



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
May 28, 2023

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

With the sending of your Spirit, O God, you announced the arrival of new gifts - Spirit-given gifts. Accept the praise and the gifts we offer here today. They are the fruit of your Spirit. We pray that you will give us wisdom to use these gifts for the transformation of the world. In Jesus' name we 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 Geraniums are given to the glory of God in celebration of the Holy Spirit “ALIVE” in our lives.

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 Christ United Lutheran Church in DeWitt Michigan, Rev. Alex Aivars.

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 – Susan Mahoney
ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor John Burow
LAY READER – Tim Nelson
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Keitha Snider, Christina Raia
GREETERS – Ralph & Margaret Sergent
USHERS – David Snider, Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler
ALTAR GUILD – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler
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

Ellie Ibarra in Independence Village, 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 Marilyn Rollis, sister-in-law of Dick Rollis, who died on May 18, 2023. May God comfort those who mourn with the promise of eternal life for all those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.

TODAY IS PENTECOST SUNDAY This 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 the world! Without the Holy Spirit, the disciples would have remained in the upper room, afraid and unequipped to share the gospel! Today, in the social hall, **before worship**, you will have the opportunity to sign the white chasuble that will be worn during the Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

BIBLES FOR GRADUATES In the social hall you will find a table with Bibles on it for you to sign for each of our graduates. Statistics show that more than half of all youth that are active in church during high school will walk away from their faith after graduation. So please, sign your name and write a note in the Bibles to encourage them in their faith. Maybe even list your favorite Bible verses. The bibles will be presented to them during worship on June 18.

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.

100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE We will meet after the worship service on June 4.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING The congregation will meet after worship service on June 11.

THE ADULT FORUM: OPENING TO GOD THROUGH

SCRIPTURE Luke tells us that the Risen Christ on the evening of his resurrection appeared to the disciples and *opened their minds to understand* the scriptures. During this Easter Season we will experience the spiritual practices of opening ourselves to God’s Word. The emphasis will be on listening carefully, prayerfully to our still speaking God. Please join us on Sundays at 9 am in the library.

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!

STONY LAKE REGISTRATION Elementary, Confirmation and Senior High Camp is Week 4 of the camping season this year (July 9-14). Log on to <http://www.elcalivingwater.com/> and complete your camp registration.

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.

JOIN US FOR ROOT BEER FLOATS On Father’s Day, June 18 for root beer floats after worship service.

NEXT SUNDAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY Canned goods and other non-perishable items and gifts of money can be brought up to the altar during the "Offering of Gifts". Please wait to come forward until instructed by the pastor. This special offering will be used to feed hungry people in our community through the Food Bank center in our church.

Thought for the Week:

The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were awestruck. Jesus repeated his greeting: “Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you.” Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. “Receive the Holy Spirit,”

~ John 20:21-22

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

- GREETERS – Sue & Tim Nelson
- USHERS – Don Cairns, Cloyd Barnes
- COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Kylee Nelson, Don Telles
- ACOLYTE – Alicia Fernandez
- LAY READER – Mel White
- ALTAR GUILD – Linda Telles, Susan Mahoney

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 100 in-person, 36 people viewed the 5/21/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

In the Gospel reading this Pentecost Sunday, Jesus breathes on those being sent into the world. We too have been given the breath/Spirit of Jesus, authorizing us to go forth to witness, to comfort, to do God’s work. Thank you for your serving and giving.

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 28 9:00a Adult Forum - Invite
Pentecost Sunday 10:00a Worship – Holy Communion
Worship (YouTube)
MONDAY Memorial Day (*church office closed*)
TUESDAY 8:00a Family Growth Center
9:30a Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAY 8:00a Family Growth Center
THURSDAY 8:00a Family Growth Center
SATURDAY 9:30a F.A.B. Meets
SUNDAY, June 4 9:00a Adult Forum - Invite
Teacher recognition 10:00a Worship – Holy Communion
Worship (YouTube)
11:30a 100th Anniversary Mtg.



We are going to start our “pilot program” for Pray & Go on **Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023**. We will train our initial group of people to Pray & Go on **Sunday, May 21**, following worship. Sign up in the social hall to be a part of this mission.

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

