

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 25, 2024 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 10



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our provider,

C: ... help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Look Beyond

Gather #343

Look beyond the bread you eat; See your Savior and your Lord.
Look beyond the cup you drink; See his love poured out as blood.

Give us a sign that we might believe in you.
Our fathers brought us manna from the sky.

Look beyond the bread you eat; See your Savior and your Lord.
Look beyond the cup you drink; See his love poured out as blood.

I am the bread which from heavens came;
He who eats this bread will never die.

Look beyond the bread you eat; See your Savior and your Lord.
Look beyond the cup you drink; See his love poured out as blood.

The bread I give you will be my very flesh;
My blood will truly be your drink.

(continued on next page)

Look beyond the bread you eat; See your Savior and your Lord.
Look beyond the cup you drink; See his love poured out as blood.

This man speaks harshly; who can listen to his word?
We shall no longer follow him.

Look beyond the bread you eat; See your Savior and your Lord.
Look beyond the cup you drink; See his love poured out as blood.

You, my disciples, will you also leave?
Lord to whom can we go?

Look beyond the bread you eat; See your Savior and your Lord.
Look beyond the cup you drink; See his love poured out as blood.

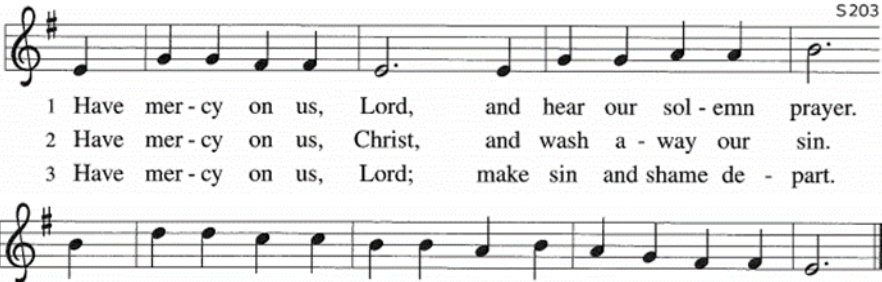
Greeting

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

p. 203



5203

1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: **Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

In the Near East, covenant means “agreement” or “alliance.” It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

1 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. 2a And Joshua said to all the people, 14 “Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

(continued on next page)

16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; 18 and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

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

Psalm: Psalm 34:15-22

15 The eyes of the Lord are up on the righteous, and God’s ears are open to their cry.

16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.

17 The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them and delivers them from all their troubles.

18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed.

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them from every one.

20 God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.

21 Evil will bring death to the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

22 O Lord, you redeem the life of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

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 6:56-69

The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”

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

Jesus said, 56 “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. 57 Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” 59 He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. 60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” 61 But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? 62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. 65 And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” 66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. 67 So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” 68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Blessed Assurance

ELW #638

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:

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW #465

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. 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:

Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup
As Rain from the Clouds

ELW #492

ELW #508

Final Blessing

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.
C: Amen.

Sending Song:

All Things are Possible

Verse 1

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

Verse 2

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

Chorus

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

Verse 2

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

Chorus

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

Bridge

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

Chorus

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

Bridge

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

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Bethlehem August 25, 2024
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

8/25—Bonnie Newhouse

8/27—Jim Williams

8/28—Sheila Mosley

8/29—Dana Bugai

8/29—Bethany Uhl

8/29—Katherine Word

8/30—Bonnie Gamble

9/1—Mary Belle Woodring

9/1—Marilyn DuMond

Worship Servants for August 25

Assisting Minister—Jana Rockne

Lector—Nancy Ammann

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *by Ken & Kris Smith in Memory of Our Parents*

Hospitality—Jim & Dorene Boyd

A/V—Barbara Oster / Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—Cindy Monroe / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitors—Tina Dohm

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Jane Passmore / Bonnie Gamble

Thank you from our Youth: To Our BLC Family – Thank you very much for assisting us financially, prayerfully and at the send off during the National Youth Gathering. We had an incredible experience and couldn't have done it without you. Thank you with love, Makena Dohm and Owen Munger.

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.

CHAIR YOGA: Chair Yoga will continue through the month of October except for Mondays September 2 (Labor Day), September 23, September 30 and October 7. Janet, the instructor, will return on October 14th. We will meet every Monday at 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5.00 per person. It is slow paced stretches that helps with balance, flexibility and relaxation. Come and try it out.

JOIN THE VISION TRAIN: Visioning Conversations with the congregation are planned, we are moving forward, the train is preparing to leave the depot. Jump on board! Join in the conversation! Events Include:

Sunday, October 6, Listening for God in Scripture

Sunday, October 20, Listening for God in the Congregation

Sunday, November 17, Listening for God in Community

Each of the above Sundays will begin following worship sharing a meal. Our facilitator, Rev. Roger Hardy, will join us to guide us through our time together and aid us in gathering information. What you have on your heart and mind is important to the process. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend. Stay tuned...more information to come!!!!

The August issue of the STAR is now available. If you receive the weekly email, your September issue will be emailed around September 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>.

Christian Caregivers: Ever wonder what is done with the flowers behind the altar? They are divided up into small bouquets and given to our folks for a variety of reasons, people who have helped out, or it's a special occasion and thank you. The bouquets are delivered to our home bound and need to know we are thinking of them. We are looking for more people to help in this ministry. We need you! If you are interested or have any questions, please call or text Peggy Burns at 231-392-6913

Weekly Email - New Program! Our current weekly email program is being discontinued at the end of the month. We will be moving over to a new program so that we can continue sending our weekly email updates as well as our new email version of the STAR! Nothing will be changing for you - you will still be getting your emails automatically, and you probably won't even notice a difference - the emails will look very similar! We will simply be using the Mailchimp program now, as opposed to the Madmimi program that we have used for the last few years. Our first weekly email with the new program will be sent on Thursday, September 5th. If you do not see that email in your inbox, check your spam folder - since it's a new program, your email may think that it's spam and you will need to mark the email as 'Not Spam' so that they come to your inbox instead! If the email is not in your spam folder either, or if you have not been receiving weekly emails before now and would like to, reach out to Alanna at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org.

Help us kick off all of our wonderful fall activities! Rally Day is Sunday, September 8th. Immediately after worship we will head across the road to pick up trash along Peninsula Drive and in Bryant Park as our service project for God's Work, Our Hands. Gloves and trash bags will be provided - let's help keep God's Creation beautiful and cared for! We will then enjoy a delicious lunch of grilled hotdogs, cookies, chips, and more, followed by games and fun! This is not only for the little ones - we want the whole congregation to join us, as well as anyone in the community who might be interested! Mark it on your calendar, invite your friends, and plan to celebrate a great start to the fall season!

EXTRA CARS AND VEHICLES COMING TO BLC PARKING LOT: The alley behind our parking lot will finally be paved between August 19 and Sept 19. YAY!!! The city asked if our lot could be used by residents on the alley when access to their homes is blocked. We generously replied "yes!" So expect to see extra cars and perhaps Elmer's vehicles in our lot at various times including Sunday mornings. In return for our generosity both Elmer's and Traverse City gave us a sizeable reduction on the bill which we have to pay for this paving. Kindness truly yields kindness! Please say "hi" to our neighbors if you see them in the lot and tell the Elmer's crew "Thank you!"

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 in September. We appreciate all of the volunteers. If you have any questions, the committee members are Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer, Jana Rockne and Jan Stretlien

Good Samaritan Fund Drive for August: This is one of our local outreach initiatives that allows us to be able to help our local residents when there may be a need for assistance with food, gas, a doctor bill, etc. We have been lucky in the past to help many many families and hope that you will once again help us build back this dwindling fund. Please, if paying by check, make the check payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church with Good Samaritan fund in the memo line. Check out the special board in the Narthex for more information.

Come Join a Craft Class/Acrylic Paint and Pour: Please sign up and join us for an afternoon of fun at Hang Workshop. We are planning to do a paint and pour project. You can choose your own project. Large projects are \$45 and small ones are \$35. We will be having the class on Saturday, September 28th at 2:00. The class will last about 1 1/2 hours. If you would like to see the class information and the craft, please look on their website at HangWorkshop.com. Sign up now and pay the day of the class. Any questions contact Gail Goldsmith 231-633-2630.

September is almost here: So after a Summer break our groups will start up again

LWR Quilters—9/3 at 9:00am

Zoom Bible Study—9/11 at 1:30pm

XYZ—9/13 at 12Noon

Sunday School/Adult Education—9/15 at 9:15am

Wednesday Bible Study—9/18 at 9:30am

Third Thursday—9/19 at 7:00pm

FOOD PANTRY NEWS The recent readings remind us to be generous; to give of ourselves for the benefit of others. Sharing what we have and being generous does not take from what we have for ourselves. Giving of ourselves nourishes our hearts and souls. We are reminded that in faith all will be nourished, food will be fruitful, and there will be plenty for all. I urge all of you to be generous and give from your heart. Remember that if you have a Thrivent account you can apply for a \$250 grant to use to help us stock the food pantry. Buy a few extra items at the grocery store. This is a great way to take care of members of our community who are struggling to feed themselves and their families. Additional items we can put in the pantry are tooth brushes, trial size soaps, female products in small packages, and similar items. Thank you all for your support and love. Suzanne and Kathie

PROTECT OUR CARPET: spills always happen, but we now have a consistent way to deal with them. If you cause one or see one, please grab the spot cleaner in the squirt container over by the triple sinks in the kitchen. Just follow the directions on the bottle and we should be able to keep our carpet in good condition. Thank you!!

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 8/28—The Pub 8:00pm

Sat 8/31—Brady's Bar 6:30pm

Fri 8/30—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.

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 Thursday. He will change back to Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday after Labor Day,

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

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 3rd Monday of the month from 6:00 to 7:00 in the library. If you have any questions please contact Peggy Burns at 231 392-6913.

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 April 8th, we received a check from Olesons for \$206.60. 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.

We journey with God
to serve with love

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, August 25

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

Monday, August 26

3:00pm—Chair Yoga

Tuesday, August 27

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

Wednesday, August 28

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

5:00pm—Northern Michigan Ecstatic Dance (FH)

Thursday, August 29

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Sunday, September 1

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

