



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.

Worship Services – 8:15 & 10:30  
February 23, 2020

## 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 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 Amanda, Noah, Jacob, Jonah, Andrew, Keith, Rose & Bill, in honor of Ruth Ferguson's birthday.

**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** Small chairs and tables are located at the front of the church to keep little ones occupied (and present) during worship. Adult sized chairs are provided for parental supervision. Activity bags, filled with coloring/activity books, crayons and sewing cards can be found on the front pew and in the Narthex at the back of the church. If you need to leave with your child, please use the exit door to the left of the keyboard. 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 – James Schippers

CHOIR DIRECTOR – Sue Nelson

HANDBELL DIRECTOR – James Schippers

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP DIRECTOR – Laurey Wyble

DRUMS – Kim Walker

ALTAR GUILD – Cheryl & Joe Shreffler

Michelle Smith, Rebecca Jordan

ASSISTING MINISTER – Don Telles

ACOLYTE – 8:15 Allie Fernandez, 10:30 Thalia Centeno

LAY READER – Dorothy Martin, Dana Stevens

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Otto Kern Mel White, Tim Nelson

GREETERS – Dorothy Martin, Liisa & Jim Whitman

USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider

Pat North, Judy Pardee, Tom Armstrong

SOUND SYSTEM – Dave Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Peckham



**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, Kevin Meeker, Nancy Miesner, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Chris Ransom, Bob Robbins, Carol Roush, Audrey Skidmore, Ken 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 Christ Lutheran Church in Michigan Center, Michigan.

## PARISH NOTES

**SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE** Attention all Junior and Senior High Youth! Join us today from 4 to 8 p.m. for Sunday Night Live. This event will include youth from ALL of our Capital-Area ELCA churches! This will be the first in a series of on-going, joint youth activities. The schedule for tonight:

- Youth grades 6-8
  - 4:00 to 5:30 - games, activities & discussion
- Youth grades 6-12
  - 5:30 to 6:30 - music and dinner
- Youth grades 9-12
  - 6:30 to 8:00 - games, activities & discussion

**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 and Holy Communion, **begins at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26.**

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING FORMUM** Join us next Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. for a public community event that will feature a film titled "Break the Chain." This is a documentary produced and directed by Michigan filmmakers and is a multi-award-winning feature length documentary that addresses the "hidden in plain sight" issue of human trafficking within Michigan and the U.S. There will be a speaker from the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force of Osceola County and Lansing Police Chief Daryl Green will be in attendance. Due to the subject matter of this event and the film, **we must request that no children under the age of 14 be in attendance.** Contact Laura Halbakken for any questions at [lehalbakken@gmail.com](mailto:lehalbakken@gmail.com) or 517-281-3133. BELC is committed to this issue and will donate offerings from our annual Lenten envelope offerings to **The House of Promise.**

It is a Lansing faith-based non-profit organization that assists survivors of human trafficking in our community with unconditional love, acceptance, and a place to heal. **Mark your offering envelope The House of Promise.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CARNIVAL** Join us in the Lower Social Hall next **Sunday, March 1 between services from 9:15 to 10:15** for the children's Sunday School Carnival. A representative from Potter Park Zoo will be with us again this year. **We need cookies and cakes for the popular cake walk.** Enjoy games, prizes, and fun! Contact Sue Nelson, Jean Peckham or Keitha Snider for more information.

**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.

**NEXT SUNDAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY** Canned goods and other non-perishable items and gifts of money can be brought to the altar during the “Offering of Gifts.” This special offering will be used to feed hungry people in our community through the Food Pantry in our church. Items needed are jello, rice dinners, hamburger helper, egg noodles, cake mixes/frosting. Personal items such as bath soap, deodorant, toothpaste, hair shampoo, etc.

**RUMMAGE SALE** The BELCW Annual Rummage Sale is three months away. For the past few years, donations have been allowed to come in early and be stored on the stage. 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. One of the ways to eradicate varmints is to eliminate the environments in which they live. The BELCW would very much appreciate it if you would store the items that you plan on donating in your own home and bring to the church starting **Sunday, April 12th**. This is two weeks prior to set up and sorting for the rummage sale. If you have any questions, please call Laurey Wyble or Kelly Carpenter.

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP** March 1, 2020

**Assisting Minister** – Phil Frame

**Children’s Sermon** – need someone

**8:15:**

**Acolyte** – Nick Boyd

**Lay Reader** – Ron Miller

**Greeters** – Ralph & Margaret Sergent

**Ushers** – John Ransom, Brian Pickford, Susan Mahoney, Jeff Kosloski

**10:30:**

**Acolyte** – Ava Meeker

**Lay Reader** – Mel White

**Communion Assistants** – Mel White, Dick Rollis, Otto Kern

**Greeters** – Larry & Virginia Bauman, Pat Lebsack

**Ushers** – Don Cairns, Judy Pardee, Tom Armstrong

## Thought for the Week

God places us in the world as fellow workers – agents of transfiguration. We work with God so that injustice is transfigured into justice, so there will be more compassion and caring, that there will be more laughter and joy, that there will be more togetherness in God’s world.

~ Desmond Tutu

## **ATTENDANCE AND GIVING**

Worship Attendance: 8:15: 33, 10:30: 86, total: 119

Church School Attendance: 37; adults 18, children 19

Church School Offerings: \$7.00

***Needed through Feb. 9 to meet 2020 Budget: \$45,232.14***

***Received through Feb. 9 to meet 2020 Budget: \$33,134.52***

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP** On this Transfiguration Sunday, may we taste the awe and joy of being with Jesus in the glorious vision on the mountain. May the afterglow of this blessed encounter bring us to the valley with hearts made ready for caring and for giving.

**2020 FLOWER CHART** Thank you, to everyone who sponsor 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**NEWSLETTER TEAM** We will assemble the March newsletter on Wednesday, February 27. For any questions call the church office.

**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, Feb. 23	8:15	Worship – Holy Communion
<i>Transfiguration of our Lord</i>	8:30	Junior Choir
	9:15	Sunday School
	9:30	Adult Forum
	10:30	Worship – Holy Communion
	<b>4:00</b>	<b>Sunday Night Live</b>
MONDAY	5:30	Board of Congregation Care
TUESDAY	8:00	Family Growth Center
	9:30	Staff Meeting
	6:00	Book Club
	6:15	T.N.T.
WEDNESDAY	8:00	Family Growth Center
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	7:30	Ash Wednesday Service
	8:30	Senior Choir
THURSDAY	8:00	Family Growth Center
	9:30	Newsletter Team
FRIDAY	7:00	N.A. Meeting
SATURDAY	10:00	Carnival Set-up
	2:00	Human Trafficking Forum
SUNDAY, March 1	8:15	Worship – Holy Communion
<i>Foodbank Sunday</i>	8:30	Junior Choir
	9:15	Sunday School Carnival
	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**



## 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*

Ash Wednesday, February 26  
**Confession**

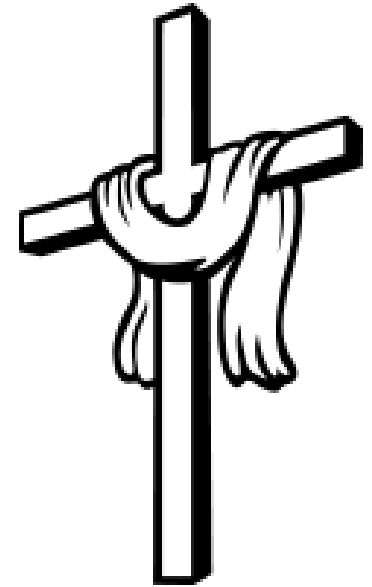
Wednesday, March 4  
**Intercession**

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

Wednesday, March 18  
**Contemplation**

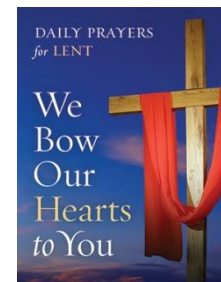
Wednesday, March 25  
**Listening to God**

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.***



ED ARLE

**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.