



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
December 17 2023

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 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 Karren Reish, in loving 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 Jan. – March 2024 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 Bethany Lutheran Church in Kaleva, Michigan, Rev. Zachary Nelson.

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 Matt Smith
ACOLYTES – Faith & Annabel Halbakken
LAY READER – Mary Jakubiak
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Keitha Snider, Sherry Bass-Pohl
GREETERS – David & Keitha Snider
USHERS – Ron Miller, Jeff Kosloski
ALTAR GUILD – Karren Reish, Eliot Nutt
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 Grand Haven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing

Rhoda Hunter in Prestige Way on Keller Road in Holt

Betty Strother in Mary Free bed, Sparrow

Marilyn Bass-Huyser in Independent Village, Grand Ledge

Those at home: *Kaye Alden, John Bartel, Virginia Bauman*

Tosha Brisbo, Lois Cairns, Crystal Collins, Joann Dyer

Emma Hicks, Nancy Jackson, Michael Mahoney

Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Sandy Rollis

Carol Roush, Connie Scott, Audrey Skidmore

Betty VanConant, 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, Morgan Shafer.

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)

FIRST NAMES (ONLY MOST OF THE TIME) The complete names of people for whom we're praying will no longer be used in the prayers of intercession during worship. This change will help to preserve individual privacy in online streaming. If you submit a prayer card with full names, the entire name is likely to be prayed.

PARISH NOTES



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Patricia Lebsack, who died December 9, 2023. May God comfort those who mourn with the promise of eternal life for all those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE The Christmas Eve services will be Sunday morning December 24, at 10:00 a.m., including the Childrens Christmas Program, and at 7:30 p.m. for our Christmas Eve worship.

ADVENT OFFERING Included in the December Newsletter, our Advent offering proceeds, will go toward The Women's Center of Greater Lansing.

FAMILY GROWTH CENTER CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP During the week of December 18 through December 21, the Family Growth Center will have their Christmas Workshop in the lower social hall and the gym for families that they serve through their resource center.

Lansing SAVE On Sunday, December 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.

WELCOME TABLE On the table is the last printed Living Lutheran magazine. Starting in 2024, it will only be published online. Please pick up your copy from the Welcome Table.

ADULT FORUM Will be on break over Christmas and New Year's, and we will meet again on Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. on January 7th.

COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS! For those who enjoy baking, an opportunity awaits! Please see Kris Burow if you are interested in baking the Communion Bread for the Bethlehem worship services. Bakers need not be Altar Guild members. The recipe and needed supplies will be provided and there will be a short training meeting for helpful hints in baking the bread. Contact Kris Burow if interested.



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 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. That is a good place to start, or contact our Financial Secretary, Susan Mahoney, for more information.

← **Scan to give by Dec. 31st.**

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.

COMMUNION BREAD We now use Communion Bread in worship that is totally gluten free, so, there will be no more gluten free wafers. Now, everyone in our congregation will receive the Body of Christ from the same loaf.

LYONS ELEMENTARY CLOTHING PROJECT ON PAUSE

I have been in touch with Shari Martinez, the school secretary, throughout the Fall about their needs this year. While needs for children still exist, the school currently has a space and storage problem and must put a pause on receiving donations. Lyons previously was a K-3rd grade building, and this year they added fourth graders to the school. While the building size did not increase, the student and staff population did. Storage space was turned into fourth grade classrooms; Shari tells me that things are now crammed into all areas of the building, making it impossible for the school to consider accepting, organizing, and storing clothing at this time. She has asked that I check back with her next school year to see if they have solved some of their space problems. We make a difference! *Cindy Marsh*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

~Yeshua bar Yosef,
1st Century CE

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 71 in-person, 45 people viewed the 12/10/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS In this third Sunday of Advent, we continue to hear John the Baptist’s urgent appeal to open our hearts and lives to the coming of the Messiah. How will this good news impact our witness and our compassionate serving?

SENSORY TOOL KIT To assist parents of children with sensory issues (on the Autism Spectrum) in worship, we now have a Sensory Tool Kit on the coat rack in the Lobby. If you cannot locate it, please ask an usher.

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

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP DECEMBER 24 10:00 A.M.

GREETERS – Jon & Jessica Martin and family

USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Zellah Brisbo

LAY READERS – Annabel Halbakken, Abigail Brisbo

ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley

ALTAR GUILD – Michelle Smith, Cindy Marsh

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP DECEMBER 24 7:30 P.M.

GREETERS – Bob & Connie Meeker

USHERS – Ralph Sergeant, Don Romain, Jim Whitman, Dee Bernardi

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Dorothy Martin, Ron Miller

ACOLYTES – Adreanna & Alicia Fernandez

ALTAR GUILD – All Teams

HIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Dec. 17	8:45a	Sunday School
<i>Third Sunday in Advent</i>	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
MONDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Christmas workshop
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Christmas workshop
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	TNT
	6:30p	Congregational Council meets
FRIDAY	7:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
SATURDAY	10:00a	Christmas Food Basket Dist.
SUNDAY, Dec. 24	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
		Children's Christmas Program
	7:30p	Christmas Eve Service with 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



3RD SUNDAY OF *Advent*