



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
January 7, 2024

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Send, O God, into the darkness of this troubled world, the light of your Son. Let the star of your hope touch the minds of all people with your bright beams of mercy and truth. Direct our steps that we may ever walk in the way revealed to us, as the Wise Men walked with joy to the place where he, Jesus Christ, our Lord, did dwell. In His name 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 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 Ascension Lutheran Church in Kentwood, Michigan, Father Michael Wernick.

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 – Susan Mahoney
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith
ACOLYTES – Mila Thompson, Faith Halbakken
LAY READERS – Annabel Halbakken & Abigail Brisbo
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Tim Nelson, Candy Barnes
GREETERS – Dorothy Martin
USHERS – Cloyd Barnes, Don Cairns
ALTAR GUILD – Bob & Sue Christiansen
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:

Shelby Waters in The Willows at Okemos

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 Independent Village, Grand Ledge

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, Audrey Skidmore, Betty Strother

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, Morgan Shafer.

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)

FIRST NAMES (ONLY MOST OF THE TIME) The complete names of people for whom we're praying will no longer be used in the prayers of intercession during worship. This change will help to preserve individual privacy in online streaming. If you submit a prayer card with full names, the entire name is likely to be prayed.

PARISH NOTES

TODAY 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.

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.

WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN! That goes for Christmas decorations, too! Can you lend a hand to “un-decorate” the church? After the service of worship today, things will get packed away for another year. Many willing hands will always make short work of it! Thank you!



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. Click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

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.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION On Wednesday, January 10, is our next mobile food distribution. We need folks to sign up to help. There is a sign-up sheet in the social hall or see Dave Ware. Many hands help make the work lighter.

SERVICE OF “PRAYER FOR HEALING” During worship today, and every 5th Sunday going forward, we will have a time of Prayer for Healing. If you would like a prayer, please fill out the prayer card from your bulletin. Bring it with you during communion. Give the card to the person that comes to pray with you. The card will be returned to you after the prayer for your confidentiality.

COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS! If you enjoy baking, an opportunity awaits! Please see Kris Burow if you are interested in baking the Communion Bread for the Bethlehem worship services. Bakers need not be Altar Guild members. The recipe and needed supplies will be provided and there will be a short training meeting for helpful hints in baking the bread. Contact Kris Burow if interested.

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.

COMMUNION BREAD We now use Communion Bread in worship that is totally gluten free, so, there will be no more gluten free wafers. Now, everyone in our congregation will receive the Body of Christ from the same loaf.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank You!

Our spirits were lifted, and our hearts were warmed by your encouraging words, tasty gifts, lovely cards and faithful prayers during these seasons of Advent and Christmas.

With gratitude and love,

Pastor Matt, Tracy, and Pastor John

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“If we Christians would join the Wise Men, we must close our eyes to all that glitters before the world and look rather on the despised and foolish things, help the poor, comfort the despised, and aid the neighbor in his need.”

Martin Luther

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 64 in-person, 47 people viewed the 12/31/23 Live worship and the recorded service on YouTube.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS The visit of the Magi highlights the connection between authentic worship and our offerings. May God be honored and God’s mission be furthered through our gifts.

We forget, O God, that it is not the size that makes a gift sacred, but it is the heart of the one who gives. ~ 2024 Moravian Daily texts

SENSORY TOOL KIT To assist parents of children with sensory issues (on the Autism Spectrum) in worship, we now have a Sensory Tool Kit on the coat rack in the Lobby. If you cannot locate it, please ask an usher.

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

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Cloyd & Candy Barnes

USHERS – Phil Hassler, Jim Koessel, Ralph Sargent

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mary Jakubiak, Mila Thompson

LAY READER – Kylee Nelson

ACOLYTE – Alicia Fernandez

ALTAR GUILD – Kris & John Burow

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Jan. 7	8:45a	Children's Sunday School
	9:00a	Adult Forum
	9:30a	Installation of BELCW officers
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion Baptism of our Lord
MONDAY	6:30p	Bd. of Stewardship & Finance
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	4:00p	Bd. of Outreach
	5:00p	Bd. of Worship Life
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:00a	Quilting Day
	1:00p	Mobile food pantry Dist.
	6:30p	Harmony Circle
	6:30p	Bd. of Buildings & Grounds
	8:00a	Family Growth Center
THURSDAY	6:15p	T.N.T.
	7:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
FRIDAY	12:00p	Narcotics Anonymous speaker
SATURDAY		
SUNDAY, Jan. 14	8:45a	Children's Sunday School
	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion Baptism of our Lord



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

They offered him gifts of gold,
frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11