



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



Worship Service – 10:00
August 13, 2023

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Come to us today O Lord, and calm the troubled waters of our living. Speak peace to our fear-filled hearts, and call us to come to you for rest. Come to us and enter our living, for you are truly the Son of God, our Redeemer, Master and Friend! 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 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 Mary Bartel in celebration of brother Mel White's birthday today and Tracy Baker's birthday today.

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

PORTALS OF PRAYER July – Sept. 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. This week we pray for Settlement Lutheran Church in Gowen Michigan, Rev. Betsy Kamphuis.

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
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith
ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez
LAY READER – Nancy Holderread
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Kris Burow, Susan Mahoney
GREETERS – Jim & Liisa Whitman
USHERS – Joe Skidmore, Phil Hassler
ALTAR GUILD – John & Kris 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 Grand Haven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing

Rhoda Hunter in Prestige Way on Keller Road in Holt

Pat Lebsack in The Willows, East Lansing

John Bartel in The Willows, East Lansing

Those at home: *Kaye Alden, Marilyn Bass-Huyser, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo, Lois Cairns, Crystal Collins, Joann Dyer, Emma Hicks, 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)

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)

FIRST NAMES ONLY? 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

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.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION Thank you to everyone who has helped with our drive through food distribution! Please sign up in the Social Hall to help again on **Wednesday September 13** for our next Mobile food distribution.

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.

RECEIVING COMMUNION The Board of Worship Life would like to remind us that we do not have to kneel at the altar rail. When you come forward to receive, please fill in starting in the middle. We are happy to bring communion to you in your pew. Though this does not have the symbolism of our intention to "go to God," communion actually is God coming to us!

THE SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE If you are going to be out of town on the weekend, you can view our worship on YouTube, Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. or you can 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.

BOOKS FOR FREE Pastor John is undergoing the painful, but appropriate task of setting free about half of his personal library. For the remaining Sundays in August the books will be in the social hall for you to peruse, selecting those that seem **worthwhile**.

SENSORY TOOL KIT 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 Iso-flex Ball, a Tangle Jr., a Magic Snake, and six other items. If you cannot locate it, please ask an usher.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW TASK FORCE Our constitution needs to be updated to include changes that have been made to the Model Constitution for Congregations in the ELCA at the last several Churchwide Assemblies. And, more importantly, several of our members suggested changes to our bylaws at our last Congregation Meeting to allow us to be nimbler as we move forward in God's mission, looking specifically at revisions to our board structure. If you would like to be part of this TASK FORCE, please speak with Congregation President, Jim Whitman, or Council Chair, Dave Westover.

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!

USHERS We are in need of more ushers for worship services. If you are interested in ushering please see Ralph Sergent for more information.



Grace Lutheran Church Presents:

MICHIGAN PRINCESS HYMN SING

Sunday, August 20th, boarding at 2:30 p.m.
cruising from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Michigan Princess Riverboat, Grand River Park, Lansing.

Hop on board for a river cruise and hymn sing!

(if it rains the boat will stay docked)

Refreshments provided and kids can steer the boat!

Donations benefit the **Northwest Lansing Lutheran Food Bank**,
suggested donation \$20.00.

DRESS IN YOUR BEST NAUTICAL OR PIRATE ATTIRE!

Thought for the Week:

“Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering.”

~ Master Yoda, "The Phantom Menace," 1999.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – David & Keitha Snider

USHERS – Ron Miller, Jim Koessel

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Keitha Snider, Sherry Bass-Pohl

ACOLYTE – Mila Thompson

LAY READER – Dorothy Martin

ALTAR GUILD – Karren Reish, Eliot Nutt

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 59 in-person, 45 people viewed the 8/6/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS Amidst the many threats and challenges that seem to pop up like weeds, we might yearn for God to do something spectacular to mend the brokenness in our world. God has chosen, however, the way of humble service. This assures us that when we act with compassion and generosity the impact can be more than we imagine.

We can do no great things; only small things with great love.

~ Mother Theresa

PRAY & GO On the display board in the lobby you will find the map of our progress, instructions on joining the effort, and stakes and yard signs. If you would like to join us in prayer, we are simply asking for 45 minutes of your time on a Sunday afternoon (or any other time that works in your schedule). Help us bless our community with the light and love of Christ through revitalizing prayer.

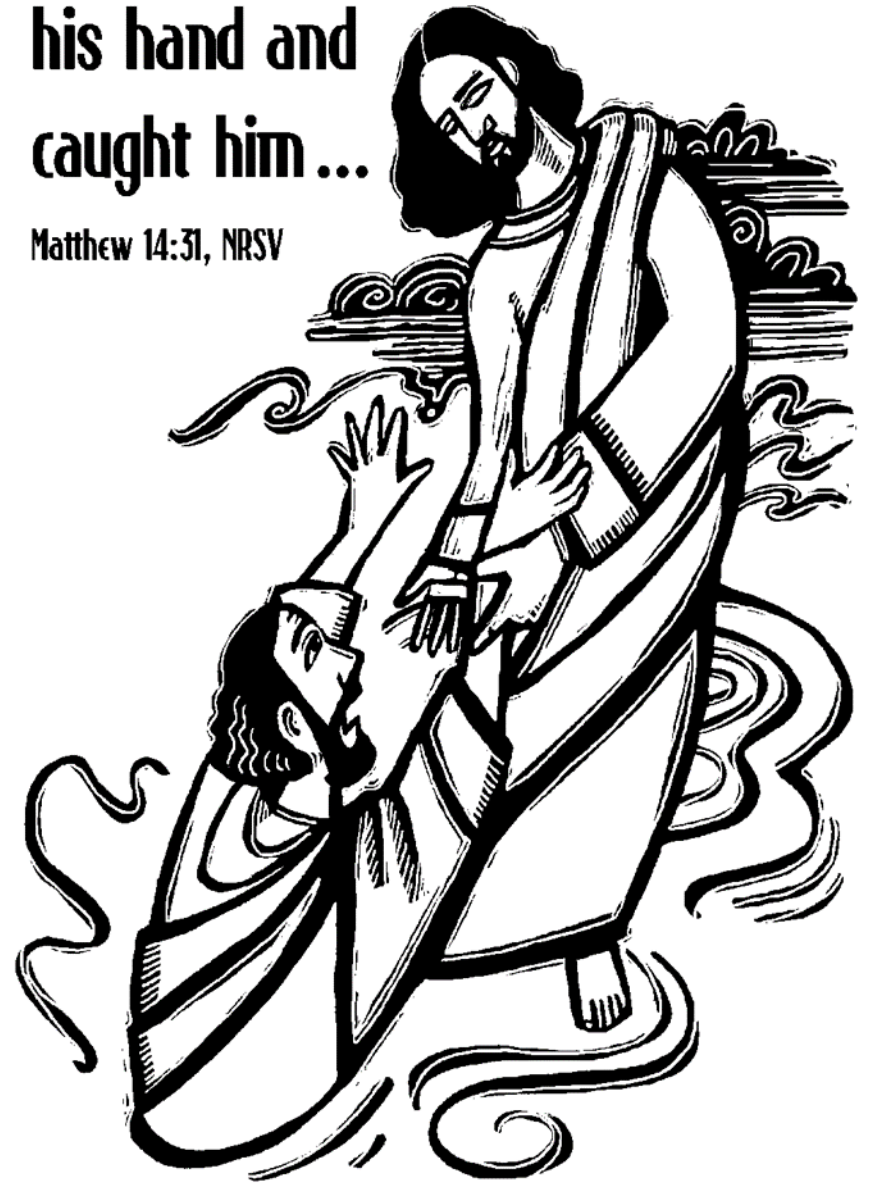


THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Aug. 13	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion Worship (YouTube)
MONDAY	12:00p	VBS Day Camp
	6:30p	Board of Stewardship & Finance
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	4:30p	BELCW Project Day
	5:30p	Mutual Ministry Meets
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:30p	Congregation Council
SUNDAY, Aug. 20	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion Worship (YouTube)

**Jesus immediately reached out
his hand and
caught him ...**

Matthew 14:31, NRSV



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

**Requested Prayer for the Family of
Bishop Leon Issa Mafayano**

Bishop Leon, who has been worshipping with us since winter, has requested prayers for members of his family. They are refugees from decades of war in the Democratic Republic of Congo and enduring the difficult conditions in Kyaka II refugee Camp in Uganda.

Bishop Leon asks that we pray for his adult children, their spouses and 17 grandchildren. The list of necessities includes shelter, food, clean water, clothing and quilts. Schooling is vital for the children and vocational training for the adults. They would also like to have Bibles in either Swahili or French.

Bishop Leon's dream is to bring his family to this county, but governmental policies and red tape is time consuming and uncertain.

If you would like to respond to this request, it is suggested that you post this appeal somewhere in your home as a daily reminder. A further suggestion is that you do some internet research on conditions in the Kyaka Camp and in the country from which they fled.

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