



WEEKLY CONNECTION

OCTOBER 27, 2024

REFORMATION

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP: Reformation Observed

Bible Readings Revelation 14:6–7, Romans 3:19–28, John 8:31–36

The Son of God Has Set Us Free from Sin and Death by His Grace

“Wisdom is justified by her deeds” (Matt. 11:19), and the true Wisdom of God, Christ Jesus, the incarnate Son, has justified us by His deeds. He prepares His way by the preaching of repentance, but He has suffered the violence of the Law and voluntarily handed Himself over to violent men, that we might eat and drink with Him in His Kingdom and *“remain in the house forever”* (John 8:35). He is *“a friend of tax collectors and sinners”* (Matt. 11:18–19), and He has rescued us by His grace from the slavery of sin and death. By the proclamation of His eternal Gospel *“to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people”* (Rev. 14:6), *“the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law”* (Rom. 3:21), *“that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus”* (Rom. 3:26). And by the hearing of that Gospel of Christ Jesus, *“whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith”* (Rom. 3:25), *“you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”* (John 8:31–32).

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.

Revelation 14:6

SERVING THIS SUNDAY –

Preacher –	Rev. Charles Buckhahn
Officiant –	Pastor Korte
Lay Reader -	10:30 am Bill Wittig
Acolytes-	9 am Grace Porter, Landen Deloria 10:30 am Raiden Boggs, Mark Stabek
Elder in Charge –	9 am Ryan Mulder, Bill wuerfel 10:30 am Steve Harvey, Larry Griffen, Mike Weiss
Greeters –	9 am Andrea & Paul Wagner 10:30 am Ann Braun, Liz Reyes
Tech Team –	9 am Mark Stabek, Bobby Truitt 10:30 am Steve Martin, Jim Vance
Music Team	Izzy McDowell, Ken Kerouac, Gerry Frieman

Special Music - 10:30 Senior Choir
Music Leaders – 9 am Alex Holcomb,
10:30 George Frank

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (For more Information see blurbs below.)

October 26- Trunk or Treat in Weiss St. Parking Lot 4 to 6 pm
October 26 – Youth Event 3:30 - ?
October 27 - Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am with Lord’s Supper **Reformation Sunday**
October 27 – Sunday School Preschool – 4th 9:15 am
October 27– Bible Study Lower Level 9:15 am
October 27 – Seventh Grade reception of Lord’s Supper
October 28 – Braille Workers 5:45 pm
October 29 – Braille Workers 8:30 am
October 29 – Bible Study David Room 9:30 am
October 29 – Bethlehem Knitters 11 am David Room
October 30 - School Chapel 8:15 am
October 30 - Worship Arts Team Rehearsal 6:30 pm
October 31 – Braille Workers 8:30 am
October 31 – Senior Choir Rehearsal 7 pm
November 1 - Men’s Bible Study via Zoom @ 6:15 am
November 2-3 Turn your clocks **BACK ONE HOUR** end of DST
November 3 - Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am with Lord’s Supper **All Saints’ Sunday**
November 3 – Sunday School Preschool – 4th 9:15 am
November 3 - Bible Study Lower Level 9:15 am

SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING: The Executive Director - Bill Wittig, Director of Board of Elders – Ryan Mulder, and Pastor Korte are requesting a Special Voters Meeting be held for Bethlehem on Wednesday, November 6 at 6 pm. The meeting will be in person with video attendance possible. The only Items of business to be considered will be:

1. The calling of a new pastor to Bethlehem and
2. The Use of \$7,500 from reserve operating funds
 - a. Replacement to Video Door Openers
 - b. New Strobe Security Lights

Please Note: You may read information about the candidate in the David Room on Sunday or by stopping by the church office during the week. We ask that you do not remove the documents from the David Longe or take photos for privacy reasons. There is only one candidate profile. Of the original 15 candidates 10 did not respond to an interview and 4 felt the Holy Spirit was leading them in a different direction. However, Pastor Jacob Heine was interviewed and the search committee feels he is an excellent candidate for Bethlehem.

BUSINESS MANAGER POSITION AVAILABLE AT BETHLEHEM Bethlehem Lutheran Church, School and Preschool is looking for a business manager! Do you want to use your business skills to share the love of Christ with our community and family? Contact Pastor Korte at mkorte@bethlehemsaginaw.org, 989-755-1144 Extension #102 if you are interested. Must have a four-year college degree or equivalent work experience and be able to pass a State of Michigan Criminal Background Check. For detailed position description, visit our Employment Opportunities page on our website, bethlehemsaginaw.org/employment

SERVICE PROJECT REPORT: God tremendously blessed Bethlehem's "One Church Service Project" this past Sunday. We started the day with worship enhanced by our kindergarten through Fourth grade choir. Then over 120 volunteers made their way to the gym to work together as an efficient team. We packed 20,226 Adult meals or 40,452 children's meals in about an hour and a half. Other wrote cards and letters of encouragement to be given with the meals. Bethlehem was able to raise the funds necessary to sponsors the full service project. A portion of our meals went to flood victims our hurricane Helene in North Carolina and the rest remained in Saginaw to be distributed by Hidden Harvest. Following the service project we enjoyed a pitch-in meal. What a joyous opportunity to join together as a church family and serve others. **PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM AL BLESSINGS FLOW!**

PRAYER FOCUS

SPECIAL PRAYERS: Paul Tomaszewski, Gordon Henry, Milda Persons, Betty Berkobien, Jacquelyn Willman, Yvonne Dennison, Barbara Ruhlig, Bob Egerer, Gloria Colwell (end of life),

HOSPITALIZED: Jim Gould, Tim Weber (procedure)

RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER for the first time on Reformation Sunday are: Raiden Boggs, Lucas Chitwood, Liberty Coker, Alysianna Day, Landen Deloria, Will Duclos, Olivia Dzuba, Valerie Englehardt, Lydia Fritzler, Grace Porter, Logan Mercer, and Mark Stabek. These young people have been instructed concerning the Lord's Supper and desire to receive it.

BAPTISMAL BLESSINGS We rejoice with the family of **Sheridan Lee Green** the daughter of Mikaela (Yurgens) and Nathaniel Green. She will be baptized as a child of God on Sunday, Oct 27th, at the 10:30 worship. May God continue to grow and strengthen her faith.

OUR PRAYERS OF COMFORT are extended to the family of **Robert Emeott**. He was the father of John, James, and Robert. He entered eternal life on Sunday and his Christian memorial service was held on October 24. May God comfort his family with the assurance of eternal life.

PRAYER FOR CALL LIST: Lord God, heavenly Father, you have given us pastors to proclaim Your word. We pray for Bethlehem's Pastoral search committee and **Pastor Jacob Heine** as he considers Your calling on his ministry. Grant wisdom and guidance to all and if it be Your will

reveal to us who will be our next pastor to join us in the ministry at Bethlehem. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer. AMEN

CHURCH ATTENDANCE:

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10-20-24 243 Online viewership: 30

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT Romans 3:20 – “For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.” The Law of God is good — it’s just that we sinners cannot save ourselves by the Law. Salvation is a free gift of God because that is the only way we could ever be saved. The Law shows us God’s holiness and thus our own sin. And now in Christ we can look at the Law and see it in a new light as well: as a guide for how to live a godly life in thanksgiving to God for His gracious forgiveness in Christ.

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM GRANTS: Bethlehem is looking to “Share God’s Love and Care for All People” through several upcoming servant events. We are in need of several Action Team Grants to help us help others. The events are the celebration of “**50 Years of Preschool**” (November 10) and a “**Food Bank of Eastern Michigan**” truck. (April 2025) If you have the ability to help please contact the church and school office and we will be happy to walk you through the process. Thank you for your consideration.

CARING FOR OTHERS

LOVIN’ FROM THE OVEN Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School is invited to help supply the needs of our neighbors moving out of emergency shelter. Please bring your new or gently used items to the collection box in the narthex. Needs are pizza pans, cookie sheets, brownie pans, cake pans, bread pans, muffin tins (not mini), spatulas & pizza cutters, measuring spoons & cups, and mixing bowls. All donations will be given to: Rescue Ministries of Mid Michigan - IMPACT DESIGNS. Donations will be accepted November 1st through November 22nd.

BETHEHEM STARS will meet on November 5th at 12:00 PM at Krzysiak’s House Restaurant, 1605 Michigan Ave. Bay City, MI. Please call Billie Mull at 989-792-5843 to make a reservation.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN is in need of men’s clothing! If you are able to donate, please drop off items at the church office, or in the Orphan Grain Train bin in the narthex.

OCTOBER NOISY OFFERING SUPPORTS NEW LIFE LifeClinic, with locations in Saginaw, Bay City and Midland, provides encouragement to pregnant women and helps new mothers and fathers support their babies.

THANKS FOR YOUR SEPTEMBER NOISY OFFERINGS Thank you for your September Noisy Offerings totaling \$422.00 given to help prepare Bethlehem members to serve as pastors, teachers and other professional ministers.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS are cereal and jam/jelly. Donations can be dropped off at the church office.

SCHOOL NEWS

PRESCHOOL NEWS Bethlehem Little Stars Preschool is celebrating 50 years in 2024! If you have any pictures of our preschool classes from the last fifty years, please send them to Lisa May at lmay@bethlehemsaginaw.org by October 27th. Thank you!

AROUND BETHLEHEM

POINSETTIA SALE Poinsettia order forms are available in the Narthex or church office. You can order red, white, pink, or marble poinsettias for \$20 each. Payment and forms can be dropped off at the church office, in the offering plate, or in the mail by Friday, November 22nd. Call the office at 989-755-1144 if you are unable to have the form in by the deadline.

FALL CEMETERY CLEANUP The fall cemetery cleanup will happen soon. Please remove anything you would like to keep by October 27th. Anything that is out of season, faded, or broken will be removed. Also, all of the flags placed by the American Legion on Memorial Day will be removed. Thank you - The Cemetery Committee.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TRUNK OR TREAT Bethlehem will be hosting a Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 26th from 4 to 6 PM. We are in need of volunteers to run this event! If you are able to donate candy, please drop donations off in the office. If you would like to set up a trunk, please email office@bethlehemsaginaw.org or call 989-755-1144 to let us know.

TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT On Saturday, October 26th from 4 to 6 PM, everyone in the community is invited to attend our Trunk or Treat event at Bethlehem! Flyers are available in the Narthex if you would like to share. Admission to Trunk or Treat is one can or non-perishable food item for our food pantry. Spread the word!

YOUTH GROUP 10/26 6th – 12th grade students from any school or congregation are welcome to join us for Youth Group on Saturday, October 26th. At 3:30, we will meet at Bethlehem to help set-up and facilitate Trunk or Treat. Then we will have dinner, head to the Haunted House in St. Charles, and be back to Bethlehem by 9. Cost to attend is \$15. Drivers needed! Please RSVP to Lisa Duclos at 989-737-4548 by October 20th.

ALTAR GUILD SIGN UP October is Altar Guild Sign Up month! Altar Guild is not a hard job to do. You will be in a group where each person has a job to do for about an hour. We do not always meet on a weekend anymore for cleaning and preparing communion. We do clean up after communion on Sundays where it is offered. It is a blessing to work for our Lord. Please prayerfully think of joining us! Any questions, please call Ann Braun at 989-293-0439.

SEEKING WORSHIP ARTS TEAM MEMBERS Do you sing or play an instrument? Or can you see yourself working lights, sound, or visuals in our tech booth? Then you should consider joining our Worship Arts team! We are in need of new Worship Arts team members to lend us their talents at both the 9 AM and 10:30 AM service times. If you are interested, please see Alex Holcomb, email aholcomb@bethlehemsaginaw.org, or call 989-755-1144 to let us know.

WEEKLY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

- **Tuesdays, 9:30 am (Ladies)** in the David Room. Contact Mary Kay Hall for more information - (989) 497-8474.
- **Wednesdays, 8:00 am (Men)** Meeting at Immanuel Bible Church on Center Rd. in Saginaw. Men from Bethlehem, Holly Cross, Immanuel, and Peace will be in attendance. Currently in Romans. Bring your own coffee – donuts provided. Contact Bill Denno at 989-781-4851 or 989-295-8618 for more info. Bring your favorite Bible!
- **Fridays, 6:15 am (Men)** on Zoom. **“The Book of 2 Corinthians.”** For info: mp_denno@yahoo.com
- **Sundays, 9:15 am *Cultures in Conflict!* Beginning November 3rd: The Messiah in the Old Testament.** We will use the study *The Messiah: Revealing Jesus in the Old Testament*. Jesus made Himself very clear that the Old Testament testifies of him. This study will walk us through that claim. And do you have Sunday School age children and would like to join the study? Children are welcome in our class until Sunday School begins at 9:30.

OTHER NEWS

IMMANUEL LIVING NATIVITY Immanuel Lutheran Church of Frankentrost, 8220 E. Holland Rd. (M-46) in Saginaw, MI will host its 28th annual “Living Nativity – A Journey to Bethlehem” on Friday, December 6th – 7-9 PM; Saturday, December 7th – 6-8 PM; and Sunday, December 8th – 6-8 PM. Experience the sights and sounds of Bethlehem on that blessed night when Jesus Christ was born. This is a free 30-minute outdoor walk, so dress for the weather. Fellowship and refreshments will follow in the school. See church narthex announcements board for more information.

LIFE CLINIC OPEN HOUSE The Members of the Board of LifeClinic Community Resources has invited Bethlehem members to their Thanks-for-Giving Open House! From 4 to 6 PM on the date and location of your choosing: November 12th at their Saginaw location, November 13th at their Bay City location, and November 14th at their Midland location. Sweet treats and drinks will be provided, and an opportunity to tour the clinic will also be available.

THE VLHS BOOSTER CLUB FRUIT SALE is going on now through November 8. Purchase your fresh oranges, grapefruits, or mandarins today! Contact a VL student, the VLHS office (989-790-1676), or order online at www.vlhs.com/fruitsale. Thank you for supporting the Boosters, who in turn support extracurricular activities at Valley!

VLHS DRAMA DEPARTMENT INVITES YOU TO THEIR FALL PRODUCTION OF “ALICE IN WONDERLAND”, held November 7, 8, and 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. Tickets are \$7/adult, \$5 student, \$24/family, sold in advance in the school office beginning October 28 or at the door as available. Directed by Bethlehem’s own Barry Wittig!

VLHS ART AND SCIENCE SHOWCASE that highlights all our Biology and Art 1 students have learned as they’ve explored, researched, and investigated Michigan native plants and animals

this fall. Open from 5:00 - 6:30 on November 7th in the Fine Arts & Science hallways at Valley.

THE VLHS MUSIC DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ITS FALL INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT on Sunday, November 10 at 3 p.m. in the VLHS gym. Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

THE RETURN OF THE MID-MICHIGAN LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS STUDY - It's back! This study met for many years but has been on break for the last couple of years. Grace Lutheran Church (303 Ruth Street, Auburn) will be hosting it on the third Saturdays of the month from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., starting October 19. The Formula of Concord will be the focus! Pastor Schian along with several other area pastors will help facilitate the discussion. Both pastors and laypeople are welcome to attend. Let's rejoice in these twelve articles of faith which are so practical for the Christian life! If you have any questions/comments, contact Pastor Schian at 607-072-5792.

ESTATE PLANNING The gift planning process of an estate plan requires multi-channel communication. The communication begins with your spouse if you are married. It is essential that both spouses buy into the whole process, expressing their wishes and becoming educated so that the plan can stay in place over many years. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor uses a special survey incorporating wishes from both spouses into a final design, even if one spouse ordinarily avoids involvement in financial affairs. To get started, contact...

Julie Burgess

Gift Planning Counselor

Church Extension Fund/MI District

Email: Julie.burgess@lfnd.org

Mobile: 713-822-5284