

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 19, 2025 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



Prelude Music

Let There Be Peace on Earth

BLC Choir

Announcements / Temple Talk

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful and loving God,

C: ... we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: Amen.

Gathering Song: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (Sung Twice)

ELW 752

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: O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

22 The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. 24 Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." 27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. 30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." 31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

3 The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

4 Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;

5 the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

6 the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

8 The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia



Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

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

1 Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. 2 He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. 3 In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' 4 For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " 6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? 8 I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

The Holy Wings

ELW 613

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 *(Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)*

Offering / Offering Song:

Zeke Clemons

Offertory:

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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
Day By Day**

**ELW 496
ELW 790**

Final Blessing

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

Mighty to Save

Ev'ryone needs compassion, love that's never failing. Let mercy fall on me.
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior. The hope of nations.

Savior, He can move the mountains. My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation. He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as You find me, all my fears and failures. Fill my life again.
I give my life to follow, ev'rything I believe in. Now I surrender.

Savior, He can move the mountains. My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation. He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

Shine your light, and let the whole world see. We're singing for the glory of the risen King.
Jesus. Shine your light, and let the whole world see. We're singing for the glory of the risen King.

Savior, He can move the mountains. My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.
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Shine your light, and let the whole world see. We're singing for the glory of the risen King.
Jesus. Shine your light, and let the whole world see. We're singing for the glory of the risen King.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 19, 2025

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10/19—Gary Jones

10/20—Mark McPherson

10/23—Isaac Woolcott

Worship Servants for October 19

Presiding & Presiding—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Barbara Oster

Lector—Peg Peppler

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Ken and Kris Smith in Memory of our Parents*

Hospitality—Dan & Laura Hahn

A/V—Jim Monroe / Jim Hinds

Sound Board—Julia Acker & Family

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Dave Susalski

Front Door Monitor—Rena Wells

Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth / Erin Word

Counters—Kate Holtfreter / Cindy Cuba

IMPORTANT SERVICE DATES:

Reformation Sunday, November 2nd

All Saints Sunday, November 9th

Both services will be Traditional

Pastor Appreciation Month Pastor Paul, we all want to let you know how much we appreciate you. Thank you for all that you do for our congregation. You are so kind and compassionate, and caring for those in need. You are involved in so many ways in our church and our community. We are fortunate to have you as our pastor. Bless you always! Bethlehem Lutheran Church

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: Please consider dedicating Christmas poinsettias. They are \$10 per plant. If you did not get an order form, you can get one in the back of the sanctuary. Please return the order form before the deadline of Sunday, October 26th.

BLC SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH GROUP MEETING TODAY IN THE LIBRARY AFTER THE SERVICE: Anyone who is interested can attend even if you did not attend the September meeting or have indicated an interest in more than one Visioning area. The main purpose for this meeting will be to receive an update for each of the outreach groups already formed and to determine if there are any other heartfelt passions among BLC members that we are not reaching. If you are not able to attend but want to be involved in some way please reach out to the leader for your area of interest. Together we can do so much.... Cindy Monroe and Jim Hutchison volunteered to be co-chairs for the social ministry/outreach area.

A note from the Safety and Security Committee: Dave Peppler has graciously volunteered to join our Safety and Security Committee. October is National Fire Prevention Month and a great time to review BLC's evacuation and safety plan in the event of a fire. There is a map located in each room in the church, identifying the evacuation route (where to exit the church). Please take a moment to look at the map and be aware of where you would exit in the unlikely event of an emergency. Given the sad rise in violence in houses of worship, it is also a good idea to review the church's Safety and Security Policies, Procedures and Guidelines. Officer Garvin from the TC Police Department will provide an Active Shooter presentation at BLC on October 28 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The presentation is about an hour long and will include time for discussion. It is important that we all share the responsibility of being educated and aware of how we keep our church safe. Questions? Reach out to Jana Rockne, Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer or Dave Peppler

REFORMATION SUNDAY ACTIVITY: Reformation Sunday is November 2, 2025. A "Wittenburg Door" is located outside the Sanctuary. Please post any questions you may have about God, faith, our congregation, etc. Pastor Paul will then address these questions on Reformation Sunday.

NEW LIFE TOGETHER TEAM MEETING: The initial start up of the New Life Together Team is going well! As a result of our September 30 meeting, team members are collecting more ministry information. This information will be utilized as we strive to make better decisions in planning our work at the October meeting. Should you be willing and interested in attending, please mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 29, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at BLC. If you have questions or suggestions, feel free to talk with Peggy Burns, Tim Goebel, or Sherri Helman. Hope to see you then.... ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH ART & CRAFT SHOW SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025 9:00am TO 3:00pm Featuring 50 local artists and crafters with original, handmade goods! Please sign up in the Narthex hallway to volunteer for our fundraiser. Your help would be greatly appreciated. There will be a Silent Auction of items donated by the crafters and a Grand Traverse Baby Donation booth for items to bid on. Both auction and donation sales support the baby pantry and Bethlehem's ministries. Our Christian Education Team will have a bake good table and would appreciate a cookie/brownie/etc. for their table! "Many hands make work light"

BAKE SALE ITEMS NEEDED! We are having a bake sale during the Craft Show on November 1st with proceeds to benefit the youth of Bethlehem. Any type of baked goods is much appreciated as well as sugar-free and gluten-free items. Please pre-package in groups of 6 or so and label on the outside what they are and if they contain nuts, peanut butter, etc. Items can be dropped off on Friday during the day OR early Saturday morning, Thank You!

NEEDED! WELCA is collecting 48 of the quart size jars with lids (like mayo, spaghetti, etc). They may be plastic or glass. Please be sure they are clean and label free. You may put them in the box in the gathering space beginning on Sunday, October 26th. Thank You!

November's XYZ potluck & presentation will be on Friday, November 14th. 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!

Sunday School and Sunday's Adult Education hold their classes at 9:15am on Sunday. The Wednesday Zoom Bible Study meets at 1:30pm with a study of *Esther The Hidden Hand of God*. You may attend either on Zoom or in person in the Youth Room.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION COMING IN NOVEMBER: Are you interested in becoming an "official" member of Bethlehem? This is your chance to learn more about Bethlehem with some others who are making new discoveries at the same time. Best dates for the group facilitators are either November 2 or November 23. Please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or the office to indicate if you are available for both or only one of those dates. We want to have the gathering when the most people can attend.

Choir News: The choir has resumed its practice schedule on Mondays at 2:30. Come and join in the musical fun!

Chair Yoga: now meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at Bethlehem at 3:00. It will continue to be \$5 per class.

Fellowship Chair Person Needed: Since Gail Goldsmith has taken on the role of President of the BLC Council she is not able to continue as the chair person for the Fellowship Committee. There is a wonderful group of people on the committee, so there is great help in the kitchen. The primary responsibility are planning and shopping for dinners, such as Third Thursday meals before service, Advent and Lenten Dinners, Easter Brunch pot luck and Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. There are other church activities such as game days after church, community activities such as arranging Pit Spitters games. These are just some ideas that we have done in the past. Some years we have had more and some years less. This person does not need to attend Council meetings, just write up a short summary of monthly Fellowship activities for the council meeting. Please talk to Gail Goldsmith with any questions or interests.

Garden News: Thanks to all who have been involved in the garden in any way. Now it's time for the fun part... harvesting. There is a group that gathers the ripe veggies every Tuesday morning beginning at 9:00am. It doesn't have to be just Bethlehem's gardens. You can help with anyone's garden!

NEW INSERT IN YOUR MAILBOX FOR YOUR DIRECTORY: If you haven't already retrieved it from your church mailbox, please stop there and get it. Please tuck it in the back cover of your directory in case you want/need to contact any of these new members. For those of you who cannot stop by church please contact the office so a copy can be sent by email or snail mail.

We have been extremely fortunate to have received many generous donations for the Food Pantry. These donations come not only from Mission Endowment and Concessions from the Prince of Egypt, but from congregational members. With your continued support we will be able to continue this vital outreach ministry to our community. We also provide food to parents who come to the Baby Pantry at BLC each month and they are extremely appreciative. If you haven't yet donated to the Food Pantry, please consider doing so. If you have donated in the past, I encourage you to continue doing so...and THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Suzanne Lehto for all of her years of hard work to keep the Food Pantry going. She will continue to stock the cart of items we offer to Baby Pantry parents but will no longer serve as a committee co-chair for the Food Pantry. Again, thank you so much Suzanne. If you'd like to help to stock the kiosk or shop for the Food Pantry, you can contact me or attend the October 19 Service/Outreach Ministry meeting. Kathie Bair

“The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.” – Proverbs 22:9

SAVE YOUR PAPER SACKS: Please check the nooks and crannies of your home for paper sacks. The Baby Pantry fills requests from preschool teachers for their students whose parents cannot make it to the pantry. Paper sacks are the perfect size to place the needed items for each child. Just place your bags on the Care table in the coat room. Thank you!!

Alcoholics Anonymous: TC Groups are holding their Open Talk here at Bethlehem on three Saturday nights of each month from 8:00-9:00pm.

Coffee and Cookies: Our wonderful volunteers Mary Ann Tanis and Diane Cunningham have indicated a willingness to continue offering this after the Sunday service during the summer as long as there are volunteers who bring the goodies and help with clean-up after. Our thanks to these two women for their wonderful display of the goodies and the clean-up after. Thanks to all of you who have shared goodies, and please feel free to continue to do so.

A big thank you to all who have turned in Olesons' slips. On August 27 we received a check from Oleson's for \$232.59 for a total of \$824.25 so far this year. Olesons' slips never expire. Please continue to turn in your Olesons receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks so much!!! Also, the area for the Oleson receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). 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

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 Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer, and Jana Rockne.

The October issue of the STAR is available. If you receive the weekly email, your October issue was emailed on October 1st. The shut-ins will 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>.

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 10/22—The Pub, Traverse City, 7:00pm

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. Please note that Phil will work these days until next summer

Alanna Steffunick-Boomer/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday and from home on Thursday – Please note that this is a new schedule

Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes? Type this address/url into your web browser to get the latest approved minutes from Council: bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes OR you may call the office to request a copy.

Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at jstretlien@gmail.com or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880 or admin@bethlehemtc.org

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 and 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,
Carol Bowes,

Ron Hellenga,
Jim Rumbach,
John Stretlien,
Judy Fenton,
Cindy Hitesman,
Richard Fernholz,
Julie Lapeer,
Tom & Lee,
Chris,
Dale and Cheryl,
Leroy,

Julie Barrett,
Patti,
Sharon,
Kyle,
Ben,
Marianne,
Christine,
Janet,
Cheryl,
Jef

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 of the calendar.

Sunday, October 19

9:00am—Bibles to Youth (Library)
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
9:15am—Sunday School
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:15am—Social Ministry & Outreach (Library)
4:00pm—Fall Theological Event

Monday, October 20

9:00am—Fall Theological Event
10:00am—Sustaining Endowment (CR)

Tuesday, October 21

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Fall Theological Event
6:30pm—Council Meeting (Library)

Wednesday, October 22

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

Thursday, October 23

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, October 24

STAR ARTICLES DUE

6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

Saturday, October 25

8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, October 26

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

