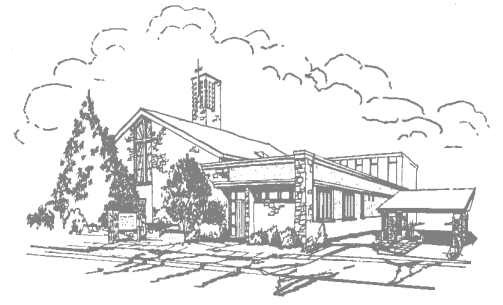


# Bethlehem Star

Lutheran Church Lansing



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church - Lansing, Michigan

**Pastor Matt Smith**

**April 2025**

*I had made up my mind not to think about anything while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and to preach him as crucified.*

- 1 Corinthians 2:2 (CEB)

This is the verse that has guided me in ministry more than any other. As we come to the end of Lent and approach the Cross and Christ's Passion, it takes on even more meaning. It is the lens through which I am viewing the Church, Bethlehem, and the world.

### Lenten Worship through the Senses Series Conclusion

We have been worshipping on Tuesday nights at 7:00 (potluck at 6pm), through April 8. Our focus has been on how our *embodied* Lord and Savior shared in our experiences through the senses, as we share in his.

### Holy Week

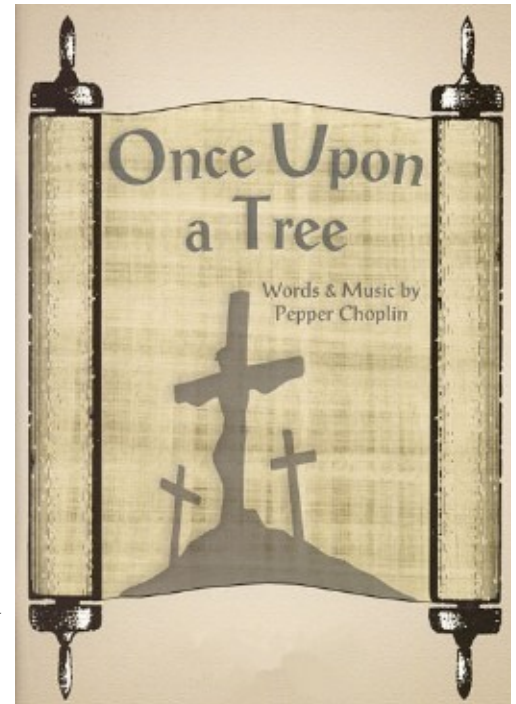
Holy Week begins with *Palm/Passion Sunday*, April 13. We will journey through Holy Week with our Senior Choir's cantata, *Once Upon a Tree*. The cantata is narrated by Luke as he writes of Jesus's last days on earth. Luke's Passion narrative emphasizes Jesus's compassion, innocence, and concern for those around him, extending mercy even in his darkest hour.

That Sunday we will also welcome **Pastor Dan Johnson** from the Lutheran/Lakota Shared Ministries at the **Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center** in South Dakota. Pastor Dan will be with us to share updates on the ministry there with youth and job training that you so generously support. And, since it is a second Sunday of the month, we will receive our Mission Offering in support of the ministry on that day.

*Once Upon a Tree* continues on *Maundy Thursday*, April 17. Our potluck is at 6:30, and worship is at 7:30 pm. On that day, **Adalyn Marentette** and **Thomas Niles** will receive their **First Communion**.

We will observe *Good Friday* with a Tenebrae service of darkness at 7:30 pm. We will focus on Jesus's Passion Narrative in *Once Upon a Tree* through the Gospel of Luke, where we hear some of Jesus' last words. The words that appear in Luke and not in the other Gospels are Jesus crying out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I entrust my life." After he said this, he breathed for the last time (Luke 23:46 CEB).

On Holy Saturday, April 19, we will have an *Easter Vigil* in the sanctuary from 12 noon until 12 midnight, praying for the church, the world, and for all people according to their needs as we await the resurrected Lord..



### Sign

We are hoping to have our new digital sign installed by Easter, though we are still accepting contributions. We are also hoping to have the sending words of worship painted above the doors as we leave the building, "Go in peace. Serve the Lord," having made up our minds not to think about anything else as we go out in the world in service except Jesus Christ...

<>Pastor Matt

# Worship in April 2025

**The Bethlehem Star**  
A monthly publication of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.  
Lansing, Michigan 48910  
Phone: (517) 482-3225  
FAX: (517) 482-2458

## Ministers

*All of the members of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

Pastor Matthew A. Smith  
pastormattsmith@gmail.com  
(517) 881-9890

Assistant to The Pastor  
Pastor John W. Burow  
pastorjburow@yahoo.com  
(517) 614-4559

Church Secretary / Star Editor  
Tracy Baker  
bethlehemlansing@gmail.com  
(517) 482-3225

Congregation President  
*open seat*

Organist  
James Schippers  
jameschippers@gmail.com

Choir Director  
Sue Nelson  
ntimothy1@att.net

Handbell Choir Director  
James Schippers

Contemporary Worship Director  
Laurey Wyble

Office Hours  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (M-F)

Visit our website at:  
[www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org)

## Worship Schedule

10:00 - Worship - Holy Comm.  
Sanctuary - in person  
And LIVE Streaming on  
YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/  
@bethlehemworship126/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@bethlehemworship126/streams)

## Assisting Ministers

**April 6 - Nancy Holderread**  
**April 13 - Susan Mahoney**  
**April 20 - Don Telles**  
**April 27 - Bob Meeker**

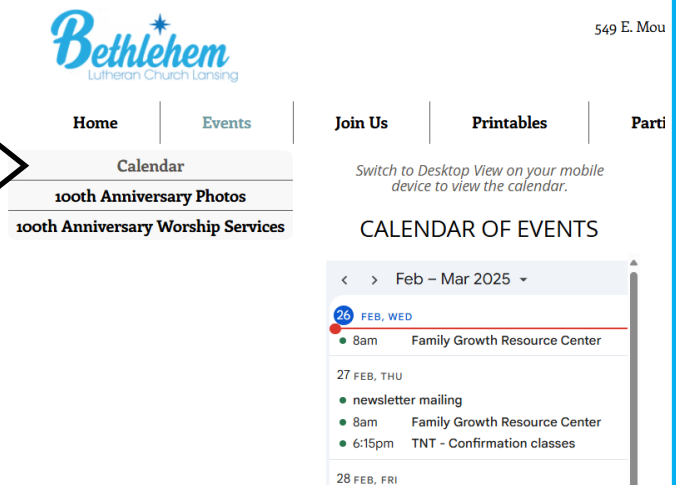
## Children's Sermons

**April 6 - Pastor Matt Smith**  
**April 13 - Pastor Matt Smith**  
**April 20 - Pastor Matt Smith**  
**April 27 - Pastor John Burow**



## WEBSITE UPDATES

Visit [bethlutheran.org](http://bethlutheran.org) and click on 'Events' for information on what's happening. Select 'Calendar' from the Events menu to view the *full* church calendar.



## Statement of Purpose and Guiding Principles for Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

God's purpose for our church, as disciples of Jesus Christ, is to share with all people God's word, love and saving grace.

*We will pursue this purpose by:*

1. Being a Christ-centered, joyful community of baptized believers who gather regularly for worship, the Lord's Supper, study and prayer.
2. Inviting, accepting, and supporting all people as we build attentive, respectful relationships.
3. Taking action and risks with bold faith, acknowledging our imperfection, while trusting in Christ.
4. Actively engaging in community outreach near and far.
5. Being faithful stewards of our time, talents, possessions and all of God's creation.

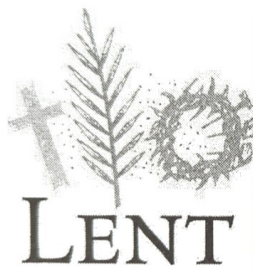
Adopted January 29, 2017

# CHRISTIAN *services*

This Lent we are asking our members to make a special gift as you contemplate the *incarnate* Jesus’s sacrifice on the Cross to support the work of Christian Services. From their website: *Christian Services aims to help churches meet people’s needs with the love of Jesus Christ. Through Christian Services, church members are putting their faith in action and providing help, hope and God’s love to others. They are building caring relationships with those who are struggling, and moving beyond the expressed need to help address the underlying issues that contribute to poverty and hopelessness.*

Christian Services is a strategy developed by local churches to help local churches help their neighbors in need, a partnership of local churches working together to provide effective help and show God’s love to those in need, a collaboration between local churches and their community (agencies, ministries, government and schools) to provide effective help for the disadvantaged, and a vehicle that helps churches, collectively and individually fulfill their biblical mandate to reach out to people in need.

One church alone can’t deal with all the complex issues of poverty. It takes churches working together across denominational lines to meet these multifaceted needs. When we have requests for assistance from neighbors at Bethlehem, we direct them to Christian Services. We also get names for our Thanksgiving Food Baskets from Christian Services because they have worked to identify families that would benefit the most from receiving one of our food baskets.

	<b>My Lenten Gift</b>
	Name: _____
	Number: _____
	Amount: \$ _____



# Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Women

Women of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in America

All women of Bethlehem Lutheran Church are members of the Women of the ELCA and are invited and encouraged to participate in all activities listed in the newsletters, bulletins, flyers or on the bulletin boards.



## Save Your Rummage for the BELCW Rummage Sale in May

As the seasons change and spring cleaning begins, it's the perfect time to declutter your home and make a positive impact on your church and the community. The annual church rummage sale is just around the corner this May, and your donations can help make this event a huge success.

### Mark Your Calendar:

Rummage Sale Set-up: 5/2/25  
Rummage Donation Drop Off: 5/2-5/5  
Dates for the Rummage Sale: 5/6-5/8

**Significant** – Our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Retreat is scheduled for April 25-27.

- **MICHINDOH CONFERENCE CENTER**, 4545 E. Bacon Rd., Hillsdale, MI 49242
- Cost: \$130 / \$65 Deposit with registration
- Cost includes lodging, meals, and retreat materials
- Please contact Laura (517) 281-3133 or Joanna (517) 388-1263 with your questions.

Please watch Facebook, your email, and flyers around the church for more details. **Sign-ups are happening now!**

**Chili Cook-Off Date** – Postponed until next year! Look for more fun fellowship the women are planning in future newsletters!

**Offerings to BELCW** – If you would like to make an offering to the BELCW, please send checks to Keitha Snider, Treasurer, 14685 Center Rd, Bath, MI 48808.

### Upcoming Events:

04/02/25	TBD	Bible Study Leaders Meeting
04/05/25	0930 AM	FAB
04/07/25	0630 PM	Board Meeting
04/09/25	0630 PM	Harmony Circle
04/09/25	0900 AM	Quilting
04/21/25	0630 PM	Friendship Circle
04/22/25	0100 PM	Rainbow Circle
4/25-4/27		Retreat & General Meeting
5/2/25		Rummage Sale Set Up

# Prayer Corner

*Please Note: Hospitals do not notify churches when a member has been hospitalized; even if you inform them at registration of your church membership. If you would like a visit from the pastor, please call the church office at 482-3225 or call Pastor Matt directly at 517-881-9890.*

**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 Skidmore*, in Assisted Living, Sedona, AZ  
*Kurt Kollmeyer*, Hamilton Trace Apartments, Fishers, IN  
*Larry & Virginia Bauman*, 5314 Evergreen Ridge Dr. Cincinnati, OH

**Those at home:** *Kaye Alden, John Bartel, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo Kelly Carpenter, Crystal Collins, Ben Darling, Keith Ferguson, Tom & Eleanor Finn Peggy Gaspersohn, Emma Hicks, Nancy Jackson, Mike (Ferris) Kosloski John Leighton, Michael Mahoney, Mark Nelson, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson Tharin Palmer, Bob & Gloria Robbins, Sandy Rollis, Connie Scott Ken Teter, Betty VanConant, Cheryl VanPatten*

*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 Community Police Officer, Morgan Parrott and other first responders.



**Pastoral Acts:**

**Baptisms:**

<i>Thomas Niles</i>	<i>March 2, 2025</i>
<i>Saylor Armstrong</i>	<i>March 2, 2025</i>
<i>Wesley Armstrong</i>	<i>March 2, 2025</i>

**PRAY** for those who are on active duty in the United States Military Services:

*Chris Browne – U.S. Air Force*  
*Tyler Barnes – U.S. Marines*  
*Isaiah Castellanos – U.S. Army*  
*Andrew Devine – U.S. Nat'l Guard*  
*Carson Kosloski – U.S. Marines*  
*Joshua Kosloski – U.S. Army*

*Christopher Morgan – U.S. Marines*  
*Ben Painter – U.S. Air Force*  
*Ryan Schiffner – U.S. Air Force*  
*Dayton Tucker – U.S. Marines*



Here, you will find a list of the scripture readings that are part of the Daily Lectionary which move us from one Sunday to the next. You can also find these readings on our “Taking Faith Home” sheets we distribute after worship. They are also posted daily on our Facebook page. We encourage you to read your Bible every day as you live out your life of discipleship.

◁> Pastor Matt

<b>APRIL 2025</b>			
<u>01</u> 2 Corinth. 5:9-12	<u>08</u> Philippians 3:4-14	<u>16</u> Philippians 2:5-11	<u>24</u> Deut. 11:13-21
<u>02</u> Proverbs 11:24-25	<u>09</u> Deut. 15:7-11	<u>17</u> John 13:1-35	<u>25</u> 2 Corinth. 4:7-15
<u>03</u> Luke 15:1-7	<u>10</u> 2 Corinth. 2:14-17	<u>18</u> John 18:1-19:42	<u>26</u> Psalm 118:1-24
<u>04</u> Colossians 1:15-23	<u>11</u> Isaiah 43:1-7	<u>19</u> Psalm 31:9-16	<u>27</u> John 20:19-31
<u>05</u> Psalm 32	<u>12</u> Psalm 126	<u>20</u> Luke 24:1-12	<u>28</u> Acts 5:27-32
<u>06</u> John 12:1-8	<u>13</u> Luke 19:28-40	<u>21</u> Acts 10:34-43	<u>29</u> Revelation 1:4-8
<u>07</u> Isaiah 43:16-21	<u>14</u> Luke 22:14-23:56	<u>22</u> 1 Corinth. 15:19-26	<u>30</u> Luke 24:36-49
	<u>15</u> Isaiah 50:4-9	<u>23</u> Mark 16:1-8	

### **April Birthdays**

<b>Margaret Sergent</b>	<b>Apr. 1</b>
<b>Joe Shreffler</b>	<b>Apr. 2</b>
<b>Dana Stevens</b>	<b>Apr. 5</b>
<b>Allan Haas</b>	<b>Apr. 6</b>
<b>Ken Boyd</b>	<b>Apr. 8</b>
<b>Susan Sterling</b>	<b>Apr. 10</b>
<b>William Huntley</b>	<b>Apr. 12</b>
<b>Jim Whitman</b>	<b>Apr. 14</b>
<b>Paul Lentz</b>	<b>Apr. 16</b>
<b>Jeanette Ransom</b>	<b>Apr. 16</b>
<b>Janie Buchner</b>	<b>Apr. 18</b>
<b>Patrick North</b>	<b>Apr. 19</b>
<b>Larry Cummings</b>	<b>Apr. 20</b>
<b>Tim Carpenter</b>	<b>Apr. 22</b>
<b>Debra Reemsnyder</b>	<b>Apr. 25</b>
<b>Marv Halbakken</b>	<b>Apr. 27</b>
<b>Sandra Johnson</b>	<b>Apr. 29</b>



**Happy Birthday!**

Each year our birthday list of members 62 and over is updated from the church records. If for some reason you do not wish to have your name appear in the newsletter or if you see someone we have missed, please call the church office.

# HOLY WEEK

<b>Palm/Passion Sunday</b> March 13 10:00 a.m.	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Potluck: 6:30 p.m. Worship: 7:30 p.m.	<b>Good Friday</b> Service: 7:30 p.m.	<b>Prayer Vigil Saturday</b> 12 noon to 12 midnight	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> WORSHIP 10:00 a.m.
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## Lenten Worship Through The Senses

We continue our series centering on our five senses as a way of exploring the significance of Christ's incarnation throughout our Lenten journey. We all are made in the image of God, who chose to share our humanity by joining in our embodied experience. God's image in us is beautifully diverse. Each service will include scripture, songs, and sensory meditations that highlight a different sense each week.

**The services will be at 7:00 p.m.**

**Tuesdays with a potluck preceding at 6:00 p.m.**

**Week 4: Touch - 4/1/25**

**Week 5: Taste - 4/8/25**



### 2025 Lent Series

				
SIGHT	SOUND	SCENT	TOUCH	TASTE

				
3/11	3/18	3/25	4/1	4/8

### Worship through the Senses

**A Lenten Potluck Supper precedes the Holy Lenten Services each Tuesday, on April 1st and 8th at 6:00pm in the social hall.**

Bring a soup or salad (enough for your family and enough to pass around – no desserts please, in keeping with the penitential theme of Lent)

and share it with the rest of the church family.

Beverages, rolls, and butter will be provided.

Please bring your own table service.

## Good-bye to the Family Growth Center!



Bethlehem has hosted the Family Growth Center (FGC), providing free drop-in child care for pre-school aged children and resource and education for families for the better part of 30 years. In that time they have served countless families in our community. Child and Family Charities (CFC) has moved to a centrally located campus on Washington, behind the old Ingham Regional Hospital. They are bringing as many of their programs together in that building as possible, including FGC.

While this is a sad good-bye, one of the things their departure means for us is that we now easily see that we have an “embarrassment of riches” when it comes to space in our building! We have formed a Building Use Task Force that is busy surveying our space and meeting with all of our ministry groups within the church so that we can best utilize the space God has blessed us with. We will make recommendations to Council on the use of space, and THEY will decide what groups will use which space

More importantly, we are prayerfully asking how our community can best utilize our space as we continue to be an anchor and an outpost for God’s mission in our community. **Narcotics Anonymous** (NA) continues to hold meetings here on Friday evenings. **Baby Café**, Capital Area Baby Café meets at Bethlehem each week on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to Noon and on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The evening group provides dinner for families that attend.

We have also offered the use of some of our space on Thursday evenings to the *Capitol City Quit Guild* as well as the *Spirit of Michigan Chorus*, a female barbershop chorus based in Lansing but currently meeting in Holt. And there is much more to come for this outpost for God’s Mission!

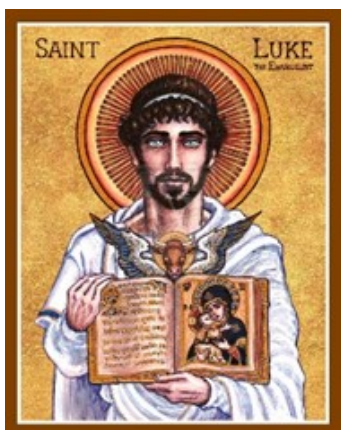
## Calling All Men...

At one time in our history we had a rather active men’s Bible study. We met once a week, taking breaks along the way. We have our monthly lunch, but we need more, a return to the study, with discussions of the scriptures and to relate what we find there that speaks to our personal journey as believers and followers of Jesus Christ.

**Men interested in a Bible study group can express interest by signing the sheet in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Day yet to be determined.**

**For questions see Jack Midgley.**



## Adult Forum – Luke’s Story of Jesus:

This month we continue pondering the Third Gospel with its themes of reversal, prayer and joy. We approach a specific passage with prayer, imagination, our own life experience and the intention of listening to Jesus with our mind and heart. We would be delighted to have you share in this sacred journey whatever Sunday mornings that work for you.

**Join Us on Sunday in the Library at 9:00 am!**



# BELCW RUMMAGE SALE IN *MAY*

## Save Your Rummage for the BELCW Rummage Sale in May

As the seasons change and spring cleaning begins, it's the perfect time to declutter your home and make a positive impact on your church and the community. The annual church rummage sale is just around the corner this May, and your donations can help make this event a huge success.

## Why Donate to the Rummage Sale?

Church rummage sales are more than just an opportunity to clear out your closets; they are a vital source of funding for community outreach programs and charitable initiatives. By donating your gently used items, you can support BELCW and help provide affordable goods to others in your community.

## What to Save for the Sale

Almost anything in good condition can be a valuable addition to the rummage sale. Here are some popular categories:

1. **Clothing and Accessories:** Adults' and children's clothing, shoes, handbags and jewelry are always in high demand.
2. **Household Items:** Dishes, glassware, small kitchen appliances, cookware, and decorative items like vases and picture frames are great options.
3. **Furniture:** Small furniture items such as chairs, tables, and shelves can be big sellers.
4. **Books and Media:** Novels, children's books, DVDs, CDs, and even vinyl records make great donations.
5. **Toys and Games:** Gently used toys, puzzles, and board games are appreciated by families.
6. **Electronics:** Small working electronics like lamps, clocks, and radios are welcome.
7. **Seasonal Items:** Holiday decorations, outdoor furniture, and garden tools are perfect for the rummage sale.

## Items to Avoid

To ensure the sale runs smoothly, please avoid donating:

- Broken or non-functional items
- Expired or used cosmetics and toiletries
- Large appliances or bulky furniture that may be hard to transport
- Items that have been recalled or are unsafe

## Spread the Word

Encourage friends, family, and neighbors to contribute to the rummage sale. Not only will this increase the variety of items available, but it will also help raise more funds for the church.

## Mark Your Calendar:

Rummage Sale Set-up: 5/2/25

Rummage Donation Drop Off: 5/2-5/5

Dates for the Rummage Sale: 5/6-5/8

**More details to come!**

# Bethlehem Star

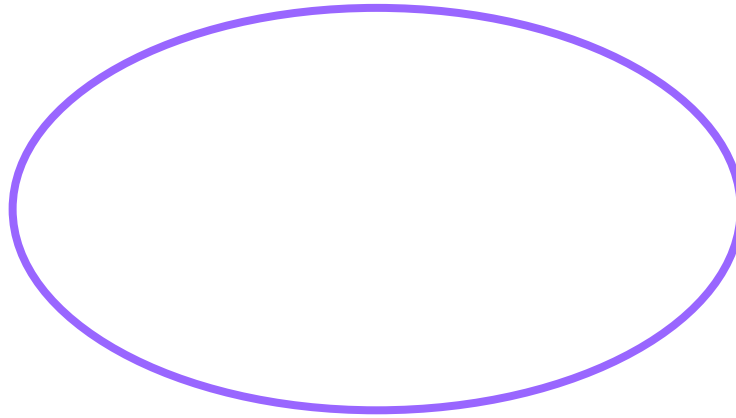
Lutheran Church Lansing

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**"Holy,**  
holy, holy  
is the **Lord** God  
**Almighty,** who was,  
and is, and is  
**to come."**  
Revelation 4:8

Newsletter Deadline is **April 15, 2025**  
for the **May 2025 Bethlehem Star.**

Also available at  
[www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org)

In-Home Date: Saturday, March 29, 2025  
Mailed on March 27, 2025

