



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



Worship Service – 10:00  
May 7, 2023

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Gracious God the story of your love is so amazing, so divine. Your message gives us hope, faith and courage. Bless our worship today so that we might go forth from here to be the instruments of your grace and love in our community and world, through Jesus Christ 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](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 Mary Jakubiak in memory of her husband Paul Jakubiak.

**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. This week we pray for St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Cheboygan Michigan, Rev. David Hueter and Synod Assembly 2023, Bishop Craig Satterlee & Ms. Sandy Schlesinger, Vice President.

**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 – Nancy Holderread  
ACOLYTES – Kylee Nelson, Faith Halbakken  
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith  
LAY READER – Annabel Halbakken, Abigail Brisbo  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Zella Brisbo, Ron Miller  
GREETERS – Diane & Ron Miller  
USHERS – Don Cairns, Cloyd Barnes  
ALTAR GUILD – Bob & Sue Christiansen  
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

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY** We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Otto A. Kern, father of Elaine Sheets, grandfather of Michael, Dianna, Jason, Derek, and Morgan, and partner of Ellie Ibarra, who died April 29, 2023. May God comfort those who mourn with the promise of eternal life for all those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.

**BY HOLY BAPTISM** Harrison Ray Andrews will formally be made a child of God and heir to all God's promises. Harrison was born on November 4, 2022. His parents are Jamie & Aaron Andrews, and his sponsors are Andrew Kenger & Jennifer Kenger. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we welcome Harrison as partners with us in the ministry we have as Christ's people.

**TODAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY** Feeding our community has never been more important as we live through the Covid-19 pandemic. Although physical donations of canned goods and other non-perishable items are not possible at this time, we can contribute to the Food Pantry through the BELC website. Click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**\*\*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.

**WORSHIP FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS** Thank you for sponsoring the Altar Flowers for the 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 entry hallway. The 2023 price for the arrangements 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!

Pastor Matt and Pastor John each have several "go-to" or "rescue" passages that often reassure, re-center and strengthen; Here are a few:

- Psalms 25, 51 and 121
- Isaiah 43:1-7 (especially v. 4a)
- Romans 8:38-39
- Ephesians 3:20-21
- Philippians 4:4-8

There are others of course, but we hoped this brief list might help you identify passages that offer you renewal and blessing. We would be delighted to share with you why these passages are so meaningful and to suggest others.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Worship Attendance: 83 in-person, 40 people viewed the 4/30/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

**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.

### **Thought for the Week**

*By believing against all odds and loving against all odds, that is how we are to let Jesus show in the world and to transform the world.*

~ Frederick Buechner (7/11/1926-8/15/2022)

### **THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY**

GREETERS – Ken & Peggy Teter

USHERS – Phil Hassler, Joe Skidmore

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Mila Tompson, Mary Jakubiak

ACOLYTES – Abigail Brisbo, Annabel Halbakken

LAY READER – Mila Tompson

ALTAR GUILD – Kris & John Burow

### **STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession. ~ 1 Peter 2:9*

These lofty titles not only convey how incredibly blessed we are in Christ; they also indicate how we are set apart to reflect the light of Christ in our words and actions. Thank you for your serving and giving.

### **PRAYER FOR DAILY USE**

You are encouraged to join others in making frequent use of this prayer throughout this week. The hope is that this hymn verse prayed frequently and sincerely will increase our eagerness and capacity for opening ourselves to God through Scripture. You are encouraged to clip the prayer and keep it with you throughout the week.

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*Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.*

*Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.*

*When my heart is hard, break the stone away.*

*When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.*

*When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.*

*Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.*

~ ELW 512

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

|                         |               |                                     |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAY, May 7</b>    | <b>8:45a</b>  | <b>Sunday School</b>                |
| <i>Baptism of</i>       | <b>9:00a</b>  | <b>Adult Forum</b>                  |
| <i>Harrison Andrews</i> | <b>10:00a</b> | <b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>     |
|                         |               | <b>Worship (YouTube)</b>            |
|                         |               | <b>Synod Assembly</b>               |
| MONDAY                  | 6:30p         | Bd. of Stewardship & Finance        |
| TUESDAY                 | 8:00a         | Family Growth Center                |
|                         | 9:30a         | Staff Meeting                       |
|                         | 5:00p         | Board of Worship Life               |
|                         | 6:30p         | Harmony Circle                      |
|                         | 7:00p         | Senior Choir Rehearsal              |
| WEDNESDAY               | 8:00a         | Family Growth Center                |
|                         | 9:00a         | Quilting Day                        |
|                         | 1:00p         | Mobile Food Pantry Dist.            |
|                         | 6:30p         | Board of Buildings & Grounds (zoom) |
| THURSDAY                | 8:00a         | Family Growth Center                |
| <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>     |
|                         |               | <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**

