



Worship Service – 9:30
September 6, 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

*Loving God, we thank you for your all-embracing love
... for how you not only hold us by our hand as we learn how
to walk in your ways, but also for how you hold us and our
world in your heart. We praise you, O God, for your tender
love and we thank you for your mercy and your grace. As we
worship together now, we ask you to guide and lead us in the
way we should go. May our song, our prayer, our speaking
and our listening, our thinking and our doing give you glory,
both now and forevermore. 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 Joe & Audrey Skidmore.

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 South Haven 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 – Nancy Holderread

CHILDRENS SERMON – Liisa Whitman

CANTOR – Caitlin McDougall

Our Thoughts & Prayers are with...



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS and with your cards and visits:

Shelby Waters in The Willows at Okemos

Ruth Ferguson in Sparrow Hospital

Chris Ransom in McLaren Hospital

Those at home: *Mary Ann Allen, Virginia Bauman, Mary Brenke, Marv Cole, Crystal Collins, Doug Griffin, Ernie Hassell, Rhoda Hunter, Kurt Kollmeyer, Jeff Kosloski Jr., Marilyn Kostrzewski, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Teri Meeker, John Nelson, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, 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

TODAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY Feeding our community has never been more important as we live through the Covid-19 pandemic. 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.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED In observance of Labor Day, the church office will be closed on Monday, September 7. Happy Labor Day!!

SUNDAY WORSHIP As you have heard, council decided to start hosting worship in the parking lot on Sunday mornings for at least five Sundays, beginning September 13, 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.

DRIVE-IN WORSHIP This Saturday was our last drive in Saturday Worship at 4:30 p.m. This was a small first step toward gathering together, and allowed many an opportunity to connect. Thank you to all who contributed to this mini-ministry, both worship leaders and parking lot participants. A special thanks to Kathy Halligan who acted as our 'official' photographer, and shared those pictures on Facebook.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS Next Sunday, September 13, we will be hosting the annual God's work, our hands event. This year, since we will be in outdoor worship at the church, we thought to keep our efforts close to home. So we will be cleaning up Clifford Park which is directly across Mt. Hope from our building. If there are enough volunteers, we will split into two groups and work at the park recently created on Isbell. If more hands are available, we will work on cleaning up the church lot. This will be low-key so we might have a chance to visit with a church friend we haven't seen in a while. Plastic gloves and trash bags will be supplied. It is also a way for our neighbors to see we are still active and invested in the community.

NEXT SUNDAY 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. Click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

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 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).

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Worship Attendance: 144 people viewed the 8/30 worship service, 99 on Facebook Live and 45 on YouTube

Needed through August 30 to meet 2020 Budget: \$263,854.15

Received through August 31 to meet 2020 Budget: \$190,669.65

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP

Therefore, love is what fulfills the Law. - Romans 13:10 CEB

As we gather for worship and then are sent to serve with compassion and generosity, the proper measure of our faithfulness is not the rules we keep but the love we share. 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.

NEW/USED ORGAN! Confident that we WILL worship together in person, using monies approved by the Memorial Fund, last Saturday 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!

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. 6	9:30a	Worship Facebook Live Stream
MONDAY		Office closed in observance of Labor Day
TUESDAY	9:30a	Staff Meeting Zoom
SUNDAY, Sept. 13	9:30a	Worship Facebook Live Stream
	11:00a	Worship in the Church 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

Where two or
three are
gathered
together
in my
Name

there I am there I am there I am there I am there I am there I am



Matthew 18:20

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