Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 6, 2024 – 10am Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3

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: Gather Us In ELW #532

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: Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr. Paul

First Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other "one flesh." The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).

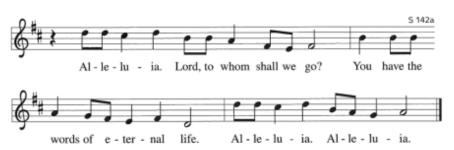
18 The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." 19 So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." 24 Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia



Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.

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

2 Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" 3 He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" 4 They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." 5 But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. 6 But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 7 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8 and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." (continued on next page)

10 Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. 11 He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; 12 and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." 13 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. 14 But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. 15 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." 16 And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

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

Sermon Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

African-American Spiritual

Every time I feel the spirit movin' in my heart I will pray. Yes, ev'ry time I feel the spirit movin' in my heart I will pray.

Upon the mountain my Lord spoke. Out his mouth came fire and smoke. All around me looks so fine, ask my Lord if all was mine.

Every time I feel the spirit movin' in my heart I will pray. Yes, ev'ry time I feel the spirit movin' in my heart I will pray.

Jordan River runs right cold, chills the body, not the soul. Ain't but one train on this track, runs to heaven and right back.

Every time I feel the spirit movin' in my heart I will pray. Yes, ev'ry time I feel the spirit movin' in my heart I will pray.

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.

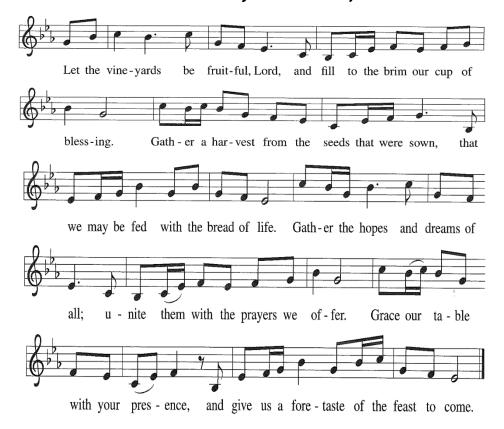
Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace (Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)

Offering / Offering Song:

Zeke Clemons

Offertory:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



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:

There Is a Balm in Gilead Healer of Our Every Ill ELW #614 ELW #612

Final Blessing

P: God all mighty, God most merciful \pm bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **C: Amen.**

Sending Song:

Soul on Fire

God, I'm running for Your heart, I'm running for Your heart 'til I am a soul on fire. Lord, I'm longing for Your ways. I'm waiting for the day when I am a soul on fire, 'til I am a soul on fire. God, I'm running for Your heart, I'm running for Your heart 'til I am a soul on fire.

Lord, I'm longing for Your ways. I'm waiting for the day when I am a soul on fire, 'til I am a soul on fire. Lord, restore the joy I had. I have wandered, bring me back. In this darkness, lead me through until all I see is You, yeah!

God, I'm running for Your heart, I'm running for Your heart 'til I am a soul on fire. Lord, I'm longing for Your ways. I'm waiting for the day when I am a soul on fire, 'til I am a soul on fire.

Lord, let me burn for You again. Let me return to You again. And Lord, let me burn for You again! And let me return to You again!

God, I'm running for Your heart, I'm running for Your heart 'til I am a soul on fire. Lord, I'm longing for Your ways; I'm waiting for the day when I am a soul on fire, God, I'm running for Your heart, I'm running for Your heart 'til I am a soul on fire. ... 'til I am a soul on fire, 'til I am a soul on fi-re.

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

10/6—Phil Bossardet10/9—Butch Waisanen10/6—Will Gaston10/12—Kay Asiala10/6—Maggie Hahn10/13—Tom Cole

Join us next Sunday for our Traditional Worship Service at 10:00am

Worship Servants for October 6

Assisting Minister—Cindy Monroe
Lector—Peg Peppler
Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr. Paul
Today's altar flowers are donated: by Jacky Putman in Memory of Inge Thomas
Hospitality—Tom Fink & Deb Hissong
A/V—Jim Monroe / Paul Ton / Acker Family
Cookies/Coffee— Kathie Bair / Mary Ann Tanis
Welcome Table— VOLUNTEER
Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel
Front Door Monitors—Judi Block
Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth / Erin Word

Tech Support—Julia Acker Counters—Kate Holtfreter / Cindy Cuba

JOIN THE VISION TRAIN: TODAY IS THE DAY!!! "Listening for God in Scripture" is today's emphasis and we will be guided by our guest facilitator, Rev. Roger Hardy. If you have not signed up... please do not let that stop you. All are welcome! Please join us... see you after church!

Note from The Family of Daniel Deutsch Thank you so much for the beautiful remembrance you sent in memory of Pastor Dan. He loved his time of ministry among you. Your thoughtfulness and care in our time of loss is much appreciated. In Christ, Mary Lou Deutsch

The Worship and Music committee has started its annual Pecan Sale. The deadline for ordering is TODAY, October 6th. There are blue ordering sheets at the back of the sanctuary.

Bark (I mean, MARK!) your calendars, friends, Next Sunday!. Join us for a "Blessing of the Animals" at Bethlehem on Sunday, October 13th at 2:45pm. Bring your dog, cat, turtle or any other pet to be blessed with a little music and a message of love and thankfulness to God for how they bring goodness to our lives each day! All pets and their humans are welcome!



CHOIR NEWS: Choir rehearsals have resumed on **Thursdays at 7:00 – October 10th**...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>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 <u>but will take a break tomorrow October 7. Janet, the instructor, will return on October 14th</u>. 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.

<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 the 3rd WEDNESDAY of the month. The next meeting will be **Wed, Oct 16 at 5:30.** We are reading October in the Earth. Please 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.

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 chicken Caesar salad and dessert. Please come and enjoy a meal and social time before the Behold Our Light service which begins at 7:00pm

Fundraiser for Local Daycare: Angel Care is a local daycare center that provides a loving childcare to local working families. The daycare needs to leave their current location by July 2025, and has been looking for a new place to call home. They may have found a new location with Church of the Living God and are exploring that possibility, but are still in need of support. This fundraiser is a fantastic way for us to show love and support to an organization that fills such an important need in our community. The fundraiser includes a silent auction, music, and food, and is on Thursday, October 17th, from 4-7pm at Silver Spruce Brewing in Traverse City.

Hello Bethlehem Safe Harbor Supporters! Mark your calendars! 2025 is coming... and Bethlehem will be preparing meals and hosting Safe Harbor guests on Saturday, 25 January; Sunday, 26 January; Tuesday 28 January at the Safe Harbor building on a. Our proven Kitchen Teams led by Cindy Monroe, B.J. Christensen, and Tina Dohm are assembling and tweaking their award-winning recipes. Zeke Clemons is again going to lend his guitar and voice one night and is seeking talent to cover our other nights... We will once again be seeking "treat" support from the congregation at large... and delivering warm food and warm wishes to all Safe Harbor guests. This is community outreach. This is heeding Christ's command to serve our neighbors. This is needed and appreciated. Safe Harbor is always looking for and appreciative of new support. As we consider our vision here at Bethlehem, maybe another group of would like to raise their hands and consider cooking for an additional night? It's never too late. Please contact me with any questions. Tom Rockne Bethlehem Safe Harbor Coordinator M.231.631.0040

Wednesday Bible Studies have returned:

The Adult Bible Study will meet 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. (Please note that we won't meet on October 9th)

<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.

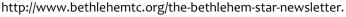
You are Invited to Sunday Morning Adult Education: it is that time again, time to power up our learning and sharing of Scripture. Adult Education has resumed as of this morning. We will meet in the Youth Room from 9:15 to 9:45 each Sunday to discuss the lessons for the day. This is a relaxed venue, with 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!!!!

Absolutely FREE OTP Readers Theater Comedy production called LICKETY SPLIT will be presented on October 25th at 7:30pm and October 26 & 27 at 2:00pm. A member of our BLC congregation has an important role in this production! Come to OTP's Schmuckle theater for short delightful comedic readings:) Donations only.

<u>Are you grieving something from a death or something else?</u> 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.

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.

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





<u>Christian Caregivers</u>: 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

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!

Volunteers for Watching the Front Door During Worship: The Safety and Security Committee has the new sign up sheets available. We need volunteers who can be available to stay in the Gathering Space to lock the doors and let in late comers for Sundays. We appreciate all of the volunteers. If you have any questions, the committee members are Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer, Jana Rockne and Jan Stretlien

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 5 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!!

<u>Spotlight on Zeke</u>: 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 10/9 & 10/16—The Pub, Traverse City 7:00pm Fri 10/18—Hotel Indigo 6:00pm

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:

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

<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:

- <u>Prayer Chain</u>: 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 August 29th, we received a check from Olesons for \$190.86 for a year-to-date total of \$397.46. 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.

<u>Hoop's Pet Food Pantry</u>: 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 <u>from 11:00am – 2:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month</u> with your donations OR <u>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.</u>

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, October 6

9:15am—Sunday School 9:15am—Adult Education (YR) 10:00am—Worship Service (S) 11:30am—VISION Congregational Forum #1 (FH)

Tuesday, October 8

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group 9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH) 1:00pm—Friendship Bible Study 6:00pm—Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting (YR) 6:30pm—Executive Committee (CR)

Wednesday, October 9

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (Library) 11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

Thursday, October 10

9:00am—Baby Pantry Set-up (FH)
10:00am—Baby Pantry (FH)
1:00pm—Rebecca Anna Circle (Library)
5:30pm—ACA (FH)
7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

Friday, October 11

4:00pm—Kelly/Bruce Wedding Rehearsal (S) 5:00pm—Kelly/Bruce Rehearsal Dinner (FH)

Saturday, October 12

3:00pm—Kelly/Bruce Wedding (S) 7:00pm—Contra Dance/Bayside Travellers (FH)

Sunday, October 13

9:15am—Sunday School 9:15am—Adult Education (YR) 10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S) 11:15am—Craft Show Meeting (Library) 12:30pm—Youth Discipleship/Confirmation Class (YR)









