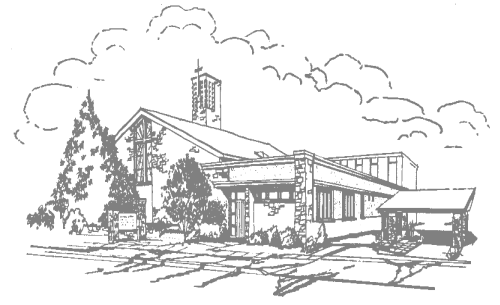


# Bethlehem Star

Lutheran Church Lansing



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church - Lansing, Michigan

**Pastor Matt Smith**

**February 2025**

## Outdoor LED Sign

Our outdoor sign has not been working, or working properly, for several years. Many hours were spent on the phone with the offspring of the company, with them tapped directly into our computer, but there is no way for our computers to continue to communicate with the sign. Three bids were secured to replace the existing lighted portion of the sign and REPLACE the top portion as well. At our Congregation meeting on January 26, the Congregation Council recommended a bid from Icon Sign & Design, Inc. for \$16,842.52 to the congregation.

This option replaces the fixed and electronic portions of the sign, allowing more space to be used to communicate our mission and ministry in our neighborhood and on our busy thoroughfare. The congregation also voted to reallocate some dedicated funds in our savings for this project:



\$6,647.00 (Seminarian Support Fund. We currently do not have any seminarians and proceeds from our Endowment Fund can be used as scholarship money to continue to support any seminarians we may have.

\$5,983.65 (Unassigned Dedicated Mission from the sale of the Mission Home).

\$16,842.52 - 6,647.00 - 5,983.65 leaves a remaining balance of **\$4,211.87** still needed for us to go forward with this project. The Endowment Fund has expressed a willingness to contribute as they are able but pressing building needs (including the need for a new roof in the coming years) make them hesitant to contribute at this time.

The Congregation Council thanks you, in advance, for your support of this project. Please clearly mark any contributions as being for the 'Electric Sign' so that they are credited correctly.

## Use of Space

The Congregation Council has also begun a study of our use of space with the impending departure this Spring of the Family Growth Center. Their departure will free up a considerable amount of space on our lower level. A task force is being formed that will systematically explore the needs of all our ministry groups at Bethlehem, groups that will continue to meet here (NA, Expecting Parent Organization, community choirs, etc....), as well as the needs of the community and how our building can continue as an *Outpost for God's Mission* and an *Anchor* in our community. If you have input or would like to serve on this task force, please let me know.

## Peer Ministry Lock-In, February 7-8

From Friday, February 7, at 8:00pm to Saturday, February 8, at 3:30, Bethlehem's Luther League will be hosting high school aged youth from across the state to be trained in Peer Ministry skills. This training helps youth learn listening skills to help them form intentional faith and life connections. Please pray for us during this time.



## [bethlutheran.org](http://bethlutheran.org)

Our website continues to be updated with weekly Parish Notes and our monthly *Bethlehem Star* newsletter and calendar. In addition to these downloadable files in the 'Printables' section, our entire **Calendar** is on our website from the **Events** menu this is the most up-to-date information and does not require any downloads. The Events page is also updated weekly with events from our Parish Notes.

◁ Pastor Matt

## Assisting Ministers

**Feb. 2 - Don Telles**  
**Feb. 9 - Nancy Holderread**  
**Feb. 16 - Bob Meeker**  
**Feb. 23 - Susan Mahoney**

## Children's Sermons

**Feb. 2 - Pastor Matt Smith**  
**Feb. 9 - Pastor Matt Smith**  
**Feb. 16 - Pastor Matt Smith**  
**Feb. 23 - Pastor Matt Smith**

### Ministers

All of the members of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pastor Matthew A. Smith  
pastormattsmith@gmail.com  
(517) 881-9890

Assistant to The Pastor  
Pastor John W. Burow  
pastorjburow@yahoo.com  
(517) 614-4559

Church Secretary / Star Editor  
Tracy Baker  
bethlehemlansing@gmail.com  
(517) 482-3225

Congregation President  
*open seat*

Organist  
James Schippers  
jameschippers@gmail.com

Choir Director  
Sue Nelson  
ntimothy1@att.net

Handbell Choir Director  
James Schippers

Contemporary Worship Director  
Laurey Wyble

Office Hours  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (M-F)

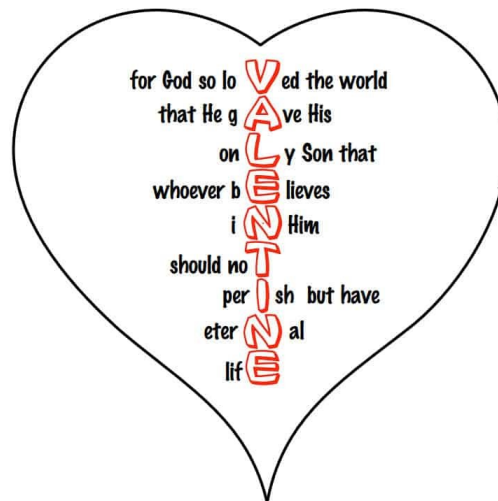
Visit our website at:  
[www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org)

### Worship Schedule

10:00 - Worship - Holy Comm.  
Sanctuary - in person  
And LIVE Streaming on  
YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/  
@bethlehemworship126/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@bethlehemworship126/streams)

## John 3:16



## 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BULLETINS & LINKS

For full PDF files of each bulletin, links to the worship services, and individual links to the historical videos.



Visit <https://www.bethlutheran.org/100thanniversary-worship-services>

### Statement of Purpose and Guiding Principles for Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

God's purpose for our church, as disciples of Jesus Christ, is to share with all people God's word, love and saving grace.

*We will pursue this purpose by:*

1. Being a Christ-centered, joyful community of baptized believers who gather regularly for worship, the Lord's Supper, study and prayer.
2. Inviting, accepting, and supporting all people as we build attentive, respectful relationships.
3. Taking action and risks with bold faith, acknowledging our imperfection, while trusting in Christ.
4. Actively engaging in community outreach near and far.
5. Being faithful stewards of our time, talents, possessions and all of God's creation.

Adopted January 29, 2017

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# STEWARDSHIP

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Stewardship refers to the act of conducting, supervising, or managing an entity or resource responsibly. Specifically, it is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

The Biblical view of stewardship is managing God's resources for His glory and the improvement of creation. The essence of biblical stewardship is managing everything God brings into the believer's life in a manner that honors God.

There are four principles that relate to stewardship: ownership, responsibility, accountability and reward. In the context of stewardship:

*Ownership* means God has created it and owns everything, and he has put man here to work as the caretaker of the things he has put in place.

*Responsibility* means we have been given all we have as a gift from God and are expected to treat each gift with respect and use it to glorify God.

*Accountability* means we are expected to care for our resources, abilities, and opportunities and use them responsibly, as one day we will be asked to account for our actions concerning these assets.

*Reward* means that if we do God's will and utilize our gifts to the best of our abilities like 'good and faithful' stewards, we will be rewarded in our eternal lives (also a gift from God through faith).

Another way to look at it might be as a fiduciary trust. Everything belongs to God, and we hold it all, manage it all, and direct it all on God's behalf. As a fiduciary, there is an extra burden in that the owner's interest must take priority over the interests of the fiduciary.

In the parable of the talents, Matthew 25:14-30, a master leaving on a journey gives three of his servants money to care for while he is away. Two of the servants manage to grow what he has left them, while a third, fearing failure, buries it to keep it safe. When the master returns, he rewards the first two and condemns the last.

This parable teaches us about using our abilities responsibly. It underlines the value of each person and the importance of developing our talents to help others. It also emphasizes the importance of caring for God's kingdom and the consequences of neglecting his instructions.

An important side to this parable for me is that God gifts each of us differently according to his plans for our lives. He gives each of us what we need in the measures that we need. He does not expect the same thing from everyone, thus the endless variety of Christians serving in endless and amazing ways. He does not leave us floundering without help; He is with us and providing for us as often as we have need.

*Vicki Leighton*

(Proverbs 3:5-6) ***“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; don't rely on your own intelligence. Know him in all your paths, and he will keep your ways straight.”***

# Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Women

Women of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in America

All women of Bethlehem Lutheran Church are members of the Women of the ELCA and are invited and encouraged to participate in all activities listed in the newsletters, bulletins, flyers or on the bulletin boards.

# BELCW

*Bethlehem Evangelical  
Lutheran Church Women*

**Chili Cook-Off** hosted by BELCW is scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. Enter your award-winning chili by signing up in the gym!

**Significant – Our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Retreat is scheduled for April 25-27.**

- **Michindoh Conference Center**, 4545 E. Bacon Road, Hillsdale, MI 49242
- **Cost:** \$130 \$65 deposit with registration
- **Cost includes:** Lodging, meals, and retreat materials
- **Please contact:** Laura (517-281-3133) or Laura (517-388-1263) with your questions.

Please watch Facebook, your email, and flyers around the church for more details.

## Exciting Opportunity to Serve as Vice President for BELCW

BELCW is looking for a volunteer to serve as Vice President. In this role, you will work alongside and support the President while gaining valuable leadership experience. This is a meaningful opportunity to share your talents, knowledge, and energy with our women's ministry, which is committed to empowering and uplifting women in our church, community, and beyond. If you're passionate about making a positive impact in the lives of women and are ready to step into a leadership position, we encourage you to reach out to any of our board members listed below. Our board meets monthly via Zoom, engages in some behind-the-scenes work, and most importantly, enjoys supporting and encouraging one another! **Offerings to BELCW** – If you would like to make an offering to the BELCW, please send checks to Keitha Snider, Treasurer, 14685 Center Rd, Bath, MI 48808.

- President – Peggy Teter
- Vice President – Vacant (Please prayerfully consider being part of this wonderful mission)
- Secretary – Susan Sterling
- Treasurer – Keitha Snider
- Mission Action – Kelly Carpenter
- Mission Growth – Tosha Brisbo
- Publicity – Michelle Smith
- Circle Chairs – Laura Halbakken (Harmony), Cindy Marsh (Friendship), and Susan Mahoney (Rainbow)

## **Upcoming Events:**

02/01/25	9:30 AM	FAB
02/03/25	6:30 PM	Board Meeting (Devos – Susan M)
02/05/25	TBD	Bible Study Leaders Meeting
02/12/25	9:00 AM	Quilting
02/12/25	6:30 PM	Harmony Circle ( )
02/15/25	6:00 PM	Chili Cook-Off
02/17/25	6:30 PM	Friendship Circle (L – Nancy H- Candy)
02/18/25	1:00 PM	Rainbow Circle (L – Sue S. H- Sandy W)



# Prayer Corner

**Please Note: Hospitals do not notify churches when a member has been hospitalized; even if you inform them at registration of your church membership. If you would like a visit from the pastor, please call the church office at 482-3225 or call Pastor Matt directly at 517-881-9890.**



**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, Virginia Bauman, Tosha Brisbo, Kelly Carpenter, Crystal Collins, Ben Darling, Keith Ferguson, Tom & Eleanor Finn, 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, Rob 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 Community Police Officer, Morgan Parrott and other first responders.



**PRAY** for those who are on active duty in the United States Military Services:

**Chris Browne** – U.S. Air Force  
**Tyler Barnes** – U.S. Marines  
**Isaiah Castellanos** – U.S. Army  
**Andrew Devine** – U.S. Nat'l Guard  
**Carson Kosloski** – U.S. Marines  
**Joshua Kosloski** – U.S. Army

**Christopher Morgan** – U.S. Marines  
**Ben Painter** – U.S. Air Force  
**Ryan Schiffner** – U.S. Air Force  
**Dayton Tucker** – U.S. Marines



## 2025 FLOWER CHART IS ON

### THE WALL IN THE LOBBY



**Thank you** to all who sponsor the flowers for Bethlehem's Worship on Sunday Mornings. The beautiful arrangements enhance the worship experience for all. 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 flowers is \$40. The flower order is submitted a month at a time so please sign up by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

Here, you will find a list of the scripture readings that are part of the Daily Lectionary which move us from one Sunday to the next. You can also find these readings on our “Taking Faith Home” sheets we distribute after worship. They are also posted daily on our Facebook page. We encourage you to read your Bible every day as you live out your life of discipleship.

◁> Pastor Matt

<b>FEBRUARY 2025</b>	<u>08</u> Psalm 71:1-6	<u>16</u> Luke 6:17-26	<u>24</u> Genesis 45:3-15
<u>01</u> Psalm 19	<u>09</u> Luke 5:1-11	<u>17</u> Jeremiah 17:5-10	<u>25</u> 1 Corinth. 15:35-50
<u>02</u> Luke 4:21-30	<u>10</u> Isaiah 6:1-13	<u>18</u> 1 Corinth. 15:12-20	<u>26</u> Genesis 43:16-34
<u>03</u> Jeremiah 1:4-10	<u>11</u> 1 Corinth. 15:1-11	<u>19</u> Acts 13:26-39	<u>27</u> Psalm 37:1-40
<u>04</u> 1 Corinth. 13:1-13	<u>12</u> Psalm 36	<u>20</u> Deuteronomy 28:1-14	<u>28</u> Luke 9:28-43
<u>05</u> Luke 2:25-32	<u>13</u> 2 Thess. 3:1-5	<u>21</u> Matthew 5:1-11	
<u>06</u> 1 John 3:16-21	<u>14</u> Deuteronomy 7:6-11	<u>22</u> Psalm 1	
<u>07</u> Amos 5:14-15	<u>15</u> Psalm 138	<u>23</u> Luke 6:27-38	



**Lutheran  
Disaster Response**

Lutheran Disaster Response is here to support the families and communities that will be rebuilding their lives. LDR is coordinating with the Southwest California Synod and Pacific Synod to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs amid the destruction as well as to assist with recovery efforts for months and years to come.

**Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to those affected by wildfires and other disasters. To give through Bethlehem, mark on your envelope or check “Disaster Relief”**

**February Birthdays**

Margaret Wright	Feb. 2
Kris Burow	Feb. 6
Janet Gonda	Feb. 12
Sue Meyer	Feb. 14
Joe Skidmore	Feb. 15
Betty Holmer	Feb. 16
Sue Nelson	Feb. 18
Rita Huntley	Feb. 22
Vicki Schneider	Feb. 22
Kathleen Martin	Feb. 23
Judy Pardee	Feb. 26
Peggy Parker	Feb. 27



**Happy Birthday!**

Each year our birthday list of members 62 and over is updated from the church records. If for some reason you do not wish to have your name appear in the newsletter or if you see someone we have missed, please call the church office.

# BELCW RUMMAGE SALE IN “MAY”

## Save Your Rummage for the BELCW Rummage Sale in May

As the seasons change and spring cleaning begins, it's the perfect time to declutter your home and make a positive impact on your church and the community. The annual church rummage sale is just around the corner this May, and your donations can help make this event a huge success.

## Why Donate to the Rummage Sale?

Church rummage sales are more than just an opportunity to clear out your closets; they are a vital source of funding for community outreach programs and charitable initiatives. By donating your gently used items, you can support BELCW and help provide affordable goods to others in your community.

## What to Save for the Sale

Almost anything in good condition can be a valuable addition to the rummage sale. Here are some popular categories:

1. **Clothing and Accessories:** Adults' and children's clothing, shoes, handbags and jewelry are always in high demand.
2. **Household Items:** Dishes, glassware, small kitchen appliances, cookware, and decorative items like vases and picture frames are great options.
3. **Furniture:** Small furniture items such as chairs, tables, and shelves can be big sellers.
4. **Books and Media:** Novels, children's books, DVDs, CDs, and even vinyl records make great donations.
5. **Toys and Games:** Gently used toys, puzzles, and board games are appreciated by families.
6. **Electronics:** Small working electronics like lamps, clocks, and radios are welcome.
7. **Seasonal Items:** Holiday decorations, outdoor furniture, and garden tools are perfect for the rummage sale.

## Items to Avoid

To ensure the sale runs smoothly, please avoid donating:

- Broken or non-functional items
- Expired or used cosmetics and toiletries
- Large appliances or bulky furniture that may be hard to transport
- Items that have been recalled or are unsafe

## Spread the Word

Encourage friends, family, and neighbors to contribute to the rummage sale. Not only will this increase the variety of items available, but it will also help raise more funds for the church.

## Mark Your Calendar:

Rummage Sale Set-up: 5/2/25

Rummage Donation Drop Off: 5/2-5/5

Dates for the Rummage Sale: 5/6-5/8

**More details to come!**



## Lyons School Receives Clothing!

On Friday, January 10 I delivered the following items to Lyons Elementary School...

*40 pairs of gloves/mittens*  
*30 pairs of boots*  
*24 snow pants*  
*33 pairs of socks*  
*15 hats*  
*2 scarves*  
*2 coats*



This was all made possible by many of you, our Bethlehem members, who donated to this neighborhood outreach project! **Thank you so very much!** School secretary Shari Martinez gave me the biggest hug when I brought all of these bagged items. She could not believe how much I unloaded from my car. Shari told me that on the day I made the delivery, she had just handed out the last of their gloves (little knit ones, not the waterproof kind!), because she knew I would be coming with the winter gear that very afternoon. Lyons Elementary added fourth graders to their preschool through third grade student population last year, so there are more children in the building with new sizes, hence the need for some of the larger clothing we collected this year. Our donation will definitely help many children stay warm and dry throughout the winter. And it's important to remember that even though students will outgrow some of these things, we now have them in the hands of families to pass down to younger siblings or relatives. Bethlehem is making a difference in the lives of our nearby neighborhood families! A big thank you goes to Wendy Lamphier for making the wonderful large sign for the collection tub area at church!

Thank you, *Cindy Marsh*



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## The Season of Epiphany in this Year of Luke

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Our Gospel readings for January and February are mostly from Luke's account of Jesus' ministry in Galilee (chapters 4 – 6). Our Sunday morning Adult Forum will ponder the same material, seeking a deeper connection between Jesus' work of announcing and displaying the Reign of God and our own life of faith and witness. A fine New Year's resolution would be to participate in this conversation for at least some of these 8 Sundays. You might be surprised at how richly both God's Word and lively conversation nourish your faith. Please join us in the Library at 9 a.m. Sunday mornings.



**WE APPRECIATE YOU!!**

Sincerely,  
Pine Ridge

T.W.I.G.S., wants to take a moment to thank you for our generous donation of \$200. This will help spread the word about TWIGS and offer access to our programs to cancer fighters in the Greater Lansing area. We hope that by relieving everyday burdens such as yard care, house cleaning and rides to appointments, cancer patients can concentrate on taking time to heal and spending time with loved ones.

This funding helps people who live along and are battling Cancer. Your support means the world to us and we are excited for the impact we can make together!

Thank you on behalf of TWIGS!  
Elizabeth Read  
Executive Director/Founder

# Bethlehem Star

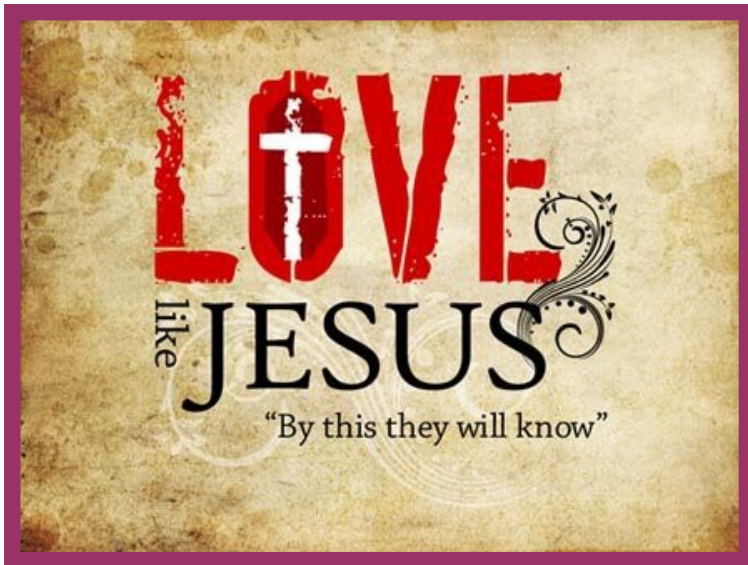
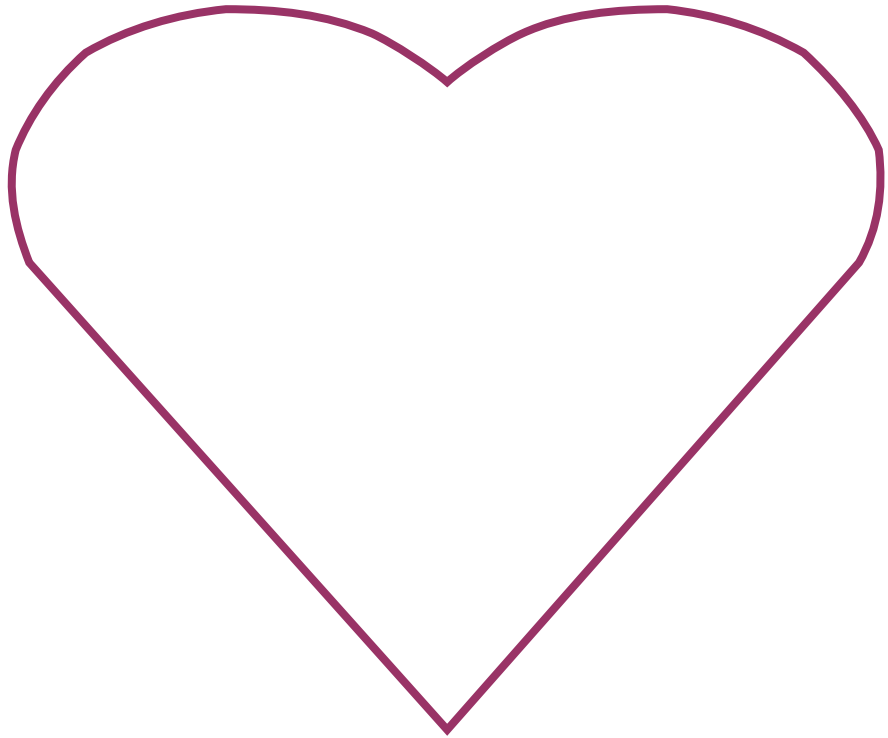
Lutheran Church Lansing

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Newsletter Deadline is **February 15, 2025**  
for the **March 2025** Bethlehem Star.

Also available at  
[www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org)

In-Home Date: Saturday, February 1, 2025  
Mailed on January 30, 2025