



Worship Services – 9:30
December 29, 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

Eternal God, you have blessed us in the past. In this upcoming New Year, open our hearts and minds to know your presence and to see your love at work. Give us faith and grace to live in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, our source of joy now and forever. 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.

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 January - March booklets are available on the Welcome Table in the lobby.

THOSE WHO SERVE IN OUR WORSHIP

GUEST PASTOR – Rev. Max Miller

ORGANIST – James Schippers

CHOIR DIRECTOR – Sue Nelson

HANDBELL DIRECTOR – Amanda Schneider

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP DIRECTOR – Laurey Wyble

ALTAR GUILD – Sue & Bob Christiansen

Betty Bonney, Susan Mahoney

GUITAR – Laurey Wyble

ASSISTING MINISTER – Crystal Collins

ACOLYTE – need someone

LAY READER – Carole Kienke

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Susan Mahoney, Christina Raia
Sharon Drake

GREETERS – Susan Mahoney, Crystal Collins, Sharon Drake

USHERS – Jim Whitman, Hunter Whitman, Ralph Sargent, Tim Stanley
Dee Bernardi, Don Romain

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

Those at home: *Mary Ann Allen, Cloyd Barnes, Virginia Bauman, Mary Brenke, Donna Clarizio, Crystal Collins, Deanna Darling, Ernie Hassell, Rhoda Hunter, Ray Kenger, Marilyn Kostrzewski, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Kevin Meeker, 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.

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.

PARISH NOTES

Lansing SAVE Today is our 5th Sunday offering. There are now 156 students in our group of students from BELC and the Baker Neighborhood. To give electronically – click on the “Online Giving” link on our website.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR! The church office will be closed on January 1. From the BELC staff: Have a safe and blessed Holiday season! God's blessings to all!

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!

OFFERING ENVELOPES The 2020 envelopes are available this morning in the lobby.

WHAT GOES UP, MUST COME DOWN! That goes for Christmas decorations, too! Can you lend a hand to “un-decorate” the church? After the 10:30 a.m. service of worship on Sunday, January 5, things will get packed away for another year. Many willing hands will always make short work of it!

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.

WE WILL BE GOING TO STONY LAKE Elementary, Confirmation and Senior High Camp is the week of July 12–17. Camp registration begins on January 15, 2020. You will log on to <http://www.elcalivingwater.com/> and complete your camp application. Families need to pay the \$100 deposit directly to the camp at the time you submit your application. 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 application on January 15.

NEXT SUNDAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY Canned goods and other non-perishable items and gifts of money can be brought to the altar during the “Offering of Gifts.” This special offering will be used to feed hungry people in our community through the Food Bank pantry in our church. Items needed are jello, rice dinners, hamburger helper, egg noodles, cake mixes/frosting. Personal items such as bath soap, deodorant, toothpaste, hair shampoo, etc.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP January 5, 2020

Assisting Minister – Nancy Holderread

8:15:

Acolyte – Madelyn Smith

Lay Reader – Dorothy Martin

Communion Assistants – Dorothy Martin, Ralph Sergent

Greeters – Ralph & Margaret Sergent

Ushers – John Ransom, Brian Pickford, Susan Mahoney, Jeff Kosloski

10:30:

Acolyte – Megan Jones

Lay Reader – Virginia Bauman

Communion Assistants – Mary Bartel, Mel White, Keitha Snider

Greeters – Ken & Peggy Teter

Ushers – Don Cairns, Judy Pardee, Tom Armstrong
Dick & Sandy Rollis

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP January 12, 2020

Assisting Minister – Susan Mahoney

8:15:

Acolyte – Amaya Fernandez

Lay Reader – Mary Jakubiak

Communion Assistants – Mary Jakubiak, David Holderread

Greeters – Dorothy Martin, Susan Mahoney

Ushers – Kurt Kollmeyer, Ron Miller

10:30:

Acolyte – Easton Matteson

Lay Reader – Carole Kienke

Communion Assistants – Jim Whitman, Hunter Whitman
Laurey Wyble

Greeters – Jim & Joni Schalkhauser

Ushers – Otto Kern, Phil Hassler, Joe Skidmore, Michael Kern

Thought for the Week

God has been shepherding the community of faith at least since the promise came to Abraham. That faith was shared through Isaac and Jacob, and now it rests in the cradle with the Christ-child. This is how God is continuing to shepherd the Faith Community.

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Worship Attendance: *Last Sunday* 128, (8:15) 35 (10:30) 93

Church School Attendance: 29; adults 20, children 9

Church School Offerings:

Needed through Dec.22 to meet 2019 Budget: \$371,722.12

Received through Dec. 22 to meet 2019 Budget: \$325,837.07

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP May the comfort, peace and joy God sends to us through the Christmas message far outlast the holiday season’s decorations and music. May we continue to find openings for joy, compassion, kindness and generosity throughout the coming year. Thank you for your serving and giving.

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.

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

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!

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Dec. 29 9:30 Worship – Holy Communion

Lansing SAVE

WEDNESDAY

Happy New Year!

New Year's Day

Church office closed

FRIDAY

7:00

N.A. Meeting

SATURDAY

9:30

F.A.B.

SUNDAY, Jan. 5

8:15

Worship – Holy Communion

Food Bank Sunday

8:30

Junior Choir

9:15

Sunday School

9:30

Adult Forum

10:30

Worship – Holy Communion

Installation of BELCW Officers

11:45

Un-decorate the church

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

© Laura R. Norton

*Lamentation, weeping, great mourning
Rachel weeping weeping weeping
she would not be comforted because they are
no more. they are no more weeping weeping weeping*

Arise

and take the
young child
and his
mother,

and flee

into Egypt and
stay there until I
tell you, for
Herod will seek
the young child to
destroy him.

Matthew 2:13, 18

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:

Community Ministry (Outreach)

Goal: Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church will actively seek and develop community connections with residents, faith communities, schools, and other organizations and will be a resource for community activity. We will do this by:

- Expanding the use of the church building for community activities
- Emphasizing ministries addressing basic needs
- Working collaboratively with neighborhood organizations
- Encouraging members to increase engagement with neighborhood residents and our community

END-OF-THE-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS



This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported Bethlehem Lutheran Church this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. We also invite you to consider making an additional gift to Bethlehem as the year draws to a close.

If you need a convenient way to make an additional gift before the end of the year or to make your regular offerings, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving option. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. You will find a blue "online giving" button on our home page at www.bethlutheran.org. **Offerings need to be in by today, December 29th to be included on the 2019 Giving Statements.**