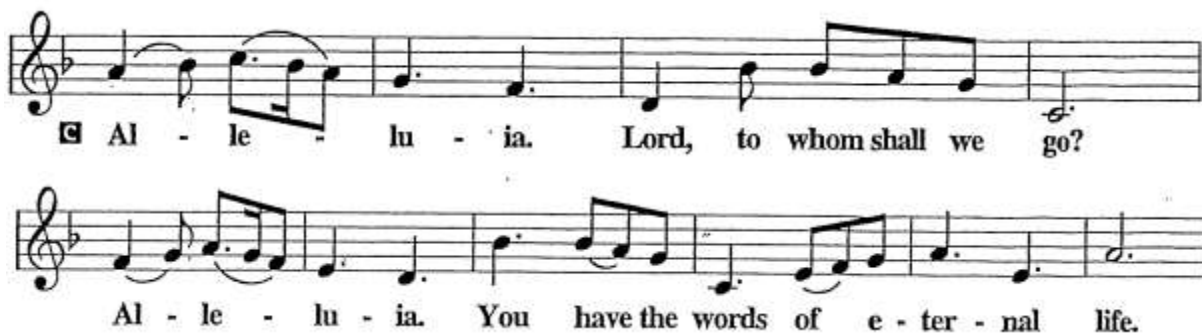
9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. 10 He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. 11 As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. 12 Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia



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Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

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

Jesus spoke to the crowd saying: 16 “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 17 ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ 18 “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; 19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” 25 At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; 26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

ELW 697

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 now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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:

Grains of Wheat (words below)
Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling

WOV 708
ELW 608

Grains of wheat, richly gilded by the sun, purple clusters, collected from the vine:
these are altered, becoming love's own bread and sweet wine, now for us Jesus' body and his blood.

We enjoy true communion in this meal, many grains God has planted and made thrive;
like the grain we are ground beneath life's sorrowful wheel, in the bread, like the grain, we come alive.

As the grains join to form one loaf of bread, as the notes come together in one song,
as the rain-drops unite into the single vast sea, so in Jesus' one body we belong.

We shall all sit together at the feast sharing bread as God's children, joined in one:
in this hope we rejoice as we go forward in peace, loving sisters and brothers of the Son.

Final Blessing

P: The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, ☩ one God, bless you and equip you for living
and serving, today and every day.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

America the Beautiful

ELW 888

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem July 5, 2026
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

7/5—Norm Fred
7/6—Julie Cole
7/7—Michelle Smith

7/8—Carl Lehto
7/8—Judy Block
7/9—Laura Okimi

7/11—Jane Passmore
7/12—Lindsey Mosley

Worship Servants for July 5

Presiding & Preaching—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister— Doug Cunningham

Lector—Nancy Ammann

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: By Jane Fred in
Celebration of Norm Fred's 87th birthday

By Jan & John Stretlein for God's Blessings for
62 years for a great marriage on June 20th, 1964

Hospitality: Dan & Laura Hahn

A/V—Jim Monroe / Paul Ton

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table— VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Dave Susalski

Front Door Monitor: Tom & Jana Rockne

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Mary Ann Tanis

Tech Support—Jim Hinds

Counters—Laura Hahn / Mike McCarty

Join us next Sunday for our Traditional Worship Service at 10:00am

Grief Group meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 3:30-4:30 in the gathering space. The next meeting will be tomorrow, July 6th. Any questions contact Peggy Burns 232-392-6913.

Chair Yoga meets at 3:00pm on Mondays only. It is \$5 per class. The class will not meet tomorrow, July 6th.

Bethlehem Shirt Orders: The final cost for the T-shirt is \$25.00. Lindsay is collecting money for the shirts. If you are paying with a check, please make it out to BLC.

New Cherry Festival shift: We were able to get another shift at the Cherry Festival. We have been assigned The Pepsi Tent on Monday, July 6th from 2 pm to 6 pm. If you can help out we would love to have you! Sign up sheet will be with Lindsay.

Women's Wine Down Wednesday! Ladies, join us for a chance to wind down mid-week and socialize at Women's Wine Down Wednesday! We will be meeting at Rove Winery (7007 E Traverse Hwy) at **5pm on July 15th**. Rove has a wide range of drinks including wine, ciders, mocktails, sodas, seasonal drinks, and non-alcoholic drinks, as well as a selection of small plates. If you have questions, reach out to Amy Haara at (708) 989-8124.

The Social Ministry/Outreach committee gained approval to have the 4th Sunday of every month dedicated to collecting items for the Food Pantry. **The next Sunday will be July 26th.** For future months, please see the display in the Narthex for items needed and take a flyer for your shopping trip. If everyone could just bring one thing, it would go a long way to fill the closet. Thank you for your support. Linda Hansen

SHOEBOXES NEEDED: We are in need of 30-ish shoeboxes for a craft during Vacation Bible School. Please place them in the box in the Narthex. Thank You! Christian Education Committee

VBS 2026: Knights & Castles is scheduled for July 27-29 (Mon-Wed), from 9am-1pm each day! VBS is open to kids ages 3-10 and registration is now open - the registration link is on the BLC website (bethlehemtc.org/vacation-bible-school), the BLC Facebook page, and the weekly email. VBS is only possible with the help of many wonderful volunteers (adults and kids age 10+), so please let us know if you would like to help! There are many different volunteer opportunities, including leading groups of kids, helping with activities, decorating and prep, snack preparation, loaning of household items for decorations, donating snacks, and so much more. All are very appreciated and essential to making VBS a success! If you would like to help in any way, please reach out to Alanna at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org

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. There will not be a prayer time in July as the usual date is during VBS. The next date is August 25th. If any questions, please contact Peggy Burns at 231-392-6913 or cobaltblues2003@yahoo.com

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

Sunday Adult Education: There will not be a formal class at 9:15am in the Youth Room, however, folks could come and discussion would take its own course whether that be checking in with one another or addressing the lessons for the day.

Friends of Peninsula Community Library: Join Us for a Reading of the Declaration of Independence Join us on the library's front porch on **Wednesday, July 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the Peninsula Community Library** as we participate in a synchronized reading taking place across Michigan. Lifelong community member Jane Boursaw will lead the reading and conclude the evening with a few patriotic songs. Cherry pie will be served following the program. This event is part of Sharing the Spirit of America and is supported by Michigan Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities

New member inserts: please check your mailbox! The current new member insert (except for those just accepted at the end of May) is now there for you to take home and put in your church directory.

Freedom Builders. Join the BLC work-crew volunteers July 22-24 to support the mission of providing housing repairs for persons facing difficult life challenges and who cannot afford to make critically needed repairs. Volunteer for one, two or three days. Both women and men with a variety of skill levels are welcome. Tools, all necessary supplies, snacks, water, and lunch will be provided. Sign up sheets and project details are in the Gathering Space. Contact Jim Hutchison or Carl Lehto for more information.

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, July 5

9:00am—Parking Lot Fundraiser
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)

Monday, July 6

2:00pm—Volunteers at Cherry Fest
3:30pm—Grief Group (GS)

Tuesday, July 7

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
10:45am—Staff Meeting (CR)
6:30pm—VBS Volunteer Meeting

Wednesday, July 8

11:30am—Music Rehearsal

Thursday, July 9

9:00am—Volunteers at Cherry Fest
5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, July 10

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)
6:30pm—TAPAS-a Social Event (Offsite)

Saturday, July 11

8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, July 12

Stony Lake Camp begins

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)
11:15am—Worship & Music Meeting (Library)

TAPAS (appetizers) – a Social Event. Please join us on Friday, July 10th at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Peggy and Tim Goebel, 7133 Wolverine View, Williamsburg. Bring an appetizer to share and join in the fun and fellowship. All are welcome.

Are you planning a furniture upgrade this

summer? Do you have one of the following that is a little worn but still usable? A person with limited income is moving to an unfurnished apartment at the end of July and has the following needs: a twin or full size bed, a dresser or chest or drawers, and a couch. If you have one, or see one at a reasonable price at a resale shop, yard sale or auction please contact Cindy Monroe 231 631 0887.

