



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



Worship Service – 10:00  
January 19, 2025

## A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Loving and gracious God, I praise you for the privilege of being here in this place of worship with my sisters and brothers in your family. Fill me with your grace and Spirit while I am here. Make me attentive to your Word, help me to hear your call, and give me the courage and the strength to obey. I ask this in Jesus' name. 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.*

## 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 Immanuel Lutheran Church in Big Rapids, Michigan, All Supply Pastors.

**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 – Mary Bartel  
USHERS – David Westover, Ralph Sergent  
ACOLYTE – Alicia Fernandez  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Nancy Holderread, Kris Burow  
LAY READER – Candy Barnes  
ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin  
A/V PRODUCTION – David Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Meeker, Kevin Peckham, David Westover



## 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, 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.

**JANUARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** We will meet next Sunday, January 26, 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<sup>th</sup> 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



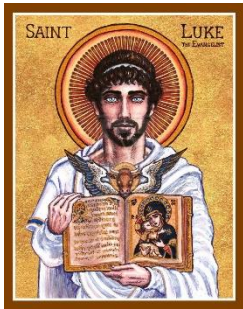
guided by a star at its rising to come and worship the newborn king. Epiphany Words are available on a table in the back of the church printed on our Bethlehem Star. After you have prayed, guided by the Holy Spirit, select a star at 'random'. Keep the star someplace special, somewhere you will see it 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!

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** The 2025 offering envelopes are available to pick up in the Social Hall.

**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.

## 100<sup>th</sup> 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](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**

“Justice too long delayed is justice denied.”

*Letter from Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963*

“But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.” *'I Have a Dream' speech, August 28, 1963*

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**ATTENDANCE** Worship Attendance 1/12/25: 81 in-person for our Worship and 33 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 41:49 and 22 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS** In today's Gospel Jesus becomes involved in rescuing his host from social humiliation, Here is reassurance that God cares for our wellbeing in matters small and great. Here too is encouragement to notice and respond to our neighbor's needs both small and great.

**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 – David Westover, Sandra Westover

USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, Ralph Sergent

ACOLYTE – Mila Thompson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Don Telles, Mel White

LAY READER – Sandra Westover

ALTAR GUILD – Cheryl & Joe Shreffler

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>SUNDAY, Jan. 19</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>
	2:00p	Zebra Tones Quartet
<b>MONDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:30p	Friendship Circle
<b>TUESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	1:00p	Rainbow Circle
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
<b>THURSDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	T.N.T. meets
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	N.A. meets
<b>SUNDAY, Jan. 26</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>
	<b>11:30a</b>	<b>Annual Meeting of the Congregation</b>

*This was the first miraculous sign that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.*

*John 2:11, 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**

*Sunday, January 19, 2025*