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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  
January 22, 2023

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Quiet me and help me, gracious God, to focus. I have been busy, too busy, and I have not always been faithful or effective in all that I do. Help me, now, to attend to matters of the spirit, that I might make good choices in my life this week and bear witness to the gospel, the good news of your Son, and my Savior, Jesus Christ the 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) 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 Michael & Susan Mahoney in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

**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 Sundanese Christ Lutheran Church in Wyoming Michigan, Rev. Julie Winklepleck.

**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** – Amaya Fernandez  
**CHILDRENS SERMON** – Pastor Matt Smith  
**LAY READER** – Dorothy Martin  
**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS** – Keitha Snider, Kris Burow  
**GREETERS** – Ellie Ibarra, Otto Kern  
**USHERS** – Joe Shreffler, David Snider, Bob Christiansen  
**ALTAR GUILD** – Cheryl & Joe Shreffler  
**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, Jeff Kosloski Jr.*

*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

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** Today we will meet at 11:30, after the 10:00 service of worship to review and approve the proposed 2023 Budget, to approve the Board Members, and to elect voting members for this year's Synod Assembly, May 7-9, in Mt. Pleasant.

**Lansing SAVE** Next Sunday, January 29, is our fifth Sunday offering for LansingSAVE. There are now 164 children in our group of students from BELC and the Baker Neighborhood. To give electronically click on the "Online Giving" link on our website.

**ADULT FORUM** We have begun 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. 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.

**COUNCIL?** Are you feeling called to serve on our Congregation Council in 2023? Please pray for God's wisdom as you discern how you might serve. We have four of our seven "At-Large" seats available. Those willing to serve will be appointed on January 22 at our Congregational Meeting.

**COVID 19 UPDATE** After a long period of "low community risk," Ingham County is now at "medium" risk. Following CDC Guidelines, the Board of Worship Life is recommending that people at high risk of getting very sick wear a high-quality mask when indoors for worship. Please help keep all worshippers at Bethlehem safe and healthy.

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION** Thank you to everyone who helped on Wednesday, January 11, with our first drive through food distribution! Please sign up in the Social Hall to help again on Wednesday, February 8, for our next Mobile food distribution.

**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.

**STONY LAKE REGISTRATION** Elementary, Confirmation and Senior High Camp is Week 4 of the camping season this year (July 9-14). Log on to <http://www.elcalivingwater.com/> and complete your camp registration. Living Water Ministries has a three-tiered, “Welcome to All” pricing model this year. When you register you can either choose to pay the full price, half-price, or no price, keeping camp accessible to ALL God’s children.

**THE 2023 GRID** The January - February “GRID” (the schedule for those assisting in worship services) is available on a table in the social hall. If you don’t see your name on one, please pick up an unlabeled copy for your convenience.

**IN THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY LIVING LUTHERAN** Highlights of this exceptional issue include Bishop Eaton’s Gospel meditation. (p.46) The reflection on creation/new creation is both profound and beautiful. (p.39) Throughout the issue we are introduced to innovative, fruitful ministries in the ELCA abs out into the world. Pick up your free copy in the welcome center. Enjoy! Learn!

## **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

*Let us not be divided over reality because,  
“When you argue with reality, you lose  
— but only 100% of the time.”*

Byron Katie  
American speaker and author

## **STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

*From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”* - Matthew 4:17

Today we hear of four fishermen who took their steps in responding to Jesus’ proclamation and invitation. Where are we in our journey with Jesus? What is the evidence of our response?

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** The 2023 offering envelopes are available in the gym for pick-up.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Worship Attendance: 133 – 96 in-person and 37 people viewed the 1/15/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

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

ASSISTING MINISTER – Crystal Collins  
GREETERS – Kylee Nelson, Zella Brisbo, Abby Brisbo  
USHERS – Jim Whitman, Dee Bernardi, Don Romain  
COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Tim Nelson, Christina Raia  
ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez  
LAY READER – Jim Whitman  
ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin

**DAILY PRAYRE OF THE WEEK** Our hope is that each of us will pray this several times a day, very much aware of your sisters and brothers blessing God as well. A further suggestion is that you read through the entire Psalm a few times during the week.

*Please remove our Daily Prayer of the Week  
and post it where you will repeat it every day.*

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*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits  
— Psalm 103:1-2*

