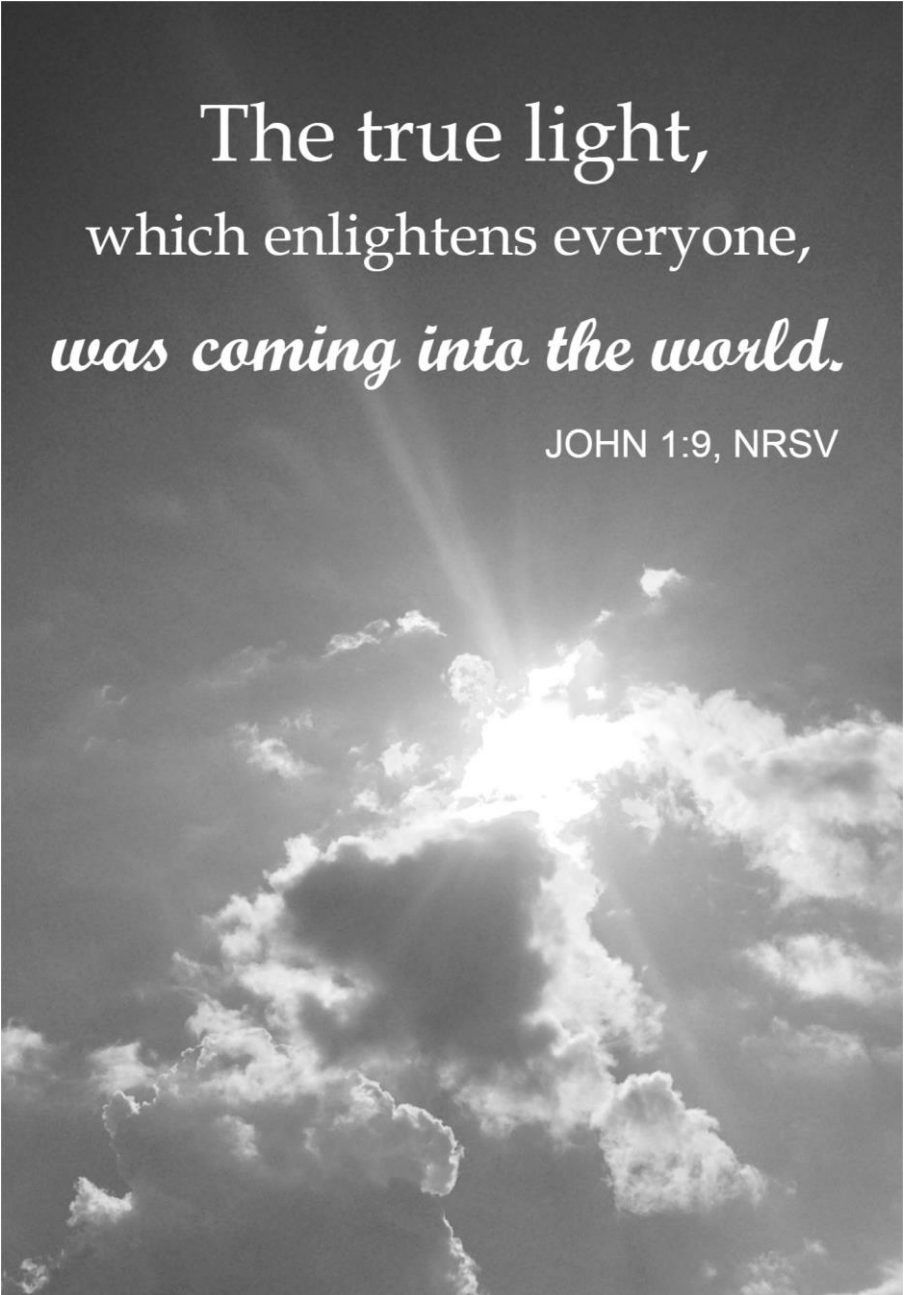


JANUARY EVANGEL

Bethel Lutheran Church, Ishpeming

The true light,
which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world.

JOHN 1:9, NRSV



ADVENT LITANY:

Advent means 'to come.'

This is a season of paying attention to our longing, of preparation, watching, pondering, and reflection; a time to pause and pay attention. So go ahead, snuggle up with a blanket and a cup of hot chocolate and take some time to pray, to read, to ponder, to pay attention to your longings for God. To wait.

We wait.

After he died, the women went to the tomb of Jesus, encountering an angel who said: He has been raised from the dead, he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.

We wait knowing Jesus has already gone ahead of us.

Watching the advent wreath candles disappear into prayers of smoke and light.

We wait and pray and pay attention.

We wait knowing Jesus is already here.

With the songs of Christmas knocking at every door, begging to be sung, **we wait in restraint.**

We wait to sing in celebration because we must first sing in hope.

For in the waiting we sustain our attention on those things we hope for.

In this sacred time of waiting, when injustice and despair threaten to overwhelm us,

We wait knowing the light is at work. Jesus is already at work.

We pray in hope for peace, for joy, for love.

We wait knowing the Christ child already dwells among us.

We wait knowing that Christmas doesn't end the waiting but changes the focus of our attention from waiting, watching, and paying attention in hope to living with celebration for a kingdom of love that is already complete but not yet known fully in our day to day.

We wait, knowing Jesus comes and dwells among us, bringing light and love, hope and joy.

As our advent candles disappear into prayers of smoke and light, we wait and pray.

We pay attention in hope, knowing that the waiting hope forms us into God's people of hope.

We wait with attentiveness to God's stirring because it teaches our hearts to be grateful and appreciative.

We wait knowing Jesus has already gone ahead of us.

We wait in hope.

Radio Broadcast – In celebration of my mother's 100th Birthday from Linda and Mike Chapman.

The Church office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 25 & 26, and Monday and Tuesday, January 1 & 2.

Pastor Tim will be away from December 25 through the evening of the 29th. If you are in need of immediate pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Steve Solberg at 906-458-2145.

Pastor Tim will also be on vacation January 21-27, but still available for emergency pastoral care (563-581-0929).

December 24

Bethany of Ishpeming will host a Sunday morning service at 10:30am.

All four ELCA churches in Ishpeming will be participating in a Service of Advent lessons and carols.



**At Bethel:
3pm & 9pm**

**Radio broadcast
at 7pm & 9pm
92.3 FM**

There will be NO worship services on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

Sunday, December 31 – the 10:00am worship will be a special service with lots of singing!

Attendance: Dec. 10 – 82, Dec. 11 – 16, Total = 98

Financial Report

2023	ACTUAL	BUDGET	% OF
Dec. 10 & 11	\$3,407	\$4,545	75%
YEAR-to-DATE	\$212,221	\$227,250	- \$15,029

We now have a URL address and a QR code to make donations!

<https://tinyurl.com/BethellshpGiving>

The link has been added to our website (www.bethelish.org).

Our General Fund, Boiler/HVAC and Radio Broadcast Funds are available for online donations; can be set up as one-time or recurring offering.



You can also go to the App Store and download the Vanco mobile app on your device.

If you prefer, mail your offerings to:

Bethel Lutheran Church, 333 E Ridge St, Ishpeming, MI 49849

Confirmation

Saturday, January 6 – 9am-12pm – at Bethel

Meetings in January

Wednesday, January 3 – 6pm – Nominating Committee

Tuesday, January 9 – 1pm – Worship & Music Committee

Tuesday, January 9 – 6:30pm – Council

Thursday, January 11 – 6pm – Social Ministry Committee

Tuesday, January 16 – 10am – Outreach Committee

Sunday, January 28 – 11:30am – Annual Congregation Meeting

SERVING US

Presiding Minister: Pastor Tim Johnston
Organist/Choir Director: Lucas Wickstrom

	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Lector	Mary Poirier	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
Usher(s)	Michael Terres	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
	Sam Hillman	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
	Margo & Ron Rantanen	-----
Communion Assistants	Kathy Balzarini	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
	Bill Seppanen	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
9am Coffee Host(s)	Clare Champion	-----
	Laura Kantola	-----
Van Driver	Earl Eliason	-----

SERVING NEXT WEEK: December 24

	3:00 PM	9:00 PM
Lector	-----	-----
Ushers	Al Balzarini	David Kangas
	Earl Eliason	Kay Herrala
	Jerry Millimaki	-----
	Doug Perttunen	-----
Communion Assistants	Kathy Balzarini	Dean Maki
	Bill Seppanen	-----
	Julie Luehmann	-----
Van Driver	Gary Thibeault	-----

The sign-up sheet for volunteering is located at the back of the sanctuary on the bulletin board. ***Please consider helping out.***

Cookie Walk Update

Bethel's 10th Annual Cookie Walk was a great success thanks to all who participated. It's amazing what we can do working together! We raised \$1257.00(!!!) which will be split evenly between the Boiler Fund and Bethel's Radio Broadcasts. Merry Christmas!

A big thank you to Peggy Schweinsberg for taking over the Cookie Walk organizing!



Come join us on Friday, January 5 from 5:30-7:30pm for an Epiphany party and potluck dinner! Bring a dish to share, if you can. Talk to Pastor Tim if you can help bake a king's cake (recipe provided or you can find many online-

just needs a hidden object 😊). We will also have some crafts, trivia, and time to sing some Christmas carols one last time!

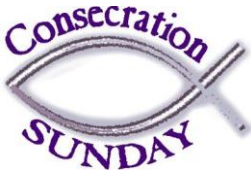
Epiphany happens every year, starting with the evening of January 5 through the evening of January 6. We often just say it is January 6. Epiphany's celebration is older than the celebration of Christmas and yet often it just passes by without much celebration. Epiphany makes Christmas make sense, because it testifies to the whole purpose of God in the flesh: God being revealed visibly to the whole world. Come join us!

LIVE ART & WORD CONTEST **Great Lakes Recovery**

The LIVE Art & Word Contest began in 2020 as a way to engage youth was recommended by a high school student in 2020 as a way to engage other students, encourage positive mental health and break the stigma surrounding mental health issues by giving others the opportunity to showcase their talents.

In 2023, the contest expanded to include middle school students and adults, as well as high school students. Individuals from across the UP are able to submit their work in two different categories: Visual Art and Word. The theme of the contest is Mental Health Awareness and all types of art or word are accepted — photography, poetry, paintings, graphic art, short story, etc. A cash Grand Prize will be awarded in each of the age categories: Middle School, High School and Adult, thanks to the generous sponsors.

Go to www.greatlakesrecovery.org/live-art-word-contest



Consecration Sunday/Monday February 4 & 5

As we head toward consecration Sunday/Monday we will have two weeks of temple talks on the theme: Gratitude and thanksgiving for God's goodness at work through Bethel. Then, on February 4 & 5, as a part of worship, we invite you to bring the right-hand side of our completed plan for giving card. There will be a time for you to bring it to the front and present your 2024 financial commitment for all God has done. Those who didn't bring their slips are also welcome to come forward. Each person who comes forward will be prayed over and anointed for service in Jesus' name in 2024.

Looking at the Plan for Giving card, you will keep the left-hand side for your own records and the right-hand side (with no names on it) you will present to God. As you work to fill it out, we ask you to consider the included growth in giving chart (on the back side of the plan for giving card). Find your current income, go to the right until you find your current weekly giving, and then you are challenged to grow 1% by moving one block to the left and giving that new number for 2024.

Thank you for sharing your gifts, and thank God for God's goodness toward us!

Pastor Tim

January 12-14 – FOR ALL AGES!

Come to Fortune Lake for a winter getaway! Join us for a weekend filled with good friends, hot saunas, camp games and songs, and time spent outdoors in the snowy Northwoods! This retreat is open to all ages and would make a great Christmas present!



Visit <https://fortunelake.org/event/winter-wonderland-retreat> or call 906-214-2267 for more information and to register by January 10.

Daily Devotions

Monday – Psalm 125 / 1 Kings 18:1-18 / Ephesians 6:10-17

Tuesday – Psalm 125 / 2 Kings 2:9-22 / Acts 3:17—4:4

Wednesday – Psalm 125 / Malachi 3:16—4:6 / Mark 9:9-13

Thursday – Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 / 2 Samuel 6:12-19 / Hebrews 1:1-14

Friday – Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 / 2 Samuel 6:12-19 / Hebrews 1:5-14

Saturday – Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 / Judges 13:2-24 / John 7:40-52

ANNUAL REPORT

END — OF — YEAR INFORMATION

2023 Offering Contributions must be turned in to the church office by Thursday, December 28 (9am-1pm), to be credited to 2023.

Year-End Reports must be turned into the church office by **Wednesday, January 10.**

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held at 11:30am on Sunday, January 28, in the Missionary (big) Hall downstairs. **All confirmed members are encouraged to attend.**

Mike Mariuzza, Nancy Mattson, Marilyn Meyer,
Larry & Nancy Molloy – Eagle Harbor, MI



Memorial Gifts

In Memory of **Arnold & Eleanor Locke** and **Nancy Emanuelson**
From Carol Holmgren, Amber Emanuelson and Tanner Linares.

In Memory of **Daryl Kempainen** from John & Shirley Solomon and
Debbie & Dan Chapman.

In Memory of **John E Heidemann** and **John R Heidemann** from
Ruth Heidemann.

In Memory of **Neil Chapman** from Mary Ann St. Andre, Allen & Judy Niemi, Marve & Laura Kantola, Dan & Debbie Chapman, Carol & Brett Long, John & Cindy Chapman, Claudette Vairo, Alan Nelson, Mike & Jane Mariuzza, Warren Heikilla & Stephanie Nelson, Ron & Margo Rantanen, Diane L. Poirier, and Greg & Marilyn Mahoski (for the Boiler Fund).

Many donors have discovered the benefits of making a gift using a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from their individual retirement account (IRA). If you are 70½ or older, you may be interested in this way to make a significant gift while lowering the income and taxes from our Required Minimum Distribution. Please consult with your IRA administrator.

ALSO...

Thrivent members have access to Thrivent Choice Dollars. You decide which qualifying organization(s) will receive a portion or all of your allocated "Choice Dollars." Bethel is a designated recipient. The amount varies per member, per year. Talk to your Thrivent rep for help, or go to thrivent.com/choice. By directing monies to Bethel, you are not reducing the value of your own accounts.

If you become homebound, or are unable to attend worship because of some difficulty, please call the church office so that you can be added to the pastor's visitation schedule.



If you or a loved one are or will be hospitalized, and you would like a visit, notify Pastor Tim (563-581-0929) or the church office. Privacy laws restrict hospitals from disclosing information about patients.

Serving in January

Offering Tellers: Dean Maki and

Dave Holli – January 7
Earl Eliason – January 14
Julie Penrose – January 21
Willow Lake – January 28

SUNDAY DRIVERS

Jan 7 – Earl Eliason
Jan 14 – Bud Hart
Jan 21 – Curtis Pauline
Jan 28 – Duane Palomaki

Rides are available in Ishpeming and Negaunee for the 10:00AM service. Call the office by noon on Fridays to sign up.

Voicemails will not be heard until Monday morning.

9:00am Sunday Coffee in the Fellowship Hall

Jan 7 – Mary & Neil Rundman
Jan 14 – Anita Mattila & Lisa Rautio
Jan 21 – Barbara Kaminen & Brenda Maddock
Jan 28 – Tina Anderson & Carol Holmgren



December 12th Meeting:



- Reviewed current financial report; expenses are exceeding giving. Kay Tupala will do a temple talk to share status with the congregation.
- Reviewed and approved Finance Committee recommendations for the 2024 Budget.
- Reviewed and approved the Endowment Fund Committee's proposed distribution recommendations.
- Received a report on the Cookie Walk - \$1257 received which will be split between the Boiler Fund and Radio Fund.
- Approved plan to cash the Youth Coordinator CD when it matures in June 2024 and deposit the money into the Bethel Youth Fund.



JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Katelynn Anttila, Lisa Rautio, Grayson Salonen
- 3 Logan Hart
- 4 Richard Bjorne, Jordann Grigg, Quinn Juntunen,
Connie Kangas, Kristin Laitinen
- 5 Diana Hallum
- 6 Brenda Maddock, Amber Ramsden, Judy Saari
- 7 Liam Kangas, Chris Ogea,
- 8 Jason Chapman, Linda Denofre, Lauren Rautio, Jennifer Terres,
Mavis Wiitanen
- 10 Talon Goethe, Briella Hart, Curt Voegtline, Jr.
- 12 Lynn Mattila, Barbara Woodruff
- 13 Keira Hooper, Dianne Leppanen
- 14 Julie Luehmann
- 15 Eileen Bonetti, Mary Kari, Quinn Lancour
- 16 Christie Larson, Michael Wommer
- 17 Levi Giroux, Marlene Ombrello
- 18 Eric Etelamaki, Jennie Oja, Nathan Williams
- 19 William Jalonen, April Walimaa
- 20 Bernie Mattila, Brooke Peterson, Kristi Poupore, Joshua Ross
- 21 Alexis Lyke, Lexi Mahoski, Bradley Pennala
- 22 Bryan Brewer, Laurel Lammi, Bradley Mahoski, Bradley Mattson,
Karen Ostlund, Emma Poirier, Kasey Raisinen
- 23 Allie Barron, Laura Kantola, Kaitlyn Keto, Amber Ostlund,
Eric Uuro
- 24 Becky Abendroth
- 25 Tina Anderson, Henry Kulju, Toini Lahti
- 26 Deborah Brouillette
- 27 Kristin Knapp, Linda Quayle
- 28 Christopher Koski, Miles Mattson, Vivian Nykanen
- 29 Henry Lamb
- 30 Rosalie Kempainen
- 31 Josephine Ruona

Calendar for the Week

Sunday, December 17	8:45am – Bell Choir 9am – Coffee Fellowship 10am – Worship & Sun. School 11am – Chancel Choir
Monday, December 18	5:30pm – Worship
Tuesday, December 19	10am – Martha Circle 11am – Bible Study 1pm – Rachel Circle (lunch)
Wednesday, December 20	1pm – Prayer Shawls 6:30pm – Advent Midweek Service
Thursday, December 21	9am – Quilters 
Friday, December 22	Pastor's Day Off
Sunday, December 24	10:30am – Advent 4 Worship at Bethany in Ishpeming 3pm – Worship 9pm – Worship
Monday, December 25 & Tuesday, December 26	OFFICE CLOSED 

SOLSTICE PRAYER

Creator of the stars of night,
bless the long hours of this night
with the warmth of your presence.
Come to all who suffer in any way.
Grant rest to the weary,
freedom to those who are burdened,
and bright hope to those who despair.
Strengthen us as we await your coming once again,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.



Advent Wreath

As Christians, we use symbols to express visually the basic tenets of our faith and as reminders of the pilgrimage of our life in Christ. Symbols can have heightened meaning for us when associated with particular seasons of that journey. One such symbol is the Advent wreath.

The Advent wreath has its roots in the pre-Christian practices of northern Europe. People sought the return of the sun in the dark time of the year (at the winter solstice) by lighting candles and fires. As early as the Middle Ages, Christians used fire and light to represent Christ's coming into the world. Using this same symbolism, the Advent wreath developed a few centuries ago in Germany as a sign of the waiting and hopeful expectations of the return in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. The wreath, a circle, came to represent the external victory over death through Jesus Christ. The evergreens were a sign of the faithfulness of God to God's people, even in death, and the lighted candles were a reminder of the light of Christ brought into the world...(from elca.org)