



549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48910  
517-482-3225  
[www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org)



Worship Service – 10:00  
February 23, 2025

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Keith Ferguson and Family in memory of Ruth Ferguson's birthday.

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

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** January through March 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 Zion Lutheran Church in Comstock Park, Michigan, Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas.

**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.**



## A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Gracious and compassionate God: bless each one of us here today. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness and help us to rejoice in your presence. Strengthen us by the power of your Holy Spirit that we may hear your word with joy and love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Indeed, make us a people who shine with the compassion of Christ, ones who forgive as he forgave us, and trust in him as he trusted in you. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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](mailto: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.*

## 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 John Burow  
GREETERS – Bob & Connie Meeker  
USHERS – Joe Shreffler, Bob Christiansen, David Snider  
ACOLYTES – Zellah Brisbo, Alicia Fernandez  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Bob Meeker, Kris Burow  
LAY READER – Joe Shreffler  
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, 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 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

**ASH WEDNESDAY** On Wednesday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m. we will have our Ash Wednesday service.

**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 1: Sight - 3/11/25

Week 2: Sound - 3/18/25

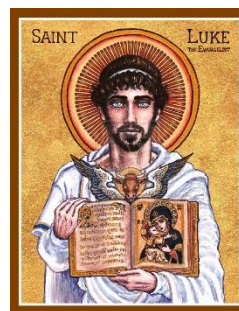
Week 3: Scent - 3/25/25

Week 4: Touch - 4/1/25

Week 5: Taste - 4/8/25

**LENTEN POTLUCK** A Lenten Potluck Supper precedes the Holy Lenten Services each **Tuesday**, March 11 through Tuesday, April 8. The potluck meal begins at 6:00 p.m. 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.

**ADULT FORUM: LUKE'S STORY OF JESUS** In January and February, our study will cover Jesus' Baptism; the temptation in the wilderness, plus the first 3 chapters of Jesus' Galilean ministry. These passages align with the Gospel readings for the Season of Epiphany and will provide both inspiration and guidance for our Life of Faith Initiative. Looking for a great New Year's resolution? Commit to investing 45 minutes Sunday mornings "following" Jesus in his mission of healing and faith format.



**CHILI COOK-OFF** The chili cook-off is postponed to a future date that will be determined soon. Look for more information to come.

**NEXT SUNDAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY** Canned goods and other non-perishable items and gifts of money can be brought to the altar during the "Offering of Gifts". You may bring your gifts to the altar after the passing of the offering plate. This special offering will be used to feed hungry people in our community through the FGC Resource Center, using our food pantry space. Monetary gifts will support the Greater Lansing Food Bank and our Mobile Food Distribution. If you are worshipping with us electronically, click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

**CAMP REGISTRATION** Camp this year will be Week 4 of the camping season at Stony Lake, July 6-13. Week Four will host Explorers, grades 1-3 (Sun-Wed), Discoverers, grades 3-6, Challengers (Confirmation), grades 6-8, Servant Hearts, grades 9-12. Living Water Ministries is continuing their Welcome to All pricing where campers pay either full, half, or NO price, as they are able. Visit [elcalivingwater.com](http://elcalivingwater.com) for more information and to register.



**THE 2025 FLOWER CHART** Posted on the wall in the lobby and ready for new sign ups! If you have a special date in mind to sponsor Altar Flowers, please reserve that date on the flower chart. The monthly order is submitted during the third week of the month. Payment is made to the florist in advance, so payment needs to be submitted by the first day of the month with checks made out to Kris Burow. Cost is \$40 per arrangement. Envelopes for payment are in the rack by the flower chart. Thank you to all who sponsor Altar Flowers for the Bethlehem Worship!

**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.

**COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE (CEB)** Our scripture readings will continue to follow the Revised Common Lectionary, but they will be read from the Common English Bible (CEB) rather than the NRSV through the end of May 2027 so that we experience the entire three-year lectionary cycle using this translation. **There are some Common English Bibles on the cart in the social hall for your use.** Please give any feedback on the CEB to Pastor Matt or any member of the Board of Worship Life.

## Thought for the Week

**Incurvatus in se:** It was Augustine, back in the 4th century AD, who came up with the phrase. And it's the idea that as humans, we are curved in ourselves. Created to love God and love others, sin has turned us inwards. We have removed our gaze from God and placed it firmly on ourselves. ~ Simon Lang

Jesus' word for us today is: "I call you to live your lives out of an alternative vision of reality. I call you to live your lives as lives that reverse the values of this culture... I have come to nourish your entire life with my mercy. I have come to empower you with mercy in order that you may, indeed, live a new kind of life in this world." ~ Brian Stoffregen

**ATTENDANCE** Worship Attendance 2/16/25: 50 in-person for our Worship and 35 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 43:01 and 27 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS** *"But I say to you who are willing to hear..."* Again and again, Jesus puts us on notice that living in anticipation of God's reign is marked by a different set of values and expectations. God grant us the vision, courage and compassion to live into our baptismal calling.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES AND THE 2025 G.R.I.D** The 2025 offering envelopes are available to pick up in the Social Hall. Also, on a table is the 2025 January – April GRID. It is also posted in the lobby on the wall by the phone. Thank you.

### **THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY**

GREETERS – Jim Koessel, Wendy Lamphier  
USHERS – Cloyd Barnes, Don Cairns  
ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Michell Smith, Keitha Snider  
LAY READER – Sherry Bass-Pohl  
ALTAR GUILD – Bob & Sue Christiansen

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>SUNDAY, Feb. 23</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
<b>TUESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	7:30p	Senior Choir
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
<b>THURSDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	T.N.T.
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	N.A. meets
<b>SATURDAY</b>	9:30a	F.A.B. meets
<b>SUNDAY, March 2</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
<i>Transfiguration</i>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
<i>Of Our Lord</i>	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>



**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.*