



Worship Service – 9:30
January 3, 2021

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

Send, O God, into the darkness of this troubled world, the light of your Son. Let the star of your hope touch the minds of all people with the bright beams of mercy and truth. Direct our steps that we may ever walk in the way revealed to us, as the Wise Men walked with joy to the place where he dwelled, who now and ever reigns in our hearts, 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 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 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.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Don & Lois Cairns in celebration of their anniversary.

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 January - March 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 Immanuel Lutheran Church in Allegan Michigan, Rev. Dan Ward.

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
ALTAR GUILD – Kris Burow
ASSISTING MINISTER – Nancy Holderread
CHILDRENS SERMON – Liisa Whitman
SOUND SYSTEM – Dave Holderread, Kevin Peckham
Jon Holderread

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, Ellie Ibarra, Kurt Kollmeyer
Marilyn Kostrzewski, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, John Nelson
Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, John Ransom, Gloria Robbins
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.

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

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU!!**

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.

THANK YOU! FCG could not have done it without you. Thank you for all the donations of money and toys for the Family Growth Workshop. It was a great success! Check out the January Bethlehem Star for pictures.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS Because of your generous donations we were able to feed 52 families: 109 adults and 85 children, during Christmas this year. Thank you!

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES We will be mailing your envelopes to you for 2021 as soon as they are available.

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/.

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.

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.

Thought for the Week

“If we Christians would join the Wise Men, we must close our eyes to all that glitters before the world and look rather on the despised and foolish things, help the poor, comfort the despised, and aid the neighbor in his need.” Martin Luther

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Worship Attendance: 178 people viewed the 12/27 worship service, 153 on Facebook Live and 24 on YouTube.

Operating income through November 30, 2020 \$266,752.06

Operating expense received through November 30, 2020 290,957.86

SHORTFALL \$24,205.80 (numbers will be updated monthly)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP

We thank God for the lives that were blessed in our praying, caring, serving and giving this challenging year. May God nourish our hope, deepen our faith, enrich our gratitude and deepen our compassion that we as Church and as the baptized worship with joy and serve with gladness. Blessed New Year.

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Jan. 3 **9:45a** **Sunday School Zoom**
 9:30a **Worship Facebook Live Stream**
TUESDAY 9:30a Staff Meeting Zoom
 6:15p T.N.T. Confirmation Class Zoom
THURSDAY New Year's Eve (office closes at noon)
FRIDAY **Happy New Year (office closed)**
SUNDAY, Jan. 10 **9:45a** **Sunday School Zoom**
 9:30a **Worship Facebook Live Stream**

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



They offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.