



12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026



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

August 16, 2026, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

In this moment of quiet thought and prayer, O Lord, I reach up to you and know that you reach down to me. Your desire is to form me into your image. God, my heavenly Father, change me by shaping my heart so that what I think and say and do may please you. Bless me in this hour of worship and make me ready to love others as you love me. In Jesus' Name I pray. 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 send Pastor Matt Smith a message at pastormattsmith@gmail.com or 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

PASTOR MATT'S LAST SUNDAY Today, on this Sunday, Pastor Matt will preach his last sermon as Pastor here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. For the past 18 years we have enjoyed shared ministry with Pastor Matt & Michelle Smith. Please pray for them as they start their new ministry at Mamrelund Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kent City, Michigan.

TOP TEN HYMNS Over the next ten Sunday's we will be singing the top ten hymns you picked and also a few hymns that didn't make the list. Thanks to the 50 people who took part!



- #10 – Here Is Bread & It Only takes a Spark
- 9 – Born Cry & What a Friend We Have in Jesus
- 8 – Lift High the Cross
- 7 – Here I Am Lord
- 6 – My Hope is Built on Nothing Less
- 5 – Beautiful Savior
- 4 – A Mighty Fortress
- 3 – How Great Thou Art
- 2 – Lord of the Dance
- 1 – Amazing Grace

RALLY SUNDAY AND THE CHURCH PICNIC



On September 13th, after worship service we will have a potluck, then we will have games for all ages. Join us in the church lower level for games, a cakewalk and more. Our first day for class-crafts and fun will be September 20th at 8:45 a.m.

We are looking forward to another great year of Sunday School!

BELCW GENERAL MEETING AND POTLUCK Join your friends for a yummy potluck, **Monday, September 21, at 6:30 p.m.** 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.

Lansing SAVE Our next fifth Sunday offering for LansingSAVE is August 30. There are now 168 children in our group of students from BELC and the Baker Neighborhood. To give electronically click on the "Online Giving" link on our website.

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!

IT'S LAWN MOWING TIME The BGs (Building and Grounds) is taking on this task this year thereby saving money instead of hiring it out as has been done in the past. A new electric mower has been purchased, and the first mow of the year has been completed. This is a rather big responsibility for just this board. Help would be appreciated. This could be a good way to chip in with a needed project. If you would be willing to help, sign up with your name, phone number, email mail on the form on the kiosk in the gym.

THE SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE CONTINUES During the summer months, Sunday Church School classes and Adult Forum will not meet. This schedule continues through Labor Day weekend. If you are going to be out of town, find a gathering of Christians and worship with them. While you are away, please continue to support the work of Bethlehem Lutheran Church with your prayers and offerings.

THE LIVING LUTHERAN SUMMER ISSUE There is a whole season's worth of stimulating reading with lots of copies available on our Welcome Center Table.

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, along with the Baker/Donora neighborhood Association, we are welcoming children and families for food, fun, and fellowship. Please join us!



Thought for the Week

“In Christ, we all belong.”

~ Lina Thompson

God creates community of belonging in Christ as we use our God-given gifts in making room for others.

(https://streetpsalms.org/making-room/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)



ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance: 08/09/26, 65 in-person, with 22 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 41:33, 15 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP NUGGET Stewardship is more than caring for what we have received. It is trusting God with what comes next. Isaiah reminds us that God is still gathering people into God's family, and we have the privilege of preparing a place for those whom God has not yet gathered. Our time, talents, resources, hospitality, and generosity help Bethlehem be a place where God's welcome can be experienced for all..

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – David & Keitha Snider

USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider

ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley

LAY READER – Dorothy Martin

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Christina Raia, Mel White

ALTAR GUILD – Cindy Marsh



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, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan
Mark Nelson, 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 Altar flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of the birthdays of All God's Children born in July, August, and September.

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 Grace Lutheran Church in Vassar, Michigan, Supply Pastors.

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

PASTOR – Rev. Matthew A. Smith

ORGANIST – James Schippers

CHOIR DIRECTOR – Sue Nelson

PRAISE TEAM COORDINATORS – Debbie Simmons, Laura Halbakken

ASSISTING MINISTER – Bob Meeker

GREETERS – Michelle Smith, Sherry Bass-Pohl

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

LAY READER – Mary Bartel

ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Liisa & Jim Whitman

ALTAR GUILD – Carrie Rice, Eliot Nutt

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, August 16 10:00a Worship – Holy Communion

Pastor Matt's

7:00p Sunday Night Bible Study

Last Sunday

MONDAY 6:00p Baker/Donora Neighborhood Assoc.

WEDNESDAY 10:00a Capital Area Baby Café

10:30a BELCW Project Day

1:00p Men's Luncheon – Leroy's

5:30p Baker/Donora Kids Night

THURSDAY 6:30p Congregation Council meets

FRIDAY 7:00p N.A. meets

SUNDAY, August 23 10:00a Worship – Holy Communion

Pastor Scott Trokko

***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 & 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.*