



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
January 15, 2023

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Loving and gracious God, I praise you for the privilege of being here in this place of worship with my sisters and brothers in your family. Fill me with your grace and Spirit while I am here. Make me attentive to your Word, help me to hear your call, and give me the courage and the strength to obey. I ask this in Jesus' name. 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 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 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 Virginia & Larry Bauman in celebration of their 52nd 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 Christ Lutheran Church in Wyoming Michigan, Rev. Robert Schmidt.

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 – Allie Fernandez
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor John Burow
LAY READER – Candy Barnes
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Zella Brisbo, Don Telles
GREETERS – Cheryl & Joe Shreffler
USHERS – Ron Miller, Ralph Sargent
ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin
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

A ROSE The Women of the Church give a rose on the Altar to
celebrate the birth of a son, Kayden Lee Emede, born on January 8, to
Kristyn Carpenter & Jake Emede. He is also the grandson of Kelly &
Tim Carpenter. Congratulations!

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING We will meet on January 22nd at
11:30, after the 10:00 service of worship. To review and approve the
proposed 2023 Budget and to approve the Board Members.

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 are 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 worshipers at Bethlehem safe and healthy.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION Thank you to everyone who helped on Wednesday with our first drive through food distribution! After worship today everyone involved is invited to meet in the gym to debrief and plan for February.

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.

“STEWARDS LIVING WITH PURPOSE” (Commitment Forms) In our Fall Stewardship program, we explored the purposes for which we have been created by God. In mid-November we mailed Commitment Forms and Time and Talent Sheets to every household. If you did not receive one or both forms, they are available at church on a table in the Social Hall or by calling the church office. The board of Stewardship and Finance appreciates knowing your financial commitments for the coming year as they are preparing the budget and forecasting needs. Simply return your form, with your name on it (keeping the bottom portion for your records) to the church office or in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

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.

Lansing SAVE Our next 5th Sunday offering is Sunday January 29. 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.

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.

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

“Prayer involves surrender to a mysterious inner process, submitting to something God does in us.”

“The prayer conversation always begins with God... because God has already reached out seeking our attention and response.

~ David G. Benner

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

*Create in me a clean heart, O God
and renew a right spirit within me.*

As God aligns our mind, hearts and lives to his loving intentions our service and giving will flow more readily from gratitude and love – becoming less of a burdensome obligation, and more of a privilege and a joy.

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Please have your articles into Tracy by January 17th in Word format. Thank you!

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 138 – 88 in-person and 50 people viewed the 1/8/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

ASSISTING MINISTER – Bob Meeker

GREETERS – Ellie Ibarra, Otto Kern

USHERS – Joe Shreffler, David Snider, Bob Christiansen

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Keitha Snider, Kris Burow

ACOLYTE – Amaya Fernandez

LAY READER – Dorothy Martin

ALTAR GUILD – Cheryl & Joe Shreffler

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Jan. 15	8:45a	Sunday School
	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion Worship (YouTube)
MONDAY	6:30p	Friendship Circle
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	1:00p	Rainbow Circle
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	9:00a	Family Growth Center
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	T.N.T.
	6:30p	Congregation Council Meeting
SUNDAY, Jan. 22	8:45a	Sunday School
	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion Worship (YouTube)
	11:30a	Congregation Meeting (after worship service)



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

John 1:32, 34