



Worship Service – 9:30 & 11:00  
September 13, 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 Yvonne Nelson & Duane Everett in celebration of their September birthdays.

**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 Peace Lutheran Church in Sparta 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 – Susan Mahoney

CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith

CANTOR – Caitlin McDougall

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Dear Merciful Lord, thank you for your gift of forgiveness.  
Your only Son loved me enough to come to earth and  
experience the worst pain imaginable so I could be forgiven.  
Your mercy flows to me in spite of my faults and failures. Your  
Word says to "clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all  
together in perfect harmony." Help me demonstrate  
unconditional love today, even to those who hurt me. 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:

*Ruth Ferguson & Shelby Waters in The Willows at Okemos  
Chris Ransom in Dimondale Nursing Care Center  
Rhoda Hunter in McLaren Hospital*

**Those at home:** *Mary Ann Allen, Virginia Bauman, Mary Brenke  
Marv Cole, Crystal Collins, Doug Griffin, Ernie Hassell  
Kurt Kollmeyer, Marilyn Kostrzewski, Michael Mahoney,  
Linda McClellan, Teri Meeker, John Nelson, Yvonne Nelson  
Tharin Palmer, John Ransom, Gloria Robbin, 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 WORSHIP** Today is our first "Outdoor Worship" at 11:00 am., weather permitting. As is true with most of our 'returns to normal', this will be 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.

**GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS** We have had to cancel this event as we cannot access the building at this time. Apologies for any inconvenience we may have caused.

**TODAY 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. 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](http://www.tinyurl.com/BELCGiving)).

**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 will be delivered and the old removed next week. Installation and tuning will happen when the contractor can schedule the work. So excited for our new and improved sound.

**BOOK STUDY** The next book for our Racial Justice book study via Zoom, will be the book, *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 will begin 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)).

### **ATTENDANCE AND GIVING**

Worship Attendance: 146 people viewed the 9/6 worship service, 105 on Facebook Live and 41 on YouTube

***Needed through September 6 to meet 2020 Budget: \$271,392.84***

***Received through September 11 to meet 2020 Budget: \$203,938.43***

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP** As we learn from Jesus' parable on the need to forgive, God's fierce intent is that what we receive by way of grace and other blessings is to overflow from us to others as we share our abilities, our time and energy and of our possessions. Thank you.

**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.

**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

SUNDAY, Sept. 13	9:30a	Worship Facebook Live Stream
	<b>11:00a</b>	<b>Outdoor Worship in the Parking Lot</b>
MONDAY	6:30p	Board of Stewardship & Finance Zoom
TUESDAY	9:30a	Staff Meeting Zoom
	6:15p	T.N.T. Zoom
WEDNESDAY	6:30p	“So you want to talk about race” Zoom Bible Study
THURSDAY	6:30p	Congregation Council Zoom Meeting
SUNDAY, Sept. 20	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**

