

# Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



## Prelude Music

*I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*

Adult Choir

## Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

**C: Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

WL: 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.**

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

**C: Amen.**

## Gathering Song:

*All Are Welcome*

*ELW #641*

## Greeting

WL: 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: O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## Children's Message

Peggy Burns, S.A.M.

## First Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20

*Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.*

18 It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. 19 But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!" 20 But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

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: Mark 9:30-37

*Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.*

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

30 Jesus and the disciples went on and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; 31 for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." 32 But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. 33 Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" 34 But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. 35 He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." 36 Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 37 "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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

Sermon

Peggy Burns, S.A.M.

Song of the Day:

**Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service**

**ELW #712**

**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:**

**Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta - ble  
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The image shows a musical score for the offertory song 'Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful'. It consists of five staves of music in a single system, written in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The music is a simple, melodic line with some rests and ties. The lyrics are: 'Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.'

## 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.

## Lord's Prayer

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

## Final Blessing

WL: God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

## Sending Song:

*Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*

ELW #535

## Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.



**Bethlehem** September 22, 2024  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880  
[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

9/28—Aleah Graf

9/28—Tom Woodworth

9/29—Bella Gaston

9/29—Austin Leatherman

**Today we welcome Peggy Burns S.A.M as our Worship Leader and Preacher**

### **Worship Servants for September 22**

Assisting Minister—Bethany Uhl

Lector—Chris Walter

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet

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

Hospitality—Jim and Dorene Boyd

A/V—Barbara Oster / Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—VOLUNTEER / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—VOLUNTEER

Front Door Monitors—Alanna Steffunick

Altar Guild—NO COMMUNION

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Carl Lehto / Laura Hahn

**WELCA FUN DAY:** Ladies: You are welcome to stay this afternoon for our WELCA Fun Day. 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!

**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 but will take a break for the next three Mondays: 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.

**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.

**CHANGE OF DAYS FOR BOOK CLUB:** 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.** In September the meeting will be the 4th Wed of the month, Sept 25 at 5:30. We are reading *The Waters* by Bonnie Jo Campbell who is a well-known author who resides in Kalamazoo. **After September, the meetings will occur on the 3rd WED OF THE MONTH.** Please join us in the Fellowship Hall if you like to discuss good books.



**CHOIR NEWS:** Choir rehearsals have resumed on **Thursdays at 7:00 – September 26<sup>th</sup>, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and October 10<sup>th</sup>.** 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.

**Wednesday Bible Studies have returned:**

The Adult Bible Study will meet in the Library from 9:30am—11:30am with the topic of the Book of Romans

The Zoom Bible Study will meet from 1:30pm—3:00pm with the Book of Job. If you prefer to meet with Pr Paul and others in the Youth Room, you are welcome to join us.

**JOIN THE VISION TRAIN: ALL ABOARD! SIGN UP NOW!!** Are you ready to go? Have you signed up for the events that you plan to attend? Have you been thinking and praying about your hopes and dreams for Bethlehem? It is time! We are moving forward... plan to join all three events as each will have a different emphasis. We look forward to sharing and growing together as we anticipate the next chapter of our ministry at Bethlehem. A meal will be served and we will begin a little after 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

**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

**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!!!!

**The Worship and Music committee has started its annual Pecan Sale.** See the blue insert in today's worship folder for pre-ordering information. The deadline for ordering is October 6th.

**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. Next month will be October 21st. If you have any questions please contact Peggy Burns at 231 392-6913.

**Third Thursday Worship Service and Meal:** Bethlehem's next Third Thursday Worship Services and meal will be Behold Our Light on October 17th. The meal will begin at 5:45 and the Fellowship Committee will be providing a Caesar salad with chicken plus dessert. Please come and enjoy a meal and social time before the Behold Our Light service which begins at 7:00pm



**The next XYZ Potluck & Presentation will be on Friday, October 4th** (note that this is the first Friday instead of the second, due to event conflicts). We will meet at noon for a delicious potluck lunch, followed by our presentation. We will be joined by Nancy Bordine who will be speaking on "The Way We Wore" and showing her collection of vintage clothing and their history. While predominantly geared toward seniors, XYZ is open to any adult who would like to join - the presentations would be enjoyable and informative to anyone!

**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!

**The September issue of the STAR is now available.** The October STAR will be available next week. 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](http://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

**AARP Driving Refresher course for Seniors taught by our own member, Gary Ancinec.** Have you wondered if you are driving as well as you should? Do you really know all of the rules? Especially with all of these new round-a-bouts? Then this is the course for you. It will be taught 1 to 5 pm on 10/23 and 10/24 in the Fellowship Hall. You need to attend both days to receive the completion certificate. Some insurances will honor that certificate with a reduction in your insurance (You must check individually with your insurance to determine any reduction in premium.) In any case this class should give you comfort knowing that you are doing everything possible to stay safe on the road. Cost is \$20 for AARP for members and \$25 for non-members. You receive a workbook which is yours to keep. There is a sign-up sheet in the gathering space or call Gary at 989 906 2765.

**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

**A BRIDAL SHOWER OF RECIPES:** Many of you know that a young female BLC staff member will be married in Oct. 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 type or 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 is a basket for collecting the cards in the gathering space. Please plan to deposit your card by the end of Sept.

**HAVE YOU NOTICED SOMETHING NEW IN THE PEWS?** Some of our members have been disappointed that there has not consistently been a bible in their pew if they just wanted to read a particular passage while waiting for the service to begin. Well, one of our members decided to do something about it. Every pew now has 4 bibles with some even in the back for those who sit there. A special thanks goes out to this anonymous donor who saw a need and did something about it. What a blessing!



**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:

**Sun 9/22**—Bel Lago Winery, Cedar 3:30pm    **Wed 9/25**—The Pub, Traverse City 8:00pm



**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 Wednesday.

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

**Prayer Requests:**

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at [jstretlien@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 August 29th, we received a check from Olesons for \$190.86. 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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is of the calendar.**

**Sunday, September 22**

9:15am—Sunday School  
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)  
10:00am—Worship Service (S)  
12:00pm—WELCA Potluck (FH)

**Tuesday, September 24**

**Bulletin articles due today**

9:00am—Property Work Group  
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

**Wednesday, September 25**

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

**Thursday, September 26**

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

**Saturday, September 28**

2:00pm—Acrylic Paint and Pour (Offsite)

**Sunday, September 29**

9:15am—Sunday School  
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)  
10:00am—Worship Service (S)  
12:30pm—Youth Discipleship/Confirmation Class (YR)



The poster features a green background with a white star logo in the top left corner. The text "XYZ EXTRA YEARS OF ZEST" is prominently displayed in large, bold, black letters. Below this, it says "Join us for a potluck lunch, followed by a wonderful presentation!". At the bottom, there is a photo of Nancy Bordini, the author of "The Way We Wore", and the date "Friday October 4th 12pm (please note date change)".



The poster has a rustic wood-grain background with a pine branch on the left. The title "Art & Craft Show" is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, the date and time "November 2nd, 2024 9am - 3pm" are listed. A circular callout says "Dozens of local artists and crafters with original, handmade goods!". At the bottom, the church name and address "Bethlehem Lutheran Church 1050 Peninsula Drive Traverse City, MI 59686" are provided, flanked by two star logos.