



Worship Service – 9:30 & 11:00  
October 4, 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.

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Holy and gracious God, as we gather, enlarge our hearts that they may be big enough to receive the greatness of your love and expansive enough to embrace others and show that love to all. Refresh us and make us new by the power of your Spirit. Lead us in holiness, and show us the way of your grace and your mercy, your law and your righteousness ... that we, with our brothers and sisters around the world, may shine with the light of Christ Jesus our 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 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.

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Bettie Wall & Betty Bonney in honor of all of God's blessings.

**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** July -September 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 Saron Lutheran Church in St. Joseph Michigan.

**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 – Nancy Holderread

CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith

SOUND SYSTEM – Dave Holderread, Kevin Peckham

Jon Holderread

# Our Thoughts & Prayers are with...



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

*Ruth Ferguson & 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, 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

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY** We extend our deepest sympathy to the  
family and friends of Chris Ransom, wife of John Ransom, who died  
Sunday September 29, 2020. May God comfort those who mourn with the  
promise of eternal life for all those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** On October 4<sup>th</sup> we will begin our Sunday School  
Classes via Zoom. Teachers have received email addresses and will be  
inviting your child to a Zoom classroom each week between now and  
November. Classes will begin each Sunday morning at 8:45 and go to  
approximately 9:15. Many families have received their packets with the  
Children's Sunday school leaflets and a Whirl Bible. Because of the  
weight of the materials these cannot be mailed to you. If you have not  
already received materials for your child, please contact Sue Nelson at  
896-3565 and she will arrange to get them to you.

**TODAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY** Feeding our community has never  
been more important as we live through the Covid-19 pandemic. Although  
physical donations of canned goods and other non-perishable items are not  
possible at this time, we can contribute to the Food Pantry through the  
BELC website. Click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

**SUNDAY OUTDOOR WORSHIP** We have two more outdoor  
worship services scheduled. This hybrid of safe social distancing under  
a tent, as well as distancing by remaining in your vehicle has been well-  
attended and well-received. Distributing pre-packaged communion  
elements, having those who wish to be outdoors bring chairs, using the  
FM broadcast for those who wish to stay safely in their cars have  
proved successful and uplifting. Please join us if you are able. Entrance  
to the church building is not possible due to the current pandemic.

**NEW/USED ORGAN!** Confident that we WILL worship together in  
person, using monies approved by the Memorial Fund, Bethlehem  
purchased a used Allen Organ at auction for \$1,900.00. This is a great  
replacement for our Conn Organ from the 1950s that was on its last  
breaths. The purchase includes a speaker system that should work well  
in our sanctuary. It is in excellent working condition from the mid-  
eighties. What a wonderful addition this will be for our music ministry.

The new organ was delivered and the old removed. Installation and  
tuning will occur when the contractor can schedule the work. So excited  
for our new and improved sound!

**BOOK STUDY** The new book for our Racial Justice book study via Zoom is *So you want to talk about race* by Ijeoma Oluo (Seal Press, 2019). The book is widely available. It is written in a conversational style that will help us answer the difficult questions as we continue to develop our antiracist selves. We will look at questions such as, ‘What is Racism?’, ‘Is police brutality really about race?’, ‘What is the school-to-prison pipeline?’, ‘Why can’t I say the ‘N’ word?’, and much, much more (including planning for practical steps that we can all take). The study started Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 pm. Please email me if you would like to join the study at [pastormattsmith@gmail.com](mailto:pastormattsmith@gmail.com) so that you can be included in the Zoom invite on Wednesdays.

**“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/my faith made in my life?
- Why do I belong at Bethlehem?
- *Or a question of your choosing...*

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)).

### **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.

- [U.S. Wildfires](#)
- [Hurricane Response](#)
- [U.S. Severe Storms](#)
- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [U.S. Tornadoes](#)
- [U.S. Flooding](#)
- [South Sudan Relief](#)
- [Middle East and Europe Refugee Crisis](#)
- [AMMPARO: Protecting Migrant Minors](#)

### **ATTENDANCE AND GIVING**

Worship Attendance: 104 people viewed the 9/27 worship service, 86 on Facebook Live and 18 on YouTube. Official count at Outdoor Worship was 62.

***Operating income through August 31, 2020 \$286,470.22***

***Operating expense received through August 31, 2020 \$218,981.43***

***SHORTFALL \$19,979.67 (numbers will be updated monthly)***

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP**

Today we hear Jesus' parable of the greedy tenant farmers who try to seize what rightly belongs to the owner of the vineyard.

*God, grant us the humility, the gratitude, the generosity and the trust that will protect us from being ensnared by our possessions and from craving more and more. Instead may your blessings flow to us and through us to others. Amen*

**LWR QUILTS AND KITS** We learned that in addition to the devastating loss of life, injuries and widespread damage caused by the Beirut explosion, three containers of LWR Quilts and Kits amounting to more than 47,000 items were also destroyed. These items were at the port of Beirut, on their way to families hit hard by the increasingly dire economic situation in Lebanon, including refugee families who fled conflict in Syria.

Your gift to our **World of Good Emergency Response Fund** will do so much. You will provide food and shelter for desperate families in Beirut and get quilts and kits into the hands that need them in Lebanon. This is a difficult time in the world, but God’s love is faithful and so are you. Please give your best gift today, so that we can work to make sure your love reaches every neighbor. Click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

**NEXT SUNDAY 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. Click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

### THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

|                 |               |   |
|-----------------|---------------|---|
| SUNDAY, Oct. 4  | 9:30a         | Worship Facebook Live Stream              |
|                 | <b>11:00a</b> | <b>Outdoor Worship in the Parking Lot</b> |
| TUESDAY         | 9:30a         | Staff Meeting Zoom                        |
|                 | 6:15p         | T.N.T. Zoom Class                         |
| WEDNESDAY       | 6:30p         | “So you want to talk about race”          |
|                 |               | Zoom Bible Study                          |
| SUNDAY, Oct. 11 | 9:30a         | Worship Facebook Live Stream              |
|                 | <b>11:00a</b> | <b>Outdoor Worship in the Parking Lot</b> |

#### **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

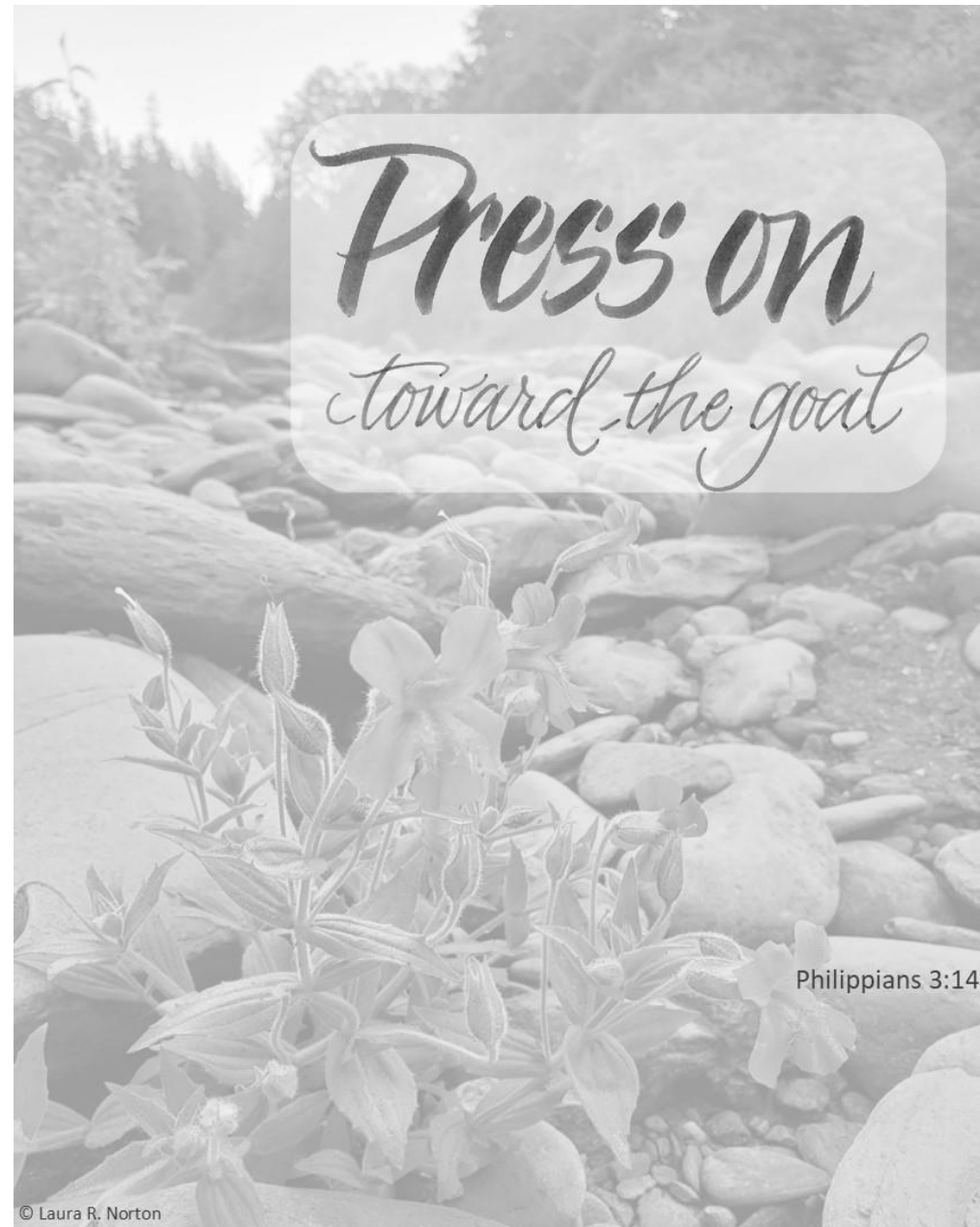
**INVITE** others to know Him

**SERVE** all people

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

**PoWER Gifts**

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