



Worship Service – 10:00
May 18, 2025

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



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Gracious God, the story of your love is so amazing, so divine.
Your message gives us hope, faith and courage. Bless our worship
today so that we might go forth from here to be the instruments of
your grace and love in our community and world, through Jesus
Christ our Lord. 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 in celebration of all the BELC birthdays born in April, May, and June! **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

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 Peace Lutheran Church in Gaylord, Michigan, Rev. Megan Crouch and the Synod Assembly 2025, Bp. Craig Satterlee, Ms. Sandy Schlesinger V.P., Synod Council.

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 John Burow

GREETERS – Diane & Ron Miller

USHERS – Ron Miller, David Westover, Ralph Sargent

LAY READER – Kris Burow

ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Susan Mahoney, Christina Raia

ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin

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)
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

THANK YOU! The Board of Parish Education would like to **Thank** all the folks that help with Sunday School each week. They are Candy Barnes, Ben Burow, Sue Nelson, Tim Nelson, Cindy Marsh, Dorothy Martin, Nancy Holderread, Karen Nault, Christina Raia, Daryl Thompson, Michelle Smith, Pastor Matt, Pastor John, Jean Peckham, Keitha Snider, and Sue Sterling. We couldn't have done this without all of you, Thank you so much for your help and support.
The Board of Parish Education.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY Please keep in your prayers Pastor Matt and Michelle Smith, Pastor John Burow, and Shannon Nobles as they leave today for the Annual Synod Assembly!



THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD On May 29th at 12 noon, we will celebrate this major Festival with an informal Service of Holy Communion. For Luke Jesus' Ascension is so vital for our life of faith that it is mentioned twice (Luke 24:44-53 and Acts 1:11).

RED GERANIUM PLANTS FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY JUNE 8

BELC will be ordering Red Geraniums for the Pentecost Worship Service on June 8th! The Geraniums are in 10-inch pots and will be ordered from VanAtta's Greenhouse at **\$18.50** each. Sign-up sheets are in the Social Hall by the Cookie Table. **LAST DAY TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, JUNE 1st**. Checks should be made out to Kris Burow and payment will need to be made by June 1. Thank you to those who enjoy sponsoring flowers for the BELC Worship

GRADUATES WILL BE RECOGNIZED On Sunday **June 15**, graduates from BELC will be recognized. Names of the graduates and the schools from which they are graduating from should be given to the church by Wednesday, June 11. Thank you.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: FOLLOWING THE WAY Sessions are on **Thursdays, at 3:30 pm in the library.** For questions, see Jack Midgley or Pastor Matt Smith.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION We will meet on **June 22** after worship service. All voting members are encouraged to attend. This is a time to get reports from the pastor, the officers of the congregation and to vote on new officers. There are openings on the Boards and Council.

THE SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE Beginning Sunday, May 25 (Memorial Day weekend) we will start our summer schedule, with no Sunday school or Adult Forum. This schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend. If you are going to be out of town on the weekend, find a gathering of Christians and worship with them or join our Live Streaming Worship on YouTube @bethlehemlansing, on Sunday's at 10 a.m. While you are away, please continue to support the work of Bethlehem Lutheran Church with your prayers and offerings.

DO YOU LOVE A GOOD BOOK? DO YOU LOVE A GOOD BIBLE STUDY? Here is an opportunity to experience both! At the women's retreat in April, we started a study with the book Significant. It is a study of 5 significant women in the Bible, and how God uses them and us, to further His kingdom. We are going to continue the study and come together once a month to talk about our insights and our questions. You can join us! We have copies of the book for sale at church for \$10 each, which is half off the list price, thanks to the generous author. **Come, grab your copy and join in the conversation!** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Debbie Simmons at 517-927-5368 or at 0818dis@gmail.com.

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.

Thoughts for the Week

Divine Judge, we know that we constantly fall short in our love and service to you no matter how hard we try. Yet even in our failings we can still feed your sheep – spiritually and physically. Give us earthly and heavenly food, that we may share both with others.
Amen ~ Moravian Daily Texts 2024

...we are all permanent mourners. I have settled into this truth. I have found it to be the doorway to joy.

~ Erin Caffall, The Mourner's Bestiary

Therefore, imitate God like dearly loved children. Live your life with love, following the example of Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us. He was a sacrificial offering that smelled sweet to God.

~ Ephesians 5:1-2

ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance 5/11/25: 89 in-person for our Worship and 32 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 33:08 and 18 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS The example of loving completely and humbly that our foot-washing servant king offers both in the upper room and on the cross gives us something to aspire to, but only with God's gracious help.

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION Our next food pantry distribution will take place on Wednesday, June 11. Volunteers are needed to help distribute the food to our neighbors in need. Please sign up in the Social Hall if you would like to help with important ministry. Thank you to everyone that helps! We appreciate you!

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Margaret & Ralph Sargent

USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider, Ralph Sargent

ACOLYTE – Alicia Fernandez

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Bob Meeker, Don Telles

LAY READER – Mila Thompson

ALTAR GUILD – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, May 18	8:45a	Sunday School
<i>Teacher Recognition</i>	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
	11:30a	Endowment Committee
	11:30a	Confirmation planning
	2:00p	Quartet rehearsal
		Synod Assembly
MONDAY	11:00a	Boiler Inspection
TUESDAY	1:00p	Rainbow Circle
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	10:00a	Capital Area Baby Café
	1:00p	Men's Luncheon
	6:30p	Friendship Circle
THURSDAY	3:30p	Men's Bible Study
	5:30P	Capital Area Baby Café
FRIDAY (<i>Memorial Weekend</i>)		Church office closed
	7:00p	N.A. meets
SUNDAY, May 25	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
	2:00p	Quartet rehearsal

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.

John 13:34

*Love
one another*

*I give you a new commandment:
Love each other. Just as I have
loved you, so you also must
love each other.*