



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



Worship Service – 10:00
November 19, 2023

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Gracious and loving God, you call us to be your people and share your love and peace in our world. We worship and ask you to bless us this day. Lift us up from the depths... from those places which are dark and frightening... into the sunlight of your presence where we might be blessed by your Word and your grace, and praise and serve you forever and ever. 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, place it in the basket in our prayer corner, or hand it to an usher to bring forward.

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 BELC.

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 Bread of Life Lutheran Church in Hudsonville, Michigan.

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 – Susan Mahoney
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith
ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez
LAY READER – Joe Shreffler
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Keitha Snider, Don Telles
GREETERS – Betty Strother, Susan Mahoney
USHERS – Jeff Kosloski, Ron Miller
ALTAR GUILD – Dorothy Martin, Candy Barnes
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, John Bartel, Marilyn Bass-Huysen*

Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo, Lois Cairns, Crystal Collins

Joann Dyer, Emma Hicks, Nancy Jackson, Michael Mahoney

Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Sandy Rollis

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, 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 MOST OF THE TIME) The complete names of people for whom we're praying will no longer be used in the prayers of intercession during worship. This change will help to preserve individual privacy in online streaming. If you submit a prayer card with full names, the entire name is likely to be prayed.

PARISH NOTES

LIVING WISELY IN AN UNWISE WORLD The theme for this fourth and final week of our stewardship emphasis **Living Wisely in an Unwise World** is "Commitment Sunday." Proverbs 9:10 points out, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." True wisdom comes from knowing the Author of Wisdom, our Lord. Turning away from the wisdom of the world, we see God's wisdom, revealed to us by the Holy Spirit through God's Word.

God's wisdom offers us an eternal perspective and with God's wisdom we can live an abundant life now. Growing in our role as God's stewards we draw closer to God. We pray that the commitments we make this day of our time, talents, and financial resources will be signs of how we have embraced God's Wisdom in our unwise world. Time and Talent Sheets and financial Commitment Forms are on a table in the Social Hall and available from the ushers. You will have an opportunity to present these to God at the altar during the Hymn of the Day.

COMING EVENTS Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Fest will be on Wednesday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Sunday morning worship is at 10:00 a.m. and the Christmas Eve service is at 7:30 p.m.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS RED Poinsettias for Bethlehem's Christmas Worship service are available to order on the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall. The plants are in 6.5" pots and are \$11.50 each. **Order deadline is November 28th**. When signing up please note the honorarium to be listed in the worship notes for Christmas Eve. Payment should be put in an envelope labeled with your name and the number of plants being ordered. Envelopes may be put in the offering plate, given to Kris Burow or sent to the church office. Checks should be made out to Kris Burow. Plants may be taken home after the Christmas Eve worship service.

ADULT FORUM In our continuing conversations towards shaping and sharing our story of Jesus we will be adding an exciting resource. You Are Witnesses of these Things is a brief book by Bishop Craig Satterlee and his daughter Chelsey that guides us step by step in developing our own story of Jesus to share with loved ones, friends, colleagues and others as the occasion arises. Get your free copy from Pr. Matt and we will begin next Sunday with Chapter One.

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.

COMMUNION BREAD We have begun using Communion Bread in worship that is totally gluten free, so, there will be no more gluten free wafers. Now, everyone in our congregation will receive the Body of Christ from the same loaf.

COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS! For those who enjoy baking, an opportunity awaits! Please see Kris Burow if you are interested in baking the Communion Bread for the Bethlehem worship services. It is hoped to have several who are willing to be part of a team who do the baking from home. Bakers need not be Altar Guild members. The recipe and needed supplies will be provided and there will be a short training meeting for helpful hints in baking the bread. Please contact Kris Burow if interested.

WORSHIP FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS Thank you for sponsoring the Altar Flowers for Bethlehem Worship services. Many do to celebrate an anniversary, birthday, or other occasions. Sign up 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!

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. If you cannot locate it, please ask an usher.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

WHEN WE HAVE GOD'S WISDOM, IT WILL BE EVIDENT IN HOW WE LIVE.

“Who is wise and knowledgeable among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom” (James 3:13).

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 75 in-person, 30 people viewed the 11/12/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS How are we to hear Jesus' “Parable of the Valuable Coins” (Matthew 25:14-30) on this Commitment Sunday? Preachers have a host of choices. Our greatest treasure is the Good News of Jesus Christ. Another is the relationships we have with one another. A great sermon might ask how we are investing our time and abilities in serving our neighbors. Almost certainly the challenge of being “money wise” will come to mind during this year's stewardship emphasis. A great choice might be “all of the above and more.” Every grace, every blessing is a potential investment into God's saving work in faithful anticipation of Christ's return.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Cindy & Matt Marsh

USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Kylee Nelson, Tim Nelson

LAY READER – Mila Thompson

ACOLYTE – Andrew Goff

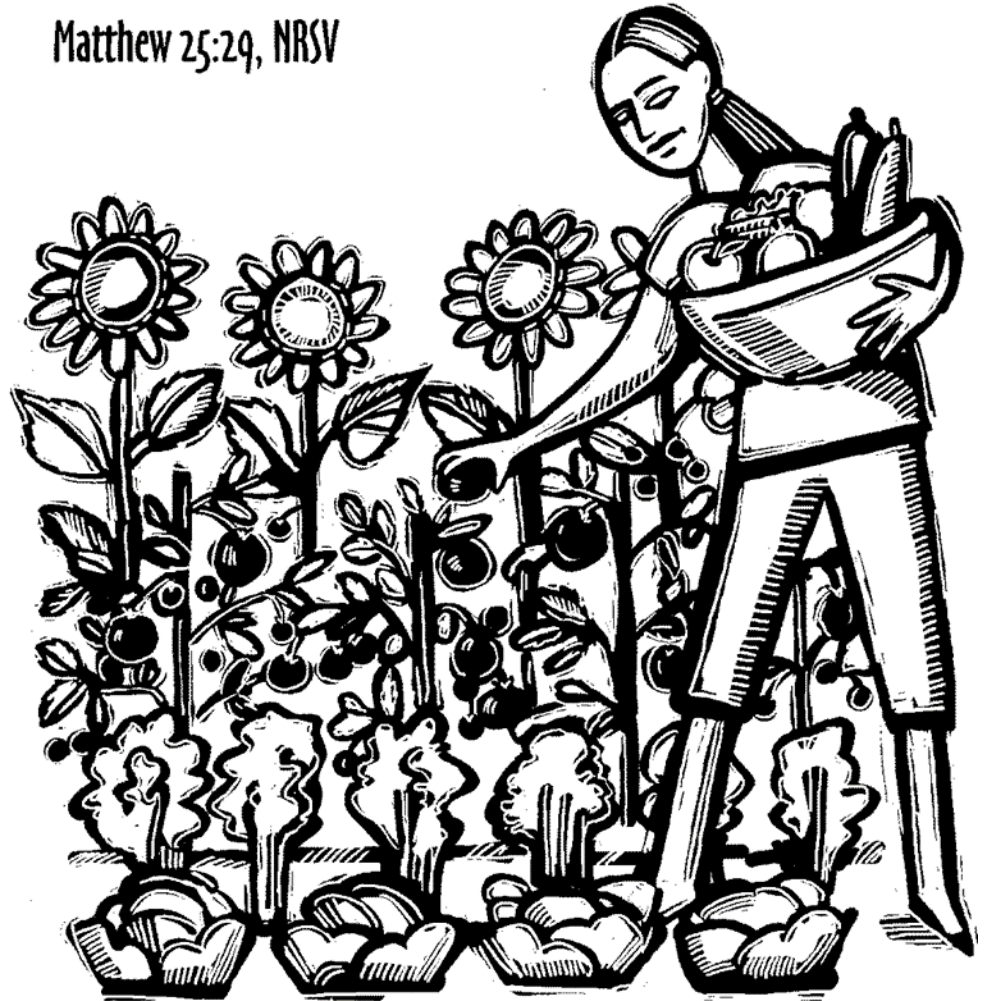
ALTAR GUILD – Cheryl & Joe Shreffler

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Nov. 19	8:45a	Sunday School
<i>Commitment</i>	9:00a	Adult Forum
<i>Sunday</i>	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	1:00p	Rainbow Circle
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE
		PIE FEST FOLLOWING SERVICE
		HAPPY THANKSGIVING
THURSDAY		office closed
FRIDAY	6:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
SUNDAY, Nov. 26	8:45a	Sunday School
<i>Christ the King</i>	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion

For to all those who have,
more will be given, and
they will have an abundance ...

Matthew 25:29, 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 God,

SERVE all people,

and, where I fall short of his expectations,

Jesus always offers me his love and forgiveness!

POWER GIFTS