



549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48910  
517-482-3225  
[www.bethlutheran.org](http://www.bethlutheran.org)



Worship Service – 9:30  
May 2, 2021

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Mary Jakubiak in honor of Dr. Paul Jakubiak, remembering his birthday.

**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** April - June 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 Messiah Lutheran Church in Constantine Michigan, Rev. Christopher Laughlin.

**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  
CHILDREN'S SERMON – Pastor Matt Smith  
ASSISTING MINISTER – Bob Meeker  
ALTAR GUILD – Kris Burow  
SOUND SYSTEM – Dave Holderread, Kevin Peckham  
Jon Holderread

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Gracious God, since my faith is increased and strengthened by your Word, grant that my heart may be set free from worldly things. May I and all who are gathered here this morning hear and understand your Word, that we may be filled with your love and sincerely live according to your gracious will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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](mailto: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](http://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*

*Lois Cairns, Marv Cole, Crystal Collins, Ruth Ferguson*

*Doug Griffin, Jim Hicks, Rhoda Hunter, Nancy Jackson*

*Kurt Kollmeyer, Marilyn Kostrzewski, Michael Mahoney*

*Linda McClellan, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, John Ransom*

*Bob Robbins, Sandy Rollis, Carol Roush, Audrey Skidmore*

*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

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY** We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Vicki Nemetz, mother of Amanda Centeno, who died April 24, 2021. May God comfort those who mourn with the promise of eternal life for all those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP** Today we begin our **OUTDOOR** worship in the parking lot and will continue to meet at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings, (**if it is not raining sideways**). We will still have the entire service produced beforehand and available on Facebook and YouTube. We are working to take steps to get back to in-person worship.

**TODAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY** Feeding our community has never been more important as we live through the Covid-19 pandemic. Although physical donations of canned goods and other non-perishable items are not possible at this time, we can contribute to the Food Pantry through the BELC website. Click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

**GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST** Once again BELC will be ordering **Red** Geraniums for the Pentecost Worship Service on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Geraniums (10-inch pots) will be ordered from Christians Greenhouse and will be **\$15** each. Please email or text Kris Burow by May 15<sup>th</sup> if you would like to order geraniums (email: [2bakrisjohn@gmail.com](mailto:2bakrisjohn@gmail.com)). Payment may be taken to the church office or sent directly to Kris at: 13155 Starwood Lane, Dewitt, MI 48820. Checks should be made out to Kris Burow and payment will need to arrive by May 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to those who enjoy sponsoring flowers for the BELC Worship!

**NEXT SUNDAY 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. Click [HERE](#) to make your monetary contribution.

**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/](https://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).

**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.

### **Thought for the Week from “Taking Faith Home”**

A Prayer for the Week:

God of love, free us from fear so that we may love others as you have loved us through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food. Help us to show care for others and remember that we love because you first loved us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (1 John 4:19)

A Blessing to Give:

May God who loves you dearly, free you from your fears so that you may love others.

### **ATTENDANCE AND GIVING**

Worship Attendance: 180 people viewed the 4/25/21 worship service. 143 on FB and 37 on YouTube.

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP**

*“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”*

With these words of Jesus, we are reminded of the true, essential source of our loving service and our generous offerings. May we all draw closer to Jesus that we may know and share more fully God’s great love.

