



Worship Service – 9:30
November 15, 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.

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 – Bob Meeker

CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor John Burow

SOUND SYSTEM – Dave Holderread, Kevin Peckham

Jon Holderread

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Gracious and loving God, you call us to be your people and share your love and peace in our world. I worship and ask you to bless me this day. Lift me up from the depths... from those places which are dark and frightening... into the sunlight of your presence where I might be blessed by your Word and grace, and praise and serve you forever and ever. 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)

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

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).

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.

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.

Lansing SAVE Our next 5th Sunday offering is November 29. There are now 145 children in our group of students from BELC and the Baker Neighborhood. To give electronically – click on the “Online Giving” link on our website.

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. Our first class, covering chapter 1, Where We Start, took place on Wednesday, November 11th from 6:30-7:30 pm. Please contact Pastor Matt @ pastormattsmith@gmail.com to be included in the ZOOM invitation.

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.

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.

"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).

Thought for the Week

Stewardship is the managements of life and all its resources for God and for the good of all. ~ Robert Hastings

Stewardship is the re-enactment of Christ's life in Christ's people. ~ T. A. Kantonen

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Worship Attendance: 141 people viewed the 11/15 worship service, 103 on Facebook Live and 38 on YouTube.

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 From God's perspective what are the most precious aspects of our lives? Surely it is not our bank balance, but God's forgiving, freeing love. How are you "investing" this astonishing grace in your everyday lives and relationships?

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.

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!

2020 CHEER BAGS/BOXES 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.

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Nov. 15	8:45a	Sunday School Zoom
Thank Offering	9:30a	Worship Facebook Live Stream
Sunday		
MONDAY	6:30p	BELCW Bible Study Zoom Mtg.
TUESDAY	9:30a	Staff Meeting Zoom
	6:15p	T.N.T. Zoom Class
WEDNESDAY	6:30p	Pastor Matt Book Study Zoom
	7:30p	Choir recording
SATURDAY	11:00a	Thanksgiving Food Basket Distribution
SUNDAY, Nov. 22	8:45a	Sunday School Zoom
Christ the King	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

You have been faithful over a few things;
I will set you over many things