



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



Worship Service – 10:00  
December 25, 2022

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** The Poinsettias are given to the glory of God in celebration of Christmas!

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

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** January – March 2023 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 Vassar Michigan, Rev. Paulette Cummings.

**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

*Eternal God, you have blessed us in the past. In this upcoming new year, open our hearts and minds to know your presence and to see your love at work. Give us faith and grace to live in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, our source of joy and forever. 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** – Don Telles  
**ACOLYTE** – Faith Halbakken  
**CHILDRENS SERMON** – Pastor Matthew Smith  
**LAY READER** – Michelle Smith  
**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS** – Mel White, Don Telles  
**GREETERS** – Dave & Nancy Holderread  
**USHERS** – Jim Koessel, Ron Miller  
**ALTAR GUILD** – Cindy Marsh, Michelle Smith  
**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

### MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!

**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.

**THANK YOU!** To everyone who sponsored Poinsettias to adorn Bethlehem's Christmas Worship Service.

**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 on Sunday, January 8, things will get packed away for another year. Many willing hands will always make short work of it! Thank you!



**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.



**OFFERING ENVELOPES** 2023 envelopes are available in the gym for pick-up.



### **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>.**

**NEXT SUNDAY 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.

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

“You are not accepted by God because you deserve to be or because you have worked hard for Him; but because Jesus died for you!”

### **STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

The reason that Christmas is seen as a time for joyful giving is our delight in God's gift of Jesus, Savior and Immanuel. May we find profound joy in the exchange of gifts with loved ones and in those offerings that honor the Christ Child.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Worship Attendance: 105 – 80 in-person and 25 people viewed the 12/18/22 Live worship.

### **THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP JANUARY 1, 2023**

ASSISTING MINISTER – Don Telles

GREETERS – Ron & Diane Miller

USHERS – Cloyd Barnes, Don Cairns

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Kylee Nelson, Mary Jakubiak

ACOLYTE – David Fernandez

LAY READER – Mel White

ALTAR GUILD – Bob & Sue Christiansen

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, Dec. 25 10:00a**    **Worship – Holy Communion**  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**    **Worship (YouTube)**  
**MONDAY**    *Church office closed*  
**TUESDAY**    9:30a    **Staff Meeting**  
**WEDNESDAY**    9:00a    **Newsletter**  
**SATURDAY**    **7:30p**    **Christmas Eve Service**  
**SUNDAY, Jan. 1 10:00a**    **Worship – Holy Communion**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**    **Worship (YouTube)**



*Get up  
and  
flee  
into  
Egypt*

MATTHEW 2:13

**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**