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Lansing, MI 48910  
517-482-3225  
[www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org)



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

Worship Service – 10:00  
September 11, 2022

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of all the September birthdays.

**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 at 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 Faith Lutheran Church in Saginaw Michigan, Rev. John Soyster.

**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.

### **THOSE WHO SERVE IN OUR WORSHIP**

ORGANIST & HANDBELL DIRECTOR – James Schippers  
CHOIR DIRECTOR – Sue Nelson  
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP DIRECTOR – Laurey Wyble  
ASSISTING MINISTER – Don Telles  
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor John Burow  
LAY READER – Dorothy Martin  
ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Ron Miller  
GREETERS – Wendy Lamphier, Laurey Wyble  
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

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Let your gentle and patient Spirit be in our midst, Holy God, as we gather for worship. Keep the depth of your astonishing mercy and grace ever before us. Help us to praise you and give thanks for all your wonderful ways with us, now in this hour of worship. We pray in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. 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 John a message at [pastorjohnburow@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjohnburow@gmail.com) or call the church office at 482-3225.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Bethlehem Lutheran is a praying church; this is one of our Marks of Discipleship. For prayers that you would like included in Sunday worship, please visit [www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org) or click [HERE](#) for a direct link to send a prayer request to Pastor Matt.

Include an address if you'd like the person named in your request notified of the prayer offered on their behalf.

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

**Those at home:** *Mary Ann Allen, John Bartel, Virginia Bauman*

*Tosha Brisbo, Crystal Collins, Doug Griffin, Emma Hicks*

*Marilyn Bass-Huyser, Nancy Jackson, Carole Kienke*

*Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson*

*Tharin Palmer, Carol Roush, Connie Scott, Audrey Skidmore*

*Betty VanConant, 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.

**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)

**Darian Doan** – U.S. Army (Marv & Laura Halbakken'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)

## 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. Please give electronically by clicking on the "Online Giving" link on our website or mail your contribution to the church or by clicking here: ([www.tinyurl.com/BELCGiving](http://www.tinyurl.com/BELCGiving)).

**FOUR VIEWS OF JESUS** Beginning September 11 the Adult Forum resumes with an exploration of the Four Gospels. We will listen carefully and prayerfully to each distinctive presentation of the Good News of Jesus Christ. We hope to discover how and why each of the four Gospels is a gift and guide to the church at this present moment.

**PASTOR MATT'S OFFICE HOURS** As we move forward into this new program year of opportunity, my office hours (the hours I will normally be physically in the church) will be Monday afternoon (12:00 - 4:00 pm) and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Unless I am in a meeting, I should be available. I will be working from my fully equipped home office Monday morning and on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons, or out on appointments. Then I will be back at the church for meetings and classes. I am available by phone (517-881-9890) from 9:00 am - 9:00 pm Sun., Mon., Tue., Wed., Thu., and Sat. If I am not able to answer your call I will call you back as soon as I am able. FRIDAY will be my scheduled day off. If you need me in an emergency between 9:00 pm and 9:00 am please call me a second time after my voicemail answers, and my phone will ring.

**2022 CROP WALK** The Greater Lansing CROP Hunger Walk will be Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup>. It is sponsored by Church World Services. 25% of the funds raised help local organizations. 75% helps people in other states (the areas of Kentucky suffering from tornados and flooding) as well as around the world (people affected by the Ukrainian war). 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](mailto:Nancy.holderread@gmail.com)).

**WORSHIP FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS** The 2022 Flower Chart is posted in the Lobby. If you would like to sponsor Altar Flowers for a Sunday, sign your name on that date with notes for the bulletin announcement. Please sign up at least one month in advance of the date requested. The arrangements are \$35 and may be taken home after the Sunday worship service. Thank you to all who sponsor Altar Flowers!

**SABBATICAL THANK YOU!** Thank you for providing me with a dedicated time for study and prayer to enrich the ministry here at Bethlehem. This time has been even more rewarding and energizing than I hoped it would be. My areas of focus were Prayer, Health and Wellness, and Church Revitalization. A report on all these areas will be included in future newsletters with electronic and print copies available. Stay tuned!

**OFFICE HOURS** At the request of several members of our Congregation Council, I have tried to identify the hours I will most likely be in the church and available for drop in visitors. Our Mutual Ministry committee has helped me see that the way I understand my office hours in my head is not how others understand them from reading this information that was in the bulletin, as it looks like I am only spending 16 hours per week in the church apart from Sunday morning. I am happy to talk more if you have questions. To clarify:

When the global health crisis started, and really up until Easter of this year, I was working from home for the most part and coming into the church only when necessary to record worship, check in with the office, teach classes, attend meetings, and lead worship. NOW I am working from the church, and only working from home when necessary... on Friday, my day off, and Saturdays, as well as evenings when I am not at church for meetings or classes.

Monday mornings are set aside for planning, Tuesday morning we have our staff meeting, but I will be here, in the office. Wednesday and Thursday mornings I am also here. More often, I am here into the afternoons on M, T, W, and Th unless I am visiting members at home or nursing homes, or in the hospital. I am here in the evenings for meetings and classes typically on Monday and Thursday, but often Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

This is all the case unless I have meetings necessary for ministry away from the church or am called away by a member in an emergency. I am always available, 7 days a week, by cell phone (517-881-9890) between the hours of 9am and 9pm. Between 9pm and 9am my voicemail may pick up, and you will need to call a second time for it to ring through. And any message you might leave for me in the church voicemail system will be emailed to me as soon as you leave them.

I am here for you. ~ Pastor Matt

## Thought for the Week

*When our prayer is constantly 'Thank you,' and we know we deserve nothing, and that everything is a gift, we stop counting. Only when we stop counting and figuring out what we deserve, will we move from the world of merit into the wonderful world of grace. And in the world of grace, everything is free."*

~ Richard Rohr

*Don't do anything for selfish purposes, but with humility think of others as better than yourselves. Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus:*

~ Philippians 2:3-5

*I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member.*

~ Groucho Marx

## **STEWARDSHIP PONDERING**

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10)

This verse is a welcome reminder that, "God is the one who enables us both to will and to really live out his good purposes." (Philippians 2:13) May we lean into this help from God in our serving and giving.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Worship Attendance: 101 – 53 in-person and 48 people viewed the 9/4/22 Live worship.

## **THE BELCW RUMMAGE SALE IS BACK – SEPT. 28-30, 2022**

We must have enough volunteers signed up by September 14<sup>th</sup>. We still need volunteers to help, especially on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, without volunteers there will be no sale. Sign-up sheets are available in the Fellowship Hall. This year we will not be accepting computers, printers and components, televisions, VCR's, and speakers. We will still accept furniture. **You may begin to drop off rummage on Friday September 23 after 9:00 a.m., no earlier! Do not put rummage on stage.** (The reason for this is in case we need to cancel the sale.) The last day to drop off is Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. When dropping off rummage, if you can, please put your rummage out – all the tables will be labeled. If you have any questions you can contact any of the Rummage Sale Committee – Kelly Carpenter, Candy Barnes, Joanna Alvera, Laura Halbakken, Sue Leimenstoll, Peggy Teter and Sandy Rollis. Thank you.

