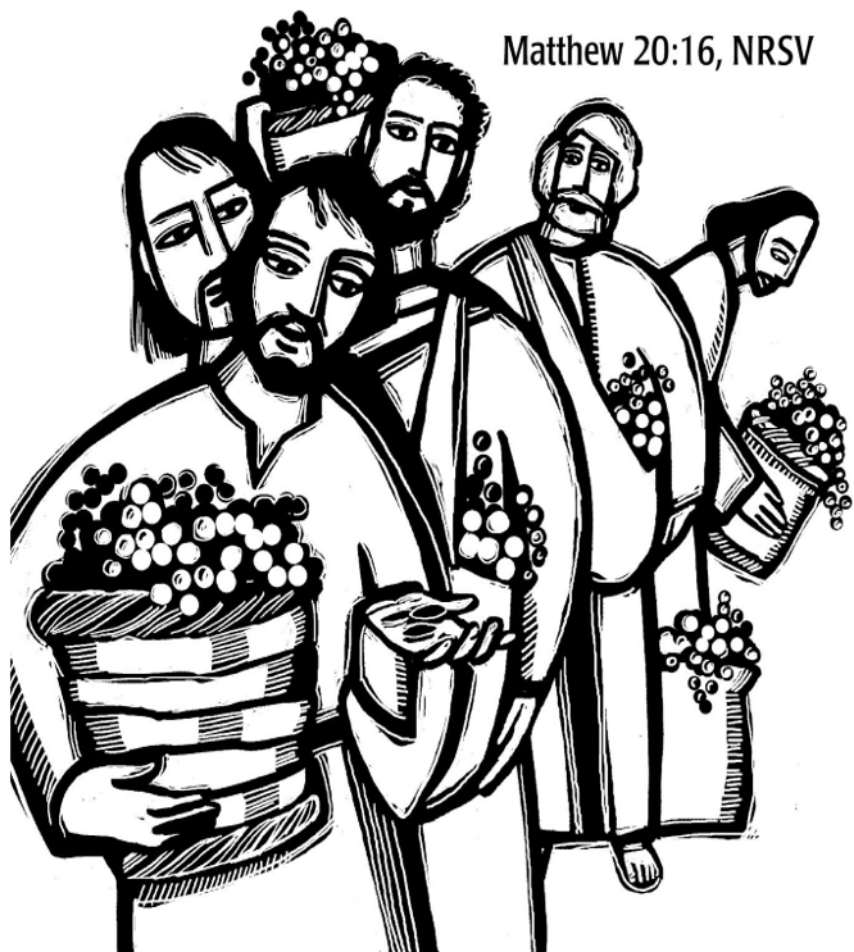


So the **last**
will be **FIRST**,
and the
first
will be **LAST**.

Matthew 20:16, NRSV





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

September 20, 2026, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Holy and gracious God, as we gather, enlarge our hearts that they may be big enough to receive the greatness of your love and expansive enough to embrace others and show that love to all. Refresh us and make us new by the power of your Spirit. Lead us in holiness, and show us the way of your grace and your mercy, your law and your righteousness ... that we, with our brothers and sisters around the world, may shine with the light of Christ Jesus our Lord. 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 notified about the prayer offered on their behalf, please include an address on the card.

If you would like your concern 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

ATTENTION ALL WOMEN! THE BELCW GENERAL MEETING AND POTLUCK IS MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21 AT 6:30. All women of Bethlehem Lutheran Church are invited to attend the General Meeting and Potluck! Join your friends for a yummy potluck, you don't have to be part of a Circle to attend!!!! Please bring: your own table service, a dish to pass and your September Gather magazine, if you have one. There are extra magazines on the Welcome Table.

BLANKET SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 4th The BELCW Quilters have made 104 Quilts and 55 Care Kits. The quilts will be shipped to: Pine Ridge – 10 quilts, Sleep in Heavenly Peace – 11 quilts, LWR – 83 quilts, plus 26 school kits, 13 personal care kits, and 16 baby kits! The BELC women will be collecting funds to help defray the cost of shipping to Lutheran World Relief. Checks can be made out to BELCW with a notation for “shipping” on the memo. Cash is also accepted. Thank you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL Please join us on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. for Sunday School, to learn about the love of Jesus.

ADULT FORUM Join us in the Library Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY We will meet on Thursdays at 3:30 in the library. The sessions are intended to last for an hour, but it's not unusual to run overtime. However no one seems to mind. No tests, no required homework, no attendance taken, no obligations, just men together, seeking answers and understanding as we travel along through scripture. Questions? Contact Jack Midgley.

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. We will meet in the library. Our focus will be on the readings for that Sunday, and the sermon reflection questions... And whatever else might be on our minds. Please join us when you can!

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

GRIDS FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER The GRIDS for September and October have been emailed to Those Serving in Worship. There are copies on the table in the Social Hall if you would like a hard copy.

PORTAL OF PRAYER The October – December Portals of Prayer are on the Welcome Table for you to pick up.

HANDBELL DIRECTOR The church is looking for a director for the Handbell Choir. If you or someone you know might be interested, please let Tim Nelson or Susan Mahoney know.

WEDDING COMMITTEE Assistants needed! We are looking for ladies who would like to help with our weddings. We need ladies who are committed to assist during rehearsal time for a couple of hours and to assist during the wedding for several hours. Two or three assistants help with a wedding a few times a year. Thank you for your consideration in joining our Wedding Committee! For questions, see Audrey Olson or Sue Christiansen.

KIDS ACTIVITY NIGHT We need donations for our Baker/Donora Kids Night. Snack foods, drinks, games, anything would help. If you have time on a Wednesday evening, come join us! This is an opportunity to connect with our neighborhood children and make a difference in their lives! We thank you all for donating to this important ministry! **Thank you!** If you have any questions about donations or donating your time, please speak to Eliot Nutt or Shannon Nobles.

KIDS ACTIVITY NIGHT

Wednesday night, we are welcoming children and families for food, fun, and fellowship. Please join us!



Thought for the Week

**Today's gospel teaches us that
God's kingdom runs on
radical grace and boundless generosity
rather than human standards
of fairness and earned merit.**

ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance: 09/13/26, 54 in-person, with 26 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 31:41, 15 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP NUGGET The message of stewardship is clear, we are only managers of what God has given to us. ~ *Matthew 20:1-16*.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GUEST PASTOR – Pastor John W. Burow

ASSISTING MINISTER – Susan Mahoney

GREETERS – Don & Lois Cairns

USHERS – Joe Shreffler, David Snider, Bob Christiansen

ACOLYTE – Annabel Halbakken

LAY READER – Ron Miller

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Shannon Noble, Bob Meeker

ALTAR GUILD – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler

Our Thoughts &
Prayers
are with...



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS and with your cards and visits:

*Marilyn Bass-Huyser, Independence Village, Grand Ledge
Larry & 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, Keith Ferguson, Tom Finn, Carl Gallagher
Nancy Jackson, Mary Jakubiak, 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.

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

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Stephen Post, brother of Marilyn Clark, who died September 12, 2026. May God comfort those who mourn with the promise of eternal life for all those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Don Telles, in memory of Jan Telles.

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 Feast of Victory Lutheran Church in Acme, Michigan, Rev. Haley Vay Beaman.

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 Schleicher

ORGANIST – James Schippers

CHOIR DIRECTOR – Sue Nelson

PRAISE TEAM COORDINATORS – Debbie Simmons, Laura Halbakken

ASSISTING MINISTER – Bob Meeker

GREETERS – Bob & Sue Christiansen

USHERS – Donna TenHave, David Westover, Ron Miller, Dale Meyer

LAY READER – Jack Midgley

ACOLYTE– Adreanna Fernandez

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Don Telles, Kris Burow

ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin

A/V PRODUCTION – David Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Meeker, Kevin Peckham, Marvin White, David Westover

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Sept. 20	8:45a	Sunday School
<i>Pastor Schleicher</i>	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
	7:00p	Sunday Night Bible Study
MONDAY	6:30p	BELCW General Meeting & Potluck
TUESDAY	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	10:00a	Capital Area Baby Café
	5:30p	Kids Night
THURSDAY	3:30p	Men's Bible Study – Library
	5:00p	Capital Area Baby Café
SUNDAY, Sept. 27	8:45a	Sunday School
<i>Pastor Burow</i>	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion

***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.*