



549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910
517-482-3225
www.bethlutheran.org



Worship Service – 10:00
January 29, 2023

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

O come let us worship and bow down to the God who upends human understanding. We seek status, you made yourself nothing. You fasted; we fill our plates. You embraced rejection; we crave approval. We lift our hearts in humble gratitude, O God, for this model of Christian perfection. Speak to us. Make us willing to be filled with your treasures, which are the richest blessings of all. In the name of the servant Jesus, we pray. Amen.

WELCOME

We count it a privilege to receive guests into our worship service. The ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church exists to bring glory to God and to serve you. We hope you sense that Jesus is at the heart of all we do.

If you are a guest, and would like more information about our ministries, please send Pastor Matt a message at pastormattsmith@gmail.com or call the church office at 482-3225.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Bethlehem Lutheran is a praying church; this is one of our Faith Practices/Marks of Discipleship. A white card is provided in the pew rack for requesting petitions of concern or thanksgiving to be included in the prayers of the congregation. Fill out the card and hand it to an usher during the Hymn of the Day. If you would like the person named on the card notified about the prayer offered on their behalf, please include an address on the card.

If you would like your concern prayed for every day this week, please fill out a blue card and place it in the basket in our prayer corner.

Silencing cell phones and handheld devices and keeping conversation to a minimum during worship is appreciated.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by BELC.

TAKING FAITH HOME Find a copy on Facebook in the BELC Worship Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/belcworship/>).

PORTALS OF PRAYER January – March 2023 booklets are available on the Welcome Table in the lobby. If you would like a copy, call the church office, 482-3225, and we will send you one.

PRAYER PARTNERS Each Sunday we pray for a congregation in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod to offer our support and to emphasize the ministry that we share. This week we pray for Feast of Victory Lutheran Church in Acme Michigan, Rev. Carolyn Heider.

ONLINE GIVING Did you know that you can contribute via our website and not create an account? Clicking on the online giving link and filling out the donation form is all you need to do to make an online contribution. If you would like to create an account, go to the 'Printables' page on the BELC website for instructions. **Scan this QR Code by putting your cell phone camera up to the code and follow the link to give electronically to Bethlehem.**



THOSE WHO SERVE IN OUR WORSHIP

PASTORS – Rev. Matthew A. Smith, Rev. John W. Burow
ORGANIST & HANDBELL DIRECTOR – James Schippers
CHOIR DIRECTOR – Sue Nelson
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP DIRECTOR – Laurey Wyble
ASSISTING MINISTER – Crystal Collins
ACOLYTE – Andreanna Fernandez
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith
LAY READER – Jim Whitman
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Tim Nelson, Christina Raia
GREETERS – Kylee Nelson, Zella Brisbo, Abby Brisbo
USHERS – Jim Whitman, Dee Bernardi, Don Romain
ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin
A/V PRODUCTION – David Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Meeker, Kevin Peckham, Paul Schmidt, David Westover

Our Thoughts &
Prayers
are with...



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS and with your cards and visits:

Doug Griffin & Shelby Waters in The Willows at Okemos
John Nelson in Grandhaven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing
Rhoda Hunter in Prestige Way on Keller Road in Holt
Pat Lebsack in The Willows, East Lansing

Those at home: *John Bartel, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo
Lois Cairns, Crystal Collins, Joann Dyer, Emma Hicks
Marilyn Bass-Huysen, Nancy Jackson, Jeff Kosloski Jr.
Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer
Carol Roush, Connie Scott, Audrey Skidmore, Betty VanConant
Steve Viele, Emily Viele, Cheryl VanPatten, Matthew White*

*If you know of a member you would like us to include on this list or
remove from this list, please call the church office.*

MISSION PARTNERS Pray for the people and ministry at Pine Ridge
Reservation in South Dakota. Pray for the Baker Neighborhood Partners
and our LPD Community Police Officer.

THOSE WHO SERVE Please pray for those who are on active duty in
the United States Military Services:

Chris Browne – U.S. Air Force (Member of the Kern family)
Tyler Barnes – U.S. Marines (Candy & Cloyd Barnes' nephew)
Andrew Devine – U.S. Nat'l Guard (Margo Devine's nephew)
Darian Doan – U.S. Army (Marv & Laura Halbakken's nephew)
Carson Kosloski – U.S. Marines (Jeff Kosloski's great nephew)
Joshua Kosloski – U.S. Army (Laura Halbakken's cousin)
Rusty Landry – U.S. Air Nat'l Guard (Don & Audrey Olson's grandson)
Christopher Morgan – U.S. Marines (friend of The Darling family)
Ben Painter – U.S. Air Force (Laura Halbakken's cousin)
Ryan Schiffner – U.S. Air Force (Rick & Jean Peckham's nephew)

PLEASE NOTE The complete names of people for whom we're
praying will no longer be used in the prayers of intercession during
worship. Rather only first names will be said, without the congregation
repeating the names. This change will help to preserve individual
privacy in online streaming.

PARISH NOTES

Lansing SAVE Today is our 5th Sunday offering. There are now 116
children in our group of students, 7 from BELC and 109 from the Baker
Neighborhood. Please give electronically by clicking on the "Online
Giving" link on our website (www.tinyurl.com/BELCGiving) or mail
your contribution to the church.

ADULT FORUM 9 AM IN THE LIBRARY Our Sunday morning
exploration on prayer continues for several weeks. It should work well
for you to jump in on any Sunday morning. Your participation will bless
others and perhaps give a lift to your daily walk with God.

*"Pray in the Spirit at all times with all kinds of prayers, asking for
everything you need. To do this you must always be ready and never
give up. Always pray for all God's people." ~ Ephesians 6:18*

Prayer is the exercise of drawing on the grace of God.

~ Oswald Chambers

COUNCIL? Are you feeling called to serve on our Congregation
Council in 2023? Please pray for God's wisdom as you discern how you
might serve. We have four of our seven "At-Large" seats available.
Those willing to serve should speak with Pastor Matt, Jim Whitman, or
David Westover.

COVID 19 UPDATE After a long period of "low community risk,"
Ingham County is now at "medium" risk. Following CDC Guidelines,
the Board of Worship Life is recommending that people at high risk of
getting very sick wear a high-quality mask when indoors for worship.
Please help keep all worshippers at Bethlehem safe and healthy.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION Thank you to everyone who helped on
Wednesday, January 11, with our first drive through food distribution!
Please sign up in the Social Hall to help again on Wednesday, February
8, for our next Mobile food distribution.

WORSHIP FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS Thank you to those who sponsor the Altar Flowers for the Bethlehem Worship services. Many do this as a way to celebrate an anniversary, birthday or other occasion. Please sign up for your special date on the Flower Chart in the entry hallway. The 2023 price for the arrangements is \$40. The order for the upcoming month is placed on the 20th of the current month so plan to sign up at least six weeks in advance!

STONY LAKE REGISTRATION Elementary, Confirmation and Senior High Camp is Week 4 of the camping season this year (July 9-14). Log on to <http://www.elcalivingwater.com/> and complete your camp registration. Living Water Ministries has a three-tiered, “Welcome to All” pricing model this year. When you register you can either choose to pay the full price, half-price, or no price, keeping camp accessible to ALL God’s children.

IN THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY LIVING LUTHERAN Highlights of this exceptional issue include Bishop Eaton’s Gospel meditation. (p.46) The reflection on creation/new creation is both profound and beautiful. (p.39) Throughout the issue we are introduced to innovative, fruitful ministries in the ELCA abs out into the world. Pick up your free copy in the welcome center. Enjoy! Learn!

NEXT SUNDAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY Feeding our community has never been more important as we live through the Covid-19 pandemic. Although physical donations of canned goods and other non-perishable items are not possible at this time, we can contribute to the Food Pantry through the BELC website. Click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

CHILI COOK-OFF Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Women are bringing back the Chili Cook-off! Join us **Saturday, February 18 in the Social Hall at 6:00 p.m.** BRING THE HEAT! Please see the sign-up sheet in the gym if you’d like to enter your winning chili. The TNT youth are planning fun activities for children and youth. **Come join us!!**

OFFERING ENVELOPES The 2023 offering envelopes are available in the gym for pick-up.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The Good News is that we have been declared righteous by God through what God has done of us through our trusting faith in the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, not by our ‘righteous’ works (Romans 4:5).

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

In his beginning to the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus introduces us to the topsy turvy ways of God’s Reign. The poor in spirit are blessed, as are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, who mourn, even those who are persecuted. Accepting these Beatitudes makes it easier to believe that it is indeed more blessed to give than to receive.

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 98 in-person and 26 people viewed the 1/22/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

ASSISTING MINISTER – Don Telles

GREETERS – Jim & Liisa Whitman

USHERS – Cloyd Barnes, Don Cairns

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Liisa & Jim Whitman

ACOLYTE – David Fernandez

LAY READER – Kylee Nelson

ALTAR GUILD – Susan Mahoney

DAILY PRAYER OF THE WEEK Our hope is that each of us will pray this several times a day, very much aware of your sisters and brothers blessing God as well. A further suggestion is that you read through the entire Psalm a few times during the week.

Please remove our Daily Prayer of the Week and post it where you will repeat it every day.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits
— Psalm 103:1-2*

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Jan. 29 **8:45a** **Sunday School**
 9:00a **Adult Forum**
 10:00a **Worship – Holy Communion**
 Worship (YouTube)

TUESDAY **8:00a** **Family Growth Center**
 9:30a **Staff Meeting**
 6:30p **Handbell Choir**
 7:30p **Senior Choir**

WEDNESDAY **9:00a** **Family Growth Center**

THURSDAY **8:00a** **Family Growth Center**
 6:15p **T.N.T.**

SATURDAY **9:30a** **F.A.B. Meets**

SUNDAY, Feb. 5 **8:45a** **Sunday School**
 9:00a **Adult Forum**
 10:00a **Worship – Holy Communion**
 Worship (YouTube)

**Blessed are those who
hunger and thirst
for righteousness,
for they
will be filled.**

Matthew 5:6, NRSV



MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus expects me to...

PRAY fervently

WORSHIP faithfully

ENCOURAGE one another

READ the Scriptures daily

GIVE freely of the gifts I have received from God

INVITE others to know Him

SERVE all people

*...and where I fall short of his expectations,
Jesus always offers me his love and forgiveness!*

POWER Gifts