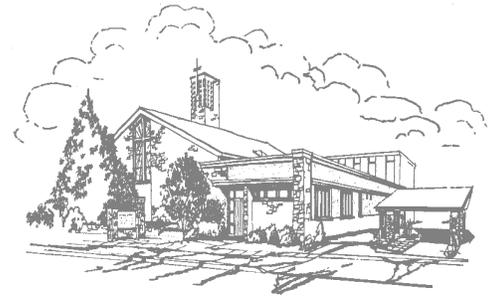


Bethlehem Star

Lutheran Church Lansing



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lansing, Michigan

Pastor John Burow

June / July 2022

Oh, the Characters We Meet in Luke

Following our celebration of Pentecost, June 5th and our glimpse into the mystery and majesty of the Holy Trinity on June 12th, we will meet characters in Luke's Gospel, some even stranger than we are. Seeing how Jesus responds to these folks may help us better live into our life in Christ as individual believers and as a Church. Here is the line-up of characters for the Sundays of the Pentecost Season through July:

June 19: Luke 8:26-39 - *A man possessed by a mob of demons*



June 26: Luke 9:51-62 – *A potential mass killing and 3 would be disciples*

July 3: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 – *72 missionaries with little baggage and Good News*



Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house."
Luke 10:5

July 10: Luke 10:25-37 – *A mugging victim and a compassionate outsider*

June 17: Luke 10:38-42 – *Two sisters with conflicting priorities*



June 24: Luke 11:1-13 – *An unexpected guest, an empty pantry and persistence*

June 31: Luke 12:13-21 – *A rich, terminal fool*



You may wish to keep this article on hand, using the Gospel readings for each Sunday to stir your imaginations and to suggest connections to our life in Christ. I would be delighted to hear of your ponderings. Best way to do that is to email me at pastorjburow@yahoo.com. May the Holy Spirit bring comfort, guidance, renewal, motivation and shalom as we attend eagerly to the Word of God/Word of Life.

Worship in June 2022

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

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

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

Congregation President
Laurey Wyble

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

10:00 - Worship - Holy Comm.
Sanctuary - in person
And LIVE Streaming on
YouTube and on Facebook at
BELC Worship Group

Assisting Ministers

June 5 - Bob Meeker
June 12 - Susan Mahoney
June 19 - Don Telles
June 26 - Nancy Holderread

Children's Sermons

June 5 - Pastor John Burow
June 12 - Liisa Whitman
June 19 - Pastor John Burow
June 26 - Cindy Marsh

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

Dear Members of Bethlehem,

On Sunday March 20, 2022, we resumed worship service with some changes that we have all been long awaiting over the last two plus years. Council and church leadership relaxed some of the protocols that have been necessary to keep our congregation safe and allow us to begin the feeling of a more normal worship service. We did not have to sign in at the door, masks were optional except for singing, Holy Communion was given at the rail for those that were comfortable with that, the choir sang in the choir loft, we did not have a plexiglass panel separating us from our pastors, and while it was still guarded sharing the peace was a little more engaging.

It was an incredibly meaningful service and for me quite emotional. Being able to take Holy Communion was something that I have missed in many ways. A time for solemn reflection and remembering what it means. I am not afraid to say that it brought tears to my eyes and I imagine it might have been the same for others. I am so looking forward to serving as a Communion assistant again when that time comes. The main reason I wanted to reach out to you is because this is the time for us all to think about what Bethlehem means to each of us and the fellowship we share that has been a huge void in our lives for far too long. That day was also the first Sunday of live-streaming the service with the new audio visual equipment that has been purchased and installed. This new process allows those that are homebound, those that are out of town, those that are recovering from health issues, or any other reason, to worship with those in attendance physically at the very same time. It allows us to be as one whether we are in the building or somewhere else. It is an important service that is being offered to those in need, but it cannot replace the experience of being in worship in person. The feeling of peace and solemnness of worship can never be and should never be replaced by being anywhere else but the sanctuary.

My prayer is that those members able to attend worship in person will begin to come back and get involved in all the good works and mission work we do. We might be a little rusty and things might not be as smooth as they used to be, but it won't take long for us to forget we were ever away. It may take a little longer for some of us to feel comfortable being in a large group and that is fine. Everyone should do what they feel is right for them.

Many things have changed in our lives in the past couple of years and some things may never be the same. It is part of life and we will have to adjust and do the best we can to move on and thrive. The one thing that hasn't changed is the fact that Bethlehem has survived and doing all it can to bring us back together where we belong and want so much to be. This is a special place and there is nowhere that I would rather call my church home and my church family.

May God continue to bless each of you and Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Thank you,
Jim Whitman
Immediate Past President

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 John directly at 517-614-4559.

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
John Ransom in Burcham Hills, East Lansing
Lois Cairns in Sparrow hospital, Lansing

Those at home: *Mary Ann Allen, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo, Crystal Collins, Doug Griffin, Emma Hicks, Marilyn Bass-Huyser, Nancy Jackson, Marilyn Kostrzewski, Kurt Kollmeyer, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Gloria Robbins, Carol Roush, Connie Scott, Audrey Skidmore, 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.

SEMINARY GRADUATE Jason Mills, from BELC, has graduated from United Theological Seminary. Please keep him in your prayers.

MISSION PARTNERS Pray for the people and ministry at Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Pray for the Baker Neighborhood Partners and Officer Sam Kandel, LPD Community Police Officer and other first responders.



Pastoral Acts:

Funerals:

Marian Wilford
Doris Anderson

April 28, 2022
April 30, 2022

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

Chris Browne – U.S. Air Force
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



THIS YEAR'S GRADUATES



Our graduates will be recognized at the 10:00 service of worship on Sunday, June 12, 2022. Names of graduates connected with Bethlehem and the schools and colleges from which they are graduating should be given to the church by Wednesday, June 1, 2022. Thank you!

There are bibles on the table in the gym for everyone to sign and give encouraging words or scripture verses for our Bethlehem Graduates of 2022.

Justyn Prowdley, Ava Meeker, Madelyn Smith

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.

*****SAVE THE DATE*****

**Wednesday, August 17, at 4:30
BELCW Project Day.**

More info to follow in August newsletter.

THANKOFFERINGS

Gratitude glorifies God. This alone would be reason to give thanks (Thankoffering) to God. Our gratitude glorifies God as we exalt not the gifts, but the Giver. Gratitude helps us realize, that all we have, comes, not because of us, but from 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

JUNE 2022			
<u>01</u> Romans 8:26-30	<u>08</u> Acts 1:6-11	<u>16</u> Proverbs 19:20	<u>24</u> Ephesians 4:1-6
<u>02</u> Romans 8:31-39	<u>09</u> Psalm 51:10-12	<u>17</u> Romans 11:33-36	<u>25</u> Psalm 22:19-28
<u>03</u> Hebrews 7:22-28	<u>10</u> Ephesians 4:25-32	<u>18</u> Psalm 8	<u>26</u> Luke 9:51-62
<u>04</u> Psalm 97	<u>11</u> Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	<u>19</u> Luke 8:26-39	<u>27</u> 1 Kings 19:15-21
<u>05</u> John 14:8-17, 25-27	<u>12</u> John 16:12-15	<u>20</u> Isaiah 65:1-9	<u>28</u> Philippians 2:1-11
<u>06</u> Acts 2:1-21	<u>13</u> Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	<u>21</u> Galatians 3:23-29	<u>29</u> Philippians 2:1-11
<u>07</u> Romans 8:14-17	<u>14</u> Romans 5:1-5	<u>22</u> 1 Corinth. 1:10-17	<u>30</u> Deut. 15:7-11
	<u>15</u> Luke 2:41-52	<u>23</u> 1 Corinth. 13:11-13	

JULY 2022			
<u>01</u> 1 John 3:11-24	<u>08</u> 2 Thess. 3:16-18	<u>16</u> Psalm 25:1-10	<u>24</u> Luke 11:1-13
<u>02</u> Psalm 16	<u>09</u> Psalm 66:1-9	<u>17</u> Luke 10:38-42	<u>25</u> Genesis 18:20-32
<u>03</u> Luke 10:1-20	<u>10</u> Luke 10:25-37	<u>18</u> Genesis 18:1-10	<u>26</u> Colossians 2:6-19
<u>04</u> Isaiah 66:10-14	<u>11</u> Deut. 30:9-14	<u>19</u> Colossians 1:15-28	<u>27</u> Psalm 143:7-12
<u>05</u> Galatians 6:1-16	<u>12</u> Colossians 1:1-14	<u>20</u> Proverbs 8:32-36	<u>28</u> 1 John 5:13-20
<u>06</u> Hebrews 12:14-17	<u>13</u> 1 Corinth. 10:24-11:1	<u>21</u> Isaiah 28:23-26	<u>29</u> Proverbs 3:21-26
<u>07</u> Psalm 29	<u>14</u> Hebrew 13:1-6	<u>22</u> James 1:19-25	<u>30</u> Psalm 138
	<u>15</u> Romans 15:1-6	<u>23</u> Psalm 15	<u>31</u> Luke 12:13-21

JUNE / JULY BIRTHDAYS		Happy Birthday
Nancy Jackson	June 4	<p>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.</p> 
Patrick Dolan	June 7	
Sharon Drake	June 7	
Sandra Midgley	June 9	
Barbara Goris	June 10	
Tim Nelson	June 12	
Audrey Skidmore	June 12	
Margo Devine	June 13	
Dennis Hunt	June 15	
Michael Kosloski	June 17	
Rick Ransom	June 18	
John Bedford Jr.	June 22	
Barb Leonard	June 22	
Peggy Teter	June 23	
John Ransom	June 27	
Marjean Hefke	June 29	
Ferris (Mike) Kosloski	July 5	
Bruce Large	July 5	
Tharin Palmer	July 6	
Ronald Wescott	July 6	
Jon Wilford	July 8	
Crystal Collins	July 9	
Barbara Raia	July 15	
Bonnie Woods	July 15	
Lou Henkel	July 23	
Dave Holderread	July 23	
Virginia Bauman	July 31	

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

"In advance of the **Congregational Meeting on June 5**, please prayerfully consider offering your time and abilities to serve on one of the church Boards. As it is said

"God's work, Our hands"

Opportunities are available, with various terms of commitment. If you would like additional information, please contact a Board member, Council member, or speak with Laurey Wyble the Congregation President. Our Boards provide direction, based on input from all of us, to facilitate all aspects of our congregational life and service. Please pause to consider how you can contribute and thanks!"



Thank you!!

Dear Bethlehem Friends:

I was humbled to receive so many prayers for a successful surgery. I want to thank each and everyone of you who prayed for me, sent cards or phone calls or texts. The surgery was successful and I am cancer free! Big thank you to Pastor John for his prayer before my surgery and for coming to the hospital to be with Ken and Angie during my surgery, it meant a lot to us. I am also very thankful to our God for all He has done for Ken and I. We are truly blessed to be part of such a caring congregation at Bethlehem. This is another gift from God.

Again, thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

With Christian Love,

Peggy Teter

Bethlehem Star

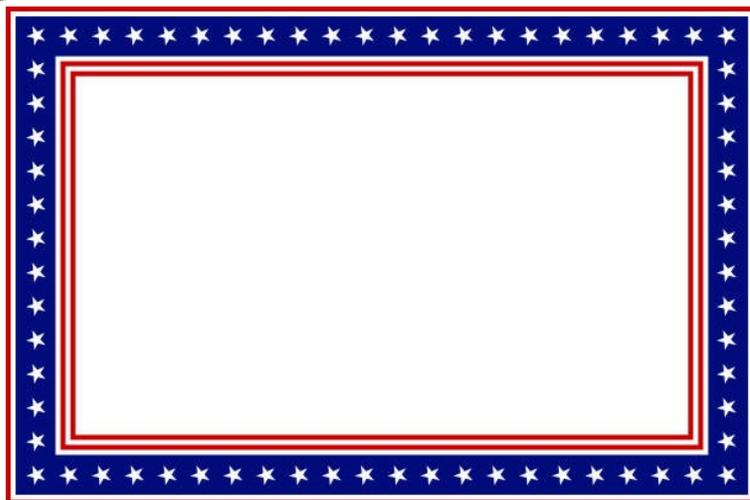
Lutheran Church Lansing



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June / July 2022

Newsletter Deadline is **July 15**
for the **August 2022 Bethlehem Star**.

Also available at
www.bethlutheran.org

In-Home Date: Saturday, May 28 2022
Mailed on May 25, 2022

