



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



Worship Service – 10:00
December 29, 2024

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Eternal God, you have blessed us in the past. In this upcoming new year, open our hearts and minds to know your presence and to see your love at work. Give us faith and grace to live in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, our source of joy, now and forever. 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 in loving memory of Ruth Ferguson, given by her husband Keith Ferguson, and in loving memory of my mother, Helen Kosloski, given by Jeff Kosloski.

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 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. Peter Lutheran Church in Battle Creek, Michigan, Rev. Edward Ruble.

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 – Crystal Collins
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor John Burow
GREETERS – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin
USHERS – Ralph Sergent, Ron Miller
ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Tim Nelson, Mel White, Dorothy Martin
LAY READER – Mel White
ALTAR GUILD – Dorothy Martin, Candy Barnes
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, 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, Melinda Roznowsai, 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

Lansing SAVE Today is our fifth Sunday offering for LansingSAVE. 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.

FINAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2024 We thank everyone who has

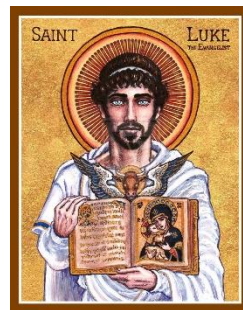


supported Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church this past year with their time, **talent** and financial contributions and look forward to support from all our members in the year ahead. We also invite you to consider making an additional gift to Bethlehem as the year draws to a close. If you need a convenient way to make an additional gift before the end of the year or to make your regular offerings, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving option. As the pace of life continues to speed up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. You will find a blue “online giving” button on our home page at www.bethlutheran.org. That is a good place to start, or contact our Financial Secretary, Susan Mahoney, for more information. Contributions must be received by 12/ 31 to be counted in 2024.
← **Scan to give by Dec. 31st.**



PASTOR MATT VACTAION Pastor Matt is on vacation visiting family in Charlevoix, returning on December 31st.

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 formation.

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.



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

In Cherokee folk lore one wolf represents fear, anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego. The other stands for joy, peace, love, hope, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, friendship, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.

*Therefore, as God's choice, holy and loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other. **And over all these things put on love...** ~ Colossians 3:12-13*

Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds. ~ Hebrews 10:24

ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance 12/22/24: 112 in-person for our Worship and 27 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 36:25 and 16 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS *Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word...*

In today's Gospel story we see Jesus at 12 in the Temple eagerly attending to God's Word. In 2025 how will you be paying faithful attention to God's Word in order to nourish your spiritual life and to guide and to inspire faithful stewardship?

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler

USHERS – Don Cairns, Cloyd Barnes

ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Susan Mahoney, Zella Brisbo,
Ralph Sergent, Dorothy Martin

LAY READER – Don Telles

ALTAR GUILD – Bob & Sue Christiansen

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Dec. 29	8:45a	Sunday Church School
Christmas 1	9:00a	Adult Forum - library
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
MONDAY	9:00a	Newsletter Mailing
TUESDAY	9:30a	Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAY		HAPPY NEW YEAR <i>Office Closed</i>
FRIDAY	7:00p	N.A. meets
SATURDAY	9:30a	F.A.B. meets
SUNDAY, Jan. 5	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
Christmas 2		Undecorating the Church



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, December 29, 2024