

A close-up photograph of holly leaves and clusters of bright red berries. The leaves are dark green and glossy, while the berries are vibrant red and clustered together. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

Bethel Lutheran Church

333 E. Ridge St., Ishpeming MI 49849

906-485-5533

December

2024

EVANGEL

Financial Report

2024 Year to date	Receipts	Expenses	+ or -
Through October 31	\$ 188,366	\$ 184,972	+ \$ 4,014

<https://tinyurl.com/BethellshpGiving>



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

December Meetings

Tuesday, December 10, 6:30pm – Council
Thursday, December 12, 6pm – Property Committee
Tuesday, December 17, 6pm – Nominating Committee



The church office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday and Friday, November 28 & 29.

- Approved Endowment Fund distributions for 2024.
- Approved Worship & Music recommendation (with attendee input) to cancel evening services on Memorial Day, Labor Day and December 23.
- Approved Cookie Walk proceeds to be used for 2025 youth events.
- Approved 2025 council to be maintained at 9 members; 4 new members needed (two 2yr and two 3yr terms).
- Approved Ish ELCA plan to hire consultant to evaluate the four churches. Fee will be split with other participant churches.
- Approved Bethel's participation in a combined VBS for summer 2025.



Council Highlights



1st Sunday/Monday Food Drive

Reminder to bring in non-perishable food to church on December 1 & 2. Please place the items in the grocery cart in the hallway. The items are given to St. Vincent DePaul.

***Food items can be brought in at any time; this is just a 'designated' day.



Bethel's 11th Annual Christmas Cookie Walk is right around the corner! Make your holiday season a little less stressful; let us do the baking for you!

This year's "Walk" proceeds will help fund both a 2025 Youth Group spring retreat and hurricane relief work this summer. Please support this valuable church outreach.

It's not too late to bake or volunteer to work. Sign up at the church or call/text 989-280-8191.

See you at the Cookie Walk!



The Salvation Army is providing gifts to children. If you would like to donate gifts or gift cards, please contact the Salvation Army directly. Many people miss the gift giving we used to do. You can also 'adopt a family' if you'd like.

Cookie Boxes for recent bereaved and shut-ins will be packed and ready for delivery on Saturday, December 14 (after the Cookie Walk). If you bake for this specifically, make sure to label your box 'Social Ministry' and have them at the church by 1:00pm on December 14.

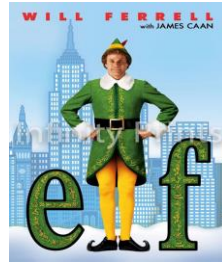
5th Sunday Worship Service

The Lutheran Community of Ishpeming
Sunday, December 29, 10:00 am
at Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 8, 4-7pm

Grace Lutheran in Gwinn

There will be food & goodies,
and we'll be watching the movie 'ELF'.



Confirmation Class –

Saturday, December 14 at Messiah in Marquette

Summer Service Trip- Attention students currently in 8-12 grade. Next summer (July 19-26) you have the opportunity to go to Asheville, North Carolina and help with disaster response work needed after Hurricane



**Youth
Hurricane
Response**

Helene. We will stay at Lutheridge Lutheran Camp. Our week will include 3 days of disaster response work, one day of fun/adventure at camp in the nearby mountains, and daily morning/evening devotions. If you are interested, please get your name to Pastor Tim by December 3. Deposit and fundraising details will be discussed after we know interest.

Concerts and Christmas Events

December 7 -
7:30pm

Marquette Choral Society “Winter Delights”

Reynolds Recital Hall, NMU

December 8 –
3pm

General \$10, Under age 12 \$5

Tickets available at tickets.nmu.edu

December 7 -
7pm

Negaunee Male Chorus Christmas Concert

WC Peterson Auditorium, Ishpeming High School

Adults \$15, age 17 & under Free (with an adult)

December 8 -
6pm

Breathe in Advent with Hope and Joy!

Faith Lutheran Church, 180 Co Rd PPO, Ishpeming

A relaxing presentation of readings and music featuring original poems and short stories by Marty Achatz.

A time of fellowship will follow the program.

Christmas Decorating Party!!!

Sunday, December 1, after the
10am worship

Bring soup, chili, etc. to share
for lunch if you can!



***The Lutheran Community of Ishpeming
Invites you to
Celebrate the Season of Preparation***

December 4th, 11th and 18th -- 6:30pm
Holden Evening Prayer Worship
at Bethany Lutheran Church, Ishpeming



ANNUAL MEETING & REPORT INFO

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26 at 11:30am
(following the worship service).

All financial and committee reports must be submitted to the church office
by January 8 for auditing. The Annual Report will be available
on Sunday, January 29.

Advent Offering Envelope

Enclosed is a special offering for the Advent Season. The suggested
donation is \$20.00 (this is the amount the old coin folders were), but any
amount you can give will be appreciated!

CHURCH ACTS

Baptisms –

Rhett Robert Poirier and Milo Andrew Poirier were baptized on
November 17. Their parents are Robert & Ashlee Poirier.
God's blessings to all of you.

MEMORIALS

In memory of **Steve Nurmela** from Scott & Denise Perry, John & Shirley
Solomon, Diane L Poirier, Stephanie Nelson & Warren Heikkila;
and for Social Ministry from Karen Marietti, Jerry Millimaki and
Linda Legacy

In memory of **Jean Wentela Ayotte** from Michael & Linda Chapman

In Memory of Matt & Barb Korpi from Katherine Savu

In memory of **Kevin Hodges** from Ed & Lou Ouellette, Mark Ouellette,
Shanna & Ken Junak, and Paul & Robyn Altobello

In memory of **John Ruona** from Marlene Koval, Ross & Barb Carlson, Brad
Richards, Diane Collar, Pat Watters, Gerald Uren, Morris Melby,
LaVerne Koski, Reuven & Marlene Rombach and Eugene Bilkey

Serving Us In December

Sunday Tellers: Julie Penrose and Anne Giroux (8th), Ann Kulju (15th),
Laura Kantola (22nd). Need add'l teller for the 1st.

Tuesday Tellers: December 3 –
December 10 –
December 17 –
December 24 –
December 30 –

SUNDAY DRIVERS

December 1 – Earl Eliason	December 22 – Duane Palomaki
December 8 – Bud Hart	December 24 – Earl Eliason (3pm)
December 15 – Curtis Pauline	December 29 – Bud Hart (at Trinity)

A ride is available in Ishpeming & Negaunee for the 10am Sunday worship service. Call the office by noon on Fridays to sign-up.

9:00am Sunday Coffee in the Fellowship Hall

December 1 – Nicole Asgaard & Carol Holmgren
December 8 – need servers
December 15 – Denise Perry & Janet Poggione
December 22 – Jennie Scott



Radio Sponsors

November 10 – In loving memory of Betty Phillips
from her family.

November 17 – In loving memory of Daryl Champion on his 80th
Birthday from his family.

November 24 – In honor of Bud Hart's 75th Birthday.



- 1 Alyssa Choate, Lance Maki
- 2 Lori Kulju, Craig Perry
- 3 Lori Arcand, Michael Vial
- 4 Brandon Perry
- 5 Gregory Elmquist, Dannette Perry
- 7 Mildred Hamari, Sandra Wuorenmaa
- 8 Kyle Pruett
- 9 Drake Ayotte
- 10 David Bonetti, Scott Perry
- 12 Asher Carlson, Dustin Wirtanen
- 13 Maggie Beaudry, Mary Poirier
- 14 Ashley Mattson
- 15 Jeffrey Aho, Nola and Saige Matson, Allen Niemi
- 16 Nathan Ostlund, Fred Saari
- 17 Kathryn Etelamaki, Robert Perala, Susan Reynolds,
Eric Stream
- 19 Jay Challa, Max Uuro
- 20 Jakob Horton, Sydnee Horton
- 21 Barry Arseneau, Jill Bouza, Brayden Martin, Carrie Thibeault
- 22 Ronalyn Arseneau
- 23 Ray Chapman, Stephanie Clark
- 24 Crosby Bess, Erica Nurmela
- 25 Douglas Collar, Doug Roberts
- 26 Lori Doney, Robyn Nardi, Emily Vial, Linda Wommer
- 28 Susan Harvala, Michael Nelson
- 29 Molly Michaud
- 30 Benjamin Lyons, Madisyn Mead
- 31 Michael Kaminen, Maikel Poirier

Welcome Visitors!

Mike Mariuzza, Joseph Belpedio,
Ron Kulju & Kathy Baker from Albuquerque, NM

Daily Devotions

	Dec 2-7	Dec 9-14	Dec 16-21	Dec 23-28
Mon	Psalm 90	Psalm 126	Isaiah 11:1-9	Luke 1:46b-55
	Number 17:1-11	Isaiah 40:1-11	Numbers 16:1-19	Daniel 7:19-27
	2 Peter 3:1-18	Romans 8:22-25	Hebrews 13:7-17	Revel 11:1-14
Tue	Psalm 90	Psalm 126	Isaiah 11:1-9	
	2 Sam 7:18-29	Isaiah 19:18-25	Num 16:20-35	
	Revel 22:12-16	2 Peter 1:2-15	Acts 28:28-31	
Wed	Psalm 90	Psalm 126	Isaiah 11:1-9	
	Isaiah 1:24-31	Isaiah 35:3-7	Micah 4:8-13	
	Luke 11:29-32	Luke 7:18-30	Luke 7:31-35	
Thu	Luke 1:68-79	Isaiah 12:2-6	Psalm 80:1-7	Psalm 148
	Malachi 3:5-12	Amos 6:1-8	Jerem 31:31-34	2 Chron 24:17-24
	Philip 1:12-18a	2 Corin 8:1-15	Hebr 10:10-18	Acts 6:1-7, 51-60
Fri	Luke 1:68-79	Isaiah 12:2-6	Psalm 80:1-7	Psalm 148
	Malachi 3:13-18	Amos 8:4-12	Isaiah 42:10-18	Prov 8:32-36
	Philip 1:18b-26	2 Corin 9:1-15	Hebr 10:32-39	John 21:19b-24
Sat	Luke 1:68-79	Isaiah 12:2-6	Psalm 80:1-7	Psalm 148
	Malachi 4:1-6	Amos 9:8-15	Isaiah 66:7-11	Isaiah 54:1-13
	Luke 9:1-6	Luke 1:57-66	Luke 13:31-35	Revel 21:1-7

Help with shoveling snow is always needed in the winter! If you can help out at all, please contact the church office at 906-485-5533.



Thanks to your congregations, 10 semi-truck loads of LWR Quilts & Kits reached hard-hit areas across North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee in record time. Your love offered a bright spot of hope for veterans experiencing homelessness in Asheville, NC. **Your ongoing generosity will allow us to continue giving LWR Quilts, Kits and cash grants to local organizations across the Southeast so they can expand their community-level operations to provide for families' urgent needs.** The needs remain immense.



Looking for Church Council Candidates!

The church council will be needing four new members who will be voted in at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26.

The council meets regularly on the second Tuesday of the month, and meetings generally last 1 – 1 ½ hrs.

Positions needed are two 2-year terms, and two for normal 3-year terms.

If you are interested, please contact any current council member, or the church office, by December 13.

Shining with the Light of Christ in the Northern Great Lakes Synod

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those of the family of faith.” ~ Galatians 6:9-10

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I remember being reluctant to play “Monopoly” with my brothers. I had learned that the game quickly became a source of conflict, especially when my competitive siblings did not lose, or win, with grace. The game would often be fraught with tension and anxiety, and end with tears, yelling, and maybe even a punch or two thrown for good measure. Maybe it only happened once, but I learned to not play that game.

Despite the occasional violence and fighting over a board game, even as children we all know, without having the language to say so, that our relationship as a family was always the priority. We were not allowed to be angry for long. Often, whatever lingering ill will there was dissipated after a snack, a nap, or shifting to another game that was far more fun.

This priority of relationship over the power of disagreement has continued into our adult life. We do not agree on everything. We have differing views and perspectives...on money, parenting, what shows are worth watching, what sports teams to support, and most markedly of late – politics. While this grieves me, it does not threaten the love I have for my siblings. I know that whoever wins the presidential election, the occupant of the oval office will not stop me from loving my siblings and holding that relationship as a priority.

The same goes for my neighbors and friends. The relationship is the

priority, not any disagreement concerning our political opinions or affiliations.

Granted, the relationship can be strained by such disagreements. We can feel sad that people we know and love can have different convictions. When we feel strongly, there is a real challenge as to how to interact, converse, and continue the focus on the relationship and the common ground we do share.

But when the relationship is the priority, the rest feels less important, even as it continues to be important. I am hopeful that the same can be true of our families of faith. It is worth noting that our congregations continue to be one of the few places in society that continues to hold and defend space to disagree, even as we are unified in our desire and our efforts to serve the work of Christ. Without taking a poll, I would guess that each and every one of our congregations reflect the general division of our nation into the separate groups of Republicans, Democrats, Independents, non-voters, etc. And yet, we continue to gather and be in proximity to each other. As the body of Christ, we worship together, share coffee fellowship, partner in ministry, and get the work of Christ done. In our families of faith, we are reminded again and again how our relationship with a loving God shapes **who** we are and **how** we are with our siblings in Christ and community neighbors, even and especially with those with whom we disagree. This is no small thing.

As the election results become apparent, as there may be discord and even violence, as some may not win, or lose, with grace, I put my trust in the power of Christ to bind us together in love.

Relationship is the priority. Let us work for the good of all...together, no matter how we have voted or who occupies the oval office. Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, following Jesus our Lord and Savior every step of the way.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

Ish ELCA update

Thank you to all Bethel members who participated in the Congregational Conversation on October 27. Your input is providing guidance to us as we move forward with the Ish ELCA group.

As you are aware, the four ELCA churches continue to meet monthly to discuss options for increased joint ELCA ministry in Ishpeming.

On that note, the church councils at each of the churches (Bethel, Bethany, Faith, Trinity) are voting this month on a proposal to engage a church consultant to evaluate our properties. The explanation of the consultant's work is stated here:

The goal of the church building consultation is to guide the leadership of the ELCA congregations in Ishpeming, MI in making educated decisions about the best use of their building assets for joint ministry. This will be done by looking at each building and grounds with a focus on the mission and vision of the potential partnership amongst the congregations.

Bethel's church council met on Tuesday, Nov. 12 and approved the expenditure for the consultation. The four churches (or whichever churches decide to participate) will share the expenses. We will keep you posted on this visit.

The Ish ELCA group is also proposing a joint Vacation Bible School to be held in June in Ishpeming and offered by staff of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. Bethel's Church Council approved this plan and approved our financial support (again, shared by the four ELCA congregations).

At the next Ish ELCA meeting on December 6 we plan to learn more from Pastor J. Mills (Bethany's new "bridge" pastor) about his ministry in ELCA churches in Texas.

As always, if you have any questions about what the group is doing please feel free to reach out to me or Julie Penrose.

Kay Tupala,



If you would like to donate toward the poinsettias that decorate our sanctuary for Christmas, please return this form to the church office by Sunday, December 15.

The requested donation is \$18.00. If there is an overage in donations, we will put it toward a Special Music musicians fund.

Please print.

In memory of _____

or

In honor of _____

From _____

Phone number _____ Date _____

PAID Cash Check \$ _____

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA, NGLS
333 E Ridge St, Ishpeming, MI 906-485-5533
Office Hours: Mon-Fri - 9am-1pm

E-mail Address: bethellutheran333@yahoo.com

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

Council Members

President: Kay Tupala

Vice Pres: Julie Penrose

Secretary: Ann Kulju

Katie Barron

Earl Eliason

Anne Giroux

Dave Holli

Laura Kantola

Pastor:

Rev. Tim Johnston

tdjohnst@gmail.com

(emergencies- 563-581-0929)

Treasurer:

Karen Ostlund

Organist/Choirs:

Lucas Wickstrom

Admin. Assistant:

Connie Kangas

906-485-5533

Bethellutheran333@yahoo.com

S.S. Director:

Jennifer Juntunen

Custodian:

Tina Anderson

The Church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and
Thursday, December 26, and again on
Tuesday, December 31 and Wednesday, January 1.

*** Pastor Tim will be away for vacation from
Sunday, December 29 through Saturday, January 6.
If you are in need of immediate pastoral care during this time,
please contact the church office for the emergency pastor.