



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



Worship Service – 10:00  
August 27, 2023

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Holy God, as we move through the ordinary days of our lives, we carry with us an assurance of the hope and the conviction you give us in Christ Jesus. As we worship, help us cling tightly to the faith you have given us. Remind us that we are loved with a love that will not let us go. In the name of Jesus, we pray. 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 in celebration of Joe & Audrey Skidmore's 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!

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

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** July – Sept. 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 Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Rev. Karsten Voskuil-RCA.

**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 Matthew Smith  
ACOLYTE – Andrew Goff  
LAY READER – Ron Miller  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Dorothy Martin, Cindy Marsh  
GREETERS – Don & Lois Cairns  
USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider  
ALTAR GUILD – Cindy Marsh, Michelle Smith  
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  
*Ellie Ibarra* in The Willows, Okemos

**Those at home:** *Kaye Alden, John Bartel, Marilyn Bass-Huyser, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo, Lois Cairns, Crystal Collins, Joann Dyer, Emma Hicks, Nancy Jackson, Carol Kinney, 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)  
**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

**NEXT SUNDAY 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.

**FAMILY GROWTH CENTER** They have started their own food pantry and resource center. FGC is in need of individually wrapped items of food to hand out to families and the homeless; bottled water, can openers, applesauce, canned fruits, canned veggies, Hamburger or Tuna Helper. Anything would be greatly appreciated.

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

### **LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE**

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the Maui wildfires. LDR will work with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead. Please pray for the Maui communities impacted by the wildfires. Your gifts will support wildfire survivors. *Make checks payable to Bethlehem and mark "U.S. Wildfires" in the memo.* Your gifts will be used IN FULL (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires.



**BOOKS FOR FREE** Pastor John is undergoing the painful, but appropriate task of setting free about half of his personal library. For the remaining Sundays in August the books will be in the social hall for you to peruse, selecting those that seem **worthwhile**.

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

**100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY** Anchored in God's Love, sailing into the future, celebrate BELC's first 25 years, September 24, 2023, at our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Learn how BELC was founded, worship and sing hymns chosen from the church's first hymnal. Set in some of the chairs used as pews in the first church. Hear from some of the families of our charter members as they share growing up at Bethlehem. Following the service join us for a traditional German sauerkraut/pork dinner, as was often prepared by our early church members.

Desserts of pies made from recipes found in the church's original cookbook will be served. (If you'd like to make a pie, sign up on the pie sheet.)



Pictures and memorabilia will be displayed for you to view. Please sign the dinner reservation form on the table in the fellowship hall by the cookie sign-up sheets. For those online please give the church a call to make your reservation @ (517) 482-3225.

**WHAT AN EXCITING TIME FOR BETHLEHEM!**

**100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY QUILT** We're making a quilt to celebrate our 100th anniversary here at Bethlehem. The design includes 100 crosses, we need people who can use a sewing machine to come and sew a block or two on Monday 9/18 at 4:30 in the gym before the BELCW Kickoff.

**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.

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

**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.

**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.

**Thought for the Week:**

"To take seriously the centrality of baptismal vocation requires a transformed theology of ministry that places the ministry of the baptized in daily life at the forefront of the church's mission. This means orienting all other church offices (deacon, pastor, and bishop) to equipping the baptized for this service. This paradigm shift holds exquisite promise for *revitalizing* the church according to its originating purpose and greatest commandment (Mt 22:37-40)."

~ Craig L. Nesson, "Vocation and Wellness: Baptism and Everyday Neighbors," in *Word & World* (Summer 2023), 255.

**ATTENDANCE**

Worship Attendance: 69 in-person, 32 people viewed the 8/20/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS** *Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

~ Romans 12:2

Faithful stewardship involves our choosing the way of Christ over the ways of the world. See Psalm 1; Matthew 7:24-27; Philippians 2:4-5. May we encourage one another in being transformed with our example of loving service and our gentle words of affirmation.

**THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY**

GREETERS – Diane & Ron Miller

USHERS – Don Cairns, Cloyd Barnes

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Dorothy Martin, Candy Barnes

ACOLYTE – Mila Thompson

LAY READER – Annabel Halbakken, Abigail Brisbo

ALTAR GUILD – Bob & Sue Christiansen

**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!

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, Aug. 27 10:00a**    **Worship – Holy Communion**  
**Worship (YouTube)**

TUESDAY                    8:00a    Family Growth Center  
                                  9:30a    Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY                8:00a    Family Growth Center

THURSDAY                 8:00a    Family Growth Center

FRIDAY                     6:00p    Narcotics Anonymous

**SUNDAY, Sept. 3 10:00a**    **Worship – Holy Communion**  
**Worship (YouTube)**



**“But who do  
you say  
that I am?”**

**Matthew 16:15, 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 Him

**SERVE** all people

*...and where I fall short of his expectations,*

*Jesus always offers me his love and forgiveness!*

**POWER GIFTS**

Church Picnic  
and  
Rally Day Kickoff



Don't miss the official start of Sunday School on Sunday, September 10, at the church picnic, here at Bethlehem.

After the service, we will enjoy each other's fellowship and a meal. This will be **a traditional potluck** held in the Upper Social Hall. Please sign up if you plan on attending and/or helping with set-up and/or clean-up. Thank you!

**Provided:** Lemonade, Coffee, and water  
**(NO MEAT WILL BE PROVIDED)**

**Bring:** A dish or two to pass of main dish casseroles, vegis, salads, and or desserts, table service; or other beverages.

Children will meet their new Sunday School teachers!

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Sunday, September 17, we will have the first week of lessons beginning at 8:45 a.m., but September 10 will be a time for merriment and fun.

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