



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  
March 10, 2024

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Dear Lord, we confess that sometimes we choose the darkness over the light. We choose to stay with that which is unhealthy but familiar to us. We choose to stay with that which is demeaning to others but comfortable for ourselves. Forgive us when we choose the darkness. Let your light break in upon us. In your merciful name, we 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 BELC.

**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 Christ Lutheran Church in Michigan Center, Rev. Robert Martin.

**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 – Susan Mahoney  
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matthew A. Smith  
ACOLYTE – Alicia Fernandez  
LAY READER – David Ware  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mel White, Laurey Wyble  
GREETERS – Mary Bartel, Carol Pride  
USHERS – Phil Hassler, Jim Koessel  
ALTAR GUILD – Kris & John Burow, Cheryl Thompson  
A/V PRODUCTION – David Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Meeker, Kevin Peckham, Paul Schmidt, David Westover



**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-Huyser 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, 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)

**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 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



**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. If you are viewing this bulletin electronically, click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

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

**March 12 – Individual Lament**

**March 19 – Communal Lament**

### Holy Lament - "Individual Lament"

Our lives are a beautiful and sometimes terrifying mix of great joy and deep sorrow. Our worship this Tuesday will offer an opportunity to discover God's comforting presence amidst our deeply personal sorrows. Resources for worship preparation include our Bible readings: Psalm 13 and Matthew 2:16-18; The Porter's Gate song: "How Long?" and these reflection prompts:

*From who and from what does your help come when mourning a personal loss?*

*Do you tend to grieve privately or with others?* No wrong answer here, but a helpful hint could be the Lutheran both/and perspective.

Again, our theme song can be viewed on YouTube or listened to on your favorite music app. Google Nest is quite cooperative.

**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 FOOD BASKETS** It's that time of year again. Easter is around the corner. We have started our Easter Food Basket Outreach. The Red Bags are on the table in the lobby for you to pick up and fill. See the March 2024 Bethlehem Star Newsletter for more information.

**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. According to Pastor Dan, Pine Ridge is currently spending on average \$4,000 per week to feed youth at the Reconciliation Center and the growing un-housed population on the reservation. If you are saving money this Lent on something you have given up, please consider sharing that money with God’s people in need. Additional envelopes are available on the ‘Welcome’ table.



**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.

**COME AND TEMPT YOUR TASTE BUDS** 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!

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST** Join us after church on March 17<sup>th</sup> for a pancake breakfast to benefit our Youth attending the National Youth Gathering this year.

**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.

**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.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

~ Hebrews 12:1-2

### ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 79 in-person, 22 people viewed the 3/3/24 Live worship and the recorded service on YouTube-and 36 in-person, 25 people viewed the 3/5/24 Lenten live worship and recorded service.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS** It’s not something you did that you can be proud of. Instead, we are God’s accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives. - Ephesians 2:9-10  
May we faithfully live into the good works God sets before us in Christ.

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

### THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TUESDAY 3/12 @7:00P

GREETERS – Zellah Brisbo, Faith Halbakken

USHERS – Tim Nelson, Ralph Sergeant

ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley

### THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Connie & Bob Meeker

USHERS – Ron Miller, David Westover

LAY READER – Joe Shreffler

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Keitha Snider, Joe Shreffler

ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez

### THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

<b>SUNDAY, Mar. 10</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</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	Bd. of Stewardship & Finance
<b>TUESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	4:00p	Bd. of Outreach
	5:00p	Bd. of Worship Life
	5:30p	Handbell Choir
	<b>6:00p</b>	<b>Potluck Dinner</b>
	<b>7:00p</b>	<b>Holy Lament Service</b>
	7:30p	Senior Choir
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:00a	Quilting Day
	1:00p	Mobile Food Pantry Distribution
	6:30p	First Communion Class
	6:30p	Harmony Circle
	6:30p	Bd. of Buildings & Grounds
<b>THURSDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	T.N.T.
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
<b>SATURDAY</b>	6:00p	Chili Cook-off
<b>SUNDAY, Mar. 17</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>
	<b>11:30a</b>	<b>Pancake Breakfast after service</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,

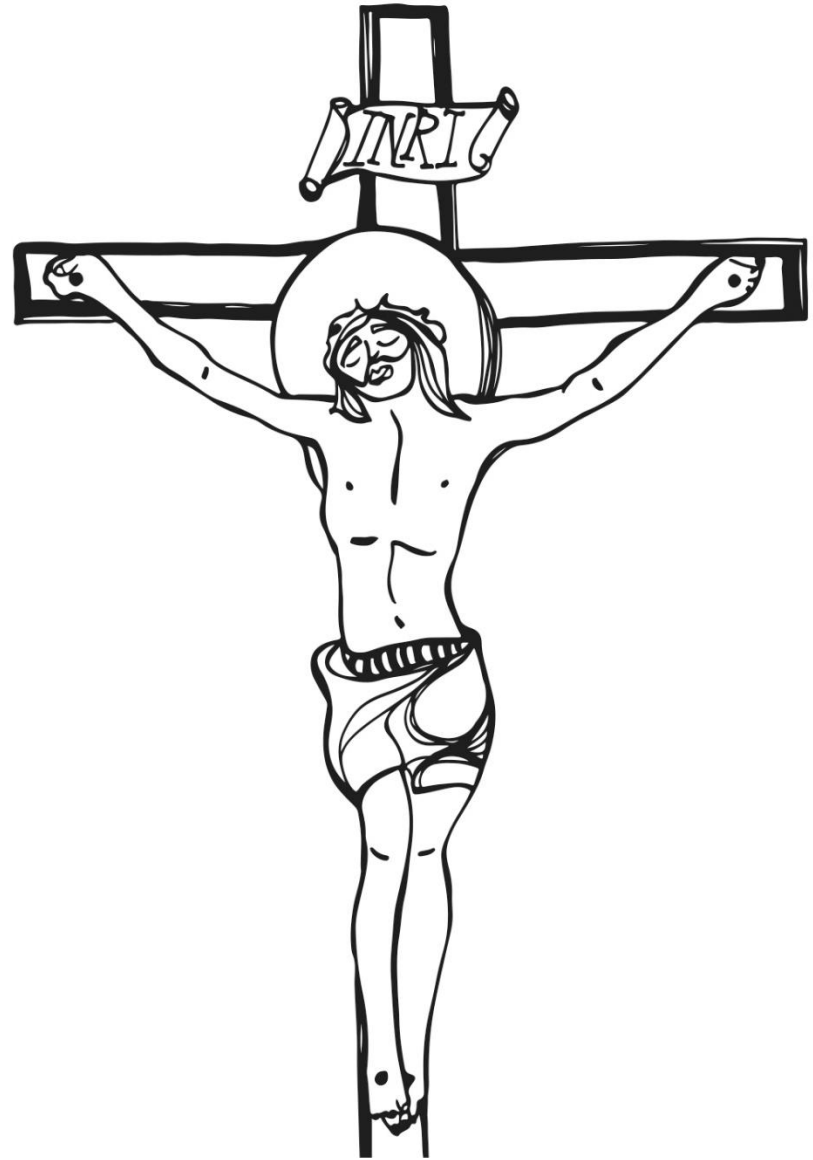
**INVITE** others to know God,

**SERVE** all people,

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

*Jesus always offers me his love and forgiveness!*

**PoWER** Gifts



***THE JOY OF THE CROSS***