



Worship Services – 8:15 & 10:30  
February 16, 2020

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.

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*God of love, hear my prayer. As I prepare for worship this day, help me to remember that I am your child, and that I will always belong to you. 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 every day, 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 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 Candy Barnes in memory of her mother, Ruby Larson.

**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 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

ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin

Carole Kienke, Karren Reish, Connie Scott

ASSISTING MINISTER – Don Telles

ACOLYTE – 8:15 Amaya Fernandez, 10:30 need someone

LAY READER – Don Telles, Otto Kern

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Joni Schalkhauser, Keitha Snider,  
Sharon Drake

GREETERS – Ron & Diane Miller, Peggy & Ken Teter

USHERS – Ralph Sergeant, Tim Stanley

Kelly Carpenter, Carol Kinney, Joanne Dyer, Jeff Kosloski

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** (Robin & 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 All Saints Lutheran Church in Mason, Michigan.

## PARISH NOTES

**FEBRUARY LIVING LUTHERAN** Bishop Elizabeth Eaton warns against a watered down Gospel that cannot mend our brokenness. (p. 50) There is an invitation to experience Lent through a three-fold filter of Justice. (p.11) Much of this excellent issue takes up the interplay between the Church and technology, both positive and problematic. Of course there is much more. Be sure to pick up a copy of the Living Lutheran on the Welcome Table in the lobby.

**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.

**SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE** Attention all Junior and Senior High Youth! Join us on Sunday, February 23 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 the 23rd:

- 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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CARNIVAL** Join us in the Lower Social Hall on **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. Contact Sue Nelson, Jean Peckham or Keitha Snider for more information. Bring your children and their friends for games, prizes and a lot of fun.

**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. Lent services begin at 7:30 p.m.

**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.

**2020 FLOWER CHART** Thank you, to everyone who sponsored 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.

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP** February 23, 2020

**Assisting Minister** – Bob Meeker

**Children's Sermon** – Liisa Whitman

**8:15:**

**Acolyte** – Allie Fernandez

**Lay Reader** – Dorothy Martin

**Greeters** – Dorothy Martin, Susan Mahoney

**Ushers** – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider

**10:30:**

**Acolyte** – Thalia Centeno

**Lay Reader** – Dana Stevens

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

**Greeters** – Liisa & Jim Whitman

**Ushers** – Pat North, Judy Pardee, Tom Armstrong

## Thought for the Week

In today's gospel, Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community.

*Life and health are prerequisites of growth.*

## **ATTENDANCE AND GIVING**

Worship Attendance: 8:15: 27, 10:30: 71, total: 98

Church School Attendance: 31; adults 16, children 15

Church School Offerings: mission

***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** The Gospel reading continues to draw us into the Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus extends and deepens the Law that came through Moses. May our response to Jesus' vision of life with God be one of compassion and of generosity. Thank you for your serving and giving.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING FORMUM** Join us on 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 often "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 we hope that Lansing Police Chief Daryl Green will be in attendance, as well. 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 if you have 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"** 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.



## THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Feb. 16	8:15	Worship – Holy Communion
	8:30	Junior Choir
	9:15	Sunday School
	9:30	Adult Forum
	10:30	Worship – Holy Communion
	11:45	Board of Education
	11:45	Sound System Training
MONDAY	6:30	Friendship Circle
TUESDAY	6:30	Board of Worship Life
		Pastor Matt Vitality Training
	8:00	Family Growth Center
WEDNESDAY	9:30	Staff Meeting
	1:00	Rainbow Circle
	8:00	Family Growth Center
	6:30	Handbell Choir
	7:30	Senior Choir
THURSDAY	8:00	Family Growth Center
	6:30	Congregation Council
FRIDAY	7:00	N.A. Meeting
SUNDAY, Feb. 23 <i>Transfiguration of our Lord</i>	8:15	Worship – Holy Communion
	8:30	Junior Choir
	9:15	Sunday School
	9:30	Adult Forum
	10:30	Worship – Holy Communion
	4:00	Sunday Night Live

### 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**



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## 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:*

### ***Caring for our Faith community***

**Goal:** At Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, we will invite, accept, and support all people, as we build attentive, respectful relationships. We will do this by:

- Welcoming, accepting, and encouraging all people to participate in our faith community
- Attending to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of all
- Strengthening relationships among all in our faith community
- Equipping all in our faith community to live out the Marks of Discipleship

## **We Bow Our Hearts to You** *Prayer in All Its Wondrous Variety and Blessing*

Ash Wednesday, February 26  
**Confession**

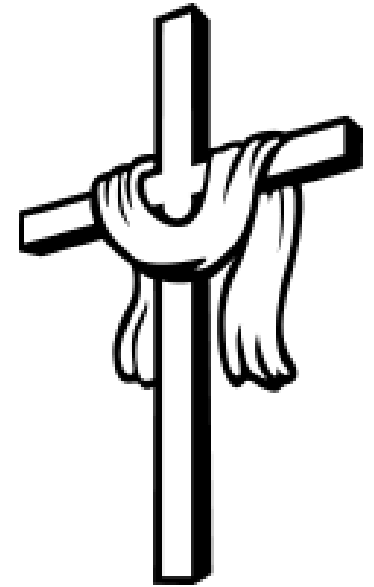
Wednesday, March 4  
**Intercession**

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

Wednesday, March 18  
**Contemplation**

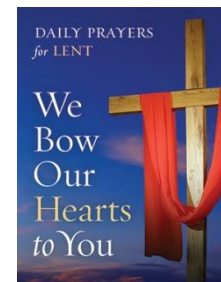
Wednesday, March 25  
**Listening to God**

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.