



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



Worship Service – 10:00  
March 26, 2023

## 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 - June 2023 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 Trinity Lutheran Church in Battle Creek Michigan, Rev. Kjersten Sullivan.

**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.**



## 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 and place it in the basket in our prayer corner.

*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 – Susan Mahoney  
ACOLYTE – Mila Thompson  
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matthew Smith  
LAY READER – Bob Meeker  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Joe Shreffler, Zella Brisbo  
GREETERS – Bob & Connie Meeker  
USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider  
ALTAR GUILD – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler  
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 Grandhaven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing

*Rhoda Hunter* in Prestige Way on Keller Road in Holt

*Pat Lebsack* in The Willows, East Lansing

**Those at home:** *Kaye Alden, John Bartel, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo, Lois Cairns, Crystal Collins, Joann Dyer, Doug Griffin, Emma Hicks, Marilyn Bass-Huyser, Nancy Jackson, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Carol Roush, Connie Scott, Audrey Skidmore, Betty VanConant, Steve Viele, Emily Viele, 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.

**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)

**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)

**PLEASE NOTE** The complete names of people for whom we're praying will no longer be used in the prayers of intercession during worship. Rather only first names will be said, without the congregation repeating the names. This change will help to preserve individual privacy in online streaming.

**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.

## PARISH NOTES

**EASTER PRAYER VIGIL** Sign-up sheets are in the Social Hall for Hosts, and times to pray. Thank you.

**REFRESHMENTS BEFORE LENT SERVICES** All midweek Lenten services will be at **7:30 pm**, including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. On Wednesdays, light refreshments will be served before worship at **6:45 pm**.

**EASTER FLOWERS** Today is the last day to order Plants for Easter Worship Service. Sign-up sheets are on a table in the Social Hall, with separate sheets for Lilies (\$14.50) Tulips (\$11.00) and Yellow Daffodils \$11.00). All plants will be in 6-inch pots. Payment (checks made out to Kris Burow) will be needed by Sunday, **April 2nd**. Thank you for sponsoring the plants for Bethlehem's Easter Worship!

**LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE: TURKEY & SYRIA**  
One hundred percent of your gifts to "Middle East Crisis" go to supporting earthquake survivors and other people affected by disasters in the region. **Lutheran Disaster Response** has been active in this region for several years, partnering with ACT Alliance, the Lutheran World Federation, and the Middle East Council of Churches to accompany Syrian refugees and internally displaced people with food, water, shelter, health services and sanitation support. Mark your check for disaster response. Thank you.

**ADULT FORUM - 9 AM IN THE LIBRARY** "For Whom Do We Worship?" We have turned to the Spiritual Practice of Worship. For several weeks, we will catch glimpses of the history, structure, and seasons of Lutheran worship. Our focus will be on how we experience worship; what makes our worship faithful/worthwhile/fruitful and possible options for worship at BELC. Please join us for a lively discussion.

**STONY LAKE REGISTRATION** Elementary, Confirmation and Senior High Camp is Week 4 of the camping season this year (July 9-14). Log on to <http://www.elcalivingwater.com/> and complete your camp registration.

**NEXT SUNDAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY** Canned goods and other non-perishable items and gifts of money can be brought up to the altar during the "Offering of Gifts". Please wait to come forward until instructed by the pastor. This special offering will be used to feed hungry people in our community through the Food Bank center in our church.

**WORSHIP FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS** Thank you to those who sponsor the Altar Flowers for the Bethlehem Worship services. Many do this to celebrate an anniversary, birthday, or other occasions. Sign up for your special date on the Flower Chart in the entry hallway. The 2023 price for the arrangements is \$40. The order for the upcoming month is placed on the 20th of the current month so plan to sign up at least six weeks in advance!

Pastor Matt and Pastor John each have several "go-to" or "rescue" passages that often reassure, re-center and strengthen; Here are a few:

- Psalms 25, 51 and 121
- Isaiah 43:1-7 (especially v. 4a)
- Romans 8:38-39
- Ephesians 3:20-21
- Philippians 4:4-8

There are others of course, but we hoped this brief list might help you identify passages that offer you renewal and blessing. We would be delighted to share with you why these passages are so meaningful and to suggest others.

**April 2 - PASSION SUNDAY** (*Palm Sunday*)

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

**April 6 - MAUNDY THURSDAY**

- 7:30 Holy Communion & the Beginning of the Passion

**April 7 - 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. The message will feature monologues and music taking us back to Good Friday.)

**April 8 - HOLY SATURDAY**

- Prayer Vigil – Noon to Midnight

**April 9 - EASTER SUNDAY**

- 9:00 Easter Breakfast for everyone
- 10:00 Resurrection Celebration and Holy Communion



**Thought for the Week**

*"God doesn't expect us to be perfect, but God does expect us to keep trying."*  
- Anonymous.

**THOSE SERVING LENT/WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 AT 7:30**

- GREETERS – Kylee Nelson
- USHER – Ralph Sergent
- ACOLYTE – Andrew Goff
- LAY READER – Mila Thompson

**THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP PALM/PASSION SUNDAY**

- GREETERS – Bob & Connie Meeker
- USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider
- COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Zella Brisbo, Joe Shreffler
- ACOLYTE – Faith Halbakken, Mila Thompson
- LAY READER – Bob Meeker
- ALTAR GUILD – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS** *I hope, Lord. My whole being hopes, and I wait for God's promise. My whole being waits for my Lord—more than the night watch waits for morning; yes, more than the night watch waits for morning!* ~ Psalm 130:5-6 CEB

In worship this morning, we are gathered to wait on the Lord; to lean into God's grace and to celebrate God's promised salvation. Spirit's refreshed, faith renewed, we depart blessed and strengthened for lives that reflect God's faithful love.

**ATTENDANCE**

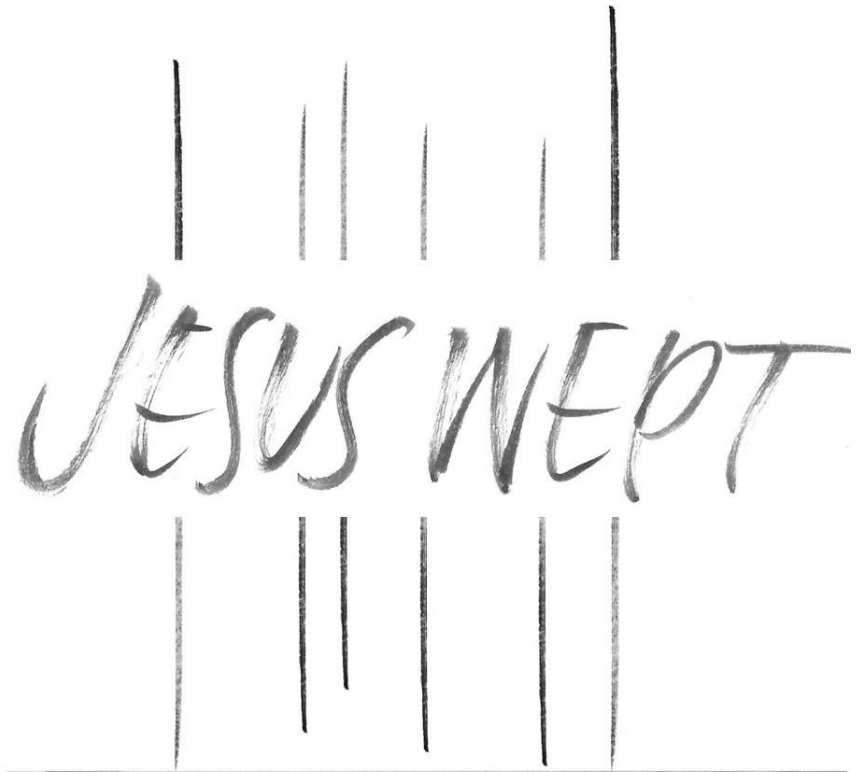
Worship Attendance: 63 in-person and 36 people viewed the 3/19/23 Live worship and the recorded service.

**DAILY PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK** The suggested prayer for the ending of our Lenten journey is a portion of Psalm 130. The Psalmist speaks passionately and powerfully of yearning for God's forgiving and saving grace. A prayer answered in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. An added challenge is to commit the entire prayer to memory for the many, many times it will speak to our needs.

+ + + + + + + + +  
*If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word I hope...~ Psalm 130:3-5*

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>SUNDAY, March 26</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
<i>Fifth Sunday</i>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
<i>in Lent</i>	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>
		<b>Worship (YouTube)</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	4:00p	Board of Outreach
	5:00p	Board of Worship Life
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:45p	Light Refreshments
	<b>7:30p</b>	<b>Lent Service</b>
		<i>Invite</i> others to know God
<b>THURSDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	T.N.T.
<b>SATURDAY</b>	9:30a	F.A.B. Meets
	10:00a	Easter Food Basket Distribution
<b>SUNDAY, April 2</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
<i>Palm/Passion</i>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
<i>Sunday</i>	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>
		<b>Worship (YouTube)</b>



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John 11:35

**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 Him

**SERVE** all people

*...and where I fall short of his expectations,*

*Jesus always offers me his love and forgiveness!*

**POWER GiftS**