

I KNOW
WHO YOU ARE—
THE
HOLY
ONE
OF GOD.

MARK 1:24

Financial Report

2024	ACTUAL	Prop. BUDGET	% OF
Jan 21 & 22	\$2,906	\$4,391	66%
YEAR-to-DATE	\$14,326	\$13,173	109%

Attendance: Jan 14 – 71, Jan 15 - 12 = 83



<https://tinyurl.com/BethellshpGiving>

← Download the Vanco mobile app!

If you prefer, mail your offerings to:
Bethel Lutheran Church
333 E Ridge St, Ishpeming, MI 49849



SERVING US

Preacher: Pastor Tim Johnston
Organist/Choir Director: Lucas Wickstrom

SERVING NEXT WEEK: February 4 & 5

	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Lector	Needed	Needed
Ushers	Jill Bouza	Jason Chapman
	Needed	Needed
Communion Assistants	Needed	Needed
	Needed	Needed
9am Coffee Host(s)	Peggy, Ray & Jason	-----
	Chapman	-----
Transport	Earl Eliason	-----

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

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 13 – 6:30pm – Church Council
Thursday, February 15 – 6pm – Property Committee

Confirmation

Saturday, February 3 – 9am-12pm at Grace Lutheran Church, Gwinn. The carpool leaves promptly at 8:15am!



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 9th Meeting:



Council Highlights

- Approved the proposed annual budget for 2024 to be presented at the Annual Meeting.
 - Approved the Annual Meeting agenda.
 - Appointed auditors for 2023 financial audits: Anita Sandberg and Cassy Sandberg.
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If you would like to help sponsor palm branches for the altar on Palm/Passion Sunday, please contact the church office.



DAILY DEVOTIONS

Monday – Psalm 35:1-10 / Numbers 22:1-21 / Acts 21:17-26

Tuesday – Psalm 35:1-10 / Numbers 22:22-28 / 1 Corinthians 7:32-40

Wednesday – Psalm 35:1-10 / Jeremiah 29:1-14 / Mark 5:1-20

Thursday – Psalm 147:1-11, 20c / Proverbs 12:10-21 / Galatians 5:2-15

Friday – Psalm 147:1-11, 20c / Job 36:1-23 / 1 Corinthians 9:1-16

Saturday – Psalm 147:1-11, 20c / Isaiah 46:1-13 / Matthew 12:9-14



*** If you haven't signed up for intergenerational camp, June 16-21, do so soon as we hear it is filling up! Pastor Tim and family will be there and we will have studies and other enrichment from the amazing painter Paul Oman.

Bethel will help you with ½ of the cost. Can't wait to be together with you at camp!

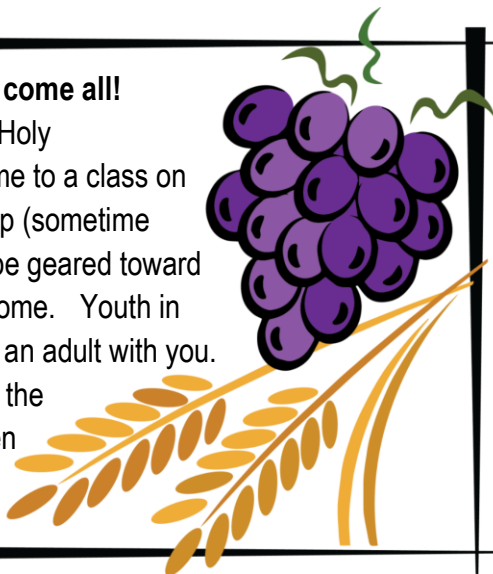
~ ALSO ~

*** Camp Sunday & Monday, Feb 11 & 12 for a worship in celebration of camp. **You are invited to wear camp clothes** to add a bit to our celebration! We will worship, sing some camp songs, and celebrate the ministry of our Bible camp.

Amanda Rasner, executive director of Fortune Lake, will be with us, along with a few other camp advocates!

Communion class - Come one, come all!

Want to explore the meanings of Holy Communion? All ages are welcome to a class on Sunday, February 25 after worship (sometime around 11:15am). The class will be geared toward elementary youth but all are welcome. Youth in grades 6 and under, please bring an adult with you. We will meet in the youth room in the basement behind the small kitchen fellowship hall.



You're invited - Bethel Kitchen Shower

Monday, February 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Fun, fellowship & snacks while we replenish Bethel's kitchen and cleaning supplies. If you aren't able to attend, please drop off items at the church before that date.

Needed items are listed below:

coffee, reg & decaf	powder creamer	paper towel
toilet paper	Mr. Clean	dusting spray
toilet bowl cleaner	'Kleenex'	7" paper plates
13 gal. garbage bags	30 gal. trash bags (please no generic)	
rags		

Bay Cliff Health Camp is now hiring for all positions for Summer 2024. They are seeking camp counselors, lifeguards, leadership staff, and professional and support staff. For more information, or apply, go to www.baycliff.org.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Christmas Program a Success!

Thank you for supporting our Christmas Program this year, with your help, we **provided Christmas Baskets to 123 families (275 people) in the Ishpeming area!** Each family received all the fixings for a Christmas meal and breakfast including a turkey or ham, milk, eggs, butter, and bread! Most households were also given cleaning supplies and some personal care items. Your Church's generous donation of \$700* was utilized toward the purchase of meat again this year. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of all of you at Bethel Lutheran and the Catholic parishes in Ishpeming via the food and cleaning supplies drive! Together, our Christian community in Ishpeming continues to be the hands and feet of Christ, especially during this most Holy season. **Thanks again and God Bless!**

**this was from Bethel's Social Ministry*

U.P. Home Health & Hospice is reaching out with an opportunity to make a profound impact on the lives of individuals and families in our community. They are seeking people to join the team as hospice volunteers.

By becoming a hospice volunteer, you will not only contribute to the well-being of others but also find a deeply rewarding experience that enriches your own life. If you feel called to volunteer, U.P. Home Health & Hospice invites you to contact them at 906-485-4545 for more details.

CHURCH ACTS

Wedding – Cory Mahoski & Annette Anderson were married
Saturday, December 30.

Baptism – Harlynn Drew Mitchell was baptized on Sunday,
January 14. Her parents are Aubrey Wrenn and
Avery Mitchell.

Funeral – Dennis William Kari, died on December 8, service
held on December 15.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed Brian and Danielle Anderson, and their two children,
Nora and Barrett, on Sunday, January 7.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of **Dennis Kari** from:

Glenn & Roberta Sjöholm

Mary & Bud Poirier

Lloyd & Gail Hooper

Bob & Robyn Nardi

Connie & Dave Kangas

Eileen Brooks-Laitinen

Michael & Linda Legacy

Mary Kari, Jackie Kangas and Kevin Kari Families

David & Linda Wommer

Warren Heikkila & Stephanie Nelson

Scott & Denise Perry

Lee & Gail Mattson

Victor & Carol Cox

Ruth Heidemann

In Memory of **Neil Chapman** from:

Jim & Karen Ombrello

Dave & Patt Holli

In Memory of **Daryl Kempainen** from:

Julianne Herman

Marv & Laura Kantola

Jim & Karen Ombrello

Jace & Carroll Gray

Warren Heikkila & Stephanie Nelson

Karen Johnson

Patt & Dave Holli

In Memory of **Michael & Melba Maki** and **Dale Mattson** from Sara Mattson

In Memory of **Arvid Peterson and Helen Saari** from:

Sharon Millimaki

Janet Hendrickson

Fellow disciples-

There is an old folk saying that goes: Patience- seldom possessed by women, never possessed by men. My dictionary defines patience as the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset. Interesting. I usually think of patience in more positive terms: as giving it time, letting things brew. There was a saying on a box of tea I got years ago. It said 'brew well to be well' and encouraged you to let your tea brew for 10-15 minutes. A long time to wait for a cup of herbal tea, but in that brewing you get a better more healthy cup of tea.

It feels both like a long time ago and not very long ago that I began my call with you as your pastor. In fact, it has been 7ish months. This is good to remember. We are just beginning to get to know each other. Just beginning to figure out where each of our strengths and weaknesses are and how we are best called to walk with each other into the future.

Patience is a good thing as we embark on this journey.

One piece of the journey that will take patience is a shift in the way this congregation does ministry. In last year's annual report the Westons noted the desire for Bethel to move to a more participatory way of doing things. One attitude that helps with this is what some call permission giving. In permission giving ministry, council and leadership try, as much as they can, to give away control. They let established teams and new/informal teams do the ministry to which they are called without interfering. William Easum, who wrote a book about this, says something radical: Permission-giving churches have leaders who are secure enough to equip others for ministry and then get out of their way and let them develop their ministry even if it is not something in which they might participate. Easum goes even further, saying that established churches worship at the feet of the sacred cow of control. Then he lists some of the shapes such control takes: controlling everything that happens in our churches; our desire to coordinate everything that happens; or to know about everything before it happens; or to insist on voting on every new issue or ministry; control of the building: a gym floor that must be kept scratch free, a kitchen no one can use but designated person; an official body that has to approve every decision.

What all of this talk about permission giving means is that leadership will work to let you do what you feel called to do, as long as it doesn't violate our mission as Jesus followers to love God and love our neighbor. Council's job is oversight not micro-management. If a team can make a

decision, council will let them. If an individual with an idea can find a few people and work on a new idea, council will let them. Whoever is closest to the ministry will be allowed to make the decisions. People will be encouraged to start new things without having to jump through a maze of decision-making committees.

Your council is still figuring out what permission giving looks like. Desire to have a more participatory way of doing things, as the Westons named, was step one. Now we are doing the hard work of slowly changing our actions, attitudes, and ways of doing things.

What this means is that even I, as your pastor, will not know what is going on with everything happening at church. Easum says that control stifles God's people's spiritual growth. My goal as your pastor is to make sure to empower you and let you grow as a disciple of Jesus. As I work hard to keep out of things and let you do what you are called to do, it allows me the time to do what you have called me to do: preach, teach, baptize, lead worship, provide pastoral care, educate about and connect us to the larger church, prayerfully equip us all for witness and service, guide us in proclaiming God's love through word and deed, etc.

When I was a student at Michigan Tech, what feels like ages ago, I learned about brainstorming. The one rule of brainstorming was to not critique too quickly the ideas of others. It kills the creative juices. I think there is a taste of that in permission giving. Let things happen, even if you wouldn't do it that way, as long as it fits within the large box of loving God and loving our neighbor. If something doesn't fit with that, then it is time to speak. Otherwise, let it happen.

Oh, and, lest we forget, the Holy Spirit is at work in it all. In you. In me. In our being together as the people of Bethel. Where that Spirit will blow and lead- only God knows. But I am glad we are on the journey together. I am thankful for our first months together and I look forward to 2024 with you.

In Christ,
Pastor Tim

P.S. This year at our annual meeting, we will start a new tradition of electing our synod assembly delegates. This allows us to be organized come spring and it allows anyone to put their name forward. Simply offer your name at the annual meeting. If we have more names than are needed, we will ask each person to share why they are interested and then elect delegates.

WELCOME VISITORS!

Local: Bonnie Haglund, Mike Mariuzza, Dan & Cathy Jo Doney,
Sister Noreen Stevens, Mindy Dull, Brett Nelson, Tim Spleker,
Ronald Cram, and Ariana Guidebeck

From away: Kevin Stanek- Iron Mountain, Casey Migaczi- Green Bay,
and Stacy LeBre- Edwardsburg, MI

Serving in FEBRUARY



Offering Tellers: Katie Barron & Carol Holmgren

SUNDAY CHURCH TRANSPORTATION

Feb. 4 – Earl Eliason

Feb. 11 – Bud Hart

Feb. 18 – Curtis Pauline

Feb. 25 – Duane Palomaki

A ride is available in Ishpeming & Negaunee for the 10:00am Sunday
worship 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

Feb. 4 – Peggy, Ray & Jason Chapman

Feb. 11 – Ann Kulju & Eileen Bonetti

Feb. 18 – Kay Tupala & Curtis Pauline

Feb. 25 – Need a couple of volunteers!



Bill, Jennifer and Michael Terres had a house fire last week. We are
having a loose offering to help them defray some of the expenses they
are incurring.

Please keep them in your prayers.

RADIO SPONSORS

December 31- In memory of Matt & Barbara Korpi from Linda Legacy.

January 7- In memory of Loved Ones from Al & Kathy Balzarini.

January 14- In memory of Mason & Gert Chapman and Francis & Janet Wentela from Ray, Peggy and Jason Chapman.

January 21- In memory of our mother, Jane Maki, and her twin sister, Joan Nelson on their birthday, from her children.

SoulShop training- February 8th from 8:30 to 4:30pm at Bethel. SoulShop is a training to equip faith community leaders and congregations to minister to those impacted by suicide and suicidal desperation.

The training will explore the reality of suicidal desperation, the tools of faith, the things that get in our way of saying what we need to say or offering what we have to offer, all in a conversational format. If you are interested, you can talk to Pastor Tim or send the trainer, Marna Franson, an email at marna@upepiscopal.org.

Summer at Fortune Lake!

There is an abundance of camp experiences for anyone of every age this summer at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. Posters and brochures are placed on bulletin boards and hallway tables. Below are two of the new experiences that may interest you...

June 16-21 Treehouse Adventures for grades 7-12

Active experiences in the great outdoors with a unique blend of off-site adventures and traditional camp activities. Hike to a waterfall, canoe across the lake, experience a high ropes course, cook meals over a fire, build a fort, dig into Bible study, and swim in Fortune Lake.

July 14-17 Evergreen Camp for adults 55+

Don't forget about the Intergenerational Week (see page 7 of this Evangel) and the Congregation Day for Bethel on Thursday, June 27.

Scholarships are available from Bethel.



FEBRUARY

Birthdays

- 1** Bill Seppanen
- 2** Laurel Raihala, Sarah Rautio
- 4** Dylan Etelamaki, Barbara Liubakka, Gail Olson
- 5** Clifford Johnson
- 6** Kaylee Foreman, Kay Herrala, Dylan Korpi,
Marion 'Lou' Ouellette
- 7** Matthew Beito, Anne Giroux, Tonya Karvonen-Nelson, Marlene
Mongiat, Curt Voegtline, Sr.
- 8** Florence Kakkuri
- 9** Darren Arsenault, Sharon Millimaki, Tamara Niemi
- 10** Sheree Gembolis, Michael Isaacson, Mary Mantela,
Anita Mattila, Nancy O'Neill, Karen Skauge
- 11** Amber LaMarre, Kalli Mattson, Stephanie Nelson, Keith O'Brien,
Patricia Rodda, Kristine Stine
- 12** Dorthy Hautakangas, Kay Johnson
- 13** Gregg Durand, Sue Pohlman, Benjamin Pruett, Tonia Ricklard
- 14** Jeff Adriano, Jacquelyn Etelamaki
- 15** Lennon Laitinen
- 16** Marie Carlson, James Rautio, Mark Rautio,
- 17** Tessa Burke
- 18** Irene Harvala
- 19** Craig Korpi, Ada Nelson
- 20** Peyton Mahoski, Evan Poupore
- 21** Lukas Barron, Stasia Soave, Amber Tuominen
- 22** Terri Balzarini, Shirley Kinnunen, Jonathan Korpi, Amy Poirier,
R.J. Poirier, Jeff Soave, Jason Sullivan
- 23** Becky Anderson, Bonny Kipling, Ashley Snell
- 24** Steve Niemi, Steven Raisanen, John Rosten
- 25** Dylan Junak, David Kangas, Courtney Verellen
- 26** Garrett Frustaglio, Cathy Kautz, Molli Frion
- 27** Lindsey Sandberg
- 28** Ron Rantanen, Gabriel Salonen

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28	8:45am – Bell Choir 9am – Coffee Fellowship 10am – Worship & Sunday School 11:30am – Annual Meeting
MONDAY, JANUARY 29	5:30pm – Worship
TUESDAY, JANUARY 30	11am – Bible Study
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1	9am – Quilters
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2	Pastor's Day Off
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3	9am-Noon – Confirmation at Grace Lutheran in Gwinn
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4	8:45am – Bell Choir 9am – Coffee Fellowship 10am – Worship & Sunday School 11:00am – Chancel Choir

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA, NGLS

333 East Ridge Street, Ishpeming, MI 49849

906-485-5533

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 am – 1 pm

E-mail Address: bethellutheran333@yahoo.com

Web Address: www.Bethelish.org / Facebook: Bethel Lutheran Church Ishpeming

Pastor: Rev. Tim Johnston – tdjohnst@gmail.com (emergencies 563-581-0929)

Admin. Assist: Connie Kangas -- bethellutheran333@yahoo.com

Organist/Choirs: Lucas Wickstrom – lucas@lucas.net

Sunday School: Jennifer Juntunen – bethelishsundayschool@gmail.com

Treasurer: Karen Ostlund – betheltreasure@aol.com

Custodian: Tina Anderson