



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



Worship Service – 10:00
October 1, 2023

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Holy and gracious God, as we gather, enlarge our hearts that they may be big enough to receive the greatness of your love and expansive enough to embrace others and show that love to all. Refresh us and make us new by the power of your Spirit. Lead us in holiness, and show us the way of your grace and your mercy, your law and your righteousness ... that we, with our brothers and sisters around the world, may shine with the light of Christ Jesus 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 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 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 Grace Lutheran Church in Hastings Michigan, Rev. Kenneth Scheck II.

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
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith
ACOLYTE – Alicia Fernandez
LAY READER – Mel White
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Christina Raia, Abigail Brisbo
GREETERS – Sue & Tim Nelson
USHERS – Don Cairns, Cloyd Barnes
ALTAR GUILD – Linda Telles, Susan Mahoney
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, Marilyn Bass-Huyser, Virginia Bauman
Tosha Brisbo, Lois Cairns, Crystal Collins, Joann Dyer, Emma Hicks
Nancy Jackson, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson
Tharin Palmer, Carol Roush, Connie Scott, Audrey Skidmore
Betty VanConant, Steve 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

TODAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY A offering will be received today
to support our mobile food distribution and the Greater Lansing Food
Bank. You can also give through the BELC website. Also, **The FAMILY
GROWTH CENTER has 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. Thank you!

THANK YOU A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who made the first 25
years of BELC's Centennial Celebration so meaningful. "Anchored in
God's Love" we continue to be a family of faith, proclaiming God's
mission to the world. We are looking forward to continuing our 100 year
celebration throughout the year.
Thank you, BELC's 100th Anniversary Committee.

ADULT FORUM – "IT'S ABOUT JESUS" Join us Sunday
mornings, 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 pretend that we are eager for these loving conversations,
we will discover how significant and beautiful they can be.

RUMMAGE SALE It's that time of year again! You can start bringing
in your rummage! The tables are set up in the gym and labeled for your
convenience. The sale starts Wednesday October 4 at 5:00 p.m. and
ends on Friday October 6 at 11:00 a.m.

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.

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



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.

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

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

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.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

DISCOVERING DISCIPLESHIP AT BETHLEHEM Would you like to know more about God's Mission and Ministry here at Bethlehem? Would you like to know more about what 'Discipleship' means for us at Bethlehem? The class typically meets on a Saturday for 2 hours in the morning, lunch with some of our members, and then another hour or so in the afternoon. We are gathering names now and encourage you to worship and participate as much as possible in God's ministry. The next course will be held early this Fall. If you are interested in this course that will begin your journey at Bethlehem, please call the church office at 517-482-3225.

NEXT SUNDAY 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.

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!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 106 in-person, 42 people viewed the 9/24/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS *God is the one who enables you both to want and actually live out his good purposes. ~ Philippians 2:13* Faithful stewardship is more a matter of opening ourselves to God's love than focusing on our own efforts to be compassionate and generous.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Laurey Wyble, Wendy Lamphier
USHERS – Ralph Sergent, Phil Hassler, Jim Koessel, Joe Skidmore
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Liisa & Jim Whitman
ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez
LAY READER – Jim Whitman
ALTAR GUILD – Kris & John Burow

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Oct. 1	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
TNT Covenant Service		Worship (YouTube)
	11:30a	Thrivent Workshop - Library
MONDAY	6:30a	BELCW Board Meeting - Zoom
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	5:30p	Rummage Sale
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:00a	Rummage Sale
FRIDAY	9:00a	Rummage Sale
	6:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
SATURDAY	9:30a	F.A.B. meets
SUNDAY, Oct. 8	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
Quilt Sunday		Worship (YouTube)
Crop Walk		

HUNGRY? Many of God's children, locally and globally, will go to bed tonight with their stomach growling. Help fight hunger by participating in or donating to the **CROP hunger walk**.

The Greater Lansing CROP hunger season is October 1-8.

The walk is Sunday October 8th. For more information contact Nancy Holderread. (nancy.holderread@gmail.com)

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

*For John came
to you in the way of
righteousness...*

Matthew 21:32, NRSV



It's About Jesus

Matthew Mark, Luke and John
They are Gospels, this is true.
But the Good News we will share
Is the Gospel according to you!

Beginning next week, the Sunday morning Adult Forums will provide an opportunity to grow in willingness and ability to share our story of faith. Each week we will look at Scripture that encourages our witness. We will also respond to prompts about our life in Christ. For example:

- What music often brings you into God' presence?
- What is your favorite Gospel Story?
- Who was/is a significant impact on your faith life?

There are 100's of possibilities. Through our sharing, each one of us will be encouraged to develop their own testimony about Jesus.

Two or three Sundays this fall, The Adult Forum will turn to stories about the first 25 years as a congregation. This is an activity of our 100-year anniversary celebration and will develop into testimony about how God's grace blessed us in the beginning years of our life together at BELC.

Please join us on Sundays at 9 a.m. in the library downstairs.

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