



549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910
517-482-3225
www.bethlutheran.org



Worship Service – 10:00
March 17, 2024

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

O God of love and sacrificial giving, you have called the church through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Through the church, its proclamation and its ministry, we have been drawn into relationship with you. The power of its message and the love for you and for one another helped us find our way to life in Christ. We praise you for this gift, and we celebrate it in worship this day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 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 BELC, in celebration of all the January, February, and March birthdays! Happy Birthday!!

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

PORTALS OF PRAYER April - June 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 Trinity Lutheran Church in Midland, Michigan, Rev. Jeffrey Gramza, Senior Pastor, and Rev. Danielle Shealy, Associate Pastor.

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 – Nancy Holderread
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor John W. Burow
ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez
LAY READER – Joe Shreffler
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Keitha Snider, Joe Shreffler
GREETERS – Connie & Bob Meeker
USHERS – Ron Miller, David Westover
ALTAR GUILD – Eliot Nutt, Carrie Rice
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:

John Nelson in Grand Haven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing
Rhoda Hunter in Prestige Way on Keller Road in Holt
Marilyn Bass-Huysen in Independence Village, Grand Ledge
Betty Strother in Independence Village, East Lansing
Joe & Audrey Skidmore, in Assisted Living, Sedona, AZ
Kurt Kollmeyer, Ingham County Medical Care, Okemos
Cheryl VanPatten, Regency at Grand Ledge Rehabilitation Center

Those at home: *Kaye Alden, John Bartel, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo, Crystal Collins, Joann Dyer, Keith Ferguson, Emma Hicks, Nancy Jackson, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Sandy Rollis, Carol Roush, Connie Scott, Betty VanConant, 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)

PARISH NOTES

PANCAKE BREAKFAST Join us after church today for a pancake breakfast to benefit our Youth attending the National Youth Gathering this year.

HOLY LAMENT SERVICES All services will be on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m.

March 19 – Communal Lament

Holy Lament - "Communal Lament"

How quickly can you list 4 or more times when we grieved as a community or as a nation? What are the national/global crises and threats that burden your spirit and threaten feelings of joy and hope? Our fifth Tuesday worship exploring lament seeks to discover God's loving presence amidst the suffering of broken humanity and wounded creation. Our prayer for this service includes this petition: *As we lament together in community, may we provide space to all searching for ways to voice their own pain and grief.*

Resources for our worship preparation include Psalm 44:1-13, 17-26 and Luke 19:41-44; the Porter's Gate song, "Drive out the Darkness" and these points for pondering:

What are the "far away" or looming disasters that bring forth your lament?

How have you felt the strength of your community in times of disaster or distress?

LENTEN POTLUCK A Lenten Potluck Supper precedes the Holy Lament Services each Tuesday, February 20 through Tuesday, March 19. The potluck meal begins at 6:00 p.m. in the social hall. Bring your evening meal (a dish or two to pass - enough food for your family) and share it with the rest of the church family. Beverages will be provided. Please bring your own table service.

EASTER PRAYER VIGIL On Saturday March 30, from 12 noon to 12 midnight. Sign-up sheets are in the Social Hall for Hosts, and times to pray. Thank you.

Lansing SAVE On Sunday, March 31, is our fifth Sunday offering for LansingSAVE. There are now 192 children in our group of students from BELC and the Baker Neighborhood. To give electronically click on the "Online Giving" link on our website.

March 24 - PASSION SUNDAY (*Palm Sunday*)

8:45 Sunday Church School
9:00 Adult Forum
10:00 Service of Worship - (distribution of palms)



March 28 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:30 Holy Communion & the Beginning of the Passion

March 29 - GOOD FRIDAY

7:30 Tenebrae Service
(A "service of darkness" recalling the terrible reality of our sin and the sacrifice of our Lord for all people.)

March 30 - HOLY SATURDAY

Prayer Vigil – Noon to Midnight

March 31 - EASTER SUNDAY

10:00 Resurrection Celebration and Holy Communion
11:30 Easter Breakfast for everyone (brunch)

STONY LAKE REGISTRATION Elementary, Confirmation and Senior High Camp is Week 4 of the camping season this year (July 7-12). Log on to <http://www.elcalivingwater.com/> and complete your camp registration.

MY LENTEN GIFT Offerings using the "My Lenten Gift" envelope in the February newsletter will be given to the Pine Ridge Food Ministry at the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center.

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.

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.

THRIVENT MEMBERS You can designate your choice dollars to go to Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 54 in-person, 30 people viewed the 3/10/24 Live worship and the recorded service on YouTube and 39 in-person, 18 people viewed the 3/12/24 Lenten live worship and recorded service.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Beyond this, our text states (v. 25) that those who are loving their own selves/lives lose them, and those who are hating their selves/lives in this world will keep them for eternal life. Besides its application to individuals, I think that it also applies to congregations.

~ Brian Stoffregen

"...(Brene') Brown argues that by engaging in methods of self-protection—guarding against pain, choosing safer paths, seeking certainty, choosing acceptance over authenticity—we actually distance ourselves from sources of comfort, happiness, and belonging. Her conclusion? If vulnerability leaves us open to pain, shame, and rejection, it also leaves us open to love, acceptance, and belonging."

~ Ayanna Watkins

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 15th 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.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. ~ John 12:24
In Baptism we have been buried with Christ that we might live a new and fruitful live. How will our new life in Christ be evident in our choices this week?

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TUESDAY 3/19 @7:00P

GREETERS – Susan Mahoney
USHERS – Tim Nelson, Ralph Sergent
ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT PALM SUNDAY

GREETERS – Matt & Cindy Marsh
USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider
LAY READER – Mila Thompson
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Tim Nelson, Kylee Nelson
ACOLYTE – Andrew Goff

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Mar. 17	8:45a	Children's Sunday School
5th Sunday in Lent	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
	11:30a	Pancake Breakfast after service
MONDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:30p	Friendship Circle
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	1:00p	Rainbow Circle
	5:30p	Handbell Choir
	6:00p	Potluck Dinner
	7:00p	Holy Lament Service
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:30p	First Communion Class
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	T.N.T.
	6:30p	Congregation Council
FRIDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
SATURDAY	10:00a	Distribution of Easter Food Baskets
SUNDAY, Mar. 24	8:45a	Children's Sunday School
Palm/Passion	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion

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



*“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself.” ~ John 2:32*