



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



Worship Service – 10:00  
January 12, 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 Messiah Lutheran Church in Bay City Michigan, Rev. Timothy Jahn.

**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

*Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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](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 – Nancy Holderread  
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor John Burow  
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  
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, Jeff Kosloski, 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

**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.

**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.

**EPIPHANY STAR WORDS** “Your Light Has Come!” The Magi were



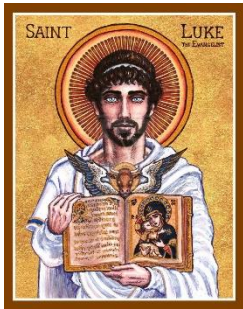
guided by a star at its rising to come and worship the newborn king. Epiphany Words are available on a table in the back of the church printed on our Bethlehem Star. After you have prayed, guided by the Holy Spirit, select a star at ‘random’. Keep the star someplace special, somewhere you will see it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

**AN ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE** In observation of the week of prayer for Christian Unity, at University United Methodist Church (1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing) on Friday, January 17, at 6:30 pm. This observation of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be co-officiated by Bishop David Bard of the United Methodist Church of Michigan, Bishop Earl Boyea of the Catholic Diocese of Lansing, and Bishop Craig Satterlee of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Fellowship and refreshments will follow!

**JANUARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** We will meet on 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.

## 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.



**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.

**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.



## Thoughts for the Week

*We pray, O Precious God, that others will see your love in our lives and actions. We also pray to keep our eyes, ears, and hearts open to the tasks you need us to do and the paths to take. In Jesus' name. Amen. - Moravian Daily Texts*

*Kindle in us love's compassion so that everyone may see in our faith and hope the promise of a new humanity. Amen*

**ATTENDANCE** Worship Attendance 1/5/25: 66 in-person for our Worship and 29 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 49:04 and 22 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS** In accepting baptism Jesus threw in his lot with sinful humanity, becoming one with us in our brokenness, so that we might be one with Jesus in his life with God. This means that we are also deeply connected with God's intent for people and for all creation.

**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 – Mary Bartel, Mary Jakubiak  
USHERS – David Westover, Ralph Sergent  
ACOLYTE – Alicia Fernandez  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Nancy Holderread, Mary Jakubiak  
LAY READER – Candy Barnes  
ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>SUNDAY, Jan. 12</b>	<b>8:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
<i>Baptism of our Lord</i>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Adult Forum</b>
	<b>10:00a</b>	<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b>
		<b>Installation of BELCW Officers</b>
	<b>11:30a</b>	<b>Annual meeting of the Congregation</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
<b>TUESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	5:30p	Board of Worship Life
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
<i>Newsletter deadline</i>	1:00p	Men's Luncheon – Leroy's
	6:30p	Bd. Stewardship & Finance
<b>THURSDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:30p	Congregation Council meets
	6:30p	Capital City Quilters Guild
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	N.A. meets
<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>

**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**

