Bethlehem Star

Lutheran Church Lansing

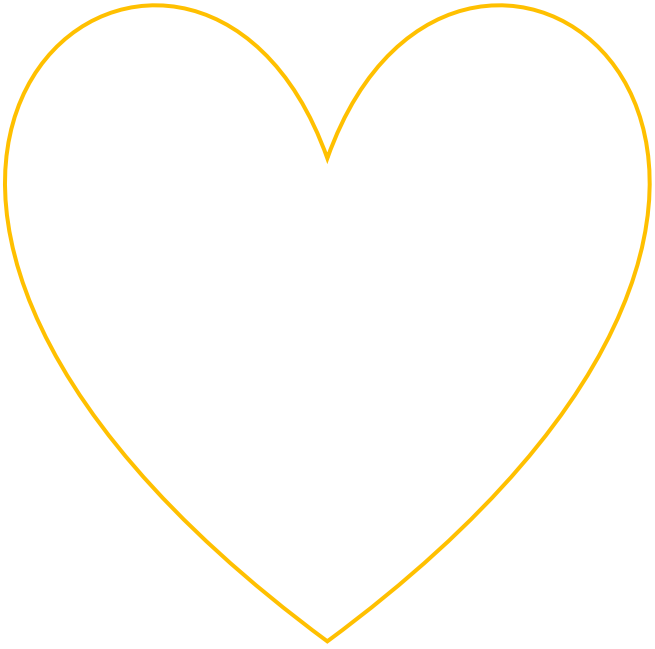


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Newsletter Deadline is **November 16, 2026**
*for the **December 2026** Bethlehem Star.*

Also available at
www.bethlutheran.org

In-Home Date: Saturday, October 31, 2026
Mailed on October 29, 2026



Bethlehem Star
Lutheran Church Lansing
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church - Lansing, Michigan



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter this time of year in the church calendar when we prayerfully consider how we will support Bethlehem with our time, abilities and financial gifts, the focus will be about stewardship as a way of life; a good and better way of life. **"Giving to God-The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life**, provides us with a scriptural view that stewardship should and can be a joy-filled aspect of our relationship with God. Giving should be an act of worship, an expression of faith, and a discipline for spiritual growth. We all understand that the church has financial obligations and we all should do our part to fulfill those obligations. But stewardship goes far beyond those basic obligations. We shouldn't want to give just because the church needs our money; we should give because our hearts are filled with faith, hope and the love for God. We should give from our hearts and not to a budget because when we give from our hearts, we move from a duty to a delight in supporting Bethlehem's mission and a stronger relationship with God.

Many of us may not fully understand what it means to be generous or how important giving is in our Christian walk. Generosity is not just about money: it is about being open-hearted and willing to share our blessings, time, and love with others. As we read through God's word, we will meditate on how we can cultivate a spirit of generosity in our lives. It is amazing how much joy and fulfillment we experience when we give selflessly.

Generosity is a beautiful act that begins in the heart. It signifies a willingness to give without expecting anything in return. When we reflect on the Bible verses about generosity and giving, we realize that God desires for all of us to have big, open hearts. We are encouraged to look beyond our own needs and see how we can help those around us. Being generous does not always mean we have to give our money: it can also mean offering our time, our abilities, or even a listening ear. The act of giving expands our sense of community and love, drawing us closer to God and each other. Let us embrace this journey of understanding generosity together!

When we conclude our journey through Bible verses about generosity and giving, it will become evident how vital it is to embrace a generous spirit in our daily lives. Generosity is a reflection of our hearts and our relationship with God, as he continually leads us to give more of ourselves to others. Through these scriptures, we see the blessings that come from being selfless and the joy that arises from both giving and receiving. Let us choose to live generously, not just in our finances, but in our time, love and support for one another. As we stay committed to this path, we will witness the amazing ways God uses our acts of generosity to transform lives---our own and those around us.

This year's Stewardship Emphasis **"Giving to God-The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life",**
will have Moment's In Mission on the following Sunday's:

Sunday, November 15
Sunday, November 22
Sunday, November 29) Commitment Sunday

Thank you and may God continue to bless you and Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Don Telles, Chair
Board of Stewardship & Finance

Pastor John Burow

The Bethlehem Star
A monthly publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Ministers

All of the members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Acting Pastor John W. Burow
pastorjburow@yahoo.com
(517) 614-4559

Church Secretary / *Star* Editor
Tracy Baker
bethlehemlansing@gmail.com
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Congregation President
James Whitman
jimw@lifecyclefs.com

Organist
James Schippers
jameschippers@gmail.com

Choir Director
Sue Nelson
ntimothy1@att.net

Contemporary Worship Coord.
Debbie Simmons
Laura Halbakken

Office Hours
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (M-F)

Visit our website at:
www.bethlutheran.org

Worship Schedule
8:30 – Sunday School
10:00 - Worship - Holy Comm.
Sanctuary - in person
And LIVE Streaming on YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/@bethlehemworship126/streams

Worship in November 2026

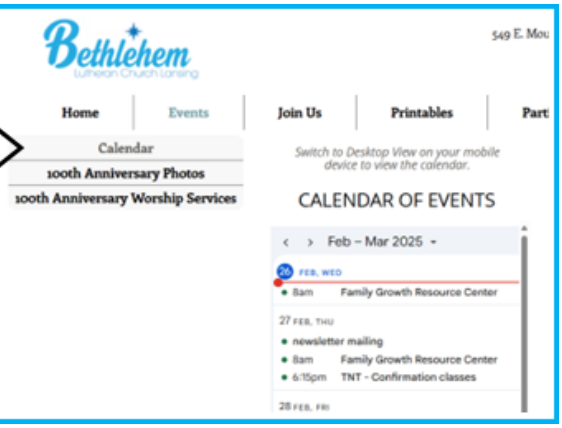
November Assisting Ministers

November 01 – Nancy Holderread
November 08 – Don Telles
November 15 – Bob Meeker
November 22 – Susan Mahoney
November 29 – Crystal Collins



WEBSITE UPDATES

Visit bethlutheran.org and click on 'Events' for information on what's happening. Select 'Calendar' from the Events menu to view the *full* church calendar.



Statement of Purpose and Guiding Principles for Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

God's purpose for our church, as disciples of Jesus Christ, is to share with all people God's word, love and saving grace.

We will pursue this purpose by:

1. Being a Christ-centered, joyful community of baptized believers who gather regularly for worship, the Lord's Supper, study and prayer.
2. Inviting, accepting, and supporting all people as we build attentive, respectful relationships.
3. Taking action and risks with bold faith, acknowledging our imperfection, while trusting in Christ.
4. Actively engaging in community outreach near and far.
5. Being faithful stewards of our time, talents, possessions and all of God's creation.

Adopted January 29, 2017

STEWARDSHIP

Monthly Bethlehem Financial Update

Each month in the newsletter, we will provide an update on the monthly financial picture to keep the congregation apprised, and informed. Because we do not have the financials for the previous month completed by the time the newsletter deadline arrives for inclusion, it will generally be a trailing one month snapshot of our finances. This will allow for a consistent reporting of our finances and not allow for any surprises throughout the year. This update is reported through September 30, 2026.

Thank you again for your continued faithful generosity to Bethlehem and keeping our future bright.

Jim Whitman
Congregation President

	General Offerings	Expenses	Net
January	**$24,347.87**	**$29,922.61**	**($5,574.74)**
February	**$32,122.63**	**$28,367.50**	**$3,755.13**
March	**$32,286.25**	**$25,376.93**	**$6,909.32**
April	**$28,149.34**	**$29,240.24**	**($1,090.90)**
May	**$25,763.34**	**$27,174.43**	**($1,411.09)**
June	**$23,389.89**	**$21,104.15**	**$4,873.46**
July	**$28,041.99**	**$26,265.68**	**$1,776.31**
August	**$26,234.39**	**$22,216.68**	**$4,017.71**
September	**$61,487.45***	**$17,020.53***	**$44,466.92***

Year to date positive Income to Expense total--$55,154.40

*Please note significant offering amount for September due to an incredibly gracious gift from Kurt Kollmeyer upon his passing.

"His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" ~ Matthew 25:23

Saving Account Balance	**$5,005.18**
Checking Account Balance	**$22,046.27**
Money Market Fund Balance	**$80,069.13**
Total Cash Accounts	**$107,120.58**
Memorial Fund	**$10,746.92**
Endowment Fund	**$317,985.75**

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Women

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

All women of Bethlehem Lutheran Church are members of the Women of the ELCA and are invited and encouraged to participate in all activities listed in the newsletters, bulletins, flyers or on the bulletin boards.

Blanket Sunday was certainly beautiful. The time and talent it took to assemble all of those beautiful quilts is amazing. A special thank you to all the women who give of their time and talent to give warmth and love to people in need all over the world. A special thank you to our leader Kelly Carpenter, for all she does to make this happen.

If you'd like to be part of this wonderful ministry, join Kelly and her quilting crew on the second Wednesday of every month at 9:00 AM. It's a delightful morning of quilting, laughter, fellowship—and of course, snacks! Come share your time, your talents, and maybe even a few stitches of love!

Thank Offering Service – November 15 – In Philippians 4:1-9 the Apostle Paul calls from prison to the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstances. Thank Offering Sunday provides the women with this opportunity to give thanks to God. During this special time of worship, you are invited to come forward and present your offering at the altar. Let us gather with thankful hearts, reflecting on God's many gifts and the joy of giving back in love. The money collected is sent to the Women of the ELCA to support the ongoing ministries of our church-wide organization.

December General Meeting – Dec. 7th – 6:30, program at 7:00. Please **save the date**!! We will have a short business meeting at 6:30 then we will enjoy the Capitol Acapella group in the Sanctuary. We will gather and enjoy a delicious dessert in the fellowship hall, hosted by Harmony Circle. All are welcome! Please feel free to invite friends and family. Watch for fliers and Facebook communications about this.

Upcoming Events:

BELCW Board Mtg.	11/02	Zoom 6:30P
FAB	11/07	9:30A
Quilting	11/11	9:00A
Harmony	11/11	6:30P
Thankoffering Sunday	11/15	10:00A
Friendship	11/16	6:30P
Rainbow	11/17	1:00P
Special Board Mtg	11/27	in person 6:30P

Prayer Corner

Please Note: Hospitals do not notify churches when a member has been hospitalized; even if you inform them at registration of your church membership. If you would like a visit from the pastor, please call the church office at 482-3225.



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS and with your cards and visits:
Marilyn Bass-Huyser in Independence Village, Grand Ledge
Virginia Bauman, 5314 Evergreen Ridge Dr. Cincinnati, OH
John Nelson in Grand Haven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing
Joe Skidmore, in Assisted Living, 475 Jacks Canyon Rd. Apt. #229 Sedona, AZ 86351
Betty Strother in Independence Village, East Lansing
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
Bruce Large, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Don Olson
Tharin Palmer, Bob & Gloria Robbins, Sandy Rollis, Connie Scott
Dana Stevens, Ken Teter, Betty VanConant, Cheryl VanPatten

If you know of a member you would like us to include on this list or remove from this list, please call the church office.

MISSION PARTNERS Pray for the people and ministry at Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Pray for the Baker Neighborhood Partners and Community Police Officer, Bridget Voisin and other first responders.

PRAY for those who are on active duty in the United States Military Services:

Chris Browne – *U.S. Air Force*
Isaiah Castellanos – *U.S. Army*
Andrew Devine – *U.S. Nat'l Guard*
Anthony Erb – *U.S. Army*
Carson Kosloski – *U.S. Marines*
Joshua Kosloski – *U.S. Army*
Christopher Morgan – *U.S. Marines*
Ben Painter – *U.S. Air Force*
Ryan Schiffner – *U.S. Air Force*
Nicholas "Leo" Snow – *U.S. Navy*
Dayton Tucker – *U.S. Marines*





Dear Bethlehem Members,

Thank you to everyone who sent me a card related to my recent trip to Washington DC, with the **Talons Out Honor Flight**. Getting your cards during mail call on the way home welcomed me more than you would ever know.
Your ongoing prayers mean so much too.

Sgt. Michael Mahoney

Thank you for your donation to the Lansing Food Bank, your donation will provide 3,000 meals for those in need!

We appreciate your generosity,
Lansing Food Bank

taking faith home

Here, you will find a list of the scripture readings that are part of the Daily Lectionary which move us from one Sunday to the next. You can also find these readings on our "Taking Faith Home" sheets we distribute after worship. They are also posted daily on our Facebook page. We encourage you to read your Bible every day as you live out your life of discipleship.

November			
01 Matthew 5:1-12	08 Matthew 25:1-13	16 Zephaniah 1:7-18	24 Ephesians 1:15-23
02 Revelation 7:9-17	09 Amos 5:18-24	17 1 Thess. 5:1-11	25 Psalm 100
03 1 John 3:1-3	10 1 Thess. 4:13-18	18 Romans 1:8-15	26 Isaiah 1:16-20
04 Isaiah 54:5-10	11 Joshua 24:14-28	19 Joshua 1:1-19	27 Amos 5:10-15
05 Romans 15:14-21	12 Psalm 78:1-8	20 Philemon 1:4-7	28 Psalm 95:1-7
06 John 11:17-27	13 Luke 21:29-38	21 Psalm 90:1-12	29 Mark 13:24-37
07 Psalm 34:1-22	14 Psalm 70	22 Matthew 25:31-46	30 Isaiah 64:1-9
	15 Matthew 25:14-30	23 Ezekiel 34:11-24	31 1 Corinthians 1:3-9



Sunday Night Bible Study

All are welcome for Sunday Night Bible Study.
On the First and Third Sunday's of each month,
join us in the Library at 7:00 p.m.

November Birthdays

Jutta Berry	Nov. 01
Marilyn Clark	Nov. 01
Carol Roush	Nov. 02
Gary Danbrook	Nov. 04
Norma MacKenzie	Nov. 05
Marilyn Bass-Huyser	Nov. 14
Jeff Kosloski	Nov. 15
Connie Meeker	Nov. 15
Cheryl Shreffler	Nov. 20
William Puffenberger	Nov. 22
Susan Mahoney	Nov. 23
Jeff Pullum	Nov. 25
Victoria Schreur	Nov. 29



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Each year our birthday list of members 62 and over is updated from the church records. If for some reason you do not wish to have your name appear in the newsletter or if you see someone we have missed, please call the church office.

BELC UPCOMING EVENTS AND MINISTRIES

Special Meeting of the Congregation - Sunday, November 8, 2026

A Special Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2026, immediately following worship service. This is a very important meeting as it 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 50 members in order to conduct the meeting. It is imperative that we have a quorum for the election, or the meeting will have to be rescheduled with a two-week advance notice. **Please make every effort to attend the meeting so we do not 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. This 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 conducted during a 45-minute window to allow people to enjoy the rest of their Sunday afternoon. **Thank you in advance for your attendance and input,**

Jim Whitman
Congregation President

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On All Saints Sunday, November 1,
we will remember the great cloud of witnesses
that have gone before us in the faith in the last year.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE AND PIE FEST

Please join us Wednesday evening, November 25, at 7:00 p.m.
There will be a Pie Fest following the service.
Come join us for fellowship and PIE!





HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL

BELC UPCOMING EVENTS AND MINISTRIES CONT.

CHEER BAG DELIVERY

Would you like the opportunity to see one of our homebound members and deliver a bit of holiday cheer? Now you've got the chance! Each December BELC women donate and make small gifts and treats for gift bags to give to many of our members who are not able to be with us on Sundays. These Cheer Bags have always been delivered by women in Circles. This year we are asking for anyone in the congregation to join in helping to make deliveries and to enjoy this rewarding process! The bags will be available at church after worship on December 6. Addresses and phone numbers (if available) will be attached to each bag so that you can give a quick call to let that person know you're coming by. You can make your delivery any time between then and Christmas; it does not need to be done on the 6th . Please consider taking part in this valuable outreach ministry to some of our homebound members by picking up a bag on December 6. The BELCW thanks you!



KIDS ACTIVITY NIGHT AGES 6 - 17
WEDNESDAYS 5:30 – 7:30 PM



We need donations for our Kids Night.

Snack foods, drinks, games, dinners, 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 or Shannon.

BELLRINGING FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army is asking our congregation to gather a small group of members to volunteer and ring a bell at a nearby store. Our group would select which day, and The Salvation Army takes care of logistics. Bellringing is from November 2nd through December 24th. Ringing is Monday through Saturday (no Sundays) from about 10 am through 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.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS TRAINING:

After worship service on November 1st and November 22nd those wishing to continue or to begin serving as communion assistants are asked to participate in a brief training. The purpose is to be 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.

BAKERS KNEADED!

If you have a flair for baking, Bethlehem has an opportunity for you! The Altar Guild needs several volunteers to assist with making communion bread. There are a faithful few who have been providing the bread, but we are in need of additional volunteers. It is being made with a gluten-free bread mix which the church provides. It is a "quick" bread dough - so no kneading skills are needed! Please contact Kris Burow if you are willing to help!

Lyons Elementary Clothing Project Update

The collection area for clothing for Lyons Elementary School will be set out in the entryway beginning November 1 and will be left out until December 20.

We have three goals with this year's collection… to provide winter outerwear for children who cannot afford it but need to stay warm and be able to join their friends in the snow during recess, to help with the school's supply of tennis shoes for children who need to borrow them/keep them to participate in gym class, and to make sure elastic waist pants are available for kids to change into when they have bathroom accidents at school.

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)
- 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 – new is not necessary)
- Boys' sweats, sizes 6-10 (gently used is best – new is not necessary)

The school is so grateful for our support over the past several years!
The clothing will be delivered to them right after the Christmas break.

Thanksgiving Family Food Baskets

Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be providing up to 20 Thanksgiving Food Baskets for families in need, participating with Christian Services of Lansing, and with financial support from Thrivent Financial. For those who would like to support this program the **RED** and **TURQUOISE** shopping bags with lists attached will, be on the tables in the Social Hall beginning Sunday, November 1st. Options will include purchasing dry goods, a turkey or turkey breast, milk, butter or eggs. The Sunday Schoolchildren will be collecting Jello, pudding and Kleenex's to include in the baskets. For those willing to purchase a turkey, and wanting to take advantage of sale prices, please bring the frozen turkeys to the church by Wednesday, November 18th. All other donations **MUST** be brought to the church by Sunday, November 15th.

Thank you to all who generously support this program!

ANCESTRAL HOMELANDS

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabeg, the Three Fires Confederacy which is the Ojibwe (Chippewa), the Odawa (Ottawa) and the Potawatomi peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

You may have been present or online during worship on the fourth Sunday in September, when a statement was read at the beginning of worship that included this sentiment. You may have wondered why it was being read, or you may be wondering now why this statement was placed here and will be in our bulletin each week. When I had the pleasure of traveling this summer to the WELCA gathering in Iowa, I was intrigued by the statement that was read at the beginning of worship that acknowledged the Indigenous in that area. I was surprised when I researched on the ELCA site that this has been practiced in ELCA churches since the "Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery" in 2016. I wondered why we as a church, that has a long-term relationship with the Reconciliation Center and the Indigenous people it serves, have not made this part of our practice. Turns out, it slipped under the radar.

It is important to our history in the ELCA that we acknowledge that our greater church played a role in the oppression of the Indigenous people, particularly in running or participating in Indian Boarding Schools in the United States. This statement is a small part of the healing the ELCA is doing.

Interested in more information? Visit the ELCA.org and look for the Ministries of Diverse Cultures and Communities under the ELCA Society page. Also, you could visit www.tstti.org to see what is being done to find and tell the truth behind boarding schools. Knowledge is power!

Debbie Simmons

BREAD FOR THE WORLD

Vote to Elect Leaders Who Will Make Ending Hunger a Priority

In the United States, our elections can have a profound impact on hunger – both at home and around the world. We can work to elect and hold accountable leaders, regardless of political party, who are committed to ending hunger. Pledge today to vote for candidates who will make ending hunger a priority.

Pledge to Vote to End Hunger

This election, I pledge to vote for candidates who will prioritize ending hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

Name _____

Defend Democracy, Protect Creation, End Hunger, Vote

Pastor John