



Worship Service – 9:30  
February 14, 2021

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



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

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** The altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

**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** January - March 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. St. John's Lutheran Church in Baroda Michigan, Rev. Jim Morgan and the families who have lost loved ones from the Corona Virus.

**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  
ALTAR GUILD – Kris Burow  
ASSISTING MINISTER – Nancy Holderread  
CHILDREN'S SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith  
SOUND SYSTEM – Dave Holderread, Kevin Peckham  
Jon Holderread

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*O Lord, you are the ruler of all creation, enthroned upon the praises of your people. You spoke to Israel through the blazing fire of Sinai, and you spoke to the disciples through the brightness of Jesus' face – the glory of heaven revealed to the eyes of earth. Shine the light of your holiness into every corner of our lives. Dispel the shadows of doubt from your church. Like a beacon of hope, draw the hearts of all people into your bright kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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](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 Marks of Discipleship. For prayers that you would like included in Sunday worship, please visit [www.bethlutheran.org](http://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.

# 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, Duane Everett, Ruth Ferguson, Doug Griffin, Jim Hicks, Rhoda Hunter, Kurt Kollmeyer, Marilyn Kostrzewski, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, John Ransom, Bob Robbins, Carol Roush, Jeanne Smith, 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

**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. Please give electronically by clicking on the "Online Giving" link on our website or mail your contribution to the church or by clicking here: ([www.tinyurl.com/BELCGiving](http://www.tinyurl.com/BELCGiving)).

**ASH WEDNESDAY** Lent is an important season of the Christian Church year that focuses our attention on the great outpouring of God's love in the suffering and death of Jesus. A service of worship, which includes the Imposition of Ashes. We encourage you to have burnt wooden matches that you can rub and make the sign of the cross on your forehead. Ash Wednesday Service is February 17 at 6:30 p.m. on Facebook and on YouTube.



**LENT** Our Theme will be 'Lutheran Heroes', using Lent as a time for us for 'hero' training. Midweek services will be Pastor Matt on video with prayer, scripture, a message, and a training practice. Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. on Facebook and available on YouTube.

**MARCH BETHLEHEM STAR NEWSLETTER** The deadline for putting articles in the March newsletter is Monday the 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact Tracy in the church office. Thank you.

**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.

**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES** Our new offering envelopes have been mailed out. If you have any questions, please call Tracy in the church office.

**GIVING STATEMENTS** The 2020 end of year giving statements have been mailed and emailed. If you have any questions, please call the church office or email the Financial Secretary, Laurey Wyble at, heavyjack1@protonmail.com.

**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/](https://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.

### **LENTEN SERIES**



2/17 – Ash Wednesday – Wisdom  
2/24 – Self-Mastery  
3/3 – Courage  
3/10 – Love  
3/17 – Gratitude  
3/24 – Curiosity  
3/28 – Palm Sunday – Humility  
4/1 – Maundy Thursday – Hero Training  
4/2 – Good Friday – Wisdom

Please join us on Facebook ([facebook.com/groups/belcworship](https://facebook.com/groups/belcworship)) or on YouTube.com (search Bethlehem Lansing) at 6:30 PM.

### **Thought for the Week**

A tree gives glory to God by being a tree. For in being what God means it to be it is obeying God's will. It "consents" so to speak, to God's creative love. It is expressing an idea which is in God and which is not distinct from the essence of God, and therefore a tree imitates God by being a tree.

The more a tree is like itself, the more it is like God. If it tried to be like something else which it was never intended to be, it would be less like God and therefore it would give God less glory.

### **ATTENDANCE AND GIVING**

Worship Attendance: 193 people viewed the 2/7/21 worship service, 147 on FB and 46 on YouTube.

*Operating expense through December 31, 2020* **\$324,838.34**  
*Operating income received through December 27, 2020* **\$293,508.12**  
**(\$31,330.72)**

*After \$38,700 in PPP funds received, net GAIN in 2020* **\$7,369.28**

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP**

*A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what it was made for.* When Jesus was revealed in glory at the Transfiguration, Peter thought to build three structures as a way of staying in the moment. Jesus, however, leads down the mountain to continue God's mission. May we find joy not so much in spiritual highs but in daily, humble, generous serving and giving.

**ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2021!** If you would like to sponsor flowers for 2021 please contact Tracy at the church office or Kris Burow ([2bakrisjohn@gmail.com](mailto:2bakrisjohn@gmail.com)). Please provide the date requested and information to include in the Sunday Bulletin announcement. Flowers are ordered the 20th of the month for the following month. The 2021 Flower Chart is posted in the hallway and you may also sign up on the chart. Thank you to all who sponsor the Altar Flowers for the Bethlehem Worship Services.

**THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>SUNDAY, Feb. 14</b>	<b>9:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School Zoom</b>
<i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>	<b>9:30a</b>	<b>Worship Facebook Live Stream</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>9:30a</b>	<b>Happy Valentine's Day</b>
		Staff Meeting Zoom
	<b>6:15p</b>	T.N.T. Confirmation Class Zoom
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>6:30p</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Service Zoom</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>6:30p</b>	Congregation Council Mtg. Zoom
<b>SUNDAY, Feb. 21</b>	<b>9:45a</b>	<b>Sunday School Zoom</b>
	<b>9:30a</b>	<b>Worship Facebook Live Stream</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 Him

**SERVE** all people

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

**PoWER GIfts**

*From the cloud came a*

*voice,*



*"This is my Son,  
the Beloved,  
listen to him!"*

*Mark 9:7*