



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  
February 4, 2024

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*God of love, hear my prayer. As I prepare for worship this day, help me to remember that I am your child, and that I will always belong to you. May your Word reach my heart. May the gifts of your grace make me strong in faith and ready to serve you. Help me to sort through the confusion of choices that confront me every day, and help me to see what you would have me do. 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](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 by Marv & Laura Halbakken in memory of Anna Steele.

**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 Immanuel Lutheran Church in Luddington, Michigan, Rev. Domingo Shriver.

**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 – Don Telles  
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith  
ACOLYTE – Alicia Ferandez  
LAY READER – Mel White  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Abigail Brisbo, Mary Bartel  
GREETERS – Ron & Diane Miller  
USHERS – Don Cairns, Cloyd Barnes  
ALTAR GUILD – Susan Mahoney, Linda Telles  
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 Independence Village, Grand Ledge

*Betty Strother* in Independence Village, East Lansing

*Joe & Audrey Skidmore*, in Assisted Living, Sedona, AZ

**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)

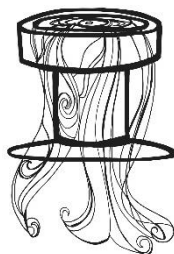
**OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY QUILT HAS BEGUN!!** Each block will have 1-3 crosses to equal 100 crosses total. Everyone is welcome to make a block or two or more! I'll have a tutorial after church service in the social hall on February 4, 11, 18 and the 25th. The next step is to put all the blocks together during March. Contact Connie Meeker with any questions at: (616) 902-0369 or [conniemeeker20@gmail.com](mailto:conniemeeker20@gmail.com)

## PARISH NOTES

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY** We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Shelby Waters, mother of Janell Liles, who died January 29, 2024. May God comfort those who mourn with the promise of eternal life for all those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.

**TODAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY** Canned goods and other non-perishable items and gifts of money can be brought up to the altar during the "Offering of Gifts". Please wait to come forward until instructed by the pastor. This special offering will be used to feed hungry people in our community through the Food Bank center in our church. Food that is donated will be distributed to the community through the Family Growth 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.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14, as we begin our Lenten Worship Series – Holy Lament, with worship at 7:30 pm. Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday worship will all be at 7:30 pm on their respective days.



New this year, our 'midweek' worship in the series, "Holy Lament", will happen on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm, February 20 – March 19. While some may lament the loss of Wednesdays for our midweek service this year, you may still find joy in the fact the **Potlucks are back!** Our Tuesday evenings will begin with a potluck for **ALL at 6:00 pm**, followed by worship at 7:00. The Board of Worship Life has made this change to honor the time commitment of our dedicated volunteers, for whom we are grateful!

**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, February 14, 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** Something good is cookin' at Bethlehem!! 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**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.

## THOUGHT(S) FOR THE WEEK

*Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.*

~ Isaiah 40:28

*For though I am free with respect to all,  
I have made myself a slave to all...*

~ 1 Corinthians 9:19a

*[Jesus] came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.*

~ Mark 1:31

## **ATTENDANCE**

Worship Attendance: 83 in-person, 39 people viewed the 1/28/24 Live worship and the recorded service on YouTube.

**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.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS** In today's Gospel reading we see that wise stewardship changes in different context. Sometimes its bed rest and good self-care. Sometimes we are blessed with energy for hospitality and serving; for resisting evil and caring for others. Jesus shows his longing and need to be in God's presence. May our stewardship include sufficient time for prayer, for worship and for fellowship with one another.

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

GREETERS – Laurey Wyble, Wendy Lamphier

USHERS – Phil Hassler, Jim Koessel, Ralph Sergeant

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Liisa & Jim Whitman

LAY READER – Jim Whitman

ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez

ALTAR GUILD – Kris & John Burow

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>SUNDAY, Feb. 4</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>
	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:30p	BELCW Board Meeting
<b>TUESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
<b>THURSDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	TBD	Bible Study Leaders Meeting
	6:15p	T.N.T.
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
<b>SUNDAY, Feb. 11</b> <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>
	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>

**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**



*Very early in the morning ... Jesus got up, left the house  
and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

*Mark 1:35*