

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2026 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



Prelude Music

The Power of Your Love

BLC Choir

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: ... we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Come, All You People

ELW 819

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

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: 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. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

1 I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
2 He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes. 3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. 4 What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? 5 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. 6 I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 80:7-15

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

8 **You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.**

9 **You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.**

10 **The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

11 You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

12 **Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

14 **Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;**

15 behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia



Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

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

Jesus said: 33 “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. 34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. 35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. 37 Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ 39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” 41 They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” 42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? 43 “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. 44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” 45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. 46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

He is Exalted

Twila Parks

1st Verse

He is exalted
The King is exalted on high
I will praise Him
He is exalted forever exalted
And I will praise His name

2nd Verse

He is exalted
The King is exalted on high
I will praise Him
He is exalted forever exalted
And I will praise His name

Chorus

He is the Lord
Forever His truth shall reign
Heaven and earth
Rejoice in His holy name
He is exalted
The King is exalted on high
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Chorus

He is the Lord
Forever His truth shall reign
Heaven and earth
Rejoice in His holy name
He is exalted
The King is exalted on high

Blessing of the Animals

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.

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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:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. 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:

Jesus Loves Me
Grains of Wheat (words below)
You Satisfy My Hungry Heart

ELW 595
WOV 708
ELW 484

Grains of Wheat

Grains of wheat, richly gilded by the sun, purple clusters, collected from the vine:
these are altered, becoming love's own bread and sweet wine, now for us Jesus' body and his blood.

We enjoy true communion in this meal, many grains God has planted and made thrive;
like the grain we are ground beneath life's sorrowful wheel, in the bread, like the grain, we come alive.

As the grains join to form one loaf of bread, as the notes come together in one song,
as the rain-drops unite into the single vast sea, so in Jesus' one body we belong.

We shall all sit together at the feast sharing bread as God's children, joined in one:
in this hope we rejoice as we go forward in peace, loving sisters and brothers of the Son.

Final Blessing

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

All Things are Possible

Verse 1

Almighty God, my Redeemer, my hiding place, my safe refuge; no other name like Jesus, no pow'r can stand against You.

Verse 2

My feet are planted on this rock and I will not be shaken; my hope it comes from You alone, my Lord and my salvation.

Chorus

Your praise is always on my lips, Your word is living in my heart; and I will praise You with a new song, my soul will bless You Lord. You fill my life with greater joy, yes, I delight myself in You; and I will praise You with a new song, my soul will bless You Lord.

Verse 2

My feet are planted on this rock and I will not be shaken; my hope it comes from You alone, my Lord and my salvation.

Chorus

Your praise is always on my lips, Your word is living in my heart; and I will praise You with a new song, my soul will bless You Lord. You fill my life with greater joy, yes, I delight myself in You; and I will praise You with a new song, my soul will bless You Lord.

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Bridge

When I am weak You make me strong, when I'm poor I know I'm rich; for in the power of Your name all things are possible, all things are possible; all things are possible, all things are possible.

Chorus

Your praise is always on my lips, Your word is living in my heart; and I will praise You with a new song, my soul will bless You Lord. You fill my life with greater joy, yes, I delight myself in You; and I will praise You with a new song, my soul will bless You Lord.

Bridge

When I am weak You make me strong, when I'm poor I know I'm rich; for in the power of Your name all things are possible, all things are possible; all things are possible, all things are possible.

Dismissal

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem October 4, 2026
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

10/2—Braxton Rhodes
10/4—Scott Schlagel
10/4—David Susalski

10/6—Phillip Bossardet
10/6—Maggie Hahn

10/6—Will Gaston
10/9—Butch Waisanen

Worship Servants for October 4

Preaching & Presiding – Pastor Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Cindy Monroe

Lector—Jan Stretlien

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: By Bill & Sue Allen in

Honor of the Shepherd Family

Hospitality—Dan & Laura Hahn

A/V—Jim Monroe / Barbara Oster

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Dave Susalski

Front Door Monitor: Butch Waisanen

Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth / Erin Word

Tech Support—Brian Acker

Counters—Kate Holtfreter / Cindy Cuba

Join us next Sunday for our monthly Traditional Worship Service

The Worship and Music annual pecan sale: If you did not get an order sheet on your way in, please see the Hospitality team on your out. **The deadline for pre-ordering is TODAY!**

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 October 5th.** Any questions contact Peggy Burns 232-392-6913.

The Baby Pantry has been postponed to Friday, October 9th.

Creation Care Opportunity: The Community Garden, at Faith Reformed, is hosting a Fall Worker Bee in order to "put the garden to bed" for the season. This is taking place on Saturday, October 10 from 9a-12p. If you are interested in joining, please contact Tina Dohm 231-218-1915 so we can provide a head count.

Freedom Builders: On Saturday, October 10th, we'll be helping a single woman who serves her community and now needs some assistance with her home. Her roof is too big a project for her to tackle, but not for the volunteers of Freedom Builders! This is a membrane roof, not a shingle roof. The work is much easier on the body than working on a shingle roof, and everyone can help, regardless of experience. There's a job for everyone! We will meet at the Freedom Builders office at 8:00 AM and leave for the project site by 8:30 AM. Meeting Location: Freedom Builders 571 West Commerce Drive. For questions or to sign up, please call 231-590-6601 or email joe.fbmissions@gmail.com.

Bethlehem is hosting a Trunk or Treat for community families on Sunday, October 25th from 3:00-4:30pm! We are looking for people to sign up to hand out treats from the trunk of their car. Decorating is optional but very welcomed - as simple or elaborate as you like, just nothing scary! The type of treats you hand out is up to you as well. Sign up in the narthex if you are able to participate, and even if you can't, we hope you'll come just to join in the fun! Reach out to Alanna at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org if you have any questions!

Our Monthly Food Pantry collection: The next date is October 25th. 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. Our next collection is Sunday, October 25th. 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.

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 October 27th. If any questions, please contact Peggy Burns at 231-392-6913 or cobaltblues2003@yahoo.com

Book Club: We have moved to Tues! We will meet at 5:30 on Oct 27 to discuss *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah. Watch the bulletin for location. If offsite many of us car pool from BLC.

The Wednesday Zoom Book/Bible Study meets from 1:30pm-3:00pm in the Youth Room. The next study will be on the Book of Hebrews using the book *Hebrews* by N.T.Wright. Pr. Paul or Barbara if you have any questions

Sunday School and Sunday's Adult Education hold their classes at 9:15am on Sunday.

Chair Yoga meets at 3:00pm on Mondays. It is \$5 per class. If anyone has questions or need more info regarding chair yoga they can email betsymorley@charter.net.

Habitat for Humanity opportunity. 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 Nov 8-14. (Help with BLC craft fair on 11/7). No carpentry skills needed; only a love for our less fortunate neighbors. Trip cost is approximately \$1200 which includes airfare, hotel, meals, transportation and fun! Contact Fred Reyelts. text 616-560-2861 or reyeltsf@gmail.com.

COMMUNION KITS We are missing one of our communion kits used for taking communion to our homebound. Please return it to the sacristy. If any questions please contact Peggy Burns 231-392-6913

♪ Bethlehem is currently posting a part-time job for a new Choir Director. The position requires some of the following: 1.) Plan the choir music for regularly planned worship services 2.) Demonstrate piano proficiency 3.) With the choir, coordinate music themes, dates, and conduct practices and performances. 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

Handbell rehearsals will return in November: Practice for ringing handbells will resume on Mon, Nov 16 at 3:30 and continue through Dec. If you have thought this is something you want to try please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net

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 It has been decided that this group is choosing an approach like the "no-huddle offense" in football. We will have "no-meeting service projects", meaning NO EXTRA MEETINGS other than the area(s) you are serving. Everything has been running smoothly, so, if you feel called to help in one of these areas, please contact the leader of these groups listed alphabetically: Baby pantry (2nd Thurs)-Patty Leibenguth Food pantry-Diane Cunningham Freedom Builders (July)-Carl Lehto or Jim Hutchison Grace Community meals (4th Sunday) -Cindy Monroe or Jim Hutchison Habitat for Humanity-Fred Reyelts Safe Harbor-Tom Rockne Salvation Army Bell Ringing (Dec.)- Carl Lehto or Jim Hutchison Super Saturday (Feb)- Nancy Ammann

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,
Lynn,
Steve,
Sherry,
Bob,
John Stretlien,

Judy Fenton,
Cindy Hitesman,
Richard Fernholz,
Julie Lapeer,
Lee,
Chris,
Cheryl,
Julie Barrett,
Pat & Bob
Patti,

Ron & Marilyn Dork
Sharon,
Kyle,
Christine,
Janet,
Cheryl
Pat,
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, October 4

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:15am—Craft Show Meeting (Library)
1:00pm—CROP Walk to End Hunger (Offsite)
2:30pm—Youth Discipleship Retreat (YR)

Monday, October 5

2:30pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)
3:30pm—Grief Group (GS)

Tuesday, October 6

Bulletin articles due today

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

Wednesday, October 7

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—Zoom Book & Bible Study (Zoom/YR)

Thursday, October 8

10:00am—Visitation – Norm Fred
11:00am—Funeral – Norm Fred
12:00pm—Luncheon – Norm Fred
5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, October 9

9:00am—Baby Pantry Set-up (FH)
10:00am—Baby Pantry (FH)

Saturday, October 10

9:00am—Community Garden Fall Worker Bee
7:00pm—Contra Dance by Bayside Travellers (FH)

Sunday, October 11

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

