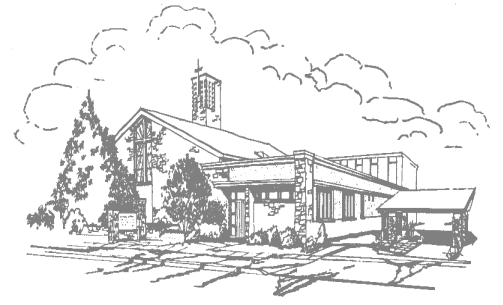


# Bethlehem Star

Lutheran Church Lansing



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church - Lansing, Michigan

Pastor Matt Smith

March 2025



## 2025 Lent Series



SIGHT



SOUND



SCENT



TOUCH



TASTE



3/11



3/18



3/25



4/1



4/8

## Worship through the Senses

### Week 1: Sight - 3/11/25

Luke 19:1-10—As we listen to the account of Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus, consider the way in which the desire to *see* and the willingness to *see* unexpected things play out in this story.

### Week 2: Sound - 3/18/25

Acts 2:1-21—As we listen to the story of the church's first Pentecost, *listen* for the different ways sound communicates God's presence and power and for the ways in which God engages people to join in that communication.

### Week 3: Scent - 3/25/25

John 12:1-8—As we listen to the story of a gift of love and preparation, notice the description of how the *scent* of the perfume fills the room. Consider how this sensory description underlays and amplifies the heavy emotions at play in this scene.

### Week 4: Touch - 4/1/25

Luke 8:42b-48—As we listen to this story, notice how *touch* can be both oppressive and life-giving. Consider the agency of the different characters in the ways they touch and are touched, and the lessons this can teach us about how we might change how we move through the world.

### Week 5: Taste - 4/8/25

Luke 22:14-20—As we listen to this story, consider the significance of *tasting* the same flavors in this shared meal, and how Jesus' words might have complicated the simple act of eating and drinking familiar flavors for his disciples.

Please join us on this journey, Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm, with a potluck preceding at 6:00 pm!

## Incarnation

*The Word became flesh  
and made his home among us.  
We have seen his glory,  
glory like that of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)*

Incarnation is typically a word associated with Christmas. Incarnation means embodied in flesh or taking on flesh. It is the conception and the embodiment of God in human. It is the union of divinity with humanity in Jesus Christ. Our 2025 Lent Series, *Worship through the Senses*, will help us explore what Christ's incarnation means in our Lenten journey as we explore the five senses. Jesus shared our humanity and our embodied experience through these same senses.

These communal gatherings are designed to deepen our spiritual practices and foster a sense of unity among the congregation. Each week, a new sense will be explored, inviting participants to experience their faith in a tangible and profound manner. Through these experiences this Lent we aim to engage with the divine presence in a holistic way. Let us embark on this sensory pilgrimage together, embracing the fullness of our faith in our *incarnate* Lord through every sense.

◇◇ Pastor Matt

# Worship in March 2025

**The Bethlehem Star**  
A monthly publication of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.  
Lansing, Michigan 48910  
Phone: (517) 482-3225  
FAX: (517) 482-2458

## Ministers

*All of the members of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

Pastor Matthew A. Smith  
pastormattsmith@gmail.com  
(517) 881-9890

Assistant to The Pastor  
Pastor John W. Burow  
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(517) 614-4559

Church Secretary / Star Editor  
Tracy Baker  
bethlehemlansing@gmail.com  
(517) 482-3225

Congregation President  
*open seat*

Organist  
James Schippers  
jameschippers@gmail.com

Choir Director  
Sue Nelson  
ntimothy1@att.net

Handbell Choir Director  
James Schippers

Contemporary Worship Director  
Laurey Wyble

Office Hours  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (M-F)

Visit our website at:  
[www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org)

## Worship Schedule

10:00 - Worship - Holy Comm.  
Sanctuary - in person  
And LIVE Streaming on  
YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/  
@bethlehemworship126/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@bethlehemworship126/streams)

## Assisting Ministers

**March 2 - Bob Meeker**  
**March 9 - Nancy Holderread**  
**March 16 - Bob Meeker**  
**March 23 - Susan Mahoney**  
**March 30 - Crystal Collins**

## Children's Sermons

**March 2 - Pastor Matt Smith**  
**March 9 - Pastor Matt Smith**  
**March 16 - Pastor John Burow**  
**March 23 - Pastor Matt Smith**  
**March 30 - Pastor Matt Smith**



The Life of Faith Guiding Team has been meeting monthly and will be exploring ideas that we can incorporate into the mission and ministry at Bethlehem to help all of us live into what it means that we are *CLAIMED & CALLED*. ... *In the waters of Holy Baptism, each of us has been claimed and re-named as a child of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and marked with the Cross of Jesus Christ forever. That is God's promise that has given us an identity and transformed who we are, to be God's hands and feet in EVERYTHING that we do in our lives.*

Claimed and called, our mission at Bethlehem is to be an equipping church, to equip all of our members to be the ministers that they have been called to be.

## WEBSITE UPDATES

Visit [bethlutheran.org](http://bethlutheran.org) and click on 'Events' for information on what's happening. Select 'Calendar' from the Events menu to view the *full* church calendar.

The screenshot shows the website header with the logo and address (549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.). The navigation menu includes Home, Events, Join Us, Printables, and Part. The 'Events' menu is expanded, showing 'Calendar', '100th Anniversary Photos', and '100th Anniversary Worship Services'. Below the menu is a 'CALENDAR OF EVENTS' section for Feb - Mar 2025. The calendar shows events for Feb 26 (8am Family Growth Resource Center), Feb 27 (newsletter mailing, 8am Family Growth Resource Center, 6:15pm TNT - Confirmation classes), and Feb 28.

## Statement of Purpose and Guiding Principles for Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

God's purpose for our church, as disciples of Jesus Christ, is to share with all people God's word, love and saving grace.

*We will pursue this purpose by:*

1. Being a Christ-centered, joyful community of baptized believers who gather regularly for worship, the Lord's Supper, study and prayer.
2. Inviting, accepting, and supporting all people as we build attentive, respectful relationships.
3. Taking action and risks with bold faith, acknowledging our imperfection, while trusting in Christ.
4. Actively engaging in community outreach near and far.
5. Being faithful stewards of our time, talents, possessions and all of God's creation.

Adopted January 29, 2017

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## STEWARDSHIP

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Bread for the World, is a Christian advocacy group, that for 50 years has promoted government programs that diminish hunger in the United States and throughout the world – Bread for the World is initiating a two-year campaign aimed at implementing effective anti-hunger programs, especially aimed at eradicating child hunger in the United States and around the world. Already, several members of Congress from both political parties have given publicly supported to these efforts.

The goals of this two-year effort include expanding the Child Tax Credit; addressing college hunger; fully funding the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and robustly funding global nutrition.

In the coming weeks we will take a closer look at this effective ministry and during the Easter Season there will be opportunities to participate in the year's Offering of Letters. More on this life saving campaign to come.



# Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Women

**Women of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in America**

All women of Bethlehem Lutheran Church are members of the Women of the ELCA and are invited and encouraged to participate in all activities listed in the newsletters, bulletins, flyers or on the bulletin boards.



**Significant** – Our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Retreat is scheduled for April 25-27.

- **MICHINDOH CONFERENCE CENTER**, 4545 E. Bacon Road, Hillsdale, MI 49242
- Cost: \$130 / \$65 Deposit with Registration
- Cost includes lodging, meals, and retreat materials.
- Please contact Laura at (517-281-3133) or Joanna at 517-388-1263) with any questions.

Please watch Facebook, your email, and flyers around the church for more details.

***Sign-ups will begin in March after worship.***

**CHILI COOK-OFF DATE** – Look for information to come on the rescheduled date of the chili cook-off.

## **SAVE YOUR RUMMAGE FOR THE BELCW RUMMAGE SALE IN MAY**

As the seasons change and spring cleaning begins, it's the perfect time to declutter your home and make a positive impact on your church and the community. The annual church rummage sale is just around the corner this May, and your donations can help make this event a huge success.

### **Mark Your Calendar:**

Rummage Sale Set-up: 5/2/25  
Rummage Donation Drop Off: 5/2-5/5  
Dates for the Rummage Sale: 5/6-5/8

**Offerings to BELCW** – If you would like to make an offering to the BELCW, please send checks to Keitha Snider, Treasurer, 14685 Center Rd, Bath, MI 48808.

### **Upcoming Events:**

03/01/25	9:30 AM	FAB	Library
03/03/25	6:30 PM	Board Meeting	Zoom - Devotions: Cindy Marsh
03/05/25	TBD	Bible Study Leaders Meeting	
03/12/25	9:00 AM	Quilting	Gym
03/12/25	6:30 PM	Harmony Circle	
03/17/25	6:30 PM	Friendship Circle	L - Dorothy    H - Cindy
03/18/25	1:00 PM	Rainbow Circle	L - Sue L.    H - Carol P

# Prayer Corner

*Please Note: Hospitals do not notify churches when a member has been hospitalized; even if you inform them at registration of your church membership. If you would like a visit from the pastor, please call the church office at 482-3225 or call Pastor Matt directly at 517-881-9890.*



## **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, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo Kelly Carpenter, Crystal Collins, Ben Darling, Keith Ferguson, Tom & Eleanor Finn Peggy Gaspersohn, Emma Hicks, Nancy Jackson, Jeff Kosloski, Mike (Ferris) Kosloski Vicki Leighton, Michael Mahoney, Mark Nelson, Linda McClellan, 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 Community Police Officer, Morgan Parrott and other first responders.



## **Pastoral Acts:**

**Baptism:**  
*Adalyn Grace Evans* Feb. 16, 2025

## **PRAY** for those who are on active duty in the United States Military Services:

**Chris Browne** – U.S. Air Force  
**Tyler Barnes** – U.S. Marines  
**Isaiah Castellanos** – U.S. Army  
**Andrew Devine** – U.S. Nat'l Guard  
**Carson Kosloski** – U.S. Marines  
**Joshua Kosloski** – U.S. Army

**Christopher Morgan** – U.S. Marines  
**Ben Painter** – U.S. Air Force  
**Ryan Schiffner** – U.S. Air Force  
**Dayton Tucker** – U.S. Marines



## **2025 FLOWER CHART IS ON**

### **THE WALL IN THE LOBBY**



**Thank you** to all who sponsor the flowers for Bethlehem's Worship on Sunday Mornings. The beautiful arrangements enhance the worship experience for all. 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 flowers is \$40. The flower order is submitted a month at a time so please sign up by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

Here, you will find a list of the scripture readings that are part of the Daily Lectionary which move us from one Sunday to the next. You can also find these readings on our "Taking Faith Home" sheets we distribute after worship. They are also posted daily on our Facebook page. We encourage you to read your Bible every day as you live out your life of discipleship.

◇◇ Pastor Matt

<b>MARCH 2025</b>			
<u>01</u> Psalm 37:1-40	<u>08</u> Psalm 99	<u>16</u> Luke 13:31-35	<u>24</u> Isaiah 55:1-9
<u>02</u> Luke 9:28-43	<u>09</u> Luke 4:1-13	<u>17</u> Genesis 15:1-18	<u>25</u> 1 Corinth. 1:9-14
<u>03</u> Exodus 34:29-35	<u>10</u> Deuteronomy 26:1-11	<u>18</u> Philippians 3:17-4:1	<u>26</u> John 15:1-11
<u>04</u> 2 Corinth. 3:12-4:2	<u>11</u> Romans 10:8-13	<u>19</u> 1 Peter 5:6-11	<u>27</u> Colossians 1:9-14
<u>05</u> Psalm 51:1-17	<u>12</u> Psalm 62	<u>20</u> James 5:7-12	<u>28</u> James 3:13-18
<u>06</u> Acts 10:1-33	<u>13</u> Isaiah 12:1-6	<u>21</u> Hebrews 10:19-29	<u>29</u> Psalm 63:1-8
<u>07</u> Acts 10:34-48	<u>14</u> Proverbs 3:5-6	<u>22</u> Psalm 27	<u>30</u> Luke 15:1-12
	<u>15</u> Psalm 91:1-16	<u>23</u> Luke 13:1-9	<u>31</u> Joshua 5:9-12


# CHRISTIAN *services*

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. From their website: *Christian Services aims to help churches meet people's needs with the love of Jesus Christ.*

*Through Christian Services, church members are putting their faith in*

*action and providing help, hope and God's love to others. They are building caring relationships with those who are struggling, and moving beyond the expressed need to help address the underlying issues that contribute to poverty and hopelessness.* Christian Services is a strategy developed by local churches to help local churches help their neighbors in need, a partnership of local churches working together to provide effective help and show God's love to those in need, a collaboration between local churches and their community (agencies, ministries, government and schools) to provide effective help for the disadvantaged, and a vehicle that helps churches, collectively and individually fulfill their biblical mandate to reach out to people in need.

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. We also get names for our Thanksgiving Food Baskets from Christian Services because they have worked to identify families that would benefit the most from receiving one of our baskets.



### My Lenten Gift

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## March Birthdays

<b>Joanna Alvera</b>	<b>Mar. 2</b>
<b>Phil Hassler</b>	<b>Mar. 15</b>
<b>Faye Norris</b>	<b>Mar. 16</b>
<b>Donna TenHave</b>	<b>Mar. 17</b>
<b>Dale Meyer</b>	<b>Mar. 18</b>
<b>Jill Pullum</b>	<b>Mar. 19</b>
<b>Dee Bernardi</b>	<b>Mar. 20</b>
<b>Susan Colegrove</b>	<b>Mar. 20</b>
<b>Betty VanConant</b>	<b>Mar. 23</b>
<b>Janell Liles</b>	<b>Mar. 24</b>
<b>Mike Lamb</b>	<b>Mar. 25</b>
<b>Ruth Schaar</b>	<b>Mar. 30</b>



**Happy Birthday!**

Each year our birthday list of members 62 and over is updated from the church records. If for some reason you do not wish to have your name appear in the newsletter or if you see someone we have missed, please call the church office.

# BELCW RUMMAGE SALE IN *MAY*

## Save Your Rummage for the BELCW Rummage Sale in May

As the seasons change and spring cleaning begins, it's the perfect time to declutter your home and make a positive impact on your church and the community. The annual church rummage sale is just around the corner this May, and your donations can help make this event a huge success.

## Why Donate to the Rummage Sale?

Church rummage sales are more than just an opportunity to clear out your closets; they are a vital source of funding for community outreach programs and charitable initiatives. By donating your gently used items, you can support BELCW and help provide affordable goods to others in your community.

## What to Save for the Sale

Almost anything in good condition can be a valuable addition to the rummage sale. Here are some popular categories:

1. **Clothing and Accessories:** Adults' and children's clothing, shoes, handbags and jewelry are always in high demand.
2. **Household Items:** Dishes, glassware, small kitchen appliances, cookware, and decorative items like vases and picture frames are great options.
3. **Furniture:** Small furniture items such as chairs, tables, and shelves can be big sellers.
4. **Books and Media:** Novels, children's books, DVDs, CDs, and even vinyl records make great donations.
5. **Toys and Games:** Gently used toys, puzzles, and board games are appreciated by families.
6. **Electronics:** Small working electronics like lamps, clocks, and radios are welcome.
7. **Seasonal Items:** Holiday decorations, outdoor furniture, and garden tools are perfect for the rummage sale.

## Items to Avoid

To ensure the sale runs smoothly, please avoid donating:

- Broken or non-functional items
- Expired or used cosmetics and toiletries
- Large appliances or bulky furniture that may be hard to transport
- Items that have been recalled or are unsafe

## Spread the Word

Encourage friends, family, and neighbors to contribute to the rummage sale. Not only will this increase the variety of items available, but it will also help raise more funds for the church.

## Mark Your Calendar:

Rummage Sale Set-up: 5/2/25

Rummage Donation Drop Off: 5/2-5/5

Dates for the Rummage Sale: 5/6-5/8

## More details to come!

# ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

March 5, at 7:30 p.m.



## 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. Tuesdays with a potluck preceding at 6:00 p.m.**



### 2025 Lent Series



- Week 1: Sight - 3/11/25**      **Week 2: Sound - 3/18/25**  
**Week 3: Scent - 3/25/25**      **Week 4: Touch - 4/1/25**  
**Week 5: Taste - 4/8/25**

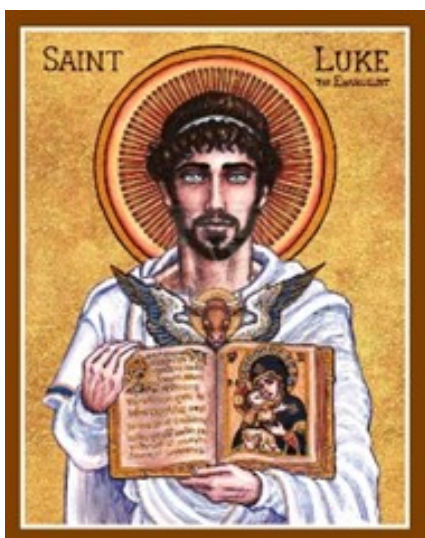
### Worship through the Senses

**A Lenten Potluck Supper precedes the Holy Lenten Services each Tuesday, March 11 - Tuesday, 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.



## The Season of Epiphany in this Year of Luke



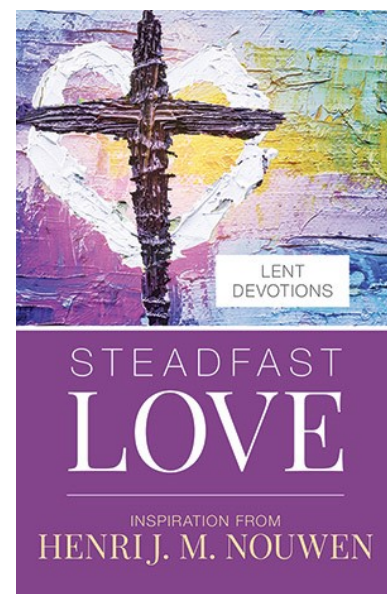
### Adult Forum – Luke’s Story of Jesus:

This month we continue pondering the Third Gospel with its themes of reversal, prayer and joy. We are on Chapter 6 and in each session we approach a specific passage with prayer, imagination, our own life experience and the intention of listening to Jesus with our mind and heart. We would be delighted to have you share in this sacred journey whatever Sunday mornings that work for you.

This Lent we invite you to enhance your relationship with our *incarnate* Lord Jesus through contemplation of his personal and infinite devotion to you.

Henri J. M. Nouwen, one of the most beloved spiritual thinkers of the 20th century, wrote passionately about the steadfast love of God in a way that has touched the hearts of readers the world over. Excerpts from Nouwen’s inspiring insights are paired with original reflections and prayers in this booklet for each day of Lent. Come to know more and more deeply the richness of the bond with our Savior that is never-changing.

Ponder the boundless love of Christ through this seasonal devotional for Lent. Copies for your family and loved ones are available on the Welcome Center table. Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on March 5!



### Calling All Men...

At one time in our history we had a rather active men’s Bible study. We met once a week, taking breaks along the way. We have our monthly lunch, but we need more, a return to the study, with discussions of the scriptures and to relate what we find there that speaks to our personal journey as believers and followers of Jesus Christ. I am putting this forth to measure the interest of the men for this. I will put a sheet in the gym on which you can express your interest. I do not have details worked out as to days, times, etc. Once I have a sense of the interest we will work all that out. I’m considering to begin some time after Easter, with a first session to go through June.

Thank for your attention.  
Jack Midgley

# Bethlehem Star

Lutheran Church Lansing

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Newsletter Deadline is **March 15, 2025**  
for the **April 2025 Bethlehem Star**.

Also available at  
[www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org)

In-Home Date: Saturday, March 1, 2025  
Mailed on February 27, 2025

