

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 2026 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 10



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:

How Great Is Our God

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty; let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide, and trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.
How great is our God! Sing with me: how great is our God! And all will see how great, how great... is our God!

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands; Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead, three in one: Father, Spirit, Son, the Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.
How great is our God! Sing with me: how great is our God! And all will see how great, how great... is our God!

Name above all names, worthy of all praise. My heart will sing: how great is our God!
Name above all names, worthy of all praise. My heart will sing: how great is our God!
How great is our God! Sing with me: how great is our God! And all will see how great, how great... is our God!

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!



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: Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance.

Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr. Paul

First Reading:

Isaiah 55:1-5

God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.

1 Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. 3 Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. 4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. 5 Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

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.

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Gospel:

Matthew 14:13-21

After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.

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

13 Now when Jesus heard about the beheading of John the Baptist, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. 15 When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." 16 Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." 17 They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." 18 And he said, "Bring them here to me." 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

ELW 817

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:

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

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:

Come to the Water

Gather 202

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water. And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
Without money, without price. Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?

And let all who seek, let them come to the water. And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
Without money, without strife. Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water. And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord:
All who labor, without rest. How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water. Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:
Bring the children without might. Easy the load and light: come to the Lord.

The Table

I will feast at the table of the Lord. I will feast at the table of the Lord.
I won't hunger anymore At His table.

I will feast at the table of the Lord. I will feast at the table of the Lord.
I won't hunger anymore At His table.

Come all you weary, come and find His yoke is easy, His burden light.
He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord.

There is peace at the table of the Lord. There is peace at the table of the Lord.
I won't worry anymore At His table.

There is healing at the table of the Lord. There is healing at the table of the Lord.
Oh and I won't suffer anymore At His table.

Come all you weary, come and find His yoke is easy, His burden light.
He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord.

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I know he has a place for me. Oh, what joy will fill my heart
With the saints around the mercy seat of God.

Come all you weary, come and find His yoke is easy, His burden light.
He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord, at the table of the Lord

I'm invited to the table of the Lord. I'm invited to the table of the Lord.
He says come just as you are to His table.

Recognition of High School Graduate – Julia Acker

Final Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Sending Song: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

ELW 674

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem August 2, 2026
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

8/2—Pat Wall

8/4—Judy Strickland

8/6—Reid Glenn

Join us next Sunday, August 9th for our monthly Traditional service

Worship Servants for August 2

Presiding & Preaching—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Peggy Burns

Lector—Jan Stretlien

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—Dale Wentzloff / Barbara Oster

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Dave Susalski

Front Door Monitor: Jana & Tom Rockne

Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth / Erin Word

Tech Support—Brian Acker

Counters—Bonnie Gamble / Jane Passmore

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 August 3rd. Any questions contact Peggy Burns 232-392-6913.

A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday August 9th following the 10:00 AM service to vote on a motion to authorize the Council to negotiate a mortgage not to exceed \$750,000 for HVAC, water remediation, infrastructure projects, and facility improvements. Please plan to attend.

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM & FRIENDS: There will be a Summer Bible Study at the home of Carl and Suzanne Lehto on Thursday, August 13th beginning at NOON. Please bring a dish to pass (meat, beverages and table service are provided), Bible and lawn chair (if possible). Please sign up in the Narthex by August 9th so we can get a handle on the number attending, NOTE: We need someone to be responsible to set up car pooling. Please call Nancy Ammann if interested.

The next Food Pantry collection is scheduled for Sunday, August 23rd. 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.

Please join the Creation Care team for a hike after church on Sunday August 23rd. We will meet at Seven Bridges Nature Area (Valley Rd, Rapid City, MI 49676) for a picnic tailgate and walk, and then we can go to Freedom Park for a hike. After that, if anyone is so inclined- they can go swimming in Torch Lake. All ages are welcome!

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 August 25th.** If any questions, please contact Peggy Burns at 231-392-6913 or cobaltblues2003@yahoo.com

Habitat for Humanity opportunity. We're looking for 4-6 members of BLC to join with St. Luke's Lutheran in Grand Rapids on a trip to Sebring Florida to build houses. Dates are November 7-14. No carpentry skills needed; only a love for our less fortunate neighbors. Trip cost is approximately \$1200 which includes airfare, hotel, meals, transportation and lots of fun! **Contact Fred Reyelts for more information. email reyeltsf@gmail.com or text 616-560-2861.**

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

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

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 this summer. 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:

Tues 8/4—Grand Traverse Resort Patio Grille, 7:00pm

Wed 8/5—The Pub TC, Traverse City, 7:00pm

Fri 8/7—Grand Traverse Resort, 7:00pm

Sat 8/8—Grand Traverse Resort, 7:00pm

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

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

The August issue of the STAR is available. If you receive the weekly email, your August issue was emailed on August 1st. The shut-ins 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 < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>.

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 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.**

Today's Prayer Recipients: Please send any changes or additions by email to 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
Dolly
Jacque
Carmen Svalstad

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, August 2

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:30am—Recognition of High School Graduate

Monday, August 3

1:00pm—Friendship Bible Study (Offsite)
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)
3:30pm—Grief Group (GS)

Tuesday, August 4

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
10:45am—Staff Meeting (CR)
2:00pm—EPS Maintenance
6:00pm—Parking Lot Usage (Biederman)

Wednesday, August 5

11:30am—Music Rehearsal

Thursday, August 6

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, August 7

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

Saturday, August 8

8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, August 9

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)

