



Worship Service – 9:30
December 20, 2020

549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910
517-482-3225
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 by Dorothy Martin in memory of Don Martin.

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. This week we pray for Sudanese Christ Lutheran Church in Wyoming Michigan.

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 – Bob Meeker

CHILDRENS SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith

SOUND SYSTEM – Dave Holderread, Kevin Peckham
Jon Holderread

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Today I thank you for the beautiful gift of this Christmas season. Thank you for the children who are filled with eagerness. Thank you for your church, which helps me celebrate. Thank you for the loved ones and friends I cherish. As I participate in these days of joy and celebration, help me to remember the work of Christ in the world. Help me to see the face of Christ in the stranger, the unwelcomed, and the unloved. Help me remember that my calling is to share the good news with such as these. 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.

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 Marv Cole, Crystal Collins, Ruth Ferguson, Doug Griffin, Jim Hicks Rhoda Hunter, Ellie Ibarra, Kurt Kollmeyer, Marilyn Kostrzewski Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, John Nelson, Yvonne Nelson Tharin Palmer, John Ransom, Gloria Robbins, 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

**MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE AND HAVE A VERY SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU!!**

OFFERINGS FOR THE YEAR 2020 If you want your offering to be applied to 2020, all gifts must be into the church on Wednesday December 30. Thank you!

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES We will be mailing your envelopes to you for 2021 as soon as they are available.

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).

SUNDAY SCHOOL We have begun our Sunday School Classes via Zoom. Classes will begin each Sunday morning at 8:45 and go to approximately 9:15. Please contact the office if you would like to be included in the invitation.

JOIN US

**ON DECEMBER 24 AT 7:00 P.M.
FOR A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
WATCH PARTY!!**

AND

**ON DECEMBER 27 AT 9:30 A.M.
FOR A SYNOD WIDE SERVICE OF
BLESSINGS AND CAROLS**

ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

BLESSINGS TO ALL

Thought for the Week

“Please guide my words and actions so that they bring blessings to everyone involved,”

~ Doreen Virtue, The Miracles of Archangel Gabriel

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Worship Attendance: 190 people viewed the 12/13 worship service, 147 on Facebook Live and 43 on YouTube.

Operating income through November 30, 2020 \$266,752.06

Operating expense received through November 30, 2020 290,957.86

SHORTFALL \$24,205.80 (numbers will be updated monthly)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP

"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Luke 1:38

May our lives of worship, giving and serving follow Mary's example of willing participation in God's holy work of restoring creation and humanity.

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.

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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|------------------------|--------------|--|
| SUNDAY, Dec. 20 | 8:45a | Sunday School Zoom |
| | 9:30a | Worship Facebook Live Stream |
| TUESDAY | 9:30a | Staff Meeting Zoom |
| THURSDAY | 7:00p | Christmas Eve Service FB/YouTube |
| FRIDAY | | MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE! |
| SUNDAY, Dec. 27 | 9:30a | Synod wide Service of Blessings and Carols Facebook Live Stream & YouTube |

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

