



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



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Worship Service – 10:00
January 1, 2023

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR The Poinsettias are given to the glory of God in celebration of Christmas!

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 Grace Lutheran Church in Vassar Michigan, Rev. Paulette Cummings and Lebanon Lutheran Church in Whitehall Michigan, Rev. Douglas Ogden.

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

Eternal God, you have blessed us in the past. In this upcoming new year, open our hearts and minds to know your presence and to see your love at work. Give us faith and grace to live in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, our source of joy and forever. 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 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 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 – Don Telles
ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matthew Smith
LAY READER – Mel White
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mary Jakubiak, Kylee Nelson
GREETERS – Candy & Cloyd Barnes
USHERS – Cloyd Barnes, Don Cairns
ALTAR GUILD – Bob & Sue Christiansen
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

Happy New Year to All!!

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.

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.

THANK YOU! To everyone who sponsored Poinsettias to adorn
Bethlehem's Christmas Worship Service.

ADULT FORUM Starting on Sunday, January 8, we will begin 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. On January 8 the Adult Forum will be
held in the Social Hall starting at 9:00 a.m. On that day 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.

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.

WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN! That goes for Christmas decorations, too! Can you lend a hand to “un-decorate” the church? After the service of worship on Sunday, January 8, things will get packed away for another year. Many willing hands will always make short work of it! Thank you!



“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 2023 envelopes are available in the gym for pick-up.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“You are not accepted by God
because you deserve to be or because
you have worked hard for him,
but because Jesus died for you!”

~ Colin Urquhart

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

In this first week of 2023, a worthy focus for our prayer is for the renewal of joy in our serving and giving, flowing from deep wells of gratitude, compassion, and love.

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 105 – 85 in-person Christmas Eve and 25 people viewed the 12/24/22 Live worship.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP JANUARY 8, 2023

ASSISTING MINISTER – Nancy Holderread

GREETERS – Marv & Laura Halbakken

USHERS – Phil Hassler, Joe Skidmore

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Mary Bartel, Peggy Teter

ACOLYTE – Faith Halbakken

LAY READER – Annabel Halbakken, Faith Halbakken,
Abby Brisbo, Mila Thompson

ALTAR GUILD – Kris & John Burow

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Jan. 1 10:00a **Worship – Holy Communion**
HAPPY NEW YEAR!! **Worship (YouTube)**
MONDAY *Church office closed*
TUESDAY 8:00a Family Growth Center
 9:30a Staff Meeting
 7:30p Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY 9:00a Family Growth Center
 6:30p Bd. of Stewardship & Finance
THURSDAY 8:00a Family Growth Center
 6:15p T.N.T.
SATURDAY 9:30a F.A.B. meets
SUNDAY, Jan. 8 8:45a **Sunday School**
 9:00a **Adult Forum**
 10:00a **Worship – Holy Communion**
 Worship (YouTube)

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



*Get up
and
flee
into
Egypt*

M A T T H E W 2 : 1 3