



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

Worship Service – 10:00
April 13, 2025



A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Come, Lord Jesus! Enter into my heart today. With shouts of joy the people greeted you as you entered the city where you would suffer and die. My lips sing praises to your name. During this time of worship give me the zeal to be a faithful disciple, who will not waver in my devotion to you, the Lord we serve. 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 Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Edmore Michigan, Rev. John Autio.

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

GUEST PASTOR – Rev. Daniel J. Johnson

ORGANIST & HANDBELL DIRECTOR – James Schippers

CHOIR DIRECTOR – Sue Nelson

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP DIRECTOR – Laurey Wyble

ASSISTING MINISTER – Susan Mahoney

CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matthew Smith

GREETERS – Sherry Bass-Pohl and family

USHERS – Phil Hassler, Jim Koessel, Ralph Sergent

LAY READER – Sherry Bass-Pohl

ACOLYTE – Faith Halbakken

ALTAR GUILD – Cheryl Thompson, Donna TenHave

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

WELCOME REV. DAN JOHNSON Pastor Dan has been serving as pastor at the Lutheran/Lakota Shared Ministries at the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center Pine Ridge, South Dakota, ministering to the Lakota people of the Oglala Tribe for the last five years. He is with us today to share updates from the reservation and the Center so we can know some of the impact our support through our prayers and Mission Offering is having.

TODAY 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.

“Once Upon a Tree”

April 13 - PASSION SUNDAY (*Palm Sunday*)

8:45 Sunday Church School
9:00 Adult Forum
10:00 Service of Worship - (distribution of palms)

April 17 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:30 Potluck
7:30 Holy Communion & the Beginning of the Passion

April 18 - GOOD FRIDAY

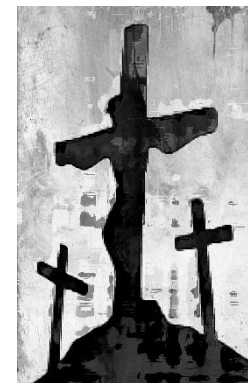
7:30 Tenebrae Service (A "service of darkness" recalling the terrible reality of our sin and the sacrifice of our Lord for all people.)

April 19 - HOLY SATURDAY

Prayer Vigil – Noon to Midnight

April 20 - EASTER SUNDAY

8:30 Easter Breakfast for everyone
10:00 Resurrection Celebration and Holy Communion

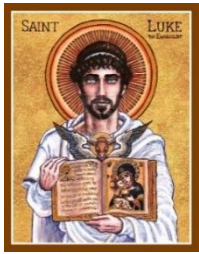


EASTER BREAKFAST Join us Easter morning, April 20, at 8:30 a.m. for a Easter breakfast in the Social Hall. All are Welcome!!

EASTER FLOWERS If you are interested in ordering a Daffodil or Kalanchoe plant please sign up in the Fellowship Hall. The order has been submitted but daffodils and Kalanchoe spots are still open.

HOLY SATURDAY EASTER PRAYER VIGIL Our daily lives are so crowded with the noisy and trivial that we often feel a need to escape to a quiet place where we can hear God speaking to us. An excellent opportunity for your very own mini-retreat is coming up on **Holy Saturday, April 19. On that day between noon and midnight the sanctuary at Bethlehem will be open for our Easter Prayer Vigil.** Sign-up sheets blocking off that time in half-hour segments are on a table in the Social Hall. Many who come have described the time they spent as meaningful and rewarding and seeming all too brief. There will be hosts to welcome you and to be present while you are here. You might wish to sign up for that, too! Come and help use our facility as truly a “house of prayer.”

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.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP MAUNDY THURSDAY

GREETERS – Ralph & Margaret Sergent
USHERS – Tim Nelson, Ralph Sergent
ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Don Telles, Peggy Teter
ALTAR GUILD – Kris & John Burow

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP GOOD FRIDAY

GREETERS – Shannon Nobles
USHERS – Don Telles, Mel White
ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP EASTER SUNDAY

GREETERS – Debbie Simmons and Family
USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider
ACOLYTE – Alicia Fernandez
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Michelle Smith, Laura Halbakken
LAY READER – Debbie Simmons
ALTAR GUILD – ALL TEAMS, Eliot Nutt, Carrie Rice

Thought for the Week

Palm Sunday, also known as the *Sunday of the Passion*, is a significant day in our liturgical calendar. It falls on the Sunday before Easter and marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Jesus Christ's life leading up to his crucifixion and resurrection. It is a day with *two* commemorations in one, Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and then Christ's Passion.

The day begins with the commemoration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, as described in all four Gospels (Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-19). The liturgy of Palm Sunday takes a dramatic turn as it also focuses on the beginning of Jesus' Passion – his suffering, betrayal, denial, and the events leading to his crucifixion. This stark shift from the joyful entry to the foreshadowing of suffering and death highlights the paradoxical nature of the day and the events of Holy Week. It reminds believers that the same crowd that praised Jesus would soon turn against him.

We do not celebrate Holy Communion on this day in anticipation of Jesus instituting the Sacrament on Maundy Thursday, in the upper room with his disciples.

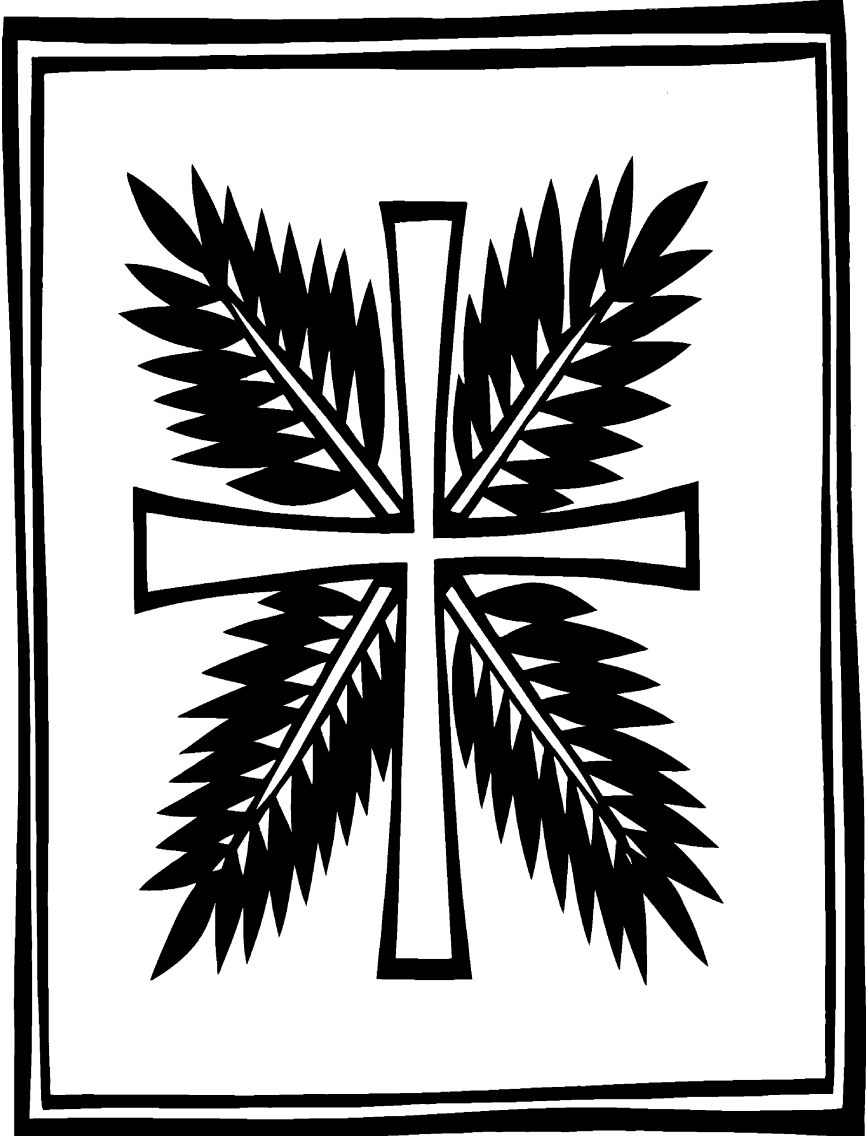
ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance 4/6/25: 71 in-person for our Worship and 39 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 24:40 and 18 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service and Worship Attendance 4/8/25: 45 in-person for our Lent Worship and 14 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration 22:10.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS Jesus' choice to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey reflects not only his commitment to be among us in humility as one who serves, but reveals that Jesus is willing to work through ordinary unimpressive folks. May this example help us to see ourselves as appropriate and fruitful servants of God, mighty and glorious!

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.

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Apr. 13	8:45a	Sunday School
<i>Palm/Passion</i>	9:00a	Adult Forum
<i>Mission Sunday</i>	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
MONDAY	6:30p	Bd. of Stewardship & Finance
TUESDAY	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	5:30p	Bd. of Worship Life
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	10:00a	Capital Area Baby Cafe
	1:00p	Men’s Luncheon
THURSDAY	6:30p	Potluck
	7:30p	Maundy Thursday Service
FRIDAY	7:00p	N.A. meets
	7:30p	Good Friday/Tenebrae Service
SATURDAY	12:00p	Easter Prayer Vigil
SUNDAY, Apr. 20	8:30a	Easter Breakfast
<i>Easter Sunday</i>	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion



*Palm Sunday
of the Passion of the Lord*

April 13, 2025

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.