



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



Worship Service – 10:00
March 24, 2024 Palm/Passion Sunday

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

O God of love and sacrificial giving, you have called the church through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Through the church, its proclamation and its ministry, we have been drawn into relationship with you. The power of its message and the love for you and for one another helped us find our way to life in Christ. We praise you for this gift, and we celebrate it in worship this day, 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 by BELC.

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

PORTALS OF PRAYER April - 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 Trinity Lutheran Church in Millersburg, Michigan, Rev. Mary Hughes.

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 – Crystal Collins
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matthew A. Smith
ACOLYTE – Andrew Goff
LAY READER – Mila Thompson
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Tim Nelson, Kylee Nelson
GREETERS – Matt & Cindy Marsh
USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider
ALTAR GUILD – Michelle Smith, Cindy Marsh
A/V PRODUCTION – David Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Meeker, Kevin Peckham, David Westover

Our Thoughts &
Prayers
are with...



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-Huysen in Independence Village, Grand Ledge
Betty Strother in Independence Village, East Lansing
Joe & Audrey Skidmore, in Assisted Living, Sedona, AZ
Kurt Kollmeyer, Ingham County Medical Care, Okemos
Cheryl VanPatten, Regency at Grand Ledge Rehabilitation Center

Those at home: *Kaye Alden, John Bartel, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo, Crystal Collins, Joann Dyer, Keith Ferguson, Emma Hicks, Nancy Jackson, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Sandy Rollis, Carol Roush, Connie Scott, Betty VanConant, 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, D.J. Rudd, Interim.

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)

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

PARISH NOTES



PASSION WEEK SCHEDULE:

March 28 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:30 Holy Communion & the Beginning of the Passion
The Living Last Super
First Communion
New Members

March 29 - GOOD FRIDAY

7:30 "A Tenebrae of Joy in the Midst of Lament."
(A "service of darkness" recalling the terrible reality of our sin and the sacrifice of our Lord for all people.)

March 30 - HOLY SATURDAY

Prayer Vigil – Noon to Midnight

March 31 - EASTER SUNDAY

8:30 Easter Breakfast for everyone
10:00 Resurrection Celebration and Holy Communion

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Rev. Paul Burow, brother of Pastor John Burow, who died, March 11 and for Sue Duffiney, Aunt of Pastor Matt Smith, who died March 18. May God comfort those who mourn with the promise of eternal life for all those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.

EASTER PRAYER VIGIL Our daily lives are so crowded with the noisy and trivial that we often feel a need to escape to a quiet place where we can hear God speaking to us. An excellent opportunity for your very own mini-retreat is coming up on **Holy Saturday, March 30. On that day between noon and midnight the sanctuary at Bethlehem will be open for our Easter Prayer Vigil.** Sign-up sheets blocking off that time in half-hour segments are on a table in the lobby. Many who come have described the time they spent as meaningful and rewarding and seeming all too brief. There will be hosts to welcome you and to be present while you are here. You might wish to sign up for that, too! Come and help use our facility as truly a "house of prayer."

EASTER BREAKFAST The youth need your help with the Easter Breakfast! Signup sheets are on a table in the social hall for donations of food and help with various tasks, especially with setup, clean-up and serving. Thanks!

Lansing SAVE Next Sunday, March 31, is our fifth Sunday offering for LansingSAVE. There are now 192 children in our group of students from BELC and the Baker Neighborhood. To give electronically click on the “Online Giving” link on our website.

STONY LAKE REGISTRATION Elementary, Confirmation and Senior High Camp is Week 4 of the camping season this year (July 7-12). Log on to <http://www.elcalivingwater.com/> and complete your camp registration.

MY LENTEN GIFT Offerings using the “My Lenten Gift” envelope in the February newsletter will be given to the Pine Ridge Food Ministry at the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center.

HOLD THE DATE Come celebrate our first 75 years, Sunday, April 14th. Our church service will include special music and guest preachers Jim Schalkhauser and Jim Lichtenberger. Following the service, we will gather for a potluck reception in the fellowship hall. The entrée’ will be furnished along with your table service. **Please bring either a salad or dessert to share** (Pastor Jim S loves Pie!).

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.

ADULT FORUM “You Are Witnesses”: As we continue to build our skills in witnessing, we turn to how we experience Jesus’ love in the ordinary happenings of our daily lives. This perspective is an excellent opportunity for you to join us in our graced conversations. We will not meet on Easter morning, but will continue the following Sunday.

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.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

*God loves us in our brokenness so much that God became fully human in Jesus to **suffer** with us and, through His life, **death**, and resurrection, bring us to the everlasting wholeness God intends for us. God empowers us daily to love everyone and all creation as God loves us.*

◇◇ Pastor Matt

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: 62 in-person, 46 people viewed the 3/17/24 Live worship and the recorded service on YouTube and 38 in-person, 17 people viewed the 3/19/24 Lenten live worship and recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS As we enter another Holy Week may we see afresh and experience anew God’s love for us in Christ Jesus. May our hearts be stirred to gratitude and our lives to faithful service.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30

GREETERS – Laura & Marv Halbakken

USHERS – Margaret Sergent, Christina Raia, Sabrina Prowdley

ACOLYTE – Faith Halbakken

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP GOOD FRIDAY 7:30

GREETERS – Ron & Diane Miller

USHERS – Tim Nelson, Ralph Sergent

ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Kris Burow, Keitha Snider

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP EASTER SUNDAY

GREETERS – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler

USHERS – Jim Whitman, Don Romain, Dee Bernardi

ACOLYTES – Annabel Halbakken, Kylee Nelson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Peggy Teter, Laurey Wyble

LAY READER – Kris Burow

ALTAR GUILD – ALL TEAMS

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Mar. 24	8:45a	Children's Sunday School
Palm/Passion	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
MONDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:30p	Maundy Thursday
FRIDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
	7:30p	Good Friday Service
SATURDAY	12:00p	Easter Prayer Vigil
SUNDAY, Mar. 31	8:30a	Easter Breakfast for Everyone
Easter Sunday	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion

“Hosanna!



is the one who comes
in the name of
the Lord!”

Mark 11:9

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