



Worship Service – 9:30 & 11:00
September 27, 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.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Almighty and Everlasting God: you have blessed this congregation for 96 years! For that we give you thanks! We thank you that the gospel has been preached, love has been shown, and peace and forgiveness have been experienced. May this church always be a place where brokenness finds healing, loneliness finds belonging, and emptiness finds meaning. Remind us of our identity as people of faith as we worship you and as we seek to serve you in the future, through Jesus Christ 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 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.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Ben Darling in memory of Deanna Darling's September birthday.

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 Spruce Lutheran Church in Spruce Michigan.

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 – Pastor Matt Smith

CANTOR – Caitlin Schippers

Our Thoughts & Prayers are with...



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS and with your cards and visits:

Ruth Ferguson & Shelby Waters in The Willows at Okemos

Chris Ransom in McLaren Hospital

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

SUNDAY OUTDOOR WORSHIP As is true with most of our 'returns to normal', this is a hybrid of safe social distancing under a tent, as well as distancing by remaining in your vehicle. Our plan is to distribute 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. The recorded songs will be played, the readings shared, the sermon presented, and Holy Communion observed. Entrance to the church building is not possible due to the current pandemic.

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.

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 current Conn Organ from the 1950s that is on its last breaths. New, a comparable organ would have cost Bethlehem \$30-50,000. The purchase includes a speaker system that should work well in our sanctuary. There will be some additional moving, installation, and tuning costs. 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 on Friday. 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 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).

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.

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: 118 people viewed the 9/20 worship service, 86 on Facebook Live and 32 on YouTube. Official count at Outdoor Worship was 54.

Operating income through August 30, 2020 \$191,353.22

Operating expense through August 30, 2020 \$211,332.67

SHORTFALL \$19,979.67

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP

...for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ~ Philippians 2:13

What a great blessing that God provides the desire, the energy, and the opportunities to live lives reflecting God’s humble compassion. Thank you for your serving and giving.

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.

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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|------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| SUNDAY, Sept. 27 | 9:30a | Worship Facebook Live Stream |
| | 11:00a | Outdoor Worship in the Parking Lot |
| 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. 4 | 9:30a | Worship Facebook Live Stream |
| | 11:00a | Outdoor Worship in the Parking Lot |

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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