

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 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:

All Are Welcome

ELW 641

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

p. 203

5203

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: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr. Paul

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

1 Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed. 6 And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—7 these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. 8 Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

p. 205



Gospel: Matthew 15:10-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

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

10 Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: 11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." 12 Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" 13 He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14 Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." 15 But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." 16 Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? 17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer?" (continued on next page)

18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. 19 For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. 20 These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.” 21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” 23 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” 24 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” 26 He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” 27 She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” 28 Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW 612

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:

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:

One Bread, One Body
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

ELW 496
ELW 712

Final Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful, where Your streams of abundance flow blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place, though I walk through the wilderness blessed be Your name.

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise. When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,

"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name."

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me, when the world's "all as it should be" blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering, though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name. Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise. When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,

"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name."

You give and take away, You give and take away. My heart will choose to say, "Lord, Blessed be Your name."
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"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name."

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem August 16, 2026
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8/17—Brita Williams
8/20—Kathie Bair

8/21—Jennifer Anderson
8/22—Cindy Peterson

Worship Servants for August 16

Presiding & Preaching—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Cindy Monroe

Lector—Mary Ann Tanis

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Tom & Jana Rockne in Memory of Loved Ones Gone Too Soon*

Hospitality—Dan & Laura Hahn

A/V—Jim Monroe / Jim Hinds

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Dave Susalski

Front Door Monitor: Tom & Jana Rockne

Altar Guild—Barbara Oster / Mary Ann Tanis

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

Stove-top griddles needed: Do you have a griddle long enough to cover 2 burners at a time that the community meal group could borrow when preparing their meal on Sunday Aug 23? If so, please contact Cindy Monroe or Jim Hutchison or leave it in the BLC kitchen with your name on it. We will return them after the meal that day. Thanking you in advance.

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 12:30 at Seven Bridges Nature Area (Valley Rd, Rapid City, MI 49676), then walk to Freedom Park for lunch and hike along the river. 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

Ladies, join us for a chance to wind down mid-week and socialize at Women's Wine Down Wednesday! We will be meeting at Colibri Wine Bar (414 E Eighth St, Near The Alluvion) at 5pm on August 26th. Colibri has a wide range of drinks including wine, cocktails, mocktails, sodas, 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.

Tapas Time! Tapas is a Spanish word for small plate appetizers. If you are looking for an opportunity to make new friends, engage in conversation, enjoy food and drink, and have an all-around good time, this is your opportunity. Please join us on Friday, August 28th at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Amy Haara, 10539 Camrose Circle, Traverse City. Bring an appetizer to share and join in the fun and fellowship. All are welcome.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! With the close of summer rapidly approaching, we will once again be sponsoring dinners prior to the Third Thursday services starting in September. We are looking for volunteers to provide food for the meals each month. Each month will feature a food focused theme. September is “Back to School” with favorites such as pizza, tacos, and sub sandwiches plus side dishes and dessert. October will be Oktoberfest, of course, featuring favorite German foods, and November “Harvest” with fall themed foods (pumpkin, apples, turkey, etc). Sign up sheets for those three months are posted in the hallway to the Gathering Space. With all the great cooks in the congregation, we hope you will sign up and help out with these events! Questions? Please contact Peg Peppler at 585-414-8200 or at Peppler6088@gmail.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.

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,

Family of Gretchen

Shelley Miller

Pr. Zack Nelson

Dolly

Jacque

Carmen Svalstad

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 16

9:15am—Sunday School

9:15am—Adult Education (YR)

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

Monday, August 17

3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

3:30pm—Grief Group (GS)

6:00pm—Co-Facilitators Meeting (GS)

Tuesday, August 18

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

6:30pm—Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 19

11:30am—Music Rehearsal

Thursday, August 20

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, August 21

STAR Articles Due

10:00am—Sew Pieceful (FH)

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

Saturday, August 22

3:30pm—Parking Lot Usage—Powell Wedding

8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, August 23

FOOD DRIVE SUNDAY

9:15am—Sunday School

9:15am—Adult Education (YR)

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

11:15am—Craft Show Meeting (Library)

12:30pm—Seven Bridges Hike

1:00pm—Community Meal at Grace Episcopal