



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



Worship Service – 10:00
December 15, 2024

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Marv & Laura Halbakken in celebration of their 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 Au Gres Michigan, Rev. Max Miller.

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 – GIVE MORE

O Lord God, you are the creator of all relationships. You long for us to be in healthy, vibrant, safe, loving, trusting, honest, God-honoring relationships. As I continue to move through the Advent season, help me focus on giving more of myself to those I love instead of just mindlessly buying gifts at the store or online. Help me this year to carve time out each day to prayerfully discern how I can invest creatively in relationships this season. 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 – Bob Meeker
- CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith
- ACOLYTE – Kylee Nelson
- LAY READER – Kylee Nelson
- COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Kris Burow, Michelle Smith
- GREETERS – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler
- USHERS – Ron Miller, David Westover
- ALTAR GUILD – Carrie Rice, Eliot Nutt
- 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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING Join us this afternoon for Christmas caroling to BELC's shut ins. **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.

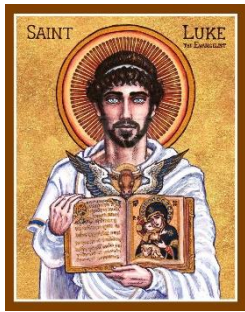
**Join us on Tuesday, December 24, for
our 100th Anniversary Christmas Eve
Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary**



Lansing SAVE Sunday December 29, is our fifth Sunday offering for LansingSAVE. There are now 192 children in our group of students from BELC and the Baker Neighborhood. To give electronically click on the "Online Giving" link on our website.

LYONS CLOTHING COLLECTION ENDS DECEMBER 22
December 22 is the last day to turn in winter clothing for Lyons Elementary. The items donated so far have been removed from the tubs. If you still have something to drop off, look for one tub on the pew in the fellowship hall that is labeled for Lyons; that will be the only tub out until the 22nd. The gear will be delivered to the school in early January and there will be an update article in the February Bethlehem Star. Thank you to all who contributed to this community outreach project!

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.



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.**

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.

Thought for the Week

"Many of us struggle to find the connection between our Christmas wish list and the story of Jesus' birth."

- Advent Conspiracy

ATTENDANCE Worship Attendance 12/8/24: 80 in-person for our Worship and 17 views on YouTube with an average viewing duration of 34:32 and 12 peak concurrent viewers for the live worship and the recorded service.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS *Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God...* Essential to faithful stewardship is being open to the stirring of God in our lives. As Paul writes in Philippians 2:13, *God is the one who enables you both to want and to actually live out his good purpose.* What are the signs of God prompting us to give more of ourselves during Advent?

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.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

GREETERS – Dave & Nancy Holderread

USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider

ACOLYTES – Annabel Halbakken, Abigail Brisbo

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Dorothy Martin, Keitha Snider

LAY READER – Ron Miller

ALTAR GUILD – Cindy Marsh, Michelle Smith

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Dec. 15	8:45a	Sunday Church School
Advent 3	9:00a	Adult Forum - library
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
	3:30p	Christmas Caroling
MONDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	6:30p	Bd. of Stewardship & Finance
TUESDAY	8:00a	FGC Christmas shop in gym
	9:30a	Staff Meeting
	1:00p	Rainbow Cookie Exchange
	5:00p	Bd. of Worship Life
	6:30p	Handbell Choir
	7:30p	Senior Choir
WEDNESDAY	8:00a	FGC Christmas shop in gym
	1:00p	Men’s Luncheon
THURSDAY	8:00a	FGC Christmas shop in gym
	6:30p	Congregation Council meets
	6:30p	Capital City Quilters Guild
FRIDAY	8:00a	Family Growth Center
	7:00p	N.A. meets
SUNDAY, Dec. 22	8:45a	Sunday Church School
Advent 4	9:00a	Adult Forum - library
	10:00a	Worship – Holy Communion
		Children’s Christmas Musical



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

Give More

Sunday, December 15th