



Worship Service – 9:30
November 29, 2020

549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910
517-482-3225
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 Vicki Leighton in gratitude for 30 years of memories, heartbreaks, growth, and friendship; for 65 years of life and love; for Hope and the life of the world to come. And all God's people say, "AMEN".

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 Grace Lutheran Church in Vassar 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 – Crystal Collins

CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith

SOUND SYSTEM – Dave Holderread, Kevin Peckham

Jon Holderread

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*We come before you in awe and adoration, gracious
God: in awe of the gift of your Son, in awe of the presence
of your Spirit among us. As we begin today a new church
year, help us to watch and wait with courage and patience
for the coming of your new age, made real for us in
Bethlehem's child. In Jesus' Name we 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 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 Marks of Discipleship. For prayers that you would like included in Sunday worship, please visit 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, Ellie Ibarra, Kurt Kollmeyer
Marilyn Kostrzewski, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan
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)
Tyler Barnes – U.S. Marines (Candy & Cloyd Barnes' nephew)
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

Lansing SAVE Today is our 5th Sunday offering. There are now 145 children in our group of students, 7 from BELC and 138 from the Baker Neighborhood. Please give electronically by clicking on the "Online Giving" link on our website or mail your contribution to the church or by clicking here: (www.tinyurl.com/BELCGiving).

CHURCH CALENDAR We will begin publishing the church calendar again with the December Bethlehem Star. If you are planning a meeting or an event, please contact the church office to ensure the calendar is accurately prepared.

RETURNING TO CHURCH When the pandemic began, BELC's Congregation Council voted to not consider allowing small groups to meet or to have in-person worship until our region is moved to Phase 5 of the MI Safe Start Plan. Considering the recent acceleration of cases, following DHHS guidelines, Council will consider the possibility of small groups meeting when the test positivity rate drops below 5% for 14 consecutive days and the rate of transmission is below 1 for those same days in Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties. To follow these numbers, visit covidactnow.org/us/mi/. Council is monitoring these numbers daily, and our pandemic response and Reopening Plan is revisited at every council meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Matt (881-9890), Council Chair, Susan Mahoney (944-1068) or Congregational President, Jim Whitman (927-0114).

SENIOR DINNER Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church is pleased to announce that the Annual Senior Dinner will take place on Sunday, December 13, 2020! Those Seniors that would like to indulge will need to call the church office to place your "take out" order and indicate how many meals per household. More information regarding the pick-up process to come, but we wanted to let you know that your special day will still take place.

RACIAL JUSTICE BOOK STUDY The book we are exploring 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 paperback and hard cover. Classes are on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm. Please contact Pastor Matt @ pastormattsmith@gmail.com to be included in the ZOOM invitation.

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.

EXPLORING THE GOSPEL OF MARK – AN INVITATION

Beginning in Advent, the Gospel of Mark will mostly provide our Sunday Gospel readings for the next 12 months. In the coming weeks we will slowly move through what Mark calls, “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, Son of God.” to the abrupt and puzzling ending at Mark 16:8. Pastor John will facilitate our journey, providing some backstory; connections to the rest of Scripture; prompts for reflection and application; various ways of encountering and taking in specific passages, and suggesting images and artworks that may enrich our hearing the living Word of God. Participants are also encouraged to share among themselves.

As with our previous shared explorations of God’s Word, the time and energy you invest in this project is up to you.

To participate simply e-mail Pastor John pastorjburow@yahoo.com letting him know that you would like to give this a try. For a delightful 10-minute introduction to Mark’s Gospel go to “You Tube” and search for “Overview of Mark – Bible Project.”

Our assumption is that God desires to address us in personal and profound ways through his life-giving Word. Our hope is that we might use this opportunity to truly hear God and to draw closer to Jesus. Please share this invitation with others in the congregation and beyond. Are journey in Mark begins December 12.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS Given this unusual year, Bethlehem will not be ordering Poinsettias for Christmas. To all those who have ordered poinsettias to adorn the Sanctuary for Christmas in past years, we say thank you. We hope to carry on this tradition in 2021!

NEXT SUNDAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY Feeding our community has never been more important as we live through the Covid-19 pandemic and the Governor’s stay-at-home order. 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.

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Worship Attendance: 114 people viewed the 11/22 worship service, 88 on Facebook Live and 26 on YouTube.

Operating income through October 31, 2020 \$275,006.48

Operating expense received through October 31, 2020 \$295,991.26

SHORTFALL \$20,792.86 (numbers will be updated monthly)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP *I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus... 1 Corinthians 1:4*

As we begin this Advent season of hope and preparation, may our relationships reflect both God’s grace and our gratitude for one another. Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and faithfulness during this incredibly challenging year.

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.

“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 at 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).

FLASH TOY DRIVE For many years Child and Family Services has held their holiday workshop at Bethlehem. This year it is being hosted by St. Casimir, but the **TOY** need is still there! Let’s help fill up some boxes with gifts for our less fortunate neighbors. List is on the website. Box is in the lobby. Hurry – deadline is December 15th!

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Nov. 29	8:45a	Sunday School Zoom
	9:30a	Worship Facebook Live Stream
TUESDAY	9:30a	Staff Meeting Zoom
	6:15p	T.N.T. Class Zoom
WEDNESDAY	6:30p	Racial Justice Book Study Zoom
SUNDAY, Dec. 6	8:45a	Sunday School Zoom
	9:30a	Worship Facebook Live Stream

MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus expects me to...

PRAY fervently

WORSHIP faithfully

ENCOURAGE one another

READ the Scriptures daily

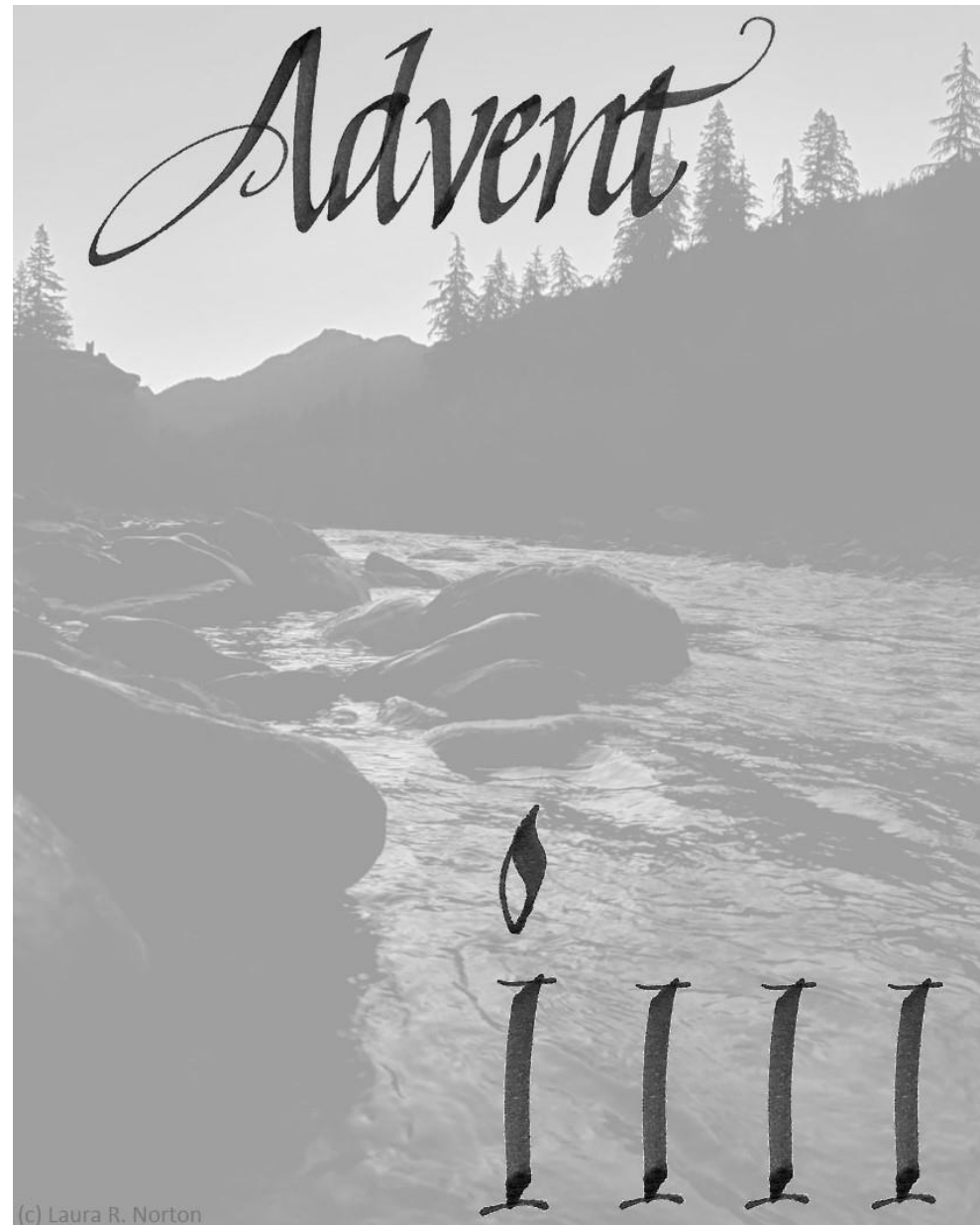
GIVE freely of the gifts I have received from God

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



(c) Laura R. Norton