



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  
December 4, 2022

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## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Everything is going too fast, O God. Already, this is the Second Sunday of Advent, and Christmas will be here soon. God help me. Come into my preoccupied life during this service of worship. Touch me with your peace. Help me prepare my heart for a proper celebration of your coming among us in Jesus Christ. Please help me get ready. In Jesus' name I 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 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 Diane & Ron Miller in celebration of their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**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 Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Traverse City, Michigan, Rev. Paul Busekist.

**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** – Bob Meeker  
**ACOLYTE** – Adreanna Fernandez  
**CHILDRENS SERMON** – Pastor Matt Smith  
**LAY READER** – Liisa Whitman  
**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS** – Liisa & Jim Whitman  
**GREETERS** – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler  
**USHERS** – Ralph Sergeant, Ron Miller  
**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-Huyser, 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 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.

**TODAY ENDS LYONS ELEMENTARY CLOTHING  
COLLECTION!** Thank you so much to everyone who put a donation  
of underwear or winter outerwear into the tubs for the children of Lyons  
Elementary School! We had more contributors to this outreach ministry  
this year and will be making an even larger donation to the school than  
we did last year. The clothes will be inventoried this week, boxed and  
bagged, and delivered to the school in upcoming days. Look for an  
update on the delivery!

**DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM** December  
General Meeting and Program planned for December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.  
The meeting will be held from 6:30-7:15 p.m. with the program to  
follow at 7:15 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend our ***Christmas Music  
and Sing-A-Long with James Schippers***. Please join us for this  
program with dessert following.

**ADULT FORUM - BEFRIENDING JOHN** 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,  
death, and resurrection.

**THE ANNUAL SENIOR CHRISTMAS DINNER** Join us for the  
**Annual Senior Dinner on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30**, here at the church.  
We will have dinner prepared by Jim Whitman and served by  
volunteers, including some of our youth. We look forward to bringing  
this tradition and opportunity for fellowship back to the church. Please  
R.S.V.P. to the church office by December 7<sup>th</sup> at #482-3225.

**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.

**GREETINGS!** As you may know, the Revitalization Listening Team has been holding listening sessions to offer an opportunity for members of the congregation to share their perspectives about their experience at Bethlehem. In an effort to allow every voice to be heard, we invite you to share your feedback by completing a brief, 3 minute survey. All responses are anonymous. Data from the survey will be summarized and used to guide leaders in meeting the needs of the congregation. We encourage everyone to participate by Dec. 7th. Please feel free to share this email with your family members. To complete the survey click the link in the email. With gratitude, Amy Romain, Candy Barnes, and Jim Whitman.

**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. In this insightful devotional, for each day of Advent (beginning Sunday, November 27), there is a scripture passage, a short meditation, and a prayer to turn your attention to Jesus. This beautiful Advent devotional centers on the themes found in a profound hymn called "Fling Wide the Door." It's a beautiful anthem of welcome to the Son of God who humbly became the Son of Man in order to bring us salvation. 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://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQvSCIVtfUVVvVuGGsru-FDNeDKdsnO7i3yFo2Gfm-98qnbA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQvSCIVtfUVVvVuGGsru-FDNeDKdsnO7i3yFo2Gfm-98qnbA/viewform?usp=sf_link)) which was emailed to all members. Paper copies of the survey are available in the social hall. Please respond by December 20, 2022.

## **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

*Theologian Walter Brueggemann writes, "Advent is our decision to trust the new wind against the hopeless stump of what has failed". Where is God working in what we have given up for dead? Where is the new wind of hope rustling?*

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP**

*Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.*

Lord, make us ready for the message that prepares our lives to receive with holy joy and steadfast love the coming of Jesus. May our faithfulness in witness, serving and giving help prepare others as well. Amen

## **ATTENDANCE**

Worship Attendance: 107 – 77 in-person and 30 people viewed the 11/27/22 Live worship.

## **THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY**

GREETERS – Mary Jakubiak

LAY READER – Mel White

ACOLYTE – Allie Fernandez

USHERS – Ralph Sergent, Matt Marsh

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Mary Jakubiak

**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.

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

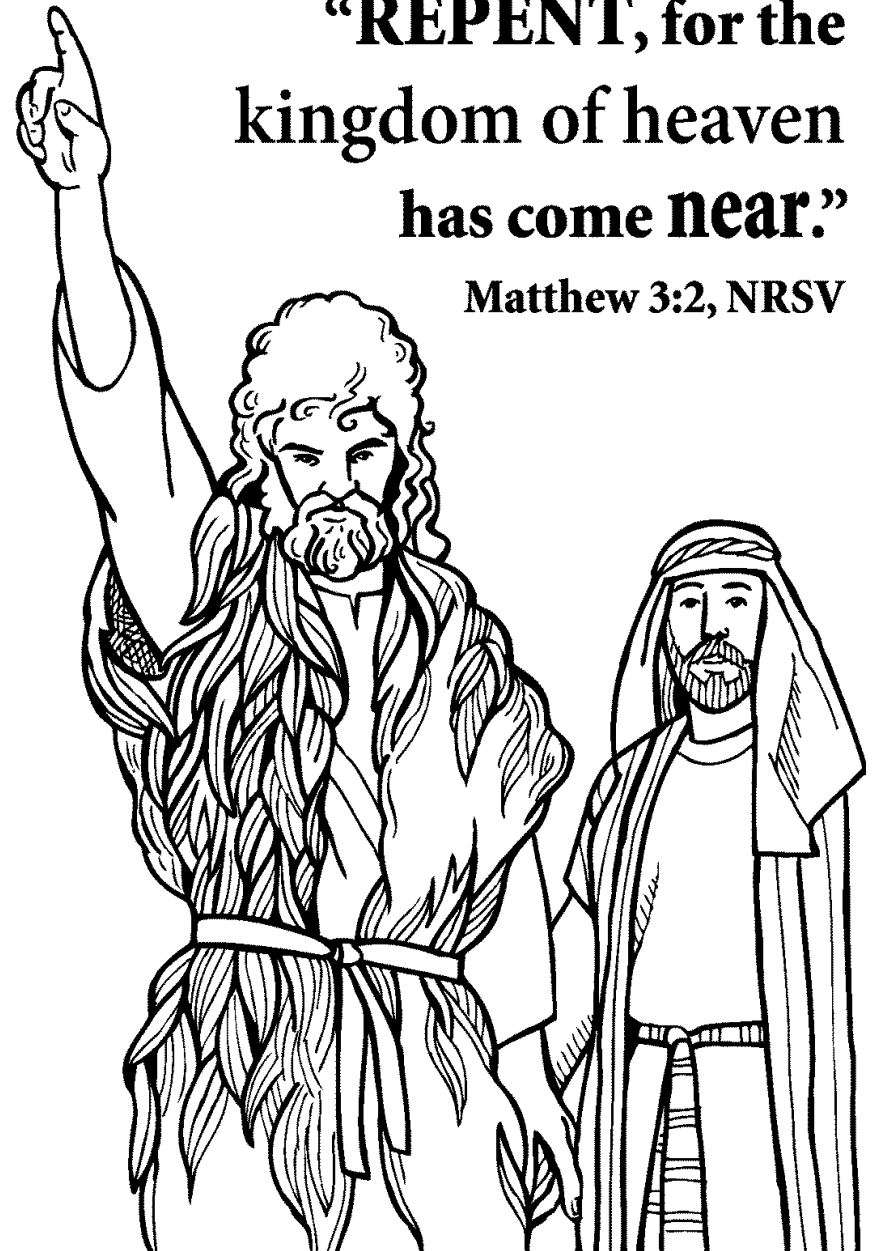
Candlelight & Communion Services will be held on Saturday, December 24, at 7:30 P.M.

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>SUNDAY, Dec. 4</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School (Lower Social Hall)</b>
<b>Second Sunday in Advent</b>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum (Library)</b>
	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion Worship (YouTube)</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>6:30p</b>	<b>BELCW General Mtg. &amp; Christmas Program</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>8:00a</b>	<b>Family Growth Center</b>
	<b>9:30a</b>	<b>Staff Meeting</b>
	<b>4:30p</b>	<b>Revitalization Listening Session</b>
	<b>5:00p</b>	<b>Board of Worship Life</b>
	<b>7:30p</b>	<b>Senior Choir</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>8:00a</b>	<b>Family Growth Center</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>8:00a</b>	<b>Family Growth Center</b>
	<b>1:00p</b>	<b>Community Partners Meeting</b>
	<b>6:15p</b>	<b>T.N.T.</b>
<b>SUNDAY, Dec. 11</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School (Lower Social Hall)</b>
<b>Third Sunday in Advent</b>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum (Library)</b>
	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion Worship (YouTube)</b>
	<b>3:30p</b>	<b>Senior Dinner &amp; Entertainment</b>

**“REPENT, for the  
kingdom of heaven  
has come near.”**

**Matthew 3:2, NRSV**



**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**