



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



Worship Service – 10:00
September 15, 2024

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

I come to this place to receive your welcome, O God, in the name of Christ. In turn, I welcome your presence in my life. May this welcoming become contagious as I share love, acceptance, and appreciation with others who are here. Give me a heart that is ready to receive all the gifts you have for me in this eucharist and in this gathering of your people. In Jesus' name. 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, place it in the basket in our prayer corner, or hand it to an usher to bring forward.

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 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, 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 St. John's Lutheran Church in Three Rivers Michigan, Rev. James Smith.

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 – Bob Meeker
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matthew Smith
ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez
LAY READER – Jessica Martin
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Dorothy Martin, Don Telles
GREETERS – Peggy Teter, Carol Pride
USHERS – Ron Miller, David Westover
ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin
A/V PRODUCTION – David Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Meeker, Kevin Peckham, David Westover



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS and with your cards and visits:

John Nelson in Grand Haven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing
Rhoda Hunter in Prestige Way on Keller Road in Holt
Marilyn Bass-Huyser in Independence Village, Grand Ledge
Betty Strother in Independence Village, East Lansing
Joe Skidmore, in Assisted Living, Sedona, AZ
Kurt Kollmeyer, Hamilton Trace Apartments, Fishers, IN

Those at home: *Kaye Alden, John Bartel, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo Kelly Carpenter, Crystal Collins, Joanne Dyer, Keith Ferguson, Tom & Eleanor Finn, Emma Hicks, Nancy Jackson, Mike (Ferris) Kosloski Vicki Leighton, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson Tharin Palmer, Bob Robbins, Sandy Rollis, Connie Scott, Ken Teter Betty VanConant, Cheryl VanPatten*

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, D.J. Rudd, Interim.

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)

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY If you are interested in occasionally taking sacrament to one of our homebound members, please talk to Judy Pardee, Pastor Matt, or someone on the Board of Worship Life.

100TH ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRTS ARE IN If you ordered a t-shirt online for our Anniversary celebration you can pick them up on the table in the social hall with your name on it.

ADULT FORUM: THE LISTENING LIFE This morning at 9 a.m. in the library, we began to explore the gift, skill, healing and wholeness of authentic listening. This listening path includes hearing God in Scripture, creation and the needs of the neighbor. Listening to another as a high form of hospitality and healing. And even listening to our own life. We will begin with discovering how God listens with faithful, intimate love. You are encouraged to partner with us in this time of learning and listening.

RUMMAGE SALE New sale dates! Set-up will be Friday, September 27th, people will be able to drop off rummage; Friday from 9:30-6:30, Saturday September 28 from 9:30-5:00, Sunday September 29 from 10:00-4:30, and on Monday from 9:30-6:00. The sale dates are Tuesday October 1, 5:30-8:00, Wednesday October 2, 9:00-7:00p.m., and Thursday October 3, bag day, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. If this is something you would love to do, call Peggy Teter at (517) 281-2713.

Lansing SAVE Sunday September 29, is our fifth Sunday offering for LansingSAVE. There are now 192 children in our group of students from BELC and the Baker Neighborhood. To give electronically click on the "Online Giving" link on our website.

ALTAR FLOWER CHART Smith Floral continues to provide beautiful Floral Arrangements for Bethlehem at a very reasonable price. The florist has recently begun a new billing system, and we will now be pre-paying for the arrangements rather than being billed at the end of the month. Bethlehem's order for the upcoming month is submitted near the 25th of every month and payment will be sent at that time. Thus, Sunday sponsors for Altar Flowers will need to pay well in advance. If you have any questions, please talk with Kris Burow.

COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE (CEB) Our scripture readings will continue to follow the Revised Common Lectionary, but they will be read from the Common English Bible (CEB) rather than the NRSV through the end of 2024. **There are some Common English Bibles on the cart in the back of the church for your use.** Please give any feedback on the CEB to Pastor Matt or any member of the Board of Worship Life.

COMMUNION 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. **Our Communion Bread** in worship is gluten free. Now, everyone in our congregation will receive the Body of Christ from the **same** loaf.

RUN THE RACE For the 7th year in a row, Matt Hicks is running the race for Living Water Ministries, raising funds so that the camp experience can be financially accessible for all of God's children! Matt will be part of a team running a 200-mile relay race from Traverse City to Muskegon in 36 hours. Through LWM's annual Run the Race event, Matt and his teammates are hoping to raise \$100,000 for camp and Matt has a \$2000 goal to help make that happen! Camp experiences transform lives. Will you help Matt reach his goal? To donate scan the QR code here to access Matt's secure fundraising page, send a check to Living Water Ministries 7898 W Stony Lake Rd New Era, MI 49446 writing Matt Hicks on the memo line or visit www.elcalivingwater.com/runtherace, or. Campers will thank you for years to come!



Thought for the Week

Discipleship of the crucified Christ is characterized by a faith that drives its adherents with a relentless and daring they could not manage on the basis of human volition alone.

~Douglas John Hall, *Cross in Our Context*

ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance 9/8/24: 52 in-person and 35 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 18:40 and 11 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS *All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. - Jesus*
What might it look like for this congregation to prioritize being a blessing in both our gathered and scattered lives over ensuring our survival?

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Sept. 15 8:45a **Sunday Church School**
9:00a **Adult Forum - library**
10:00a **Worship – Holy Communion**

MONDAY 8:00a Family Growth Center
6:30p BELCW General mtg./Potluck

TUESDAY 8:00a Family Growth Center
9:30a Staff Meeting
6:30p Handbell Choir
7:30p Senior Choir

WEDNESDAY 8:00a Family Growth Center
1:00p Men’s Lunch - Leroy’s
6:30p Board of Stewardship & Finance

THURSDAY 8:00a Family Growth Center
6:30p Capital City Quilters
6:30p Congregation Council meets

FRIDAY 8:00a Family Growth Center
7:00p Narcotics Anonymous

SUNDAY, Sept. 22 10:00a **Worship – Holy Communion**
100th Centennial Church Anniversary & Reception

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Ron & Diane Miller
USHERS – Joe Shreffler, David Snider, Bob Christiansen
ACOLYTE – Kylee Nelson, Faith Halbakken
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Peggy Teter, Zella Brisbo
LAY READER – Mila Tompson
ALTAR GUILD – ALL TEAMS

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 God,
SERVE all people,
*and, where I fall short of his expectations,
Jesus always offers me his love and forgiveness!*
POWER Gifts



[And Jesus said,] all who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them.

~Mark 8:35