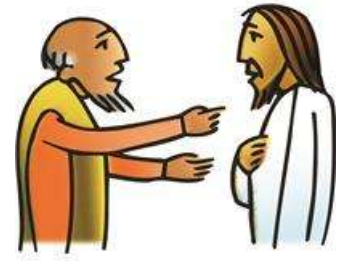


Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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:

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

(continued on next page)

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

p. 203

S203

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: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

1 Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. 2 Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. 3 For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. 4 Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. 5 I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. 6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 138

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

2 I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

3 When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth.

5 They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

6 The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

8 You will make good your purpose for me; O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

p. 205



(continued on next page)



Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

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

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 597

Sacrament of Holy Baptism of Blake Lillian Van Acker

Presentation

P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors: I present Blake Lillian Van Acker for baptism.

P: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Blake baptized into Christ?

Parents: I do.

P: As you bring Blake to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world
God made, and work for justice and peace.

P: Do you promise to help Blake grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: I do.

P: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Blake in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: I do.

P: People of God, do you promise to support Blake and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C: We do.

(the assembly stands)

Profession of Faith

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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 again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

Thanksgiving at the Font

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the water of the flood you delivered Noah and his family and through the sea you lead your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Baptism

P: Blake Lillian, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

C: Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Blake with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Blake Lillian, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C: Amen.

Welcome

A: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome Blake.

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

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:

The Church's One Foundation
Rock of Ages

ELW 654

ELW 623

Final Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Sending Song: *Build Your Kingdom Here*

Come set Your rule, and reign in our hearts again. Increase in us, we pray. Unveil why we're made.
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope, like wildfire in our very souls;
Holy Spirit, come, invade us now. We are Your church; We need Your pow'r in us.

We seek your kingdom first. We hunger and we thirst; Refuse to waste our lives, for You're our joy and prize.
To see the captives' hearts released; The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace.
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause. We are Your church; We pray, revive this earth.

Build your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear. Show Your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.
Set Your church on fire. Win this nation back. Change the atmosphere. Build Your kingdom here, we pray!

Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r, reaching the near and far. No force of hell can stop Your beauty, changing hearts.
You made us for much more than this; Awake the kingdom seed in us.
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ. We are Your Church; We are the hope on earth.

Build your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear. Show Your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.
Set Your church on fire. Win this nation back. Change the atmosphere. Build Your kingdom here, we pray!

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem August 23, 2026
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

8/25—Bonnie Newhouse
8/27—Jim Williams
8/28—Sheila Mosley

8/29—Danna Bugai
8/29—Bethany Uhl

8/29—Katherine Word
8/30—Bonnie Gamble

Today we welcome by Baptism: Blake Lillian Van Acker, daughter of Tyler and Kayla Van Acker

For today's Creation Care Hike after church: We will meet at 12:30 at Seven Bridges Nature Area (Valley Road, Rapid City). After a tailgate lunch and short hike there, we will drive to Freedom Park where we will do the river trail walk. Please bring a sack lunch, and, if you would like to swim afterwards in nearby beautiful Torch Lake, a swimsuit. All ages are welcome!

Worship Servants for August 23

Presiding & Preaching—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Barbara Oster

Lector—Scott Sorenson

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By the Congregation in thanks for all of God's Blessings*

Hospitality—Jim & Dorene Boyd

A/V—Jim Hinds / Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitor: Butch Waisanen

Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth / Erin Word

Tech Support—Brian Acker

Counters—Bonnie Gamble / Jane Passmore

Today is this month's Food Pantry collection. The next date is September 27th. 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. Thank you for your support of the outdoor food pantry. Your generosity in the form of money and food donations has been helpful to keep the pantry stocked during these busy summer months. We continue to receive notes of gratitude from some of the recipients of the pantry. Please see the bulletin board in the narthex for some of these notes.

During August, we will kick-off our Good Samaritan Fundraiser with a pick a duck activity. Each duck is labeled with the monetary value between 5-60 and will stand for a value which shows your donation amount. Once you've chosen a duck, (yes, you can replace your duck with another if you're not comfortable with the amount) take a fundraiser envelope, enclose the donation of your choice, and return it to the church by putting it into the Sunday service collection plate or mail it back to the church.

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.

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.

Cherry Festival 2026 Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped out in the Pepsi Tent and the Souvenir Tent this year! We earned \$550.00 for Pastor's Sabbatical fund! I hope to see you all next year. Thanks again – Lindsay

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.

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 September 21st – there will be no meeting on Labor Day, September 7th. Any questions contact Peggy Burns 232-392-6913.

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. Please note that Sunday School will not meet on September 6th and September 13th.

Update for Book Club: We are moving to Tues! We will meet 5:30 at Betsy Morley's house on Sept 22 to discuss *The Correspondent* by Evans.

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.**

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.

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

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

Sunday, August 23

FOOD DRIVE SUNDAY

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Worship Service with Baptism (S)
11:15am—Craft Show Meeting (Library)
12:30pm—Seven Bridges Hike
1:00pm—Community Meal at Grace Episcopal

Monday, August 24

3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)
6:00pm—Creation Care Meeting (YR)

Tuesday, August 25

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
11:00am—Prayer in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, August 26

11:30am—Music Rehearsal
5:00pm—Wine Down Wednesday (Offsite)

Thursday, August 27

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, August 28

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

Saturday, August 29

8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, August 30

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

**To register for the Synod
Connect Days on September
11th and 12th, go to
[www.bethlehemtc.org/synod-
connect-days](http://www.bethlehemtc.org/synod-connect-days)**

