



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
August 20, 2023

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

In this moment of quiet thought and prayer, O Lord, I reach up to you and know that you reach down to me. Your desire is to form me into your image. God, my heavenly Father, change me by shaping my heart so that what I think and say and do may please you. Bless me in this hour of worship and make me ready to love others as you love me. In Jesus' Name I 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 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 Dorothy & Don Martin in remembrance and celebration of the August 6th wedding anniversary of Kurt and Suzanne Kollmeyer.

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 Immanuel Lutheran Church in Grand Ledge, Michigan, Rev. Charles Foerster.

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 John Burow
ACOLYTE – Mila Thompson
LAY READER – Dorothy Martin
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Keitha Snider, Sherry Bass-Pohl
GREETERS – David & Keitha Snider
USHERS – Ron Miller, Jim Koessel
ALTAR GUILD – Karren Reish, Eliot Nutt
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
John Bartel & 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, 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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Thank you to Keitha Snider & Michelle Smith for organizing this special day for the kids. Thank you to Mary Bartel and all the volunteers who helped make the food, serve, teach, and share God's word with all these little ones. THANK YOU!



MICHIGAN PRINCESS HYMN SING

Michigan Princess Riverboat, Grand River Park, Lansing. Sunday, August 20th, boarding at 2:30 p.m., cruising from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Hop on board for a river cruise and hymn sing! (if it rains the boat will stay docked) Refreshments provided and kids can steer the boat! Donations benefit the **Northwest Lansing Lutheran Food Bank**, suggested donation \$20.00.

DRESS IN YOUR BEST NAUTICAL OR PIRATE ATTIRE!

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**.

100TH 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.

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 table. Our YouTube members – to make your reservations, please give the church @ (517)482-3225.

WHAT AN EXCITING TIME FOR BETHLEHEM!



100TH 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?

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

Thoughts for the Week:

If you had done the right thing, you would be smiling. But you did the wrong thing, and now sin is waiting to attack you like a lion. Sin wants to destroy you, but don't let it! ~ Genesis 4:7

Why do you fight and argue with each other? Isn't it because you are full of selfish desires that fight to control your body? You want something you don't have, and you will do anything to get it. You will even kill! ~ James 4:1-2a

As we pour out our bitterness, God pours in his peace.
~ F B Meyer

There is enough heartache and sorrow in this life without our adding to it through our own stubbornness, bitterness and resentment.
~ Dieter F. Uchtdorf

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 72 in-person, 36 people viewed the 8/13/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS In our Gospel reading this morning we are taught that our actions, good or bad, come from deep within. Being fully present in worship is an important way for making our hearts good soil, receptive to God's grace and empowered for fruitful lives. Thank you

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Don & Lois Cairns

USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Dorothy Martin, Cindy Marsh

ACOLYTE – Andrew Goff

LAY READER – Ron Miller

ALTAR GUILD – Cindy Marsh, Michelle Smith

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. 20	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
		Worship (YouTube)
	11:30a	Anniversary Meeting
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, Aug. 27	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
		Worship (YouTube)

Jesus' perspective on God's Law and tradition differs from his religious critics. This is a major theme of today's Gospel reading. Since the sermon heads in two other directions, here is a brief self-study exercise for your pondering and discussion.

Which approach seems more like Jesus? Both may be valid; both may be misused, but which aligns with how **you** hear Jesus in the Gospels?

- Letter of the Law vs Spirit of the Law
- Acceptance vs Performance
- Scripture reveals God's rules vs. Scripture is story revealing God's character
- Relationship vs. Faithfulness
- Certainty vs Assurance
- Faith is decision vs Faith is gift

Have fun with this and see if you can pick up on two other major themes in the sermon "*Jesus, teacher and Learner.*" Blessings, John

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



12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 2023