Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024 – 10am Modern Worship, ELW Setting 10

Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: ... have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of \pm Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW #798

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





Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr Paul

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

1 So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. 2 You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. 6 You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" 7 For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? 8 And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? 9 But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God





for

the good news that you bring.

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

Lord, we sing

le - lu - ia!

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

p. 205

1 Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, 2 they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. 3 (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; 4 and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) 5 So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" 6 He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; 7 in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' 8 You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." 14 Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: 15 there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. 21 "For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, 22 adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

Sermon Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

My Country "Tis of Thee

My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing: Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride from every mountain side let freedom ring!

My native country, thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love: I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills; My heart with rapture thrills like that above.

Let music swell the breeze and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song: Let mortal tongues awake, let all that breathe partake; Let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.

Our fathers' God to Thee, author of liberty, to Thee we sing: Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King!

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

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion (Please note: gluten-free wafers and white grape juice cups are available)

Communion Songs:

Bind Us Together (words below) **Heaven Is Singing for Joy**

WOV #748 ELW #664

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken. Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

There is only one God. There is only one King. There is only one Body; that is why we can sing:

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken. Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

You are the family of God. You are the promise divine. You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken. Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

Final Blessing

P: God all mighty, God most merciful + bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies (America the Beautiful) **Sending Song:**

ELW #888

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9/1—Mary Belle Woodring 9/1—Marilyn DuMond 9/3—Sue Allen 9/4—Barb Svalstad 9/5—Jacob Graf 9/5—Dennis Merrifield 9?5—Gail Goldsmith 9/5—Janet Landis 9/8—Carole Luttinen

Join us next Sunday for our Traditional Sunday, God's Work Our Hands Sunday and Rally Day

Worship Servants for September 1

Assisting Minister—Sherri Helman

Lector—Kathy Ancinec

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: by Ron and Marilyn Dork in Honor of the wedding of Luke Friedli and Katherine Lomas

Hospitality—Gary & Kathy Ancinec

A/V—Dale Wentzloff / Paul Ton

Cookies/Coffee— Linda Hansen / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitors—Jana Rockne

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Carl Lehto / Bonnie Gamble

<u>Thank you from our Youth: To Our BLC Family</u> – Thank you <u>very</u> 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 if without you. Thank you with love, Makena Dohm and Owen Munger.

Note from former members: Lee & I miss our Sunday morning meet and great get together each week with you wonderful folks and great sermon. We know there is a Savior because of you folks. You are far more important than you know. I miss giving out suckers to the kids. Church is very important and wanted you all to know that. We appreciate your prayers. Best wishes and prayers. Lee & Tom Miller

<u>Coffee and Cookies on Sunday</u>: 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.

<u>CHAIR YOGA</u>: 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: More information is now on display in the narthex regarding the Visioning Congregation Conversations. You will find sign up sheets for the three Sunday events: October 6, October 20, and November 17. It will be important that we have a good estimate of how many plan to attend. Please help us by listing those in your household that will be joining... this is most appreciated. Our time together will be guided by our guest facilitator, Rev. Roger Hardy. Come and help us as we focus on Listening for God in Scripture, in the Congregation, and in the Community beyond the walls of Bethlehem. We are excited... we pray that you are too! We look forward to our time together....all are welcome!!

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 will resume on Sunday morning, September 15. 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!!!!

CHOIR NEWS: Choir rehearsals will resume this coming Thursday at 7:00. If you are interested in joining the choir, give your contact information to Cindy Monroe or any member of the choir and have them pass it on to our choir director, Tony Bero and he will get in touch with you directly. Or you can simply arrive at choir rehearsal on Thursday and we'll figure out how best to use your talents.

<u>WELCA FUN DAY: Ladies: Set aside Sunday, September 22nd for the next WELCA Fun Day.</u> Our own BJ Christensen will be our guest speaker! We will have a NOON baked potato bar potluck. Please bring toppings for the potatoes or side dishes. Please join us!

The September issue of the STAR is now available. If you receive the weekly email, your September issue was emailed on August 30th. 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.

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. The September STAR will be emailed with this new program on Friday, August 30th. Our first weekly email with the new program will be sent on Thursday, September 5th. If you do not see either of these emails 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.

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

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!

Third Thursday Worship Service and Meal: Bethlehem will begin Third Thursday Worship Services and meal on September 19th. The meal will begin at 5:45 and the Fellowship Committee will be providing salad, dessert and beverages. A taco salad bar be served in September. Please come and enjoy a meal and social time before the Holden Evening Prayer service which begins at 7:00pm

XYZ Potlucks & Presentations resume on Friday, September 13th! After a delicious potluck lunch at 12pm noon, we will enjoy a presentation by Karie Lambert, the Grand Traverse Local Director of Single MOMM. Single MOMM is "a ministry that addresses the core issues of single motherhood and provides innovative and diverse solutions for families desiring to reach self-sufficiency." While predominantly geared toward seniors, XYZ gathering are open to anyone who is interested in attending! All of our wonderful presentations last year were informative, useful, and enjoyable for people of any age, and we are excited to continue that with more great presentations this year. See you there

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 DRIVE A SUCCESS: You are still welcome to donate to this fund at any time, but we are so pleased that the goal of \$1275 has been achieved and surpassed. Over \$2000 was collected in August. Members of BLC are so generous!! Thank you!

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.

<u>CHANGE OF DAYS FOR BOOK CLUB</u>: After years of meeting on Tuesdays the Book Club has found that it will be more helpful for some of its members if we move our meetings to WEDNESDAY. <u>In September the meeting will be the 4th Wed of the month, Sept 25 at 5:30.</u> We are reading *The Waters* by Bonnie Jo Campbell who is a well-known author who resides in Kalamazoo. <u>After Sept the meetings will occur on the 3rd WED OF THE MONTH</u>. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall if you like to discuss good books.

WALK FOR PARKINSON'S A SUCCESS: Thanks to all who participated in the Parkinson's Walk on 8/24. It was a beautiful day for a walk to support one of our members, Margaret Hutchison, who recently received that diagnosis. Thank you whether you donated to the cause and/or were there to join the parade around the Civic Center track. Thanks to many generous members from Bethlehem the Hutchinsons almost doubled their goal of \$500 to support families of someone with Parkinson's, education, and research. Thanks also to Thrivent for our great "Margaret's Marchers" shirts and for funding our delicious picnic after.

BLC GOES TO THE THEATRE: Some of you have been asking if we could plan an outing to Old Town Playhouse. If we go as a group we can get a reduced price. The date which still had "good" seats was **Sun September 29 at 2:00pm** to see *Waitress*. We picked a matinee so no one had to be concerned about being out at night. Normal cost is \$33 per ticket. If we have 8-19 people the cost will be \$28. If we have 20 or more the cost is \$25 each. We need to confirm the number of seats we are going to use so please sign up on the sheet in the gathering space BY SEPTEMBER 13 if you can join in the fun. Payment can be in cash or a check to Old Town Playhouse by the day of the event to Cindy Monroe.

A BRIDAL SHOWER OF RECIPES: Most of you know that one of our members will be married in October. Being a private person she declined our offer for a bridal shower. BUT, we have a "gentle" way to show her our love. Please take a recipe card and write down your favorite recipe and include your name somewhere on that card. If you don't like to cook, then please share your "recipe" for a happy marriage. There will be a basket for collecting the cards in the gathering space. Please plan to deposit your card by the end of September.

September is 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 9/4—The Pub, Traverse City 8:00pm

Fri 9/6—Hammers Pub, Lake City 7:00pm

<u>GET A TREAT AND TAKE A SEAT!!!</u> 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.

<u>Offerings</u>: 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.

<u>IMPORTANT NOTICE</u>: 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:

<u>Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant</u> works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

<u>Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper</u> works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and **Wednesday.**<u>Alanna Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator</u> 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.

<u>Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes?</u> 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
- <u>Prayers read from the altar</u>: Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880 or admin@bethlehemtc.org

<u>Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font!</u> 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.

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

<u>Name tags</u>: 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.

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, September 1
10:00am—Worship Service (S)

Monday, September 2 Happy & Safe Labor Day Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 3
Bulletin articles due today
9:00am—Property Work Group
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

Wednesday, September 4
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

10:45am—Staff Meeting (CR)

Thursday, September 5 5:30pm—ACA (FH) 7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Sunday, September 8
God's Work Our Hands
Rally Day
10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)







