



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
October 22, 2023

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Almighty and gracious God, I thank you for the many gifts that you give me and especially, now, the privilege of being in this sacred place to worship and praise you. Bless me in this hour so that I may be renewed in spirit, empowered and ready to serve you in the days and week ahead. In Jesus' name I 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 flowers are given to the Glory of God BELC.

TAKING FAITH HOME Find a copy on Facebook in the BELC Worship Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/belcworship/>).

PORTALS OF PRAYER Oct. – Dec. 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 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Holland, Michigan, Rev. Jessica Rivera-Walker.

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 – Don Telles
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matthew A. Smith
ACOLYTES – Kylee Nelson, Sabrina Prowdley
LAY READER – Sandra Westover
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mila Thompson, Peggy Teter
GREETERS – David Westover, Sandra Westover
USHERS – David Snider, Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler
ALTAR GUILD – Cindy Marsh, Michelle Smith
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 Grand Haven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing
Rhoda Hunter in Prestige Way on Keller Road in Holt
Pat Lebsack in The Willows, East Lansing
John Bartel in Sparrow Hospital

Those at home: *Kaye Alden, Marilyn Bass-Huyser, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo, Lois Cairns, Crystal Collins, Joann Dyer, Emma Hicks, Nancy Jackson, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Carol Roush, Connie Scott, Audrey Skidmore, Betty VanConant, 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)
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)

FIRST NAMES ONLY? 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.

PARISH NOTES

LIVING WISELY IN AN UNWISE WORLD This is the first week in our stewardship emphasis **Living Wisely in An Unwise World**. Our theme for today is "Following God's Wisdom." Through faith, we know that the wisdom of the world is focused on ourselves and is "earthly, unspiritual, [and] devilish" (James 3:15). The world's wisdom appeals to the senses and emotions. In contrast, God's wisdom is focused on glorifying God and is Christ-centered. In James 3:17 we read, "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy." God freely and willingly offers us wisdom (James 1:5). With God's help, we can follow God's Wisdom.

WEAR RED ON REFORMATION SUNDAY! Red is a liturgical color reserved for special days (Pentecost, etc.), and for Martyrs' Days. **Next Sunday is Reformation Sunday, October 29**, and is one of those special days. The focus of Reformation Sunday is not on Martin Luther, but rather on justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. That is the heritage of the Reformation, because that is the heart of the Bible and the Church.

SERVICE OF "PRAYER FOR HEALING" During worship service on Sunday, October 29, and every 5th Sunday going forward, we will have a Prayer for Healing during worship service after you receive communion.

Lansing SAVE Next Sunday, October 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.

ADULT FORUM – "IT'S ABOUT JESUS" Join us Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. to explore and share our experiences of Jesus. We have shared the music and people who nourish our faith and usher us into God's loving presence. In the coming weeks we will explore obstacles, favorite Gospel stories, moments of faith and so much more. Perhaps, if we act as if we are eager for these loving conversations, we will discover how significant and beautiful they can be.

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.

FALL CLEAN-UP The Board of Buildings & Ground is inviting anyone who would like to help clean up the outside of the church building to join us on Saturday, October 28 at 9:00 a.m. We will be doing leaves and other sprucing up. Please bring your own yard tools and gloves. Many hands will help get the work done sooner. The BB's will provide coffee and doughnuts. Thank you!

PRAY & GO On the display board in the lobby you'll find the map of our progress, instructions on joining the effort, stakes and yard signs. If you'd like to join us in prayer, we are asking for 45 minutes of your time on a Sunday afternoon (or any other time that works in your schedule). Help us bless our community with the light and love of Christ through revitalizing prayer.



GOING SOLAR? Solar Faithful, an organization that facilitates installing Solar Power for congregations and other non-profits, is conducting a webinar hosted by our Synod's Environmental Stewardship Task Force, Thursday, 7 p.m., October 26th. Join us to learn about Solar Faithful and how your congregation can install clean, renewable solar power and do your part to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change, while saving money on your utility bills. To register go to Bethlehem's website and click on this connection: <https://bit.ly/468ZUeT>
If that does not work, email pastorjburow@yahoo.com and he will send you the link.

AUDIO VISUAL ASSISTANCE Are you willing to be trained to fill in as an Audio/Visual Assistant? We need people to assist on Sundays, but especially during the week for funerals and other mid-week services as needed. If you are retired and looking for a new way to serve, here is your chance! Contact David Holderread if you are interested.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

GODLY WISDOM INVOLVES MORE THAN HEAD KNOWLEDGE; IT MEANS TO WALK IN GOD'S WAYS.

"Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path, for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul" (Proverbs 2:9-10).

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 81 in-person, 44 people viewed the 10/15/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS *Following God's Wisdom* - In this morning's powerful parable, Jesus assures us that those who "invest" their lives in ways that anticipate God's reign both honor and please God. What are the "treasures" of time, resources, relationships and opportunities that could be put into loving service?

SENSORY TOOL KIT 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 Iso-flex Ball, a Tangle Jr., a Magic Snake, and six other items. If you cannot locate it, please ask an usher.

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!

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Peggy Teter

USHERS – Dee Bernardi, Jim Whitman, Don Romain

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Dorothy Martin, Tim Nelson,

Susan Mahoney, Vicki Leighton

LAY READER – Abigail Brisbo

ACOLYTE – Zella Brisbo

ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Oct. 22	8:45a	Sunday School
	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:00a	Ukrainian Egg Making
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	TNT
FRIDAY	6:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
SUNDAY, Oct. 29	8:45a	Sunday School
Reformation	9:00a	Adult Forum
Sunday	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion

**AS CHRISTIANS, WE TRUST IN
THE WISDOM OF GOD,
NOT IN OUR OWN WISDOM.**

“And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’” (Isaiah 30:21).



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

**Give therefore ... to God
the things that are God's.**

Matthew 22:21, NRSV

