

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 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:

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

ELW 523

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: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr. Paul

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

15 O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. 16 Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. 17 I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. 18 Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. 19 Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. 20 And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. 21 I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

p. 205



Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

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

(continued on next page)

21 From that time on, after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? 27 "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

ELW 656

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:

***Light Dawns on a Weary World
Build Us Up, Lord
One Bread, One Body***

***ELW 726
ELW 670
ELW 496***

Final Blessing

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

Sending Song:

Days of Elijah

These are the days of Elijah, declaring the Word of the Lord;
And these are the days of Your servant Moses, righteousness being restored;
And though these are days of great trials, of famine and darkness and sword;
Still we are the voice in the desert crying, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee, and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

And these are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh;
And these are the days of your servant, David, rebuilding a temple of praise;
And these are the days of the harvest, the fields are as white in the world;
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard, declaring the Word of the Lord.

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee, and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

There is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah.
There is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah, there is no god like Jehovah.

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee, and out of Zion's hill salvation comes. at the trumpet call;
Behold He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee, and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

Dismissal

A: Heaven has come near.
Go, share the good news!
C: **Thanks be to God.**



Bethlehem August 30, 2026
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8/30—Bonnie Gamble
9/1—Mary Belle Woodring
9/3—Sue Allen

9/4—Barb Svalstad
9/5—Gail Goldsmith
9/5—Jacob Graf

9/5—Janet Landis
9/6—Linda Hansen

Worship Servants for August 30

Presiding & Preaching—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Barbara Wright

Lector—Makena Dohm

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Bonnie Gamble in Memory of her daughter, Angela Kirt*

By Ron & Marilyn Dork in Celebration of the Marriage of Nick Friedli & Hanali Gilbert

Hospitality—Tim & Peggy Goebel

A/V—Barbara Oster / Paul Ton

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitor: Tina Dohm

Altar Guild—Barbara Oster / Mary Ann Tanis

Tech Support—Jim Hinds

Counters—Bonnie Gamble / Jane Passmore

During August, we have kicked-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.

XYZ potluck & presentations will resume on Friday, September 11th! After a delicious potluck lunch at noon, we will hear a presentation by Kristina Schnepf, the director of Green Door Folk School. Green Door is a recently opened nonprofit that is rooted in the folk school tradition, offering hands-on workshops that connect people to passions, new or old, the land, and each other. Remember, XYZ is predominantly geared toward seniors but the time spent together and the wonderful presentations are enjoyable for adults of any age - we hope you can join us!

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.

Chair Yoga meets at 3:00pm on Mondays. It is \$5 per class. The group will not meet on Labor Day, September 7th or the next week, September 14th. If anyone has questions or need more info regarding chair yoga they can email betsymorley@charter.net.

Sunday School resumes class on September 20th at 9:15am. Please note that Sunday School will not meet on September 6th and September 13th.

Sunday Adult Education will resume on Sunday, September 20th – at 9:15am in the Youth Room.

New Life Together The team will be meeting on September 21 at 6:00 in the gathering space for a planning meeting. We are looking for more member for the team and would love to have anyone join us!

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 September 22nd. If any questions, please contact Peggy Burns at 231-392-6913 or cobaltblues2003@yahoo.com

Update for Book Club: We are moving to Tuesday! We will meet 5:30 at Betsy Morley's house on September 22 to discuss *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. Contact will be made so you can choose your item for the potluck.

Our Monthly 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.

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.

Bethlehem is currently posting a job for a new part-time Music Coordinator. Our friend, Tony Bero, will be leaving as soon as we can hire someone to take over his position. The position requires some of the following: 1.) Plan the music for regularly planned worship services, special services, and guest special musicians 2.) With the choir and handbell choir, coordinate music themes, dates and conduct practices, and performances (Hand Bell choir currently led by volunteer) 3.) Have knowledge of ELCA liturgy and Bethlehem worship practices to aid with worship planning. For a complete job description and application, contact Barbara in the church office during normal office hours or Maureen Bauer at personnel.committee@bethlehem.org

Nature / Animal Photos Needed! Alanna needs your pretty pictures to create videos for the Gathering Space TV! Nature photos, animal photos, anything pretty and pleasing to look at! Photos must be in JPEG or similar format, preferably horizontal orientation, and must be good quality. The more photos submitted, the better! Credit will be given for the photos unless you wish to remain anonymous. Please email photos to Alanna at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org Thank you!

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

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

Social Ministry/Outreach update (REMEMBER: If general questions, concerns, or ideas contact Cindy Monroe or Jim Hutchison). Thanks to all who have been participating in any way with the Baby Pantry, Food Pantry, and the monthly meals at Grace the past few months. Special thanks to Carl Lehto and Frank Wall for helping ALL 3 DAYS with Freedom Builders in July. And thanks to the other 8 who gave 1 or 2 days: Cindy and Jim Monroe, Tom Christensen, Tom and Jana Rockne, Kristin Rivard, Pastor Paul, and Steve Kramer. Thanks also to Jim Hutchison for the behind-the-scenes organization. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

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

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 9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30 —The Pub TC, Traverse City, 7:00pm

Tues 9/15— Bel Lago. Cedar, 3:30pm

Fri 9/18—MiddleCoast, Traverse City, 6:00pm

Tues. 9/22—Grand Traverse Resort Patio Grille, Acme, 6:00pm

The brown round tables are gone!!! Thanks to Alanna's skills with Facebook Marketplace and the availability of the Monroes to be at church and assist, the tables left the building the same day they were listed. They will have a new life in Central Lake for family and neighborhood gatherings, and perhaps even in a small wedding venue. The couple who bought the tables were very happy with the excellent condition of our tables. The funds from the sale will help support the Community Meal that BLC volunteers assist with at Grace Episcopal.

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 Wednesday. Beginning with Wednesday, September 9th, Phil will work these days.

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.

The September issue of the STAR will be available this week. If you receive the weekly email, your September STAR will be emailed on September 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>.

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.

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,
Pr. Zack Nelson
Dolly
Jacque
Carmen Svalstad
Ron & Marilyn Dork

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 30

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

Monday, August 31

3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)
5:30pm—Worship and Music Meeting

Tuesday, September 1

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
10:45am—Staff Meeting (CR)

Wednesday, September 2

11:00am—Funeral – Shelley Miller (Reynolds Jonkhoff)
11:30am—Music Rehearsal

Thursday, September 3

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, September 4

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

Saturday, September 5

8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, September 6

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026 THANK YOU'S

Tina Dohm & youth assistant Makena Dohm (Cat Group)
Pamela Snyder & youth assistant Nariah Finch (Horse Group)
Lindsay Susalski & Diane Cunningham (Dog Group)
Aubrey Goodwin (Christ Church) & Laura Okimi (Mouse Group)

Group leaders and their assistants were in charge of getting their groups of kids to activities and keeping them on track. Rounding up a group of wild kids is not always the easiest task, but I am constantly amazed by how you all jump right in and love on the kids you're leading! You are their constant cheerleaders, supports, and friends through VBS, and I love seeing how much they love you and rely on you to always be there for them!

Nancy Ammann & assistant Bethany Uhl (Crafts Station)
Peggy Burns & youth assistant Lincoln Dohm (Science Station)
Kathi Ivany & Cindy Monroe (Storytime Station)

Activity leaders and their assistants guided kids through exciting and interactive activities for the day, all tied to the theme so the kids could learn about God's love in a super fun and engaging way! You wouldn't be able to tell by the end of each day that you've taught the same activity to multiple different groups of kids - you all make it just as exciting and fun for each new group that comes in! Activity stations are the core of VBS, and you all bring God's love to life for these kids!

Special thank you to **Nancy Ammann** for once again planning all of the craft activities - Nancy, your creativity knows no limits!

Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pastor Paul

Our incredible musicians led all the kids together in music each day. Your musical talent is so appreciated - depending on the song, you all either had the kids up on their feet dancing the Hokey Pokey, or praising God through music and movement! Worship through beautiful music is so important for the kids to experience, and you all do it fantastically!

Snack Leader Kathie Bair

& assistants Betsy Morely, Barb Wentzloff, Mary Ann Tanis, Claire Hutchison

We were all really blown away with snacks this year! Kathie planned an incredible menu around classic kid favorites that kept us all full and ready for more activities! Cooking a meal for 25+ kids and all of our volunteers during one of the hottest weeks of the year is no small task, but you ladies pulled it off in an incredible way. Multiple kids and adults said that snacks was one of the highlights of the week!

Cindy Monroe, Barb Wentzloff, Patty Leibenguth

These ladies worked the check-in table and were the smiling faces kids would see coming in the door in the morning or waving goodbye at the end! I love seeing how you all recognize the kids by the end and can greet them by name. You make each and every one of them feel so special and important, and warmly welcomed into BLC!

Barbara Oster

Barbara ran the PowerPoints for Opening, Closing, and Music. Having lyrics to follow along to during music keeps everyone on track, and the visuals during Opening and Closing really bring the themes we're talking about to life - you are so appreciated!

Pastor Paul

Pastor Paul opened VBS for us each day by introducing the theme (always in costume!) and lesson, and by leading us in prayer. He also provided a prayer before snacks each day, and played the drums during music to top it all off! The kids couldn't wait to see what new thing you'd be wearing each day - huge thanks to our "King of Burgers" and "Prince of Sliders", Pastor Paul!

BLC Property Guys

Norm Fred, Tom Christensen, Paul Ton, Carl Lehto, Frank Wall, Doug Cunningham, and others worked hard to get BLC ready for VBS, put up our beautiful banner in the sanctuary, and tear things down again! Doug put in lots of extra time making sure the building was kept cool for us all throughout the week - not always an easy task, but one that Doug was always on top of! We can't tell you all how much we appreciate all the work all of you do to keep BLC running!

Decor Prep / Decorating / De-Decorating Team

Nancy Ammann, Laura Okimi, Lindsay Susalski, Dave Susalski, Patty Leibenguth, Diane Cunningham, Pamela Snyder, Barb Wentzloff, Noah Finch, Nariah Finch, Meredith Busekist, Parker Busekist, Cindy Monroe, Kathi Ivany, Jim Mills, and others . . . you all put in so much work to transform BLC into a medieval castle, and then to restore it to normal again afterward! I can't tell you how much I appreciate you!

Snack Donations

Nicole Spirgen, Linda Hansen, Pat Wall, Janis Nelson, Tina Dohm, Nancy Ammann, Sherri Helman, Marilyn Halstead, Peggy Burns, Barbara Wright, Diane Cunningham, Steve Kramer, Patty Leibenguth, Gail Goldsmith, Tom & Jana Rockne, Jane Fred, Carolyn Mann, Jeanne Bowling, Kristen Rivard, Pamela Snyder, Barbara Oster, Ken & Kris Smith, Barb Wentzloff, Laura Okimi, Renae Wells, Pam Reid . . . thank you all for your donations and helping feed all of our VBS kids and volunteers! Lunch was amazing this year partly in thanks to you!

Medieval Castle "Decorations"

Nancy Ammann, Tina Dohm, Jacque Rossfeld, Carolyn Mann, Jeanne Bowling, Dave & Peg Peppler, Suzanne Lehto, Jim Mills, and others . . . thank you for bringing in your books, jewelry, dishes, and more so we could transform BLC into a medieval castle! We buy lots of generic decorations to serve as the base, but the things you bring in are what really bring the theme to life and make it unique to Bethlehem!

Jim Mills - aka "Sir Jim the Knight!"

A huge thanks to Jim (a friend of Cindy Monroe) for bringing in his wonderful collection of medieval pieces! From dishes to shields to a suit of armor that he modeled for the kids one of the days, Jim and his incredible pieces really helped bring our theme to life! The kids loved meeting "Sir Jim" the knight!

Kathi Ivany

A special thanks to Kathi for creating our Goliath for Storytime! She painted a wonderful image of Goliath on packing boxes so that the kids could throw beanbags at him and knock him down for the David & Goliath story, and they had a blast. Thanks for bringing the Bible story to life!

Youth Assistants

A special shoutout has to be given to each and every one of our youth assistants. Some of you are pros at helping me with VBS and some of you were first-timers, but you all really blew me away. It is such a joy to see you shine in your volunteer roles and take on more responsibility as you get older. You all make VBS come to life and I love that you have just as much fun as the little kids do!

Makena Dohm

Makena, you are a shining light. Every time I saw you during VBS, you had a new kid with you that absolutely adored you - half the time they weren't even a kid in your own group! You treat every single one of them like they're your best friend, and they absolutely love you for it. We all do! Keep shining, sweet girl!

Lincoln Dohm

Lincoln, you keep us all laughing and bring us so much joy. Kids can't wait to get to science and learn with you - you make everything fun for them! Not to mention that you can almost lead the class by yourself! Your maturity and ability to take over and help wherever needed is impressive, but even more so that you can make it a fun time for everyone involved - even the adults! You have the biggest personality and you bring us so much joy!

Parker Busekist

Parker, this was your first year helping at VBS and you really blew me away. You were filling in lots of different volunteer roles and you excelled at every single one. Whether it was helping preps snacks in the kitchen, ringing the bell to signal the next class, playing photographer, or helping our mascot get dressed, you were on top of it and I never had to worry about whether the job would get done. You showed an incredible amount of maturity, time management, and responsibility, especially considering you were our youngest volunteer and it was your first year helping! You did absolutely fantastic!

Noah Finch

Noah, I said several times throughout VBS that I don't know what I would have done without you! You helped decorate, helped me with setup every day, filled in anywhere needed, and most importantly - played our mascot this year, Duncan the Dragon! It wasn't the easiest costume to work with, but you really made Duncan come alive for the kids! Anything I asked of you during VBS, you were willing and eager to accomplish. You were my right-hand-man for VBS this year, and I can't even begin to tell you how much of a help you were to me! I really don't know what I would have done without you!

Nariah Finch

Nariah, you are the sweetest, gentlest presence for your group of kids! Your group leader always tells me what a joy you are to work with and how wonderful you are with your kids - a soft word here, a hand on a shoulder there. The kids love you (my own included!) because you are so willing to get on their level and play with them. You are so good with them, and they adore you! Thank you for being you!

Aubrey Goodwin & Christ Church

Huge thanks to Aubrey and Christ Church for being our partners again this year! Aubrey's ideas and input are so important to my planning process - especially as we introduced the concept of a dedicated preschool group this year! Aubrey also led the group of preschoolers, which is no small task, and kept them all happy and having fun!

You are all SO appreciated! Whether you volunteered during VBS as a leader or assistant, donated snacks, let us borrow something from your house as a decoration, or anything else, your contribution helped make Knights & Castles a huge success! If I've missed anyone, please know how much I appreciate you. I have so much fun planning VBS every year, but none of my planning matters if we don't have volunteers to make it happen - VBS would not be possible without YOU!

I can't wait for next year! Thank you, thank you, thank you!
-Alanna Steffunick-Boomer, BLC Ministry Coordinator / VBS Director



