

Reformation Sunday  
Confirmation Sunday  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
October 27, 2024  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.



**Welcome to All!** We are glad that you are able to worship with us today. **Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like.** During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion near the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold it up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill in your name, address, etc in the guest book near the entrance to the sanctuary.

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 3, page 138**

**Pre-Worship Music/Announcements**

**Prelude**

**GATHERING**

**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.**

*(continued on next page)*

P: 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 Hymn**

*Gather Us In*


*ELW #532*

**Greeting**

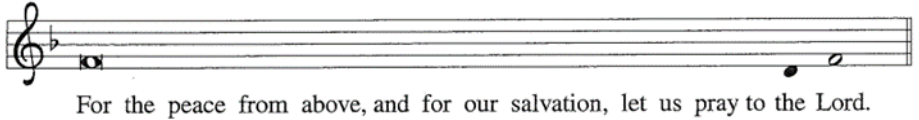
A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: **And also with you.**

**Kyrie (lead by Pastor Paul)**

S 138



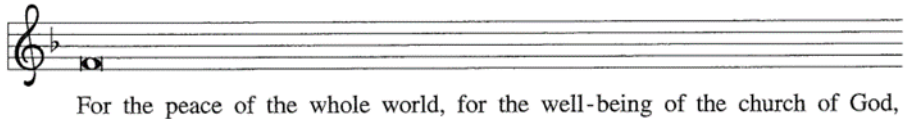
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



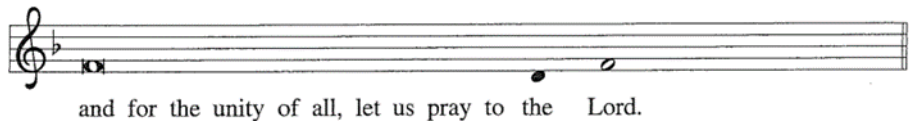
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



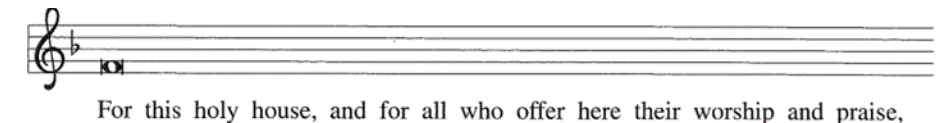
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

**Hymn of Praise**

**Glory to God**

Assisting minister S 139

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ on - ly Son of the Fa - ther Lord God Lamb of God

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

*(continued on next page)*



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together...

**C: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

### First Lesson

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalmody

**Psalm 46**

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

*(continued on next page)*

3 though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

**6 The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

7 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**8 Come now, regard the works of the Lord, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

9 behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

**10 “Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

## Second Lesson

## Romans 3:19-28

*Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. 21 But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26 it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel

## John 8:31-36

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

### C: ...Glory to you, O Lord...

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’” 34 Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Hymn of the Day *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

ELW #504

**Confirmation of Makena Dohm & Grayson Vincke - Affirmation of Baptism** *(see handout)*

**Prayers of Intercession:** response after each petition: **“Hear our prayer”** *(Before prayer)* A: Challenged by God’s Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation. *(Conclusion)* P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**Sharing of the Peace** *(Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

## MEAL

### Offering

(Please be seated.)

### Offering Song:

David Husser

### Offertory (Please stand, as able.) *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 the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. 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.**

### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

(continued on next page)

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Great Thanksgiving** *(continued)*

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

***Holy, Holy, Holy***

S 144b

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

**Words of Institution / The 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.**

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
 \*\*Please note: *Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

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

*(continued on next page)*



## Lamb of God

S 146

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Communion Hymns

*Christ, Be Our Light  
Here Is Bread*

*ELW #715  
ELW #483*

## Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

## Post-Communion Cantic

### Thankful Hearts

Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom-is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with

*(continued on next page)*



**Prayer after Communion**

**A:** Let us pray. Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING**

**Blessing**

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

**C: Amen.**

**Sending Song**

*Heaven Is Singing for Joy*

**ELW #664**

**Dismissal**

**A:** Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



**Bethlehem** *October 27, 2024*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- |                      |                        |                       |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 10/27—Amanda Wegener | 10/29—Paul Wiemerslage | 10/31—Jim Rumbach     |
| 10/27—Gerald Hill    | 10/29—John Block       | 11/3—Rudy Kelly-Bruce |
| 10/29—Nancy Lautner  | 10/30—Celia Kane       |                       |

**Worship Servants for October 27**

Assisting Minister—Peggy Burns

Lector—Tim Goebel

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Butch Waisanen in Memory of Jan Waisanen*

Hospitality—Leonard and Barbara Graf

A/V— Barbara Oster / Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee— Christian Ed / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table— VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer— Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitors—Tim and Peggy Goebel

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Kate Holtfreter / Cindy Cuba

**FALL BACK – Next Sunday, November 3rd, Daylight Saving Time goes away  
Don't forget to set your clocks back on Saturday night for an extra hour of sleep**

**BLC's annual Craft Fair is next Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00am-3:00pm. Come and bring your friends for a fun day with the area's most talented vendors.**

**Friends of Inge Thomas donated a White Spire Birch tree** to Bethlehem as a memorial to Inge. The tree has been planted to the west of the memorial garden. Please check out the tree and take a moment to remember Inge.

**Confirmation Blessing Baskets-From Bethlehem and Feast of Victory Lutheran Churches:** For our fall service learning event in Confirmation, youth will assemble personalized Blessing Baskets to deliver to our homebound members around Thanksgiving time. This year we are learning about the Old Testament, and this season specifically, we're learning from the book of Genesis that God blessed Abraham and Sarah, saying "You are blessed to be a blessing." Help us put what we're learning into action. **Through All Saints Sunday, November 3**, we are collecting monetary donations so that necessary items may be purchased to assemble Blessing Baskets. If you are willing and interested in helping us with this important project, please visit the Welcome Table where there is a basket with envelopes labeled "Blessing Baskets Donations." Place your cash or check donation inside an envelope, then place your sealed envelope in the offering plate or church office for collection. **Checks may be made payable to Feast of Victory Lutheran Church with "Blessing Baskets" in the memo line. Baskets will be given to homebound members for both of our churches**

**Hurricane Relief Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser** - Saturday, November 9th, 8:00am-11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. The south has been hit so very hard this year with hurricanes and flooding, from North Carolina to Florida. It will take years for them to get back to their new normal. They need our assistance now. We will be inviting the community to come have breakfast with us and support our friends to the south. We are asking for a free will offering, 100% of which is directed to hurricane relief through Lutheran Disaster Response. The breakfast will include pancakes, breakfast meat, beverages, and assorted pot luck/donated items. Many hands make light work so please consider helping. There are sign up sheets in the Narthex. Please sign up to help set up, serve, cook or clean up. Peace.

**JOIN THE VISION TRAIN....Time to take a PAUSE!!** We are now at the point in our journey when we have a few weeks off from our Sunday events. Time to continue to pray and ponder what God has in store for us. We are making great progress. Community teams are reaching out to leaders in our larger neighborhoods to gain additional information about the needs in Traverse City. More will be shared on Sunday, November 17. Please make every effort to attend this last conversation and let us know of your plans by signing up on the display in the narthex. Thank you for being here as often as possible. It takes all of us to share in the work of the Kingdom.

**Christian Care Giving Visitation;** If you currently go visit people, would you please let me know and also if you take communion too. If you would like to be part of this important ministry, please let me know. Peggy Burns 231-392-6913  
cobaltblues2003@yahoo.com

**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 27**

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

**Monday, October 28**

3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

**Tuesday, October 29**

**Bulletin articles due today**

**Craft Fair Set-up**

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

**Wednesday, October 30**

**Craft Fair Set-up**

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

**Thursday, October 31**

**Craft Fair Set-up**

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

**Friday, November 1**

**Craft Fair Set-up**

**Saturday, November 2**

9:00am-3:00pm—Craft Fair

**Sunday, November 3**

9:15am—Sunday School  
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)  
10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)  
11:15am—Worship & Music (CR)

