

February 2025

EVANGEL

Bethel Lutheran Church, ELCA, NGLS
333 E. Ridge Street
Ishpeming, Michigan 49849
906-485-5533

God is LOVE.

1 JOHN 4:16



Financial Report

2025	Receipts	Budget	+ Or -
As of January 27	\$ 16,658	\$ 17,964	- \$1,306

<https://tinyurl.com/BethellshpGiving>



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

February Meetings

Monday, February 10, 6:45pm – Resonant Innovation Team
Tuesday, February 11, 6:30pm – Council Meeting

From the meeting on January 14:

- Approved the Memorial Fund Policy
- Reviewed Church Mutual insurance options for coverage; approved coverage for 2025
- Approved 2025 Budget for annual congregations meeting vote.
- Approved 2025 Annual Meeting Agenda, including nominees for Council and other committees
- Approved Ish ELCA group to make worship decisions re: Advent, Lent, special services, etc., without needing council approval



Council Highlights

Your Church Council for 2025

President: Kay Tupala – V. President: Jason Chapman
Secretary: Julie Penrose – Council Treasurer: Anne Giroux

Earl Eliason

Laura Kantola

Bill Seppanen

Carol Watts

Kathy Smith

YOUTH (and Adult) INFORMATION

Communion Class –

Come one, come all! Want to explore the meanings of Holy Communion? All ages are welcome to a class on Sunday, February 9 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 Fireside Room in the basement.

Please RSVP to Pastor Tim- if this date doesn't work we'll find a different date once we know who is interested!

Preschool Blessing –

Calling all children younger than pre-school age! You are invited to worship on Sunday/Monday, March 16/17! We will have a time of fun singing and give you a book! This is just one way your congregation supports you on your baptismal faith journey.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tim.

Confirmation Class –

Saturday, February 8, 9am-Noon – here at Bethel

Adult Book Study – HOLY ENVY – Wednesday, February 12 at 6pm



1st Sunday/Monday Food Drive

Reminder to bring in non-perishable food to church on February 2 & 3. 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.

LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday- March 5

12:00pm (noon) at Faith Lutheran Church

6:30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church

Lenten Midweek Services- Wednesday, March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9

5:30pm Soup Supper followed by Holden Evening Prayer

at Bethel Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday Combined Worship- Sunday, March 30

10:00am at Bethel (no service on Monday, March 31)

Maundy Thursday- April 17

6:30pm at Bethany Lutheran Church

Good Friday- April 18 - Cantata

6:30pm; location to be determined

Welcome Visitors!

Cathy Nelson, James Flanigan, Joseph Belpedio, Mike Mariuzza,
Kelly Ball, Sabina, Josie, Katie & Eli Carlson, Barbara Johnson-Republic,
Nicole Johnson-Skandia, Bruce Rantanen-Ironwood,

MEMORIALS

In Memory of **Steve Nurmela** from Mike & Nancy Mattson

In Memory of **Norman Bjorne** from Terry & Sharon Millimaki

Looking ahead...

Thursday, May 15 –at Bethel

Drop in anytime between 5:30 and 6:45pm for a pasta dinner fundraiser to support NGLS Youth traveling this summer to North Carolina for a week of hurricane relief work and a day of fun at LutherRock ELCA Bible Camp.

Cost is \$15 for dinner, salad, garlic bread and dessert.

Thank you for your generous support! Stay after dinner for a powerful synod assembly opening worship (starts at 7pm)!



Lifelong Faith Formation

Registration is now open for the next engaging lineup of classes offered by the Northern Great Lakes Synod this winter.

See details and register at nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation.

Walking With Our Indigenous Neighbors

with members of the Walking with Our Indigenous Neighbors Synod Task Force

Tuesday evenings for 4 weeks, February 4 – 25

7–8 p.m. Eastern Time, 6–7 p.m. Central Time

Take and Eat: A Study of Food and Spirituality, from Holy Communion to Potluck

with Pastor Mike Markwell, meeting at Immanuel, Escanaba

Four Wednesday evenings beginning January 22, every other week,

6–7 p.m. Eastern Time, 5–6 p.m. Central Time

Revelation – Revealing a Book of Hope & Comfort

with Pastor Tommy Richter, Zion, Manistique

Thursday evenings for 10 weeks, January 16 – March 20

7–8 p.m. Eastern Time, 6–7 p.m. Central Time

Growing Younger: Sharing Ideas and Strategies to Engage Young People

with Stefanie Ehle, Youth Coordinator, Northern Great Lakes Synod and members of the Youth Ministry Team

Third Thursday of each month, January 16 – May 15

6–7 p.m. Eastern Time, 5–6 p.m. Central Time

Help Wanted!!

Please share this information with family and friends.

Due to an upcoming retirement Bethel will be hiring an administrative assistant in mid-March. The job description is available upon request by contacting the church office.

The hours are T-F from 9:00am -1:00pm. This is a part-time, non-benefit eligible position.

Mark 16.6-7: *“Jesus has risen... he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.”*



Siblings in Christ-

As we head into Lent, I encourage you to join us for our Lent mid-week worship services. They will be at Bethel with all 4 Ishpeming churches joining together for worship at 6:30 pm. We will worship using Holden Evening Prayer and a time of prayer around the cross, including lighting candles in prayer. Soup and fellowship will happen each week before the services at 5:30pm. Your confirmation students have been invited to be a part of that fellowship time as a way for them to interact and learn from adults in their communities of faith. Think about the adults that were important in your faith formation. The next generation needs mentors as well- even in this 'unofficial' capacity. You don't need any qualifications other than being willing to talk.

Think about when you were a little child. You learned to speak English (maybe Finnish too) by first hearing it spoken by others. The same is true with the language of faith. It takes time and exposure and love and care. Come and join in! Jesus is at work in you through it all.

Often I hear people say they want more youth in their congregation. It is a common plea across churches. Joining in Lent fellowship is one big opportunity for you to make a difference. Come and take some time to get to know these students. Come and marvel at the ways the Holy Spirit is at work- through you and the youth you gather with. Remember Mark 16.6-7: *“Jesus has risen... he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.”* Imagine as you walk into the room with youth, or anyone, that you are journeying with Jesus who has already gone before you. When you arrive and enter you don't have to wonder so much what you are going to do or say but be observant for what the risen Christ has been doing or saying. Jesus has gone before you and is already at work!

In Christ,
Pastor Tim

P.S. Check out the Lent schedule for all of the combined 4-ish worship opportunities we have this year including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

Often, when natural disasters strike or when war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion, but we don't know how to help. Making Lutheran World Relief Kits is a simple, fun and tangible way to offer comfort to those suffering and express love to our neighbors in need.



LWR Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations.

You do not have to purchase all of the items to complete a kit – they will be put together in the fall and prepared for shipping. Place items in the plastic bin in the hallway marked LWR Kits.

PERSONAL CARE KITS:

- One light-weight bath towel (max 52" X 27"), dark color recommended
 - Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
 - One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
 - One sturdy comb
 - One metal nail clippers
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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.

Women's 2025 Fall Retreat – SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, September 7 – Tuesday, September 9

Change in Office Hours

Beginning in January, the church hours changed to
Tuesday through Friday, 9:00am to 1:00pm.

The church will be unlocked at 5:00pm for the Monday worship service.



Check out some of Fortune Lake's Retreat offerings!

REGISTER TODAY!

Ages 18-30



Renew & Restore
Young Adult Retreat
Jan 31st - Feb 2nd, 2025

Grades
7-12



In The Body
Jr/Sr High Retreat
April 11-12, 2025

Grades
3-6



Sacred Waters
Youth Retreat
April 4-5, 2025

fortunelake.org

Renew & Restore Young Adult Retreat- All young adults, ages 18-30! The retreat will take place January 31st through February 2nd and will center on discussions around burnout: what it is, how to prevent it, and how to heal from it. The weekend will also include time to relax, opportunities to explore the outdoors, hot saunas, discussions about Scripture, worship, and a community of peers.

Sacred Waters Youth Retreat- All current 3-6 graders and their parents/adult leaders are invited to camp for our Sacred Waters Youth Retreat. This one-night retreat includes camp favorites like songs and games, campfire, worship, Bible Studies, and more! Our theme, Sacred Waters, centers around Holy Baptism. Our hope is that all participants, regardless of prior knowledge, come away with a better understanding of this radical promise. There will be a session for adults in attendance on Saturday morning. This retreat is the perfect opportunity to get a taste of camp in a shortened time period.

In The Body Jr/Sr High Retreat- Fortune Lake is thrilled to welcome Rachel Kurtz to camp for the In The Body Jr/Sr High Retreat! Open to all current 7-12 graders and their parents/adult leaders and will take place at Fortune Lake April 11-12. Rachel will lead Bible Studies for the youth as well as provide an adult training session on Saturday morning. Our theme, In The Body, will speak to being present in our own bodies as well as how we show up within the Body of Christ. The weekend will conclude with a concert open to the public on April 12th. We hope to see you there!

Serving Us in February

Sunday Tellers: Anne Giroux and Earl Eliason

SUNDAY DRIVERS

February 2 – Curtis Pauline

February 16 – Earl Eliason

February 9 – Duane Palomaki

February 23 – Bud Hart

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

February 2 – Kay Tupala & Clare Champion

February 9 – Margo Rantanen & Mary Rundman

February 16 – Tina Anderson & Carol Holmgren

February 23 – Shirley & John Solomon



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.





- 1** Bill Seppanen
- 2** Betty Belpedio, 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** Anne Giroux, Tonya Karvonen-Nelson, Marlene Mongiat, Curt Voegtline, Sr.
- 8** Florence Kakkuri
- 9** Darren Arsenault, Lucas Bess, 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, Benjamin Pruet
- 14** Jeff Adriano, Jacquelyn Etelamaki
- 15** Lennon Laitinen
- 16** Marie Carlson, 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
- 24** Steve Niemi, Steven Raisanen, John Rosten
- 25** Dylan Junak, David Kangas, Courtney Verellen
- 26** Garrett Frustaglio, Cathy Kautz, Molli Frion
- 27** Lindsey Gauger
- 28** Ron Rantanen

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA, NGLS

E-mail Address: bethellutheran333@yahoo.com

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

Council Members

President: Kay Tupala
Vice Pres: Jason Chapman
Secretary: Julie Penrose

Earl Eliason
Bill Seppanen

Anne Giroux
Carol Watts

Laura Kantola
Kathy Smith

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Tim Johnston – 906-485-5533 tdjohnst@gmail.com
(emergencies- 563-581-0929)

Admin. Assist: Connie Kangas– 906-485-5533 bethellutheran333@yahoo.com

Organist/Choirs: Lucas Wickstrom

S.S. Director: Jennifer Juntunen

Treasurer: Karen Ostlund– 906-485-5533 betheltreasure@aol.com

Custodian: Tina Anderson

*** Pastor Tim will be away with youth at Quake! from February 14 – 16. If you are in need of immediate pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Steve Solberg.

Please also pray for Pastor Tim, Steve Nelson, and six Bethel youth traveling with a group of over 50 from the Upper Peninsula to Quake!

Pastor Tim will also be away February 23 & 24 at a Synod Clergy gathering – please call Pastor Tim with any needs and he will get back to you (563-581-0929).

Thank you to Steve Solberg for leading Bethel in worship on February 16 and February 24.