



Worship Services – 8:15 & 10:30
December 8, 2019

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

Everything is going too fast, O God. Already, this is the Second Sunday of Advent, and Christmas will be here soon. God help me. Come into my preoccupied life during this service of worship. Touch me with your peace. Help me prepare my heart for a proper celebration of your coming among us in Jesus Christ. Please help me get ready. 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

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Ron & Diane Miller in celebration of their anniversary.

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 this week's copy from the ushers or the usher table in the social hall.

PORTALS OF PRAYER October - December booklets are available on the Welcome Table in the lobby.

THOSE WHO SERVE IN OUR WORSHIP

PASTORS – Rev. Matthew A. Smith, Rev. John W. Burow

ORGANIST – James Schippers

CHOIR DIRECTOR – Sue Nelson

HANDBELL DIRECTOR – Amanda Schneider

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP DIRECTOR – Laurey Wyble

DRUMS – Kim Walker

ALTAR GUILD – Peggy & Ken Teter, Kris Burow

Barb Raia, Linda Telles

ASSISTING MINISTER – Susan Mahoney

ACOLYTES – Thalia Centeno, Nick Boyd

LAY READERS – Don Telles, Jim Schalkhauser

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Dorothy Martin, Candy Barnes

Mel White / Otto Kern, Joni & Joni Schalkhauser

GREETERS – Carol Wank, Candy Barnes / Joe & Audrey Skidmore

Bob & Connie Meeker

USHERS – Kurt Kollmeyer, Ron Miller

Jack Midgley, Matt Marsh, Mike Lamb, Don Olson

SOUND SYSTEM – Dave Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Peckham

Our Thoughts & Prayers are with...



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

Donna Clarizio in Sparrow Hospital

Those at home: *Mary Ann Allen, Cloyd Barnes, Virginia Bauman, Mary Brenke, Pam Butts, Crystal Collins, Deanna Darling, Ernie Hassell, Rhoda Hunter, Ray Kenger, Marilyn Kostrzewski, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Nancy Miesner, Stephanie Moneypenny Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Chris Ransom, Bob Robbins, Carol Roush, Paul Schmidt, 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)

Jim Church – U.S. Navy (Ron & Diane Miller's nephew)

Darian Doan – U.S. Army (Marv & Laura Halbakken's nephew)

Ty 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 Ben & Deanna Darling)

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

A ROSE The Women of the Church, give a rose to celebrate the birth of a son, Aiden Robert Peckham to Kevin & Ashley Peckham, born December 3, 2019. He is also the grandson to Rick & Jean Peckham. Congratulations!

TODAY 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. The offering box used to receive the offerings is called a 'parfleche'. Made of deer or buffalo hide that has been cured, the Lakota people have used parfleches for centuries to transport and keep valuable items secure. As you bring your offering forward you will hear a recording of Amazing Grace sung in Lakota by Tiana Spotted Thunder.

THE ANNUAL SENIOR CHRISTMAS DINNER The Luther League will be hosting our dinner this afternoon for senior members of the congregation, with appetizers at 3:00 p.m.

"FEAR NOT FACTOR" The Children's Christmas Program will be held today, at 5:00 p.m. Come, see and listen as the children help us celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL MUSICAL "FEAR NOT FACTOR" Today the musical will start at 5:00 p.m. Children should be in the choir room at 4:30. Parents are asked to bring a plate of cookies to share after the program. Thanks, Sue, Keitha, and Jean.

COOKIES WORKSHOP Roxann Mills of Fudge and Frosting will host a class on December 12th at 6:30 p.m. The sign-up sheet is in the Social Hall. Cost is \$10.00. You will get six cookies baked with a base frosting on them. Then our own Roxann Mills will show you how she decorates her gorgeous cookies.

POINSETTIA SALE The Altar Guild will be taking orders for red Christmas poinsettias today in the social hall. The cost per 6" plant is \$8.00 and payment must accompany the order. Please make checks payable to Kris Burow.

"DECK THE HALLS!" The annual Church Christmas Decorating Party is **Friday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m.** Everyone is invited to help decorate the church for the season of Christmas. Bring along your favorite Christmas treat to share. Afterwards, we will go out to eat at Leo's Outpost.

BETHLEHEM CHRISTMAS CAROLING! Everyone is invited, **Sunday, December 15**, to join in on the fun. We will be caroling to homebound members of our congregation. Bring a friend and a snack to share. Wear your most festive Christmas hats and sweaters! We'll meet at **2:55 p.m.** and leave promptly at 3:00! We will conclude by 6:30 or so.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS To help you prepare for Christmas there are devotional booklets on the table in the social hall. This booklet is designed to inspire you as you prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Use them each week during Advent.

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS Candlelight & Communion Services on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, are at 6:00 & 10:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 29, we will have one service of worship at 9:30 a.m.

2020 FLOWER CHART The 2020 Flower chart is available for you to sign up today. Cost per arrangement is \$25.00. Make checks payable to Kris Burow. Payment does not have to accompany the order.

ADVENT OFFERING ENVELOPES Contributions received using the Advent Offering Envelopes, that were included in the December newsletter, will be given to the Lansing SAVE accounts for our Baker Neighborhood kids. Extra envelopes are on the table in the social hall.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS Sign-up sheets are on the table in the social hall. The last day to bring in food will be **Wednesday, December 18** and distribution will be **Saturday, December 21**. Children will be home during the Christmas break. We are hoping to have extra food items for them. A sign-up sheet is available for these extra items. For questions contact Judy Pardee.

TIME & TALENT SHEETS Please fill out your 2020 Time & Talent sheets. You can find them on the display table in the upper social hall or on the "printables" page on our website. One sheet per person please. Turn in to the church office. Thank you for volunteering!

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP December 15

Assisting Minister – Bob Meeker

8:15: Acolyte – need someone **Lay Reader** – Joe Shreffler

Communion Assistants – Mary Jakubiak, Justyn Prowdley
Christina Raia

Greeters – need someone

Ushers – Steve Viele, Liz Viele, Ralph Sargent, Tim Stanley

10:30: Acolyte – need someone **Lay Reader** – need someone

Communion Assistants – Kris & John Burow, need someone

Greeters – Sharon Drake, Pat Lebsack

Ushers – Kelly Carpenter, Carol Kinney, Don Telles, Dee Bernardi

Thought for the Week

Doesn't God long for our faithfulness in the life he has given to us? But he gives us more grace.
~ James 4:5b-6a (Common English Bible)

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Worship Attendance: *Last Sunday 135, (8:15) 37 (10:30) 98*

Church School Attendance: 40; adults 23, children 17

Church School Offerings: \$2.00

Needed through Dec. 1 to meet 2019 Budget: \$356,853.23

Received through Dec. 1 to meet 2019 Budget: \$314,145.39

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP *Stir up our hearts... nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace.* In this season of anticipation may the Spirit continue to align our heart's desires with God's holy purposes for our individual lives and for this congregation. May we be growing in our compassion and in our generosity.

PRAYER PARTNERS Each Sunday we pray for another congregation of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod to offer our support and to emphasize the ministry that we share. Please sign the letter in the social hall that will be mailed to the congregation for which we prayed.

SIMPLY GIVING Electronic Fund Transfers (EFTs), through Vanco, are a great way to support the ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. This program is a convenient, safe and simple. If you would like to participate in this program, please see Laurey Wyble.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY Did you miss Commitment Sunday? It's not too late to submit your financial commitment card for inclusion in the 2020 budgeting process. Please find a blue card on the table in the social hall. You may place it in the offering plate or leave in office.

REFRESHMENTS EVERY WEEK! There have been several requests for refreshments year round after worship. Starting in mid-December there will be sign-up sheets available in the social hall for anyone who wishes to share goodies, or celebrate a special occasion with the congregation. Looking forward to great fellowship with our Bethlehem family!

TABS, CANS & BOTTLES The *BELCW* is collecting tabs from aluminum beverage cans to help raise money for the Ronald McDonald House. Drop your tabs in the container on the shelf in the social hall. Also, the *Luther League* is collecting returnable cans and plastic bottles in the box under the stairs in the social hall to support ongoing activities. Thank you for your support of these two ministries.

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Dec. 8	8:15	Worship – Holy Communion
<i>Mission Sunday</i>	8:30	Junior Choir
	9:15	Sunday School
	9:30	Adult Forum
	10:30	Worship – Holy Communion
	3:00	Senior Dinner
	5:00	Sunday School Christmas Program
MONDAY	6:00	Friendship Circle Dinner – Piazzano's
	6:30	Harmony Circle Dinner – Champp's
	6:30	Board of Stewardship & Finance
TUESDAY	8:00	F.G.C.
	9:30	Staff Meeting
	1:00	Rainbow Circle – cookie exchange
	6:15	T.N.T. Class
WEDNESDAY	8:00	F.G.C.
	9:00	Quilting Day
	6:30	Handbell Choir
	7:15	Senior Choir
THURSDAY	8:00	F.G.C.
	1:00	Community Partners Meeting
	6:30	Cookie Decorating Class
FRIDAY	6:30	Church Decorating Party
	7:00	N.A. Meeting
SUNDAY, Dec. 15	8:15	Worship – Holy Communion
	8:30	Junior Choir
	9:15	Sunday School
	9:30	Adult Forum
	10:30	Worship – Holy Communion
	2:55	Caroling

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

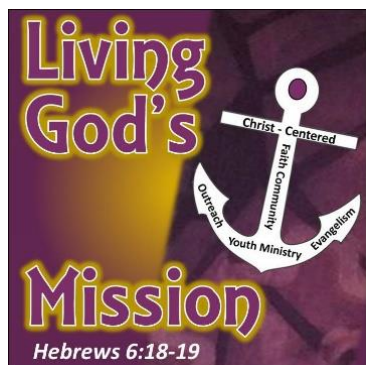
INVITE others to know Him

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 2019-20 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:

Youth Ministry

Goal: Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church will nurture, develop, and support all young people, while engaging them in the faith community. We will help young people grow in their discipleship by:

- Providing engaging educational programs
- Participation in camping ministries and synod and national youth gatherings
- Creating family and multigenerational opportunities for young people to engage with others in the faith community

SHARING THE JOY OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

These are two opportunities to share our gifts with others.

Family Growth Center Holiday Gift Workshop

Gifts given to this project will help low-income parents who attend the programs of FGC to select gifts for each of their children. Often these parents would not be able to purchase gifts to give their children. This is an important chance to build their self-esteem and make the holiday season joyful. There is a Christmas tree in the social hall with gift tags on it. Please take a tag from the tree, purchase the gift, return the unwrapped gift and tag to the church, place it in the container in the social hall.



The deadline is Sunday, December 15.

The Presence Jar

This Advent, consider using a Presence Jar. Download a list of 31 activities (on the Printables page on our website) to try each day. Focus on what matters most during the busy month of December. Copies can be found on the Welcome Table in the lobby.

Link:

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