



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



Worship Service – 10:00
September 8, 2024

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Dear Lord Jesus, we ask for your blessing as we feast upon your Word of Life today. We pray for the gift of a stronger faith and for power to live the Christian life. Help us to show our thanks in greater love and service to you, and in greater love toward others. Hear our prayer, O Lord. 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 the Westover's, and by Duane Berger and Ann Gienapp in celebration of their wedding here on Saturday, September 7.

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 Saron Lutheran Church in St. Joseph, Michigan, Supply Pastors.

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
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor John Burow
ACOLYTE – Andrew Goff
LAY READER – Annabel Halbakken, Abigail Brisbo
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mary Bartel, Kris Burow
GREETERS – Bob & Sue Christiansen
USHERS – Phil Hassler, Jim Koessel, Ralph Sergent
ALTAR GUILD – Kris & John Burow, Faith Halbakken
A/V PRODUCTION – David Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Meeker, Kevin Peckham, David Westover

Our Thoughts &
Prayers
are with...



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)

EUCHARISTIC 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.

PARISH NOTES

TODAY IS MISSION SUNDAY Gifts received in a special mission offering will be given to the Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministry at the Pine Ridge Retreat Center in South Dakota. If you are viewing this bulletin electronically, click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

CHURCH PICNIC/RALLY SUNDAY IS TODAY Following the Church Picnic and Potluck in the Social Hall. Bring a dish or two to pass and your own table service. There will be games for all ages! Our first day of Sunday School is September 15 at 8:45 a.m. Hope to see you all there!

THE SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE The fall schedule begins on Sunday, September 15, with services at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday Church School classes and Second Breakfast (for high school aged youth) at 8:45 a.m. and Adult Forum at 9:00 a.m. in the Library.

ADULT FORUM: THE LISTENING LIFE Next Sunday at 9 am in the Library, we begin 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.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS FOR BELC'S 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Yellow and white Fall "mum" plants are being ordered for worship on Sunday, September 22. Signup sheets to order plants are located on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Plants are \$14.00 each. If paying with cash please complete one of the envelopes located with the sign-up sheets. Deadline to order is September 8, and payment should be given to Kris Burow.

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.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY, WEDNESDAY 9:11 This is a quick note to ask you to please keep the Mobile Food Pantry ministry in your prayers, and to thank all of you who have volunteered your service over the years, and followed the example of Jesus who said "... you gave me food", whenever the poor are fed (Matthew 25:31-46). But we do MORE than that: We not give food, but kindness and respect to our guests, who often feel "invisible" in this world, AND to each other, by our words and actions. In recognition of all of our efforts, we will be having a "thank you" pizza party, following the October 10th distribution. Anyone who is, or has been, or would like to be involved in this ministry is welcome. Details will follow..... With respect and gratitude, Dave Ware

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.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION We will be reseiving new members into the fellowship of BELC on Sunday, September 29. If you are interested in joining, or would just like more information about Bethlehem, please join us on Saturday, September 14, at 9:00 a.m. for our New Member Orientation. Please call the church office to let us know that you are planning to attend (517) 482-3225.

Thought for the Week

“The preacher might invite listeners to think about where the focus of their congregational life and activity is found. Spiritual nourishment for the faithful is of course essential, but the congregation’s mission cannot end there. Like Jesus himself, his disciples are continually called to a larger vision of mission — one that aims to embrace the outsider, the stranger, even the enemy.”

– Rev. Elisabeth Johnson, Pastor, Interim Ministry, Twin Cities, MN (workingpreacher.org)

ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance 9/1/24: 55 in-person and 34 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 *My brothers and sisters, when you show favoritism you deny the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ. - James 2:1* An aspect of Christ-centered stewardship is welcoming others based on their worth in God’s eyes and on our capacity to be for them a blessing.

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!



THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Sept. 8	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
		Rally Sunday / Church Picnic
MONDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:30p	BELCW Board Meeting
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	5:00p	Board of Worship Life
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:00a	Quilting
	1:00p	Mobile Food Pantry
	6:30p	Board of Buildings and Grounds
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
FRIDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
SATURDAY	9:30a	F.A.B. Meets
	10:00a	New Member Orientation
SUNDAY, Sept. 15	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Peggy Teter, Carol Pride
USHERS – Ron Miller, David Westover
ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Dorothy Martin, Don Telles
LAY READER – Jessica Martin
ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin

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

“GOOD ANSWER!” [JESUS]
SAID. “GO ON HOME. THE
DEMON HAS ALREADY LEFT
YOUR DAUGHTER.”

MARK 7:29



Living Your Baptismal Promise

a new century of mission and ministry

(A Life of Faith Initiative Retreat)

Living Your Baptismal Promise Join us on September 27-28 for a time to step away, to remember, connect and claim the promises made at our Baptism. In Baptism we were named, claimed, washed, gifted and called to share God's love into the world. As we begin a new century in mission and ministry: What does this mean for daily life?

Deacon Tammy Devine, retreat facilitator, will walk with us to name and claim our gifts, remember the baptismal promises made, and invite us to share our next faithful step in sharing God's good news.

Sign up TODAY in the Social Hall.

When: Friday, September 27, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Saturday, September 28, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: Bethlehem Lutheran

Why: Celebrate and Claim our Baptismal Identify

How: A Congregational Opportunity as we move into another century of mission and ministry

Who: All



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