

# Bethlehem

Lutheran Church Lansing

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



Worship Service – 10:00  
March 2, 2025

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by wife, Susie White, Grandfather, Mel White, in memory of the birthday of Matthew White.

**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 Zion Lutheran Church in Comstock Park, Michigan, Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas.

**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 – Bob Meeker  
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith  
GREETERS – Jim Koessel, Wendy Lamphier  
USHERS – Cloyd Barnes, Don Cairns  
ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Michelle Smith, Keitha Snider  
LAY READER – Sherry Bass-Pohl  
ALTAR GUILD – Bob & Sue Christiansen  
A/V PRODUCTION – David Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Meeker, Kevin Peckham, David Westover

## A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*O Lord, you are the ruler of all creation, enthroned upon the praises of your people. You spoke to Israel through the blazing fire of Sinai, and you spoke to the disciples through the brightness of Jesus' face – the glory of heaven revealed to the eyes of earth. Shine the light of your holiness into every corner of our lives. Dispel the shadows of doubt from your church. Like a beacon of joyful hope, draw the hearts of all people into your bright kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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](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, 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.*



## 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.

**BY HOLY BAPTISM** Wesley Rollin & Saylor Sterling Armstrong will be made children of God and heir to all His promises. Wesley and Saylor were born on October 30, 2019. Their parents are David & Nicole Armstrong, and their sponsors are Randy Armstrong, Katie Niles, and Rylee Armstrong. Also, Thomas David Niles was born on May 10, 2016. His Father is David Niles and mother is Ashley Kosloski. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we welcome them as partners with us in the ministry we have as Christ's people.

**TODAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY** Canned goods and other non-perishable items and gifts of money can be brought up to the basket at the altar during the "Offering of Gifts". You may bring your gifts to the altar after the passing of the offering plates. This special offering will be used to feed hungry people in our community through the FGC Resource Center. 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.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** On Wednesday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m. we will have our Ash Wednesday service.

**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

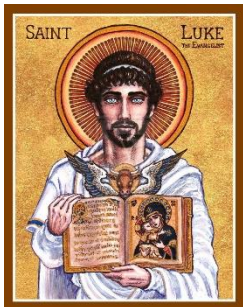
Week 4: Touch - 4/1/25

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.

**CHILI COOK-OFF** The chili cook-off is postponed to a future date that will be determined soon. Look for more information to come.

**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.



**NEXT SUNDAY 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.

**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](http://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

### III

*How can water do such great things?*

Clearly the water does not do it, but the word of God, which is with and alongside the water, and faith, which trusts this word of God in the water. For without the word of God the water is plain water and not a baptism, but with the word of God it is a baptism, that is, a grace-filled water of life and a "bath of the new birth in the Holy Spirit," as St. Paul says to Titus in chapter 3, "through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure."

~ *Luther's Small Catechism,*  
on the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

**ATTENDANCE** Worship Attendance 2/23/25: 71 in-person for our Worship and 24 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 40:14 and 15 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS** With all that is happening in in our world we can empathize with Peter's impulse to enshrine the glory of their mountain-top experience. Faithful stewardship, however, requires that we move with Jesus into the lived experience of people who are hurting. Knowing that we are both called and equipped to make a difference. May our worship this morning help us carry the love of God into all aspects of 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 WORSHIP ASH WEDNESDAY**

GREETERS – Don & Lois Cairns

USHERS – Ralph Sergent, Christina Raia

ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin

LAY READER – Jack Midgley

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>SUNDAY, March 2</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
<i>Transfiguration</i>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
<i>Of Our Lord</i>	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>
MONDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:30p	BELCW Board Meeting
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	4:00p	Board of Worship Life
	<b>7:00p</b>	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE</b>
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	T.N.T.
FRIDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	N.A. meets
<b>SUNDAY, March 9</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>

**THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY**

GREETERS – Cloyd & Candy Barnes  
USHERS – Phil Hassler, Jim Koessel, Ralph Sergent  
ACOLYTES – Faith Halbakken, Annabel Halbakken  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Sherry Bass-Pohl, Liisa Whitman  
LAY READER – Kylee Nelson  
ALTAR GUILD – Kris & John Burow, Faith Halbakken

**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.*

*Then a voice from  
the cloud said,  
"This is my Son,  
my chosen one.  
Listen to him!"*

(Luke 9:35 CEB)