



549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910
517-482-3225
www.bethlutheran.org



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Worship Services – 8:15 & 10:30
March 15, 2020

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

During Lent, Lord, we examine our lives in the light of your love revealed to us in Jesus Christ. For our sake he became poor and like us in every respect. Yet, he was without sin. As we ponder his life and ask what it means for us to be disciples, may we sit at his feet and become learners, O God. Help his message of love and peace penetrate our daily lives and become so ingrained in our perspective that we, too, become kingdom people. Make us disciples with a passion for the gospel. In Jesus' name, we 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.

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 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 & HANDBELL DIRECTOR – James Schippers

CHOIR DIRECTOR – Sue Nelson

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP DIRECTOR – Laurey Wyble

ALTAR GUILD – Candy Barnes, Dorothy Martin, Carole Kienke

Karren Reish, Connie Scott

ASSISTING MINISTER – Nancy Holderread

CHILDREN'S SERMON – Dave Holderread

ACOLYTE – 8:15 Easton Matteson, 10:30 Justyn Prowdley

LAY READER – Susan Mahoney, Jim Whitman

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Carole Kienke, Judy Pardee,

Vicki Leighton

GREETERS – Ron & Diane Miller, Sharon Drake, Carole Kienke

USHERS – Ralph Sergeant, Tim Stanley

Joanne Dyer, Carol Kinney, Jeff Kosloski, Christina Raia

SOUND SYSTEM – Dave Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Peckham

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP March 18, Lenten Service

7:30 Ushers – Ralph Sergeant, Don Telles



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, Virginia Bauman, Mary Brenke, Crystal Collins, Ernie Hassell, Rhoda Hunter, Kurt Kollmeyer, Marilyn Kostrzewski, Susan Mahoney, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Nancy Miesner, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Chris Ransom, Bob Robbins, Carol Roush, Audrey Skidmore, Don Spencley, Ken Teter, Peggy 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 (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 **Trinity Lutheran Church, Millersburg, Michigan.**

CONGREGATION COUNCIL We will meet on Thursday March 19 at 6:30 p.m.

PARISH NOTES

BY HOLY BAPTISM Landon Joseph Evans will be made a child of God and heir to all His promises. Landon was born on March 18, 2019. His parents are Joseph Evans and Samantha Martinez and his sponsor is Gabriel Culberson. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we welcome Landon as a partner with us in the ministry we have as Christ's people.

JASON MILLS Preaching this morning is our very own Jason Mills! Jason grew up at Bethlehem and, after a career in the Navy, is now enrolled at United Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg. Both services this morning will include a commissioning for Jason and a presentation of our financial support of his calling.

ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF AND BNO These two events have been combined. Join us on Saturday, March 21 at 5:30 p.m. Enter your best chili recipe with a chance to win our grand prize! We will also be serving beverages, veggies and dessert. A Sign-up sheet is in the social hall. We can't have a chili cook-off without judges. Even if you don't have an award winning chili, join us to sample, judge and vote for your favorite chili. A donation to our Food Bank is appreciated at the door.

Lansing SAVE Our next 5th Sunday offering is March 29th. There are now 156 children in our group of students from BELC and the Baker Neighborhood. To give electronically – click on the "Online Giving" link on our website.

LENTEN POTLUCK SUPPERS A potluck precedes the Lenten Services each Wednesday, through April 1. 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. **Lenten services begin at 7:30 p.m.**

ADULT FORUM St. John's story of Jesus will tell us of four remarkable encounters:

- A nervous and confused religious leader;
- A foreign woman with a broken past;
- A man, blind from birth,
- Two grieving sisters

Today the Adult Forum will look ahead to next Sunday's Gospel story. Please join us in the library today to explore the words of Jesus to these and other folks and to ponder what Jesus may be sharing with us.

RUMMAGE SALE The BELCW would very much appreciate it if you bring your rummage to the church starting **Sunday, April 12th.** Thank you!

EASTER PLANTS Altar Guild will be taking orders after service for plants to adorn the Altar on Easter; daffodils, lilies and tulips. The price for plants is \$8 and payment must accompany your order. Checks should be made payable to Kris Burow. You may take your plants home after the 10:30 worship service on Easter Sunday.

EASTER BREAKFAST The youth need your help with the Easter Breakfast on April 12! Signup sheets are on a table in the social hall for donations of food and help with various tasks, especially with setup, clean-up and serving. Thanks!

EASTER PRAYER VIGIL SIGN-UP The sign-up sheets for the Easter Prayer Vigil are in the Social Hall and will be at the Lenten suppers. Sign-up for Hostess or prayer times or both, your choice! The Prayer Vigil is Saturday, April 11th from 12 noon to 12 midnight.

EASTER FOOD BASKETS Sign-up sheets are in the social hall. Food donations are due back on Sunday, March 29. Non-perishable items will be packed on Friday, April 3; volunteers are needed from 1-2P. We also need someone to make reminder calls. Baskets will be distributed on Saturday, April 4, from 9A-2P. Come help for an hour or two. More volunteers are needed during the busiest times from 11A -1P.

THE 28TH BELCW RETREAT!! Our retreat will be held at Beechpoint Christian Camp in Allegan, Michigan. The dates are **April 17th, 18th and 19th**. **ALL** women of Bethlehem, their family and friends (females 18 and older) are invited to join us. The cost of the weekend includes lodging, food, activities and programming. We were able to keep the price at \$98.00 per person with a \$30 deposit to hold your spot. If you have any questions please contact Laura Halbakken at 517-281-3133 or Joanna Alvera at 517-388-1263.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP March 22, 2020

Assisting Minister – Susan Mahoney

Children's Sermon – Pastor John Burow

8:15: Acolyte – need someone

Lay Reader – need someone

Greeters – Bob & Sue Christiansen

Ushers – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider

10:30: Acolyte – Jackie Quinn

Lay Reader – Carole Kienke

Communion Assistants – Sharon Drake, Mary Bartel, Mel White

Greeters – Otto Kern, Ellie Ibarra

Ushers – Pat North, Judy Pardee, Tom Armstrong

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP March 25, Lenten Service

7:30 Ushers – need two people (to light candles also)

Thought for the Week

When you picture Jesus speaking to people who are “the least”, who do you picture? Do they look like you? Does this person have what you have, or the ability to get those things we consider “blessings”? If you feel like “the least” you are loved, affirmed and accepted – help us make sure you know that, every day.

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Worship Attendance: 8:15: 29, 10:30: 76, total: 105

Church School Attendance: 26; adults 15, children 11

Church School Offerings: mission

Needed through March 8 to meet 2020 Budget: \$75,386.90

Received through March 8 to meet 2020 Budget: \$60,812.95

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP In today's Gospel, a woman with a broken past becomes an effective witness to the transforming work of the Messiah. May we find ways to share with others our own encounters with Jesus. May others glimpse Jesus' servant love in the work we do together.

2020 FLOWER CHART Thank you, to everyone who sponsors 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 15th for flowers to be ordered for the next month.

SPECIAL LENTEN OFFERING ENVELOPE Our Lenten Offering (My Lenten Gift) will go to support the ministry of “**The House of Promise**”, a 501c3 nonprofit organization that provides survivors of sex abuse and sex trafficking unconditional love, acceptance, and a place to heal. Please write **My Lenten Gift/House of Promise on your envelope**. You may place your envelope in the offering plate on a Sunday morning or mail it to the church office. You may also use a pew envelope and designate your gift for “House of Promise”.

THE MARCH LIVING LUTHERAN “In Scripture, blessings can be inconvenient, risky and wild moments that reveal another way to be.” This startling truth is explored on page 36. There are two articles on the 50th Anniversary of women's ordination in the ELCA. Aligned with our Lenten focus, “Prayers Rise Like Incense” (p. 11) helps us see how even our most personal prayers rise together to the heart of God. Do not miss these and the other treasures in the Living Lutheran.

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, March 15	8:15	Worship – Holy Communion
<i>Commissioning of</i>	8:30	Junior Choir
<i>Jason Mills</i>	9:15	Sunday School
	9:30	Adult Forum
	10:30	Worship – Holy Communion
MONDAY	6:30	Friendship Circle
TUESDAY	8:00	Family Growth Center
	9:30	Staff Meeting
	1:00	Rainbow Circle
	6:15	T.N.T.
WEDNESDAY	8:00	Family Growth Center
	6:00	Board of Buildings & Grounds
	6:30	Potluck dinner
	7:30	Lenten Service
THURSDAY	8:00	Family Growth Center
	5:30	Mutual Ministry
	6:30	Congregation Council Meets
FRIDAY		“Charge” Jr. High Gathering
<i>First Day of Spring</i>	7:00	N.A. Meeting
SATURDAY	5:30	BNO / Chili Cook-Off and Euchre Night
SUNDAY, March 22	8:15	Worship – Holy Communion
	8:30	Junior Choir
	9:15	Sunday School
	9:30	Adult Forum
	10:30	Worship – Holy Communion

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

Artwork ©Laura R. Norton, www.lettersaloft.com

From that city
many of the
Samaritans
believed in him
because of
***the word of
the woman,***
who testified,
“He told me
everything that
I have done.”

John 4:39

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:

Evangelism

Goal: Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church will actively seek opportunities to spread God's Word and welcome all people to the community of faith. We will do this by:

- Spreading God's Word in a way that helps people in practical ways
- Telling the story of what God is doing through the mission and ministry of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church and its people
- Inviting and welcoming all people to participate in our faith community
- Adapting the experience at Bethlehem in an effort to help meet diverse needs
- Challenging our comfort zones and helping our faith community to be more "evangelical"

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

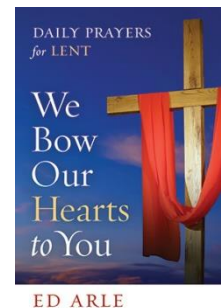
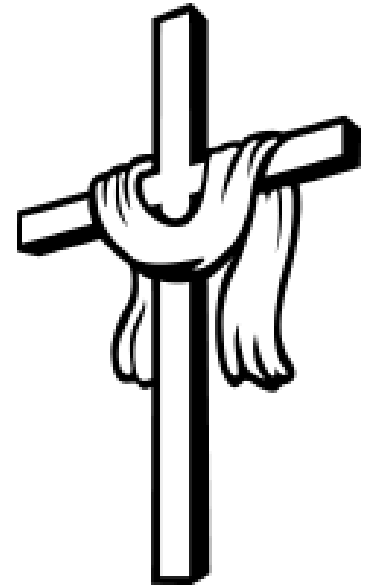
Wednesday, March 18
Contemplation

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.



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.