



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



Worship Service – 10:00  
February 5, 2023

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*God of illumination, we are people who walk in darkness.  
In your holy Word is the light for our path. Speak to us today  
through your Word and through our worship, so that we may  
walk in the light of our Lord, Jesus Christ. 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 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 and place it in the basket in our prayer corner.

*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** 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 Immanuel Lutheran Church in Allegan Michigan, Rev. Christopher Laughlin.

**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  
**ACOLYTE** – David Fernandez  
**CHILDRENS SERMON** – Pastor Matt Smith  
**LAY READER** – Kylee Nelson  
**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS** – Jim & Liisa Whitman  
**GREETERS** – Jim & Liisa Whitman  
**USHERS** – Cloyd Barnes, Don Cairns  
**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 Grandhaven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing  
*Rhoda Hunter* in Prestige Way on Keller Road in Holt  
*Pat Lebsack* in The Willows, East Lansing  
*Doug Griffin* in Medilodge of Okemos

**Those at home:** *John Bartel, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo  
Lois Cairns, Crystal Collins, Joann Dyer, Emma Hicks  
Marilyn Bass-Huysler, 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 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.

**ADULT FORUM 9 AM IN THE LIBRARY** Our Sunday morning exploration on prayer continues for several weeks. It should work well for you to jump in on any Sunday morning. Your participation will bless others and perhaps give a lift to your daily walk with God.

*“Pray in the Spirit at all times **with all kinds of prayers**, asking for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready and never give up. Always pray for all God's people.” ~ Ephesians 6:18*

*Prayer is the exercise of drawing on the grace of God.*

~ Oswald Chambers

**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 should speak with Pastor Matt, Jim Whitman, or David Westover.

**COVID 19 UPDATE** After a long period of “low community risk,” Ingham County is now at “medium” risk. Following CDC Guidelines, the Board of Worship Life is recommending that people at high risk of getting very sick wear a high-quality mask when indoors for worship. Please help keep all worshipers at Bethlehem safe and healthy.

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION** Thank you to everyone who helped on Wednesday, January 11, with our first drive through food distribution! Please sign up in the Social Hall to help again on Wednesday, February 8, for our next Mobile food distribution.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22. We will worship at 6:30 PM.

**WORSHIP FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS** Thank you to those who sponsor the Altar Flowers for the Bethlehem Worship services. Many do this as a way to celebrate an anniversary, birthday or other occasion. Please sign up for your special date on the Flower Chart in the entry hallway. The 2023 price for the arrangements is \$40. The order for the upcoming month is placed on the 20th of the current month so plan to sign up at least six weeks in advance!

**STONY LAKE REGISTRATION** Elementary, Confirmation and Senior High Camp is Week 4 of the camping season this year (July 9-14). Log on to <http://www.elcalivingwater.com/> and complete your camp registration. Living Water Ministries has a three-tiered, “Welcome to All” pricing model this year. When you register you can either choose to pay the full price, half-price, or no price, keeping camp accessible to ALL God’s children.

**IN THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY LIVING LUTHERAN** Highlights of this exceptional issue include Bishop Eaton’s Gospel meditation. (p.46) The reflection on creation/new creation is both profound and beautiful. (p.39) Throughout the issue we are introduced to innovative, fruitful ministries in the ELCA abs out into the world. Pick up your free copy in the welcome center. Enjoy! Learn!

**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.

**CHILI COOK-OFF** Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Women are bringing back the Chili Cook-off! Join us **Saturday, February 18 in the Social Hall at 6:00 p.m.** BRING THE HEAT! Please see the sign-up sheet in the gym if you’d like to enter your winning chili. The TNT youth are planning fun activities for children and youth. **Come join us!!**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** The 2023 offering envelopes are available on the table in the gym for pick-up. If you see someone’s envelopes you live close to or are friends with, please take theirs to them. Thank you!

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

*Every Christian can agree at the foot of the Cross. It is when we take a step back that disagreements begin.*

◇◇ Pastor Matt

### **STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

We are called to be salt and light. Salt both flavors and preserves – our words and actions may add zest to the lives of others and be used to sustain fruitful ministries near and far. Our words, actions and gifts, reflecting the light of Christ, may also cause others to praise God.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Worship Attendance: 67 in-person and 56 people viewed the 1/29/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

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

ASSISTING MINISTER – Nancy Holderread  
GREETERS – Cindy & Matt Marsh  
USHERS – Phil Hassler, Joe Skidmore  
COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Dorothy Martin, Bob Meeker  
ACOLYTE – Faith Halbakken, Mila Thompson  
LAY READER – Debbie Simmons  
ALTAR GUILD – Kris & John Burow

**DAILY PRAYER OF THE WEEK** Our hope is for all of us to pray this song several times a day, both for ourselves and for others whom the Spirit may place upon our hearts. You can listen to “Day by Day” on Spotify or another streaming music platform.

*Please remove our Daily Prayer of the Week and post it where you will repeat it every day.*

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*Day by day, day by day, Oh, Dear Lord three things I pray:  
To see thee more clearly.  
Love thee more dearly.  
Follow thee more nearly.  
Day by day*

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>SUNDAY, Feb. 5</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>	<b>6:30p</b>	<b>BELCW Board Meeting</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	5:00p	Board of Worship Life
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:00a	Quilting Day
	1:00p	Mobile Food Distribution
	TBA	Bible Study Leaders Mtg.
	6:30p	Board of Buildings & Grounds
<b>THURSDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	1:00p	Community Partners Mtg.
	6:15p	T.N.T.
<b>SUNDAY, Feb. 12</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>

**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

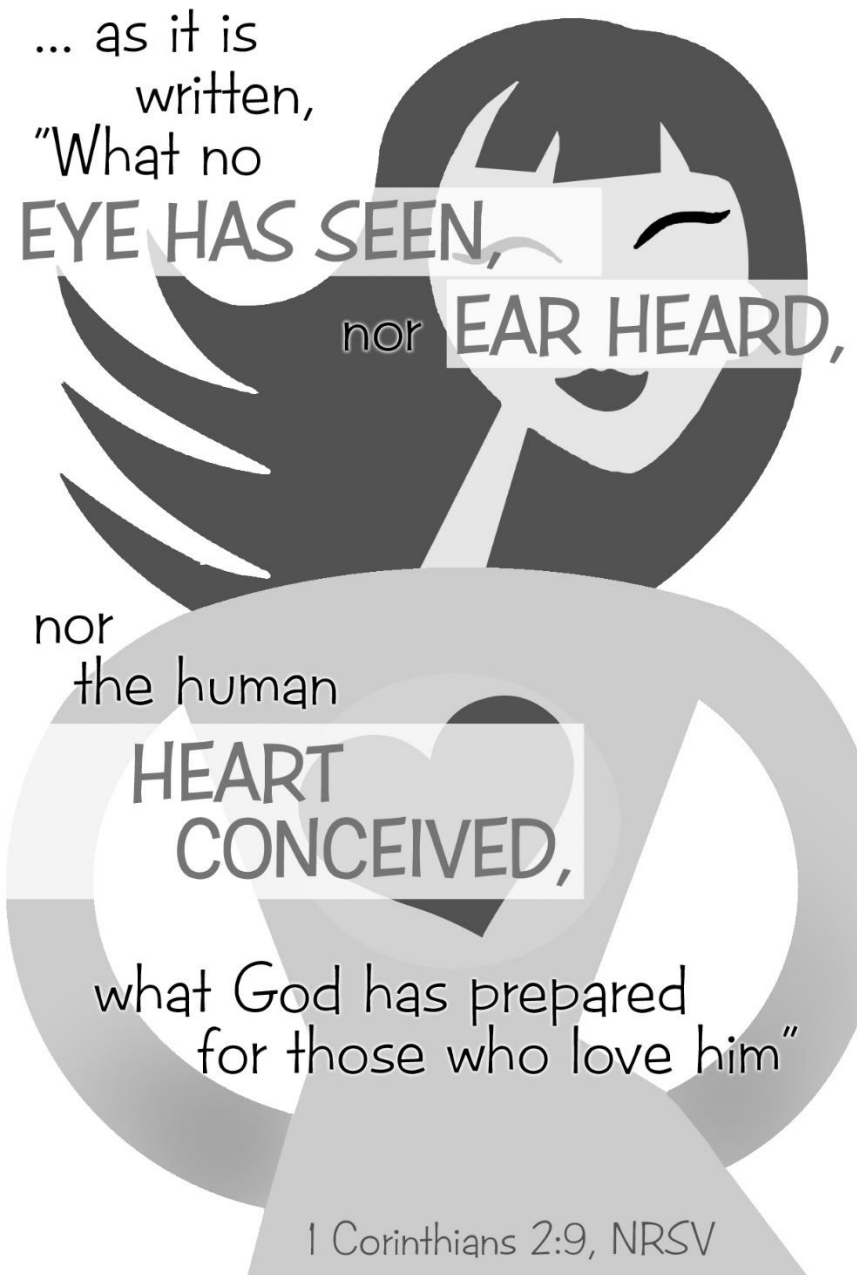
**INVITE** others to know Him

**SERVE** all people

*...and where I fall short of his expectations,*

*Jesus always offers me his love and forgiveness!*

**POWER Gifts**



... as it is written,  
"What no  
**EYE HAS SEEN,**  
nor **EAR HEARD,**  
nor  
the human  
**HEART  
CONCEIVED,**  
what God has prepared  
for those who love him"  
1 Corinthians 2:9, NRSV