



WEEKLY CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP: THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Theme: "Forgiveness"

What does it really mean to forgive someone? We often learn about it as a practice from a very young age, being taught from a very young age to say "I'm sorry," and then "It's ok. I forgive you" when something happens that hurts another person. But, as we get older and life gets more complicated, we discover there is far more to it than your cart bumping into someone else at the grocery store or even taking someone else's toy away in the sandbox. The truth is that life sometimes hurts; not just in general, but in specific, tangible ways that cause us real harm, emotionally, mentally, and even physically. And when we are hurt, or when someone we love is injured, forgiveness is often the farthest thing from our first response. Sure, we hear the countless instructions to forgive, but when it comes down to putting them into practice, we balk. Perhaps because we don't quite know what forgiveness really looks like, or how exactly we are to go about it.

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones."

Genesis 50:19-21

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Lay Reader – Michael Weiss

Preacher – Deacon Ken Kerouac

Elder in Charge – 9 am Mike Denno & Kurt Englehardt, 10:30 am Larry Griffin

Greeters – 9 am Laurie Denno/Christine Engelhardt 10:30 am Mike & Ruth Hargash

Music Leaders - Alex Holcomb and Annelise Holcomb

Tech Team – Ryan Mulder

Music Group- Deb Erikson and Gerrie Freiman

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

September 17 – Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am

September 17 – Small Group Bible Studies Begin @ 9:15 am & 10:30 am

September 19 - Braille Workers @ 8 am Lower Level

September 19 - Ladies Bible Study @ 9 am David Room

September 19 – Food Pantry 10am

September 19 – Knitting & Crocheting @ 11 am David Room

September 20 – School Chapel @ 8:10 am

September 20 – Worship Arts Team practice @ 6:30 pm Church
 September 21 - Braille Workers @ 8 am Lower Level
 September 21 – Senior Choir @ 7 pm
 September 22 – NO School Teacher In Service Day
 September 22 - Men’s Bible Study @ 6:15 am Zoom
 September 23 – Morrissette & Hill Wedding
 September 24 – Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am
 September 24 – Recognition and Blessing of Parish Leadership Council & Boards

THIS WEEK AT GOD CONNECTS The subject of this week’s God Connects is “Why the Bible?”
 The study looks at the Foundations of our Christian Faith. Feel free to pop in to any of the studies. Call/email the church office for times - office@bethlehemsaginaw.org 989-755-1144

Here are the groups that you can sign-up for:

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	FOCUS GROUP	LEADER
Sundays	9:15 am	Lower Level	Everyone	John Brandt
Sundays	10:15 am	Lower Level	Everyone	Pastor Hauser
Tuesdays	9:30 am	David Room	Women	Mary Kay Hall
Thursdays	11:00 am	David Room	Everyone	Pastor Hauser
Zoom	TBD	Zoom	Everyone	Mike Denno

PRAYER FOCUS

SPECIAL PRAYERS: Jim Conrad – Surgery

HOSPITALIZED: Ken Willman, Richard Weishuhn

CHURCH ATTENDANCE:

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: 9-10-23 275 Online viewership: 25

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED! Tuesday, Sept 5th at a special Voters Meeting, Bethlehem issued a Divine Call to Rev. Nicholas Schram of Barnhardt, MO as Senior Administrative Pastor – Elect. Pastor Schram currently serves at Resurrection Lutheran Church in St. Louis, MO. He is married to Ariana and they are expecting their first child in October. Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide Pastor Nick in his decision whether to come to Saginaw and minister among us or to continue at his present congregation. Keep Bethlehem and Pastor Nick’s current congregation in your prayers, too.

MARRIAGE: Your prayers are requested for the marriage of **Thomas Morrissette and Lisa Hill** on Saturday, September 23. As they join their lives together may God multiply their love.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT Romans 14:7 – “For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.” We just don’t belong to ourselves — we belong first of all to God, and through Him, we belong to our neighbors. We are here to serve God in our service to one another. God has called you to this service through your vocation: as a Christian you serve others in the church, as a neighbor you serve others in society, and as a son or daughter, husband or wife, father or mother, you serve your family.

RECOGNITION AND BLESSING OF PARISH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL & BOARDS: Next Sunday at both of our worship services we will take a moment to recognize, thank, and ask God’s blessings upon those women and men that serve our congregation in many different ways on Boards and PLC.

GUARDIAN PRAYER ANGELS NEEDED! In this program, our aim is to encourage, support, and strengthen the faith of our 8th graders in this last year at Bethlehem and as they approach graduation. Guardian Prayer Angel duties include praying for your 8th grader and anonymously sending cards or small remembrance items for their birthday, Christmas and at Confirmation/graduation. Little “thinking of you” notes can be sent at any time. If you are interested in becoming a Guardian Prayer Angel, you can call/text Diane Gallegos at (989) 798-6006 or call the school office at (989) 755-1144.

OFFERING COLLECTION: You may 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.

CARING FOR OTHERS

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN See the bulletin board in the Narthex for details on how to pack a hygiene kit for the Orphan Grain Train. Contents include 1 bath towel, 1 wash cloth, 1 bar of soap, 1 plastic soap box holder, 1 toothbrush, 1 sturdy comp, 6 band-aids, 1 small package of facial tissues, 1 nail clipper, and 1 piece of strong ribbon or cord. The flyer also goes over how to assemble these items, and what not to include. Thank you!

SEPTEMBER NOISY OFFERING: The Called **Church Worker Scholarship Fund** – Over the past 25 years Bethlehem has been blessed with young people who have been called by God to full time ministry in the church. These young people attend one of our Concordia’s (Ann Arbor, Wisconsin, Chicago, Nebraska or Seminaries) to become teachers, music directors, directors of Christian education, or pastors. Your contributions help to support and encourage them as they seek to serve the church. Thank you for your Noisy Offering.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS are peanut butter, jelly/jam, hamburger helper, and cereal. Thank you for your support!

ESTATE PLANNING Life is full of starts and stops, but the Lord looks at all our lives in one grand design. Our estate plans dwell in the grand design vision, instead of focusing only on the

moment. Ministries start. Sometimes they complete their mission and cease to exist. You know in your heart that the Lord wants you to support ministry through your estate. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you see how to build flexibility to address the future which you can't see today. Contact...

Julie Burgess

Gift Planning Counselor

Church Extension Fund/MI District

Email: Julie.burgess@lfnd.org

Mobile: 713-822-5284

SCHOOL NEWS

We are at the midterm of the first quarter already! Time flies when you having fun. Our school continues to grow, as we picked up two more new students this last week. God is SO good!

Our 4th-6th grades students and teachers spent the last three days at Outdoor Education. This year they visited Camp Lu Lay Lea in Lupton where they planted trees, learned how to build a fire, and researched animal habitats. They also played some fun games, attended chapel, and performed songs and skits in a Mock Rock competition. What a fun way to learn more about God's great world!

Thursday our faculty and staff will enjoy dinner out and a comedy act at the Temple Theater thanks to a Ministry Workers Wellness Grant from the Church Extension Fund. We are looking forward to some fun and fellowship!

PRESCHOOL NEWS We currently have 13 3-year-olds and 15 4-year-olds, and are taking interest calls and doing tours each week.

We are also excited to announce that we are opening another preschool room next to the 4-year-old room. This will be a G.S.R.P. program, what that means is that it is an income-based program and is offered through the State of Michigan. Things will be a little different in that room than our current rooms, but we are so excited to be able to minister to more children and introduce them to Jesus!

We are still looking for the PERFECT teacher for this room, if you know someone with a bachelor's in early childhood, have them send a resume to lmay@bethlehemsaginaw.org

CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER We will be hosting a fundraiser for Bethlehem Athletics at Chipotle on Monday, October 2nd from 4-8 PM. If ordering online, use code KVBXB3L. If going in person, be sure to grab a flyer from the Narthex or church office.

AROUND BETHLEHEM

ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP October is altar guild sign-up month! If you are interested in helping our altar guild team to beautify our altar/set up communion, please reach out to Ann Braun at 989-799-8098. Any and all help is very appreciated!

BRILLE STARTING If you have any questions or are interested in joining, please call Ann Gould at 989-928-9089 or Becky Bullard at 989-752-5028.

KNITTING AND CROCHETING GROUP Join us on Tuesdays at 11 AM in the David Room. Last year we created close to 50 hats for those in need! This year we are particularly in need of people who can crochet or knit mittens. Come join us! No RSVP necessary.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HAVING OUR TRADITIONAL SERVICE LIVE STREAMED? Due to a lack of volunteers, we have only been able to live stream the 9 AM contemporary service in the past. If anyone is interested in helping with technology for the traditional service at 10:30, we would be happy to train him or her regardless of age. This would be a great blessing for our shut-ins who prefer the traditional service. Call 989-755-1144 or email aholcomb@bethlehemsaginaw.org if you are interested in volunteering.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR Sign up for altar flowers on the schedule on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Thank you for helping us to beautify our altar.

WEEKLY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

- **Tuesdays, 9:30 am (Ladies)** in the David Room. Contact Mary Kay Hall for more information - (989) 497-8474.
- **Fridays, 6:15 am (Men)** on Zoom. **“The Chronological Gospels.”** For info: mp_denno@yahoo.com
- **Sundays, 9:15 am** resumes September 10.

OTHER NEWS

FALL LMWL RALLY will be held at Nativity Lutheran Church on October 14, 2023. Registration is at 8:30-9:00 AM. The rally will be 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM with a luncheon to follow. It is \$6.00 to register. Please reach out to Ann Gould at 989-928-9089 if you would like more information.

LIFECLINIC WALK FOR LIFE LifeClinic will be hosting a new fundraiser event called Walk For Life. The event will be held at their Bay City location. They ask for walkers to register online, get sponsors, and then come walk for 30 minutes. Anyone can walk. You can make a team of up to 10 people, sign up individually, or make it a family event! Younger children must have chaperones. Come and walk, play games, shop the vendors, and have a bite to eat. Their fundraising goal is \$55,000! Visit secure.fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/website/home/?e+25927 to register.

CUC ANNUAL CAREERS FOR CHRIST PROGRAM: NOVEMBER 3-5 Concordia University Chicago’s Careers for Christ program will be held on their campus the weekend of November 3-5, 2023. The theme for this year’s program is “Soli Deo Gloria” based on Colossians 3:17: “And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything to the glory of God.” Future CUC students learn about ministry to the church, connect with current students and faculty in church work programs, and are inspired by the Word of God. Online registration is available at CUChicago.edu/C4C

FESTIVAL SERVICE FOR ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS - On Sunday, October 1 at 4:00 p.m. St. Michael Lutheran Church in Richville, Michigan will be hosting a festival Evening Prayer Service for St. Michael and All Angels. The preacher for this service will be Michigan District President Rev. David A. Davis. Kantors for the service will be Jon Eifert, Nathan Beethe, and Brian Heinlein. There will be a Mass Choir comprised of members from area congregations, instrumentalists, and pipe organ. Anyone who wishes to participate in the mass choir should contact Nathan Beethe at kantor.graceauburn@gmail.com. Please mark your calendars for this exciting event! We hope you will join us! See flyer on bulletin board in Narthex.