



Worship Service – 9:30
March 7, 2021

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



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

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Your house, O God, is meant to be a house of prayer. May nothing we do here be inappropriate to that purpose but be supportive of your purposes in Jesus Christ. May your Word reach my heart. May the gifts of your grace make me strong in faith and ready to serve you. Help me to sort through the confusion of choices that confront me everyday, and help me to see what you would have me do. In Jesus' name I 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 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.

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 Trinity Lutheran Church in Battle Creek Michigan, Rev. Kjersten Sullivan and for the North/West Lower Michigan Synod staff and Bishop Craig Satterlee.

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 Matt Smith

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, 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, 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

THIRD SUNDAY IN
LENT

LENTEN SERIES Our theme is '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.



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) or on YouTube.com (search Bethlehem Lansing) at 6:30 PM.

TODAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY Feeding our community has never been more important as we live through the Covid-19 pandemic. 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.

ANTI-RACISM EVENT On Tuesday, March 23, at 7pm, the Lansing ELCA Churches (St. Stephen, Calvary, Redeemer, Grace, and Bethlehem) will be hosting an anti-racism event via Zoom. Pastor Ken Ponds will join us and give a presentation introducing us to key terms in doing anti-racism work. This presentation will be followed by a time of Q&A. Please follow the link below to register for the event. This event is free. Registration: <https://forms.gle/e34cX7yohFRgBUhA6>

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES If you are mailing in your offering using the new offering envelope, please put the churches zip code on the front, (48910). Thank you and sorry for any inconvenience.

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.

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).

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. Click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Worship Attendance: 203 people viewed the 2/28/21 worship service. 151 on FB and 52 on YouTube. 133 people viewed the Wednesday Lent Service, 121 on FB and 12 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

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus' devotion to and passion for God's dwelling leads to dramatic even violent action. May our Quiet, humble offerings and gentle kindnesses flow from the same loving passion to serve God.

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.

MARCH NEWSLETTER CORRECTION We will be setting our clocks ahead on March 14 for daylight savings time, not back. So, remember to "spring forward" an hour on March 14. Thank you!

EASTER FOOD BASKETS We are taking food basket donations! Please consider donating any amount between now and March 23rd. Thank you for your consideration. Make sure you mark your donations and checks for Easter Food Baskets. Distribution will be on Saturday, April 3. Thanks!

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, March 7	9:45a	Sunday School Zoom
	9:30a	Worship Facebook Live Stream
MONDAY	6:30P	Bd. of Stewardship & Finance zoom
TUESDAY	9:30a	Staff Meeting Zoom
	6:15p	T.N.T. Confirmation Class Zoom
WEDNESDAY	6:30p	Lent Service (love) Zoom
SUNDAY, March 14	9:45a	Sunday School Zoom
"spring forward"	9:30a	Worship Facebook Live Stream

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

God's
foolishness is
wiser *than*
human wisdom,
and **God's**
weakness is
stronger
than
human strength.

1 Corinthians 1:25