

Eleventh Sunday
after Pentecost
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
August 9, 2026
Sunday 10:00 a.m.



Welcome to All! We are glad that you are able to worship with us today.
Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like. During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion near the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold it up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill in your name, address, etc in the guest book near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 4, page 147

Bell Ringing/Welcome/Announcements

Prelude

David Husser

GATHERING

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 Hymn

Evening and Morning

ELW 761

Greeting

A: 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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



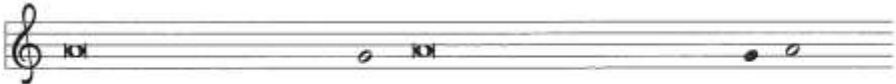
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



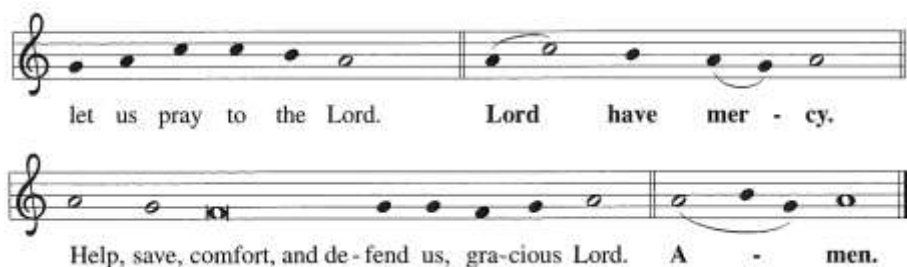
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

S 148

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

A: Let us pray together... **C: O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson

1 Kings 19:9-18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

9 At Horeb, the mount of God, Elijah came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." 11 He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." 15 Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.

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16 Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. 17 Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. 18 Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 85:8-13

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

9 Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.

10 Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before the Lord and shall prepare for God a pathway.

Second Lesson

Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

5 Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” 6 But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), 9 because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. 11 The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

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14 But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? 15 And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia



Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

C: ...Glory to you, O Lord...

22 Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” 28 Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” 29 He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Hymn of the Day *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* *ELW 763*

Apostle's 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 Intercession: response after each petition: **"Receive our prayer."** (*Before prayer*) A: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.... (*Conclusion*) P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

MEAL

Offering Song

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.

Great Thanksgiving

S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a hymn titled 'Great Thanksgiving'. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Holy, Holy, Holy

S 153

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a hymn titled 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

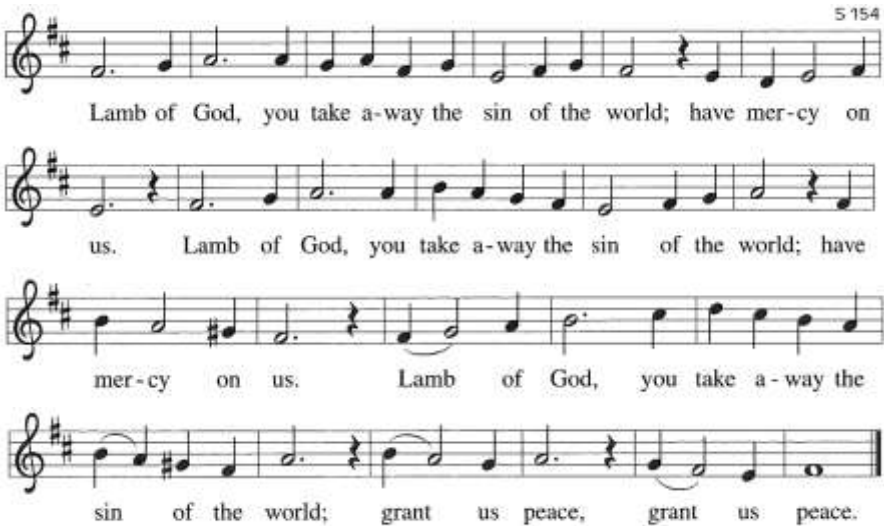
Words of Institution

The 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.

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion *Lamb of God*



Communion Hymns

<i>O Living Bread from Heaven</i>	<i>ELW 542</i>
<i>O God, Our Help in Ages Past</i>	<i>ELW 632</i>

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

Post-Communion Cantic

Thankful Hearts

Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has
done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in
joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. It is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name. Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia."

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Sending Song *On What Has Now Been Sown*

ELW 550

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem August 9, 2026
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

8/10—Tina Dohm

8/12—Debbie Hissong Fink

8/13—Pat Friedli

Worship Servants for August 9

Presiding & Preaching—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Doug Cunningham

Lector—Tim Goebel

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Ken and Kris Smith in Celebration of their Wedding Anniversary*

Hospitality—Tim & Peggy Goebel

A/V—Paul Ton / Barbara Oster

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitor: Frank & Pat Wall

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Jim Hinds

Counters—Bonnie Gamble / Jane Passmore

A Congregational Meeting will be held today after our 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 TODAY 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.

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 August 17th Any questions contact Peggy Burns 232-392-6913.

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

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.

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. It is \$5 per class. The group will not meet on Labor Day, September 7th. If anyone has questions or need more info regarding chair yoga they can email betsymorley@charter.net.

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 9

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

Monday, August 10

9:00am—Mission Endowment
11:00am—Finance Committee (CR)
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, August 11

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
1:00pm—Friendship Bible Study
(Offsite)
6:00pm—Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting
(YR)
6:30pm—Executive Committee
(Zoom)

Wednesday, August 12

11:30am—Music Rehearsal

Thursday, August 13

9:00am—Baby Pantry Set-up (FH)
10:00am—Baby Pantry (FH)
12:00pm—WELCA Summer Bible
Study (Offsite)
5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, August 14

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group
(Library)

Saturday, August 15

8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, August 16

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