



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



Worship Service – 10:00
May 21, 2023

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Gracious God, since my faith is increased and strengthened by your Word, grant that my heart may be set free from worldly things. May I, and all who are gathered here this morning hear and understand your Word, that we may be filled with your love and sincerely live according to your gracious will, 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 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 Dick & Sandy Rollis in celebration of Tom & Eleanor Finn's 72nd Wedding Anniversary on May 5th and Ethel Baldwin's 90th birthday on May 13th.

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 Messiah Lutheran Church in Constantine Michigan,. Rev. Thomas Pederson.

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 – Don Telles
ACOLYTE – Alicia Fernandez
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith
LAY READER – Tim Nelson
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Dorothy Martin, Peggy Teter
GREETERS – Bob & Sue Christiansen
USHERS – Ralph Sergent, Jim Koessel
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 Grandhaven 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, 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.

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

PARISH NOTES

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Doug Griffin, father of Ashley Peckham, and grandfather of Aiden Peckham, who died on May 5, 2023. May God comfort those who mourn with the promise of eternal life for all those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.

WE CELEBRATE TODAY what God has done and is doing in the lives of four young people in this congregation. Today is the day of Confirmation for them, a time when they will publicly confess their Christian faith, affirm the relationship they were given by God in their Baptism, and commit themselves to the life and mission of Christ's church. Remember them in your prayers to God, asking that God would keep them strong in their faith in Jesus Christ and that His Holy Spirit would guide them, always.



The confirmed and their baptismal dates are:

Abigail Brisbo	June 24, 2007
Zellah Brisbo	Oct. 18, 2009
Faith Halbakken	July 10, 2011
Kylee Nelson	Nov. 1, 2009

PENTECOST SUNDAY WEAR RED and SIGN THE CHASUBLE!
NEXT SUNDAY IS PENTECOST SUNDAY. In the social hall, the Chasuble is on the table for you to sign if you have not done so in the past. Pentecost Sunday is when we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit. This event, known as the birthday of the church, was the impetus for the disciples to begin to take the gospel to all of the world! To symbolize the giving of the Spirit, we are asking everyone to wear red on Pentecost, as we acknowledge the Holy Spirit who inspires our worship and our faith, and gives us the power, week by week, to proclaim the kingdom of God. On that day, Pastor Matt will wear the chasuble, signed by members and friends of BELC, to symbolize that we are all the Church.

The chasuble is a garment often worn by pastors over the alb for the celebration of communion. Spiritually, as the outer garment, the chasuble reminds us of the charity of Christ:

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony” ~ Colossians 3:14

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 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, you can view our worship on YouTube, Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. or you can 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.

THE ADULT FORUM: A GLIMPSE AT THE "OTHER SEVEN" Having taken a long, loving look at opening ourselves to God through prayer, worship and Scripture, we will use the final four Sunday Forums to catch a glimpse of God working through us in Inviting, Encouraging, Giving and Serving. You are *invited* and *encouraged* to give 45 minutes at 9 am on Sundays to explore how these Spiritual Practices are impacting our lives. This discussion should *serve* us well!

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!

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.

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.

Thought for the Week:

Affirming our baptism is something we do daily as Christians, dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ. This is how we live into the ONENESS as God's creation.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Ralph & Margaret Sargent
USHERS – David Snider, Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler
COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Susan Mahoney, Christina Raia
ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez
LAY READER – Kylee Nelson
ALTAR GUILD – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 77 in-person, 34 people viewed the 5/14/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

Last Thursday was the Ascension of Our Lord, when again the promise comes to us that Jesus will be with us always. One way Jesus is present is when we respond to the needs of our neighbors, whether a “loved one” or someone half a world away in need of a quilt.

PRAYER FOR DAILY USE The Synod Assembly met under the theme, “It’s about Jesus!” Those present were invited to share their experiences of Jesus during three delightful table conversations. This week you are invited and challenged to pray the following prayer frequently and tell at least one other person about the experience.

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Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. Amen

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, May 21 8:45a **Sunday School**
Confirmation 9:00a **Adult Forum**
Sunday 10:00a **Worship – Holy Communion**
Worship (YouTube)

TUESDAY 8:00a Family Growth Center
9:30a Staff Meeting
7:00p Senior Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY 8:00a Family Growth Center

THURSDAY 8:00a Family Growth Center
6:30p Congregation Council Meets
Church Office Closed

FRIDAY

SUNDAY, May 28 9:00a **Adult Forum - Invite**
Pentecost Sunday 10:00a **Worship – Holy Communion**
Worship (YouTube)



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

**“...so that
they may be
one...”**

John 17:11, NRSV