



WEEKLY CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2, 2022

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP: Theme: What's in Your Baggage? – Week of FORGIVING: The Red Letter Challenge

As followers of Jesus we are always asking, "What is my purpose?" We ask the question, but do we really want the answer? What if the answer is to forgive that person who has wounded you deeply? What if the answer is to put down your self-righteous stones that make you feel better than others? What if Jesus is calling His followers to be known for our forgiveness?

**"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God forgave you." – Ephesians 4:32**

Please pick up a **Red Letter Challenge** (RLC) Book in the entryway of the church. This Week we begin reading Day 6 -12. (If you would like to help defray the cost of a book, a donation of any amount can be placed in the envelope marked "RLC" and in the offering.)

RED LETTER THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

NO MATTER HOW SERIOUS, BIG, OR AWFUL YOUR SIN IS, GOD'S GRACE EXTENDS TO COVER IT.

OUR CHURCH ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

In Person Attendance 09/25/22: 167 Online Viewers: 14 households

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: Luke 17:10 – "So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'" We can never put God in our debt. Even if we lived in perfect compliance with the Law, we would still only be unworthy servants. Our giving to the Lord's work in the Church is a sign that we recognize our role as servants. Furthermore, we give because we recognize our own need for that work of the Lord in the Church. And what a blessing it is to give to the Church so that the ministry of His Word and Sacraments may reach all in community.

PRAYER FOCUS

SPECIAL PRAYERS: Ken Willman, Irene Lange, Ginny Bergant

HOSPITALIZED: Ed Peitsch, Jim Schenyko

BAPTIZED: Baptized in the Name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost this morning will be **Stephen Howard Martin** and his wife **Patricia Kaye Martin**. They have been instructed in the Christian Faith and Lutheran teachings. We welcome them into the family of God at Bethlehem.

RECEIVED THROUGH ADULT INSTRUCTION and TRANSFER: We welcome into membership as brothers and sisters in the faith the following new members:

Stephen Howard Martin – Adult Instruction

Patricia Kaye Martin – Adult Instruction

Judith Lynn Kempter (Pat's sister)

Sue LaPierre – Adult Instruction

Robert C Peavey Jr. – Adult Instruction (daughter, Betty)

Amy L Peavey – Adult Instruction

Dale Allen Reetz (Reaffirmation)

Mindi Schember - Transfer (son, Luke)

Brittany McKenna – Transfer (son, Dawson)

CARING FOR OTHERS

BETHLEHEM SERVICE DAY COMING OCTOBER 22

The annual Bethlehem Service on October 22 gives us the chance to show love to our neighbors. Beginning at 9:30 a.m. and finishing by noon with lunch, we will tackle several projects -

Preparing newborn kits to be distributed by LifeClinic Community Resources, a pro-life pregnancy counseling center in Saginaw. This is an indoor activity that requires very little lifting. Who is our neighbor? Women and babies in need. We need:

240 (4 per bag) - Newborn disposable diapers.

60 - Tubes of Diaper Rash Ointment

60 - Bottles of Baby Wash/Shampoo

60 - Bottles of Baby Lotion

60 - Packages of Baby Wipes

60 - First Baby Toy

Restoring prayer request cards and other items that were removed during COVID. Another indoor activity that requires very little lifting. Who is our neighbor? The person sitting next to us in the pew.

Picking up litter on the streets in the neighborhood. An outdoor activity that requires plenty of bending but sometimes gives the satisfaction of encouraging words from grateful residents. Who is our neighbor? Our neighbors.

Assisting with the fall clean-up at Bethlehem Cemetery. An outdoor activity that requires some lifting and bending. Who is our neighbor? Family and friends whose loved ones are buried in our cemetery, plus our own cemetery care team who would really appreciate the help.

No need to sign-up. All are welcome - young and old, insiders and outsiders. Come and help. Be sure to stay for lunch!

OCTOBER NOISY OFFERING: *"It's All About the Cross Ministries"* is a new, non-profit, Christian, 501©(3) ministry that will allow us to continue ongoing service to the inmates in the Saginaw County Jail. *"It's All About the Cross Ministries"* provides church services, Bible studies, recovery groups, and places Bible, Bible study materials and inspirational reading materials in the hands of those most in need. Our goal is to give the inmates hope and peace that comes from having a relationship with Jesus. Thank you for your support.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS are canned fruit, canned beans, peanut butter, pasta sauce, vegetable, vegetable beef, and chicken noodle soups and boxed potatoes. Items can be dropped off at the office. Thank you for your support!

OUR NEXT FOOD PANTRY is **Tuesday, October 18, 2022**. We are doing a drive through distribution. People can line up in their cars along the church sidewalk in the Weiss lot next to the church. The line will start at the church entrance. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Trevor in the church office at 989-755-1144 x108.

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE The LCMS Office of International Mission is currently working with five partner churches to help refugees from this conflict. To support the people of Ukraine, please pray for them. If you

desire to contribute to their needs, there are three ways to **donate**: Text LCMSUKRAINE to 41-444; Give online; or call 888.930.4438

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN BARREL: Bethlehem continues collecting infant supplies, (diapers, clothing, stuffed toys); medical equipment, (bed & bath linens, walkers, wheelchairs); hygiene supplies (toothbrushes, sanitary items for women, bar soap, combs), and more for Orphan Grain Train Ministry. A more detailed wish list can be found at [OGT-Wish-List.pdf](#) or can be viewed in the narthex. Thank you supporting this ministry!

AROUND BETHLEHEM

PASTOR AND WORSHIP LEADERS - THANK YOU!

In each sermon given, liturgy led, praise lifted, and hymn played Christ comes to us through you. Your gifts are important for our worship and bring us closer to God. We hear about the one thing needful - the hope, grace and peace found in Jesus. Thank you - Pastor Mike Korte, Pastor Michael Stahl, Deacon Ken Kerouac, Worship Arts Director Alex Holcomb, and Organists George Frank and Annelise Holcomb.

BETHLEHEM STARS: Adults are invited to join us **Tuesday, October 4 @ 12 PM** at Riverside Restaurant in Freeland. Please RSVP by calling Billie Mull at 989-792-5843. Thank you!

DRIVE UP COMMUNION will be held **Wednesday, OCTOBER 5**, from 4 pm to 5 pm in the Weiss Street parking lot. Because not everyone is comfortable attending in person church and taking the Lord's Supper, the Board of Elders has approved a safe procedure for reception of the Lord's Supper by Drive-up Communion. Families will be able to individually receive the Lord's Supper in their cars. Every effort has been made to provide Communion that is safe, sanitized and maintains social distancing.

BACON BOYS BREAKFAST: **Saturday, OCTOBER 8th 7:30 am** in the lower level Join the Bacon Boys for food, fellowship and Faith building Bible Study. Our topic this month is "Caring for Neglected Places in Your Soul." For information contact the church office 989-755-1144 or Pastor Korte mkorte@bethlehemsaginaw.org

BETHLEHEM "FAMILY" TIME BEGINS OCTOBER 9

Enjoy fellowship and snacks with your Bethlehem Family on the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month from 10 to 10:30 a.m. beginning on October 9. "Early service people" stay late and "Late service people" come early and see your Bethlehem Family. Family Time is hosted by the Board for Christian Life. See Shawn Griffore if you would like to help host.

MOPS OCTOBER 10: ALL mothers of children from birth through kindergarten are invited to join **MOPS**, and ALL mothers with children from kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to join **MOMSnexT**. The groups meet together on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, **6-8 pm (in the lower level of Bethlehem Lutheran Church)** beginning in September through the end of May. Please join us to enjoy time with other moms while we grow closer to Christ! Childcare is available during meetings, but space is limited. If you are interested in attending or have questions, please email bethlehemops@yahoo.com or visit our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemLutheranMOPSandMOMSnexT>.

BETHLEHEM TO HOST LWML RALLY

Bethlehem will be hosting our LWML Saginaw Valley Zone Fall Rally, **OCTOBER 15, 2022**. Registration is 8:30-9:00 am with continental breakfast. Cost is \$6.00. The rally goes from 9 am – 12 pm followed by a luncheon. This will be a servant event rally plus an ingathering for Underground Railroad. List of needed items for the Underground Railroad will be by the box in the narthex. We are looking for volunteers to help with setting up on Friday or helping on Saturday. If you would like to help by donating/making food for either the breakfast or lunch, please call Ann Gould 989-928-9089 or Irene Lange 909-754-1546

ALTAR GUILD 2022 SIGN-UP: Beginning in October, a sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex area. Altar guild members provide a variety of essential services to the church including preparation of communion, cleaning and care of the altar area, and altar flowers. Please contact Ann Braun for more details at 989-799-8098.

WEEKLY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

- **Fridays, 6:15 am** on Zoom. “**The Chronological Gospels.**” For info: mp_denno@yahoo.com
- **Tuesdays, 10 a.m. PEW SISTERS** - a Bible study based on true stories shared by women of faith who have faced bad stuff the devil throws at us. We meet on **Tuesdays, from now through September 13**, in the **church library at 10:00 a.m.** Please call Sally at 989-284-4090 for more info.
- **Red Letter Challenge begins the week of September 18!** Sign up online or in the narthex (church lobby)

SENIOR CHOIR WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS: Whether you are a soprano, alto, tenor or bass you are welcome to be part of Bethlehem's Senior Choir under the direction of George Frank. One-hour weekly practices have begun on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the choir room. The Choir typically sings one Sunday each month and for special services. Come and make a joyful noise unto the Lord. For more information call George Frank (989-652-2345).

OFFERING COLLECTION: We now are passing the offering plate during the worship services. If you desire you may place your tithe or offering in the collection plate as it is passed. For the time being, the wooden “Joash Box” will remain in the entry way of the church and you may continue to place your offering in it before or following the service. You may also continue to contribute your tithe by automatic withdrawal, electronically on the website, or by texting. We appreciate your gifts as we return a portion of what the Lord has given us.

BETHLEHEM’S PERPETUAL CHARITABLE TRUST FUND: The Gift that Grows. If you enjoy sharing Christ’s love and your blessings with others, you might consider a gift to your Trust Fund. You can help our congregation seed and expand our ministries and outreach with a gift to one of six funds. Just use your convenient envelopes in your giving packet or give directly through the office. Since 1994, over \$250,000 in earnings have been distributed. Contact Charmaine Wittig at 989 792-0669 with any questions or to donate.

SCHOOL NEWS:

We had such a great turnout for our Tailgate Party at the Valley Lutheran Homecoming! Thanks for all of the great food and fellowship. The weather was great, the floats were awesome, and a Bethlehem alum even won the title of Homecoming King! Congrats to our Bethlehem alumni "Chargers For Life," Jameson Slone (king) and Andrew Keysor for their court nominations. We can't wait to do it all again next year!

This Friday we join our friends from Messiah Lutheran Church on the Bethlehem/Messiah Homecoming float in the Carrollton High School Homecoming parade. What a busy and fun couple of weeks!

Our STEP IT UP! fundraiser was a rousing success! Our heartfelt thanks to all who donated. We surpassed our goal of \$15K, and are looking forward to making some great upgrades in our classroom technology. Our whole school will participate in The Day of Awesomeness to celebrate. Look for pictures and info to come from that fun day on October 13th.

A Message from our PTL

We are looking for volunteers to **Adopt a Staff Member!**

Our mission at Bethlehem is to Share Christ's love and care for all people. We are blessed to have staff and teachers care for our children all year long. Let's show how much we appreciate these amazing people that we entrust our most precious treasures to everyday.

Ways to celebrate your teacher/staff member may include, but are not limited to:

- pray for them often
- send thinking of you notes or cards
- give small gifts to celebrate their birthday, Christmas, and other holidays
- any other fun way you choose to recognize them throughout the school year

You will find their interest sheets provided in the school office. You may decide on your own if you would like to be anonymous, or make it known from the start who you are. Available teachers/staff members are listed in the sign up genius (see link below.) If you have any questions, please feel free to call or text Melissa Grossman (989) 274-4378. Thank you!!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4EA4A92CA6F58-adopt1>

Friends of Bethlehem

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is looking for candidates to fill part-time resource room teacher position at Faith Lutheran School in Bay City, MI. Please include the paragraph below in your weekly church bulletin or newsletter, or electronic communication to your church members, and post this e-mail in a place where your church members will see it.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is looking for a part-time resource room teacher position at Faith Lutheran School in Bay City, MI. Applicants must hold a current Michigan Teaching License and have a special education certification/endorsement. Interested applicants looking for more information or wishing to submit a resume are asked to contact Richard Schumacher at (734) 748-5253 or email him at rschumacher@luthsped.org.

Valley Lutheran Fruit Sale

The Valley Lutheran Booster Club's 2022 Fruit Sale Fundraiser, which benefits athletics, drama, music and many other activities at Valley Lutheran High School, begins October 5 and runs through November 9, 2022. Fruit is passed out Saturday, December 3rd at Valley from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 20lb. boxes are \$39, 40lb. boxes are \$51, 10lb. Carton of Florida Mandarins are \$35, and a mixed carton is \$39. All fruit is guaranteed. For more information, please call Valley Lutheran at 790-1676, fax 790-1680, or Bill Ankoviak 989-781-5796 home. If you prefer not to purchase fruit, donations are gladly accepted by the Boosters.