

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 16, 2025 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



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:

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479

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: Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

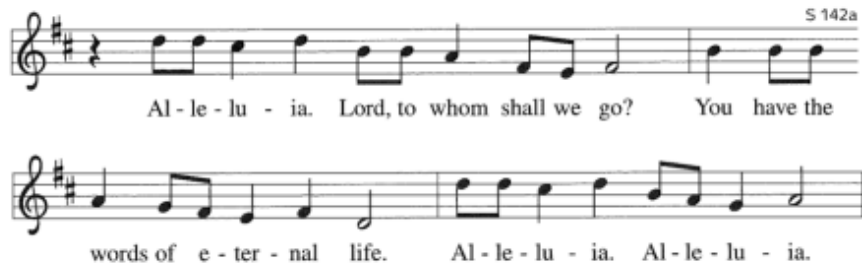
5 Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. 6 They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. 7 Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. 8 They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. 9 The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? 10 I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia



Gospel: Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

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

17 Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. 18 They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. 19 And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. 20 Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 22 “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. 23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. 24 “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 25 “Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. 26 “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726

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:

***All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly
By Your Hand You Feed Your People***

ELW 461

ELW 469

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:

Blessed Be Your Name

Redman

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful, where Your streams of abundance flow blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place, though I walk through the wilderness blessed be Your name.

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise. When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,

"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name."

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me, when the world's "all as it should be" blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering, though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name. Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise. When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,

"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name."

You give and take away, You give and take away. My heart will choose to say, "Lord, Blessed be Your name." You give and take away, You give and take away. My heart will choose to say, "Lord, Blessed be Your name."

"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name."

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem February 16, 2025
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

2/17—Rodney Rice
2/18—Harper Wiemerslage
2/20—Peggy Goebel

2/21—Daniel Hahn
2/22—Sarah Denton

Worship Servants for February 16

Assisting Minister—Cindy Monroe

Lector—Chris Walter

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By the Congregation in thanks for all of God's blessings*

Hospitality—Jim & Dorene Boyd

A/V—Jim Monroe / Barbara Oster

Cookies/Coffee— VOLUNTEER / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table— Gail Goldsmith

Bell Ringer—Gail Goldsmith

Front Door Monitors: Frank & Pat Wall

Altar Guild— Mary Ann Tanis / Gail Goldsmith

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Kate Holtfreter / Suzanne Lehto

“Garage Sale”: Recently the basement storeroom was cleaned out in preparation for the basement repairs. There are items in the Fellowship Hall for the taking. If you find something that you “need” and would like to make a donation to BLC, thank you, but you are not obligated to.

LET’S PLAY GAMES: **You are welcome to stay after today’s service for a game day.** There will be snacks along with sandwich fixings and beverage. So come and have fun. Any questions talk with Gail.

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, February 17. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns at 231 392-6913.

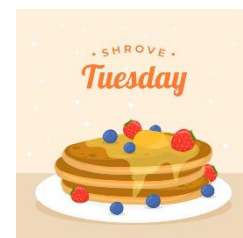
BOOK CLUB NEWS: The next meeting will be Wed, Feb 19 at 5:30. We will be reading “*The Book of Lost Names*” by Kristin Harmel. Please enter the kitchen door and join us in the Fellowship Hall if you like to discuss good books. Any questions can be directed to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net.

Our next Third Thursday Service will be on February 20th with a Taize 2 service. The meal will start at 5:45pm and will include a baked potato bar, with several toppings, salad, desserts and beverages., dessert and beverages. The service begins at 7:00pm. We hope to see you there.

The annual ski trip is next Sunday, February 23rd! We will be meeting at Caberfae in Cadillac at 1pm - anyone who enjoys the winter wonderland is welcome to join us! We will be covering the costs for any youth that volunteered at the pancake breakfast - everyone else, please be aware that you will just need to pay your own way. We will all meet at The Timbers Restaurant at 6pm for dinner. If you don't like to ski or snowboard, Alanna will just be watching and would love your company! Reach out and let her know if you plan to attend! More information is available in your weekly email.

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will begin at 5:30 on March 4th.

e menu will be: Buttermilk and gluten free pancakes, sausage links, crustless quiche (gluten free) with ham and cheese, fruit, juice and coffee. We will play games after dinner, so bring your favorite games. Please come for a nice evening of food, fellowship and fun.



NEW MEMBER MEETING: If you want to be an official member of BLC, please join us Sunday March 9 after the service in the library. We will have some snacks, learn about Bethlehem, and have a chance to visit with some long-time and potential new members. Bring your calendar so we can set the date for official date of your acceptance during a Sunday service.

First Communion Classes will begin on Sunday, March 9th at 9:00am. For any questions, please see either Pr Paul or Sherri Helman.

Do you have a famous chili or soup recipe? Or, do you just really love eating chili or soup? The Soup & Chili Cook-Off is back on Sunday, March 16th, right after church. We will be raising funds to support Bethlehem's youth program! Prizes will be awarded for best in each category (beef chili, chicken chili, vegetarian chili, and soup) as well as for overall winner! Enter your special recipe or just come to enjoy a delicious lunch. Email Alanna at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org to enter the competition!

Do you have a stash of Get-Well cards at your house? If so, please look through them and select the funniest card. We would like to deliver a dose of laughter to a member who would really appreciate it. Please sign and place in the basket in the gathering space.

How to support those needing help in California: Many of you may be asking yourself what you can do. Here is one way to help that was used when BLC provided monetary support to the survivors of the hurricanes a few months ago. You do NOT need to be a member of Thrivent but you will need to use a credit card. Go to <https://thrivent.cotribute.co/events/1091099/detail> Yes, that funny spelling is correct, because Thrivent is CO-donating with you. Your donation will be "amplified" by Thrivent with the organization donating \$1 for every \$2 you donate! Their goal is \$1,000,000 in personal donations and they will donate \$500,000. Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is one of the organizations coordinating with partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires and provide assistance. They will provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction. LDR has set its goal at \$250,000 and has already raised \$138,066. It is committed to accompanying recovering communities for months and years to come.

Bethlehem Community Involvement at Safe Harbor Thank you to all the BLC supporters of Safe Harbor who donated food and worked on site! The guests loved our food and our welcome! I'll be in touch soon with summer and 2026 news. Thanks to Cindy M, Jim M, Betty R, James H, Sue A, Dave P, Doug C, Diane C, Cheryl W, Carl L, Cindy K, Gail G, Don S, Dave P, Suzanne L, Bethany U, Peggy B, Patty L, Pastor Paul B, Aleah G, Jacob G, Martin G, Monica G, Kathie B, Renae W, Makena D, Janet L, Jana R, Tim G, Christina D, Zeke C, Peg P, Carolyn M, Dave P, Jane F, B.J. C, Tom C, Jim H, Lindsay S, Dave S, Claire H, Kristen R, Dan H, Laura H, Alanna S-B, Pat W, Barbara O, Beth N, Stewart N, Tami, and others who may have been overlooked on this list. Tom Rockne, BLC Safe Harbor Coordinator

Giving Statements Available: Your individual giving statements will be available in your mailbox in the Narthex beginning Sunday February 2, 2025. The statement covers giving from January 1st through December 31, 2024 Please pick them up at your convenience. To save on postage, I will mail out the ones not picked up by the end of February. Thank you for your generous support for the programs and ministries of your church. We are all blessed by your faithful giving. Your Bookkeeper

Alcoholics Anonymous: TC Groups are holding 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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Please mark June 8 on your calendar and plan to attend if you can. It is critical for you to be involved in the affairs of your congregation. Also, if any of you are thinking about dipping your toes in the water and becoming more involved as a leader there will be openings on the endowment committees and on council. All of the groups are very welcoming and every person's individual thoughts and talents bring so much more to a group. Please think and pray about it. You can leave your name with the office or any committee or council member.



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, and Jana Rockne.

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 February issue of the STAR is now available. If you receive the weekly email, your February issue was emailed on February 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. They will be out of town with their family during the months of Feb and March, so rides will need to be lined up as of the beginning of April. 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. 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 2/19—The Pub, Traverse City 7:00pm **Fri 2/21**—MiddleCoast 6:00pm

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 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.

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.

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.**

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. **NOTE:** There are no altar flowers during Lent . 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, February 16

- 9:15am—Sunday School
- 9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
- 10:00am—Worship Service (S)
- 11:30am—Game Day (FH)
- 2:00pm—Girl Scouts (Library)

Monday, February 17

- 2:30pm—Choir rehearsal (S)
- 3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)
- 5:30pm—Grief group (YR)

Tuesday, February 18

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, February 19

- 8:30am—Summit Fire Protection
- 9:30am—Adult Bible Study (Library)
- 11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
- 1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study (Zoom & YR)
- 5:30pm—Book/Supper Club (FH)

Thursday, February 20

- 5:30pm—ACA (FH)
- 5:45pm—Third Thursday meal (FH)
- 7:00pm—Third Thursday service -Taize 2 (S)

Friday, February 21

STAR articles due

- 10:00am—Sew Pieceful (FH)
- 1:00pm—Lehto SG (Library)

Saturday, February 22

- 8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, February 23

Ski Trip (Intergenerational)

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

