



"how often should
I forgive?"

"Not SEVEN times,
but, I tell you,
SEVENTY-
SEVEN
times."

Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV



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

Worship Service – 10:00

September 13, 2026, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Lord of compassion and faithful love, too often we focus more on how we have been wounded than on your blessings; more on our resentments than on your forgiveness. Open our hearts to receive your abundant mercy and free our spirits to better extend that mercy to others. 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

TODAY IS RALLY SUNDAY AND THE CHURCH PICNIC



The official start of the new Sunday School year is today.

We will have our church picnic after the worship service.

After the potluck we will have games for all ages.

Please join us in the church lower level for games, and more.

Our first day for class-crafts and fun is September 20th at

8:45 a.m. We are looking forward to another great year of Sunday School!

TODAY IS MISSION SUNDAY Gifts received in a special mission offering will be given to the Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministry at the Pine Ridge Retreat Center in South Dakota.

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.

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.

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.

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!

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

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

~ Colossians 3:12-13

ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance: 09/06/26, 46 in-person, with 34 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 27:02, 14 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP NUGGET An aspect of stewardship is sustaining and nourishing our relationships. The ongoing gift of forgiveness is essential to this sacred work.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GUEST PASTOR – Pastor John Schleicher

ASSISTING MINISTER – Bob Meeker

GREETERS – Bob & Sue Christiansen

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

ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez

LAY READER – Jack Midgley

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Don Telles, Kris Burow

ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin

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

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Mary Jakubiak, in memory of her husband Paul Jakubiak.

PORTALS OF PRAYER July - September 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 Covenant Hospital Pastoral Care Department, in Saginaw, Michigan, Deacon Kathy Bonn.

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 W. Burow

ORGANIST – James Schippers

CHOIR DIRECTOR – Sue Nelson

PRAISE TEAM COORDINATORS – Debbie Simmons, Laura Halbakken

ASSISTING MINISTER – Don Telles

GREETERS – Cloyd & Candy Barnes

USHERS – Ralph Sergeant

LAY READER – Bob Meeker

ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Sherry Bass-Pohl, Vicki Schreur

ALTAR GUILD – Kris & John Burow, Faith Halbakken

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Sept. 13

Mission Sunday

Pastor John Burow

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

SUNDAY, Sept. 20

Pastor Schleicher

RALLY SUNDAY

Worship – Holy Communion

CHURCH PICNIC

BELCW Board Meeting

Board of Stewardship & Finance

Rainbow Circle

Handbell Choir

Senior Choir

Capital Area Baby Café

Men's Luncheon – Leroy's

Kids Night

Men's Bible Study – Library

Congregation Council

Sunday School

Adult Forum

Worship – Holy Communion

Sunday Night Bible Study

10:00a

7:00p

8:45a

9:00a

10:00a

7:00p

***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.