



WEEKLY CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP: THE PURIFICATION OF MARY AND PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:21–28, Hebrews 2:14–18, Luke 2:22–32 (33–40)

God's Kingdom Comes in Jesus

At Jesus' arrival in the temple, Simeon and Anna rejoiced to see God's salvation prepared for all peoples. Though Simeon and Anna by faith welcomed Jesus and His Kingdom, many rejected Jesus in favor of their own "kingdoms." God calls us to repentance, turning from idols to place our full faith in King Jesus. Like Simeon and Anna, we have the opportunity each day to welcome King Jesus into our hearts and lives, trusting His Kingdom way is best.

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

Luke 2:34-35

SERVING THIS SUNDAY – February 2

Preacher –	Seminarian Alex Holcomb
Officiant –	Deacon Ken Kerouac, Pastor Michael Korte
Lay Reader -	10:30 am Jacob Wagner
Acolytes-	9 AM Dakota Katzenberger, Olivia Dzuba 10:30 am Micah Crumbley, Rolando Brewer
Elder in Charge –	9 am Mike Denno, Kurt Engelhardt 10:30 am Larry Griffin
Greeters –	9 am 10:30 am Bille & David Mull
Tech Team –	9 AM Will Conrad, Bobby Truitt 10:30 am Christian, Jackson, Owen White
Special Music -	10:30 am Choir I Grades 1-4
Music Team -	9 am Josh & Julie Lumsden
Music Leaders –	9 am Josh Lumsden 10:30 am Annelise Holcomb

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (For more Information see blurbs below.)

February 2 - Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am

February 2– Sunday School Preschool – 4th 9:15 am

February 2 – Bible Study Lower Level 9:15 am

February 3 – Braille Workers 5:45 pm
February 3 – Homebound Ministry Meeting 6:30 pm
February 4 – Braille Workers 8:30 am
February 4– Bible Study David Room 9:30 am
February 4– Bethlehem Knitters 11 am David Room
February 4 – Bethlehem Stars 12 noon G’s Pizzeria
February 4 – Board of Elders 7 pm
February 5 – School Chapel 8:10 am
February 5 – Drive-Up Communion 4-5 pm
February 5 - Worship Arts Team Rehearsal 6:30 pm
February 6 – Braille Workers 8:30 am
February 6 – Senior Choir Rehearsal 7 pm
February 7 - Men’s Bible Study via Zoom @ 6:15 am
February 8 – Sweethearts Dance 6-8 pm (additional info in around Bethlehem)
February 9- Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am
February 9– Sunday School Preschool – 4th 9:15 am
February 9– Bible Study Lower Level 9:15 am
February 9 – Youth Group Donut Bowl after 1st Service 10 am - noon

FEBRUARY NOISY OFFERING SUPPORTS RESCUE MINISTRIES Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan provides hope and care for the homeless right here in Saginaw. Your gifts will provide food, a safe place to sleep and more to individuals and families who are struggling.

PRAYER FOCUS:

SPECIAL PRAYERS: Paul Tomaszewski, Gordon Henry, Milda Persons, Barbara Ruhlig, Dave Vanderlip, James Lutz, Larry Schroepfel, Karen Schram, Wendy Sova, Debbie Pappas

HOSPITALIZED: Tasha Mulder, Sarah Richards

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Evelyn Stadnika who entered eternal life on Tuesday, January 28. Evelyn was the mother of Thomas, Donald, Kathy, and Diane. Her Christian funeral was on Saturday at Snow Funeral Home @ 1pm.

Community Prayer Circles- joyfully invites you and members of your congregation/group to join us at Great Lakes Bay Financial 4901 Towne Center Road #113 on Sunday, February 9, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

A **NEW PASTORAL CALL LIST** has been requested from the Lutheran Church, Michigan District. The Board of elders request your prayers for pastors included on this list. Specifically ask that the Lord would guide Bethlehem and our candidates as we begin this process once again. Pray for patience, discernment and clarity in the plans the Lord has established for us.

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look on your Church with grace and guide the minds of those who shall choose a pastor for Bethlehem, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PASTOR CANDIDATE NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS: If there is a potential candidate you know that fits the Pastor profile as provided by the Call Committee and whom you would like to nominate for consideration, please follow the instructions below. **PLEASE NOTE:**

1. Nominations may be submitted by communicant members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 18 years of age or older.
2. Complete the nomination form, (forms are available in church office) write legibly and provide as much information as possible.
3. Submit the form by depositing it into the church office.
4. You can also mail or drop off your completed form to the church office at the attention of the Call Committee. Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 808 Weiss Street, Saginaw, MI 48602
5. The deadline to submit nominations is 1 pm on **Monday, February 3rd**.

Thank you for your prayers and participation in the Call process

CHURCH ATTENDANCE:

01-26-25 179 Online viewership: 34

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT Luke 2:24 – “[They went] to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.’” Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God gives us the pattern of proportional giving. If you look at Leviticus 12, you’ll see that the sacrifice for purification was either a lamb or a pair of birds if the family had no means to buy a lamb. God calls us to give in proportion to how He has blessed us — and of course Jesus sets the pattern by giving not only a portion, but His all.

SPECIAL VOTERS’ MEETING last Tuesday: At the special Voters meeting that was held January 28 the two items of business were passed. 1. Election of Ken Kerouac as congregation representative to District. 2. The approval of a new constitution and bylaws for Bethlehem which establishes a new organizational structure to be led by the newly created Ministry Leadership Board. Thank you to the Ministry and Governance Task Force for its work and many others who offered their ideas. Task Force members are Lisa Burnell, John Brandt, Laurie Denno, Christine Engelhardt, Jon Herzberger, Pastor Korte, Bill Wittig and Bill Wuerfel. The next step is for the MI District constitutional review committee to give their approval. Pending their suggestions for changes or approval a second Special Voters’ Meeting has been called.

A SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING MARCH 2 @ 10 AM the only item of business to be acted upon at this meeting will be suggestions for changes or improvements to the newly submitted constitution and bylaws for Bethlehem by the MI District review committee.

CARING FOR OTHERS

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS The food pantry is in need of canned fruit, canned vegetables, peanut butter, and hearty soups and stews. Donations can be dropped off at the church/school office.

BETHLEHEM BRAILLE MINISTRY IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS! If you are able to attend Braille ministry sessions at Bethlehem on Mondays from 5:45-7:45 PM or Thursdays from 8:30-11 AM, please contact Becky Bullard at 989-280-5130. No experience is necessary! Braille ministry does not meet in the summer.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES RESPONSE

The LCMS Pacific Southwest District (PSW) has shared that the most effective ways to help right now are to pray and donate. The PSW District is working with first responders from Synod office and Lutheran Church Charities to serve the congregations affected by the wildfires.

For updated information and to make a donation towards emergency relief please visit <https://www.psd-lcms.org/>

AROUND BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM STARS Bethlehem Stars will be meeting on **February 4th** at noon at G's Pizzeria on Bay Rd. Please call Billie Mull at 989-792-5843 to make your reservation.

LWML PRAYER DAY is Saturday, February 8, 2025, 8:30-9:00am registration and a light breakfast will be served. Service starts at 9:00 am at Peace Lutheran Church located at 3427 Adams Street, Saginaw, Mi. All are invited.

SWEETHEARTS DANCE (Bethlehem students preschool- 8th grade) are invited to attend the dance with their "special someone". This could be a parent, grandparent, aunt/uncle, etc. Saturday, February 8th, 6-8pm. Tickets are available to purchase any time now until Friday, February 7th. They will also be available at the door. \$15 per couple, \$5 per an additional child. A couple consists of one adult accompanied by one child. Tickets for additional children may be purchased separately. Ticket pricing includes a live DJ, dancing, refreshments, and a photo booth will be available. Extra informational sheets are available in the office.

INSPIRATIONAL HYMN FESTIVAL The Valparaiso University Chorale under the direction of Dr. Marin Jacobson will present an inspirational hymn festival at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 808 Weiss St., Saginaw on Monday, March 3 at 7:00 PM. Chamber orchestra, brass, and organist Szu-Ping Chang Wong will lead the assembly in song. The program—In Your Light We See Light—includes music and scripture readings from the Epiphany season, with violinist Dr. Diego Piedra as soloist in "Winter" from Vivaldi's Four Seasons. The choir and orchestra will conclude with excerpts from J.S. Bach's St. John Passion, and the Valley Lutheran High School Golden Voice will join the Valparaiso University musicians in this event. The program is free and open to the public. Find additional information, posters, and slides at: <https://www.valpo.edu/music/performances/choraletour2025/>

SEEKING WORSHIP ARTS TEAM MEMBERS Do you sing or play an instrument? Or can you see yourself working lights, sound, or visuals in our tech booth? Then you should consider joining our Worship Arts team! We are in need of new Worship Arts team members to lend us their talents at both the 9 AM and 10:30 AM service times. If you are interested, please see Alex Holcomb, email aholcomb@bethlehemsaginaw.org, or call 989-755-1144 to let us know.

WEEKLY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

- **Tuesdays, 9:30 am (Ladies)** in the David Room. Contact Mary Kay Hall for more information - (989) 497-8474. Starting new series on where Baptism is found throughout Scripture with the book *The Baptismal River* from CPH.
- **Wednesdays, 8:00 am (Men)** Meeting at Immanuel Bible Church on Center Rd. in Saginaw. Men from Bethlehem, Holly Cross, Immanuel, and Peace will be in attendance. Currently in Romans. Bring your own coffee – donuts provided. Contact Bill Denno at 989-781-4851 or 989-295-8618 for more info. Bring your favorite Bible!
- **Fridays, 6:15 am (Men)** on Zoom. “**The Book of Romans.**” For info: mp_denno@yahoo.com
- **Sundays, 9:15 am (Anyone)** in the lower level. We are using the study *The Messiah: Revealing Jesus in the Old Testament*. Jesus made Himself very clear that the Old Testament testifies of him. This study will walk us through that claim. If you have Sunday School age children and would like to join the study, please join us. Children are welcome in our class and can go to Sunday School when it begins at 9:30.

OTHER NEWS

FROM VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

The VL Winter Play - a Dessert Theatre - entitled “Death by Chocolate” is coming up soon! Join us at 7 p.m. on February 13, 14, and 15, 2025 at Peace Lutheran Church’s Gym. Tickets will be \$7/adult and \$5/student.

You’re invited to this year’s VL Auction and Benefit Dinner! Join us on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Bay City - Riverfront. This event brings together a great mix of the VL family - past, present, and future - all in support of the awesome ministry of Valley Lutheran. Tickets available at www.vlhsauction.com. Can’t attend in person? No ticket needed to get in on the silent auction fun, which begins on February 20.

FROM GRACE LUTHERAN

GriefShare Spring Session at Grace, Auburn

Have you suffered loss? Are you grieving the death of a loved one? There’s help for you. Grace Lutheran (303 Ruth Street, Auburn) will be starting a new round of GriefShare on Tuesday, February 4, at 10 a.m. GriefShare is a 13-week program designed to provide comfort to those who mourn. GriefShare is a safe space to open up about your sorrow and be heard. We’re not alone; Jesus comes alongside us to comfort us and lead us through our grief. GriefShare is open to everyone; it's a free resource and all the latest materials are provided. Each session lasts around 90 minutes, beginning with a video and followed by discussion. Every session is a standalone session, so you can attend as you're able, and the videos are available online for

review afterwards. Visit graceauburn.org/griefshare to register.

Learn to Paint Like Bob Ross in Just One Day

You too can paint like Bob, even if you have never picked up a brush before! Come out to Grace Lutheran Church (303 Ruth Street, Auburn) on March 29 from 2-5 p.m. \$50 for the first 10 people, a discount provided by Grace Lutheran! \$70 per person beyond the first 10. All supplies are included, no experience needed. You can do this! To register, call Ted at [248-622-9053](tel:248-622-9053) or visit <https://tinyurl.com/GraceLutheran32925> The password to the private event web page is: "GLC". Ted Simpson is a Certified Bob Ross Instructor® who is based in Farmington Hills, and has classes throughout Michigan!

FROM ST. JOHN AMELITH LUTHERN CHURCH & SCHOOL

The World Famous Amelith Valentine's Chicken BBQ will be held 2/16/2025 tickets are on sale now. \$15 for a 1/2 and \$10 for a 1/4 and includes with all the fixings and desserts. Meals will be available for dine in or take out. Pre-sale Tickets available after church in the back or in the school office at 1664 Amelith Rd, Bay City, MI 48706

FROM GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Card Night Fundraiser to support Alaska VBS Mission Team

Enjoy playing "That Card Game"? No experience necessary, everyone is welcomed! Snacks and beverages will be provided. Prizes will be awarded for the top players.

WHERE: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5335 Brockway Road, Saginaw, MI 48638

WHEN: Saturday, February 15, 2025

TIME: Card playing is from 6-9pm. (Please arrive by 5:30pm to sign in and learn the rules of the game)

COST: \$20.00 per person at the door

Please RSVP by February 12th to Jenny at 989-751-4525 or at jenrausch@gmail.com.

You're Invited: "Building Up the Kingdom in Joy" Conference

Join us on **March 8 at St. Luke's Haslett** for the "**Building Up the Kingdom in Joy**" conference, hosted by Christian Outreach for Africa (COFA). This event will highlight what God is doing in South Africa, with many of our friends from South Africa sharing their inspiring stories and vision. It's a great opportunity to learn, connect, and discover how you can be part of this mission! For more information and to register, see the attached flyer and registration link. If you can't attend, please consider supporting the mission in South Africa with a donation to

COFA through this QR code: 