

A quilt with a central banner. The quilt is composed of various shades of blue and teal fabric squares, some with patterns and some plain. The squares are arranged in a grid-like fashion, separated by thin lines of brown fabric. A wide, dark red border runs horizontally across the center, containing a brown banner with the text "One Hundred Years!". The banner is bordered by thin yellow and white lines. The overall design is a patchwork of different blue tones and textures, creating a rich, textured appearance.

One Hundred Years!



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

Worship Service – 10:00
September 22, 2024



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

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Loving God, through Christ Jesus your son and our brother, you have gathered us together to worship you and to discern your will for our lives. We pray, God, for your wisdom to enlighten us, your instructions to guide us, and your love to fill us. Help us to build our lives on the foundation laid for us by Christ. May our prayer and our praise bring glory to your name. 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.



Order of Worship*

September 22, 2024

10:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "Our Hope for Years to Come"

Handbell Choir
arr. Mitchell Eithun

Our handbell prelude for our 100th Anniversary Celebration was commissioned by members of the BELC Handbell Choir and includes our four hymns that we have used for our anniversary celebrations: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past", "Lead On, O King Eternal!", "Lift High the Cross" and "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less." When he completed the arrangement, Mitchell Eithun noted that it came out to exactly 100 measures, so appropriate for our 100 years serving in God's Mission and Ministry!

I. WE ARE GATHERED IN GOD'S PRESENCE (The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.)

**CALL TO WORSHIP

A *In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

G **Amen.**

We gather, looking back to see the paths taken,

Looking forward to what lies ahead.

We honor those who have gone before us,

Learning from their experiences.

We celebrate who we are today,

And welcome the possibilities and opportunities before us.

As the baptized people of God we gather to worship God,

the God of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

**And one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all,
and in all. Amen!**

ENTRANCE HYMN: "The Church's One Foundation" hymn 654 Vv.1, 2, 4, 5

GREETING

B *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

G **And also with you.**

KYRIE

p. 184-185

Refrain

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church,
for the unity of all;

for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

That we may live out your impassioned response
to the hungry and the poor;

that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,
for friends and family;

for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives
in the water and the Word;

that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

B *Let us pray...*

G **Amen.**

II. WE ENCOUNTER GOD THROUGH THE WORD

(God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.)

VIDEO PRESENTATION: "My Hope is Built On Nothing Less, 1999-2024"

WORSHIP TALK FOR CHILDREN

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

FIRST READING

1 Kings 8:22-30

Solomon gives thanks for God's steadfast love.

(after the reading) **L** *Word of God. Word of life.*

G **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Until the Whole World Hears"

Praise Team

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:1-9

We are a house built of living stones, a people who are God's own possession.

(after the reading) **L** *Word of God. Word of life..*

G **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL VERSE

hymn 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
 - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
 Hal - le - lu - jah.
 lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL READING

John 10:22-30

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

B *The Holy Gospel according to John.*

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

(after the reading) *The Gospel of the Lord.*

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

Rev. Craig A. Satterlee, Ph.D.
Bishop, North/West Lower Michigan Synod

**HYMN OF THE DAY: "Faith of Our Fathers"

hymn 813

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

hymn 401 v.1

Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading.
 fashion us all anew.
 It's your leading, that we're heeding
 help us to follow you.
 Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.
 Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

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(after each petition) *Hear us, O God.*

☞ Your mercy is great.

****PASSING OF THE PEACE**

P *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

☞ And also with you.

(Greet one another in joy and love: "Peace" or "The Lord be with you!")

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Senior Choir

This unpublished anthem, composed by Pepper Choplin, was commissioned in honor of Dr. Larry and Gail Dickens on his retirement from the music ministry of Hayes Barton Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC. When our music director, Sue Nelson, heard the recording of the performance that had been posted online, she felt that it would be perfect for our 100th Anniversary Celebration. As it has not yet been published, it is not publicly available for purchase, but the composer, Pepper Choplin, responded directly to her inquiry and happily made it available to us for our 100th anniversary.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *(as the gifts are brought forward)*

hymn 465

(refrain) **As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
 were gathered into one to become our bread;
 so may all your people from all the ends of earth
 be gathered into one in you.**

1. **As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
 may we share the presence of your love.** *(refrain)*

**2. Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. (refrain)**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A *Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.*

C Amen.

III. GOD BLESSES US IN HOLY COMMUNION
(God feeds us with the real presence of Jesus Christ.)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P *The Lord be with you.*

C And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, their unending hymn:

**You are holy, you are whole.
You are always evermore
than we ever understand.
You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near.
Blessed are you coming here
To your church in wine and bread,
Raised from soil, raised from dead.
You are holy, you are wholeness.
You are present, let the cosmos praise you, Lord!
Sing hosanna in the highest!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!**

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You are indeed holy, but have eternal life.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Hungry, I Come”

**Hungry I come, thirsty I come.
Hungry I come to You.
Hungry I come, thirsty I come
And I feast with wine and bread.
By Your mercy I am fed.
For the bread of Your body
For the wine of Your blood
For You, Word incarnate, I come, I come.**

In the night that he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, “Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

**For the bread of Your body
For the wine of Your blood
For You, Word incarnate, I come, I come.**

Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

**For the bread of Your body
For the wine of Your blood
For You, Word incarnate, I come, I come.
Hungry I come, thirsty I come.
Hungry I come to You.
Hungry I come, thirsty I come
And I feast with wine and bread.
By Your mercy I am fed.**

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THE LORD'S PRAYER

P *Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

G **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P *Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God!*

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Whether you receive Communion or not, all are welcome at God's table. As Lutherans we believe that the Body and Blood of Christ is truly present in the bread and cup for the forgiveness of our sins for all the baptized. Please fill out a communion registration card, found in the pew rack, and hand it to the usher as you come forward down the center aisle. *If you desire grape juice instead of wine, please pick up a **pre-filled cup from one of the trays**.* You may return to your seats using the side aisles, depositing your cups in the baskets.

All are welcome to come to the Lord's Table even if they do not commune. Simply have your arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing. **Our communion bread is entirely gluten-free.** Children may receive Holy Communion if they have completed a course of instruction about the meaning of the sacrament. Until that time, children are invited to come with their parents and receive a fish cracker, which symbolizes the inclusion of the child in God's love and grace.

LAMB OF GOD: "Your Only Son" #336

Duet: "A Mighty Fortress is our God"

Alix Jenkins & Algje Watkins
Former musicians of BELC

Hymns during Distribution: "Shine, Jesus, Shine" #671, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" #733, "Jesus Messiah," "10,000 Reasons"

***(after all have communed)* **P** *May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.*

A Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A *Let us pray. Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have fed us with this heavenly food. In your grace and by your Spirit, help us to be what we celebrate, the body of Christ in the world. Send us out, renewed by this sacramental meal, to do the work you have given us to do: to witness for Christ, to love you with singleness of heart, and to serve you with clarity of purpose; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord..*

A Amen.

IV. GOD SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE

(God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.)

CLOSING HYMN: "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

hymn 597

DISMISSAL

B *Go forth as yourself.*

A Amen.

Whatever through him.

Amen.

The God of hope Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, Father, †Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

ANTHEM POSTLUDE: "Hallelujah Chorus"

Senior Choir

(Former members of the choir and members of other church choirs are invited to come forward and join the choir for the singing of the "Hallelujah" chorus.)



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

PARISH NOTES

TODAY IS OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church celebrates 100 years today. Please join us after service for a reception and dinner in the Social Hall.

QUILTS Our Original and 100th Anniversary Church Quilts are hanging in the front of the church. The Original Church Quilt (behind the lectern) was crafted in 1924 by the sewing circle of the Ladies Aid Society. Names of the early church families were embroidered on the quilt. Our **100th Anniversary Church Quilt** (behind the choir loft) was *designed* and sewn by Connie Meeker and quilted by Stella Wilcox. The design is inspired by our stained-glass Cross Window in the chancel. The window contains all the colors of the Luther rose or seal, designed by Luther in 1530.

Red - The believing heart is justified and lives by faith (Romans 10:10, 1:7) **White** - The rose in the middle shows that faith gives joy, comfort and peace, not like the world gives (John 14:27). It is the color of the spirits and the angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12).

Blue - The sky-blue symbolizes the joy of our faith, a future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed. **Gold** - The golden ring shows the never-ending, blessed, exquisite joy of eternal life. Our window, with **Stars** shining forth from an empty cross, shows that the Risen Christ rules over ALL CREATION. Many members wanted to make and contribute quilt blocks (The block design is based on the Cranberry Chutney Pattern brought to us by the inspiration of Susan Mahoney.) with one, two, or three crosses. There are *over* 100 crosses on the quilt to celebrate our 100 years of serving in God's Mission and Ministry.



ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE Thank You to our brilliant co-chairs, Keitha Snider and Dorothy Martin, and thank you to our dedicated committee members, Tim and Sue Nelson, Jim and Liisa Whitman (Chef and Video Production), Pr. Matt and Michelle Smith, Pr. Gerald and Suzanne Ferguson, Chuck Gauss, Laurey Wyble, Karen Nault, Terri and Paul Lentz (Photographer) and Don Romain (Narrator).

ALL CHURCH PICTURE At the conclusion of worship, members and guests will be ushered to the front doors (out on to Mt. Hope) for an all-church picture. You can also exit through the main doors (especially wheelchairs) and head up the sidewalk to the front of the church. If you do not wish to take part, feel free to find a seat at a table in the social hall.

Lansing SAVE Next Sunday, September 29, is our fifth Sunday offering for LansingSAVE. There are now 192 children in our group of students from BELC and the Baker Neighborhood. To give electronically click on the "Online Giving" link on our website.

ADULT FORUM: THE LISTENING LIFE At 9 a.m. in the library, we will continue to explore the gift, skill, healing and wholeness of authentic listening. This listening path includes hearing God in Scripture, creation and the needs of the neighbor. Listening to another as a high form of hospitality and healing. And even listening to our own life. Next Sunday we will explore the many ways of listening to our God of faithful love. You are encouraged to partner with us in this time of learning and listening.

RUMMAGE SALE New sale dates! Set-up will be Friday, September 27th, people will be able to drop off rummage; Friday from 9:30-6:30, Saturday September 28 from 9:30-5:00, Sunday September 29 from 10:00-4:30, and on Monday from 9:30-6:00. The sale dates are Tuesday October 1, 5:30-8:00, Wednesday October 2, 9:00-7:00p.m., and Thursday October 3, bag day, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. If this is something you would love to do, call Peggy Teter at (517) 281-2713.

ALTAR FLOWER CHART Smith Floral continues to provide beautiful Floral Arrangements for Bethlehem at a very reasonable price. The florist has recently begun a new billing system, and we will now be pre-paying for the arrangements rather than being billed at the end of the month. Bethlehem's order for the upcoming month is submitted near the 25th of every month and payment will be sent at that time. Thus, Sunday sponsors for Altar Flowers will need to pay well in advance. If you have any questions, please talk with Kris Burow.

COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE (CEB) Our scripture readings will continue to follow the Revised Common Lectionary, but they will be read from the Common English Bible (CEB) rather than the NRSV through the end of 2024. **There are some Common English Bibles on the cart in the back of the church for your use.** Please give any feedback on the CEB to Pastor Matt or any member of the Board of Worship Life.

ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance 9/15/24: 66 in-person and 49 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 22:51 and 19 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS *Whoever wants to be first must be least of all and servant of all. - Jesus*

How might an entire congregation live out this vision both in our life together and our daily ministries out in the world?

COMMUNION 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. **Our Communion Bread** in worship is gluten free. Now, everyone in our congregation will receive the Body of Christ from the same loaf.

Our Thoughts &
Prayers
are with...



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS and with your cards and visits:

John Nelson in Grand Haven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing
Rhoda Hunter in Prestige Way on Keller Road in Holt
Marilyn Bass-Huysen in Independence Village, Grand Ledge
Betty Strother in Independence Village, East Lansing
Joe Skidmore, in Assisted Living, Sedona, AZ
Kurt Kollmeyer, Hamilton Trace Apartments, Fishers, IN
Ben Darling, Sparrow Hospital

Those at home: *Kaye Alden, John Bartel, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo Kelly Carpenter, Crystal Collins, Keith Ferguson, Tom & Eleanor Finn Emma Hicks, Nancy Jackson, Mike (Ferris) Kosloski, Vicki Leighton Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer Bob Robbins, Sandy Rollis, Connie Scott, 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 our LPD Community Police Officer, D.J. Rudd, Interim.

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)
Tyler Barnes – U.S. Marines (Candy & Cloyd Barnes' nephew)
Isaiah Castellanos – U.S. Army (Margo Devine's great nephew)
Andrew Devine – U.S. Nat'l Guard (Margo Devine's nephew)
Carson Kosloski – U.S. Marines (Jeff Kosloski's great nephew)
Joshua Kosloski – U.S. Army (Laura Halbakken's cousin)
Rusty Landry – U.S. Air Nat'l Guard (Don & Audrey Olson's grandson)
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)
Dayton Tucker – U.S. Marines (Friend of the Devine family)

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY If you are interested in occasionally taking the sacrament to one of our homebound members, please talk to Judy Pardee, Pastor Matt, or someone on the Board of Worship Life.

A HISTORY OF BETHLEHEM: 1999-2024

(partial narrative)



With our remodel and addition complete in 1996, and with all this new space and so many activities happening in the building, a few of the retired men started coming to the church during the week to do projects that needed to be done.

Throughout the years, once a week, usually Thursday, the men would set up or break down table and chairs, move furniture, fix broken items, install things like hymnal holder extensions – really anything that seemed to need attention, the elves would do it. They were dubbed the ‘Elves’ by Pastor Jim S. because they quietly did the work to keep the building running and at its best.

One of the main uses for the newly expanded lower level at Bethlehem has been donating space to the Family Growth Center (FGC). The FGC provided FREE drop-in childcare for pre-school aged children. It was one of the first in the country, and would remain a fixture in our church, serving our neighborhood, with childcare into 2024, and as a resource center moving into the future.

National Gatherings and Mission Trips

In this last quarter, members of Bethlehem joined with other active Lutherans at national gatherings. Teenage members of Luther League continued attending national gatherings in St. Louis, Missouri in 2000 and these continued every three years. Bethlehem’s youth joined tens of thousands of other youth to provide services in areas of need for the host city, and also to engage with their peers in learning and worship to broaden their experience in God’s world. National Gatherings have also been held in Atlanta, San Antonio, New Orleans four times and Detroit. The gathering creates an environment where youth come together to share in their faith formation through service, Bible study, fellowship, and interactive learning.

Bethlehem women have been going to and helping run annual conventions since the 1980 when the church was a member of the American Lutheran Church. After the merger with two other Lutheran churches to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, our women continued attending conventions gathered as the Women of the ELCA beginning in 1990. Triennial Conventions, like with the youth, the women’s convention focuses on a theme with its mission to mobilize women to “Act boldly in their faith.” The women of our congregation have attended the past two decades and have served on the national board. They have heard fabulous speakers, attended workshops, and then returned to Lansing with renewed spirits and ideas to continue serving others.



One mission that began here immediately after the 2008 Triennial Gathering in Salt Lake City was the Fiber Artists of Bethlehem (FAB). Debbie Viele attended a small group session “Knitting for Peace” led by Betty Christensen. Peggy Teter says, “We have met once a month on the first Saturday ever since. Our group is about giving of our talents.” The group has made many prayer shawls for members, lap robes for Hospice House, and newborn baby blankets for different community groups. The ladies say they enjoy the fellowship and the opportunity to use their talents for others. FAB also includes non-members, so it is open to anyone who likes to work with fiber.

After hearing about Trinity Midland’s mission trips to storm-damaged areas, Steve Viele attended a meeting to hear about their work in the south after Hurricane Katrina. We formed a team at Bethlehem and traveled to Alabama three times in 12 months. We worked alongside Midland’s team repairing/replacing kitchens, drywalling, painting, roofing and flooring.

In the years that followed, we worked in Cedar Rapids, IA and Nashville, TN after floods in those areas, and after a tornado damaged southern Indiana. We did a lot of drywalling, another kitchen, a deck, and flooring. Our crews were all volunteers. With one exception, none of us had worked in the construction industry. We learned from our experience and found there was a lot we could do together.

On these trips we stayed in churches, a church camp, and other church-owned properties. We took turns cooking our meals and ate lots of cookies sent by our church members. When we started, we were working with Lutheran Disaster Response. Later we worked with the Presbyterians and one local recovery group.

Our final trips were to Pine Ridge in South Dakota and our own Stony Lake Lutheran Camp (Living Waters Ministry). South Dakota was a different kind of mission trip. We did some projects but also learned much about the culture on the reservation and the lives lived there. At Stony, we rebuilt the deck one year and then re-sided the White House the next year. So, when you see that big white house at camp, people from your church worked on it!



MSU Concessions

These trips were all funded by donations and funds raised working at the Breslin Center concessions. Because of the funds raised through concessions, over 30 different people were able to go on these mission trips, totaling 11 trips over eight years. We worked hard, had fun, and built homes and friendships. Working concessions also provided the youth of the church funds to go to camp and to attend national youth gatherings.

Clergy

A few years after our 75th anniversary, Jim Schalkhauser retired, and

Jim Lichtenberger was installed as the senior pastor. Wayne Knockel served as the associate pastor with Pastor Jim L from 2003-2006. In 2008, Bethlehem extended a call to Matthew Smith to become an associate pastor with Pastor Jim L. Pastor Jim L. continued as our senior pastor until his retirement in 2015. In January 2016, Pastor Matt was installed in his current position as pastor.

Faith Family Fun Day

In 2010, a member suggested that because Bethlehem is one of the anchors of the Baker-Donora neighborhood, we should have some kind of outreach event for our neighbors as a continuation of the ministry we provided with Neighborhood Kid's Night. Liisa Whitman, who had experience running events, volunteered to organize it and Faith Family Fun Day was born. The committee teamed up with neighborhood leaders to create an event that would most benefit the people living around the church. With Jim Whitman at the grill and dozens of volunteers, we fed everyone who came.

The early years had a musical program that evolved into games for kids and adults. In later years, we also offered large bags of fresh produce and even haircuts from students from the Douglas J Aveda Institute. But for many attending, the highlight of the day was the prize raffle. Betty Strother and her crew created prize packages for adults like household items, tools, and cooking packages along with tons of large items for kids to win. In the last three years before COVID, 500 people attended each Faith Family Fun Day.

Contemporary Music

Beginning around 2009, Laurey Wyble asked congregation members if they would be interested in singing contemporary music in church as part of a band. Most of today's members are part of that original group that began occasionally singing the anthem. But by 2011, the Praise Team was singing regularly, one Sunday a month, which turned into Contemporary Music Sunday. When asked for comment, Laurey said, "I appreciate the willingness of all the members to thoughtfully collaborate, to be prayerfully dedicated, and to be abundantly gracious and supportive of a sometimes-flawed director. I am eternally grateful for all the years of music that we have shared with our BELC family."

Like all churches, the shutdown from the COVID-19 epidemic impacted Bethlehem. Members of Bethlehem came together to ensure that the church continued providing worship and care for its members. Our Christmas Senior dinners were still prepared, but our members drove through to pick them up instead of dining together. Before we could worship inside, we worshiped outside. Holiday food baskets were

Faith Family Fun Day

distributed at the front door. And our TNT kids continued their confirmation program via ZOOM. Bethlehem began recording and posting services for members to watch. Now they are recorded live and broadcast to all members through YouTube (thank you tech team).

There are so many more missions Bethlehem members have been a part of this past 25 years like donating water to the Flint Water Crisis, the Food



LANSING SAVE
STUDENT ACCOUNTS VALUING EDUCATION

Pantry becoming a mobile food distribution site, quarterly donations to our neighborhood children's future education through

Lansing SAVE, Pray and Go, Holiday Food Baskets, Habitat for Humanity, and the Life of Faith Initiative beginning this fall.

Bethlehem has evolved from a tiny prefab church building to the iconic building it is today. But even though the building has changed and evolved, the members and their purpose has remained true from those first 24 families that took a leap of faith and began the journey for all of us. Many 3rd, 4th, and 5th generation descendants of those original families are still active members here today.

The prayer is for the mission of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church to continue another 100 years as a pillar of what a service church can be and as an anchor to the community. The people of Bethlehem will continue to live out our guiding principles of being a Christ-centered, joyful community who by being bold in their faith, take action by inviting, accepting, and supporting all people in outreach as faithful stewards of our time, our talents, our possessions and of all of God's creation.

May God be with us on our continued journey...



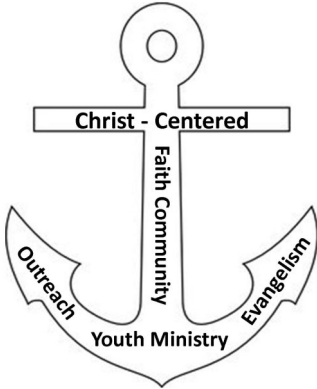
Historical Timeline

(including pastoral leadership and the ordination of members)

Date	Event
July 13, 1924	Meeting w/ Pastor C. G. Althoff at home of Fred Ristau to discuss opportunity for new congregation.
July 27, 1924	24 men met with Rev. H.P. Dannecker (president of the Northern District of the Evg. Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio and Other States) & Rev. C. G. Althoff to organize an Evangelical Lutheran congregation.
July 30, 1924	The Bethlehem Ladies Aid Society was organized by fifteen women. The success of Bethlehem Church is due in a great degree to the faithfulness of these women.
August 10, 1924	First service held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Rotzol. 60 people attended the first service. The theme and text for Rev. Althoff's sermon were: How We Can Improve The Conditions of the Church. Is. 62:6-12
Sept. 7 & 21, 1924	Services are held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Fiedler.
September 21, 1924	The first two lots were purchased on Mt. Hope and Ray Street. The purchase price was \$2100.00 (\$2150). This amount was raised at one time by voluntary subscriptions of the charter members.
September 24, 1924	The congregation was incorporated. The charter membership of Bethlehem Lutheran Congregation consisted of 24 families (56 communicants).
November 25, 1924	The original chapel was erected in a rain and snowstorm by members of the church. It was a World War I pre-fabricated surplus chapel, measuring 26 by 50 feet, and cost \$3700.00.
December 14, 1924	Chapel dedicated in sub-zero weather.
January 11, 1925	First council was elected. At this time the congregation extended a formal call to the Rev. C. G. Althoff to become their resident pastor.
March 22, 1925	Rev. C. G. Althoff installed as first pastor by his father, the Rev. C. H. Althoff.
July 1928	Rev. C. G. Althoff leaves BELC to accepted a call to Christ Congregation at Dowling, Ohio. Until a replacement could be found, Rev. Frederick of Detroit filled the vacancy.
August 31, 1928	Mission Board of the Northern District of the Joint Synod of Ohio together with a committee from the congregation, called Rev. Geo. C. Bubolz, who was a graduate of Capital University Theological Seminary in June.
September 22, 1929	The first organ is dedicated.

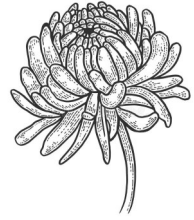
- September 23, 1928 Pastor Bulbolz installed as the 2nd pastor by Dr. R. C. Lenski, Dean of the Capital University Theological Seminary. Dr. Lenski preached on the text: Galatians 6:14 "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."
- September 27, 1931 The enlarged and improved chapel is dedicated. The cost of enlarging the chapel was \$2300.00. These improvements were paid for by the Ladies Aid Society.
- May 22, 1932 The first parsonage was purchased on Mt. Hope Ave. This was immediately to the East of the existing church property.
- January 11, 1948 The second organ and chimes are dedicated.
- January 16, 1949 Rev. Walter Koepplin is installed as the congregations third pastor.
- October 29, 1950 Ground is broken for the present church.
- June 25, 1951 The cornerstone to the new church was laid.
- December 16, 1951 The new church is dedicated.
- September, 1955 A new parsonage is purchased on Kensington Drive, Lansing.
- May 3, 1959 The mortgage for the new church is burned.
- September 1, 1959 An additional lot on Mt. Hope Ave. is purchased.
- January 10, 1960 Ground is broken on the site of the original chapel for the Educational Unit.
- February 28, 1960 Cornerstone to the new Educational Unit is laid.
- January 22, 1961 The Educational Unit is dedicated.
- 1964 The church purchases property North of the church on Ray Street and property on Norman Street.
- Fall of 1964 A new organ is dedicated.
- February 7, 1965 Rev. John C. McCollister is installed as the congregation's fourth pastor.
- July 31, 1966 Jim Deehan is ordained at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Moulton, Ohio.
- April 30, 1967 Rev. Walter Koepplin retires.
- Aug. 5, 1971 Rev. John C. McCollister leaves.
- November 28, 1971 Rev. James A. Schalkhauser is installed as the congregation's 5th Pastor.
- September 22, 1974 Rev. E. H. Schalkhauser is installed.
- October 8, 1978 Craig Nesson is ordained at Bethlehem.
- September 7, 1980 Rev. Noel R. Niemann is installed as the 7th pastor.
- October 29, 1980 Bethel Series Bible study introduced to the congregation
- December 18, 1983 English Handbells dedicated.
- April 20, 1986 Rev. James R. Lichtenberger is installed as the 8th pastor.
- June 17, 1990 Gerald Ferguson is ordained at Bethlehem.

June 1996	Addition of classrooms and office space dedicated.
July 7, 1999	James Erdman was ordained at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.
December 29, 2002	Rev. James Schalkhauser retires.
October 19, 2003	Rev. Wayne Knockel is installed as the 9 th pastor.
May 11, 2008	Rev. Matthew A. Smith is installed as the 10 th pastor on Pentecost Sunday.
April 24, 2010	Matthew (Max) Miller is ordained at Bethlehem.
September 29, 2011	The mortgage for the addition and remodeling is burned.
October 25, 2015	Rev. James Lichtenberger retires.
January 29, 2017	Purpose and Guiding Principles for Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Adopted.
October 2017	500 th anniversary of the Reformation is commemorated
January 27, 2019	Bethlehem's Mission Plan is adopted based on our Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles, Listening Sessions in the congregation and community, highlighting being Christ-centered, caring for our faith community, youth ministry, community ministry and evangelism.
January 28, 2019	Stained Glass Window Preservation Work completed.
September 12, 2021	Allen organ is dedicated.
August 20, 2022	Ordination of Jason Mills, Austin, TX.
January 12-14, 2024	The Life of Faith Initiative is introduced at Bethlehem by Rev. Dr. Craig Nesson, beginning our paradigm shift to equipping the baptized for ministry in their every day lives.





**CHYRSANTHEMUMS
ARE GIVEN
BY MEMBERS OF
BETHLEHEM
IN CELEBRATION OF OUR
100TH ANNIVERSARY**



Ralph & Margaret Sergent

Kay Bloom

Keitha Snider

Marilyn Bass-Huyser

Susan Mahoney

Carol Pride

Dorothy Martin

Debbie Simmons

Mary Bartel

Candy Barnes

Mary Jakubiak

Donna Tenhave

Michelle & Matt Smith

Tim & Sue Nelson

Don & Audrey Olson

Joe & Cheryl Shreffler

Linda Telles

Wendy Lamphier

Betty Strother

Ken & Peggy Teter

John & Kris Burow

Jack Midgley

Sue Sterling

Cindy Marsh

Bob & Connie Meeker

Living Your Baptismal Promise

a new century of mission and ministry

(A Life of Faith Initiative Retreat)

Living Your Baptismal Promise Join us on September 27-28 for a time to step away, to remember, connect and claim the promises made at our Baptism. In Baptism we were named, claimed, washed, gifted and called to share God's love into the world. As we begin a new century in mission and ministry: What does this mean for daily life?

Deacon Tammy Devine, retreat facilitator, will walk with us to name and claim our gifts, remember the baptismal promises made, and invite us to share our next faithful step in sharing God's good news.

Sign up TODAY in the Social Hall.

When: Friday, September 27, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Saturday, September 28, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: Bethlehem Lutheran

Why: Celebrate and Claim our Baptismal Identify

How: A Congregational Opportunity as we move into another century of mission and ministry

Who: All



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Don Telles, in memory of Jan Telles and the Chrysanthemums, are given to the Glory of God by members of Bethlehem to celebrate our 100th Anniversary Celebration today!!!

TAKING FAITH HOME Find a copy on Facebook in the BELC Worship Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/belcworship/>).

PORTALS OF PRAYER **October-December 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 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, in Traverse City, Rev. Paul Busekist.

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

PASTORS – Rev. Matthew A. Smith, Rev. John W. Burow

ORGANIST & HANDBELL DIRECTOR – James Schippers

CHOIR DIRECTOR – Sue Nelson

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP DIRECTOR – Laurey Wyble

ASSISTING MINISTER – Don Telles

CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matthew Smith

ACOLYTES – Kylee Nelson, Faith Halbakken

LAY READER – Mila Thompson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Peggy Teter, Zellah Brisbo

GREETERS – Diane & Ron Miller

USHERS – Joe Shreffler, David Snider, Bob Christiansen, Ralph Sergent

ALTAR GUILD – ALL TEAMS

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Sept. 22	9:00a	Adult Forum – Bishop Satterlee
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
Grand Centennial Church		Anniversary & Reception Dinner
MONDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
FRIDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
	9:30a	Rummage Sale drop-off (9:30-6:30)
	6:00p	Bethlehem Life of Faith Retreat
SATURDAY	9:00a	Bethlehem Life of Faith Retreat
	9:30a	Rummage Sale drop-off (9:30-5:00)
SUNDAY, Sept. 29	8:45a	Sunday Church School
	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
	10:00a	Rummage Sale drop-off (10-4:30)

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Don & Linda Telles

USHERS – Jim Whitman, Don Romain, Dee Bernardi

ACOLYTES – Annabel Halbakken, Agigail Brisbo

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Michelle Smith, Mel White,
Tim Nelson, Susan Mahoney

LAY READER – Tim Nelson

ALTAR GUILD – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler

MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus expects me to...

PRAY fervently,

WORSHIP faithfully,

ENCOURAGE one another,

READ the Scriptures daily,

GIVE freely of the gifts I have received from God,

INVITE others to know God,

SERVE all people,

and, where I fall short of his expectations,

Jesus always offers me his love and forgiveness!

PoWER GIfTS