



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
October 8, 2023

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Holy and gracious God, as we gather, enlarge our hearts that they may be big enough to receive the greatness of your love and expansive enough to embrace others and show that love to all. Refresh us and make us new by the power of your Spirit. Lead us in holiness, and show us the way of your grace and your mercy, your law and your righteousness ... that we, with our brothers and sisters around the world, may shine with the light of Christ Jesus our Lord. 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 Wendy Lamphier & Laurey Wyble in memory of their parents Arnie & Marlene Gaspersohn.

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

PORTALS OF PRAYER Oct. – Dec. 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 St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Herron Michigan, Rev. Leslie Nye.

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 – Jim Whitman
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Liisa & Jim Whitman
GREETERS – Laurey Wyble, Wendy Lamphier
USHERS – Ralph Sergent, Phil Hassler, Jim Koessel, 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 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

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, 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

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY We extend our deepest sympathy to the
family and friends of Catherine Ann Geller, sister of Margaret Sergent,
and sister-in-law to Ralph Sergent, who died September 14, 2023. May
God comfort those who mourn with the promise of eternal life for all those
who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.

BLANKET SUNDAY Today the sanctuary is adorned with the quilts
made by our BELCW Quilters from Bethlehem. The BELC women will
be collecting funds to help defray the cost of shipping to Lutheran
World Relief. Checks can be made out to BELCW with a notation for
“shipping” on the memo. Cash is also accepted. Thank you!

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.

2023 CROP WALK The Greater Lansing CROP Hunger Walk is
today! Please help those who are hungry and hurting by participating in
the CROP walk or supporting a walker. If you have any questions
contact Nancy Holderread (Nancy.holderread@gmail.com).

ADULT FORUM – “IT’S ABOUT JESUS” Join us Sunday
mornings, 9 a.m. to explore and share our experiences of Jesus. We
have shared the music and people who nourish our faith and usher us
into God’s loving presence. In the coming weeks we will explore
obstacles, favorite Gospel stories, moments of faith and so much more.
Perhaps, if we pretend that we are eager for these loving conversations,
we will discover how significant and beautiful they can be.

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.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY Please sign up to help next Wednesday,
October 11, for our next drive through mobile food pantry. We
encourage anyone who hasn't helped before to please sign up. We can
always use new people. Thank you!

PRAY & GO On the display board in the lobby you'll find the map of our progress, instructions on joining the effort, stakes and yard signs. If you'd like to join us in prayer, we are 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.



AUDIO VISUAL ASSISTANCE Are you willing to be trained to fill in as an Audio/Visual Assistant? We need people to assist on Sundays, but especially during the week for funerals and other mid-week services as needed. If you are retired and looking for a new way to serve, here is your chance! Contact David Holderread if you are interested.

CARENOTES Are available on the Welcome Table and in the Narthex for your convenience.

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

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.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

DISCOVERING DISCIPLESHIP AT BETHLEHEM Would you like to know more about God's Mission and Ministry here at Bethlehem? Would you like to know more about what 'Discipleship' means for us at Bethlehem? The class typically meets on a Saturday for 2 hours in the morning, lunch with some of our members, and then another hour or so in the afternoon. We are gathering names now and encourage you to worship and participate as much as possible in God's ministry. The next course will be held early this Fall. If you are interested in this course that will begin your journey at Bethlehem, please call the church office at 517-482-3225.

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!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Whatever might be said about the outpouring of God's love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5), like fine wine, it is clear that this is not our work, but the work of God. It is from beyond. It is God who presses the good fruit, God who outpours.

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 68 in-person, 35 people viewed the 10/1/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS *Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

~ Philippians 3:13b-14

For Paul, neither his past goodness nor his shortcomings absorbed his attention. What mattered was his ongoing relationship with Jesus and being faithful to his call. What draws your attention?

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Audrey Olsem, Keitha Snider

USHERS – Ron Miller, Jeff Kosloski

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Zella Brisbo, Mel White

ACOLYTE – Sabrina Raia, Annabel Halbakken

LAY READER – Susan Mahoney

ALTAR GUILD – Karren Reish, Eliot Nutt

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Oct. 8	8:45a	Sunday School
Quilt Sunday	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion Worship (YouTube)
	1:00p	Crop Walk
MONDAY	6:30p	Harmony Circle
	6:30p	Board of Stewardship & Finance
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	4:00p	Board of Outreach
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:00a	Quilting Day
	1:00p	Mobile Food Distribution
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	TNT
FRIDAY	6:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
SUNDAY, Oct. 15	8:45a	Sunday School
	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion

HUNGRY? Many of God’s children, locally and globally, will go to bed tonight with their stomach growling. Help fight hunger by participating in or donating to the **CROP hunger walk**.
The Greater Lansing CROP hunger season is October 1-8.
The walk is TODAY, October 8th. For more information contact Nancy Holderread. (nancy.holderread@gmail.com)



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

“The Vinyard of The Lord Sunday”

October 8, 2023

It's About Jesus

Matthew Mark, Luke and John
They are Gospels, this is true.
But the Good News we will share
Is the Gospel according to you!

Beginning next week, the Sunday morning Adult Forums will provide an opportunity to grow in willingness and ability to share our story of faith. Each week we will look at Scripture that encourages our witness. We will also respond to prompts about our life in Christ. For example:

- What music often brings you into God' presence?
- What is your favorite Gospel Story?
- Who was/is a significant impact on your faith life?

There are 100's of possibilities. Through our sharing, each one of us will be encouraged to develop their own testimony about Jesus.

Two or three Sundays this fall, The Adult Forum will turn to stories about the first 25 years as a congregation. This is an activity of our 100-year anniversary celebration and will develop into testimony about how God's grace blessed us in the beginning years of our life together at BELC.

Please join us on Sundays at 9 a.m. in the library downstairs.

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