

Luther Posting His Ninety-Five Theses

Bethlehem
Lutheran Church Lansing

549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910
517-482-3225
www.bethlutheran.org

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Worship Service – 10:00
October 25, 2026, REFORMATION SUNDAY

A Prayer Before Worship

God of history, of the past, we celebrate today the lives of men and women everywhere who followed you and sought to reform your church. God of history, of the present, we thank you for your spirit that works among us today. God of history, of the future, inspire your whole church; inspire us to be ever sensitive to your calling and to the needs of those around us. May we each be willing, for your sake and the sake of your church, to reform our very lives. Amen.

Welcome

We count it a privilege to receive guests into our worship service. The ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church exists to bring glory to God and to serve you. We hope you sense that Jesus is at the heart of all we do.

If you are a guest, and would like more information about our ministries, please call the church office at 482-3225.

Prayer Requests

Bethlehem Lutheran is a praying church; this is one of our Faith Practices/Marks of Discipleship. A white card is provided in the pew rack for requesting petitions of concern or thanksgiving to be included in the prayers of the congregation. Fill out the card and hand it to an usher during the Hymn of the Day. If you would like the person named on the card to be notified about the prayer offered on their behalf, please include an address on the card.

If you would like your concern to be prayed for every day this week, please fill out a blue card, place it in the basket in our prayer corner, or hand it to an usher to bring forward.

Silencing cell phones and handheld devices and keeping conversation to a minimum during worship is appreciated.

PARISH NOTES

WE CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL OF REFORMATION Luther's hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is our God", is traditionally sung on this day. The official day of the Reformation is October 31. The fact that Reformation Day coincides with Halloween may not be mere coincidence. Halloween, being the Eve of All Saints' Day (All Hallow's Eve), might have been an entirely appropriate day for Luther to post his 95 Theses against indulgences; since the castle church would be open on All Saints' Day, for people to view a large collection of relics.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS On **November 1st, 2026**, set your clocks back one hour, so you won't be late for church.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY **November 1st is** "**All Saints Sunday",** we will remember the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us in the faith. If you are grieving the loss of a friend or family member, from the past 12 months, we would like to remember them during the worship service. Call the church office by Monday, October 26, to include their name in worship.

A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, NOV. 8
Immediately following worship a very important meeting is a requirement to elect a **Call Committee** to lead the search for a new pastor. As with all other congregational meetings, we require a quorum of **fifty members** in order to conduct the meeting. It is imperative that we have a quorum for the election, or the meeting will be rescheduled with a 2-week advance notice. **Please make every effort to attend so we don't have to reschedule.** The Call Committee election and a brief review of responsibilities and a potential timeline will be the only items on the agenda. There will be a Town Hall meeting immediately following the Special Meeting in order to provide an update on the pastoral transition process. The meeting will provide an opportunity for members to hear where we are in the process and ask questions that may have not been addressed previously. Church leadership is making every effort to include everyone in this process with communication and allow for input at this meeting. To be conscious of everyone's time, the meeting will be 45 minutes to allow people to enjoy the rest of their Sunday afternoon. Thank you in advance, *Jim Whitman Congregation President.*

BELLRINGING FOR THE SALVATION ARMY The Salvation Army needs a small group of members to volunteer and ring a bell at a nearby store. Our group would select the day, and The Salvation Army takes care of logistics. Bellringing is from November 2nd - December 24th. Ringing is Monday- Saturday (no Sundays) from 10 am - 8 pm, it varies with each store. Our group can choose work shifts for any length of time. A sign-up sheet is on the kiosk.

BAKERS NEEDED! If you have a flair for baking, Bethlehem has an opportunity for you! The Altar Guild needs several volunteers to make communion bread. It is being made with a gluten-free bread mix which the church provides. Please contact Kris Burow if you are willing to help!

THANKSGIVING FAMILY FOOD BASKETS Bethlehem will be supporting the *Christian Services of Lansing* Thanksgiving Food Basket program, providing baskets for up to 20 families. Additional support will be provided with gift cards from *Thrivent Financial.* The infamous RED and TURQUOISE shopping bags will be available on Sunday Nov. 1st for those who wish to support this program, with several options of what to purchase and dates of when items need to be returned to the church. The Sunday School children will also be collecting items to include in the baskets. ***THANK YOU*** to all who generously support this program.

LYONS ELEMENTARY CLOTHING PROJECT 2026-27 The collection area for the clothing will be set up in the church entryway from **Sunday, November 1 until Sunday, December 20**.

Here is what the school needs this year:

Waterproof gloves - preferably not pink or purple **(need to be new)**
Snow pants, sizes 6 -12 - preferably not pink or purple (can be new or gently used)
Winter coats for girls and boys, sizes 6 -14 (can be new or gently used)
Tennis shoes, kids' sizes 12, 13, and 1- 4 (can be new or gently used) for gym class
Winter outdoor boots, kids' sizes 12, 13, and 1- 4 (can be new or gently used)
Girls' sweats or stretchy pants, sizes 6 -10 (gently used is best or new)
Boys' sweats, sizes 6 -10 (gently used is best or new)

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS TRAINING After worship next Sunday, November 1st those wishing to continue or to begin serving as communion assistants are asked to participate in a brief training. The purpose is to have a refresher so that we are more uniform in how we serve; to recruit and train new communion assistants, and to protect our fragile altar linens. If you are unable to make this training we will schedule another in the coming weeks, so that you may continue to serve.

KIDS ACTIVITY NIGHT ***Things to donate for kids night***: fruit (whole or cut), snackable veggies, drink mixes-lemonade/fruit punch, hot dogs/buns, disposable plates/bowls, disposable silverware (esp. spoons), paper napkins, a kid-friendly meal (serving about 20; see Shannon or Eliot) please no chips or candy, a <$5 unisex toy (e.g. a squishy) for good behavior drawing prize. We appreciate people donating their time!

Thoughts for the Week

At its core, the Theology of the Cross recognizes the paradox of the Gospel: God's greatest power is displayed in apparent weakness, His highest glory is shown in humility, and God's deepest wisdom is hidden in what the world considers foolishness.

A Christian is utterly free, lord of all, subject to none.

A Christian is utterly dutiful, servant of all, subject to all.

~ Luther

ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance: 10/18/26, 62 in-person, with 29 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 27:53, 13 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP NUGGET Just as a church is to be always reforming and maturing, a healthy, vibrant, stewardship is to be joyfully growing in gratitude to God and love for the neighbor, seeking to more closely follow Jesus.

COMMUNION CARDS Fill out a communion card from the pew rack before you come forward to receive communion. Keeping track of who has attended worship allows us to provide better pastoral care for our members.

SUNDAY SCHOOL START TIME CHANGE Sunday School will begin at 8:30 a.m. in order to give us extra time to practice our Christmas Program.

SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY All are welcome for Sunday Night Bible Study on the First and Third Sundays of every month at 7:00 pm.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GUEST PASTOR – Rev. John Burow
ORGANIST – James Schippers
ASSISTING MINISTER –
GREETERS – Cloyd & Candy Barnes
USHERS – Don Cairns, Cloyd Barnes
ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley
LAY READER – Sherry Bass-Pohl
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mary Bartel, Mel White
ALTAR GUILD – Bob & Sue Christiansen





REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS and with your cards and visits:
Marilyn Bass-Huyser, Independence Village, Grand Ledge
Virginia Bauman, 5214 Evergreen Ridge Dr. Cincinnati, OH
John Nelson, Grand Haven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing
Betty Strother, Independence Village, East Lansing
Joe Skidmore, 475 Jacks Canyon Road, Apt. 229, Sedona, AZ
Julie Clark, Burcham Hills Residential, East Lansing

Those at home: *Kaye Alden, John Bartel, Tosha Brisbo, Ron Clark*
Crystal Collins, Margo Devine, Keith Ferguson, Tom Finn
Carl Gallagher, Nancy Jackson, Bruce Large, Michael Mahoney
Linda McClellan, Mark Nelson, Don Olson, Tharin Palmer
Bob & Gloria Robbins, Sandy Rollis, Connie Scott, Dana Stevens
Ken Teter, Betty VanConant, Cheryl VanPatten

If you, as a member, would like to be included on this list or removed from it, please call the church office.

MISSION PARTNERS Pray for the people and ministry at Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Pray for the Baker/Donora Neighborhood Association and our Community Police Officer, Bridget Voisin.

THOSE WHO SERVE Please pray for those who are on active duty in the United States Military Services:
Chris Browne – U.S. Air Force (Member of the Kern family)
Isaiah Castellanos – U.S. Army (Margo Devine's great nephew)
Andrew Devine – U.S. National Guard (Margo Devine's nephew)
Anthony Erb – U.S. Army (family of Mary Jakubiak)
Carson Kosloski – U.S. Marines (Jeff Kosloski's great nephew)
Joshua Kosloski – **U.S. Army** (Laura Halbakken's cousin)
Christopher Morgan – U.S. Marines (friend of The Darling family)
Ben Painter – U.S. Air Force (Laura Halbakken's cousin)
Ryan Schiffner – U.S. Air Force (Rick & Jean Peckham's nephew)
Nicholas "Leo" Snow – U.S. Navy (cousin of Ferguson & Snider families)
Dayton Tucker – U.S. Marines (Friend of the Devine family)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

BY HOLY BAPTISM Baylee Ann and Eduardo Apaulo Martinez, will be made children of God and heir to all His promises. Baylee was born on May 7, 2026 and Eduardo Apaulo was born on December 12, 2021. Their parents are Eduardo Marinez & Mariah Faszczewski, and their sponsors are Michael Gorde, Kenedy Taylor, Karla Navarro, and Nicolas Navarro. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we welcome them as partners with us in the ministry we have as Christ's people.

PORTALS OF PRAYER **October - December 2026** booklets are available on the Welcome Table in the lobby. If you would like a copy, call the church office, 482-3225, and we will send you one.

PRAYER PARTNERS Each Sunday we pray for a congregation in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod to offer our support and to emphasize the ministry that we share. This week we pray for st. Peter Lutheran Church in Battle Creek, Michigan, Rev. Edward Ruble.

ONLINE GIVING Did you know that you can contribute via our website and not create an account? Clicking on the online giving link and filling out the donation form is all you need to do to make an online contribution. If you would like to create an account, go to the 'Printables' page on the BELC website for instructions. **Scan this QR Code by putting your cell phone camera up to the code and follow the link to give electronically to Bethlehem.**

THOSE WHO SERVE IN OUR WORSHIP
GUEST PASTOR – Rev. John Burow
GUEST ORGANIST – Takis Pizanis
CHOIR DIRECTOR – Sue Nelson
PRAISE TEAM COORDINATORS – Debbie Simmons, Laura Halbakken
ASSISTING MINISTER – Susan Mahoney
GREETERS – Sandra Westover, Christina Raia
USHERS – Joe Shreffler, David Westover, Bob Christiansen
LAY READER – Sandra Westover
ACOLYTE– Adreanna Fernandez
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Keitha Snider, Nancy Holderread
ALTAR GUILD – Cindy Marsh
A/V PROUCTION – David Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Meeker, Kevin Peckham, Marvin White, David Westover

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Oct. 25	**8:30a**	**Sunday School**
Rev. John Burow	**10:00a**	**Worship – Holy Communion**
Reformation Sunday		**Martinez Baptisms**
	11:30a	**Martinez Family – Lower Social Hall**
TUESDAY	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	9:00a	Election Equipment arrives
	10:00a	Capital Area Baby Café
	1:00p	Men's Luncheon
	5:30p	Kids Night
	5:30p	Arbor Forest – Gerald Ferguson
THURSDAY	3:30p	Men's Bible Study – Library
FRIDAY	7:00p	N.A. meets
SUNDAY, Nov. 1	**8:30a**	**Sunday School**
Rev. John Burow	**10:00a**	**Worship – Holy Communion**
All Saints Sunday	**7:00p**	**Sunday Night Bible Study-Library**

Baptismal Blessings for the **life of faith**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- ✢ *to live among God's faithful people,*
- ✢ *to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,*
- ✢ *to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,*
- ✢ *to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,*
- ✢ and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.[1]

[1]*Evangelical Lutheran Worship,* Affirmation of Baptism, Page 237.