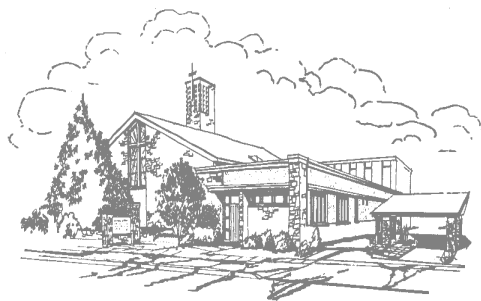


Bethlehem Star

Lutheran Church Lansing



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lansing, Michigan

Pastor Matt Smith

October 2022

Fall

What we have all experienced this year is as if a switch was flipped on the first day of Fall. It became Fall overnight! One day the temperature was in the eighties, the next in the sixties, and it hasn't warmed back up. We have been blessed with a few days of sunshine, but that is little consolation to those who enjoy the light and warmth of summer. In Ecclesiastes, we read that for everything there is a season (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). This Fall, for us, is a season of renewal and revitalization. There is much excitement at Bethlehem as we begin to return to pre-pandemic levels of worship attendance. Our building has come alive again with activity as we begin to engage those programs that have been put on hold for 2 ½ years.

Revitalization

We don't often think of Fall as a time for new life. It is a time where fields lay fallow and much is stored away for the winter, yet we are experiencing new life at Bethlehem! As of the writing of this newsletter, every assigned time for Prayers for Revitalization throughout the day has been covered by at least one person, and there are now only 23 open slots. That means that 42 people are praying for Bethlehem throughout the day at their assigned times, every day. So many people committed to prayer is the first clear sign of revitalization at Bethlehem. If you have not signed up yet but would like to, the address for our signup is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805054EAEA628A02-prayers>. I will also have a printed version on Sunday mornings for people to sign up in person or by calling the church office.

Prayer is only the first step in revitalization, but it is a requirement for churches wanting to move to a place of greater health as they serve in God's mission. As we continue to revitalize, we are reaching out to members with cards, letters, and phone calls and using the Marks of Discipleship as a catalyst in our mission. And there is so much more that has happened and will be happening as we seek God's will in our revitalization efforts. Our Revitalization Plan and my full Sabbatical report are available for download at <https://www.bethlutheran.org/printables>.)

Discovering Discipleship at Bethlehem

We will be offering a study of the Christian faith and the teachings of the Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 22, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. This class is a prelude to people joining the church (which is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, November 20). We will be taking a long look at living the Marks of Discipleship (Spiritual Practices), that we hope (and in some ways expect) all our members to live. Saturday will also include lunch provided by our Congregation Council, so this will be an opportunity for potential new members to meet some of the folks in leadership at Bethlehem. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, call the church office (517) 482-3225.

Reformation Red

Reformation Sunday is October 30. We are asking everyone to wear red on that day in honor of all those who have made our faith possible as they stood up to the (at the time) corrupt, Roman church. This day is more of a commemoration than a celebration, as we lament the divisions in Christ's church.

All Saints' Sunday

Looking ahead, November 6 is All Saints' Sunday. Family members of those in our congregation who have passed since All Saints' 2021 will be invited to light a candle in remembrance as we ring a chime and recall their baptisms which are now complete in Christ. If you have a loved one who has died since November 1, 2021, who you would like remembered by name in worship, please give their name to the office or directly to me by Wednesday, November 5.

Office Hours

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 continue to be my scheduled day off. If you need me in an emergency between 9:00 pm and 9:00 am, on Fridays, please call me a second time after my voicemail answers, and my phone will ring.

**Monday mornings are set aside for planning for the week ahead.*

***Tuesdays we have our staff meeting from 9:30 am until 11:00 am.*

Monday*	12:00 – 4:00 pm
Tuesday**	9:00 am – 2:30 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm
Thursday	9:00 am – 2:30 pm

I am here for you!

◇◇ Pastor Matt

549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.
Lansing, Michigan 48910
Phone: (517) 482-3225
FAX: (517) 482-2458

Ministers

*All of the members of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

Pastor Matthew A. Smith
pastormattsmith@gmail.com
(517) 881-9890

Assistant to The Pastor
Pastor John Burow
pastorjburow@yahoo.com
(517) 614-4559

Church Secretary / Star Editor
Tracy Baker
bethlehemplansing@gmail.com
(517) 482-3225

Congregation President
Jim Whitman

Organist
James Schippers

Choir Director
Sue Nelson

Handbell Choir Director
James Schippers

Contemporary Worship Director
Laurey Wyble

Office Hours
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (M-F)

Visit our website at:
www.bethlutheran.org

Worship Schedule

8:45 - Sunday School
9:00 - Adult Forum
10:00 - Worship - Holy Comm.
Sanctuary - in person
And LIVE Streaming on
YouTube

Worship in October 2022

Assisting Ministers

October 2 - Nancy Holderread
October 9 - Don Telles
October 16 - Bob Meeker
October 23 - Susan Mahoney
October 30 - Crystal Collins

Children's Sermons

October 2 - Pastor John Burow
October 9 - Pastor Matt Smith
October 16 - Pastor Matt Smith
October 23 - Pastor Matt Smith
October 30 - Pastor Matt Smith

Guess Who Is Turning 100?!

We are, and we look good for our age!

In September of 2024 we will be celebrating the 100th year anniversary of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church. What a wonderful milestone! **And one that will certainly warrant a special event.**

September of 2024 and the 100th Anniversary of BELC will be here before we know it, and we want to be ready! Here is your first assignment. Much of the history of the church is told in stories and in pictures. So, for the next few months we are asking that you find those special pictures that document the church's past. Whether it is a picture of the first members or of last week, we want your photos.

Please bring or send COPIES of your photos to the church office and ask them to be placed in the anniversary box. On your COPIED photos please provide information about the who, what, when, where and why if possible. Please only submit COPIES of your photos as we are going to be unable to return them to you after the celebration. In addition we are looking for your stories. A one page typed story to be included on a storyboard would be a wonderful way to share a memory you have about the church for all to see. These pages can be emailed to bethlehemplansing@gmail.com with the subject line **ANNIVERSARY STORY**, or brought to the church office. We hope to collect them from now until January 2023.

So, bring in your pictures and email those memories!

Statement of Purpose and Guiding Principles for Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

God's purpose for our church, as disciples of Jesus Christ, is to share with all people God's word, love and saving grace.

We will pursue this purpose by:

1. Being a Christ-centered, joyful community of baptized believers who gather regularly for worship, the Lord's Supper, study and prayer.
2. Inviting, accepting, and supporting all people as we build attentive, respectful relationships.
3. Taking action and risks with bold faith, acknowledging our imperfection, while trusting in Christ.
4. Actively engaging in community outreach near and far.
5. Being faithful stewards of our time, talents, possessions and all of God's creation.

Adopted January 29, 2017

Stewardship

Coming Soon: Stewards Living with Purpose

Our stewardship theme for this year is **Stewards Living with Purpose**. God gives us the wisdom and faith to understand that God is our source and purpose for living. Our stewardship emphasis will help each of us answer the question: “What are you doing with the gifts, abilities, energy, relationships, and resources that God has entrusted to you?” The real issue of stewardship is whether we are managing our blessings and possessions as though they are ours or as though they are God’s. The pattern of our lives is shaped by the decisions we make. Satan deceives us into believing that we own what we have and that we need to depend upon our own abilities and resources to meet our needs. Scripture invites us to depend on God and God alone.

In our four-week emphasis, we will focus each week on one of God’s purposes for us.

Week One (10/23): “Do All to the Glory of God” *“So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God”* (1 Corinthians 10:31). In all we do, we should strive to give God the glory that God deserves. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can live lives that seek to please and honor the Lord. As people of faith, our purpose is not to live for ourselves but for Jesus.

Week Two (10/30): “Be My Witnesses” *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”* (Acts 1:8). We have a story to tell of Jesus and his love, because Jesus told us, “You will be my witnesses.” The word “will” is not a command, but indicates what we will do because of what God has done for us by the mercy of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. Through our baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection we receive regeneration and new birth by the Holy Spirit. We are to tell of how God has given us new life and purpose.

Week Three (11/13): “Serve One Another” *“For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love to serve one another”* (Galatians 5:13). Left to our own devices, we are selfish, self-centered people who want to do what we desire without interest in serving others. By God’s grace, we, as redeemed children of God, want to show our gratitude to God for who God is and what God has done for us through Jesus by serving others.

Week Four (11/20): “Be Generous in Every Way” *“You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God”* (2 Corinthians 9:11). The Apostle Paul tells us that God will bless us in every way so we can be generous. God will give us both the resources to give and new hearts that desire to give. Through our giving, the recipients of our gifts will thank us for giving, and they will also thank God for giving us loving and giving hearts that make our gifts possible.

May God help us all use our lives and blessings to fulfill the purpose that God has for each of us. (*We will not focus on stewardship on 11/6 as it is All Saints Sunday.*)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Contributions

Income includes all monies given for budgeted items such as heat, power, water, salaries, repairs, maintenance, ELCA Mission Support, support for Samaritas, local benevolence and board spending as of August 31, 2022.

General Fund Operational:

Expenses through August 31, 2022:
\$236,504.31

Received through August 31, 2022:
\$203,232.00

Prayer Corner

Please Note: Hospitals do not notify churches when a member has been hospitalized; even if you inform them at registration of your church membership. If you would like a visit from the pastor, please call the church office at 482-3225 or call Pastor Matt directly at 517-881-9890.

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 in Holt
Pat Lebsack in The Willows, East Lansing

Those at home: John Bartel, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo, Crystal Collins
Doug Griffin, Emma Hicks, Marilyn Bass-Huyser, Nancy Jackson
Carole Kienke, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson
Tharin Palmer, Carol Roush, Connie Scott, Audrey Skidmore,
Betty VanConant, Cheryl VanPatten, and 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 Community Police Officer and other first responders.



Pastoral Acts:

Wedding:

Grace & John Conway Sept. 9, 2022

PRAY for those who are on active duty in the United States Military Services:

Chris Browne – U.S. Air Force
Tyler Barnes – U.S. Marines
Darian Doan – U.S. Army
Andrew Devine – U.S. Nat'l Guard
Carson Kosloski – U.S. Marines
Joshua Kosloski – U.S. Army

Rusty Landry – U.S. Air Nat'l Guard
Christopher Morgan – U.S. Marines
Ben Painter – U.S. Air Force
Ryan Schiffner – U.S. Air Force



FROM THE BG's (Buildings and Grounds)

Ever get out of your car at church, look at the weeds around the property and wonder when are **“they”** going to clean this up? Well, there is no **“they”**. There is only **“we”**. **We are “they”**, and **“we”** need to clean it up to get our outside spruced up. After all, curb appeal is everything. **October 15 @ 10:00 A.M.** BGs are calling all willing members to show up and **“get'er done”**. Bring what you have: rakes, shovels, gloves, etc. Stay an hour or two or whatever time you can give us. We want to get this all done in one fell swoop. **October 15 @ 10:00 A.M.** If you have been away a while, covid cut you off, or maybe just lost touch, this will be a great way to wade back in and reconnect with your church family.

October 15 @ 10:00 A.M. Rain date October 22 @ 10:00 A.M.

If you want you can email me at jacsan2@aol.com letting me know if you will be here, (even the maybes), then I can email you with more details or if we have rain.

Come on, lets get'er done.

Jack Midgley

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Women

**Women of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America**

All women of Bethlehem Lutheran Church are members of the Women of the ELCA and are invited and encouraged to participate in all activities listed in the newsletters, bulletins, flyers or on the bulletin boards.

NEWS FROM YOUR BELCW BOARD

Your women's board met September 12 via Zoom. Our topics of discussions were the Rummage Sale, September Potluck/General Meeting and Election of Officers. The Rummage sale and General Meeting is over as you read this. Hopefully both were a success.

Some items of interest were Blanket Sunday, October 9th, quilts and kits will be delivered to Howell the following weekend. If you would like to deliver boxes to Howell, please contact Kelly Carpenter (517-646-9081). The Women's Retreat is being considered for next April, we will have more info later, it looks like we might be going back to Little Pine Island.

We will be electing new officers at our December General Meeting on December 5. We are looking for a Vice President and Mission Growth. Please prayerfully consider serving. We have an excellent board and we all support each other.

Vice-President - The Vice President is a one year term (second year to serve as President). As the Vice President you will welcome new members, attend monthly board meetings and observe and learn from the President. Ready to step in if needed. The second year you will serve as President.

Mission Growth – Encourage subscription to the Gather Magazine, order subscriptions of Gather for new members to Circles. Organize programs for the general meetings, especially the December General Meeting with support of the Board.

Thankoffering Service will be November 13, bring your Thankoffering boxes or jars, all your change or write a check to BELCW. You can also mail your check to Carole Kienke.

“God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns” Psalm 46:5

THANKOFFERINGS

When I looked up the meaning of the word 'Thankful', this is what I got:

pleased and relieved - they were thankful the treatment was finally over

expressing gratitude and relief - an earnest and thankful prayer.

synonyms:

Grateful, filled with gratitude, indebted, obliged.
He was really thankful that she had come to his aid.



Thankful | Definition of Thankful by Merriam-Webster: glad that something has happened or not happened, that something or someone exists, etc.: of, relating to, or expressing thanks.

This is how we should feel as we place a coin (or bill) in our Thankoffering container.

**Thankofferings will be collected on November 13 at church.
Bring your jars, boxes or checks to church, there will be a special offering.
Or mail a check to Carole Kienke.**

Here, you will find a list of the scripture readings that are part of the Daily Lectionary which move us from one Sunday to the next. You can also find these readings on our "Taking Faith Home" sheets we distribute after worship. They are also posted daily on our Facebook page. We encourage you to read your Bible every day as you live out your life of discipleship.

<> Pastor Matt

OCTOBER 2022

<u>01</u> Psalm 146	<u>08</u> Psalm 37:1-9	<u>16</u> Luke 18:1-8	<u>24</u> Jeremiah 14:7-22
<u>02</u> Luke 17:5-10	<u>09</u> Luke 17:11-19	<u>17</u> Genesis 32:22-31	<u>25</u> 2 Timothy 4:6-18
<u>03</u> Habakkuk 1:1-2:4	<u>10</u> 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7:15	<u>18</u> 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	<u>26</u> James 4:5-10
<u>04</u> 2 Timothy 1:1-14	<u>11</u> 2 Timothy 2:8-15	<u>19</u> Psalm 31:19-24	<u>27</u> Psalm 25:1-10
<u>05</u> Romans 1:16-17	<u>12</u> Psalm 46:1-7	<u>20</u> Ephesians 3:7-13	<u>28</u> Matthew 23:1-12
<u>06</u> Galatians 3:10-14	<u>13</u> James 3:13-18	<u>21</u> Hebrews 12:1-12	<u>29</u> Psalm 84:1-7
<u>07</u> Hebrews 10:32-39	<u>14</u> Isaiah 40:27-31	<u>22</u> Psalm 121	<u>30</u> Luke 19:1-10
	<u>15</u> Psalm 111	<u>23</u> Luke 18:9-14	<u>31</u> Isaiah 1:10-18



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

James Koessel	Oct. 2
Ellie Ibarra	Oct. 4
Ron Clark	Oct. 5
Ralph Sergeant	Oct. 6
Carole Kienke	Oct. 8
Sue Christiansen	Oct. 10
Cloyd Barnes	Oct. 13
Ron Raulin	Oct. 13
Patricia Lebsack	Oct. 15
Rhoda Hunter	Oct. 16
Lura Randall	Oct. 18
Dean Ford	Oct. 22
Larry Bauman	Oct. 27
Carl Gallagher	Oct. 27
Jean Peckham	Oct. 27
Gail King	Oct. 28
Betty Bonney	Oct. 29



Happy Birthday

Each year our birthday list of members 62 and over is updated from the church records. If for some reason you do not wish to have your name appear in the newsletter or if you see someone we have missed, please call the church office.

Lyons Elementary School Needs Our Help!

Winter weather will be approaching sooner than we like, and Lyons Elementary School needs our support again this year to help keep the children warm and dry and able to enjoy winter on the playground. Last year members of Bethlehem donated winter outerwear including coats, boots, snow pants, waterproof gloves, and socks to Lyons Elementary (kindergarten through third grade), where many of our local children attend school. The Board of Outreach and the Endowment Fund Committee partnered with me to make this new form of outreach come to life, and we are ready to continue this ministry!

Shari Martinez, secretary of Lyons Elementary, told me recently that they could definitely use help from Bethlehem again this year! She sent me a list of what they need. It is:

- Underwear for both boys and girls, size 4t up through sizes 12 and 15.
- Waterproof gloves or mittens. Preferably not pink or purple.
- Boots, size 13 and sizes 1, 2, and 3. Preferably not pink or purple.
- Snow pants, sizes 5-12. Preferably not pink or purple.

Waterproof is the key for the gloves – cloth ones will be soaked after one recess period, take too long to dry, and don't keep kids' hands warm enough. Underwear and gloves/mittens need to be new. While new is best for the boots and snow pants, gently used will be fine for those items if they are clean and in good shape. Tubs will be placed in the gym for collecting these items. Another organization is collecting socks and coats for the school, so **we are not doing socks or coats this year.**

During my 32 years teaching elementary school I saw the need for schools to regularly give clean underwear to children in younger grades who had bathroom accidents. I also saw many children shiver through winter and have to stay on the blacktop rather than join their friends on the snowy playground because they were not properly dressed. Winter clothing is expensive, and for families struggling just to pay for rent and food, boots and snow pants get put on the back burner. So, we have a great opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of our local children!

Be on the lookout for donation tubs in the gym sometime during October, along with an update in next month's newsletter. We hope you will consider supporting this project!

~ Cindy Marsh

Thank you!!

We would like to say Thank you to everyone for all the prayers and support during this past year and a half, while Matt has battled against cancer. I cannot express enough how very grateful we are.

Thank you,
Matt & Susie White

Bethlehem Star

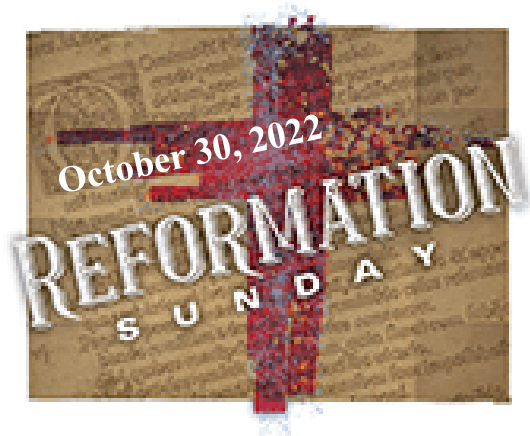
Lutheran Church Lansing



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Newsletter Deadline is **October 17**
for the **November 2022** Bethlehem Star.

Also available at
www.bethlutheran.org

In-Home Date: Saturday October 1, 2022
Mailed on September 29, 2022

