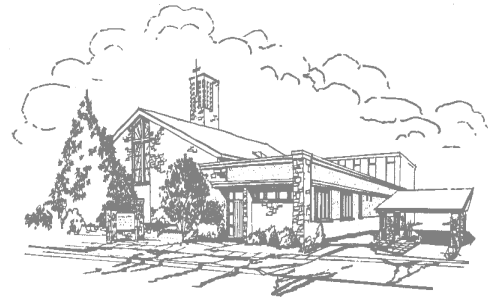


Bethlehem Star

Lutheran Church Lansing



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church - Lansing, Michigan

Pastor Matthew A. Smith

April 2024

*Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

We are people of the resurrection. In Christ, God did a new thing. Because we are brought to new life in Christ, death has lost its sting. As St. Paul reminds us, “Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” (1 Corinthians 15:55) Christ’s resurrection means that we are free to live for God, for each other, and for our neighbors, free from the worry that we have to earn our way to everlasting life by doing everything in exactly the right way. This freedom brings new life!

Resurrection and Revitalization

A clear sign of resurrection and new life for us has been in the fruits of our revitalization efforts at Bethlehem. We began our revitalization by efforts by focusing on prayer. This has brought to us an energy of renewal. In worship and fellowship activities we have seen both new and old faces.

Life of Faith



The Life of Faith Initiative is our next step in revitalization. This means shifting our focus fully to the church existing to empower the baptized (all of us) for ministry in daily life. When Dr. Craig Nesson was with us in January he gave us a full introduction to this paradigm shift. If you were not able to be with us, his presentation is on our YouTube Channel [youtube.com/@bethlehemplansing/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@bethlehemplansing/streams) ([01132024 Revitalizing Congregational Mission by Empowering Ministry in Daily Life. - YouTube](#)).

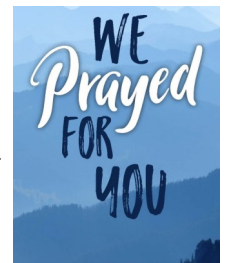
This spring we will be approaching individual members to serve on our Life of Faith Task Force. The task force will receive training and coaching to help us move into this paradigm shift of focusing everything we do at Bethlehem to empowering the ministry of the baptized in daily life.

In worship during this Easter Season, a season of resurrection and new life, starting April 7, we will be exploring the five blessings of baptism. In our baptismal covenant we are called:

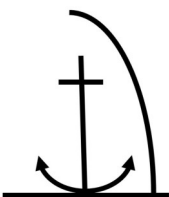
*to live among God’s faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.*

Pray and Go

As the weather continues to warm, we will invite people once again to venture out in prayer into the neighborhoods surrounding the church. Praying for our neighbors is a clear act of ministry; helping to live our baptismal charge *to serve all people, following the example of Jesus*. We go in teams of two, praying before we go. You simply walk down the sidewalk, pause in front of each house with a brief prayer, and place a yard marker.



Anniversary Celebration



What a blessing it has been to celebrate One Hundred Years at Bethlehem, Anchored in God’s Love, Sailing Into the Future as we move through our 100th year! We began on our 99th anniversary in September celebrating our first 25 years in mission (1924-1949). On January 14 we celebrated our second 25 years (1949-1974) with the help of Rev. Dr. Craig Nesson, child of Bethlehem. **JOIN US on Sunday, April 14, as we celebrate our third 25 years (1974-1999) with former pastors, Rev. James A. Schalkhauser and Rev. James R. Lichtenberger.** Pastors Jim S. and Jim L. will bring us a gospel sermon celebrating their service in God’s mission with the people of Bethlehem. Finally, on September 22, we will celebrate our 100th anniversary and our fourth 25 years (1999-2024) with Rev. Craig A. Satterlee, Ph.D., Bishop.

◁> Pastor Matt

549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.
Lansing, Michigan 48910
Phone: (517) 482-3225
FAX: (517) 482-2458

Ministers

All of the members of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pastor Matthew A. Smith
pastormattsmith@gmail.com
(517) 881-9890

Assistant to The Pastor
Pastor John W. Burow
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(517) 614-4559

Church Secretary / Star Editor
Tracy Baker
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(517) 482-3225

Congregation President
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managementgroup.com

Organist
James Schippers
jameschippers@gmail.com

Choir Director
Sue Nelson
ntimothy1@att.net

Handbell Choir Director
James Schippers

Contemporary Worship Director
Laurey Wyble

Office Hours
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (M-F)

Visit our website at:
www.bethlutheran.org

Worship Schedule

10:00 - Worship - Holy Comm.
Sanctuary - in person
And LIVE Streaming on
YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/
@bethlehemworship126/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@bethlehemworship126/streams)

Worship in APRIL 2024

Assisting Ministers

April 7 - Bob Meeker
April 14 - Susan Mahoney
April 21 - Nancy Holderread
April 28 - Don Telles

Children's Sermons

April 7 - Pastor John Burow
April 14 - Pastor Matt Smith
April 21 - Pastor Matt Smith
April 28 - Pastor Matt Smith

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

We continue BELC's 100th Anniversary celebration April 14, with the third 25 year period from 1974-1999. Our former pastors, Jim Schalkhauser and Jim Lichtenberger will be our guest ministers. Highlights include dedication of the handbells, sponsoring the Cot Nyugen family from Vietnam, Bethel Bible Study, Parish Health Ministry, Neighborhood Kids Night, Rotating Sanctuary, the addition to the church, Food Pantry, and many other activities in the life and mission of BELC.

Following the service we will gather for a potluck reception in the fellowship hall. The entrée will be furnished along with your table service. **Please bring either a dessert or salad to share.** (Pastor Jim loves pies!!)

If you have memorabilia for this period please bring it to church and leave in the front office. Please make copies, the committee won't be able to return them. Memorabilia of your baptism, confirmation, Sunday School activities, sports activities, etc... You can put them in the plastic container in the front office at the top of the stairs in the lobby. We are looking forward to a great celebration together!!

Thank you, The 100th Anniversary Committee

CELEBRATION DATES TO REMEMBER:

1974-1998: Sunday, April 14, 2024

1999-2024: Sunday, September 15, 2024

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024: GRAND CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Statement of Purpose and Guiding Principles for Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

God's purpose for our church, as disciples of Jesus Christ, is to share with all people God's word, love and saving grace.

We will pursue this purpose by:

1. Being a Christ-centered, joyful community of baptized believers who gather regularly for worship, the Lord's Supper, study and prayer.
2. Inviting, accepting, and supporting all people as we build attentive, respectful relationships.
3. Taking action and risks with bold faith, acknowledging our imperfection, while trusting in Christ.
4. Actively engaging in community outreach near and far.
5. Being faithful stewards of our time, talents, possessions and all of God's creation.

Adopted January 29, 2017

Financial Advice with Purpose

The phrase “Financial Advice with Purpose” is a short, thoughtful slogan used by Thrivent Financial Services. What is so intriguing about this catch phrase is the word “purpose.” In God’s Word, we discover different purposes for our money.

The first important purpose for our money is to provide for our needs and for those of our families. Money is needed for food, shelter, transportation, and clothing. In the words of the Apostle Paul, “... *whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever*” (1 Timothy 5:8). We are to make every attempt to provide for our needs, so we won’t be a burden to others. We express God’s love by caring and providing for our families.

A second important purpose for our money is to help those in need. In the Gospel of Matthew we read, “*For you always have the poor with you...*” (Matthew 26:11). When Paul started his ministry of sharing the Gospel, he was “*asked... that we remember the poor, which was actually what [he] was eager to do*” (Galatians 2:10). With joy, we should have that same attitude. God wants to use us as channels through whom God works to support those in need. Our help goes beyond the poor to those in any kind of need.

Another important purpose for our money is to extend God’s kingdom. God gives us the privilege and responsibility to be participants in God’s mission “*to seek and to save the lost*” (Luke 19:10). Our heavenly Father does not want anyone to “*perish, but that all should reach repentance*” (2 Peter 3:9). God wants us to be active, involved, and willing participants in God’s plan of salvation for all people. As participants with the Lord, we become God’s hands, feet, and mouth. To share the Gospel with all people costs money and that money comes from us. God works through us to fund the mission and ministries that share Jesus’ love.

To fulfill our purposes to have the funds for our needs, to help those in need, and to spread the Gospel, we need to be money wise. We are unable to be generous if we are drowning in debt and living paycheck to paycheck. By God’s grace, we can live within our means, spend wisely, avoid debt, save diligently, insure adequately, and give freely. One of our money goals should be to live wisely and to share generously. With God’s help, we will hear in the end, “*Well done, good and faithful servant, well done*” (Matthew 25:21).

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Can/Bottle Fundraiser for The Gathering

We want your returnable cans and bottles!

We are collecting cans and bottles throughout the month of
April

to help raise funds for our trip to New Orleans.

When bringing in cans/bottles, please make sure they are in a
closed plastic bag
and placed under the stairs in the gym.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT! THANK YOU!!

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE
the table Young Adult Gathering

NOISY OFFERING



**TO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH
GROUP'S TRIP TO THE
NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING
IN NEW ORLEANS
EVERY THIRD SUNDAY OF
THE MONTH LEADING UP TO
THE GATHERING**



Camp

STONY LAKE REGISTRATION Elementary, Confirmation and Senior High Camp is Week 4 of the camping season this year (July 7-12). Log on to <http://www.elcalivingwater.com/> and complete your camp registration.

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Women

Women of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America

All women of Bethlehem Lutheran Church are members of the Women of the ELCA and are invited and encouraged to participate in all activities listed in the newsletters, bulletins, flyers or on the bulletin boards.



APRIL IS HERE

The full bloom of spring is upon us bringing a refreshing energy that makes us want to cherish every budding tree, every growing flower, and the bright, blue sky! It's a month of Earth's awakening, new beginnings, and the joyful promise of warmth. It is also **RETREAT MONTH!** Look for details below for this year's **annual retreat** at Little Pine Island.

Our **Chili Cook-Off** was a success! Congratulations to Don & Lois Cairns for bringing the winning chili!

Offerings to BELCW – If you would like to make an offering to the BELCW, please send checks to Peggy Teter, Treasurer, 1854 Creek Landing, Haslett, MI 48840.

SIGN UP FOR THE BELCW RETREAT HAS BEGUN! “Connecting With Jesus” is the theme and program for our 29th retreat. The dates are April 19-21st at Little Pine Island Retreat Center in Comstock, MI. The cost of the weekend including meals, lodging and program is \$90. Sign up is in the upper social hall until April 14th . If you've never attended a BELCW Retreat, please take a few moments to read on. The weekend is planned with many activities that open up opportunities to get to know the women of Bethlehem in a way that just wouldn't happen without this experience. Sessions for bible study, games, shared meals and ample “free time,” give us plenty of ways to get to know each other on a more personal level. It goes beyond the level of greeting and chatting at church on Sunday or at a board meeting. We have formed amazing relationships with the women of Bethlehem solely because of retreat. The friendships we have formed at retreat have greatly enriched our lives, helped strengthen our faith, and given us a support system of women who are truly there for each other. This all strengthens our ministry as women of the ELCA.

(continued on page 7)

Upcoming Events:

04/01/24	6:30 PM	Board Meeting - Devos: Susan
04/03/24	TBD	Bible Study Leaders Meeting
04/10/24	6:30 PM	Harmony Circle - L: TDB H: TDB
04/10/24	9:00 AM	Quilting
04/15/24	6:30 PM	Friendship Circle - L: Cindy H: Michelle
04/16/24	1:00 PM	Rainbow Circle - L: Diane H: Mary J.
04/19-04/21		Retreat & General Meeting

BETHLEHEM NEWS

Altar Flowers for Worship Services:

The 2024 Flower Chart is posted in the Lobby.

If you have a special date to celebrate,
please sign up to be a flower sponsor for that Sunday.

**The order is submitted on the 20th of each month,
so please sign up at least several weeks in advance.**

Arrangements are \$40

They can be taken home after the worship service for you to enjoy.
We have been fortunate to have Smith Floral provide beautiful arrangements
for our Bethlehem Worship services!

Thank you to all who sponsor our Altar flowers.

Eucharist Ministers Deliver

If you are home-bound, or in a facility, and unable to come to church to receive the Eucharist, it can be brought to you. Please call the church and let Tracy know you would like communion brought to you by a Eucharist Minister. Make sure and confirm, with Tracy, that the church has your current address and phone number.

Special Adult Forum

Sunday, April 14th, we will gather at 9:00 a.m. with our honored guests to share memories from the years 1974-1999. Join us in the library as we share gratitude for past blessings.

Living Lutheran Magazine

This wonderful magazine is now available in digital form only.
You can find it at: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/edigest-signup/>

Prayer Corner

Please Note: Hospitals do not notify churches when a member has been hospitalized; even if you inform them at registration of your church membership. If you would like a visit from the pastor, please call the church office at 482-3225 or call Pastor Matt directly at 517-881-9890.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS and with your cards and visits:

John Nelson in Grand Haven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing
Rhoda Hunter in Prestige Way on Keller Road in Holt
Marilyn Bass-Huyser in Independence Village, Grand Ledge
Betty Strother in Independence Village, East Lansing
Joe & Audrey Skidmore, in Assisted Living, Sedona, AZ
Kurt Kollmeyer, Ingham County Medical Care, Okemos
Cheryl VanPatten, Regency at Grand Ledge Rehabilitation Center

Those at home: *Kaye Alden, John Bartel, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo, Lois Cairns, Crystal Collins, Joann Dyer, Emma Hicks, Nancy Jackson, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Sandy Rollis, Carol Roush, Connie Scott, Betty VanConant, 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 Community Police Officer, Morgan Schafer and other first responders.



PRAY for those who are on active duty in the United States Military Services:

Chris Browne – U.S. Air Force
Tyler Barnes – U.S. Marines
Isaiah Castellanos – U.S. Army
Andrew Devine – U.S. Nat'l Guard
Carson Kosloski – U.S. Marines
Joshua Kosloski – U.S. Army

Rusty Landry – U.S. Air Nat'l Guard
Christopher Morgan – U.S. Marines
Ben Painter – U.S. Air Force
Ryan Schiffner – U.S. Air Force
Dayton Tucker – U.S. Marines



(continued from page 5)

So, when you think about the upcoming Women's Retreat, make it a priority for you. The date is set. The time to plan for it is now!! Get the time off work, make plans for your family's needs while you'll be gone, get the babysitter, (husband or grandparents), and get the dog sitter! This is time for YOU that you really do need to refresh and renew. To uplift your spirit, strengthen your faith, build closer relationships with the women of Bethlehem and bring you closer to God in ways that will amaze you. If this retreat is your first time or your 25th time, I promise you will come feeling welcomed and leave feeling refreshed, loved and deeper in your faith journey. Can't wait to see you there!!

Laura Halbakken
Joanna Alvera

taking+ faith home

Here, you will find a list of the scripture readings that are part of the Daily Lectionary which move us from one Sunday to the next. You can also find these readings on our "Taking Faith Home" sheets we distribute after worship. They are also posted daily on our Facebook page. We encourage you to read your Bible every day as you live out your life of discipleship.

APRIL 2024		
<u>01</u> Acts 10:34-43	<u>08</u> Acts 4:32-35	<u>16</u> 1 John 3:11-7
<u>02</u> 1 Corinth. 15:1-11	<u>09</u> 1 John 1:1-2:2	<u>17</u> 1 Peter 1:3-9
<u>03</u> Hebrews 12:1-12	<u>10</u> Matthew 5:14-16	<u>18</u> Acts 26:19-23
<u>04</u> John 1:1-5	<u>11</u> Psalm 27	<u>19</u> 1 Corinth. 15:1-11
<u>05</u> Romans 5:1-5	<u>12</u> 2 Corinth. 4:1-6	<u>20</u> Psalm 4
<u>06</u> Psalm 118:1-24	<u>13</u> Psalm 133	<u>21</u> John 10:11-18
<u>07</u> John 20:19-31	<u>14</u> Luke 24:36-48	<u>22</u> Acts 4:5-12
	<u>15</u> Acts 3:12-19	<u>23</u> 1 John 3:16-24
		<u>24</u> Luke 15:1-7
		<u>25</u> Ezekiel 34:11-16
		<u>26</u> 1 Corinth. 15:1-11
		<u>27</u> Psalm 23
		<u>28</u> John 15:1-8
		<u>29</u> Acts 8:P26-40
		<u>30</u> 1 John 4:7-21



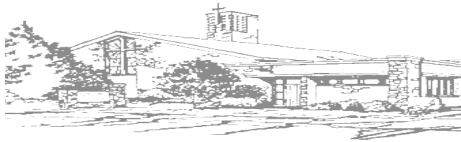
APRIL 2024			
Margaret Sergent	April 1	Debra Reemsnyder	April 25
Joe Shreffler	April 2	Marv Halbakken	April 27
Dana Stevens	April 5	Sandra Johnson	April 29
Allan Haas	April 6		
Ken Boyd	April 8		
Susan Sterling	April 10		
William Huntley	April 12		
Jim Whitman	April 14		
Paul Lentz	April 16		
Jeanette Ransom	April 16		
Janie Buchner	April 18		
Patrick North	April 19		
Larry Cummings	April 20		
Tim Carpenter	April 22		

Happy Birthday

Each year our birthday list of members 62 and over is updated from the church records. If for some reason you do not wish to have your name appear in the newsletter or if you see someone we have missed, please call the church office.

Bethlehem Star

Lutheran Church Lansing



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Lansing, Michigan 48910

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Newsletter Deadline is **April 16**
for the **May 2024** Bethlehem Star.

Also available at
www.bethlutheran.org

In-Home Date: March 30, 2024
Mailed on March 28, 2024
