

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



Prelude Music

Announcements / Temple Talk

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Gathering Song:

Jesus Loves Me!

ELW #595

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: O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

44 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47 “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48 So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 98

1 Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

2 O Lord, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

3 You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

4 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

5 Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the Lord.

7 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

8 Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth.

9 The Lord will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Alleluia acclamation. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the staff, the lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the". The second staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes. Below it, the lyrics are: "words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia." The number "S 142a" is written in the upper right corner of the first staff.

Gospel: John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

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

Jesus said: 9 “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

ELW #708

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:

Come to the Table

ELW #481

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. 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:

***In Christ There Us No East or West
The Love of God Goes On*** (*words below*)

ELW #650

The heat of summer sun becomes the winter cold; Ev'rything that's new will suddenly turn old.
What we have today is here and then it's gone; Nothing stays the same but the love of God goes on.

People we call friends will often fade away Like the sunny skies with the passing of the day.
Things that we believed have turned out to be wrong; Nothing is for sure but the love of God goes on.

Yes, the love of God goes on, like the spinning planet earth. It's at the heart of all that makes the universe.
And I will praise his name; I will raise my voice in song. His greatness I'll proclaim, 'cause the love of God goes on.

What we knew before is not so anymore; Things are obsolete before they leave the store.
When life goes my way I know it's not for long; I will often fail but the love of God goes on.

Yes, the love of God goes on, like the spinning planet earth. It's at the heart of all that makes the universe.
And I will praise his name; I will raise my voice in song. His greatness I'll proclaim, 'cause the love of God goes on.

No one can foresee just what this future brings, But we can be sure time changes everything.
Even when we lose what we've relied upon, We stand afraid 'cause the love of God goes on and on and on, and on and on.....

Final Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW #836

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stay in place for instructions on today's Tornado and Bad Weather Drill



Bethlehem May 5, 2024
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5/6—Cathy Lautner
5/9—Joanne Badger
5/10—Kate Holtfreter

5/11—Summer Kolka
5/12—Shannon Nemeth
5/12—Mary Ann Tanis

5/12—Barbara Wentzloff

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

Worship Servants for May 5

Assisting Minister—Cindy Monroe

Lector—Nancy Ammann

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *by Jill Fenton in Celebration of the birthday of brother The Reverend Doctor Gary Johnson*

Hospitality—Jim/Dorene Boyd

A/V—Dale Wentzloff, Barbara Oster

Cookies/Coffee—VOLUNTEER; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—VOLUNTEER

Front Door Monitors—Maureen/Craig Bauer

Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth, Erin Word

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Sherryl Hellenga, Jane Passmore

Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.

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

Offerings: The offering plates are now passed during the service. The vase in the back of the Sanctuary is still available for those who prefer not to touch the offering plate.

The May issue of the STAR is now available. 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>.

The April/May/June Christ In Our Home is now available. Please take a copy for yourself and also for friends and family.

Sunday School and Adult Education (Youth Room)- every Sunday at 9:15am.

Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes? Type this address/url into your web browser to get the latest approved minutes from Council: bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes OR you may call the office to request a copy.

Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at jstretlien@gmail.com or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880

The next Third Thursday service will be a Behold Our Light service on May 16th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed. The BLC Fellowship Committee will be providing a meal at 5:45 p.m. Please come early and share in fellowship and stay for the service. This will be our last Third Thursday service until September.

Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font! Cost \$10.00 per rose. Contact Barbara Oster at beo6475@yahoo.com or 231.668.7038.

Safety and Security: Locking the Doors During Worship The Church Council has approved having the doors locked during worship on a permanent basis. Every Sunday the front doors will be locked and there will be people monitoring the doors to let late comers in. At this point we have a base of 5 people to be the monitors. We would like 3-4 more people so we can rotate only having to monitor once every 2 months. Please sign up in the Gathering Space if you would like to be on the rotation and what Sunday you would like to volunteer. Thank you for those who have volunteered.

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.

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:

Fri 05/17—MiddleCoast 6:00pm

Thurs 5/30—Brady's Bar 6:30pm

Sun 5/26—Bel Lago Winery 4:30pm (Cedar)

Fri 5/31—Grand Traverse Resort 7:00pm

May's XYZ Potluck & Presentation will be on Friday, May 10th at 12pm noon. Our presenters in May will be Tiffany & Jason McQueer, local business owners and nonprofit directors. The McQueers own J & S Hamburg South Airport, and in the midst of the pandemic in 2020 they saw a need in the community that inspired them to launch their nonprofit. **Project Feed the Kids** operates multiple coolers packed with free bag lunches in the local area to help fight hunger and food insecurity. They currently provide 3,000 free lunches every week to children and adults in need, with the help of volunteers and community support.

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS: The book club will discuss We Are the Light by Matthew Quick during a dinner meeting at 5:30 on Tues May 28 at The Cottage. Look for extra copies on the counter below the mailboxes. Just sign your name on the sheet by the corresponding number of your book. If you cannot come to church when it is open please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net and we will make other arrangements such as a book in the wooden STAR box attached to the outdoor mailbox post.

Are you looking for something to do on Tuesday mornings? If so, the LWR Quilters could sure use some help in tying portions of the quilts. You don't have to know how to sew just know how to tie. They meet every Tuesday from 9:00-11:00am in the fellowship Hall. For questions, please call Betty Rutila 231-947-1013.

GET A TREAT AND TAKE A SEAT!!! Remember that the final Sunday of each 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!

Safety and Security: TORNADO AND BAD WEATHER DRILL Today's Temple Talk will give instructions on a Severe Weather Drill. The drill will be held at the end of service with congregants moving to the basement hallway. If unable to go downstairs, we will ask you to move safely to the hallway by the classrooms outside of the Sacristy. This should take only a few minutes and we thank you in advance.

DIRECTORY UPDATE: The directories are in!!! If you had your photo taken by or submitted to the directory company, you can pick up your copy on May 5 or 19, before or after services. Each directory will be labeled with recipient's name.

Council Nominations open for council 2024. We have been blessed! Many of the council members have agreed to continue with another term. Have you been thinking this would be a good place for you to increase your involvement at Bethlehem? It involves a 3 year commitment to attend a meeting on the 3rd Tues of the month and perhaps one other meeting per month. The current members are hard-working and dedicated, and always ready with an intelligent question or a quick quip. If this sounds like your kind of people please contact the office at 947-9880 or contact any of the following: Pastor Paul, Cindy Monroe, Paul Wiermerslage, Jana Rockne, or Gary Ancinec. WE would love to have you on the TEAM!

STAR DELIVERY-WE FOUND A BETTER WAY!! All of us are aware that the price of postage keeps increasing. Since so many of you have returned to church we are returning to an “old” way and starting a “new” way of dispersing the STAR. You can pick-up a copy in church, or if you have reliable e-mail, you will receive an automatic STAR each month without any extra clicking. We know that neither of these ways are possible for some of you so simply contact the office at 947-9880 to request that mail delivery continues. We will change to these new ways at the end of June for the July issue.

New member gathering scheduled: The next gathering for anyone considering membership at Bethlehem will be May 19 immediately after the service. We want to make certain we gather in a large enough location, so please confirm your attendance at the meeting by contacting Pastor Paul, the office at 947-9880 or Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net. Also, please mention if there is anyone you have already met at Bethlehem who you would like to have as your sponsor. We find it is very helpful to have your own personal “go-to” person for questions or concerns.

Choir News: Greetings, my friends! I've enjoyed my time with you at our Third Thursday services, and I've had lots of fun working with the choir. We have prepared music to sing today and then again for Pentecost on May 19 after which the choir will break for the summer. You're invited to join us during our rehearsals on 5/9 at 7:00pm. Secondly, another round of hymn selection will begin soon. The hymns chosen will be sung during the summer months. If you would like to suggest a hymn, or have any other musical ideas, send me an email at bero.tony@gmail.com. Peace!

THANK YOU! Bethlehem's WELCA Spring Gathering - "Pray Without Ceasing" - was held on Saturday, April 27th. Many Northwest Lower Michigan Synod sisters came to spend the day with us from Big Rapids, Reed City and Muskegon. We enjoyed a skit, received a prayer devotional and made a prayer bracelet to aid us in our prayer time. a wonderful Bible Study on prayer by Sherri Helman, worship with Pastor Rosanne Anderson which was the perfect ending to a perfect day, and - of course - great food, fun and fellowship! If you weren't there, you really missed it. Maybe next time...? This Gathering would not have happened if it were not for the following volunteers: Barbara Graf, Suzanne Lehto, Ann Rundhaug, Jan Stretlien, Sally Ton, Mary Woodring, Kathy Ancinec, Marilyn Halstead, Betty Rutila, Jacque Rossfeld, Pastor Rosanne Anderson, Carolyn Burns, Carolyn Mann, Barbara Oster, Gail Goldsmith, Pastor Paul Busekist, Carl Lehto and Nancy Ammann. Thank you and God's blessings always!

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.

Adult Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30am in the Youth Room, with a study of the book of Romans.

The Zoom Book and Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00pm. We are studying *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. This group is transitioning into a hybrid class with not only Zoom participants but anyone who would like to attend in-person in the Youth Room. If you are interested in this book and need a copy, please contact Barbara Oster in the office.

Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations? It has been moved inside the coat room to the right. Also, the area for the Oleson and Family Fair receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside.

Coffee and Cookies on Sunday: Remember that treats and a hot drink on Sunday are appreciated by all. 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. Please see the message elsewhere about having the final Sunday of the month be a time when we join in the Fellowship Hall for this activity. We can sit at a table and chat with someone new while we munch on a treat!!

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.

Food Pantry: It's SPRING, so hopefully we do not need to be concerned about the cold damaging any of our food in the outdoor pantry. Please start looking for staple items when they are on sale and bring your extras to the coat room. Your generosity is so appreciated.

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!!!

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, May 5

- 9:15am—Sunday School
- 9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
- 10:00am—Worship Service (S)
- 11:15am—Worship and Music Meeting (FH)
- 1:00pm—Confirmation Class (YR)

Tuesday, May 7

Bulletin articles due today

- 9:00am—Property Work Group
- 9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
- 10:45am—Staff Meeting (CR)
- 5:30pm—Vision Team (Library)

Wednesday, May 8

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

Thursday, May 9

- 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

Friday, May 10

- 12:00pm—XYZ (FH)

Saturday, May 11

- 7:00pm—Contra Dance (FH)

Sunday, May 12

Happy Mothers Day

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



XYZ

EXtra Years of Zest

Join us for a potluck lunch, followed by a wonderful presentation!

Friday
May 10th
12pm

PROJECT
FEED THE KIDS

Tiffany & Jason
McQueer

Dance by Donation
\$10 / person suggested

Bayside Travellers
Contra Dance

SATURDAY
May 11th, 2024

Beginner Workshop 7pm Dances 7:30 - 10:30pm

Live Music
by
Woodland Celtic
&
dances called by
Larry Dyer

LOCATION:
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1090 Peninsula Dr
Traverse City, MI 49686

@baysidetravellersdance
baysidetravellersdance@yahoo.com