

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026 – 10am

Modern Worship, WOV Setting 5



Prelude Music

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, Now is the Time to Worship**

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God. One day ev'ry knee will bow.
Still, the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose You now.

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives. Willingly our knees will bow.
With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength we gladly choose You now.

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

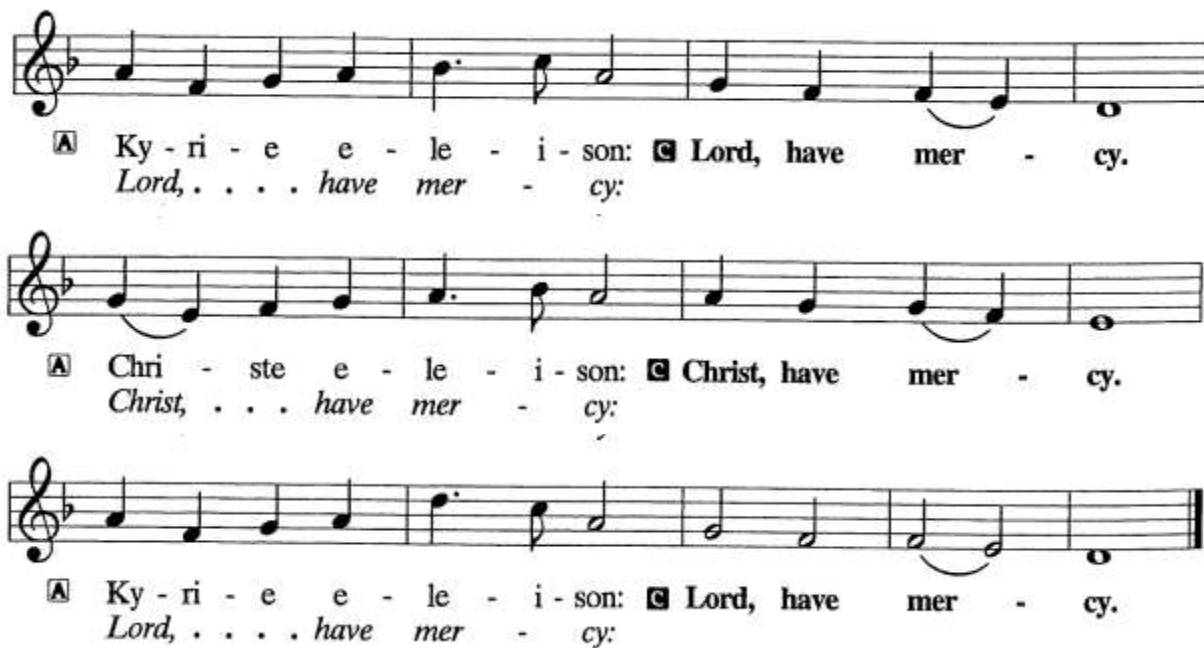
Come... Come... come.

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 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:

A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr. Paul

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.

6 Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no god. 7 Who is like me? Let them proclaim it; let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. 8 Do not fear or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

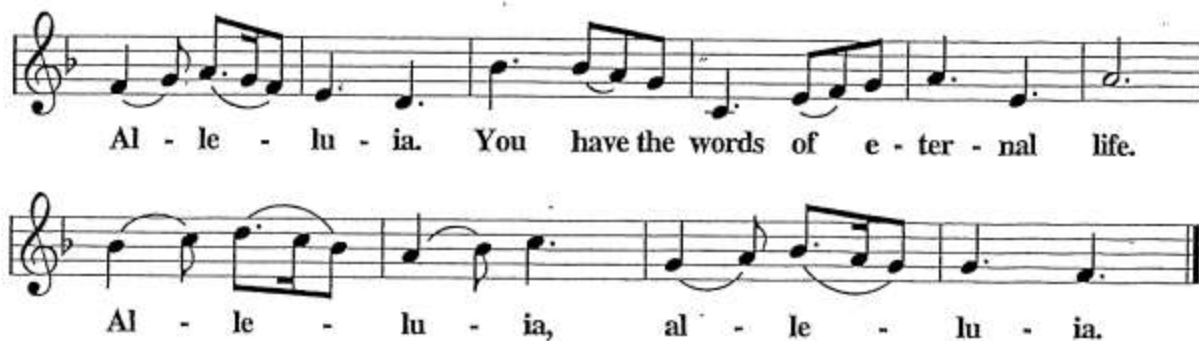
Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia



C Al - le lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

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Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

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

24 Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, 25 but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' 28 He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' 29 But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' " 36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." 37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; 38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, 42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

ELW 680

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.

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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:

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: 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:

***Let Us Break Bread Together
For the Fruit of All Creation***

ELW 471

ELW 679

Final Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

ELW 535

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem July 19, 2026
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

7/21—Sandra Schichtel

7/22—Stephen Kramer

7/23—Jim Hutchison

7/25—Betty Rutila

7/26—Jalen Provo

7/26—Sandy Merrifield

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

Worship Servants for July 19

Presiding & Preaching—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Cindy Monroe

Lector—Mary Ann Tanis

Musicians: David Husser, Phil & Denise Bossardet, Crystel Fernholz, Pr. Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: By Barbara Oster in memory of her mother, Lois Oster

Hospitality: Phil Anderson

A/V—Jim Monroe / Barbara Oster

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Dave Susalski

Front Door Monitor: Frank & Pat Wall

Altar Guild—Barbara Oster / Mary Ann Tanis / Kate Holtfreter

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Laura Okimi / Mike McCarty

BLC T-Shirts: If you ordered a t-shirt and have not picked your's up yet, you can find it in the Gathering Space. Look for your name. You may give your payment of \$25.00 to Lindsey Susalski. There are some extras so if you did not order one, look to see if your size is there.

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 20th. Any questions contact Peggy Burns 232-392-6913.

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 next Food Pantry collection is scheduled for Sunday, July 26th. The community needs seem to increase in the summer time. If everyone could bring one item, it would go a long way to help us fill the closet to stock the pantry for the month. Donations are accepted anytime during the month and can be placed on the table by the bulletin board in the narthex. We have received some nice notes from some grateful people who have used the pantry. Thank you for your support.

SHOEBOXES ARE NO LONGER NEEDED: The Christian Education Committee thanks all for always stepping up when needed. VBS has all that they need for the craft.

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

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 Maureen Bauer, Jana Rockne, Tim Goebel and Fred Reyelts

Thank you so much! I want to thank you all so much for the wonderful appreciation party and the Blessing from Pastor Paul. I enjoyed talking to everyone and what beautiful cakes and cupcakes. I love the daily devotional book and all of the special notes you wrote. I will think of you every morning as I read my devotion. My new address is 207 W. 1st Street, Apt 2E, Clare MI, 48617. My phone number will remain the same 231-633-2630. Please call or come visit if you are driving through Clare. You are all such a Blessing!
Gail Goldsmith

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.

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.

Social Ministry/Outreach update (REMEMBER: If general questions, concerns, or ideas contact Cindy Monroe or Jim Hutchison). Thanks to all of those who have been participating in any way with the Baby Pantry, Food Pantry, and the monthly meals at Grace the past few months. Your efforts are appreciated. Also, special thanks to those for their participation in the meals at Safe Harbor.

Book Club: Enjoy whatever you choose to read during the summer. New books will be available mid-August with a plan for the Sept meeting to be Wed Sept 23.

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

Fri 7/24— Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, 7:00pm

Thurs 7/30— Brady's Bar, Traverse City, 6:30pm

NEW MEMBERS: If you are interested in membership, please contact the office or membership co-chairs Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or John Halstead at marilynjohnstc@hotmail.com

Trinity Lutheran School will have its 4th Annual "Trinity Tourney" Golf at Elmbrook Golf Course on August 14, 2026. Shotgun start at 9:00am with contests and prizes. For more information or a copy of the brochure, see Barbara Oster in BLC's office.

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 June 18, 2026, we received a check from Olesons for \$211.15 for a total so far this year of \$505.39. 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 Phil works these days through 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.

Have something important going on at Bethlehem that you'd like others to know about? Maybe a Small Group? A Club Event? Feature it on the Screen Announcements, weekly emails and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included in any of these, please reach out to Alanna.Steffunick@bethlehemtc.org **Also, if you would like to have your announcement in the Sunday bulletin, the deadline is Tuesday.** Please email Barbara at admin@bethlehemtc.org. If you are not getting the weekly emails for any reason, please contact Alanna at her email above.

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.

Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font! Cost \$10.00 per rose. Contact Barbara Oster at beo6475@yahoo.com or 231.668.7038.

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.

Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations? It is located inside the coat room to the right. Your donations are very much appreciated.

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

Jim Hinds
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
Dolly
Jacque

Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at jstretlien@gmail.com or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call or email the Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880 or admin@bethlehemtc.org

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 19

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:15am—Craft Show Meeting (Library)
1:00pm—BLC at Pit Spitters

Monday, July 20

10:00am—Sustaining Endowment (CR)
11:00am—Finance Committee (CR)
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)
3:30pm—Grief Group (GS)

Tuesday, July 21

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
6:30pm—Council Meeting (FH)
6:30pm—Freedom Builders Orientation (Offsite)

Wednesday, July 22

Freedom Builders

11:30am—Music Rehearsal

Thursday, July 23

Freedom Builders

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, July 24

Freedom Builders

STAR articles due today
6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

Saturday, July 25

10:00am—VBS Decorating
8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, July 26

FOOD DRIVE SUNDAY

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:15am—Infrastructure Information Sharing (S)
1:00pm—Community Meal at Grace Episcopal

