



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



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

Worship Service – 10:00  
December 18, 2022

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by BELC in celebration of all the December birthdays!

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

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** October - December 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 St. Peter Lutheran Church in Unionville, Michigan, Rev. Jeffrey Bonn.

**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.**



### PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*We come today, Lord, full of love and gratitude for the gift of the Christ child. Jesus' life is the life around which our lives revolve. On this day near the announcement of his birth, may our joy be complete. May we sing praises with the angels in heaven at the wonderful estate that he has given us as his kingdom, now and forever. We pray this in the name of the Christ, who gives us life in abundance. 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 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 Marks of Discipleship. For prayers that you would like included in Sunday worship, please visit [www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org) to send a prayer request to Pastor Matt.

Include an address if you'd like the person named in your request notified of the prayer offered on their behalf.

### **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  
**ACOLYTE** – Faith Halbakken  
**CHILDRENS SERMON** – Pastor Matthew Smith  
**LAY READER** – Laura Halbakken  
**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS** – Christina Raia, Zella Brisbo  
**GREETERS** – need someone  
**USHERS** – Don Telles, Don Cairns  
**ALTAR GUILD** – Eliot Nutt, Karren Reish  
**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 Grandhaven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing

*Rhoda Hunter* in Prestige Way on Keller Road in Holt

*Pat Lebsack* in The Willows, East Lansing

**Those at home:** *John Bartel, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo, Lois Cairns, Crystal Collins, Joann Dyer, Doug Griffin, Emma Hicks, Marilyn Bass-Huysen, Nancy Jackson, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Carol Roush, Connie Scott, Audrey Skidmore, Betty VanConant, Steve Viele, Emily Viele, 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.

**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)

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

**Darian Doan – U.S. Army** (Marv & Laura Halbakken'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)

**PLEASE NOTE:** The complete names of people for whom we're praying will no longer be used in the prayers of intercession during worship. Rather only first names will be said, without the congregation repeating the names. This change will help to preserve individual privacy in online streaming.

## PARISH NOTES



### **LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

Candlelight & Communion Services will be held on Saturday, December 24, at 7:30 P.M.

### **CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP**

Worship with Holy Communion will be held on Sunday at 10:00 am, no Sunday School or Adult Forum.

**ADULT FORUM – GOSPEL WRAP-UP** Today we will conclude our "Befriending the four gospels". Adult Forum will resume on Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup> as we begin our focus on our spiritual/practices of the Life of Discipleship with our first practice of praying fervently.

**WORSHIP FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS** The *NEW* Flower Chart for 2023 has been posted in the Entryway. Thank you to all who sponsor floral arrangements for the Sunday Worship Services. Sponsors often select a date that has special significance, such as an anniversary, birthday, or other commemorative event. The floral arrangements can be taken home by the sponsor after the morning worship service. Payment for the flowers can be made in advance or on the Sunday selected. Sign up soon to reserve your special date.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL** Luther Seminary's "Fling Wide the Door" is our Advent Devotional this year. It is available in digital format. A *limited* number of printed copies are available on a table in the Social Hall. With this devotional you'll find yourself flinging wide the door of your heart each and every day of Advent as you meditate on these short but poignant devotions.



**THE BOARD OF WORSHIP LIFE** The Board is asking for feedback about the worship experience at Bethlehem. The Board has prepared a brief survey about our worship. We are asking people who attend worship at Bethlehem to tell us what you particularly like about our worship, and what you would like to see done differently. An online survey is available using the following link: <https://bit.ly/BELCWorship> which was emailed to all members. Paper copies of the survey are available in the social hall. Please respond by December 20, 2022.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** 2023 envelopes are available in the gym.

**TNT POEM** In our class on December 1, we learned how in the Hebrew Scriptures God used flawed human beings to accomplish God's plan of salvation. God must be crazy to love us so much! So, our TNT students wrote a poem to express just how crazy it is:

***God Must Be Crazy...***

God must be crazy  
to forgive our sins.  
God must be crazy  
to NOT hit us upside the head with a bowling pin.  
God must be crazy  
to invent coats (to keep us from freezing).  
God must be crazy  
if God can love all these folks!



**END-OF-THE-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS**

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported Bethlehem Lutheran Church this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all our members in the year ahead. We also invite you to consider making an additional gift to Bethlehem as the year draws to a close. If you need a convenient way to make an additional gift before the end of the year or to make your regular

offerings, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving option. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. You



will find a blue "online giving" button on our home page at [www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org). That is a good place to start, or contact our Financial Secretary, Susan Mahoney, for more information.

← **Scan to give by Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**WORSHIP SURVEY** The Board of Worship Life has prepared a brief survey about our worship. We are asking people who attend worship at Bethlehem to tell us what you particularly like about our worship, and what you would like to see done differently. An online survey is available using the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQvSCIVtfUVVAVuGGsru-FDNeDKdsnO7i3yFo2Gfm-98qnbA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQvSCIVtfUVVAVuGGsru-FDNeDKdsnO7i3yFo2Gfm-98qnbA/viewform?usp=sf_link) which

Paper copies of the survey are available in the social hall. Please respond by December 20, 2022. Thank you!

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

*The Incarnation of Jesus is God's divine,  
"I love you!" to the world!*

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

Joseph responds with faith and courage to the dream of God entering his life as an infant needing his care and protection. How has the promise of Immanuel, *God with us*, impacted our lives?

**ATTENDANCE**

Worship Attendance: 125 – 87 in-person and 38 people viewed the 12/11/22 Live worship.

**THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP CHRISTMAS EVE**

ASSISTING MINISTER – Nancy Holderread  
GREETERS – Jon & Jessica Martin and family  
USHERS – Jim Whitman, Don Romain, Ralph Sergent  
COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Mary Bartel, Dorothy Martin  
ACOLYTE – David Fernandez, Allie Fernandez  
ALTAR GUILD – ALL TEAMS

**THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP CHRISTMAS DAY**

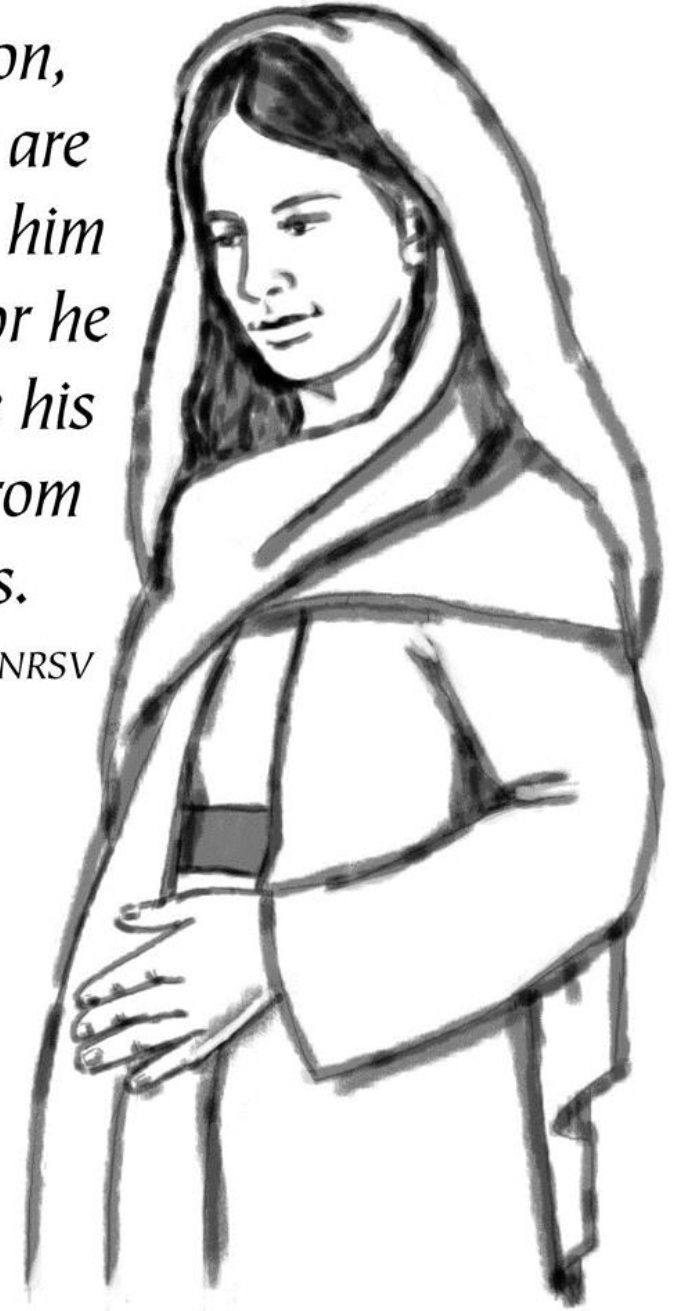
ASSISTING MINISTER – Don Telles  
GREETERS – Dave & Nancy Holderread  
USHERS – Jim Koessel, Ron Miller  
COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Mel White, Don Telles  
ACOLYTE – Faith Halbakken  
LAY READER – Michelle Smith  
ALTAR GUILD – Cindy Marsh, Michelle Smith

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>SUNDAY, Dec. 18</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School (Lower Social Hall)</b>
<b>Fourth Sunday</b>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum (Library)</b>
<b>in Advent</b>	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>
		<b>Worship (YouTube)</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>8:00a</b>	<b>Family Growth Center</b>
	<b>9:30a</b>	<b>Staff Meeting</b>
	<b>7:30p</b>	<b>Senior Choir</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>8:00a</b>	<b>Family Growth Center</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>8:00a</b>	<b>Family Growth Center</b>
	<b>6:15p</b>	<b>T.N.T.</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>7:30p</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>
<b>SUNDAY, Dec. 25</b>	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>
<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>		<b>Worship (YouTube)</b>

*She will  
bear a son,  
and you are  
to name him  
Jesus, for he  
will save his  
people from  
their sins.*

*Matthew 1:21, NRSV*



**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 Him

**SERVE** all people

*...and where I fall short of his expectations,  
Jesus always offers me his love and forgiveness!*

**POWER Gifts**