



549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48910  
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[www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org)



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

Worship Service – 10:00  
February 25, 2024

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Dear God of love, hear my prayer. As I prepare for worship this day, help me to remember that I am your child...and that I will always belong to you. May your Word reach my heart. May the gifts of your grace make me strong in faith and ready to serve you. Help me to sort through the confusion of choices that confront me every day, and help me to see what you would have me do. In Jesus' name I 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 Smith a message at [pastormattsmith@gmail.com](mailto: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, place it in the basket in our prayer corner, or hand it to an usher to bring forward.

*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 Keith Ferguson & family in memory of Ruth Fergusons birthday.

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

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** Jan. – March 2024 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 Hope Lutheran Church in Marlette Michigan, Rev. John Sleziak.

**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 – Nancy Holderread  
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor John W. Burow  
ACOLYTE – Andrew Goff  
LAY READER – Sandra Westover  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Peggy Teter, Mila Thompson  
GREETERS – Sandra Westover, David Westover  
USHERS – Joe Shreffler, David Snider, Bob Christiansen  
ALTAR GUILD – Michelle, Smith, Cindy Marsh  
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:

*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

**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, 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, D.J. Rudd, Interim.

**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)

**Isaiah Castellanos** – U.S. Army (Margo Devine's Great. nephew)

**Andrew Devine** – U.S. Nat'l Guard (Margo Devine'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)

**Dayton Tucker** – U.S. Marines (Friend of the Devine family)

**OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY QUILT HAS BEGUN!!** Each block will have 1-3 crosses to equal 100 crosses total. Everyone is welcome to make a block or two or more! I'll have a tutorial after church service in the social hall on February 11, 18 and the 25th. The next step is to put all the blocks together during March. Contact Connie Meeker with any questions at: (616) 902-0369 or [conniemeeker20@gmail.com](mailto:conniemeeker20@gmail.com)

## PARISH NOTES

SECOND SUNDAY IN  
LENT

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY** We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Elsie Leisure who died February 20, 2024. May God comfort those who mourn with the promise of eternal life for all those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.

**HOLY LAMENT SERVICES** All services will be on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m.

**February 27– 'Little' Laments**

**March 5 – Laments from the Depths**

**March 12 – Individual Lament**

**March 19 – Communal Lament**

### Holy Lament - "Little Laments"

*O God, whether our hurts are small or great, your will for us is healing and transformation. Our worship this Tuesday will consider the cumulative impact of our sorrows, concerns, frustrations and failings. Fruitful preparation for worship will include pondering our two Scripture readings: Psalm 42 and Matthew 11:28-30; listening prayerfully to The Porter's Gate Song, "In Times of Trouble," and considering the reflection questions:*

*What kinds of small disappointments have you experienced?*

*How have you moved through them and been strengthened by bringing these disappointments to Jesus?*

You can listen to "In Times of Trouble" through any music app or view the song on YouTube.

**LENTEN POTLUCK** A Lenten Potluck Supper precedes the Holy Lament Services each Tuesday, February 20 through Tuesday, March 19. The potluck meal begins at 6:00 p.m. in the social hall. Bring your evening meal (a dish or two to pass - enough food for your family) and share it with the rest of the church family. Beverages will be provided. Please bring your own table service.

**ALTAR FLOWERS FOR MARCH** The deadline to sign up for Altar Flowers for the **Month of March is TODAY**. If you have a special date to celebrate in March please sign up on the Flower Chart in the lobby.

**EASTER FOOD BASKETS** It's that time of year again. Easter is around the corner. We are getting ready to start our Easter Food Basket Outreach Ministry. Look for more information to come!

**MY LENTEN GIFT** Offerings using the “My Lenten Gift” envelope in the February newsletter will be given to the Pine Ridge Food Ministry at the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center. According to Pastor Dan, Pine Ridge is currently spending on average \$4,000 per week to feed youth at the Reconciliation Center and the growing unhoused population on the reservation. If you are saving money this Lent on something you have given up, please consider sharing that money with God’s people in need. Additional envelopes are available on the ‘Welcome’ table.



**ADULT FORUM** “You Are Witnesses”: As we continue to build our skills in witnessing, we turn to how we experience Jesus’ love in the ordinary happenings of our daily lives. This perspective is an excellent opportunity for you to join us in our graced conversations. Hope to see you next Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Church Library.

**COME AND TEMPT YOUR TASTE BUDS** We will be having a Chili Cook-Off on **Saturday, March 16, at 6:00 p.m.**, with activities for children and youth hosted by some of the Luther League Youth. This event is for the entire church. You can vote for your favorite chili - a prize will be awarded! We will also be serving beverages, veggies and dessert. Please sign up on the sheet in the gym if you would like to compete. We hope to see you all there!

**2024 FLOWER CHART** **Thank you** to all who sponsor the flowers for Bethlehem’s Worship on Sunday Mornings. The beautiful arrangements enhance the worship experience for all. The 2024 Flower Chart is now posted. Many like to commemorate a special person, date or event with altar flowers. If you have a special date in mind, sign up to save that Sunday. The cost for each arrangement is \$40. The flower order is submitted one month at a time so please sign up by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for the flowers to be ordered for the next month. Payment may be made in advance or on the Sunday for which the flowers are ordered. Checks should be made payable to Kris Burow.

**COMMUNION CARDS** Please fill out a communion card from the pew rack before you come forward to receive communion. Keeping track of who has attended worship will allow us to provide better pastoral care for our members.

**THRIVENT MEMBERS** You can designate your choice dollars to go to Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

*My plans aren’t your plans,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
Just as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways,  
and my plans than your plans.  
~ Isaiah 55:8-9*

*O God of unrelenting grace,  
Whose judgment yet we daily face,  
Forgive us now, good Lord.  
Thou art so distant and so near;  
For Thee we long, yet Thee we fear,  
O known, and yet beyond record.  
~ Herman I. Weinlick*

### **ATTENDANCE**

Worship Attendance: 70 in-person, 34 people viewed the 2/18/24 Live worship and the recorded service on YouTube and 32 in-person, 17 people viewed the 2/20/24 Lenten live worship and recorded service.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS** In today’s Gospel reading Jesus clarifies for his disciples what it means to follow the one they confess as God’s Chosen One, the Messiah. May we also follow with clarity, compassion and courage, encouraged by the Spirit and each other.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** If you haven’t received your giving statement for 2023, please contact the church office.

### **THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TUESDAY 2/27 @7:00P**

GREETERS – Peggy Teter, Mary Jakubiak  
USHERS – Tim Nelson, Don Telles, Ralph Sargent  
ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley

### **THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY**

GREETERS – Christina Raia and Family  
USHERS – Don Cairns, Ralph Sargent, Cloyd Barnes  
LAY READER – Mel White  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mel White, Mary Bartel  
ACOLYTES – Mila Thompson, Zellah Brisbo

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>SUNDAY, Feb. 25</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
<b>TUESDAY</b>	6:00a	Election Day
	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	5:30p	Handbell Choir
	6:00p	Potluck Dinner
	<b>7:00p</b>	<b>Holy Lament Service</b>
	7:30p	Senior Choir
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
<b>THURSDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	T.N.T.
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
<b>SATURDAY</b>	9:30a	F.A.B. Meets
<b>SUNDAY, Mar. 3</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>
	<b>11:30a</b>	<b>Thrivent Workshop</b>

**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,

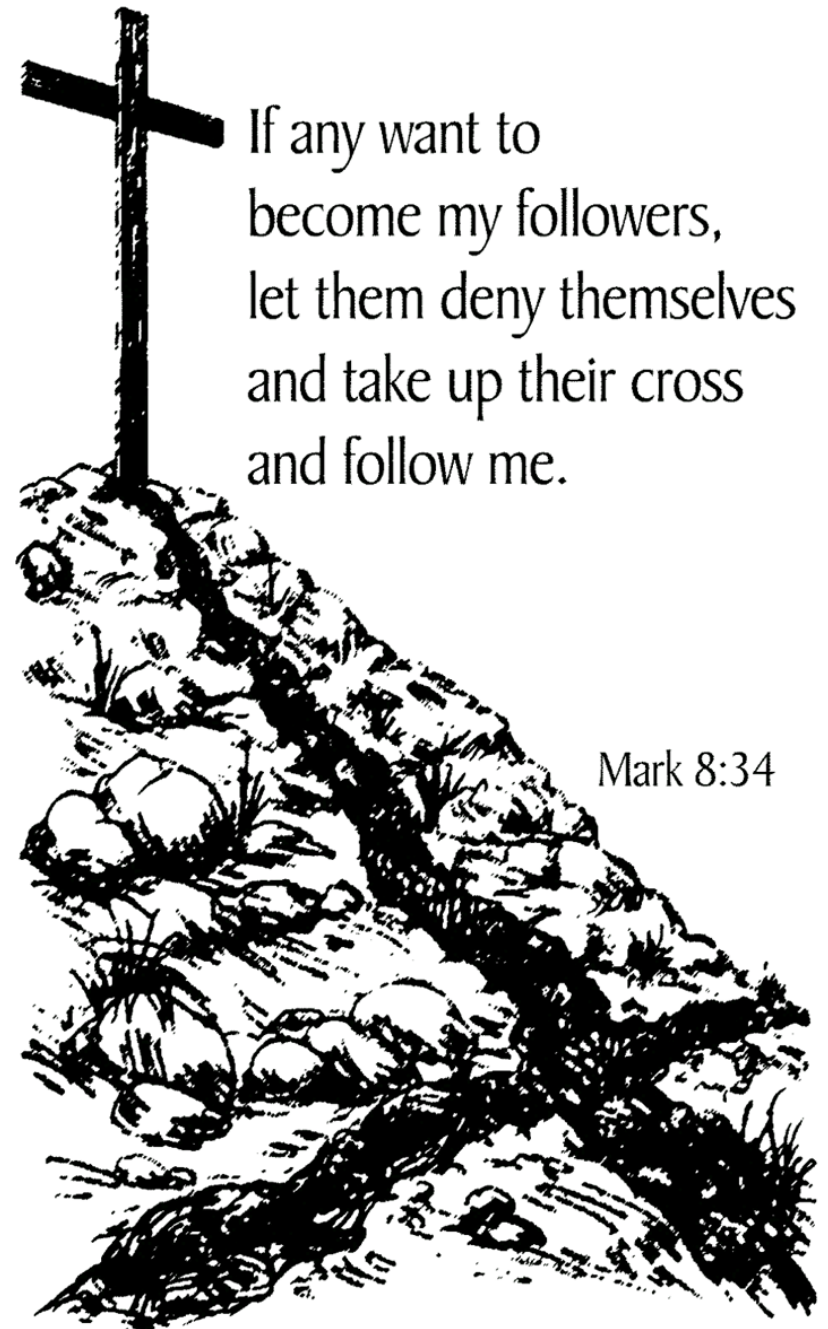
**INVITE** others to know God,

**SERVE** all people,

*and, where I fall short of his expectations,*

*Jesus always offers me his love and forgiveness!*

**PoWER Gifts**



If any want to  
become my followers,  
let them deny themselves  
and take up their cross  
and follow me.

Mark 8:34