



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



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

Worship Service – 10:00
February 18, 2024

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Dear Lord, my God, through your Son, Jesus Christ, you have called me to follow you. Help me in this Lenten season to examine every aspect of my life, repent of sin, and seek to do your will in all my words and deeds. As I worship you in this community of believers, bless me with the gifts of your grace. 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 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 BELC.

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 Trinity Lutheran Church in Manton, Michigan, Rev. Bill Huether.

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 Matt Smith
ACOLYTES – Annabel Halbakken, Sabrina Prowdley
LAY READER – Susan Mahoney
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mel White, Mary Bartel
GREETERS – Don & Audrey Olson
USHERS – Ralph Sergent, Phil Koessel
ALTAR GUILD – Eliot Nutt, Carrie Rice
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:

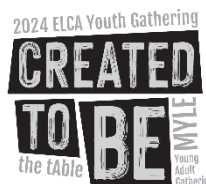
Chris Browne – U.S. Air Force (Member of the Kern family)
Tyler Barnes – U.S. Marines (Candy & Cloyd Barnes' nephew)
Isaiah Castellanos – U.S. Army (Margo Devine's Great. nephew)
Andrew Devine – U.S. Nat'l Guard (Margo Devine's nephew)
Carson Kosloski – U.S. Marines (Jeff Kosloski's great nephew)
Joshua 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

PARISH NOTES

FIRST SUNDAY
LENT

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Maureen Sartor, mother of James Sartor and Grandmother of Brandy Quinn & Jamie Collins, who died February 10, 2024. May God comfort those who mourn with the promise of eternal life for all those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.



NOISY OFFERING This Sunday, following the Worship Talk for Children, and on all of the third Sundays between now and the National Gathering in July, our youth will collect a "noisy" offering to raise funds for the trip.

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

February 20 – What Is Lament?

February 27– 'Little' Laments

March 5 – Laments from the Depths

March 12 – Individual Lament

March 19 – Communal Lament

Holy Lament - "What Is Lament?"

This Tuesday we begin to explore the various kinds of lament found in Scripture. We will consider what it means to sit with our grief in prayer and worship. Our first step in this Lenten journey towards the Cross of Christ will consider lament in general. Please take a few moments to prepare for Tuesday evening's worship by pondering the Scripture readings: Lamentations 3:19-26 and Matthew 5:3-9 and meditating on The Porter's Gate song: "Illuminate the Shadows." You can view this song on YouTube or listen on any music app. (i.e. *Spotify*)

For reflection:

What or who comes to mind when you consider the call to lament?

How might lament be a fruitful spiritual discipline?

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.

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.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION Wednesday, March 13, is our next mobile food distribution. There is a sign-up sheet in the social hall or see Dave Ware. Many hands help make the work lighter.

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 15th 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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES The 2024 offering envelopes are available to pick up on the table in the Social Hall.

2024 GRID In the social hall on a table is the 2024 January – April GRID. They are all labeled. If you see your name, take a copy. It is also posted in the lobby on the wall by the phone. Thank you.

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.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Lenten Discipline

What will you give up? What will you take on?
for Christ’s sake and the good of others.

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 65 in-person, 33 people viewed the 2/11/24 Live worship and the recorded service on YouTube.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS Amidst the pressures, temptations, woundedness and anxiety of our lives, we may easily pass by opportunities for compassionate service. Even our bountiful blessings may distract us from generously supporting those ministries that bring hope and healing to those who suffer. May we, like Jesus in his time of temptation, not get distracted from participating faithfully in God’s mission.

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS If you haven’t received your giving statement for 2023, or if you have a question, please contact the church office.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TUESDAY 7:00P

GREETERS – Marv & Laura Halbakken

USHERS – Tim Nelson, Don Telles

ACOLYTE – Faith Halbakken

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Sandra Westover, David Westover

USHERS – Joe Shreffler, David Snider, Bob Christiansen

LAY READER – Sandra Westover

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Peggy Teter, Mila Thompson

ACOLYTE – Andrew Goff

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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| SUNDAY, Feb. 18 | 8:45a | Children's Sunday School |
| 1st Sunday in Lent | 9:00a | Adult Forum |
| | 10:00a | Worship – Holy Communion |
| MONDAY | | Office Closed |
| TUESDAY | 8:00a | Family Growth Center |
| | 9:30a | Staff Meeting |
| | 1:00p | Rainbow Circle |
| | 5:30p | Handbell Choir |
| | 6:00p | Potluck Dinner |
| | 7:00p | Holy Lament Service |
| | 7:30p | Senior Choir |
| WEDNESDAY | 8:00a | Family Growth Center |
| THURSDAY | 8:00a | Family Growth Center |
| | 6:15p | T.N.T. |
| FRIDAY | 8:00a | Family Growth Center |
| | 7:00p | Narcotics Anonymous |
| SUNDAY, Feb. 25 | 8:45a | Children's Sunday School |
| 2nd Sunday in Lent | 9:00a | Adult Forum |
| | 10:00a | Worship – Holy Communion |

MARKS OF DISCIPLESHP

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

