



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



Worship Service – 10:00
February 16, 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 St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cheboygan, Michigan, Rev. Daivd Hueter.

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

God of love, hear my prayer. As I prepare for worship this day, help me to remember that I am your child and that I will always belong to you. May your Word reach my heart. May the gifts of your grace make me strong in faith and ready to serve you. Help me to sort through the confusion of choices that confront me everyday and help me to see what you would have me do. 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.

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 – Laury Wyble
- ASSISTING MINISTER – Bob Meeker
- CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith
- GREETERS – Don & Linda Telles
- USHERS – Ralph Sergent, David Westover
- ACOLYTE – Adreanna Fernandez
- COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Christina Raia, Sherry Bass-Pohl
- LAY READER – Mel White
- ALTAR GUILD – Donna TenHave, Cheryl Thompson
- A/V PRODUCTION – David Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Meeker, Kevin Peckham, David Westover

Our Thoughts &
Prayers
are with...



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.

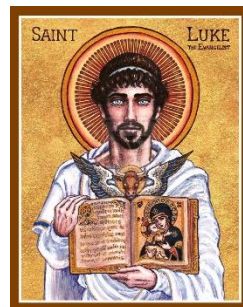
THOSE WHO SERVE Please pray for those who are on active duty in the United States Military Services:

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.

PARISH NOTES

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.

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!

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS If you haven't received your giving statement for 2024, or if you have a question, please contact the church office. Thank you.

ASH WEDNESDAY On Wednesday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. we will have our Ash Wednesday service.

LENTEN POTLUCK A Lenten Potluck Supper precedes the Holy Lenten Services each **Tuesday**, March 11 through Tuesday, April 8. The potluck meal begins at 6:00 p.m. 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.

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.

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.

Thought for the Week

THE LIFE OF FAITH:

In the waters of Holy Baptism, each of us has been claimed and renamed as a child of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and marked with the Cross of Jesus Christ forever. In baptism God has given us an identity and transformed who we are, to be God's hands and feet in EVERYTHING that we do in our lives.

ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance 2/9/25: 70 in-person for our Worship and 21 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 45:19 and 15 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS In today's Gospel reading, Jesus teaches the gathered people about the shape and nature of discipleship. May God grant us the will to understand and trust what makes for a blessed life under God's reign.

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 WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Bob & Connie Meeker

USHERS – Joe Shreffler, Bob Christiansen, David Snider

ACOLYTES – Zella Brisbo, Alicia Fernandez

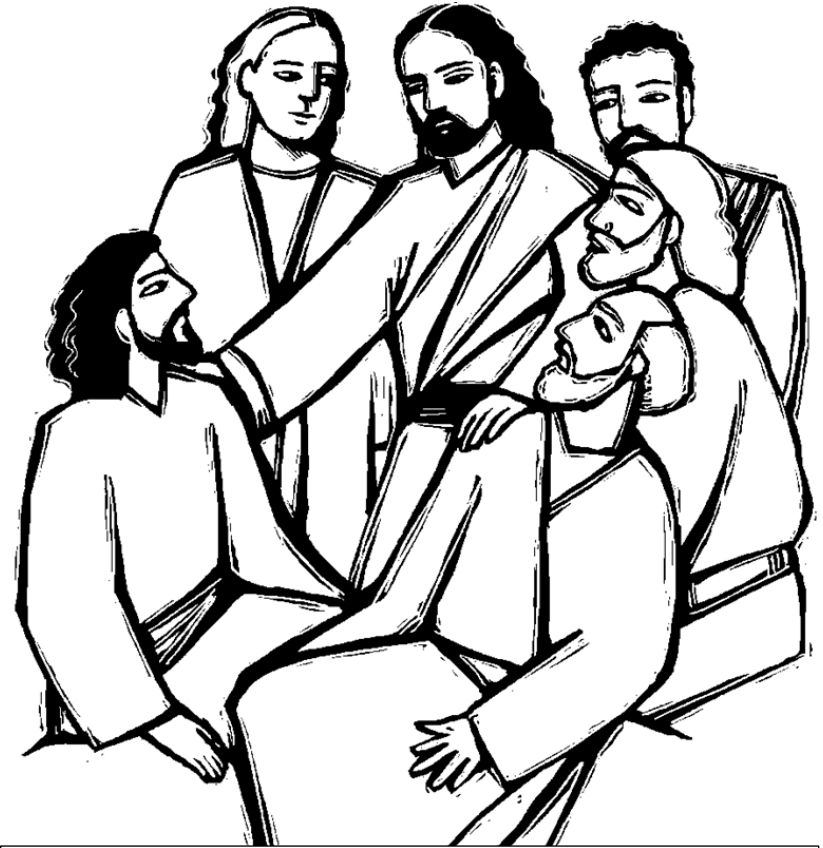
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Bob Meeker, Kris Burow

LAY READER – Joe Shreffler

ALTAR GUILD – Michelle Smith, Cindy Marsh

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| SUNDAY, Feb. 16 | 8:45a | Sunday School |
| | 9:00a | Adult Forum |
| | 10:00a | Worship – Holy Communion |
| MONDAY | 8:00a | Family Growth Center |
| | 6:30p | Friendship Circle |
| TUESDAY | 8:00a | Family Growth Center |
| | 9:30a | Staff Meeting |
| | 1:00p | Rainbow Circle |
| | 6:30p | Handbell Choir |
| | 7:30p | Senior Choir |
| WEDNESDAY | 8:00a | Family Growth Center |
| | 1:00p | Men’s Luncheon |
| THURSDAY | 8:00a | Family Growth Center |
| | 6:15p | T.N.T. |
| | 6:30p | Capital City Quilters |
| | 6:30p | Congregation Council mtg. |
| FRIDAY | 8:00a | Family Growth Center |
| | 7:00p | N.A. meets |
| SUNDAY, Feb. 23 | 8:45a | Sunday School |
| | 9:00a | Adult Forum |
| | 10:00a | Worship – Holy Communion |



Jesus raised his eyes to his disciples and said:

*“Happy are you who are poor,
because God’s kingdom is yours.
Happy are you who hunger now,
because you will be satisfied.
Happy are you who weep now,
because you will laugh”.*

Luke 6:20-21 (CEB)

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.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Affirmation of Baptism, Page 237.