



Worship Service – 9:30  
October 25, 2020

549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48910  
517-482-3225  
[www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org)



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Marv & Laura Halbakken in celebration of Art & Joanna Alvera's wedding anniversary.

**ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN** Our Children's Worship Bulletin is available for Download on the BELC Worship Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/belcworship/>).

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

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** October - December booklets are available on the Welcome Table in the lobby. If you would like a copy, call the church office at 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 Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Traverse City and The Rocky Mountain Synod in Denver Colorado.

**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 make an online contribution. If you would like to create an account, go to the Printables page on the BELC website for instructions.

### **THOSE WHO SERVE IN OUR WORSHIP**

PASTORS – Rev. Matthew Smith, Rev. John Burow

ORGANIST & HANDBELL DIRECTOR – James Schippers

CHOIR DIRECTOR – Sue Nelson

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP DIRECTOR – Laurey Wyble

ALTAR GUILD – Kris Burow

ASSISTING MINISTER – Bob Meeker

CHILDRENS SERMON – Vicki Leighton

SOUND SYSTEM – Dave Holderread, Kevin Peckham

Jon Holderread

## 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 a message at [pastormattsmith@gmail.com](mailto:pastormattsmith@gmail.com) or call the church office at 482-3225.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Bethlehem Lutheran is a praying church; this is one of our Marks of Discipleship. For prayers that you would like included in Sunday worship, please visit [www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org) or click [HERE](#) for a direct link to send a prayer request to Pastor Matt.

Include an address if you'd like the person named in your request notified of the prayer offered on their behalf.

# Our Thoughts & Prayers are with...



**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** and with your cards and visits:

*Shelby Waters in The Willows at Okemos*

*Rhoda Hunter in Holt Senior Care and Rehab Center*

**Those at home:** *Mary Ann Allen, Virginia Bauman, Mary Brenke  
Marv Cole, Crystal Collins, Ruth Ferguson, Doug Griffin  
Ernie Hassell, Jim Hicks Carole Kienke, Kurt Kollmeyer  
Marilyn Kostrzewski, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan  
Teri Meeker, John Nelson, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer  
John Ransom, Gloria Robbins, Bob Robbins, Carol Roush  
Audrey Skidmore, Don Spencley, Cheryl VanPatten,  
Ron Wescott, 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 STUDENT** Jason Mills, from BELC, is studying at Gettysburg Theological Seminary. Please keep him in your prayers.

**MISSION PARTNERS** Pray for the people and ministry at Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and the Baker Neighborhood Partners.

**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)

**Andrew Devine – U.S. Nat'l Guard** (Margo Devine's nephew)

**Darian Doan – U.S. Army** (Marv & Laura Halbakken'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)

**Jake Sonnenberg – U.S. Army** (Ed & Ellie Sonnenberg's grandson)

**Eric Wheeler – U.S. Army** (Laurey Wyble's cousin)

*If you know of others in the service that you would like to have put on our prayer list, please call the church office.*

## PARISH NOTES

**TODAY IS REFORMATION SUNDAY!** Red is a liturgical color reserved for special days (Pentecost, etc.), and for Martyrs' Days. Reformation Sunday 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, which is the heart of the Bible and the Church. So even if you are home watching via face book or YouTube, wear red!

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY** On All Saints Sunday, November 1, we will remember the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us in the faith and lift up those who have been baptized into the body of Christ. If you have a friend or family member who has been baptized, or if you are grieving the loss of a friend or family member, call the church office by Sunday, October 27th. We would like to honor them by name during the November 1st worship service.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** We have begun our Sunday School Classes via Zoom. Classes will begin each Sunday morning at 8:45 and go to approximately 9:15. Please contact the office if you would like to be included in the invitation.

**THANKOFFERING SUNDAY** This year's Thankoffering Sunday will be different. Because we are not able to worship in church, we are asking that you mail a check for the total of your Thankoffering container. Please make your check payable to BELCW and mail to Carole Kienke, 13625 Pearwood, Dewitt, 48820, by November 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Teter at 517-281-2713.

**2020 CHEER BAGS/BOXES** This year because of the pandemic we need to organize and deliver our Cheer Bags differently. This year we are asking you to drop off your items at the church where they will be put in a tub. Laura Halbakken and Joanna Alvera will be filling decorative boxes that will be mailed to the recipients. Watch your email for a message from your Circle Chair with the items your Circle has been assigned and the deadline for the donations. The BELCW Board thanks you in advance for your donations.

**THE STEWARDSHIP OF CITIZENSHIP** The ELCA has provided us with thorough and Scripture-based guidance on civil engagement amidst today's political realities. You can find this material at <https://elca.org/faith/faith-and-society>. Also, there is a brief article in the BELC Newsletter that includes some tips on how to vote.

**NOVEMBER 16 BELCW BIBLE STUDY** All women of Bethlehem are invited to join the Zoom Bible Study. The Study is based on the November Gather magazine. Your Circle chair will send out the Zoom invitation via email on November 15 with the information to join the meeting. If you are not in a Circle but would like to participate please contact Jamie Andrews (president) or any BELCW board member for the invitation.

**THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS** Your generous support in monetary donations makes our Outreach ministry possible. This year due to the Covid Pandemic, it is difficult for us to coordinate food donations, so if you are in a position to do so, please consider making a monetary donation to this important ongoing mission of our Outreach Board. Thank you, and God bless you in your giving.

**“TEMPLE” TALKS** As our streaming of services continues for the foreseeable future we want as many people as possible involved in our worship in meaningful ways. **WE WANT TO KNOW YOUR STORIES.** We are asking all our members, young and young-at-heart, to make a video of themselves using their computer or smartphone answering one of the following:

- What does my faith mean to me, and how has Bethlehem been part of that?
- What difference has Bethlehem and my faith made in my life?
- Why do I belong to Bethlehem?

These “Temple Talks” will be included in worship at the usual offering time. The video should be no more than five minutes in length. Be sure to state the question that you are answering at the beginning. After you record the video, upload it to an online service like Dropbox, Google Drive, Microsoft OneDrive, and then share it with me ([pastormattsmith@gmail.com](mailto:pastormattsmith@gmail.com)).

**UPCOMING BOOK STUDY** The next book we will explore in our ‘Racial Justice’ journey is *Plantation Jesus: Race, Faith & a New Way Forward*. Written by Skot Welch & Rick Wilson and published by Herald Press, the book is available in both paperback and hard cover editions. The start date has not yet been determined, so stay tuned for updates!

## **ATTENDANCE AND GIVING**

Worship Attendance: 144 people viewed the 10/18 worship service, 99 on Facebook Live and 48 on YouTube. Outdoor Worship we had 56.  
***Operating income through September 30, 2020 \$221,934.61***  
***Operating expense received through September 30, 2020 \$235,666.78***  
***SHORTFALL \$13,732.17 (numbers will be updated monthly)***

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP** The Psalm 46 was the basis for Luther's great Reformation hymn, "A Mighty Fortress." Both the Psalm and the hymn express unwavering trust in God's care even when much around us is falling apart. This trust not only delivers us from excessive worry but frees us for continuing to serve and give even in seasons of uncertainty. Thank you for your faithful and generous support.

**ALTAR FLOWERS FOR NOVEMBER** Thank you to all who sponsor the Altar Flowers for the Bethlehem Worship Services. If anyone is interested in sponsoring flowers this year, there are openings for the last four Sundays in November. Please contact Kris Burow by October 20th if you would like to be a sponsor. You may text (517-599-7685) or e-mail ([2bakrisjohn@gmail.com](mailto:2bakrisjohn@gmail.com)).

**LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE** Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing, and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. Please mark your offering envelope for Disaster Response. Thank you.

**BEING A PART OF WORSHIP** If you would like to contribute to worship with a vocal solo or instrumental piece, please contact Sue Nelson at 517-896-3565.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!** Set your clocks back an hour on Sunday, November 1 at 2:00 a.m.

**CHURCH FALL CLEAN-UP** We will be cleaning up around the church to get ready for winter. The tentative date is November 7 at 11:00AM. If you would like to help contact the church office at 482-3225. More information will follow.

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

SUNDAY, Oct. 25	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School Zoom</b>
<i>Reformation Sunday</i>	9:30a	Worship Facebook Live Stream
TUESDAY	9:30a	Staff Meeting Zoom
	6:15p	T.N.T. Zoom Class
SATURDAY		Halloween
SUNDAY, Nov. 1	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School Zoom</b>
<i>All Saints Sunday</i>	9:30a	Worship Facebook Live Stream

**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

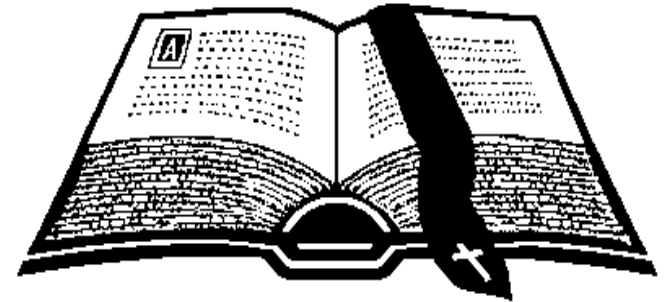
**SERVE** all people

*...and where I fall short of his expectations,  
Jesus always offers me his love and forgiveness!*

**PoWER GiftS**

©Laura R. Norton, [www.lettersaloft.com](http://www.lettersaloft.com)

Scripture  
Grace  
Faith  
ALONE  
ALONE  
ALONE



Reformation  
Sunday

Sunday, October 25, 2020