



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



Worship Service – 10:00
March 16, 2025

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Great and good God, in your presence there is power and there is peace: power to help us overcome the problems of life, peace when the storms of life overwhelm us. In the example of Jesus Christ, we see the ways that your will and work are evidenced in the common experiences of life. He was not ruled by his fear. Be for us what you were for him, our shield and our shelter. 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.

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 April through 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 Evangelical Lutheran Church in East Jordan, Michigan, Rev. Matt Deames.

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 John Burow
GREETERS – Don & Lois Cairns
USHERS – David Westover, Ralph Sergent
LAY READER – Abigail Brisbo
ACOLYTE – Alicia Fernandez
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Zellah Brisbo, Jim Whitman
ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin
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, Tosha Brisbo*
Kelly Carpenter, Crystal Collins, Ben Darling, Keith Ferguson
Tom & Eleanor Finn, Carl Gallagher, Peggy Gaspersohn, Emma Hicks
Nancy Jackson, Mike (Ferris) Kosloski, Vicki Leighton, Michael Mahoney
Linda McClellan, Mark Nelson, 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.

PARISH NOTES

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 2: Sound - 3/18/25

Week 3: Scent - 3/25/25

Week 4: Touch - 4/1/25

Week 5: Taste - 4/8/25

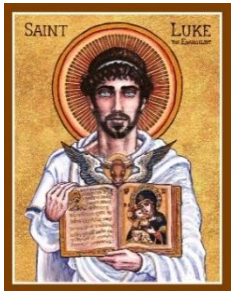
LENTEN POTLUCK A Lenten Potluck precedes the Holy Lenten Services each **Tuesday, through April 8 at 6:00pm** in the social hall. Bring a soup or salad (enough for your family and enough to pass around – no desserts please, in keeping with the penitential theme of Lent) and share it with the rest of 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**. 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. The "My Lenten Gift" envelopes are on the Welcome Table and in the social hall.

Lansing SAVE March 30 is a fifth Sunday, and we will receive an offering on that day for Lansing SAVE (to fund accounts for post-secondary education). There are now 212 children in our group of students from BELC and the Baker Neighborhood. To give electronically click on the "Online Giving" link on our website.

EASTER PLANTS FOR BETHLEHEM WORSHIP If you would like to purchase plants for Bethlehem's Easter Worship, the sign-up sheets are by the refreshment table in the gym. All plants will be in 6 inch pots. White Lilies are \$16, and Yellow Daffodils, Tulips and Kalanchoes, are \$12 each. Please note on the sign-up sheets if the plants are given in Memory or Honor of a loved one. The deadline to sign-up for plants is March 31st. Payment should be placed in the easter plant envelopes (by the sign-up sheets) and given to Kris Burow or submitted to the church office. Payment must be received by Sunday, April 6th. Thank you to all who purchased plants for Bethlehem's Easter Worship!

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.

“SIGNIFICANT” BELCW 30th ANNUAL RETREAT April 25-27, at **MICHINDOH CONFERENCE CENTER**. The cost is \$130, with \$65 deposit with registration. Register in the social hall after worship. The cost includes lodging, meals, and retreat materials. Contact Laura Halbakken at (517) 281-3133 or Joanna Alvera at (517) 388-1263 with any questions.

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.



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

The sinful woman is able to receive and accept grace in a way the religious Pharisee cannot. Even though Jesus is a religious teacher, his teaching is not about religion. It is not about how to be more religious... It is about a God whose acceptance of sinners the religious find jarring. It is about a God whose love cannot be brought even by great acts of praise or mighty deeds of justice. It is about sinners who rejoice at the great forgiveness they have received...

~ Justo Gonzalez commenting on Luke 7:36-50

By accepting God's grace and living a life of faith and service, believers glorify God, demonstrating the power and goodness of His grace.

By trusting in God's promises, we give Him glory by acknowledging His faithfulness and goodness.

ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance 3/9/25: 62 in-person for our Worship and 34 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 27:05 and 15 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service and Worship Attendance 3/11/25: 40 in-person for our Worship and 14 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 19:50.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS Jesus' tears of compassion did not flow from despair or defeat but from resolve to complete God's loving purpose. May we too experience compassion that leads to acts of kindness and generosity.

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 – Keitha & David Snider
- USHERS – Ralph Sergent, Tim Nelson
- ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Mar. 16	8:45a	Sunday School
<i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
	11:15a	Bd. of Worship Life
MONDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:30p	Friendship Circle
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	1:00p	Rainbow Circle
	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	Men’s Lunch
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	T.N.T.
	6:30p	Congregation Council
FRIDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	N.A.
SUNDAY, Mar. 23	8:45a	Sunday School
<i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i>	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Christina Raia and Family
USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider
ACOLYTE – Andrew Goff
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Tim Nelson, Kylee Nelson
LAY READER – Jim Whitman
ALTAR GUILD – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler

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.

