



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



Worship Service – 10:00
January 26, 2025

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 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 St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, Michigan, Rev. Diane Sponheim.

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

Be still, my soul. Be still. Let the quiet peace of God rest upon my jumbled thoughts and my tangled feelings. My soul, be still. Know that the Lord is God. Know that God is exalted among the nations, exalted in the earth. Know that the Lord, in all his glory, still loves his people, still loves me. Be still, my soul. Be still. For the Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. 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 – Susan Mahoney
- CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith
- GREETERS – David Westover, Sandra Westover
- USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider
- ACOLYTE – Mila Thompson
- COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mel White, Don Telles
- LAY READER – Sandra Westover
- ALTAR GUILD – Cheryl & Joe Shreffler
- A/V PRODUCTION – David Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Meeker, Kevin Peckham, David Westover



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, 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, 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 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.

PARISH NOTES

JANUARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING We will meet immediately following worship to act on the budget for 2025. We'll select two voting members for the spring Synod meeting in May and consider the reallocation of dedicated monies and fundraising for a new outdoor sign. All confirmed members are encouraged to attend.

OPEN BOARD SEATS Are you ready to serve on one of the boards of the congregation again (or maybe for the first time)? **The Board of Stewardship and Finance** is looking for members to fill two open seats. S&F typically meets on the second Monday of every month, with the next meeting on Monday, February 10, at 6:30pm. Talk to Laurey Wyble or Pastor Matt if you are interested.

CHILI COOK-OFF On Saturday, February 15, we will have our Chili Cook-off at 6:00 p.m.! Sign-up sheets are in the social hall if you'd like to enter your winning chili! Enjoy a night out, sampling tasty chili, fellowship and friendly competition. The Luther League Youth are planning fun activities for the children and youth too!!

EPIPHANY STAR WORDS "Your Light Has Come!" The Magi were

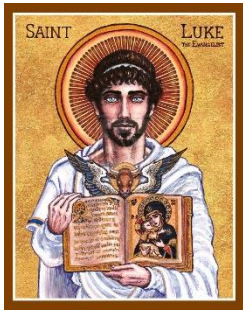


guided by a star at its rising to come and worship the newborn king. Epiphany Words are available on a table in the back of the church printed on our Bethlehem Star. After you have prayed, guided by the Holy Spirit, select a star at 'random'. Keep the star someplace special, somewhere you will see it throughout the coming year, someplace seen regularly so it can serve as a guide. For some, the word's meaning

in their life pops up right away. For others, the meaning may evolve throughout the year. A blessed Epiphany to us all!

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". You may bring your gifts to the altar after the passing of the offering plate. This special offering will be used to feed hungry people in our community through the FGC Resource Center, using our food pantry space. Monetary gifts will support the Greater Lansing Food Bank and our Mobile Food Distribution. If you are worshipping with us electronically, click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

ADULT FORUM: LUKE'S STORY OF JESUS In January and



February, our study will cover Jesus' Baptism; the temptation in the wilderness, plus the first 3 chapters of Jesus' Galilean ministry. These passages align with the Gospel readings for the Season of Epiphany and will provide both inspiration and guidance for our Life of Faith Initiative. Looking for a great New Year's resolution? Commit to investing 45 minutes Sunday mornings "following" Jesus in his mission of healing and faith format.

100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BULLETINS & LINKS

Visit <https://www.bethlutheran.org/100th-anniversary-worship-services> for full PDF files of each bulletin, links to the worship services, and individual links to the historical videos.



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

Christ is the Word of God. It is not in certain texts written in the New Testament, valuable as they are; it is not in certain words which Jesus spoke, vast as is their preciousness; it is in the Word, which Jesus is, that the great manifestation of God is made. ~ Rev. Phillips Brooks, Bishop

ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance 1/19/25: 51 in-person for our Worship and 32 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 42:27 and 22 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS Today's Gospel reading is Jesus' Inaugural Address. Jesus uses Isaiah's words to proclaim what will be the focus of his ministry. The poor will receive good news. Jesus will bring healing and freedom. Jesus will announce the coming of God's favor. It stands to reason that our lives, individually and together should have a similar focus.

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.

COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE (CEB) Our scripture readings will continue to follow the Revised Common Lectionary, but they will be read from the Common English Bible (CEB) rather than the NRSV through the end of May 2027 so that we experience the entire three-year lectionary cycle using this translation. **There are some Common English Bibles on the cart in the social hall for your use.** Please give any feedback on the CEB to Pastor Matt or any member of the Board of Worship Life.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Cindy & Matt Marsh

USHERS – Cloyd Barnes, Don Cairns

ACOLYTE – Andrew Goff

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Faith Halbakken, Peggy Teter

LAY READER – Vicki Leighton

ALTAR GUILD – Susan Mahoney, Linda Telles

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Jan. 26	8:45a	Sunday School
	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
	11:30a	Annual Meeting of the Congregation
	2:00p	Zebra Tones Quartet
MONDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:30p	Life of Faith - zoom
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. meets
FRIDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	N.A. meets
SATURDAY	9:30a	F.A.B. meets
SUNDAY, Feb. 2	8:45a	Sunday School
<i>Presentation of Our Lord</i>	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to preach good news to
the poor, to proclaim release to
the prisoners and recovery
of sight to the blind, to
liberate the oppressed,
and to proclaim the
year of the Lord's favor
~ Luke 4:18-19, CEB*



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

January 26, 2025