



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
November 12, 2023

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Jeff Kosloski in memory of the birthdays of his father & brother, Art & Jerry Kosloski. And by the Pohl Family in celebration of the 90th birthday of Marilyn Bass-Huyser.

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 Faith Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids Michigan, Rev. Kevin Sullivan.

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.**



PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Blessed Father, you who cause all things to exist and give us all things to enjoy and to use well in your service, attend our worship this day, and grant that we may so hear you and learn from you that we may be strengthened in our faith and bring praise and glory unto your name. We ask it through Jesus Christ our brother and our savior. 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.

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 – Don Telles
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor John Burow
ACOLYTE – Alicia Fernandez
LAY READER – Tim Nelson
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Laurey Wyble, Mel White
GREETERS – Carol Pride, Mary Bartel
USHERS – Phil Hassler, Jim Koessel, Ralph Sergent
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, 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

TODAY IS THANKOFFERING SUNDAY God blesses us every day in many ways. Occasionally, there is a special blessing...a recovery from illness, the end of a long worry, the answer to prayer. Thank God for those special blessings. Please use the pew offering envelopes and designate the box for Thankoffering.

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.

PRAY FOR THOSE AT THE CHARGE YOUTH GATHERING Please keep our guides Michelle & Matthew Smith and our youth Abby & Zellah Brisbo, Faith & Annabel Halbakken, Kylee Nelson, and Mila Thompson in your prayers as they travel for Charge the Youth Gathering this weekend.

LIVING WISELY IN AN UNWISE WORLD The theme for this week of our stewardship emphasis **Living Wisely in An Unwise World** is "Becoming Money Wise." Although money is an integral part of our lives, many of us, regardless of age or background, lack a proper understanding of it. We may believe the money problems we face is not having enough. More than likely, we have an adequate amount of money but need to use it more wisely. God gives us the freedom to determine how we want to spend money, but the Bible is very clear about what God expects from us. We have an responsibility to use what we have according to God's plan. Money is good, as are all gifts from God (James 1:17), but because of our captive state we often use money for foolish (and often wrong) purposes. Unfortunately, we can become fixated upon the things of this world and place God into a secondary position. May we all seek God's wisdom and understanding in how to honor the Lord with our money.

THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKET VOLUNTEERS The Board of Outreach is recruiting volunteers to help pick up perishable food items, make reminder phone calls, and deliver to families who can't pick-up. We will distribute baskets Saturday morning, November 18th. A sign-up sheet is in the lobby for those who would like to help. The food bags will be available for Thanksgiving donations at the top of the stairs. Thank you for supporting this Bethlehem ministry!

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 – "IT'S ABOUT JESUS" Join us Sunday mornings at 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 act as if 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.

COMMUNION BREAD The Board of Worship Life have begun using Communion Bread 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.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Therefore, let each one see to it that he has these two together: the oil, which is true faith and trust in Christ; and the lamps, the vessel, which is the outward service toward your neighbor. The whole Christian life consists in these two things: Believe God. Help your neighbor. The whole Gospel teaches this. ~ Martin Luther

Faithful readiness must be active readiness. It means saying that even though the wedding banquet hasn't yet begun, together we will act as if it has. ~ Matthew L. Skinner

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 98 in-person, 36 people viewed the 11/5/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS Seeking the lord's guidance with our money can help us set a proper course for our spending, saving, and giving. *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"* (Matthew 6:33).

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.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Betty Strother, Susan Mahoney

USHERS – Jeff Kosloski, Ron Miller

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Keitha Snider, Don Telles

LAY READER – Joe Shreffler

ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez

ALTAR GUILD – Dorothy Martin, Candy Barnes

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Nov. 12	8:45a	Sunday School
Thankoffering	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
MONDAY	6:30p	Friendship Circle
	6:30p	Board of Stewardship & Finance
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	5:30p	Harmony Circle
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
<i>Newsletter deadline</i>	9:00a	Quilting Day
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	TNT
	6:30p	Congregational Council
FRIDAY	6:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
SATURDAY	10:00a	Thanksgiving basket distribution
SUNDAY, Nov. 19	8:45a	Sunday School
	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
	11:30a	Board of Outreach meeting

Living Wisely in An Unwise World

**WHEN WE SPEND MONEY CAREFULLY,
SAVE IT DILIGENTLY, AND GIVE IT
GENEROUSLY, WE ARE MONEY WISE.**

“Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce” (Proverbs 3:9).

**Money
Wise**

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



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