

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 19, 2025 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: ... you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided... to follow Jesus, I have decided... to follow Jesus,
I have decided... to follow Jesus; no turning back... no turning back.,

Though I may wonder, still I will follow; though I may wonder, still I will follow;
... though I may wonder, still I will follow; no lookin' back, no lookin' back!

The world around me, the Lord before me, the world around me, the Lord before me,
... the world around me, the Lord before me, I'm movin' on, I'm movin' on!

I have decided... to follow Jesus, I have decided... to follow Jesus,
I have decided... to follow Jesus; no turning back... no turning back.

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: Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr. Paul

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, and the people are called to the celebration.

1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. 2 The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. 4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. 5 For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

L: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 2:1-11

Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.

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

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” 4 And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” 5 His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” 6 Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. 8 He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. 9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

ELW 451

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

Offering

Offering Song:

Zeke Clemons

Offertory:

We Place Upon Your Table, Lord (v. 1 & 3)

ELW 467

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now 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:

Table of Grace (*words below*)

Here Is Bread

ELW 483

Hear the good news, you've been invited
No matter what__ others may say
Your darkest sins__ will be forgiven
And You will always have a place

At the table of grace, the cup's never empty,
The plate's always full, and it's never too late
To come and be filled with love never ending
You're always welcome at the table of grace

At the table of grace, the cup's never empty
The plate's always full, and it's never too late
To come and be filled with love never ending
You're always welcome at the table of grace

Final Blessing

P: The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.
C: Amen.

Sending Song:

Miracles

The One who made the blind to see is moving here in front of me, moving here in front of me.
The One who made the deaf to hear is silencing my every fear, silencing my every fear.

I believe in You. I believe in You. You're the God of miracles.
I believe in You. I believe in You. You're the God of miracles.

The One who does impossible is reaching out to make me whole, reaching out to make me whole.
The One who put death in its place, His life is flowing through my veins, His life is flowing through my veins!

I believe in You. I believe in You. You're the God of miracles.
I believe in You. I believe in You. You're the God of miracles.

The God who was and is to come, the power of the Risen One, the God who brings the dead to life:
You're the God of miracles! You're the God of miracles!

I believe in You. I believe in You. You're the God of miracles.
I believe in You. I believe in You. You're the God of miracles.
I believe in You. I believe in You. You're the God of miracles.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Bethlehem January 19, 2025
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1/19—Ron Dork

1/19—Tracey Moyer

1/23—Lee Russell

1/25—Laura Hahn

1/25—Jane Kurkowski

1/26—Ron Hellenga

1/26—Patricia Duzenbery

Worship Servants for January 19

Assisting Minister—Karen Feahr

Lector—Kathi Ivany

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Denice Bossardet, Pr Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Barbara Oster in Memory of her father, Richard Oster*

Hospitality—Phil Anderson / Susie Burton

A/V—Jim Hinds / Barbara Oster

Cookies/Coffee—VOLUNTEER / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitors—Frank & Pat Wall

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Carl Lehto / Cindy Cuba

Thank You from Traverse City High School: We received a very nice thank you from the staff and students for Christmas gifts. One of the thanks came from a student who wrote: "My name is Alessa & I have been at TCHS for about a year now. Thank you for supporting our school. It means a lot to us. I really appreciate everything I got. It makes me feel really happy to see that you care!"

Let's Play Bunco Don't forget - Cheryl Wegener will be teaching a group to play Bunco right after the service today. Pizza and beverages will be provided. There will be another game available also.

Are you grieving something from a death or something else? It could be any kind of loss, and it hurts. We have a place for you here at Bethlehem on the 1st Monday of the month from 3:30 to 4:30 and the 3rd Monday of the month from 5:30 to 6:30 in the Youth Room. **The next date will be tomorrow January 20th at 5:30.** If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns at 231 392-6913.

It's January! Time For Bethlehem's In-person Support at Safe Harbor! Many of us Bethlehem members will be serving Safe Harbor guests on Saturday, 25 January; Sunday, 26 January; Tuesday 28 January. Kitchen Teams will be led by Cindy Monroe, B.J. Christensen, and Tina Dohm and the crews they have recruited. Zeke will be entertaining Tuesday night and we are seeking more talent- guitar, keyboard, other... The sign-ups for other jobs are all in the Gathering Space! Remember, Full-time Safe Harbor personnel are there with us... to explain each job and to deal with any and all issues. The sign-up for treats are also in the Gathering Space. This is needed community outreach. This is heeding Christ's command to serve our neighbors. C'mon and join in! Please contact me with any questions. Tom Rockne Bethlehem Safe Harbor Coordinator M.231.631.0040

Calling all bakers! We need your help to support Single MOMM! Single MOMM is an incredible local nonprofit that supports single mothers of all backgrounds by addressing the core issues of single motherhood and providing innovative and diverse solutions for families desiring to reach self-sufficiency. Now, Bethlehem has a chance to support this important mission - in a way that we excel at! Single MOMM is hosting a Valentine's Day event for local mothers, and Bethlehem has volunteered to donate homemade baked goods for their dessert bar and to pair with their soup and salad dinner. All desserts, breads, and rolls will be so appreciated by these moms! They expect to have 120-130 single mothers in attendance. **There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex - please fill in your name, what you plan to make, and how many servings. Donations should be marked "Single MOMM" and dropped off to BLC (either in the kitchen or Alanna's office) by Tuesday, February 4th.** This is an incredible chance for Bethlehem to engage with the local community and support an important cause - thank you for your generosity and support! Contact Alanna with any questions.

COLLEGE/MILITARY MAILINGS: The Christian Education Committee would like to remember our college and military members who are living away from home. **Please give the following information to Nancy Ammann by February 2nd: Name and COMPLETE address.** Information can be sent to my email which is nmammann@gmail.com OR placed in my mailbox at church OR you can give me a call at 946-8433. Thank you, Nancy Ammann

VISIONING TEAM UPDATE: First and foremost, many thanks to all who have participated within the Visioning Process over the past several months. A special thank you to Kelly Thomson and the Liv Arbors Community as we utilized their facility at our last gathering on January 11. Your hospitality is appreciated!! Our progress remains strong as we are closing in on a final product. The Visioning Team will be continuing our work at the end of the month, Tuesday, January 28, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., in order to finely tune our work and prepare to share the results with the congregation. Many hands do make light work... we are grateful for all who have participated along the way! Stay tuned... more to come!!!!

Alcoholics Anonymous: TC Groups will hold their Open Talk here at Bethlehem on three Saturday nights of each month from 8:00-9:00pm. They will not meet here on the second Saturday due to Contra on that night where they will meet at their TC Group office across from Sara Lee.

Coffee and Cookies on Sunday: Remember that treats and a drink on Sunday are appreciated by all. The sign-up sheet has many BLANK spaces so please take a moment to sign up to bring cookies or some other tasty treat on the Sunday that works best for you. Or sign up to prepare the coffee to give our loyal volunteer Mary Ann Tanis a day off.

Looking for A/V Volunteers! Would you be interested in volunteering to help with audio/visual up in the choir loft during services? We are looking to add a few more A/V volunteers to our list! Our current volunteers are absolutely fantastic! We would love to add a few more people to the rotation and have a few more people on the list. If you would be interested in learning, please contact Barbara Oster.

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, Jana Rockne and Jan Stretlien

CHAIR YOGA: Chair Yoga continues every Monday at 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall. The group will not meet for the rest of December. Cost is \$5.00 per person. It is slow paced stretches that helps with balance, flexibility and relaxation. Come and try it out.

The January issue of the STAR is now available. If you receive the weekly email, your January issue was emailed on January 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>.

Wednesday Bible Studies:

The Adult Bible Study meets from 9:30am—11:30am with the topic of the Book of 1 Corinthians

The Zoom Bible Study meets from 1:30pm—3:00pm -- The book will be *Up from Dust: Martha's Story*, a historical fiction by Heather Kaufman. Contact either Pr. Paul or Barbara with questions.

PROTECT OUR CARPET: spills always happen, but we now have TWO consistent ways to deal with them. Thanks to an anonymous donor we now have an actual carpet cleaning machine stored in the maintenance closet. If you cause one or see a spot, please grab the spot cleaner in the squirt container in the cabinet below the coffee makers in the Fellowship Hall. Just follow the directions on the bottle and we should be able to keep our carpet in good condition. But, if the stain is too big or too resistant, please use the carpet cleaning machine. Thank you!!

ANY AVAILABLE DRIVERS OUT THERE?: There is a delightful couple in our congregation who have good mobility but due to other health issues currently cannot drive. They would love to be able to attend church on Sunday mornings. They live at the east end of 14th street so it should be an easy pick-up and drop off for any members coming from the south or west side of town. When we established this service before for a member we had 4 volunteer groups who each selected one Sunday of the month to do the driving. Can you do that? If so please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or 231 631 0887. We will also have a list of alternates if you have to be out of town for one of your designated weekends.

Christian Care Giving Visitation 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as you are doing. As a Ministry we are called to take care of each other. Our goal is to provide care for all of those in need and to make sure no one feels alone and not cared for by our congregation. You are loved and wanted by all of your church family. If we can help you or you know of anyone who has a need, please let me know. Peggy Burns cobaltblues2003@yahoo.com or 231 392 6913 If you would like to be a caregiver please let me know.

Food pantry news: Winter has definitely come in with a bang. In order to keep our food pantry open in these freezing temperatures, we have to shift the types of items we keep it stocked with. Foods in cans and glass jars can't withstand these temperatures. Therefore, consider picking up dry good, especially things like powdered milk, cereal, and pasta. We can also stock hand and foot warmers and some personal care items. Thank you in advance for your generous and continued support of our little pantry. Suzanne and Kathie

You are Invited to Sunday Morning Adult Education: it is that time again, time to power up our learning and sharing of Scripture. Adult Education has resumed as of this morning. **We will meet in the Youth Room from 9:15 to 9:45 each Sunday to discuss the lessons for the day.** This is a relaxed venue, with inquisitive sharing, practical application, and an opportunity to get better acquainted with your brothers and sisters in Christ! We hope you will join... All Are Welcome!!!!

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 1/22—The Pub, Traverse City 7:00pm

GET A TREAT AND TAKE A SEAT!!! Remember that on the final Sunday of month, we are moving our coffee hour into the Fellowship Hall. This allows each person to sit for a moment and perhaps visit with someone new. So, on that Sunday each month be sure to take a turn into the Fellowship Hall. We will have a reminder sign on the counter in the Gathering Space to help you remember. Thank you!

Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday. Office Phone #: 231-947-9880

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.

Alanna Steffunick-Boomer/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on Wednesday

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 has been moved 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.

A big thank you to all who have turned in Olesons' slips. On January 7th, we received a check from Olesons for \$317.06. 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.**

Hoop's Pet Food Pantry: This is the only pet food pantry in NW lower Michigan. They primarily provide dry food, wet food, treats, cat litter and toys for mostly dogs and cats but they will support any type of pet to the best of their ability. **Please visit them at the Square Deal Country Store, 900 Woodmere Ave, TC from 11:00am – 2:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month** with your donations OR you may leave donations in the tub on our "donations" table in the coat room. The volunteers have expressed their appreciation when receiving our donations.

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.

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 \$40 (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.

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, January 19

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:30am—Bunco Party (FH)
12:30pm—Youth Discipleship Class at Feast of Victory

Monday, January 20

10:00am—Sustaining Endowment (Zoom)
2:30pm—Choir rehearsal (S)
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)
5:30pm—Grief Group (YR)

Tuesday, January 21

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
9:00am—Property Work Group
12:00pm—Sarah Circle (Library)
6:30pm—Council Meeting (Library)

Wednesday, January 22

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (Library)
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study (Zoom & YR)

Thursday, January 23

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, January 24

STAR Articles Due today

Saturday, January 25

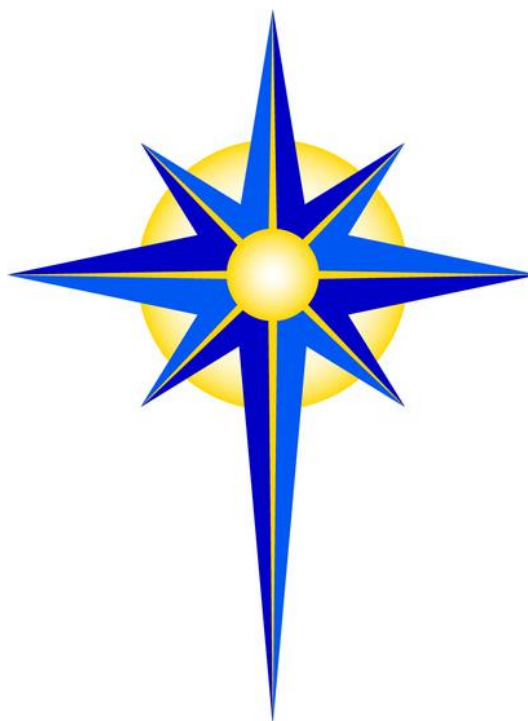
SAFE HARBOR

8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, January 26

SAFE HARBOR

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
2:00pm—Piano Class (S)





Audio / Visual Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for a few more volunteers to add to our A/V team!

Our current volunteers are absolutely fantastic!
We'd like to add a few more people to the rotation!

If you would be interested, reach out to Barbara Oster.

