



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 Service – 9:30
April 25, 2021

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

O Lord, our Creator, Savior and Shepherd, our prayers this Earth Day mingle joyful gratitude for the goodness, abundance, and beauty of our Earth Home with regret for the wounds inflicted on creation through our ignorance, greed and wanton abuse. We seek wisdom, compassion, courage and hope as we strive to become faithful stewards in caring for creation. 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 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 Marks of Discipleship. For prayers that you would like included in Sunday worship, please visit www.bethlutheran.org or click [HERE](#) for a direct link to send a prayer request to Pastor Matt.

Include an address if you'd like the person named in your request notified of the prayer offered on their behalf.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Carole Kienke in memory of Ronald Kienke.

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN Our Children's Worship Bulletin is available for Download on the BELC Worship Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/belcworship/>).

TAKING FAITH HOME Find a copy on Facebook in the BELC Worship Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/belcworship/>).

PORTALS OF PRAYER April - June booklets are available on the Welcome Table in the lobby. If you would like a copy, call the church office at 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 Zion Lutheran Church in Comstock Park Michigan, Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas.

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 make an online contribution. If you would like to create an account, go to the 'Printables' page on the BELC website for instructions.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON – Pastor John Burow

ASSISTING MINISTER – Bob Meeker

ALTAR GUILD – Kris Burow

SOUND SYSTEM – Dave Holderread, Kevin Peckham

Jon Holderread

Our Thoughts & Prayers are with...



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS and with your cards and visits:

Shelby Waters in The Willows at Okemos

John Nelson in Grandhaven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing

Those at home: *Mary Ann Allen, Virginia Bauman, Mary Brenke, Lois Cairns, Marv Cole, Crystal Collins, Ruth Ferguson, Doug Griffin, Jim Hicks, Rhoda Hunter, Nancy Jackson, Kurt Kollmeyer, Marilyn Kostrzewski, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, John Ransom, Bob Robbins, Sandy Rollis, Carol Roush, Audrey Skidmore, Don Spencley, Cheryl VanPatten, Dorothy Weber, Ron Wescott, Matthew White*

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. Pray for the Baker Neighborhood Partners and Officer Jake Kocan, LPD Community Police Officer and other first responders.

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)

Andrew Devine – U.S. Nat'l Guard (Margo Devine's nephew)

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.

PARISH NOTES

BY HOLY BAPTISM William Antonio Hammer will be made a child of God and heir to all His promises. William was born on October 26, 2020. His parents are Neal and Sandra Hammer, and his sponsors are Nick Hammer and Becca Kernes. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we welcome William as partners with us in the ministry we have as Christ's people.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Raymond Leonard, son of Barb Leonard, who died April 9, 2021. May God comfort those who mourn with the promise of eternal life for all those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.

EARTH DAY REFLECTIONS Both Bishops Eaton and Satterlee have wrote wonderful Earth Day reflections.

- Bishop Satterlee's is in the Bishop's Newsletter, April 21, "Climate Change, a Matter of Faith?"
<https://mittensynod.org/docs/BishopNewsletterApril21.pdf>
- Bishop Eaton's is in the SEMI Synod newsletter. You can find it at [Bishop Eaton's Earth Day message](#)

OUTDOOR WORSHIP We are working to take steps to get back to in-person worship. We will begin **OUTDOOR** worship in the parking lot on Sunday mornings, starting **May 2, at 10:30 AM (if it is not raining sideways)**. We will still have the entire service produced beforehand and available on Facebook and YouTube.

GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST Once again BELC will be ordering **Red** Geraniums for the Pentecost Worship Service on May 23rd. The Geraniums (10-inch pots) will be ordered from Christians Greenhouse and will be **\$15** each. Please email or text Kris Burow by May 15th if you would like to order geraniums (email: 2bakrisjohn@gmail.com). Payment may be taken to the church office or sent directly to Kris at: 13155 Starwood Lane, Dewitt, MI 48820. Checks should be made out to Kris Burow and payment will need to arrive by May 18th. Thank you to those who enjoy sponsoring flowers for the BELC Worship!

ONLINE WORSHIP For the sake of freeing up time and resources for God's ongoing mission and ministry through Bethlehem, we are making some changes to the worship experience we share on the third Sunday of the month. Starting January 17, the worship we share on Facebook and YouTube will be a spoken worship experience recorded by Pastor Burow, Bishop Satterlee, or one of his Assistants. It will still be uploaded and shared as usual, and there will be Parish Notes for the week. We pray that you will continue to feel the Spirit's presence in our worshipping.

NEXT SUNDAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY Feeding our community has never been more important as we live through the Covid-19 pandemic and the Governor's stay-at-home order. Although physical donations of canned goods and other non-perishable items are not possible at this time, we can contribute to the Food Pantry through the BELC website. Click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

RETURNING TO CHURCH Considering the recent acceleration of cases, following DHHS guidelines, Council will consider the possibility of small groups meeting when the test positivity rate drops below 5% for 14 consecutive days and the rate of transmission is below 1 for those same days in Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties. To follow these numbers, visit covidactnow.org/us/mi/.

Council is monitoring these numbers daily, and our pandemic response and Reopening Plan is revisited at every council meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Matt (881-9890), Council Chair, Susan Mahoney (944-1068) or Congregational President, Jim Whitman (927-0114).

BEING A PART OF WORSHIP If you would like to contribute to worship with a vocal solo or instrumental piece, please contact Sue Nelson at 517-896-3565.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

To live, we must daily break the body and shed the blood of Creation. When we do this knowingly, lovingly, skillfully, reverently, it is a sacrament. When we do it ignorantly, greedily, clumsily, destructively, it is a desecration. In such desecration we condemn ourselves to spiritual and moral loneliness, and other to want.

~ Wendell Berry in "The Gift of Good Land" 1979

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Worship Attendance: 182 people viewed the 4/18/21 worship service. 101 on FB and 81 on YouTube.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. ~ Psalm 24:1a

This Earth Day we do well to remember that humanity is called to relish and care for creation. May the Lord awaken us to the beauty and abundance of our earth home. May we be faithful stewards of God's good creation.

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, April 25	8:45a	Sunday School zoom
<i>Earth Day</i>	9:30a	Worship (Facebook & YouTube)
TUESDAY	9:30a	Staff Meeting zoom
	6:15p	T.N.T. zoom
SUNDAY, May 2	8:45a	Sunday School zoom
	9:30a	Worship (Facebook & YouTube)
	10:30a	Outdoor Worship (church parking lot)

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



The
LORD
is my shepherd,
I shall not want.

Psalm 23:1