



# WEEKLY CONNECTION

## NOVEMBER 3, 2024

### ALL SAINTS DAY

#### **SUNDAY'S WORSHIP: All Saints Day Observed**

Bible Readings Revelation 7:(2–8) 9–17, 1 John 3:1–3, Matthew 5:1–12

#### ***Saints Are Blessed in the Eternal Presence of Christ***

*“A great multitude ... from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,”* cry out, *“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne”* (Rev. 7:9–17). Faith-filled saints from every place and time, with unified voices, eternally magnify the Lamb of God. As His beloved children, we, too, *“shall see him as he is”* (1 John 3:1–3). Joined with the throng of angels and myriad saints, we shall *“serve him day and night in his temple”* (Rev. 7:9–17). In our earthly tension vacillating between saint and sinner, faith and doubt, sacred and profane, we earnestly seek Jesus to calm our fears, comfort our spirits and forgive our sins. The Holy Spirit through faith in Christ propels us forward, fortifying us in Word and Sacrament, to our eternal home. In the midst of our constant struggle as believers, we need to be blessed. And so we are. The poor in spirit, the meek, the hungry, the thirsty, the merciful, the pure and the persecuted are all blessed, and we will most certainly inherit the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:1–12).

#### **SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:**

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.  
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

*Revelation 7:14*

#### **SERVING THIS SUNDAY –**

Preacher –	Pastor Korte
Officiant –	Pastor Korte
Lay Reader -	10:30 am Rev. Charles Buckhahn
Acolytes-	9 am Wil Duclos, Valerie Englehardt 10:30 am Liam Grossman
Elder in Charge –	9 am Mike Denno, Kurt Engelhardt 10:30 am Larry Griffen
Greeters –	9 am Laurie Denno, Christine Engelhardt 10:30 am Billie & Dave Mull
Tech Team –	9 am Adam & Ryan Birchmeier 10:30 am Christian, Jackson, Owen White
Music Team	Grace Parker, Deb Erickson

Special Music - 10:30 Choir II grades 5-8  
Music Leaders – 9 am Alex Holcomb,  
10:30 Annelise Holcomb

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

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 – 4<sup>th</sup> 9:15 am  
November 3 - Bible Study Lower Level 9:15 am  
November 4 – Braille Workers 5:45 pm  
November 4 – Ministry & Governance Task Force  
November 5 – Braille Workers 8:30 am  
November 5 – Bible Study David Room 9:30 am  
November 5 – Bethlehem Knitters 11 am David Room  
November 5 – Bethlehem Stars at Krzysiak's House Restaurant 12 noon  
November 5 – Board of Elders  
November 6 - School Chapel 8:15 am  
November 6 – Drive Up Communion 4 to 5 pm  
November 6 – **Special Voters Mtg** 6 pm  
November 6 - Worship Arts Team Rehearsal 6:30 pm  
November 7 – Braille Workers 8:30 am  
November 7 – Senior Choir Rehearsal 7 pm  
November 8 - Men's Bible Study via Zoom @ 6:15 am  
November 10 - Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am **CLEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PRESCHOOL**  
November 10 – Sunday School Preschool – 4<sup>th</sup> 9:15 am  
November 10 – 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.

**SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING** is available by Zoom.

Time: Nov 6, 2024 18:00 Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89318267975?pwd=m3aSVbjL5knVF5qyoaW3hWwiWkgnuO.1>

Meeting ID: 893 1826 7975

Passcode: Jg12rt

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,89318267975#,,,,\*160986# US +13092053325,,89318267975#,,,,\*160986# US

Dial by your location

• +1 305 224 1968 US • +1 309 205 3325 US • +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

**NOVEMBER NOISY OFFERING FUNDS:** “The Bethlehem Cares Fund” This month’s Noisy Offerings help people work through difficult situations by supporting The Bethlehem Cares Fund. The fund may help meet emergency needs such as food, gas, lodging and others. It is one way we can love our neighbors when times are tough.

**DRIVE UP COMMUNION** will be held **Wednesday, November 6**, from 4 pm to 5 pm in the Weiss Street parking lot.

**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](mailto: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](http://bethlehemsaginaw.org/employment)

### **PRAYER FOCUS**

**SPECIAL PRAYERS:** Paul Tomaszewski, Gordon Henry, Milda Persons, Betty Berkobien, Jacquelyn Willman, Yvonne Dennison, Barbara Ruhlig, Bob Egerer, Dave Vanderlip

**HOSPITALIZED:** Jim Gould, Tim Weber (procedure)

**OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to the family of **Gloria Colwell**, who entered eternal life on Saturday, October 26. Gloria was the mother of Robert Colwell and Karen Shepherd. May God comfort all who mourn Gloria’s passing.

**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

**CELEBRATING 62 YEARS OF MARRIAGE** Flowers on the altar are provided by Ed and Joyce Reinke, who are celebrating their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>! We are grateful to God for the blessings received through their marriage.

#### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE:**

Reformation Sunday                      10-27-24                      263                      Online viewership: 30

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT** All Saints' Day **"With angels, archangels, and with all the company of heaven ..."** When we gather around the altar of the Lord in His house, we pray and praise God with "all the company of heaven." Those we have lost in the Lord are not truly lost to us — they have simply entered their rest with the Lord. As we gather to worship our Lord, we gather along with them. On the Last Day everything that God has given into the care of our stewardship will fade away — everything except our brothers and sisters in Christ. Caring for one another in love and grace is our highest calling.

**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**

**BETHEHEM BRAILLE MINISTRY IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!** If you are able to attend Braille ministry sessions at Bethlehem on Mondays from 5:45-7:45 PM or Thursdays from 8:30-11 AM, please contact Becky Bullard at 989-280-5130. No experience is necessary! Braille ministry does not meet in the summer.

**THANKSGIVING CARDS FOR THE HOMEBOUND** We are collecting Thanksgiving cards to mail out to the homebound this year. Cards can be storebought or handmade. This is a great activity for children as well as adults! Please turn in completed cards to the office by November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> through November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**BETHEHEM STARS** will meet on November 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**NOVEMBER NOISY OFFERING FUNDS THE BETHLEHEM CARES FUND** This month's Noisy Offerings help people work through difficult situations by supporting The Bethlehem Cares Fund. The fund may help meet emergency needs such as food, gas, lodging and others. It is one way we can love our neighbors when times are tough.

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS** are soup, 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](mailto:lmay@bethlehemsaginaw.org) by October 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

**SPIRIT WEAR** Our holiday spirit wear order forms are now published! Order forms can be found in the Church Narthex or outside the school office. Attached to Bethlehem's spirit wear order form is an order form for a shirt designed by the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Proceeds from the sale of that particular shirt will go towards the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade class trip to Washington, DC. All order forms and payment are due to the church/school office by Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**CULVER'S AND CHUCK E. CHEESE FUNDRAISERS** Flyers are available in the church narthex and at the school office for our Culver's and Chuck E. Cheese fundraisers coming up this week! Culver's fundraiser is Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 at the Culver's on Gratiot. This is a fundraiser for the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington, DC. Chuck E Cheese fundraiser is on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:15 to 9:00. This is a general fundraiser for Bethlehem PTL.

### **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 22<sup>nd</sup>. Call the office at 989-755-1144 if you are unable to have the form in by the deadline.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:mp_denno@yahoo.com)
- **Sundays, 9:15 am *Cultures in Conflict!* Beginning November 3<sup>rd</sup>: 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

**COMMUNITY PRAYER CIRCLES** Holy Cross Lutheran Church is blessing Community Prayer Circles with their invitation to praise and pray to our gracious and faithful Lord on Sunday, November 17, 2024; 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. at 600 Court Street, Saginaw, thanks to Lisa Jahnke who is coordinating. Please let me know if you have questions/comments ([voss.sharon@yahoo.com](mailto:voss.sharon@yahoo.com); 989 792 2106). We are looking forward to seeing you at Holy Cross on 11/17. REJOICE this day!

**IMMANUEL LIVING NATIVITY** Immanuel Lutheran Church of Frankentrost, 8220 E. Holland Rd. (M-46) in Saginaw, MI will host its 28<sup>th</sup> annual “Living Nativity – A Journey to Bethlehem” on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> – 7-9 PM; Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – 6-8 PM; and Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> – 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 12<sup>th</sup> at their Saginaw location, November 13<sup>th</sup> at their Bay City location, and November 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 7<sup>th</sup> 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** Gift planning can ensure that your charitable intent is honored in your overall estate plan. An estate plan addresses many concerns with intent of bringing the process of administering your estate into conformity with state law. There are many rabbit trails to follow during the estate planning process. If we aren’t careful, we may lose the opportunity to dig into how gifts to ministry can be important for the sharing of the Gospel into the future. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you keep your family and ministry in focus throughout the process. Contact...

Julie Burgess

Gift Planning Counselor

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