



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



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

Worship Service – 10:00  
September 4, 2022

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Holy Friend, close in on us; cut off distractions and dissipate our worries. Gather anything that is true and holy within us into one theme of loving praise. Give to us a few precious moments when we can feel and anticipate that wholeness of Spirit who is our true nature and destiny. From this brief time with you, let us look to the future with a serene confidence. Through Jesus Christ 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 John a message at [pastorjohnburow@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjohnburow@gmail.com) or call the church office at 482-3225.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Bethlehem Lutheran is a praying church; this is one of our Marks of Discipleship. For prayers that you would like included in Sunday worship, please visit [www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org) or click [HERE](#) for a direct link to send a prayer request to Pastor Matt.

Include an address if you'd like the person named in your request notified of the prayer offered on their behalf.

## 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** July - September booklets are available on the Welcome Table in the lobby. If you would like a copy, call the church office at 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 Ascension Lutheran Church in Saginaw Michigan, Rev. Julie Bailey.

**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.

## **THOSE WHO SERVE IN OUR WORSHIP**

ORGANIST & HANDBELL DIRECTOR – James Schippers

CHOIR DIRECTOR – Sue Nelson

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP DIRECTOR – Laurey Wyble

ASSISTING MINISTER – Nancy Holderread

CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith

LAY READER – Keitha Snider

ACOLYTE – David Fernandez

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mary Bartel

GREETERS – Keitha & Dave Snider

USHERS – Otto Kern, Susan Mahoney

ALTAR GUILD – Bob & Sue Christiansen

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:** *Mary Ann Allen, John Bartel, Virginia Bauman*

*Tosha Brisbo, Crystal Collins, Doug Griffin, Emma Hick*

*Marilyn Bass-Huyser, Nancy Jackson, Carole Kienke*

*Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Andrea Norman*

*Tharin Palmer, 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.

**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)

**Darian Doan** – U.S. Army (Marv & Laura Halbakken'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)

## PARISH NOTES

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY** We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Gina DeWitt, daughter of Larry Bauman, who died. May God comfort those who mourn with the promise of eternal life for all those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.

**TODAY 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.

**FOUR VIEWS OF JESUS** Beginning September 11 the Adult Forum resumes with an exploration of the Four Gospels. We will listen carefully and prayerfully to each distinctive presentation of the Good News of Jesus Christ. We hope to discover how and why each of the four Gospels is a gift and guide to the church at this present moment.

**PASTOR MATT'S OFFICE HOURS** As we move forward into this new program year of opportunity, my office hours (the hours I will normally be physically in the church) will be Monday afternoon (12:00 - 4:00 pm) and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Unless I am in a meeting, I should be available. I will be working from my fully equipped home office Monday morning and on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons, or out on appointments. Then I will be back at the church for meetings and classes. I am available by phone (517-881-9890) from 9:00 am - 9:00 pm Sun., Mon., Tue., Wed., Thu., and Sat. If I am not able to answer your call I will call you back as soon as I am able. FRIDAY will be my scheduled day off. If you need me in an emergency between 9:00 pm and 9:00 am please call me a second time after my voicemail answers, and my phone will ring.

**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** The 2022 Flower Chart is posted in the Lobby. If you would like to sponsor Altar Flowers for a Sunday, sign your name on that date with notes for the bulletin announcement. Please sign up at least one month in advance of the date requested. The arrangements are \$35 and may be taken home after the Sunday worship service. Thank you to all who sponsor Altar Flowers!

**SABBATICAL THANK YOU!** Thank you for providing me with a dedicated time for study and prayer to enrich the ministry here at Bethlehem. This time has been even more rewarding and energizing than I hoped it would be. My areas of focus were Prayer, Health and Wellness, and Church Revitalization. A report on all these areas will be included in future newsletters with electronic and print copies available. Stay tuned!



**LUTHERAN DIASTER RESPONSE IN KENTUCKY** Major flooding has devastated several counties in Kentucky after 14-16 inches of rain fell over a five-day period last week. The mountainous terrain and ravines made it almost impossible to escape the flood waters that killed at least 37 people. The three hardest hit counties will take years to rebuild. As the waters recede and the full scope of the damage is assessed, Lutheran Disaster Response will work with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and local communities to focus on long-term needs. We anticipate that the response will include rebuilding homes, replacing lost household items and providing emotional and spiritual care to survivors. This is in addition to our ongoing response to the December 2021 tornadoes in western Kentucky. You can give directly here (<https://community.elca.org/usflooding2022>), or if you make a check payable to Bethlehem please note “U.S. Flooding” on the memo line.

## Thought for the Week

Carrying the Cross and following Jesus is about embracing the *kenōtic path*. It is a daily self-emptying for the sake of those on the outside, for the sake of the Gospel.

### **STEWARDSHIP PONDERING**

The Scripture readings for today's worship urge us to choose for whom and how we are to live. This is stewardship in the broadest sense - choosing and living our priorities on a daily basis. This struggle is a sign both of our failings and of our desire to live faithfully.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Worship Attendance: 103 – 63 in-person and 40 people viewed the 8/28/22 Live worship.

### **THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY**

GREETERS – Wendy Lamphier, Laurey Wyble

LAY READER – Dorothy Martin

USHERS – Phil Hassler, Joe Skidmore

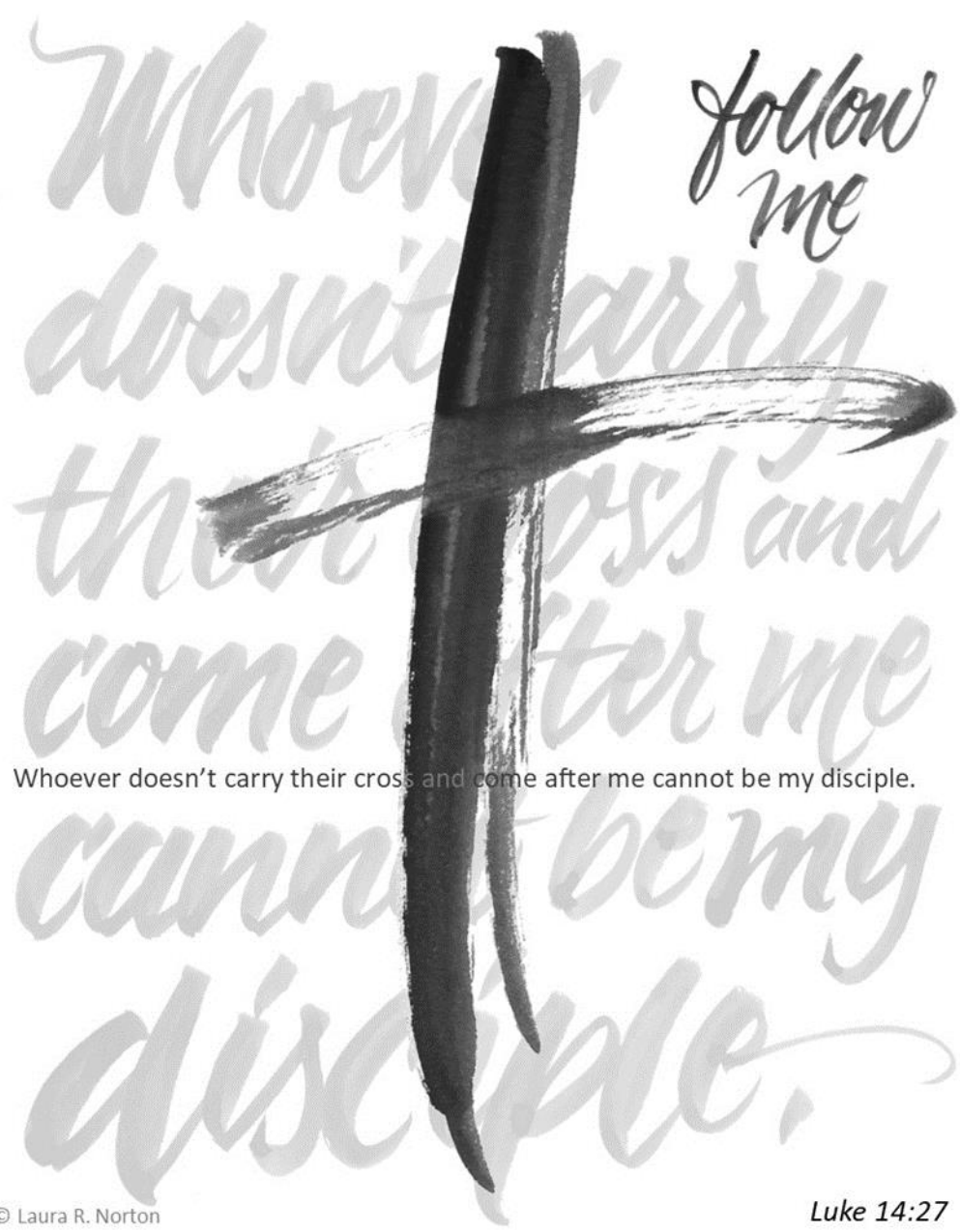
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Ron Miller

### **THE BELCW RUMMAGE SALE IS BACK – SEPT. 28-30, 2022**

We must have enough volunteers signed up by September 14<sup>th</sup>. We still need volunteers to help, especially on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, without volunteers there will be no sale. Sign-up sheets are available in the Fellowship Hall. This year we will not be accepting computers, printers and components, televisions, VCR's, and speakers. We will still accept furniture. **You may begin to drop off rummage on Friday September 23 after 9:00 a.m., no earlier! Do not put rummage on stage.** (The reason for this is in case we need to cancel the sale.) The last day to drop off is Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. When dropping off rummage, if you can, please put your rummage out – all the tables will be labeled. If you have any questions you can contact any of the Rummage Sale Committee – Kelly Carpenter, Candy Barnes, Joanna Alvera, Laura Halbakken, Sue Leimenstoll, Peggy Teter and Sandy Rollis. Thank you.

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, Sept. 4 10:00a**    **Worship – Holy Communion**  
**Worship (YouTube)**  
MONDAY                      Labor Day (Office closed)  
TUESDAY                    8:00a    Family Growth Center  
                                     9:30a    Staff Meeting  
WEDNESDAY               8:00a    Family Growth Center  
THURSDAY                 8:00a    Family Growth Center  
                                     1:00p    Community Partners Meeting  
SATURDAY                 9:30a    F.A.B. Meets  
**SUNDAY, Sept. 11 10:00a**    **Worship – Holy Communion**  
**Worship (YouTube)**  
                                     8:45a    **Sunday School (in person)**  
                                     8:45a    **Adult Forum**



Whoever doesn't carry their cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

© Laura R. Norton

Luke 14:27

**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**