



549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910
517-482-3225
www.bethlutheran.org

Worship Service – 10:00
March 30, 2025



A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Loving God, you must spend a lot of time waiting for us. Waiting for us to turn to you; waiting for us to learn from you; waiting for us to come to our senses, make up our minds; waiting for us to accept your great love for us, whether we have stayed near or stayed away. Now we are here; we have come home...to your sanctuary...and you are here to meet us with your good gifts. Thank you for your patient love. 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.

TAKING FAITH HOME Find a copy on Facebook in the BELC Worship Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/belcworship/>).

PORTALS OF PRAYER April through June 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 University Lutheran Church in East Lansing, Michigan, Rev. Emily & Rev. Zachariah Shipman.

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 – Crystal Collins
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matthew Smith
GREETERS – Carol Pride
USHERS – Jim Whitman, Don Romain, Dee Bernardi
LAY READER – Peggy Teter
ACOLYTE – Zellah Brisbo
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Tim Nelson, Candy Barnes,
Dave Holderread, Peggy Teter
ALTAR GUILD – Michelle Smith, Cindy Marsh
A/V PRODUCTION – David Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Meeker,
Kevin Peckham, David Westover



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, Tosha Brisbo
Kelly Carpenter, Crystal Collins, Ben Darling, Keith Ferguson
Tom & Eleanor Finn, Carl Gallagher, Peggy Gaspersohn, Emma Hicks
Nancy Jackson, Mike (Ferris) Kosloski, John Leighton, Michael Mahoney
Linda McClellan, Mark Nelson, 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 our LPD Community Police Officer, Morgan Parrott.

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)
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)

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY If you are interested in occasionally taking sacrament to one of our homebound members, please talk to Judy Pardee, Pastor Matt, or someone on the Board of Worship Life.

PARISH NOTES

SERVICE OF "PRAYER FOR HEALING" During worship service today we will have a time of Prayer for Healing. If you would like a prayer, please fill out the prayer card from your bulletin. Bring it with you during communion. Remain at the altar rail after receiving communion and give the card to the person that comes to pray with you. The card will be returned to you after the prayer for your confidentiality.

Lansing SAVE Today is our fifth Sunday offering for LansingSAVE. There are now 212 children in our group of students from BELC and the Baker Neighborhood. To give electronically click on the "Online Giving" link on our website.

LENTEN WORSHIP THROUGH THE SENSES This series centers 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. on Tuesdays with a potluck preceding at 6:00 p.m.**

Week 4: Touch - 4/1/25

Week 5: Taste - 4/8/25

LENTEN POTLUCK A Lenten Potluck precedes the Holy Lenten Services each **Tuesday, through April 8 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.

MY LENTEN GIFT 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**. 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.

EASTER FOOD BASKETS For anyone wanting to help or donate to our Easter Outreach Program, there are bags with instructions on them on the table in the gym. Thank you for supporting this Outreach!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm/Passion Sunday: April 13, 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday: April 17, **Potluck 6:30 p.m.** Worship 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday Service: April 18, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Prayer Vigil: April 19, 12 noon-12 midnight

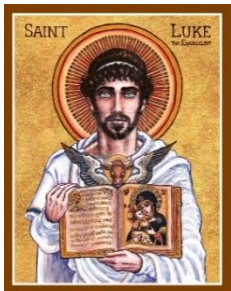
Easter Sunday: April 20, **Breakfast 8:30 a.m.**, Worship 10:00 a.m.

“SIGNIFICANT” BELCW 30th ANNUAL RETREAT

April 25-27, at **MICHINDOH CONFERENCE CENTER**. The cost is \$130, with \$65 deposit with registration. The cost includes lodging, meals, and retreat materials. Contact Laura Halbakken at (517-281-3133) or Joanna Alvera at 517-388-1263) with any questions.

EASTER PLANTS FOR BETHLEHEM WORSHIP If you would like to purchase plants for Bethlehem’s Easter Worship, the sign-up sheets are in the gym. All plants will be in 6 inch pots. White Lilies are \$16, and Yellow Daffodils, Tulips and Kalanchoes, are \$12 each. Please note plants are given in Memory or Honor of a loved one. The deadline is March 31st. Payment should be given to Kris Burow or submitted to the church office by Sunday, April 6th. Thank you to all who purchased plants for Bethlehem’s Easter Worship!

ADULT FORUM: LUKE’S STORY OF JESUS



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

Thought for the Week

I am the prodigal son every time I search for unconditional love where it cannot be found.

~ Henri Nouwen

The difference between mercy and grace? Mercy gave the prodigal son a second chance. Grace gave him a feast.

~ Max Lucado

ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance 3/23/25: 72 in-person for our Worship and 39 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 24:40 and 18 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service and Worship Attendance 3/25/25: 32 in-person for our Lent Worship and 11 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration 12:45.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS Imagine how eagerly the son, welcomed home by his father, went into the fields to labor alongside his father. May we too set to our daily tasks aware of the loving presence of God working alongside us.

COMMUNION 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. **Our Communion Bread** in worship is gluten free. Everyone in our congregation will receive the Body of Christ from the same loaf.

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY 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.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Ron & Diane Miller

USHERS – Don Cairns, Ralph Sargent

ACOLYTE – Mila Thompson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Abigail Brisbo, Sherry Bass-Pohl

LAY READER – Ron Miller

ALTAR GUILD – Susan Mahoney, Linda Telles

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Mar. 30	8:45a	Sunday School
<i>4th Sunday in Lent</i>	9:00a	Adult Forum
Healing Sunday	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
MONDAY	11:00a	Funeral: Jane Jones
	12:00p	Funeral Luncheon
TUESDAY	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	5:30p	Handbell Choir
	6:00p	Potluck
	7:00p	Lent Service
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	TBD	Bible Study Leaders mtg.
	4:00p	Board of Outreach
THURSDAY	6:15p	T.N.T.
FRIDAY	7:00p	N.A. meets
SATURDAY	9:30a	F.A.B. meets
SUNDAY, Apr. 6	8:45a	Sunday School
<i>5th Sunday in Lent</i>	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion

THOSE SERVING IN TUESDAY LENT WORSHIP 7:00PM

GREETERS – Michelle Smith
USHERS – Ralph Sergent, Tim Nelson
ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley

BAPTISMAL BLESSINGS FOR THE LIFE OF FAITH

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

*to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?*



I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Affirmation of Baptism, Page 237.



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