



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



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Worship Services – 8:15 & 10:30
March 8, 2020

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

During Lent, Lord, we examine our lives in the light of your love revealed to us in Jesus Christ. For our sake he became poor and like us in every respect. Yet, he was without sin. As we ponder his life and ask what it means for us to be disciples, may we sit at his feet and become learners, O God. Help his message of love and peace penetrate our daily lives and become so ingrained in our perspective that we, too, become kingdom people. Make us disciples with a passion for the gospel. 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 that you sense that Jesus is at the heart of all we do.

If you are a guest, you are encouraged to use a "WELCOME" card in the pew rack and hand it to the pastor as you leave. You are also invited to sign the Guest Book in the main lobby. If you would like more information about our ministries, please talk to Pastor Matt or Pastor John or call the church office at 482-3225.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Bethlehem Lutheran is a praying church; this is one of our Marks of Discipleship. There are two opportunities for your petitions to be shared with our prayerful community. Prayer cards are in the pew rack and are color coded.

- **The White Card:** provided for petitions of concern or thanksgiving to be included in the prayers during the worship service. Include an address if you'd like the person, named on the card, notified of the prayer offered on their behalf. Hand the card to an usher during the Hymn of the Day. **If you attend the 8:15 service, please indicate if you would like the prayer repeated at both services.**
- **The Blue Card:** provided if you would like your concern prayed for every day this week. Please fill out this card and place it in the basket in our prayer corner, located in the back of the church.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

ALTAR FLOWERS The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Vicki Leighton in thankfulness for Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES Available for those who have difficulty hearing; these are wireless receivers with a small earphone. Contact one of the people at the sound system area if you are interested.

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN Activity bags, filled with coloring/activity books, crayons and sewing cards can be found at the back of the worship center. The unstaffed nursery, located at the northeast corner of the lower level, is available as a crying room. Diaper changing stations are located in each of the main level restrooms and in the nursery.

TAKING FAITH HOME After worship, pick up a copy of this week's Bible readings from the ushers or the usher table in the social hall.

PORTALS OF PRAYER January - March booklets are available on the Welcome Table in the lobby.

THOSE WHO SERVE IN OUR WORSHIP

PASTORS – Rev. Matthew Smith, Rev. John Burow

ORGANIST & HANDBELL DIRECTOR – James Schippers

CHOIR DIRECTOR – Sue Nelson

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP DIRECTOR – Laurey Wyble

ALTAR GUILD – Kris Burow, Barb Raia

ASSISTING MINISTER – Bob Meeker

CHILDREN'S SERMON – Liisa Whitman

ACOLYTE – 8:15 Megan Jones, 10:30 Kyra Pohl

LAY READER – Ron Miller, Judy Pardee

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Jim Whitman, Hunter Whitman

Kelly Carpenter

GREETERS – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler/ Ben Darling, Dave Holderread

USHERS – Ron Miller, Kurt Kollmeyer

Otto Kern, Joe Skidmore, Phil Hassler, Michael Kern

SOUND SYSTEM – Dave Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Peckham

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP March 11, Lenten Service
7:30 Ushers – 2 needed (also to light candles)



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS and with your cards and visits:

Janenne Grinnell in Ingham Co. Medical Care Facility

Shelby Waters in The Willows at Okemos

Rhoda Hunter in Holt Senior Care on Willoughby in Holt

Those at home: *Mary Ann Allen, Virginia Bauman, Mary Brenke, Crystal Collins, Ernie Hassell, Kurt Kollmeyer, Marilyn Kostrzewski, Susan Mahoney, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Nancy Miesner, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Chris Ransom, Bob Robbins, Carol Roush, Audrey Skidmore, Don Spencley, Ken Teter, Peggy Teter, Cheryl VanPatten, Ron Wescott*

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.

SEMINARY STUDENT Jason Mills, from BELC, is studying at Gettysburg Theological Seminary. Please keep him in your prayers.

MISSION PARTNERS Pray for the people and ministry at Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and the Baker Neighborhood Partners.

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)

Darian Doan – U.S. Army (Marv & Laura Halbakken'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)

Jake Sonnenberg – U.S. Army (Ed & Ellie Sonnenberg's grandson)

Eric Wheeler – U.S. Army (Laurey Wyble's cousin)

If you know of others in the service that you would like to have put on our prayer list, please call the church office.

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 Trinity Lutheran Church, Midland, Michigan.

PARISH NOTES

WORSHIP SURVEY FORUM Please stay and join us in the sanctuary, after the 8:15 service of worship, for a discussion about the worship survey. There will be another opportunity to be a part of the discussion on March 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Lansing SAVE Our next 5th Sunday offering is March 29th. There are now 156 students in our group of students from BELC and the Baker Neighborhood. To give electronically – click on the “Online Giving” link on our website.

LENTEN POTLUCK SUPPERS A potluck precedes the Lenten Services each Wednesday, beginning on Wednesday, March 4. The **potluck meal begins at 6:30 p.m.** in the social hall. Bring your evening meal (a dish or two to pass - enough food for your family) and share it with the rest of the church family. Beverages will be provided. Please bring your own table service. **Lenten services begin at 7:30 p.m.**

ADULT FORUM We will be discussing four readings from John's gospel. St. John's story of Jesus will tell us of four remarkable encounters:

- A nervous and confused religious leader;
- A foreign woman with a broken past;
- A man, blind from birth,
- Two grieving sisters

Today the Adult Forum will look ahead to next Sunday's Gospel story. Please join us in the library today to explore the words of Jesus to these and other folks and to ponder what Jesus may be sharing with us.

SPECIAL LENTEN OFFERING ENVELOPE Our Lenten Offering (My Lenten Gift) will go to support the ministry of “**The House of Promise**”, a 501c3 nonprofit organization that provides survivors of sex abuse and sex trafficking unconditional love, acceptance, and a place to heal. Please write **My Lenten Gift/House of Promise on your envelope**. You may place your envelope in the offering plate on a Sunday morning or mail it to the church office. You may also use a pew envelope and designate your gift for “House of Promise”.

EASTER PLANTS Next Sunday and March 22 after both services, Altar Guild will be taking orders for plants to adorn the Altar on Easter; daffodils, lilies and tulips. The price for plants is \$8 and payment must accompany your order. Checks should be made payable to Kris Burow.

EASTER FOOD BASKETS Sign-up sheets are in the social hall. Food donations are due back on Sunday, March 29. Non-perishable items will be packed on Friday, April 3; volunteers are needed from 1-2P. We also need someone to make reminder calls. Baskets will be distributed on Saturday, April 4, from 9A-2P. Come help for an hour or two. More volunteers are needed during the busiest times from 11A -1P.

RUMMAGE SALE Due to our battle against church mice, the Board of Building and Grounds is requiring that no more early donations be stored on the stage or any other spot within the church building. The BELCW would very much appreciate it if you bring your rummage to the church starting **Sunday, April 12th**. Thank you!

THE 28TH BELCW RETREAT!! Our retreat this year will be held at Beechpoint Christian Camp in Allegan, Michigan. The dates are **April 17th, 18th and 19th**. **ALL** women of Bethlehem, their family and friends (females 18 and older) are invited to join us. The cost of the weekend includes lodging, food, activities and programming. We were able to keep the price at \$98.00 per person with a \$30 deposit to hold your spot. If you have any questions please contact Laura Halbakken at 517-281-3133 or Joanna Alvera at 517-388-1263.

IN THE MARCH LIVING LUTHERAN “In Scripture, blessings can be inconvenient, risky and wild moments that reveal another way to be.” This startling truth is explored on page 36. There are two articles on the 50th Anniversary of women’s ordination in the ELCA. Aligned with our Lenten focus on Lent, “Prayers Rise Like Incense” (p. 11) helps us see how even our most personal prayers rise together to the heart of God. Do not miss these and the other treasures in the Living Lutheran. There are copies on the Welcome Center.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP March 15, 2020

Assisting Minister – Nancy Holderread

Children’s Sermon – Dave Holderread

8:15:

Acolyte – Megan Jones

Lay Reader – Mary Jakubiak

Greeters – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler

Ushers – Ron Miller, Kurt Kollmeyer

10:30:

Acolyte – Kyra Pohl

Lay Reader – Judy Pardee

Communion Assistants – Jim Whitman, Hunter Whitman, Ken Teter

Greeters – Ben Darling, Dave Holderread

Ushers – Otto Kern, Phil Hassler, Joe Skidmore, Michael Kern

Thought for the Week

Exult with joy in Christ. For now the saving warmth of the eternal font invites you. Now your mother adopts you to make you her child. Thanks to your faith, the wave of rebirth has already begotten you. Run, then, forward to the mother who experiences no pains of labor, although she cannot count the number of those to whom she gives birth. Happily you are going to drink the new milk together. Fly to the fountain, to the sweet womb of your mother.

—Zeno of Verona, 4th Century Bishop and Theologian

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Worship Attendance: 8:15: 38, 10:30: 83, total: 121

Church School Attendance: 38; adults 20, children 18

Church School Offerings: \$4.00

Needed through Feb. 23 to meet 2020 Budget: \$60,309.52

Received through Feb. 23 to meet 2020 Budget: \$47,406.27

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP Although Nicodemus sees the presence of God in Jesus’ works (John 3:2), he is unable to get past his own limited views of God’s work. May our vision and passion for God’s work be born of the Spirit and not limited by flesh and blood. Thank you for giving and serving.

2020 FLOWER CHART Thank you, to everyone who sponsors the flowers for Bethlehem’s Worship on Sunday Mornings. If you want to sponsor flowers for a specific Sunday, please sign up on the Flower Chart posted in the lobby. The cost for flowers is \$35. If there is not a sponsor for a given Sunday, an alternative to fresh flowers may be used. The flower order is sent to the florist the last few days of the month. Please sign up by the 15th for flowers to be ordered for the next month. Payment may be made in advance or on the Sunday for which the flowers are ordered. Please make checks payable to Kris Burow.

STONY LAKE REGISTRATION Elementary, Confirmation and Senior High Camp is the week of July 12–17. Camp registration began on **January 15, 2020**. Log on to <http://www.elcalivingwater.com/> and complete your camp application. **No deposit is required.** If you need any financial assistance, speak with Pastor Matt as soon as possible, so that your deposit can be mailed after you complete the online app.

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, March 8	8:15	Worship – Holy Communion
<i>Mission Sunday</i>	9:15	Worship Survey Forum
<i>Daylight Savings</i>	8:30	Junior Choir
<i>Time Begins</i>	9:15	Sunday School
	9:30	Adult Forum
	10:30	Worship – Holy Communion
	11:45	Sound System Training
MONDAY	6:30	Harmony Circle
	6:30	Board of Stewardship & Finance
TUESDAY	8:00	Family Growth Center
	9:30	Staff Meeting
	6:15	T.N.T.
	6:30	Board of Outreach
	6:30	Board of Buildings & Grounds
WEDNESDAY	8:00	Family Growth Center
	9:00	Quilting Day
	5:30	Handbell Choir
	6:30	Potluck dinner
	7:30	Lenten Service
	8:30	Senior Choir
THURSDAY	8:00	Family Growth Center
	1:00	Community Partners Meeting
	7:00	Worship Survey Forum
FRIDAY	7:00	N.A. Meeting
SUNDAY, March 15	8:15	Worship – Holy Communion
<i>Commissioning of</i>	8:30	Junior Choir
<i>Jason Mills</i>	9:15	Sunday School
	9:30	Adult Forum
	10:30	Worship – Holy Communion

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 Him

SERVE all people

*...and where I fall short of his expectations,
Jesus always offers me his love and forgiveness!*

POWER GIFTS

So ^{must} the
Son of Man
b e l i f t e d u p , t h a t
whoever believes
i n h i m m a y h a v e
eternal
life.

John 3:14-15, NRSV

LIVING GOD'S MISSION



Our theme for the 2020 program year is "Living God's Mission." We will be exploring each of the five areas in our Mission Plan; focusing on the stated objectives in each area. We will also emphasize how our Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles tie in, as well as the faith practices that are our Marks of Discipleship.

And we will even fit in some of the Building Blocks for A Lifetime of Stewardship along the way! This week our area of emphasis in our Mission Plan is:

Being Christ-Centered

Goal: Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church will be a Christ-centered, joyful community of believers who embrace the seven Marks of Discipleship. We will do this by:

- Following biblical teachings
- Connecting Christ's story to our stories
- Continued learning and growth of spiritual life
- Striving to live as God would have us live
- Giving life to the Marks of Discipleship
- Serving selflessly, with humility and gratitude

We Bow Our Hearts to You *Prayer in All Its Wondrous Variety and Blessing*

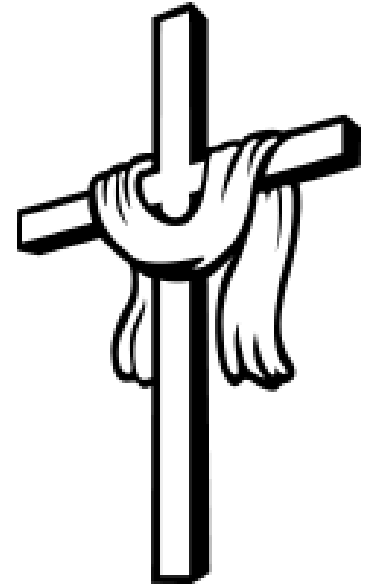
Wednesday, March 11
**Praise & Adoration and
Thanksgiving**

Wednesday, March 18
Contemplation

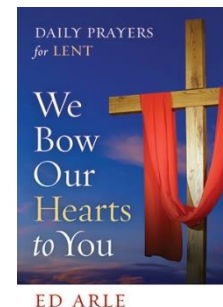
Wednesday, March 25
Listening to God

Wednesday, April 1
**Prayer in All Its Wondrous
Variety and Blessing**

*"Come and be present to our
gracious God who is already
present in us."*



All Lenten services begin at 7:30 with a potluck at 6:30.



DEVOTIONAL "We Bow Our Hearts to You"
St. Paul has said, "At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth, and under the earth" (Philippians 2:10). During this season of Lent, join Ed Arle in these Scripture lessons and prayers. As we bow our hearts together, may every word become a blessing as we draw near to the cross and the glory of Jesus on Easter morning. Booklets are available on the Welcome Table in the lobby and in the social hall.