



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



Worship Service – 10:00
October 29, 2023

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

God of history, of the past, we celebrate today the lives of men and women everywhere who followed you and sought to reform your church. God of history, of the present, we thank you for your spirit that works among us today. God of history, of the future, inspire your whole church; inspire us to be ever sensitive to your calling and to the needs of those around us. May we each be willing, for your sake and the sake of your church, to reform our very lives. 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 Peace Lutheran Church in Holland Michigan, Rev. Clay Bates.

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 – Crystal Collins
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matthew A. Smith
ACOLYTE – Zella Brisbo
LAY READER – Abigail Brisbo
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Dorothy Martin, Vicki Leighton,
Keitha Snider, Tim Nelson
GREETER – Peggy Teter
USHERS – Dee Bernardi, Jim Whitman, Don Romain
ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin
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 & John Burow 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, Sandy Rollis, 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 MOST OF THE TIME) The complete
names of people for whom we're praying will no longer be used in the
prayers of intercession during worship. This change will help to
preserve individual privacy in online streaming. If you submit a prayer
card with full names, the entire name is likely to be prayed.

PARISH NOTES

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY We extend our deepest sympathy to the
family and friends of Debra Taylor, sister of Connie Meeker, who died
October 23, 2023. May God comfort those who mourn with the promise of
eternal life for all those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.

WE COMMEMORATE THE FESTIVAL OF REFORMATION

Luther's hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is our God", is traditionally sung on
this day. The official day of the Reformation is October 31. The fact
Reformation Day coincides with Halloween is not coincidence.
Halloween, being the Eve of All Saints' Day, might have been an
entirely appropriate day for Luther to post his 95 Theses against
indulgences; since the castle church would be open on All Saints' Day,
for people to view large collections of relics. The viewing of these relics
was said to promise a reduction in time in purgatory, similar to that of
the purchase of an indulgence. Dr. Luther may have been shrewd in his
choice of that day to post his Theses. We seek to consider how reform is
necessary in our individual lives and in the life of the Church.

COMMUNION BREAD With the help of the Board of Worship Life,
we have begun using Communion Bread that is totally gluten free, so,
there will be no more gluten free wafers. Now, everyone in our
congregation will receive the Body of Christ from the same loaf.

SERVICE OF "PRAYER FOR HEALING" During worship service
today, and every 5th Sunday going forward, we will have a time of
Prayer for Healing. If you would like a prayer, please fill out the prayer
card from your bulletin. Bring it with you during communion. Give the
card to the person that comes to pray with you. The card will be
returned to you after the prayer for your confidentiality.

Living Wisely in An Unwise World The theme for this week in our
stewardship emphasis is "Using Time Wisely" which is an art at which
we would all like to become proficient. As God's stewards, we are
called to use the gift of time wisely. The Apostle Paul reminds us how
we should spend our time and where to place our focus: "We look not at
what can be seen but at what cannot be seen, for what can be seen is
temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:18).
Whatever the length of time God gives us we are to make use of it to
bring God glory. "Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making
the most of the time" (Colossians 4:5). May the Holy Spirit fill us and
flow through us as we seek to be the stewards God in Christ has called
us to be. The theme in two weeks is "Becoming Money Wise."

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY On All Saints Sunday, November 5, we will remember the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us in the faith. If you are grieving the loss of a friend or family member from the past 12 months, we would like to remember them during the worship service. Call the church office by Thursday November 2, to include their name in worship.

Lansing SAVE Today is our 5th Sunday offering. There are now 192 children in our group of students, from BELC and the Baker Neighborhood. Please give electronically by clicking on the “Online Giving” link on our website (www.tinyurl.com/BELCGiving) or mail your contribution to the church.

TIME & TALENTS On the table in the Social Hall are additional Time & Talents forms. After you fill one out, please place in the basket.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER GRID Posted on the wall in the lobby by the phone is the GRID for November and December. There are copies on the table in the gym labeled for you to pick up. Thank you.

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.

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.



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

IF WE DO NOT PLAN WISELY, WE OFTEN FIND OURSELVES ASKING THE QUESTION, “WHERE DID THE TIME GO?”

“Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15-16).

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 74 in-person, 34 people viewed the 10/22/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS *“Using Time Wisely” - You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.*

~ Matthew 22:37-39

Which of your activities align with this Great Commandment? How might love grow in your life?

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. 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 – Christina Raia and Family

USHERS – Don Cairns, Cloyd Barnes

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Peggy Teter, Mary Bartel

LAY READER – Vicki Leighton

ACOLYTES – Mila Thompson, Sabrina Prowdley

ALTAR GUILD – Sue & Bob Christiansen

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Oct. 29	8:45a	Sunday School
Reformation	9:00a	Adult Forum
Sunday	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
	11:30a	Anniversary Meeting
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	TNT
FRIDAY	6:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
SATURDAY	9:30a	F.A.B. meets
SUNDAY, Nov. 5	8:45a	Sunday School
All Saints Sunday	9:00a	Adult Forum
Thankoffering	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion

Living Wisely in An Unwise World: Using Time Wisely

ARE YOU SPENDING TIME WITH JESUS, OR ARE YOU LIKE MARTHA IN BETHANY WHO WAS DISTRACTED BY THE DEMANDS OF THE DAY?

“But the Lord answered her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her’” (Luke 10:41-42).



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



Luther Posting His Ninety-Five Theses