



549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48910  
517-482-3225  
[www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org)



Worship Service – 10:00  
May 14, 2023

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Loving God, by your Spirit, fill us with holy joy in this time of worship, that we may be able to offer you something far brighter than duty and much livelier than religious solemnity. Let us worship you with love and love you with our worship. This we pray through Christ Jesus our ever-living inspiration. 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](mailto: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 and place it in the basket in our prayer corner.

*Silencing cell phones and handheld devices and keeping conversation to a minimum during worship is appreciated.*

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by The Ferguson and the Snider families, in honor of Keith Ferguson's birthday.

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

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** April - June 2023 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.

**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 – Bob Meeker  
ACOLYTES – Abigail Brisbo, Annabel Halbakken  
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith  
LAY READER – Dorothy Martin  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mary Jakubiak, Dorothy Martin  
GREETERS – Ken & Peggy Teter  
USHERS – Phil Hassler, Joe Skidmore  
ALTAR GUILD – Kris & John Burow  
A/V PRODUCTION – David Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Meeker, Kevin Peckham, Paul Schmidt, David Westover

Our Thoughts &  
Prayers  
are with...



**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** and with your cards and visits:

*Shelby Waters* in The Willows at Okemos

*John Nelson* in Grandhaven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing

*Rhoda Hunter* in Prestige Way on Keller Road in Holt

*Pat Lebsack* in The Willows, East Lansing

*Ellie Ibarra* in Independence Village, East Lansing

*Doug Griffin* in Hospice Care

**Those at home:** *Kaye Alden, John Bartel, Virginia Bauman  
Tosha Brisbo, Lois Cairns, Crystal Collins, Joann Dyer, Emma Hicks  
Marilyn Bass-Huyser, Nancy Jackson, Michael Mahoney  
Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Carol Roush  
Connie Scott, Audrey Skidmore, Betty VanConant  
Steve Viele, Emily Viele, Cheryl VanPatten, Matthew White*

*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, Morgan Shafer.

**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)

**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)

**PLEASE NOTE** The complete names of people for whom we're  
praying will no longer be used in the prayers of intercession during  
worship. Rather only first names will be said, without the congregation  
repeating the names. This change will help to preserve individual  
privacy in online streaming.

## PARISH NOTES

### **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

**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. Click [HERE](#) to make your  
monetary contribution.

**GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST** Sign-up sheets are in the  
Fellowship Hall for those who wish to purchase RED Geraniums for  
Bethlehem's Pentecost Worship Service on May 28th. The Geraniums  
will be in 10-inch pots, ordered from Van Atta's Greenhouse. The cost is  
\$20 each. Sign-up deadline is May 18th. Checks should be made out to  
Kris Burow. If paying with cash please place the funds in an envelope  
clearly marked with your name and number of plants requested. Thank  
you to those who sponsor the Geraniums for this Festival Worship!

**GRADUATES WILL BE RECOGNIZED** On Sunday June 18,  
graduates from BELC will be recognized. Names of the graduates and the  
schools from which they are graduating from should be given to the church  
by Wednesday, June 12. Thank you.

**PENTECOST SUNDAY WEAR RED** and **SIGN THE CHASUBLE!**  
**MAY 28 is Pentecost Sunday.** In the social hall, the Chasuble will be  
on the table for you to sign if you have not done so in the past.  
Pentecost Sunday is when we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit.  
This event, known as the birthday of the church, was the impetus for the  
disciples to begin to take the gospel to all of the world! To symbolize  
the giving of the Spirit, we are asking everyone to wear red on  
Pentecost, as we acknowledge the Holy Spirit who inspires our worship  
and our faith, and gives us the power, week by week, to proclaim the  
kingdom of God. On that day, Pastor Matt will wear the chasuble,  
signed by members and friends of BELC, to symbolize that we are all  
the Church.

The chasuble is a garment often worn by pastors over the alb for the  
celebration of communion. Spiritually, as the outer garment, the chasuble  
reminds us of the charity of Christ:

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together  
in perfect harmony” ~ Colossians 3:14

**THE ADULT FORUM: OPENING TO GOD THROUGH**

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke tells us that the Risen Christ on the evening of his resurrection appeared to the disciples and *opened their minds to understand* the scriptures. During this Easter Season we will experience the spiritual practices of opening ourselves to God’s Word. The emphasis will be on listening carefully, prayerfully to our still speaking God. Please join us on Sundays at 9 am in the library.

**THE SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE** Beginning Sunday, May 28 (Memorial Day weekend). During the summer months, Sunday Church School classes will not meet. This schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend. If you are going to be out of town on the weekend, 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.

**WORSHIP FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS** Thank you for sponsoring the Altar Flowers for Bethlehem Worship services. Many do this to celebrate an anniversary, birthday, or other occasions. Sign up for your special date on the Flower Chart in the lobby. The 2023 price is \$40. The order for the upcoming month is placed on the 20th of the current month, so plan to sign up at least six weeks in advance!

**STONY LAKE REGISTRATION** Elementary, Confirmation and Senior High Camp is Week 4 of the camping season this year (July 9-14). Log on to <http://www.elcalivingwater.com/> and complete your camp registration.

**\*\*NEW\*\* SENSORY TOOL KIT** Assembled by Madelyn Smith, to assist parents of children with sensory issues (on the Autism Spectrum) in worship, we now have a Sensory Tool Kit on the coat rack in the Lobby that contains: Noise Cancelling Headphones, an Isoflex Ball, a Tangle Jr., a Magic Snake, and six other items. If you cannot locate it, please ask an usher.

**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.

**ATTENDANCE**

Worship Attendance: 108 in-person, 61 people viewed the 5/7/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

**Thought for the Week:**  
**Advocate  
like a  
Mother™**

**THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY**

- GREETERS – Bob & Sue Christiansen
- USHERS – Ralph Sergent, Jim Koessel
- COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Bob Meeker, Dorothy Martin
- ACOLYTE – Alicia Fernandez
- LAY READER – Tim Nelson
- ALTAR GUILD – Dorothy Martin, Candy Barnes

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

In today’s Gospel Jesus, our Immanuel, promises that he will not leave us orphaned (John 14:18). So, not only are we never alone to face our challenges and sorrows, the Spirit/Advocate accompanies, empowers, guides us as we respond to the needs of our neighbors, both human and non-human. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

**PRAYER FOR DAILY USE** The Synod Assembly met under the theme, “It’s about Jesus!” Those present were invited to share their experiences of Jesus during three delightful table conversations. This week you are invited and challenged to pray the following prayer frequently and tell at least one other person about the experience.

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*Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. Amen*

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

|                       |               |   |
|-----------------------|---------------|---|
| <b>SUNDAY, May 14</b> | <b>8:45a</b>  | <b>Sunday School</b>  |
| <i>Mother's Day</i>   | <b>9:00a</b>  | <b>Adult Forum</b>  |
|                       | <b>10:00a</b> | <b>Worship – Holy Communion</b><br><b>Worship (YouTube)</b> |
| <b>MONDAY</b>         | <b>6:30p</b>  | Friendship Circle   |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>        | <b>8:00a</b>  | Family Growth Center  |
|                       | <b>9:30a</b>  | Staff Meeting   |
|                       | <b>1:00p</b>  | Rainbow Circle  |
|                       | <b>6:30p</b>  | Handbell Choir  |
|                       | <b>7:00p</b>  | Senior Choir Rehearsal                                      |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b>      | <b>8:00a</b>  | Family Growth Center  |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>       | <b>8:00a</b>  | Family Growth Center  |
| <b>SUNDAY, May 21</b> | <b>8:45a</b>  | <b>Sunday School</b>  |
| <i>Confirmation</i>   | <b>9:00a</b>  | <b>Adult Forum</b>  |
| <i>Sunday</i>         | <b>10:00a</b> | <b>Worship – Holy Communion</b><br><b>Worship (YouTube)</b> |



We are going to start our “pilot program” for Pray & Go on **Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023**. We will train our initial group of people to Pray & Go on *Sunday, May 21*, following worship. Sign up in the social hall to be a part of this mission.



**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 Him  
**SERVE** all people  
*...and where I fall short of his expectations,  
Jesus always offers me his love and forgiveness!*  
**POWER GiftS**

*I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ~ John 14:16*