



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



Worship Service – 10:00
December 1, 2024

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in celebration of Bethlehem's October, November, and December birthdays.

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 Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Alpena, Michigan, Rev. Tom Orth, UCC

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 TO WORSHIP FULLY

O Coming One, in a season filled with distractions of many kinds, may we be different this year. We come before you in awe and adoration, gracious God: in awe of the gift of your Son; in awe of the presence of your Spirit among us. As we seek to worship fully in this new church year, help us to watch and wait with courage and patience for the coming of your new age, made real for us in Bethlehem's child. In Jesus' name we 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 – Laurey Wyble
ASSISTING MINISTER – Don Telles
CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith
ACOLYTE – Sabrina Prowdley
LAY READER – David Ware
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Keitha Snider, Nancy Holderread
GREETERS – David & Keitha Snider
USHERS – Don Cairns, Cloyd Barnes
ALTAR GUILD – Susan Mahoney, Linda Telles
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-Huysen 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*

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 FOOD BANK SUNDAY Canned goods and other non-perishable items and gifts of money can be brought up to the altar during the "Offering of Gifts". You may bring your gifts to the altar after the passing of the offering plate. This special offering will be used to feed hungry people in our community through the FGC Resource Center, using our food pantry space. Monetary gifts will support the Greater Lansing Food Bank and our Mobile Food Distribution. If you are worshipping with us electronically, click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

"DECK THE HALLS!" Join us on **Friday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m.** To decorate the church for Christmas! We will meet in the sanctuary for prayer and singing before we get started. Then we will proceed to **"Deck the Halls"**! Bring some cookies or treats to share when we are finished decorating. Punch and coffee will be provided by The Board of Worship Life. **Hope to see you!!!!**

THE ANNUAL SENIOR DINNER On **December 8th** we will have our senior dinner hosted by our Luther League. Please RSVP to the office at (517) 482-3225, by December 4th. Appetizers will be served at 3 p.m. and dinner at 3:30 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY 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.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS Sign-up sheets are on the table in the gym to order Christmas "Red" Poinsettias in 6.5" pots. The price is \$11 and the last day to sign-up is Sunday, December 1st. Payment envelopes are available and must be received by December 8th. 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-in's are so appreciative of our visits and songs! **Hope to see you there!!!**

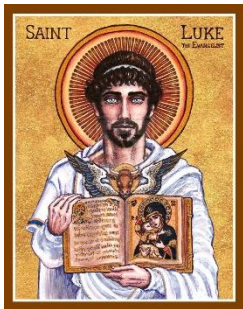
BETHLEHEM SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS

MUSICAL On December 22, during our worship service, the Sunday School children will “**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 will be **Sunday, December 10** and distribution will be **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.

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.

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.



Thought for the Week

“The Advent season is our chance to celebrate the wondrous moment when God entered our world to make things right. It is a season of worship.”
- Advent Conspiracy

ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance 11/17/24: 77 in-person for our Worship and 30 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 39:00 and 19 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS In this Advent Season of waiting, preparation and hope may our hearts be stirred to worship fully and to act with kindness compassion and generosity in anticipation of Jesus coming again to restore humanity and 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 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

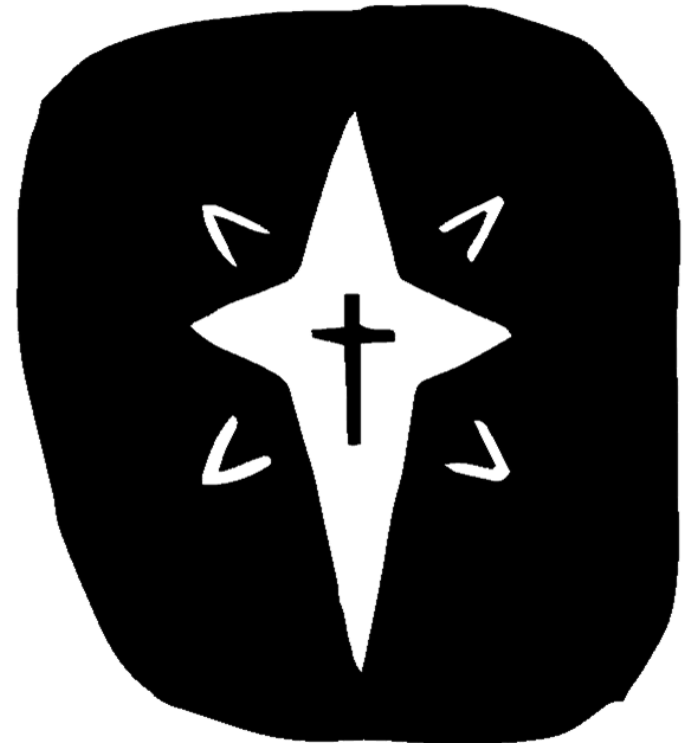
SUNDAY, Dec. 1	8:45a	Sunday Church School
Advent 1	9:00a	Adult Forum - library
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
MONDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:30p	BELCW General Meeting and Christmas Program
TUESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	4:00p	FGC Supervised Family visits
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	4:00p	Board of Outreach Meets
THURSDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:15p	T.N.T. meets
FRIDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
SATURDAY	9:30a	F.A.B. meets
	7:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
SUNDAY, Dec. 8	8:45a	Sunday Church School
Advent 2	9:00a	Adult Forum - library
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
	3:00p	Senior Dinner

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Christina Raia and family
USHERS – Phil Hassler, Jim Koessel, Ralph Sergent
ACOLYTES – Alicia Fernandez, Kylee Nelson, Mila Thompson
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Don Telles, Laurey Wyble
LAY READER – Susan Mahoney
ALTAR GUILD – Donna TenHave, Cheryl Thompson

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



WORSHIP FULLY

Sunday, December 1st