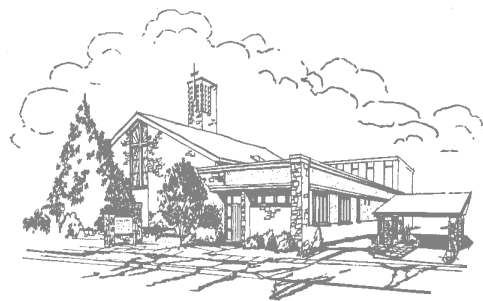


# Bethlehem Star

Lutheran Church Lansing



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lansing, Michigan

**Pastor Matt**

**March 2021**

*I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us  
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*  
~Romans 8:38-39

This was the verse I needed to hear this morning, as so often is the case with the Moravian Daily Texts. It is one of my favorite verses, and maybe my favorite piece of writing from the Apostle Paul. It is the ultimate reassurance; that nothing in this life that we are experiencing right now (nothing, not COVID-19, not a divided electorate, not systemic racism) will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Word of God. Word of life.*  
**Thanks be to God!**

## New Offering Envelopes

For 2021, as many of you know, we switched to new offering envelopes. They are a booklet. You simply detach the envelope you want to use, complete it, and put a stamp on it. It is designed to be mailed. It is very convenient to not have to use a second envelope to mail your offering envelope, but there is one BIG problem - **our Zip Code is missing!** If you are going to mail your envelope, please write Bethlehem's Zip Code, **48910**, on the address on the envelope where it should have been printed.

## Lutheran Heroes

Our Wednesday Lenten Reflections are based on the theme *Lutheran Heroes*. We are all heroes when we use our God-given gifts to live out our baptismal callings, our vocations. The heroic traits that we will focus on are Wisdom, Self-Mastery, Courage, Love, Hope, Gratitude, and Curiosity (with lots of Humility sprinkled in along the way). As the Psalmist says, we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). Focusing on our heroic virtues is our feeble way of trying to live up to how wonderfully God has created us as we prepare our hearts once more for the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ. Even if you missed one or two, you can tune in any time on Facebook in our BELC Worship group or on YouTube at **6:30 PM on Wednesdays**.



## The Davies Project

And what could be more heroic than volunteering your time to drive a family with a child with serious medical needs to their child's medical appointments? That is what The Davies Project does. They are always looking for volunteer drivers, and they need our support, which is why this year's 'My Lenten Gift' envelope included in this newsletter will go to The Davies Project. As a driver, you choose the trips you want to take. They are usually just to the hospitals in the Lansing area, but will occasionally have a child that needs to be transported to Ann Arbor or to one a hospital in Detroit. You can learn more about it at [thedaviesproject.org](http://thedaviesproject.org).

*Let us pray. "Divine Comforter, it has been a difficult year for your children around the world. Sometimes we are tempted to ask "Why us? Why me? Why would you let this happen, God?" Your greatest answer is to say to us, "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed." No matter what may come to us, may we remember to come to you. In your presence, we can find comfort, strength, courage, hope, and all that the hour may need. Amen."*



Pastor Matt

549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.  
Lansing, Michigan 48910  
Phone: (517) 482-3225  
FAX: (517) 482-2458

#### Ministers

*All of the members of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

Pastor Matthew A. Smith  
pastormattsmith@gmail.com  
(517) 881-9890

Pastoral Assistant  
Pastor John Burow  
pastorjburow@yahoo.com  
(517) 614-4559

Church Secretary / Star Editor  
Tracy Baker  
bethlehemplansing@gmail.com  
(517) 482-3225

Congregation President  
Jim Whitman

Organist & Bell Choir Director  
James Schippers

Choir Director  
Sue Nelson

Handbell Choir Director  
James Schippers

Contemporary Worship Director  
Laurey Wyble

Office Hours  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (M-F)

Visit our website at:  
[www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org)

#### Worship Schedule

9:30 - Live Streaming  
Worship Service  
On Facebook  
BELC Worship Group

## Worship in February

### Assisting Ministers

March 7 - Bob Meeker  
March 14 - Susan Mahoney  
March 28 - Nancy Holderread

### Children's Sermons

March 14 - Pastor Matt Smith  
March 21 - Pastor John Burow  
March 28 - Liisa Whitman

## Resources to Nurture Faith and Spirituality

In our June/July newsletter we included a short list of resources you can use to strengthen your faith and spirituality, to deepen your relationship with God, especially in this time of crisis.

- Lutheran Hour Ministries <https://www.lhm.org/covid-19/> Daily Devotions, Learning Resources, and even kid's activities.
- Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations <https://cac.org/category/daily-meditations/>.
- Centering Prayer App from <https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/> available on Google Play and the App Store.

As you explore these resources, or engage in your own time of pray, ask yourself, "What is God inviting me to do in this time? What is God inviting Bethlehem to do?" My deepest prayer for all of you is that you will continually find ways to abide in God's love (John 15:9).

### Virtual Worship

As a community we are continuing to worship at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/belcworship/>. The service is also uploaded to our YouTube channel each week.

### Our Website

There is a button on the Home page for prayer requests and there is so much other information on our website. It is a great resource to keep you connected to the community of faith. I also encourage you to text "belcprayer" to 81010 to join our Prayer Corner 2.0.

God's Peace and Love,



Pastor Matt

### Statement of Purpose and Guiding Principles for Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

God's purpose for our church, as disciples of Jesus Christ, is to share with all people God's word, love and saving grace.

*We will pursue this purpose by:*

1. Being a Christ-centered, joyful community of baptized believers who gather regularly for worship, the Lord's Supper, study and prayer.
2. Inviting, accepting, and supporting all people as we build attentive, respectful relationships.
3. Taking action and risks with bold faith, acknowledging our imperfection, while trusting in Christ.
4. Actively engaging in community outreach near and far.
5. Being faithful stewards of our time, talents, possessions and all of God's creation.

Adopted January 29, 2017

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## Prayer Corner

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*Please Note: Hospitals do not notify churches when a member has been hospitalized; even if you inform them at registration of your church membership. If you would like a visit from the pastor, please call the church office at 482-3225 or call Pastor Matt directly at 881-9890.*

**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.



**PRAY** for those who are on active duty in the United States Military Services:

**Chris Browne** – U.S. Air Force

**Darian Doan** – U.S. Army

**Andrew Devine** – U.S. Nat'l Guard

**Carson Kosloski** – U.S. Marines

**Joshua Kosloski** – U.S. Army

**Rusty Landry** – U.S. Air Nat'l Guard

**Christopher Morgan** – U.S. Marines

**Ben Painter** – U.S. Air Force

**Ryan Schiffner** – U.S. Air Force

**Jake Sonnenberg** – U.S. Army

**Eric Wheeler** – U.S. Army



## Holy Land Trip

A trip to the Holy Land is being planned by Pastor Jim Lichtenberger. This is the trip that was planned for January 2021 but, it had to be postponed due to the pandemic. We will travel in January 2022, departing on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> and returning on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup>. This is truly the trip of a lifetime for one's faith and spiritual growth. We will travel to sights such as Nazareth, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, Qumran, Masada, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem. There will be time each evening for devotions and planning for the next day.

The cost will be \$4,297.00, which includes air fare out of Detroit, hotel, tips (except for lunches), two meals a day, and present fuel costs. Recommended travel insurance is extra. If you are interested, please contact Jim at 765-476-1318. You can also talk to Laurey Wyble who is signed up to go. If you want to see a video about this trip, go to this link. <https://youtu.be/TQgvSMYNFnA>

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# Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Women

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**Women of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in America**

All women of Bethlehem Lutheran Church are members of the Women of the ELCA and are invited and encouraged to participate in all activities listed in the newsletters, bulletins, flyers or on the bulletin boards.

## Greetings from your BELCW Board

The Board met on February 1. There was no new business at this time. We are all anxiously waiting for the Covid numbers to go down (and it looks like they are) so we can meet together in church. As we wait for that time when we can be together in church we can pray for each other, read the Bible, reach out to our sisters who are alone or hurting and in general be kind. Please stay healthy and safe and we will continue to work together to serve our Lord.

The February Bible study was led by Peggy Teter. We will need a volunteer for March. **PLEASE** contact your Circle chair if you are interested.

## Thankoffering

How is that Thankoffering box/jar filling up? I bet you were thankful for not loosing heat during that terrible cold spell! Or how about getting home safely after having to drive in a snow storm? We have so many things each day to be thankful to God for. Hopefully, you are counting your blessings everyday and thanking God for what he has done for you.



## Easter Food Baskets

We are taking food basket donations! Please consider donating any amount between now and March 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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!

**\*\*NEW** - If you'd like to add a personal touch to a basket (Easter card or other items) you can sponsor a family and contribute to their basket. Donation amounts for these are \$30 for a small family, \$50 for a medium family and \$70 for large family.

We still need people to pick up prepaid orders from Sam's or Costco (that will be loaded into your vehicle) or Walmart and deliver them to the church gym some time between March 20 – March 30. Contact Liisa Whitman at (517-281-9458) if your family wants to take on one of these loads.

**The food baskets will be distributed on Saturday, April 3 from 10am-1pm.**



## **LENTEN SERVICES**

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.**

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.**

**“MY LENTEN GIFT”  
OFFERING ENVELOPES  
ARE ENCLOSED**



Here, you will find a list of the scripture readings that are part of the Daily Lectionary which move us from one Sunday to the next. You can also find these readings on our "Taking Faith Home" sheets we distribute after worship. They are also posted daily on our Facebook page. We encourage you to read your Bible every day as you live out your life of discipleship.

<> Pastor Matt

## **MARCH**

**01** Genesis 17:1-16  
**02** Romans 4:13-25  
**03** 2 Timothy 2:1-13  
**04** 2 Timothy 2:14-26  
**05** Proverbs 8:32-36  
**06** Psalm 22:23-31  
**07** John 2:13-22

**08** Exodus 20:1-17  
**09** 1 Corinth. 1:18-25  
**10** Genesis 1:27-31  
**11** Mathew 6:25-33  
**12** Job 12:7-10  
**13** Psalm 19  
**14** John 3:14-21  
**15** Numbers 21:4-9

**16** Ephesians 2:1-10  
**17** Deut. 10:12-22  
**18** 1 John 5:1-5  
**19** Zephaniah 3:14-20  
**20** Psalm 107:1-22  
**21** John 12:20-33  
**22** Jeremiah 31:31-34  
**23** Hebrews 5:5-10

**24** 2 Corinth. 3:5-18  
**25** Nehemiah 1:5-11  
**26** Hebrews 8:6-13  
**27** Psalm 51:1-12  
**28** Mark 14:1-15:47  
**29** John 12:12-16  
**30** Isaiah 50:4-9  
**31** Philippians 2:5-11

## **March Birthday's**

Joanna Alvera	Mar. 2
Mary Brenke	Mar. 2
Maureen Sartor	Mar. 3
Phil Hassler	Mar. 15
Faye Norris	Mar. 16
Dale Meyer	Mar. 18
Susan Colegrove	Mar. 20
Betty VanConant	Mar. 23
Shelby Waters	Mar. 23
Janell Liles	Mar. 24
Mike Lamb	Mar. 25
Ruth Scharr	Mar. 30



**Happy Birthday!**

Each year our birthday list of members 62 and over is updated from the church records. If for some reason you do not wish to have your name appear in the newsletter or if you see someone we have missed, please call the church office.



Dear Bethlehem Friends:

My sisters and I would like to thank you for all of the prayers, support, kind words and cards that you bestowed upon us during our Mother's health issues in January. We (and she) felt the energy and love being sent our way and it means so much to us. We would read the Facebook posts to her and even after her stroke, her eyes would light up. She understood every good thought and prayer that was being sent her way and was amazed at how many people loved her.

We miss her everyday....I find myself going to pick up the phone to call or text her...a sad reminder that she is no longer with us....but a happy reminder that she is with our Daddy in heaven and that we will see them again. Glory Halleluiah!

Again, thank you so much for everything. We feel your hugs and love. On behalf of my sisters, Wendy Lamphier, Peggy Walston and Shelly Hudson, I say Peace be with you....we love you all.

Laurey Wyble

We would like to thank everyone who sent a card, phoned us or dropped off a gift for our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. All of those things helped us to celebrate our 50 years together. We want to thank Pastor Matt for driving all the way out to our house to deliver the flowers and beautiful acrylic keepsake, which we cherish. You all are so special to us and we thank God we are part of such a caring and loving congregation.

Thank you again, with Christian love,  
Ken & Peggy Teter

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund! Your donation ensures that LWR Quilts and Kits get into the hands of a person who needs it!

With your help, we have delivered Quilts and Kits to families in Mozambique whose communities were utterly ravaged by Cyclone Idai.

On behalf of LWR, our partners and those we serve together, please accept my heartfelt thanks once more for your gift and all that it will do.

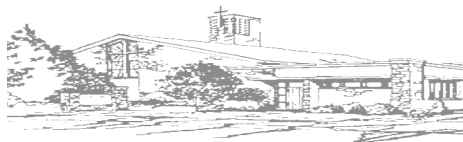
Warm Regards,  
Ambassador Daniel Speckhard  
President and CEO

**Turn your clocks ahead on  
March 14 at 2:00 a.m.**



# Bethlehem Star

Lutheran Church Lansing



549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.  
Lansing, Michigan 48910

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# March 2021

Newsletter Deadline is **March 15**  
for the **April 2021** Bethlehem Star.

Also available at  
[www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org)

In-Home Date: March 1, 2021  
Mailed on February 26, 2021

