



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



Worship Service – 10:00
March 9, 2025

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Mel White in memory of Ellen Jo White, mother of Amy and Mark.

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 Christ United Church in DeWitt Michigan, Rev. Alex Aivars.

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

Dear Lord, my God, through your Son, Jesus Christ, you have called me to follow you. Help me in this Lenten season to examine every aspect of my life, repent of sin, and seek to do your will in all my words and deeds. As I worship you in this community of believers, bless me with the gifts of your grace. In Jesus' name I pray. 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.

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 – Nancy Holderread

CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith

GREETERS – Cloyd & Candy Barnes

USHERS – Phil Hassler, Jim Koessel, Ralph Sergeant

ACOLYTES – Faith Halbakken, Annabel Halbakken

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Joe Shreffler, Liisa Whitman

LAY READER – Kylee Nelson

ALTAR GUILD – Kris & John Burow, Faith Halbakken

A/V PRODUCTION – David Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Meeker, Kevin Peckham, David Westover



PARISH NOTES

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.

TODAY IS MISSION SUNDAY Gifts received in a special mission offering will be given to the Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministry at the Pine Ridge Retreat Center in South Dakota. If you are viewing this bulletin electronically, click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

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.**

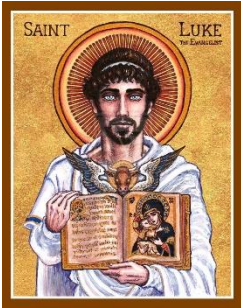
Week 1: Sight - 3/11/25
Week 2: Sound - 3/18/25
Week 3: Scent - 3/25/25
Week 4: Touch - 4/1/25
Week 5: Taste - 4/8/25

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

MY LENTEN GIFT 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. They are building caring relationships with those who are struggling and moving to help address the underlying issues that contribute to poverty and hopelessness. 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. Mark your envelope for "Christian Services".*

CHILI COOK-OFF The chili cook-off has been cancelled for this year! This gives you time to perfect your recipes for next year!

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 each session we approach a specific passage with prayer, imagination, our own life experience and the intention of listening to Jesus with mind and heart. We would be delighted to have you share in this sacred journey and whatever Sunday mornings that work for you.

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 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.

Thought for the Week

“No greater mischief can happen to a Christian people, than to have God’s Word taken from them, or falsified, so that they no longer have it pure and clear. God grant we and our descendants be not witnesses of such calamity.”

~Martin Luther, *Table Talk* (XII)

ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance 3/2/25: 110 in-person for our Worship and 31 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 41:20 and 18 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS In today’s Gospel, we witness Jesus’ struggle to stay faithful to his mission. What might tempt us to wander from the life of faith into which we called and claimed in Baptism. This includes works of compassion, kindness and generosity in our daily lives.

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 TUESDAY LENT WORSHIP @ 7:00PM

GREETERS – Sue Nelson

USHERS – Ralph Sergent, Tim Nelson

ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Mar. 9	8:45a	Sunday School
<i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
MONDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:30p	Bd. of Stewardship & Finance
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	5:30p	Handbell Choir
	6:00p	Potluck
	7:00p	Lent Service
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:00a	Quilting Day
	1:00p	Mobile Food Distribution
	6:30p	Bd. of Buildings & Grounds
	6:30p	Harmony Circle
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	T.N.T.
FRIDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	N.A. meets
SUNDAY, Mar. 16	8:45a	Sunday School
<i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Don & Lois Cairns

USHERS – David Westover, Ralph Sergent

ACOLYTE – Alicia Fernandez

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Zella Brisbo, Jim Whitman

LAY READER – Abigail Brisbo

ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin

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,

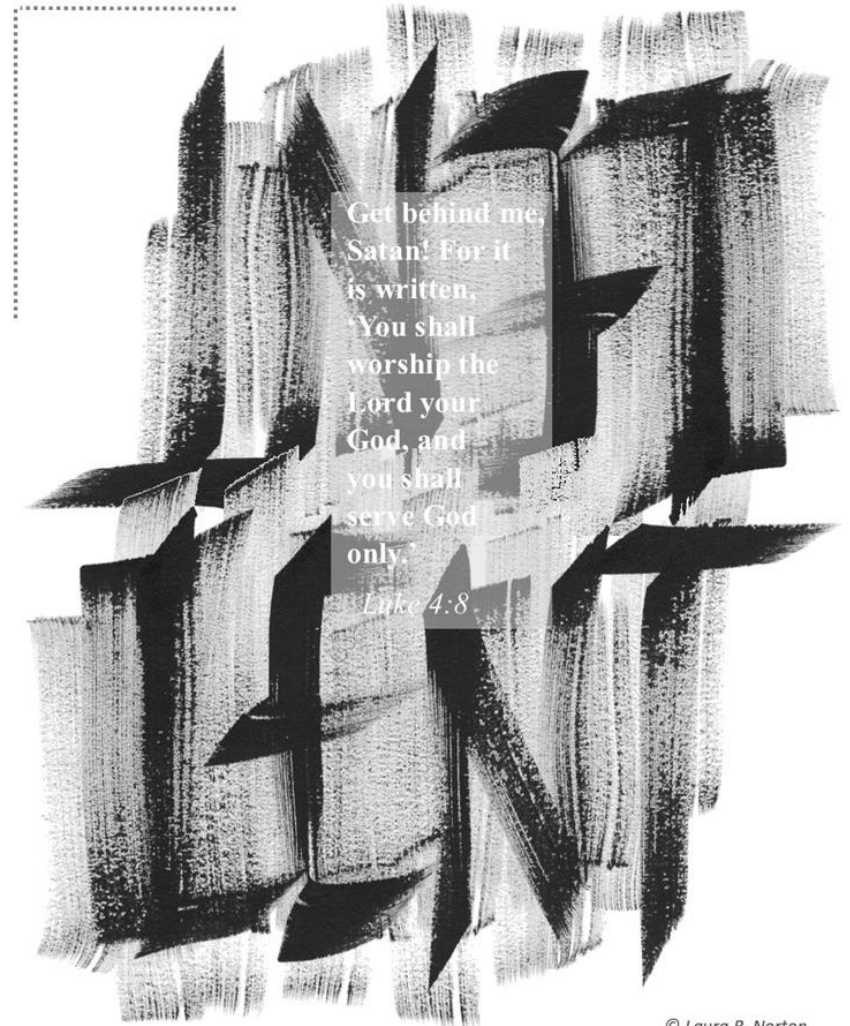
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

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.



Get behind me,
Satan! For it
is written,
"You shall
worship the
Lord your
God, and
you shall
serve God
only."

Luke 4:8

© Laura R. Norton