

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

May 4, 2025 - Setting 12

Pastor Brad Shannon, Presiding

Karina Roth, Musical Director



218-387-2227 | blc@boreal.org | www.sharingchrist.org

Belonging to Christ, Sharing Christ on the North Shore & Beyond!

Introduction— Third Sunday of Easter

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

Prelude

Karina Roth

Welcome & Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of ✝ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.
Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in

captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: *Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded* **ACS 933**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie **ACS page 31**

Song of Praise **ACS page 31**

Prayer of the Day

Eternal and all-merciful God, **with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Time

On the way up the aisles, the children will be collecting coins for the "Holy Cow" fund, which will support ELCA World Hunger. *Find that loose change and hand it to a kiddo!*



First Reading: **Acts 9:1-20**

¹ Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The

men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one.⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord."¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying,¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem;¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name."¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized,¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm:

Psalm 30

¹ I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

² **O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health.**

³ You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

⁴ **Sing praise to the LORD, all you faithful; give thanks in holy remembrance.**

⁵ God's wrath is short; God's favor lasts a lifetime. Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

⁶ **While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed.**

⁷ You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains." Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.

⁸ **I cried to you, O LORD; I pleaded with my Lord, saying,**

⁹ "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

¹⁰ **Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; O LORD, be my helper."**

¹¹ You have turned my wailing into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

¹² **Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

Second Reading:

Revelation 5:11-14

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

ACS page 33

Gospel:

John 21:1-19

The holy gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love

you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Calvin Konop

Hymn of the Day

*You, Lord, Are Both
Lamb and Shepherd*

ACS 954

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 God's People

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need. (*A brief silence.*)

Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and estuaries so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the way forward. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your compassion surrounds all who are in need. We pray for all people experiencing poverty and food insecurity, and for all struggling with debt and economic uncertainty. Reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender care *especially Mark, Dawn Barb, Bob, Joan, Gene, Barbara, Christy, Lynn, Bruce Paulina, Lee, and John.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for the witness of your saints of all times and places. May their lives of faith guide us in our own journeys with you, today and every day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

Bethlehem Choir

Offering Prayer

Risen One, **you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

ACS page 36

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life. All are welcome!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church believes in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality. All persons, whether visiting or a member, are welcomed to Communion.

Communion Music

Be Known to Us

ACS page 40

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table

ACS 977

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

Blessing

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn *When It Seems the Day Will End* **ACS 1034**

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Karina Roth

Thank you, Pastor Brad Shannon! We are blessed to have Pastor Brad presiding over this worship service and appreciate him filling in for Pastor Calvin while he is at the Synod Assembly today.

Your prayers are requested for healing: Mark Abrahamson, Dawn, Barb Coe, Pastor Bob Stoskopf, Joan Bieber, Gene & Barbara Erickson, Christy Buetow, Lynn Schulte, Bruce & Stacey Johnson, Paulina Backstrom, Shae Lindholm, Rhonda Silence, Rhonda Schulte, Emily Ulhorn, Char Anderson, Les Donek, Betty Jones, Stacey Schulte, Hank Ferland, Jack Anderson and Ramiro Acero. *If you have any updates on these prayer requests, or any new requests, please call the office at 218-387-2227.*

This week we lift up these members: Rick & Randi Nelson; Karen Ranning; Phyllis Parker; Oz Anderson; and Al Fuller. May God walk with these friends in their journey of peace.

The May Mission of the Month Our May Mission of the Month will be about creation care. We will be donating to the **Eco-Faith Network**. Their mission is to *live out God's call to be stewards of the earth for the sake of the whole creation*. The EcoFaith Network of NEMN Synod is made up of congregations, individuals, and other partners across the Northeastern Minnesota Synod and beyond. <https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org>. We can designate our funds to be used for grants to churches to create pollinator gardens, or start community gardens, or plant trees, or many other conservation projects. **Member Challenge:** Help distribute free tree seedlings at Bethlehem (alley) on Friday May 9, 9:00am until they are gone.

The Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly is being held this weekend, May 3 & 4, at Breezy Point near Brainerd. Pastor Calvin & Ashley Konop and Sue Hennessy will represent Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The Quilters have sent a quilt for the auction, which is an online auction. There are many items available and the proceeds will go toward World Hunger. (see bulletin insert)

NEMN Synod Emmaus Fund will be launched at the 2025 Synod Assembly. The Emmaus Fund supports leadership development, youth and young adult engagement, and congregational outreach by providing micro-grants for new ministry programs and opportunities. There will be Silent and Live Auctions, as well as a Giving Moment. We welcome your generosity to the Emmaus Fund as we kick-off this new ministry! (see bulletin insert)

We are approaching the end of Wednesday Worship for the season. May 14th will be the last of our Wednesday activities until September. *Thank you to everyone who has made these worship evenings successful.* A big thank you to the **Meal Teams**, for the wonderful food and faithful dedication every week. Thank you very much to our most excellent **musicians** who provide an upbeat and lively presence to our services. Our "Average Worship Band" is anything **BUT Average!** Thanks to **Stacey** for her leadership, organization, talents and for providing the slides each week. Thank you to our **Confirmation teachers** and **mentors** who helped to provide a strong faith foundation to our students. Thank you to our **confirmation students** and their **parents** for their commitment, cooperation and participation this year. God's blessings to all of you! A job well done. Thanks be to God!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

417 First Avenue West, PO Box 638

Grand Marais, MN 55604

218-387-2227

www.sharingchrist.org | blc@boreal.org

This Week at Bethlehem:

Sun May 4	8:40 AM	Choir practice
	10:00 AM	Worship Service with Sunday School
Mon May 5	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
	11:45 AM	AP testing
	3:30 PM	Girl Scouts
Tues May 6	7:45 AM	AP testing
Wed May 7	8:00 AM	Church in Society Meeting
	12:30 PM	Text Study
	5:30 PM	Community Meal
	6:00 PM	Contemporary Worship Service
	6:30 PM	Confirmation
Thurs May 8	8:00 AM	Bible Study
	9:00 AM	Quilting
	9:30 AM	Esther Circle & Bible Study
	11:45 AM	AP Testing
Fri May 9	9:00 AM	Seedling Give-away
Sat May 10	11:00 AM	Vera Finn's Memorial Service
Sun May 11	8:40 AM	Choir practice
	10:00 AM	Worship Service with Sunday School

Free Tree Seedlings

May 9, 9:00am-noon



Join us in the alley to distribute thousands of several varieties of trees. (Thanks to Carolyn Dry for sponsoring this event again this year.)

All Cook County residents are invited to take part of this offer.

On-line giving is encouraged using this QR Code or through automatic transfer.

(Forms are available online & the office.)



This is an **EXCITING** week at Bethlehem!

- Jessica Christenson starts work on Monday May 5th as the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry
- Jessica will be installed on Wednesday during worship. May 7th
- Celebration Wednesday: meal and service to mark this beautiful occasion
- High School Seniors Lunch with the Quilters, Thurs. May 8, 11:15—noon
- Quilt Sunday May 11 - High School Seniors will be presented with their quilts and blessings. Join us for cake and celebration following the service.
- Mother's Day, Sunday May 11th.

Traveler Cards and Local Grocery Cards are available from BLC to members of the community that need help. Please contact the office.

Coffee An': Have you taken a turn serving for our fellowship time on Sundays? Please sign up to bring some treats to share.

Wednesday Text Study: Join us at 12:30 pm on Wednesdays for a study of the scripture lessons.

Men's Bible Study: Every Thursday morning, beginning at 8:00 to 9:15 am. Contact Mike Chmelik for information, 218-387-1790

Free Bibles: Help yourself to a large print English Standard Version Bible, on the counter in the Narthex.

Quilters are seeking more helpers! Every Thursday morning at 9 to 11:30am. No experience necessary. We have several lovely kits ready for sewing. You are invited to the fun!

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