



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
March 3, 2024

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Your house, O God, is meant to be a house of prayer. May nothing we do here be inappropriate to that purpose but be supportive of your wisdom in Jesus Christ. May your Word reach my heart. May the gifts of your grace make me strong in faith and ready to serve you. Help me to sort through the confusion of choices that confront me everyday, and help me to see what you would have me do. 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 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 Jeff Kosloski & family in memory of Robin Kosloski's birthday.

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 All Saints Lutheran Church in Mason Michigan, Rev. Gerald Ferguson.

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
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matthew A. Smith
ACOLYTES – Mila Thompson, Zellah Brisbo
LAY READER – Mel White
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mel White, Mary Bartel
GREETERS – Christina Raia & Family
USHERS – Don Cairns, Ralph Sargent, Cloyd Barnes
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:

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 & Audrey Skidmore, in Assisted Living, Sedona, AZ
Kurt Kollmeyer, Ingham County Medical Care, Okemos
Cheryl VanPatten, Regency at Grand Ledge Rehabilitation Center

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, Betty VanConant, 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, D.J. Rudd, Interim.

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)

OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY QUILT HAS BEGUN!! Each block will have 1-3 crosses to equal 100 crosses total. Everyone is welcome to make a block or two or more! I'll have a tutorial after church service in the social hall on February 11, 18 and the 25th. The next step is to put all the blocks together during March. Contact Connie Meeker with any questions at: (616) 902-0369 or conniemeeker20@gmail.com

PARISH NOTES

THE SUNDAY
LENT

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.

FIRST COMMUNION BIBLES PRESENTED Today during our worship service, Bethlehem church will be presenting bibles to three of our youth, Phoebe Prowdley, Layla Peckham, and Joy Thompson.

HOLY LAMENT SERVICES All services will be on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m.

March 5 – Laments from the Depths

March 12 – Individual Lament

March 19 – Communal Lament

Holy Lament - "Laments from the Depths"

Join us at 6:00 Our third Lenten worship will consider our responses and resources when lament (ours or another's) borders on despair. The scriptures that will serve as our guides are Psalm 88, Mark 14:32-36 -- 15:33-34. Our Porter's Gate song is "Sing Over Me". It is available for viewing on YouTube and listening through *Spotify* or another music app. For reflection:

What is the most helpful thing someone has said or done for you in a time of profound lament?

How is God's presence experienced in your times of profound grief?

Who have you accompanied through the shadowed valley dark as death?

Please join us for worship Tuesday at 7 PM.

LENTEN POTLUCK A Lenten Potluck Supper precedes the Holy Lament Services each Tuesday, February 20 through Tuesday, March 19. The potluck meal begins at 6:00 p.m. in the social hall. Bring your evening meal (a dish or two to pass - enough food for your family) and share it with the rest of the church family. Beverages will be provided. Please bring your own table service.

EASTER FOOD BASKETS It's that time of year again. Easter is around the corner. We have started our Easter Food Basket Outreach. The Red Bags are on the table in the lobby for you to pick up and fill. See the March 2024 Bethlehem Star Newsletter for more information.

MY LENTEN GIFT Offerings using the “My Lenten Gift” envelope in the February newsletter will be given to the Pine Ridge Food Ministry at the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center. According to Pastor Dan, Pine Ridge is currently spending on average \$4,000 per week to feed youth at the Reconciliation Center and the growing un-housed population on the reservation. If you are saving money this Lent on something you have given up, please consider sharing that money with God’s people in need. Additional envelopes are available on the ‘Welcome’ table.



ADULT FORUM “You Are Witnesses”: As we continue to build our skills in witnessing, we turn to how we experience Jesus’ love in the ordinary happenings of our daily lives. This perspective is an excellent opportunity for you to join us in our graced conversations. Hope to see you next Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Church Library.

COME AND TEMPT YOUR TASTE BUDS We will be having a Chili Cook-Off on **Saturday, March 16, at 6:00 p.m.**, with activities for children and youth hosted by some of the Luther League Youth. This event is for the entire church. You can vote for your favorite chili - a prize will be awarded! We will also be serving beverages, veggies and dessert. Please sign up on the sheet in the gym if you would like to compete. We hope to see you all there!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST Join us after church on March 17th for a pancake breakfast to benefit our Youth attending the National Youth Gathering this year.

FLOWER CHART **Thank you** to all who sponsor the flowers for Bethlehem’s Worship on Sunday Mornings. The beautiful arrangements enhance the worship experience for all. The 2024 Flower Chart is now posted. Many like to commemorate a special person, date or event with altar flowers. If you have a special date in mind, sign up to save that Sunday. The cost for each arrangement is \$40. The flower order is submitted one month at a time so please sign up by the 15th of the month for the flowers to be ordered for the next month. Payment may be made in advance or on the Sunday for which the flowers are ordered. Checks should be made payable to Kris Burow.

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.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” ~ Colossians 2:3

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 70 in-person, 34 people viewed the 2/25/24 Live worship and the recorded service on YouTube and 28 in-person, 21 people viewed the 2/27/24 Lenten live worship and recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. ~1 Corinthians 1:25 Lord, help us to see and to live more clearly the contrast between “human wisdom” And Godly “foolishness.” Make us cross-eyed with compassion, humility, generosity and a yearning to serve.

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. If you are viewing this bulletin electronically, click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME Don’t forget to set your clocks forward on March 10th.

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

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TUESDAY 3/5 @7:00P

GREETERS – David & Keitha Snider

USHERS – Tim Nelson, Ralph Sergeant

ACOLYTE – Andrew Goff

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Mary Bartel, Carol Pride

USHERS – Phil Hassler, Jim Koessel

LAY READER – David Ware

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mel White, Laurey Wyble

ACOLYTE – Alicia Fernandez

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Mar. 3	8:45a	Children's Sunday School
3rd Sunday in Lent	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
	11:30a	Thrivent Workshop
MONDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:30p	BELCW Board Meeting
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	5:30p	Handbell Choir
	6:00p	Potluck Dinner
	7:00p	Holy Lament Service
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:30p	First Communion Class
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	T.N.T.
FRIDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
SUNDAY, Mar. 10	8:45a	Children's Sunday School
4th Sunday in Lent	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – 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

God's
foolishness is
wiser *than*
human wisdom,
and **God's**
weakness is
stronger
than
human strength.
1 Corinthians 1:25