



549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48910  
517-482-3225  
[www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org)

Worship Service – 10:00  
April 6, 2025



## A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Teach us, living Christ, to perceive the true value of all that surrounds us. We know that we strive for matters that turn our attention from you. Help us to become like Mary, who glorying in your presence with her, lavished her love and her costly perfume upon you. Make us mindful of your presence. Make us as generous with our responsive love. Let us so order our priorities that discerning you in our midst becomes our joy, and serving you becomes our purpose in life. 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.

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

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** April through June 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 Grace Lutheran Church in East Tawas, Michigan, Rev. Max Miller.

**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 Matthew Smith  
**GREETERS** – Ron & Diane Miller  
**USHERS** – Don Cairns, Ralph Sergeant  
**LAY READER** – Ron Miller  
**ACOLYTE** – Mila Thompson  
**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS** – Abigail Brisbo, Sherry Bass-Pohl  
**ALTAR GUILD** – Susan Mahoney, Linda Telles  
**A/V PRODUCTION** – David Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Meeker, Kevin Peckham, David Westover



**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 Skidmore*, in Assisted Living, Sedona, AZ  
*Kurt Kollmeyer*, Hamilton Trace Apartments, Fishers, IN  
*Larry & Virginia Bauman*, 5314 Evergreen Ridge Dr. Cincinnati, OH

**Those at home:** *Kaye Alden, John Bartel, Tosha Brisbo  
Kelly Carpenter, Crystal Collins, Ben Darling, Keith Ferguson  
Tom & Eleanor Finn, Carl Gallagher, Peggy Gaspersohn, Emma Hicks  
Nancy Jackson, Mike (Ferris) Kosloski, John Leighton, Michael Mahoney  
Linda McClellan, Mark Nelson, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer  
Bob & Gloria Robbins, Sandy Rollis, Connie Scott, Ken Teter  
Betty VanConant, Cheryl VanPatten*

*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, Morgan Parrott.

**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)  
**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)

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY** If you are interested in occasionally taking sacrament to one of our homebound members, please talk to Judy Pardee, Pastor Matt, or someone on the Board of Worship Life.

## PARISH NOTES

**TODAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY** Canned goods and other non-perishable items and gifts of money can be brought up to the basket at the altar during the "Offering of Gifts". You may bring your gifts to the altar after the passing of the offering plate. This special offering will be used to feed hungry people in our community through the FGC Resource Center, using our food pantry space. Monetary gifts will support the Greater Lansing Food Bank and our Mobile Food Distribution. If you are worshipping with us electronically, click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

**LENTEN WORSHIP THROUGH THE SENSES** This series centers on our five senses as a way of exploring the significance of Christ's incarnation throughout our Lenten journey. We all are made in the image of God, who chose to share our humanity by joining in our embodied experience. God's image in us is beautifully diverse. Each service will include scripture, songs, and sensory meditations that highlight a different sense each week. **The services will be at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays with a potluck preceding at 6:00 p.m.**

Week 5: Taste - 4/8/25

**LENTEN POTLUCK** A Lenten Potluck precedes the Holy Lenten Services each **Tuesday, through April 8 at 6:00pm** in the social hall. Bring a soup or salad (enough for your family and enough to pass around – no desserts please, in keeping with the penitential theme of Lent) and share it with the rest of the church family. Beverages, rolls, and butter will be provided. Please bring your own table service.

**MY LENTEN GIFT** This Lent we are asking our members to make a special gift as you contemplate the *incarnate* Jesus's sacrifice on the Cross to support the work of **Christian Services**. One church alone can't deal with all the complex issues of poverty. It takes churches working together across denominational lines to meet these multifaceted needs. When we have requests for assistance from neighbors at Bethlehem, we direct them to Christian Services.

**EASTER FOOD BASKETS** For anyone wanting to help or donate to our Easter Outreach Program, there are bags with instructions on them on the table in the gym. Please return your food donations today, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for supporting this Outreach!

## Holy Week: "Once Upon a Tree"

### April 13 - PASSION SUNDAY (*Palm Sunday*)

8:45 Sunday Church School  
9:00 Adult Forum  
10:00 Service of Worship - (distribution of palms)

### April 17 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:30 **Potluck**  
7:30 Holy Communion & the Beginning of the Passion

### April 18 - GOOD FRIDAY

7:30 Tenebrae Service (A "service of darkness" recalling the terrible reality of our sin and the sacrifice of our Lord for all people.)

### April 19 - HOLY SATURDAY

Prayer Vigil – Noon to Midnight

### April 20 - EASTER SUNDAY

8:30 **Easter Breakfast** for everyone  
10:00 Resurrection Celebration and Holy Communion

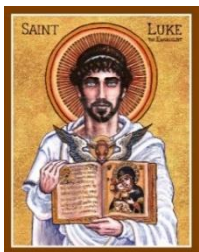


**EASTER PRAYER VIGIL** On Saturday April 19, from 12 noon to 12 midnight. Sign-up sheets are in the Social Hall for Hosts, and times to pray. Thank you.

**EASTER BREAKFAST** Join us Easter morning, April 20, at 8:30 a.m. for a Easter breakfast in the Social Hall. All are Welcome!!

**EASTER FLOWERS** If you are interested in ordering a Daffodil or Kalanchoe plant please sign up in the Fellowship Hall. The order has been submitted but daffodils and Kalanchoe spots are still open.

### **ADULT FORUM: LUKE'S STORY OF JESUS**



We continue pondering the Third Gospel with its themes of reversal, prayer and joy. Each session we approach a specific passage with prayer, imagination, our own life experience and the intention of listening to Jesus with mind and heart. We would be delighted to have you share in this sacred journey and whatever Sunday mornings that work for you.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** Men interested in a Bible study group can express interest by signing the sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Day yet to be determined. For questions see Jack Midgley.

## Thought for the Week

"Then Mary took an extraordinary amount, almost three-quarters of a pound, of very expensive perfume made of pure nard. She anointed Jesus' feet with it, then wiped his feet dry with her hair. The house was filled with the aroma of the perfume." ~John 12:3

Of this, Artificial Intelligence (and Judas) might say, "Some things can't be explained rationally. This is one of those things." *Faith-filled Intelligence* says, "Through this visible, sacrificial, personal, decisive act of love and devotion, Mary's faithful act took seriously what Jesus said he was going to do."

**ATTENDANCE** Worship Attendance 3/30/25: 72 in-person for our Worship and 39 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 24:40 and 18 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service and Worship Attendance 4/1/25: 45 in-person for our Lent Worship and 10 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration 16:20.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS** Today's Gospel story is about extravagant, heartfelt love offered to Jesus. Our generosity towards those in need also expresses our faithful love. - Matthew 25:40

**COMMUNION** 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. **Our Communion Bread** in worship is gluten free. Everyone in our congregation will receive the Body of Christ from the **same** loaf.

**NEXT SUNDAY IS MISSION SUNDAY** Gifts received in a special mission offering will be given to the Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministry at the Pine Ridge Retreat Center in South Dakota. If you are viewing this bulletin electronically, click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

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

GREETERS – Sherry Bass-Pohl and family  
USHERS – Phil Hassler, Jim Koessel, Ralph Sergent  
ACOLYTE – Faith Halbakken  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mila Thompson  
LAY READER – Sherry Bass-Pohl  
ALTAR GUILD – Cheryl Thompson, Donna TenHave

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>SUNDAY, Apr. 6</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
<i>5th Sunday in Lent</i>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
<i>Food Bank Sunday</i>	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	6:30p	BELCW Board Meeting
<b>TUESDAY</b>	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	5:30p	Handbell Choir
	<b>6:00p</b>	<b>Potluck</b>
	<b>7:00p</b>	<b>Lent Service</b>
	7:30p	Senior Choir
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:00a	Quilting day
	10:00a	Capital Area Baby Cafe
	1:00p	Mobile Food Pantry
	6:30p	Harmony Circle
	6:30p	Board of Buildings & Grounds
<b>THURSDAY</b>	5:00p	Capital Area Baby Cafe
	6:15p	T.N.T.
<b>FRIDAY</b>	7:00p	N.A. meets
<b>SUNDAY, Apr. 13</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
<i>Palm/Passion</i>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
<i>Mission Sunday</i>	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>

**THOSE SERVING IN TUESDAY LENT WORSHIP 7:00PM**

GREETERS – Linda & Don Telles  
USHERS – Ralph Sergent, Tim Nelson  
ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley

**BAPTISMAL BLESSINGS FOR THE LIFE OF FAITH**

*You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:*

*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?*

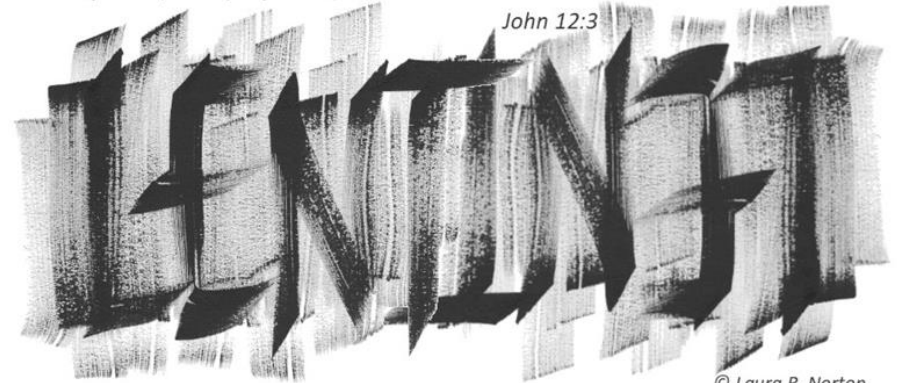


**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Affirmation of Baptism, Page 237.*

MARY  
TOOK A POUND OF  
OINTMENT OF PURE NARD,  
VERY PRECIOUS, AND  
ANOINTED  
JESUS' FEET  
AND WIPED HIS FEET  
WITH HER HAIR.

John 12:3



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