

# Bethlehem

Lutheran Church Lansing

Worship Service – 10:00  
December 8, 2024

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



## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Diane & Ron Miller in celebration of their 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**TAKING FAITH HOME** Find a copy on Facebook in the BELC Worship Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/belcworship/>).

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** October – December 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. Paul Lutheran Church in Alpena Michigan, Rev. John Shipman.

**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.**



## 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.*

## **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 – Susan Mahoney  
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith  
ACOLYTES – Alicia Fernandez, Mila Thompson  
LAY READER – Susan Mahoney  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Don Telles, Laurey Wyble  
GREETERS – Christina Raia and Family  
USHERS – Phil Hassler, Jim Koessel, Ralph Sergeant  
ALTAR GUILD – Donna TenHave, Cheryl Thompson  
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, 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)  
**Rusty Landry** – U.S. Air Nat'l Guard (Don & Audrey Olson's grandson)  
**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

**TODAY 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.

**THE ANNUAL SENIOR DINNER IS TODAY** Appetizers will be served at 3 p.m. and dinner at 3:30 p.m. Our youth are eager to spend time with and serve you!

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** The last day to sign-up was Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Payment envelopes are available and must be received by TODAY. Give them to Kris Burow, mail to the church or leave in the office. Thank you to those who sponsor the Poinsettias for Bethlehem's Christmas Worship.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING** Join us for an afternoon of Christmas caroling to BELC's shut-ins, on **December 15**. We will meet at the church at 3:00 p.m. Please bring some cookies or treats to share following our caroling. The Board of Worship Life will provide hot chocolate and coffee. Our shut-ins are so appreciative of our visits and songs! **Hope to see you there!!!**

**BETHLEHEM SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL** On December 22, during our worship service, the Sunday School children will perform "**Share the Good News**". They will sing new Christmas songs they have learned and play instruments. Through narration and traditional nativity costumes they will tell the story of the first Christmas. We hope you will all join us to share the good news of Jesus' birth.

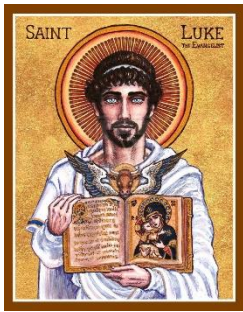
**CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET SIGN UP SHEETS** The last day to bring in food is **TODAY** and distribution will be next Saturday, **December 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon**. The red bags for food donations are on a table in the Social Hall with directions on the bags. If you have any questions, contact Kris Burow.

Join us on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> for our 100th Anniversary Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary



**LYONS SCHOOL CLOTHING COLLECTION** The tubs in the church entryway are for collection of items and will be here into December. If you would like to donate winter outerwear for the children at Lyons, you can bring boots (sizes 12, 13, 1, or 2), snow pants (sizes 8, 10, 12, or 14), and **waterproof** gloves to leave in the tubs. Boots and snow pants can be either new or gently used, but gloves should be new. Please try to avoid pink or purple, but those are still accepted! Thank you!

**ADULT FORUM: LUKE'S STORY OF JESUS** In December our Sunday Adult Forum will transition from, the ways we listen, to a chapter-by-chapter study of Luke's Story of Jesus. The timing works well, as we will be hearing and pondering Luke's "Infancy Narratives" just as we prepare to celebrate the Birth of Christ. Join us each Sunday at 9 a.m. in the library. For a detailed overview of Luke's gospel, visit YouTube and search, "Gospel of Luke Overview". This search should give you a two part summary, each about eight minutes long.



### **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.



### **THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY**

GREETERS – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler  
USHERS – Ron Miller, David Westover  
ACOLYTE – Kylee Nelson  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Kris Burow, Michelle Smith  
LAY READER – Kylee Nelson  
ALTAR GUILD – Carrie Rice, Eliot Nutt

## **Thought for the Week**

*“Spending less does not mean spending nothing. Rather, we strive to thoughtfully evaluate what we support with our spending, and allow our spending to support products, people, and causes that are worthy of being supported.”*

- Advent Conspiracy

**ATTENDANCE** Worship Attendance 12/1/24: 79 in-person for our Worship and 18 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 47:06 and 16 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

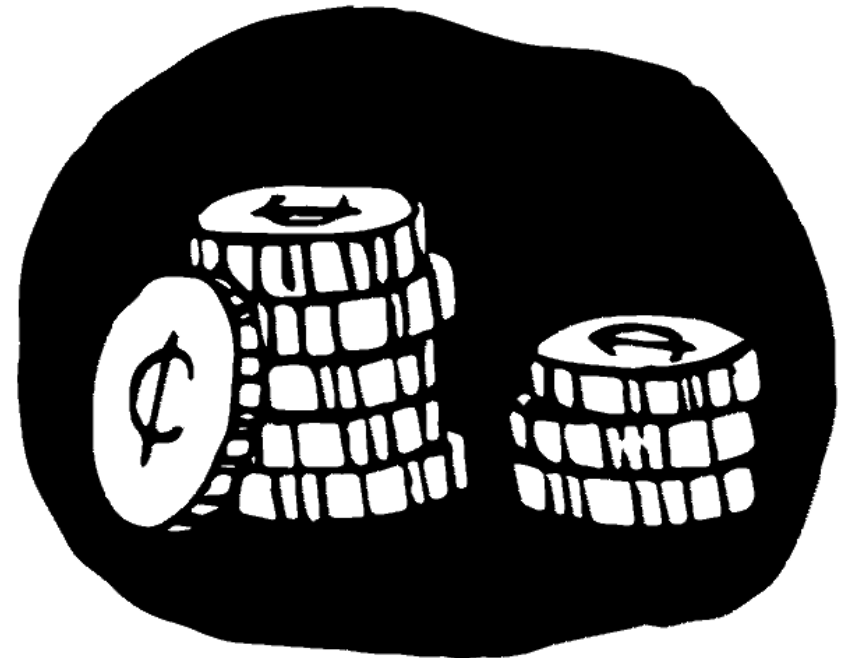
**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS** Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son...An aspect of our preparing for Jesus to come into our lives is to reduce the hindrances that clutter our lives and compete for our attention time and resources. How might the Spirit lead you to simplify and refocus your celebration of Christmas?

**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 2024. **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.

**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.

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>SUNDAY, Dec. 8</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday Church School</b>
<b>Advent 2</b>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum - library</b>
	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>
	<b>3:00p</b>	<b>Senior Dinner</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:00p	Friendship Circle Christmas
<b>TUESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	1:00p	Rainbow Cookie Exchange
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:00a	Quilting Day
	1:00p	Mobile Food Distribution
	6:30p	Harmony Circle Christmas
	6:30p	Bd. Buildings & Grounds
<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>SATURDAY</b>	10:00a	Christmas Food Basket Distribution
	7:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
<b>SUNDAY, Dec. 15</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday Church School</b>
<b>Advent 3</b>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum - library</b>
	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>
	<b>3:30p</b>	<b>Christmas Caroling</b>



**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**

**SPEND LESS**

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>