



WEEKLY CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP: Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Bible Readings Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9, James 1:16–25, Mark 7:14–23

We Are Cleansed and Sustained by the Word of God

Wickedness and evil come *“from within, out of the heart,”* and that is what defiles a person (Mark 7:21–23). Hence, we cannot save ourselves, because we are sinful and unclean from the inside out. But as the Lord Jesus *“declared all foods clean”* (Mark 7:19), so He cleanses us by His Word, the preaching of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, *“listen to the statutes and the rules”* of the Lord, *“and do them, that you may live”* (Deut. 4:1). For His Word is righteous, and to live according to it is *“your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples”* (Deut. 4:6). Cling to His Word, and also teach it *“to your children and your children’s children”* (Deut. 4:9). Put on this *“armor of God”* by hearing and heeding what He speaks to you, that you may *“stand firm”* in the evil day (Eph. 6:11–13). Gird yourself with the righteousness of Christ, by faith in the *“gospel of peace,”* and take up *“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,”* by confessing Christ Jesus and *“praying at all times in the Spirit”* (Eph. 6:14–18).

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

²² But **be doers of the word, and not hearers only**, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

James 1:22-24

SERVING THIS SUNDAY –

Preacher – Pastor Michael Korte

Officiant – Deacon Ken Kerouac

Lay Reader – Chris White

Elder in Charge – 10 am Larry Griffin, Kurt Engelhardt, Mike Denno

Greeters – 10 am – Laurie Denno, Christine Engelhardt

Tech Team – 10 am Will Conrad, Steve Martin, Jim Vance

Music Team - 10 am Kiel & Jenna Fauske

Music Leaders – 10 am Kiel Fauske

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

SEPTEMBER 1 ONE CHURCH Sunday 10:00 am Labor Day Weekend

September 2 – **NO SCHOOL** Labor Day Weekend with Holy Communion

September 2 – Office Closed

September 3 – Bethlehem Stars @ “G’s” 12 noon

September 3 - Board of Elders 7 pm

September 4 - School Chapel 8:15 am

September 4 – Drive Up Communion 4 pm

September 4 - Worship Arts Team Rehearsal 6:30 pm

September 6 - Men’s Bible Study via Zoom @ 6:15 am

September 8 - Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am **Education Sunday**

September 8 – SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING for Emergency Repairs. 10 am

September 8 – Installation of Rev. Kurt Brandon – Holy Cross 4 pm

SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS: The West side of the school by the gym entrance has developed a drainage problem. We need to repair and prevent further damage. Therefore, a SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING has been called by the leadership and pastor of the congregation for Sunday, September 8 at 10 am. The only item of business to be voted upon is to approved an expenditure not to exceed \$25,000 to repair and fix the drainage problem.

INFORMATION CLASS FOR MEMBERSHIP: Have You ever wanted to learn more about what the Bible teaches and what we at Bethlehem Church, School and Preschool believe? Join us on September 21 from 9 am to 3 pm for an Information Class. (Snacks and Lunch provided.) It will cover the basics of Christianity, including the Bible, the Ten Commandments, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. There will be a time for discussion and for you to have some questions answered. If you or someone you know is interested please contact the church office to register. 989-755-1144

BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGIN SEPTEMBER 15

Sign-up in the narthex now for our congregation-wide Bible Study “Cultures in Conflict” part of the Ray Vanderlaan series “That the World May Know.” Classes are scheduled on Sunday and several times during the week. The classes are appropriate for 5th graders through age 105!

And you can sign-up for Sunday School which also begins on September 15. You sign up in the narthex and there are online sign-ups described elsewhere in the Connection.

SUNDAY MORNING 9:15 A.M. - Meet Lower Level Leader: Charles Buckhahn, Larry Hauser

SUNDAY MORNING 10:15 A.M. - Meet Lower Level Leader Tbd

TUESDAY MORNING 9:30 A.M. - David Room Leader Mary Kay Hall

THURSDAY EVENING 6:30 P.M. - David Room Leader Pastor Korte

DRIVE UP COMMUNION will be held **Wednesday, September 4th**, from 4 pm to 5 pm in the Weiss Street parking lot.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT Bethlehem's annual report for the 23-24 year can be accessed at bethlehemsaginaw.org on the home page, or by scanning the QR code. Limited printed copies are available in the Narthex.



PRAYER FOCUS

SPECIAL PRAYERS: Paul Tomaszewski, Dorothy Rathje (former teacher), Gordon Henry, Robert Emeott, Joan Otto, Herb Berlin, Jim Lutz, Gloria Colwell, Debbie Pappas, Marion Reimer, Milda Persons, Jim Gould, Bob Egerer, Andrew Forsythe

HOSPITALIZED: Betty Berkobien,

CHURCH ATTENDANCE:

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 08-25-24 171 Online viewership: 23

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT Deuteronomy 4:6 – **“Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’”** There is no wiser, more fulfilling life than a life lived according to the Word of God. We should be encouraged by this when the world tempts us to think that the Word of God is harmful to us. Our Father loves us, so all His Word is meant to bless us. We may have to suffer for upholding the Word of God, as St. John the Baptist did. But the cross the Lord has for us to bear will be far better than any we would create for ourselves.

CARING FOR OTHERS

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.

SEPTEMBER NOISY OFFERING BETHLEHEM CHURCH WORKER SCHOLARSHIP FUND The September Noisy Offering supports men and women who are studying for various ministries within the LCMS. Many Bethlehem members have entered ministry and have brought the blessings of the Gospel to people all over the world.

SEEKING NOISY OFFERING RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Elders is seeking recommendations for local ministries or other non-profit organizations to receive our Noisy Offerings. Recipients must be consistent with our mission of sharing Christ's love and caring for all people. You may make your recommendations by emailing John Brandt (jbrandt@bethlehemsaginaw.org) or sending a letter to his attention at Bethlehem. Please provide the name of the organization, a short explanation of why you are recommending it, and a contact person at the organization. Recommendations are due September 24.

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

SCHOOL NEWS

SURPLUS GARDEN ITEMS? If you have been blessed with an abundant harvest this year, please consider donating any excess food items to Bethlehem's school kitchen! Donations can be dropped off at the school office. Thank you!

PRESCHOOL NEWS Our GSRP program is a state-funded program, and is free to all 4-year-olds who qualify. Though it may function a bit differently than our traditional classrooms, we are so glad to be able to open up Bethlehem to families who would otherwise not be able to attend, and share the love of Jesus wherever we can. If you know a family who may be interested in this option, please have them call Lisa May at 989-755-1144 ext. 209.

AROUND BETHLEHEM

SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSAL will be starting back up on Thursday, September 12th at 7 PM. If you are interested in joining, please contact George Frank or call the office at 989-755-1144.

BETHLEHEM STARS MEETING Bethlehem Stars will be meeting at G's Pizzeria on September 3rd at 12:00 PM. To RSVP, call Billie Mull at 989-792-5843.

BRAILLE GROUP STARTING UP Bethlehem's Braille ministry has a NEW GROUP forming that will meet on Monday nights beginning on September 9th from 5:45 to 8:00 PM. Tuesday and Thursday groups will start up again on September 10th and September 12th, starting at 8:30 AM. Contact Ann Gould with any questions about joining at 989-928-9089 or email me at louklip1@sbcglobal.net.

BETHLEHEM SUNDAY SCHOOL! Sunday school will be starting this coming fall! It will begin on September 15 during the 9:00 AM church service. It will start around 9:20/30 after the Children's Message and finish at the end of the service. We will hold it in the church's lower level (the Latchkey area), and parents can go downstairs to pick up their children after the service ends. Kids from PreK to 4th grade are welcome to join us! We welcome kids that are in church on any given Sunday morning, but for planning purposes, it would be helpful to sign up your child beforehand if interested. You can do so on the Bethlehem website, or you can **scan the QR code to the right**. We also have a signup sheet in the back of the narthex if you would prefer that way. We are also looking for volunteers (5th grade through adult), so please email Annelise Holcomb at arholcomb@bethlehemsaginaw.org if you are interested, or you can sign up in the back of the church narthex. We look forward to teaching kids about God!



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. **Adjourned for the Summer. Reconvening September 17th**
- **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 September 15**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

September 1 One Church Sunday at 10:00 am Labor Day Weekend

October 13 – One Church Sunday at 10:00 am Kids Against Hunger 20,000 Meals Service Day

OTHER NEWS

COMMUNITY PRAYER CIRCLES We invite you to join us for worship and prayer on Sunday, September 15, 2024, 2:30-4:00 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, 3427 Adams, Saginaw.

In August, CPC members were blessed to gather at Harvey Randall Wickes Park on Hospital Road, with David Britton provided the beautiful music. God blessed us with some new participants from Holy Cross and other churches who refreshed us as we Prayed the Bible for the first time.

Enjoy the End of Summer and Happy Labor Day as we praise our great God together.

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

VLHS HOMECOMING AND GRAND TAILGATE *If you are interested in hosting the Bethlehem tent, please call the office at 989-755-1144!* Homecoming Week at VLHS is coming up soon - September 16-21! You are invited to attend an athletic event throughout the week, or join us at Friday's Grand Tailgate, parade, and football game! The week's events can be found at www.vlhs.com/hoco24. On Friday September 20, the Grand Tailgate will begin at 4:30 complete with hot dogs and water at a central VL tent, inflatables and games for kids, and the Homecoming Parade at 5:45 p.m. (Detailed information about the tailgate is

at www.vlhs.com/HCTailgate.) The football game kicks off at 7 p.m. versus Hemlock; tickets are \$5 at the gate. Presentation of the Homecoming Court and crowning of the King and Queen will be at halftime. All are invited to join the festivities!

VALLEY LUTHERAN MUM SALE Friday, September 6 is the annual mum sale at Valley Lutheran in the parking lot. Beautiful mums (500 have been ordered) from Boehlers Greenhouse in Saginaw will be available for \$10.00 cash and carry. The sale begins at noon and will run until sold out. Thank you for your support from the Parent Organization.

GRIEFSHARE RETURNS TO GRACE AUBURN IN SEPTEMBER On Thursday, September 5, a new cycle of GriefShare begins at Grace Lutheran Church (303 Ruth St, Auburn). All are welcome! This is a free resource; all materials are provided. We will be using the latest edition of GriefShare, intended to help anyone who is grieving find hope and peace in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! We will meet for thirteen weekly sessions on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning September 5 and concluding December 12 (we will not meet October 31 or Thanksgiving Day). Each GriefShare session stands alone and lasts about ninety minutes. Drop-ins are always welcome! Questions? Please contact Grace's church office at (989) 662-6161. More information, including how to register, can be found at graceauburn.org/griefshare.

CARDINAL COMFORT In the wake of recent events, most (if not all) of current Concordia University Ann Arbor Cardinals have faced fear, sadness, anger, and anxiety about the future. Cardinal Comfort, a new program, is looking for volunteer Champions to pray for and encourage current Cardinal students, faculty, and staff for the 2024/25 school year. Champions will be assigned a Cardinal to pray for daily, send an encouraging letter or card at least monthly, and send a care package at least once per semester. If you are interested in offering prayer and hope by becoming a Cardinal Comfort Champion, visit bethlehemsaginaw.org/cuaa

CAMPUS CONNECT Do you have former students attending college in the state of Michigan? Michigan and English District's university campus ministries as well as local pastors and congregations are ready to engage with your college students this fall. Campus Ministry provides a nurturing environment where students can thrive and find belonging within a faith community during their time at school. Join us in creating meaningful connections and fostering spiritual growth among the next generation of leaders. Send us their contact information by going to <https://michigandistrict.org/campusconnect/> or forward this link to your students and/or their parents and grandparents. To see a list of active campus ministries in Michigan, go to <https://michigandistrict.org/ministries/specialized-ministries/campus-ministry/>