



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



Worship Service – 10:00  
January 8, 2023

## 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** 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 Zion Lutheran Church in Woodland Michigan, Rev. Rebecca Ebb-Speese.

**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

*Of all the fears that plague me, Lord, the thought of rejection is the worst. The idea that I might be unacceptable weighs terribly on me. Help me to remember my baptism today as I hear of the baptism of Jesus. Show me once again the joy of my acceptance that you have also spoken to me as a beloved child. 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, Mila Thompson  
**CHILDRENS SERMON** – Pastor Matthew Smith  
**LAY READER** – Annabel Halbakken, Abby Brisbo  
**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS** – Mary Bartel, Peggy Teter  
**GREETERS** – Marv & Laura Halbakken  
**USHERS** – Phil Hassler, Joe Skidmore  
**ALTAR GUILD** – Kris & John Burow  
**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

**TODAY 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. Please give electronically by clicking on the "Online Giving" link on our website or mail your contribution to the church or by clicking here: ([www.tinyurl.com/BELCGiving](http://www.tinyurl.com/BELCGiving)).

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



**ADULT FORUM** We began a deep dive into Prayer. We will see how the Spirit moves us, but we are likely to continue this focus all through the Sundays after Epiphany as we will be praying in the Light of Christ. We will begin working through a process to help us determine our *Spiritual Type*, which can point us toward prayer practices that we may find meaningful or even prayer practices that might challenge us. Is your spirituality more of a **Social Action Spirituality**? Is yours more a **Head Spirituality** or a **Heart Spirituality**? Or perhaps a more **Mystical Spirituality**? If you can't join us on Sunday, there will be worksheets available for you to work on your own to determine your Spiritual Type.

In addition to helping folks identify their Spiritual Type(s), we will also be offering a suggested fixed prayer for the week as well as a topic or specific practice. Through spiritual conversations and personal sharing and modeling in the Adult Forum and in Worship we will be sharing ways that people can enrich their own prayer life.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** We will meet on January 22<sup>nd</sup> after the 10:30 service of worship. To review and approve the proposed 2023 Budget and to approve the Board Members.

**COUNCIL?** Are you feeling called to serve on our Congregation Council in 2023? Please pray for God's wisdom as you discern how you might serve. We have four of our seven "At-Large" seats available. Those willing to serve will be appointed on January 22 at our Congregational Meeting.

**THANK YOU!** We feel so blessed by your support throughout the last year. We treasure those gifts you give us, of yourself, your time, your talents and for the gifts and goodies we received over the Holidays. Thank you!! Pastor Matt, Pastor John, and Tracy.

**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.

**"STEWARDS LIVING WITH PURPOSE" (Commitment Forms)**  
In our Fall Stewardship program, we explored the purposes for which we have been created by God. In mid-November we mailed Commitment Forms and Time and Talent Sheets to every household. If you did not receive one or both forms, they are available at church on a table in the Social Hall or by calling the church office. The board of Stewardship and Finance appreciates knowing your financial commitments for the coming year as they are preparing the budget and forecasting needs. Simply return your form, with your name on it (keeping the bottom portion for your records) to the church office or in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

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

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** Please have your articles into Tracy by January 17<sup>th</sup> in Word format. Thank you!

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

*What are your New 'Days' Resolutions you are going to live in 2023?*

### **STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus and recall our own baptismal entry into Jesus' death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4). In both Jesus' Baptism and ours God claims us as his own. There are two aspects to this claim: we are adopted as God's beloved, precious and honored and we are ordained into a share of God's mission. Our compassion and generosity flow from the grace received in Holy Baptism.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Worship Attendance: 104 – 63 in-person and 41 people viewed the 1/1/23 Live worship.

### **THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP JANUARY 15, 2023**

ASSISTING MINISTER – Susan Mahoney

GREETERS – Cheryl & Joe Shreffler

USHERS – Phil Hassler, Joe Skidmore

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Zella Brisbo, Don Telles

ACOLYTE – Allie Fernandez

LAY READER – Candy Barnes

ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>SUNDAY, Jan. 8</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion Worship (YouTube)</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	6:30p	Harmony Circle
<b>TUESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	4:00p	Board of Outreach
	5:00p	Board of Worship Life
	7:30p	Senior Choir
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:00a	Quilting Day
<b>THURSDAY</b>	6:30p	Bd. of Buildings & Grounds
	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	T.N.T.
<b>SUNDAY, Jan. 15</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion Worship (YouTube)</b>



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**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

Jesus, when he was baptized, went up directly from the water:  
and behold, the heavens were opened to him.

*Matthew 3:16*