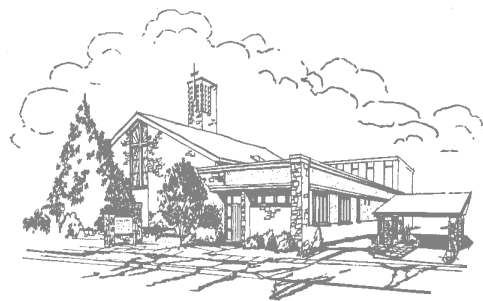


Bethlehem Star

Lutheran Church Lansing



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church - Lansing, Michigan

Pastor Matt Smith

October 2024

Everyone Needs a Little Jesus

It's all about Jesus! And this is what Bethlehem has been all about in our first 100 years, and is all about as we begin our SECOND 100 years. This was the focus of my Worship Talk for Children on Sunday, September 22. I asked our young people to tell me, "What is the one most important thing that the church is supposed to be about? The one most important thing that Bethlehem has been all about for our first 100 years and will be about for our next 100 years?"

They gave some very good, though a little incomplete, answers, which is a testimony to our Sunday School and program of Christian Education (and, for some solid evidence of this, see pastor Gerald Ferguson's reflection on Page 9 about the story of Jesus). Then I asked Bishop Craig Satterlee, "What's the most important thing for the church to do?" He replied, "Share the story of Jesus!" We are to tell people about Jesus because EVERYONE needs a little Jesus. So, I gave all of our young people this 'little Jesus'. But, I did not stop there. Then I had them all take a second little Jesus to share with someone else, because everyone needs a little Jesus.



The story of what God has done for us in Jesus is the most important thing. I would love to hear YOUR story of Jesus! This is the focus on September 27 and 28 at our Life of Faith retreat at Bethlehem: Living Your Baptismal Promise. Living our baptismal promise means knowing our own spiritual autobiographies, sharing those stories with others 'who need a little Jesus' and then listening to how God has been active in their lives (again, see Page 9).

As we explore our spiritual autobiographies, the story of Jesus in our lives, some of the questions we will wrestle with are:

- Which people have had the greatest impact on your life?
- What religious and spiritual experiences have been most formative for you?
- Which spiritual metaphors and biblical stories are most meaningful to you?
- Where is God present and moving in your story?
- Where did you sense God walking with you, carrying you or waiting for you?

These are just some of the questions we will use in exploring the story of Jesus in our lives, because EVERYONE needs a little Jesus!

A New Century of Stewardship at Bethlehem: Equipping Stewards for the Life of Faith

¹¹ The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13 NRSV).

Oct. 20 – Equipped for a Purpose

Oct. 27 – Equipped to Serve

Nov. 10 – Equipped to Give

Nov. 17 – Commitment Sunday

TNT Begins Thursday, October 10, 6:15 pm

Reformation Sunday

We will be commemorating the Reformation that began October 31, 1517, on Sunday, October 27. Wear **RED** for worship on that day to symbolize the Holy Spirit who was at work in the reformers and is still at work in the Church today.

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
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(517) 881-9890

Assistant to The Pastor
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Congregation President
open seat

Organist
James Schippers
jameschippers@gmail.com

Choir Director
Sue Nelson
ntimothy1@att.net

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

10:00 - Worship - Holy Comm.
Sanctuary - in person
And LIVE Streaming on
YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/
@bethlehemworship126/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@bethlehemworship126/streams)

Worship in October 2024

Assisting Ministers

Oct. 6 - Bob Meeker
Oct. 13 - Susan Mahoney
Oct. 20 - Don Telles
Oct. 27 - Nancy Holderread

Children's Sermons

Oct. 6 - Pastor Matt Smith
Oct. 13 - Pastor John Burow
Oct. 20 - Pastor Matt Smith
Oct. 27 - Pastor Matt Smith



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

Under New Management

When a business such as a restaurant changes ownership, we may see a sign that reads, “Under New Management.” The restaurant will often change the menu, the service, and even the décor. The old restaurant is hardly recognizable. So it is with our lives in Christ. St. Paul writes, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. And the life that I now live in my body, I live by faith, indeed, by the faithfulness of God’s Son, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20)*. In essence, we live under new management. The old person trying to make it on their own is hardly recognizable as the new person in Jesus is created. “So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived” (2 Corinthians 5:17)! God is now in control of our lives. We have a new master and a new purpose: to live for Christ.

Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord of the world, alone meets our needs perfectly. His love, given as he sacrificed himself for the world conquering death and sin, is the “drawing power”—drawing us away from selfish desires and sinful habits and pulling us to real peace and joy in Christ. His love changes the direction of our lives from self to him who has made and redeemed us all. Living for Christ allows no room for self-love that denies the priority of God and of service to others both within and outside our congregation. The compelling love of Christ pulls us away from a gratification of our old nature and of sinful desires or of seeking security in earthly things and human ingenuity and strength. To continue the restaurant analogy, we are drawn to eating REAL food, Christ truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, not the processed foods that are so commonly served today.

God’s love is the energizing power so essential to every life. Christ’s love summons us to a secure and joyful life of repentance, forgiveness, and fruitful service. Indeed, “The love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: one died for the sake of all; therefore, all died” (2 Corinthians 5:14). Under Christ’s new management, Christ followers “live not for themselves but for the one who died for them and was raised” (2 Corinthians 5:15). As new people in Christ, we see our blessings as gifts from God that are to be used to serve God by loving and serving others. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we recognize our time, talents, and treasures as tools to be used in ways to advance God’s kingdom.

We do not wear signs that read, **Under New Management**, but our thoughts, deeds, and purpose give evidence to the new management. We have new attitudes and new actions.



*All scripture quotations are from the Common English Bible (CEB). The CEB is not simply a revision or update of an existing translation. It is a bold new translation designed to meet the needs of Christians as they work to build a strong and meaningful relationship with God through Jesus Christ. To learn more about the CEB, and to learn where you can get a copy visit <https://www.commonenglishbible.com>.

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.



Project Day was a SUCCESS! The following is a list of what we were able to assemble on August 21st: 15 baby care, 27 school, 19 personal care and 14 fabric kits, totaling 75 kits boxed and ready to ship. Thank you to all who came out to help assemble the kits!

Rummage Sale – October 1st -3rd. A truck has been lined up to pick up the leftover stuff on the last day. By the time you are reading this, the sale will have begun! We thank you for your donations and support of this BELCW fundraiser.

Blanket Sunday is October 6th. If you can help to box up quilts after worship, we would appreciate the help. Also with the number of awesome quilts that are made every year, the shipping boxes are heavy. Because of this, we need your help with shipping costs. If you would like to make a donation to help fund the cost of the quilt shipping, please make your check payable to BELCW and give it to Peggy Teter or mail it to 1854 Creek Landing, Haslett, MI 48840. We are so grateful for your generosity.

Sock It to Me Sunday - SOCK IT TO ME SUNDAY, October 13th - Love Clothing Center needs our help with the annual Sock It to Me Sunday. Since opening in 1989, at Judson Baptist Church, the Love Clothing Center has provided new underwear, socks, and new/used clothing for children and teens in Pre-K through 12th grade. With school beginning, the Love Clothing Center provides hundreds of pairs of socks to school aged children in need. Through the “**Sock It to Me Sunday**” donation drive, they hope to fill their bins and shelves with enough items to provide each child with 7 brand new pairs of socks this year. Please bring your donation of socks (all sizes and types) to church on October 13th to help this community ministry out! If you'd like to make a monetary donation (say If you forgot your socks), please make the check payable to Judson Baptist Church/Love Clothing Center. Thank you!

Upcoming Events:

10/1-10/3		RUMMAGE SALE	
10/02/24	TBD	Bible Study Leader Meeting	
10/05/24	9:30 AM	FAB	
10/06/24	10:00 AM	Blanket Sunday	
10/07/24	6:30 PM	Board Meeting	Zoom – Devotions: Tosha
10/09/24	9:00 AM	Quilting	
10/09/24	6:30 PM	Harmony Circle	
10/21/24	6:30 PM	Friendship Circle	L – Michelle H - Candy

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:

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
Ben Darling, Sparrow Hospital, Lansing

Those at home: *Kaye Alden, John Bartel, Virginia Bauman
Tosha Brisbo, Kelly Carpenter, Crystal Collins, 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 Community Police Officer, Morgan Schafer and other first responders.



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
Isaiah Castellanos – 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
Dayton Tucker – U.S. Marines



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
INVOLVED IN MAKING OUR
100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
A SUCCESS!!!
THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WORK
THAT EACH OF YOU
PUT IN TO BETHLEHEM'S CELEBRATION
OF THE LAST 100 YEARS OF MINISTRY!!
IT TAKES A TEAM! THANK YOU FOR COOKING
DINNER, MAKING COOKIES, SETTING UP, CLEANING, AND
GETTING EVERYTHING DECORATED
WITH MEMORABILIA FROM THE LAST 100 YEARS.
HERE'S TO BETHLEHEM'S NEXT 100 YEARS OF MINISTRY!!
THANKS BE TO GOD!**

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 2024

<u>01</u> James 5:13-20	<u>08</u> Hebrews 1:1-2:12	<u>16</u> Matthew 6:24-34	<u>24</u> Acts 9:10-19
<u>02</u> Matthew 5:9	<u>09</u> 1 Peter 4:7-11	<u>17</u> Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	<u>25</u> Philippians 3:7-11
<u>03</u> Psalm 4	<u>10</u> Proverbs 13:20	<u>18</u> Proverbs 3:1-6	<u>26</u> Psalm 91:9-16
<u>04</u> 2 Thess. 3:16-17	<u>11</u> 1 Thess. 5:1-11	<u>19</u> Psalm 90:12-17	<u>27</u> John 8:31-36
<u>05</u> Psalm 19:7-14	<u>12</u> Psalm 8	<u>20</u> Mark 10:35-45	<u>28</u> Jeremiah 31:31-34
<u>06</u> Mark 10:2-16	<u>13</u> Mark 10:17-31	<u>21</u> Isaiah 53:4-12	<u>29</u> Romans 3:19-28
<u>07</u> Genesis 2:18-24	<u>14</u> Amos 5:6-10	<u>22</u> Hebrews 5:1-10	<u>30</u> Ephesians 2:1-10
	<u>15</u> Hebrews 4:12-16	<u>23</u> Matthew 11:1-6	<u>31</u> Galatians 2:15-20



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Jim Koessel	Oct. 2
Ellie Ibarra	Oct. 4
Ralph Sergent	Oct. 5
Sue Christiansen	Oct. 6
Cloyd Barnes	Oct. 10
Rhoda Hunter	Oct. 13
Lura Randall	Oct. 16
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.

BELC NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Rummage Sale Dates

The sale dates are:

Tuesday, October 1, 5:30-8:00pm,
Wednesday, October 2, 9:00-7:30 pm,
Thursday, October 3, bag day, 9:00-11:00 am
We will need workers and baked goods,
sign-up sheets are posted in the gym.

Drop off starts:
Saturday, September 28, 9-4pm
Sunday, September 29, 10-4:30pm
Monday, September 30, 9-7:30pm



The Listening Life



Adult Forum: The Listening Life

Each Sunday at 9 a.m. in the library we will continue 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.

Wedding Committee

We are looking for several to assist with our committee.

We assist the bride and wedding party
to make sure their special day runs smoothly.

It is a small commitment, it's fun, beautiful, and very much appreciated by the family.

Please talk to Audrey Olson or Sue Christiansen for more details.

OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PICTURES



Pastor Matt Smith & Bishop Craig Satterlee



Past Pastors entering for worship



All Church Hallelujah chorus



All Church Picture

100th Anniversary Reflection: Bethlehem.....A people.....

Our Bishop, Rev. Craig Satterlee encourages us that this ministry that we share as the church needs to be all about Jesus..... that we as disciples.....are to be about telling the story of Jesus....So I have a Jesus story to tell you.....

When Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of God.....He took a child in his arms.....and blessed that child and said to all those gathered.....to such belongs the kingdom of God.....

In many ways...I can identify with that child...a child Jesus swept up in his arms... who holding that child on his lap... shared with all those gathered around him...to one such as this...the least likely among you...belongs the kingdom of God.

Such is the story of Jesus....that I have experienced first hand....in a place we call Bethlehem, among a gathering of faith-filled people...who embraced Jesus' words... it is my story of Jesus....in which I have been the blessed one.....It is here at Bethlehem, sitting in the lap of Jesus that I have come to realize that the blessing of Bethlehem by it's namesake (House of Bread) is more than just a house, it is a home, among a people where the aroma of bread fills the air.

Bethlehem.....a people from my experience, who gathers the children and youth into their arms..... who through music and sports..... Sunday School..... Vacation Bible School...musicals...and sleepovers on the gym floor.....loves and blesses.....making this place our home away from home...a place to play.....a welcomed place..... to spend a moment in the lap of Jesus.....for the least of us.....

Bethlehem, a people..... where a kid...is able to tag along with his dad.....to help wax the gym floors with grown men....such as Leo Frandsen.....a kid... given a paint brush to paint the walls of Sunday school classrooms..... a kid.... allowed by the council president Carr Baldwin to mow the church lawn...a kid given a place at the table at the Men's Breakfast to sit among the church elders.....because the gifts of kids need to be embraced

Bethlehem, a people where someone just confirmed in the faith.....is valued to teach Sunday School.....being able to tell the story of Jesus....to peers and even younger generations.....in the same way I had heard the stories of Jesus from those like Joe and Edna Miniere and Maralee Franzen...and so many others.....who taught me the story of Jesus....

Bethlehem, a people where with the encouragement of Pastor Jim Schalkhauser...and many other leaders at that time..... invites a young teenager to serve on a Church Board, Council, and be Superintendent of Sunday School.....giving its youth a voice.....in the life of the congregation.

Bethlehem, a people where a ride...with Pastor E.H Schalkhauser (Pastor Rusty)...to a synod assembly...would put in the mind of a young man...the possibility of becoming a pastor...and serving the church...to which every excuse to such a thought an impossibility...was relentlessly matched by why it was possible...because that is how the Spirit works.

Bethlehem, a people who takes it upon themselves....to further the ministry of this church beyond these walls to support someone like me....through Capital University and Trinity Seminary.....

Bethlehem, a people among whom I would meet my future wife.....in which many Bethlehem people.....such as Dorothy and Don Martin, Sandy and Dick Rollis and Sandy and Jack Midgely along with so many others.....who took it upon themselves to become matchmakers.....forSusie and I.

You know, some years ago, someone said...It takes a village to raise a child...I truly believe that to be true. Such has been my experience!

You were that village for me growing upalong with my family, parents and grandparents, a place to be able to sit on the lap of Jesus and be blessed...experiencing all that the Kingdom of God is about...which was much more a home than a place or a house...

Such is the village...my story of Jesus...that is my story of faith... that having been blessed here at Bethlehem, sitting on Jesus' lap.....has encouraged me to take the story of Jesus...and share it with others.....much in the same way that I experienced it among the faith-filled people gathered together as Bethlehem.....a story that continues to be shared and which has encouraged ministry outside these walls.....for the last 34 years.....in serving 4 other congregations I have been blessed to be a part of..... along with working in our synod, the greater church.....through agencies such as Samaritas, Habitat for Humanity and Mission teams.

Although, I can only share with you.....my own story of Jesus, from my own experience, I know my story is only one of manythere are so many other stories of Jesus, from so many of you, who like me have sat in the lap of Jesus in this place, among a people we know as Bethlehem, and you too have been blessed to be a blessing to others.....

I give thanks today to God...for Bethlehem, a house and a home which continues to invite us into the lap of Jesus....to be blessed again and again alongside all those who have come through this place.....among a people who have been able to smell the aroma of the bread in the air...sharing and experiencing what the kingdom of God is all about... and encouraging us to go out into the world.....to share and to serve.....

Such is that aroma of bread...which lingers in all of us...an aroma which even today calls people to come and smell the bread of Bethlehem so that they too might be fed by the stories of Jesus...together as we celebrate...let us be reminded that we are...Blessed to be a blessing...sharing the story of Jesus...but more importantly sharing our personal story of Jesus.....

I would love to hear your Jesus story, Pastor Gerald Ferguson

Bethlehem Star

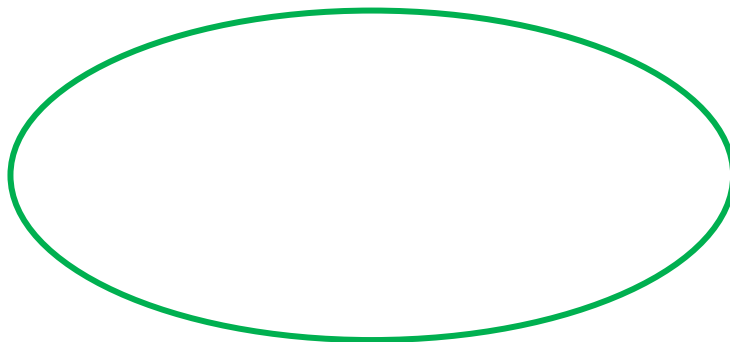
Lutheran Church Lansing



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2024 OCTOBER

Newsletter Deadline is **October 15**
for the **November 2024** Bethlehem Star.

Also available at
www.bethlutheran.org

In-Home Date: Monday, September 30, 2024
Mailed on September 26 2024

