



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



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

Worship Service – 10:00  
December 11, 2022

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*O Lord God, my only hope and strength, I pray that during this time of worship and these days of Advent, you may enlighten my heart by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that I might give true thanks for the wondrous gift of your love. May this joyful good news become the comfort I need in times of trouble and temptation, through Jesus Christ my 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 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) or click [HERE](#) for a direct link 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.

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Karren Reish in memory of Annamary VanNortwick.

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

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** October - December 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 Augustana Lutheran Church in Tustin Michigan, Rev. Sharon VanDam.

**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  
ACOLYTE – Alicia Fernandez  
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor John Burow  
LAY READER – Mel White  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mary Jakubiak, Kylee Nelson  
GREETERS – Mary Jakubiak  
USHERS – Ralph Sergent, Matt Marsh  
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).

### **TODAY IS THE ANNUAL SENIOR CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Join us for the **Senior Dinner today at 3:30**, here at the church.

**ADULT FORUM – GOSPEL WRAP-UP** Today we will continue our "Befriending the four gospels". In the remaining Sundays of Advent we will focus on how the different gospels proclaim Jesus' suffering and resurrection.

**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.

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

Candlelight & Communion Services will be held on Saturday, December 24, at 7:30 P.M.

### **CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP**

Worship with Holy Communion will be held on Sunday at 10:00 am, No Sunday School or Adult Forum.



**Scan to give by Dec. 31 and your donation can go twice as far!**

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL** Luther Seminary's "Fling Wide the Door" is our Advent Devotional this year. It is available in digital format. A *limited* number of printed copies are available on a table in the Social Hall. With this devotional you'll find yourself flinging wide the door of your heart each and every day of Advent as you meditate on these short but poignant devotions.



**THE BOARD OF WORSHIP LIFE** The Board is asking for feedback about the worship experience at Bethlehem. The Board has prepared a brief survey about our worship. We are asking people who attend worship at Bethlehem to tell us what you particularly like about our worship, and what you would like to see done differently. An online survey is available using the following link: <https://bit.ly/BELCWorship> which was emailed to all members. Paper copies of the survey are available in the social hall. Please respond by December 20, 2022.

**IN THE DECEMBER LIVING LUTHERAN:**

Among the articles worthy of attention, sharing and discussion are:

- A fresh and refreshing look at Revelations highlighting a much-needed message of hope and resistance.
- Luther's own thoughts on Biblical hope.
- A profoundly stressed new parent finds sanctuary in the compassion and kindness of others.

Plus, words of healing and wisdom from regular contributors and glimpses of the ELCA's work here and around the world. Pick up a copy at the Welcome Center.

**TNT POEM** In our class on December 1, we learned how in the Hebrew Scriptures God used flawed human beings to accomplish God's plan of salvation. God must be crazy to love us so much! So, our TNT students wrote a poem to express just how crazy it is:

***God Must Be Crazy...***

God must be crazy  
to forgive our sins.  
God must be crazy  
to NOT hit us upside the head with a bowling pin.  
God must be crazy  
to invent coats (to keep us from freezing).  
God must be crazy  
if God can love all these folks!

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

*Joy is not the same as happiness. Happiness may be circumstantial. Joy needs no particular circumstances and no one's permission to exist... It can be present in all times and circumstances.* ~ T. Denise Anderson

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP**

In today's Gospel, Matthew 11:1-11, Jesus describes the works that authenticate his role in God's mission. How do our lives of worship, serving and giving demonstrate the authenticity of our faith?

**ATTENDANCE**

Worship Attendance: 115 – 90 in-person and 25 people viewed the 12/4/22 Live worship.

**THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY**

GREETERS – Debbie Simmons and family  
LAY READER – Debbie Simmons  
ACOLYTE – Faith Halbakken  
USHERS – Don Telles, Don Cairns  
COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Christina Raia, Zella Brisbo



**END-OF-THE-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS**

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported Bethlehem Lutheran Church this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. We also invite you to consider making an additional gift to Bethlehem as the year draws to a close.

If you need a convenient way to make an additional gift before the end of the year or to make your regular offerings, we encourage you to

check out our electronic giving option. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. You will find a blue "online giving" button on our home page at [www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org). That is a good place to start, or contact our Financial Secretary, Susan Mahoney, for more information.

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>SUNDAY, Dec. 11</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School (Lower Social Hall)</b>
<b>Third Sunday</b>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum (Library)</b>
<b>in Advent</b>	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b> <b>Worship (YouTube)</b>
	<b>3:30p</b>	<b>Senior Dinner &amp; Entertainment</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>6:30p</b>	Friendship Circle Christmas dinner
	<b>TBA</b>	Harmony Circle Christmas dinner
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>8:00a</b>	Family Growth Center
	<b>9:30a</b>	Staff Meeting
	<b>1:00p</b>	Rainbow Circle cookie exchange
	<b>4:00p</b>	Board of Worship Life
	<b>7:30p</b>	Senior Choir
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>8:00a</b>	Family Growth Center
	<b>9:00a</b>	Quilting Day
	<b>6:30p</b>	Board of Buildings & Grounds
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>8:00a</b>	Family Growth Center
<b>Newsletter deadline</b>	<b>6:15p</b>	T.N.T.
	<b>6:30p</b>	Congregation Council Meeting
<b>SUNDAY, Dec. 18</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School (Lower Social Hall)</b>
<b>Fourth Sunday</b>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum (Library)</b>
<b>in Advent</b>	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b> <b>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

**REJOICE**  
**IN THE**

**LORD**

**ALWAYS & AGAIN**  
**I SAY**

**REJOICE**

**PHILIPPIANS 4:4**

**KJV**