



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



Worship Service – 10:00
January 5, 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 Trintiy Lutheran Church in Battle Creek Michigan, Rev. Kjersten Sulivan.

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

Send, O God, into the darkness of this troubled world, the light of your Son. Let the star of your hope touch the minds of all people with the bright beams of mercy and truth. Direct our steps that we may ever walk in the way revealed to us, as the Wise Men walked with joy to the place where he dwelled, who now and ever reigns in our hearts, 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.

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 – Don Telles
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith
GREETERS – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler
USHERS – Cloyd Barnes, Don Cairns
ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Susan Mahoney, Candy Barnes,
Dorothy Martin, Ralph Sergent
LAY READER – Don Telles
ALTAR GUILD – Bob & Sue Christiansen
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, Mike (Ferris) Kosloski, Vicki Leighton, Michael Mahoney
Mark Nelson, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer
Bob 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)

PARISH NOTES

SERVICE OF "PRAYER FOR HEALING" During worship service today we will have a time of Prayer for Healing. If you would like a prayer, please fill out the prayer card from your bulletin. Bring it with you during communion. Remain at the altar rail after receiving communion and give the card to the person that comes to pray with you. The card will be returned to you after the prayer for your confidentiality.

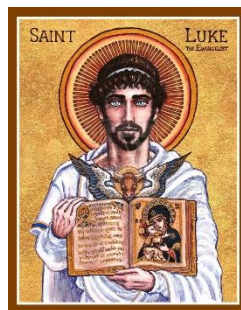
CHRISTMAS "UN-DECORATING" Today is the day to take down the Christmas decorations. Can you lend a hand to "un-decorate" the church? After service things will get packed away for another year. Many willing hands will make short work of it!

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 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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES The 2025 offering envelopes are available to pick up on the table in the Social Hall. They are labeled with your name on them.

2025 GRID In the social hall on a table is the 2025 January – April GRID. They are all labeled. If you see your name, take a copy. It is also posted in the lobby on the wall by the phone. Thank you.

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.



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.

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.

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. Now, everyone in our congregation will receive the Body of Christ from the **same** loaf.

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 back of the church for your use.** Please give any feedback on the CEB to Pastor Matt or any member of the Board of Worship Life.

Thoughts for the Week

As stars have guided wise ones for centuries,
May your word guide you in the year ahead.
By the radiance of your star and the power of the Holy Spirit,
May you live with deeper intention and greater attention;
May you find the holy in delightfully unexpected places;
May you worship with joy,
Give with gratitude,
And follow the new way home that God will provide.
A blessed Epiphany to you all!



ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance 12/29/24: 64 in-person for our Worship and 22 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 34:40 and 14 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service. Worship Attendance 12/24/2024 Christmas Eve: 124 in-person for our Worship and 118 views on YouTube

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS *God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless in God's presence before the creation of the world.*
~ Ephesians 1:4

An aspect of the holiness we have in Christ is being set apart for God's purposes. How is this being lived out in our life together?

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Marv & Laura Halbakken

USHERS – Phil Hassler, Jim Koessel, Ralph Sergent

ACOLYTE – Faith Halbakken

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Tim Nelson, Kylee Nelson

LAY READER – Dave Ware

ALTAR GUILD – Kris & John Burow, Faith Halbakken

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Jan. 5	8:45a	Sunday School
<i>Healing Sunday</i>	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
		Undecorating the Church
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
	9:00a	Quilting Day
	1:00p	Mobile Food Pantry Dist.
	6:30p	Harmony Circle
	6:30p	Board of B&G's
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	T.N.T. meets
FRIDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	N.A. meets
SUNDAY, Jan. 12	8:45a	Sunday School
<i>Baptism of our Lord</i>	9:00a	Adult Forum
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
		Installation of BELCW Officers



*They offered him gifts of gold,
frankincense, and myrrh.*

Matthew 2:11

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