

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 26, 2025 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



Prelude Music

Announcements

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, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW 512

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: Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Peggy Burns, S.A.M.

First Reading: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

In a time of drought, the people pray for mercy, repenting of their sins and the sins of their ancestors. They appeal to God to remember the covenant, to show forth God's power, and to heal their land by sending life-giving rain.

7 Although our iniquities testify against us, act, O Lord, for your name's sake; our rebellions indeed are many, and we have sinned against you. 8 O hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler turning aside for the night? 9 Why should you be like someone confused, like a mighty warrior who cannot give help? Yet you, O Lord, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not forsake us! 10 Thus says the Lord concerning this people: Truly they have loved to wander; they have not restrained their feet; therefore the Lord does not accept them; now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins. 19 Have you completely rejected Judah? Does your heart loathe Zion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us? We look for peace but find no good, for a time of healing, but there is terror instead. 20 We acknowledge our wickedness, O Lord, the iniquity of our ancestors, for we have sinned against you. 21 Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us. 22 Can any idols of the nations bring rain, or can the heavens give showers? Is it not you, O Lord our God? We set our hope on you, for it is you who do all this.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia



Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

The coming reign of God will involve unexpected reversals of fortune with judgment rooted in mercy. Jesus tells a parable in which the one who humbles himself is exalted and the one who exalts his own righteousness is humbled.

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

9 Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.'

(continued on next page)

13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Peggy Burns, S.A.M.

Song of the Day:

Amazing Grace

ELW 779

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.

(continued on next page)

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.

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.

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:

Everlasting God

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.

Our God, You reign forever. Our Hope, our strong deliverer.
You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God, You do not faint, You won't grow weary.
You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need, You lift us up on wings like eagles.

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Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem October 26, 2025
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10/27—Amanda Wegener
10/27—Gerald Hill
10/29—Nancy Lautner
10/29—Paul Wiemerslage

10/29—John Block
10/30—Celia Kane
10/31—Jim Rumbach

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

Worship Servants for October 26

Preaching & Presiding—Peggy Burns, S.A.M.

Assisting Minister—Doug Cunningham

Lector—Tina Dohm

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice

Bossardet,

Today's altar flowers are donated: By Butch Waisanen in

Memory of Jan Waisanen

Hospitality—Phil Anderson / Susie Burton

A/V—Jim Hinds / Paul Ton

Sound Board—Julia Acker & Family

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Gail Goldsmith

Front Door Monitor—Butch Waisanen

Altar Guild—NO COMMUNION

Counters—Kate Holtfreter / Cindy Cuba

FALL BACK: Daylight Saving Time ends next week. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour next Saturday night so that you get to church on Sunday at the right time.

IMPORTANT SERVICE DATES:

Reformation Sunday, November 2nd

All Saints Sunday, November 9th

Both services will be Traditional

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.

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

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 after 3:00pm OR early Saturday morning, Thank You!

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. Join us in the Library on November 2nd after the service. Please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or the office to indicate if you are interested.

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. Thank You!

Thank You! Bethlehem was well represented as we hosted the Autumn Theological Event for Rostered Ministers. A big thank you goes to the planning committee of Pastor Paul, Peggy Burns, Kathie Bair, Tina Dohm and Gail Goldsmith. They all helped set up, serve and clean up including doing some custodial duties. Thank you also to Lindsay Susalski for serving, and Jim Hinds for working the soundboard for the full event. Kathie and Meredith made a beautiful brochure to hand out. It included our favorite places in the area. So many people brought in their fall decorations and pumpkins from home. The church looked very festive. Also thank you Bethany Uhl for all of the napkins, they were lovely. We had pastries galore. You all really came through. Thank you to Diane Cunningham, Barbara Oster, Tina Dohm, Kathie Bair, Jana Rockne, Nancy Ammann, Peg Peppler, Betsy Morley, Cindy Monroe, Tom Christensen, Peggy Burns, Pamela Snyder and Linda Hansen for all of the delicious treats. Thank you also to the Confirmation Class for making the big wonderful "Welcome" sign. Thank you Alanna for the beautiful signs for welcoming our guests. There were so many positive comments from the Pastors and Bishops. We served 100 people for 3 days. Thank you all! God has blessed our church with so many giving people.

Love Thy Neighbor is again reaching out in our community with our Adopt a Family Christmas Program. Please consider adopting a family for Christmas. Be the hands and feet of Jesus that brings a smile to a child's face and joy to a parent's heart. Please email Tony Nelson at tonyn@lovethyneighborgt.org or call Love Thy Neighbor at 231-941-5683 by November 5 to participate in this wonderful program. Thank you & God Bless!

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.

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 responsibilities are planning and shopping for dinners, such as Third Thursday meals before service, Advent and Lenten Dinners, Easter Brunch potluck 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: What a wonderful and productive first year in the Community Garden across the street. The growing season is now complete after an amazing harvest of tasty and healthy food. Please consider being involved in some way next year, whether it be weeding the garden, sowing seeds, planting seedlings, or assisting with the harvest. You never know who you may meet at the garden.

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

Social Ministry/Outreach update: We had our follow-up meeting on Sunday Oct 19. We have a very motivated group of volunteers filled with a passion for service and there is always room for more. Please step forward to volunteer when a call is put out for assistance. We have one new activity that we feel we can manage... helping with the Northwest Michigan Action Agency Super Saturday event at the Career Tech Center on Parsons Rd on Feb 7, 2026. More details to come on that. Also, some members of the group are visiting Jubilee House as the first step to determine if they would be good volunteers in that location. The first step is to schedule a visit with Pastor Derek Quinn. There was hope that we could field a group of 6 volunteers to prepare a community meal one time per month in the Grace Episcopal location but there does not seem to be enough volunteers for that at this time. We are hoping that some of us can shadow/help with their meal preparation and this can be a goal for the future. Anyone interested in any of these activities can contact Cindy Monroe or Jim Hutchison. The next meeting for the full group will be scheduled in late Feb or early March.

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.

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 10/29—The Pub, Traverse City, 7:00pm

Offerings: Even though the offering plates are passed during the service, you may use the vase in the back of the Sanctuary if you prefer not to touch the offering plate.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: We often find the front door and/or the kitchen door unlocked when there is no one in the building. Please be sure that the doors are locked when you leave.

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

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.

Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years. They are proud people and do not like to be given charity but they will accept help in the form of donated cans that they can recycle for money. Please bring in your recyclables in for them. Leave them in plastic bags by the garage. These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations? It is now located inside the coat room to the right. Your donations are very much appreciated.

LOST AND FOUND: If you lose something in the church building, please check our new Lost and Found box located in the Coat Room. Also, if you find something, please put it in the box.

Yarn Available: There is yarn available free for the taking located in the cabinets located under the mailboxes in the Narthex. Take what you need.

Name tags: Your name tags are in your mailboxes. Please retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and with so many recent new members it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it.

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 If you are not getting the weekly emails for any reason, please contact Alanna.

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

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 26

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

Monday, October 27

2:30pm—Choir
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, October 28

Bulletin articles due today

Craft Fair Set-up

9:00am—Property Work Group
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
6:30pm—Active Shooter Meeting (FH)

Wednesday, October 29

Craft Fair Set-up

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study (Zoom & CR)
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (GS)
6:30pm—New Life Together Meeting (CR)

Thursday, October 30

Craft Fair Set-up

5:30pm—ACA (Library)

Friday, October 31

Craft Fair Set-up

Saturday, November 1

9:00am—Craft Fair
8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, November 2

REFORMATION SUNDAY

9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
9:15am—Sunday School
10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)
11:15am—New Member Meeting (Library)