



Worship Service – 9:30
October 18, 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

*Sovereign God, as you bring us together this morning,
quiet our hearts and minds and raise your throne in our hearts.
Created by you, let us live in your image this week; created for
you, let us act for your glory in all we do; redeemed by you, let
us give you what is yours above all else, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and 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 Rob & Gloria Robbins in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary and Mary Jakubiak in memory of Bill & Dorothy Wagner.

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 St. John's Lutheran Church in Three Rivers 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 – Susan Mahoney

CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor John Burow

SOUND SYSTEM – Dave Holderread, Kevin Peckham
Jon Holderread

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 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 Marilyn Love, mother of John Leighton, who died Tuesday, October 13, 2020. May God comfort those who mourn with the promise of eternal life for all those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.

WEAR RED ON REFORMATION SUNDAY! Red is a liturgical color reserved for special days (Pentecost, etc.), and for Martyrs' Days. Reformation Sunday, October 25, is one of those special days. The focus of Reformation Sunday is not on Martin Luther, but rather on justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. That is the heritage of the Reformation, which is the heart of the Bible and the Church. So even if you are home watching via face book or YouTube, wear red!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY On All Saints Sunday, November 1, we will remember the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us in the faith and lift up those who have been baptized into the body of Christ. If you have a friend or family member who has been baptized, or if you are grieving the loss of a friend or family member, call the church office by Sunday, October 27th. We would like to honor them by name during the November 1st worship service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL We have begun 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.

THANKOFFERING SUNDAY This year's Thankoffering Sunday will be different. Because we are not able to worship in church, we are asking that you mail a check for the total of your Thankoffering container. Please make your check payable to BELCW and mail to Carole Kienke, 13625 Pearwood, Dewitt, 48820, by November 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Teter at 517-281-2713.

2020 CHEER BAGS/BOXES This year 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.

THE STEWARDSHIP OF CITIZENSHIP The ELCA has provided us with thorough and Scripture-based guidance on civil engagement amidst today's political realities. You can find this material at <https://elca.org/faith/faith-and-society>. Also, there is a brief article in the BELC Newsletter that includes some tips on how to vote.

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.

BOOK STUDY The book for our Racial Justice book study via Zoom is *So you want to talk about race* by Ijeoma Oluo (Seal Press, 2019). 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. We are planning on two more weeks to finish up this book and will announce the next selection very soon.

"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

We Lutherans are grateful when government functions as God's gift
.... this church affirms that government is indispensable for
safeguarding and improving
human life and creation.

~ ELCA Social Message on Civic Engagement at
<https://elca.org/faith/faith-and-society>

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Worship Attendance: 99 people viewed the 10/4 worship service, 72 on Facebook Live and 27 on YouTube. Outdoor Worship we had 56.
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 In this morning's Gospel we witness opponents of Jesus seeking to trap him with a politically charged question about one's civic duty. Faithful stewardship includes how we exercise our privileges and responsibilities as citizens. The ELCA, responding to the polarization and political crisis in our nation, developed a social message on "Government and Civil Engagement" (elca.org/social messages). It suggests this central question as we vote and advocate for good government: "Is our neighbor being served?"

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR NOVEMBER Thank you to all who sponsor the Altar Flowers for the Bethlehem Worship Services. If anyone is interested in sponsoring flowers this year, there are openings for the last four Sundays in November. Please contact Kris Burow by October 20th if you would like to be a sponsor. You may text (517-599-7685) or e-mail (2bakrisjohn@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. Please mark your offering envelope for Disaster Response. Thank you.

WORSHIP ASSISTANCE If you would like to contribute to worship with a vocal solo or instrumental piece, please contact Sue Nelson at 517-896-3565.

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Oct. 18	8:45a	Sunday School Zoom
	9:30a	Worship Facebook Live Stream
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. 25	8:45a	Sunday School Zoom
<i>Reformation Sunday</i>	9:30a	Worship Facebook Live Stream

Matthew 22:21



*GIVE therefore to CAESAR
the things that are
Caesar's, and to GOD
the things that are God's.*

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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