



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



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

Worship Service – 10:00
January 21, 2024

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Lord, we come to you as people who live in a dark world. We live in a world that is torn apart by hate, crime, war, and envy. Dear Lord, protect us from all evil. Help us to be light bearers in a dark world. Give us the courage to speak out against injustice, to be a people of love instead of hate, to invite people into a full relationship with you, our Savior, 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 by BELC.

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

PORTALS OF PRAYER Jan. – March 2024 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 Grace Lutheran Church in Lansing, Michigan, Rev. Christin Fawcett.

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 Matt Smith
ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez
LAY READER – Mila Thompson
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Susan Mahoney, Mel White
GREETERS – Bob & Sue Christiansen
USHERS – Ron Miller, David Westover
ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin
A/V PRODUCTION – David Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Meeker, Kevin Peckham, Paul Schmidt, David Westover

Our Thoughts & Prayers are with...



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS and with your cards and visits:

Shelby Waters in The Willows at Okemos

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

Those at home: *Kaye Alden, John Bartel, Virginia Bauman*

Tosha Brisbo, Lois Cairns, Crystal Collins, Joann Dyer

Emma Hicks, Nancy Jackson, Michael Mahoney

Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Sandy Rollis

Carol Roush, Connie Scott, Audrey Skidmore

Betty VanConant, Cheryl VanPatten, Matthew White

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 Shafer.

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)

Rusty Landry – U.S. Air Nat'l Guard (Don & Audrey Olson's grandson)

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)

OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY QUILT HAS BEGUN!! Each block will have 1-3 crosses to equal 100 crosses total. Everyone is welcome to make a block or two or more! I'll have a tutorial after church service in the social hall on January 28, February 1, 8, 15, and 22. The next step is to put all the blocks together during March. Contact Connie Meeker with any questions at: (616) 902-0369 or conniemeeker20@gmail.com

PARISH NOTES

JANUARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Today, immediately following service we will hold a meeting of the congregation to act on the budget for 2024. We'll select two voting members for the spring Synod meeting and receive a report from our Constitution and Bylaws Committee. All confirmed members are encouraged to attend.

2024 FLOWER CHART **Thank you** to all who sponsor the flowers for Bethlehem's Worship on Sunday Mornings. The beautiful arrangements enhance the worship experience for all. The 2024 Flower Chart is now posted. 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 each arrangement is \$40. The flower order is submitted one month at a time so please sign up by the 15th 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.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION On Wednesday, February 14, is our next mobile food distribution. We need folks to sign up to help. There is a sign-up sheet in the social hall or see Dave Ware. Many hands help make the work lighter.

OFFERING ENVELOPES The 2024 offering envelopes are available to pick up on the table in the Social Hall.

2024 GRID In the social hall on a table is the 2024 January – April GRID. They are all labeled. If you see your name, take a copy. It is also posted in the lobby on the wall by the phone. Thank you.

COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS! If you enjoy baking, an opportunity awaits! Please see Kris Burow if you are interested in baking the Communion Bread for the Bethlehem worship services. Bakers need not be Altar Guild members. The recipe and needed supplies will be provided and there will be a short training meeting for helpful hints in baking the bread. Contact Kris Burow if interested.

COMMUNION CARDS 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.

COMMUNION BREAD We now use Communion Bread in worship that is totally gluten free, so, there will be no more gluten free wafers. Now, everyone in our congregation will receive the Body of Christ from the same loaf.

SENSORY TOOL KIT To assist parents of children with sensory issues (on the Autism Spectrum) in worship, we now have a Sensory Tool Kit on the coat rack in the Lobby. If you cannot locate it, please ask an usher.

THRIVENT MEMBERS You can designate your choice dollars to go to Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Ordained for God's ministry by our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection, we are to be God's witnesses in everything we do, sharing the good news that the reign of God is at hand.

~Life of Faith Initiative

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 79 in-person, 77 people viewed the 1/14/24 Live worship and the recorded service on YouTube.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS Come follow me and I will show you how to fish for people. Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, still authorizes and equips his people to share with one another and others God's unfailing love in our actions, in our words and in our life together in Christ.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Ralph & Margaret Sergeant

USHERS – Joe Shreffler, David Snider, Bob Christiansen

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Vicki Leighton, Kylee Nelson

LAY READER – Don Telles

ACOLYTES – Abigail Brisbo, Annabel Halbakken

ALTAR GUILD – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Jan. 21	8:45a	Children's Sunday School
	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
	11:30a	Congregational Meeting
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	T.N.T.
FRIDAY	7:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
SUNDAY, Jan. 28	8:45a	Children's Sunday School
	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion

MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus expects me to...

PRAY fervently,

WORSHIP faithfully,

ENCOURAGE one another,

READ the Scriptures daily,

GIVE freely of the gifts I have received from God,

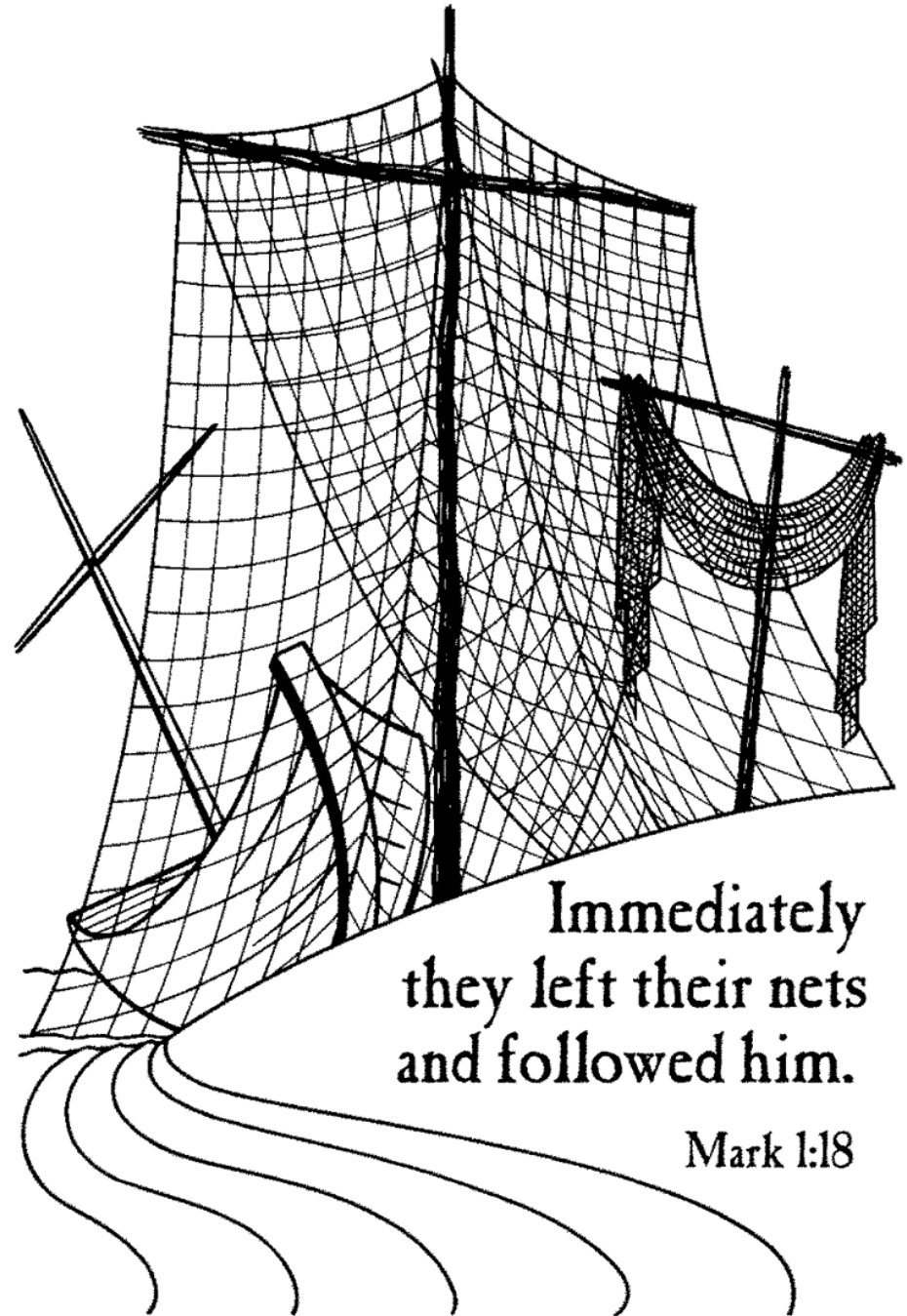
INVITE others to know God,

SERVE all people,

and, where I fall short of his expectations,

Jesus always offers me his love and forgiveness!

POWER Gifts



**Immediately
they left their nets
and followed him.**

Mark 1:18