



stayCONNECTED

E-Weekly December 6, 2023

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

SERVICES: Sundays at 10:00 AM

Join us for traditional worship on Sunday mornings. Contemporary Christian Worship services are on the fourth Sunday of the month.

Choir practices Every Sunday at 8:40 AM

ONLINE SERVICE

www.sharingchrist.org

Watch LIVE during our Sunday services via YouTube or Facebook (Link below):

<https://www.youtube.com/>

[@bethlehemlutheranchurch7397/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@bethlehemlutheranchurch7397/streams)

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

Every Wednesday:

5:30 PM Community Meal

6:00 PM Worship & Confirmation

Join us for **Supper at 5:30pm (Freewill offering)** and follow up with a brief yet exciting praise and worship service.

Holden Evening Prayer Service is used during our Advent Season.

SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemLutheranGM>

www.sharingchrist.org

GIVING



We appreciate your giving. Did you know that you can also give online? Go to our website and click on the giving tab on our homepage. You can also stop by and drop your offering in the offering box in the lower entryway.

WORSHIP NOTES

DECEMBER 10, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 10:00 AM

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, **"See, your God is coming!"** We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives *in a world in need of justice and peace.*

IN-PERSON & ONLINE EVENTS

TEXT STUDY

Day: Wednesdays at 12:30 PM

An informal meeting to discuss the scripture lessons for the upcoming Sunday. We welcome everyone. Shelby Anderson can give you more information by contacting her at 218.387.2698.

BIBLE STUDY

Day: Thursdays at 8:00 AM

Mike Chmelik leads these weekly bible studies in the library and via Zoom. Any "man" is welcome to join this study.

BIBLE STUDY/CIRCLE-BLCW

Day: Thursday December 14 This circle is the only active circle for BLCW. They spend their time in bible study, fellowship and planning for the BLCW. All Women are welcome to join.

QUILTING

Day: Thursdays at 9:00 AM

Anyone is welcome to join weekly or just occasionally. Any or no skill level is required. Coffee served at 10 am.

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER



Wednesdays
in Advent

5:30 pm Meal

6:00 pm Service

November 29

December 6

December 13

December 20

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
417 First Avenue West - Grand Marais MN

218-387-2227

blc@boreal.org

www.sharingchrist.org

Wednesday Meal Schedule:

Dec. 6: Make your own Subs

Dec. 13: Pizza

Dec. 20: Traditional Oyster Stew

and Jul Kaga (Cardamon Sweet Bread)

Chicken Noodle Soup—*for the faint of heart*



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN'S

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

AND BRUNCH

Saturday, December 9th, 2023

11:00 Noon to 1:00 PM

417 First Avenue West, Grand Marais

Handmade Christmas Baking

Raffle for Prizes provided by members

\$10 Lunch: Chicken Salad on Croissant, fruit, cookies, coffee

For information contact Cathi Williams at 218-370-8188

**Drop off baked goods on Fri. Dec. 8th by noon;
or before 10:30 am Dec. 9th**



This Week at Bethlehem

- Wed. Dec. 6 8:00 AM Church in Society meeting
12:30 PM Text Study
5:30 PM Community Meal – Make your own Subs
6:00 PM Advent Service: Holden Evening Prayer
6:00 PM Confirmation
- Thurs Dec.7 8:00 AM Bible Study
9:00 AM Quilting
- Fri. Dec. 8 9:00 AM Set up for Borealis Concert
7:00 PM Borealis Concert
- Sat. Dec. 9 11:00 AM Bake Sale & Lunch
7:00 PM Borealis Concert
- Sun. Dec. 10 8:40 AM Choir Practice
10:00 AM Second Sunday of Advent
Worship & Sunday School
- Mon. Dec. 11 6:30 PM Executive Council meeting

Looking for a ride...

Do you know of anyone going to Duluth on Friday December 8th?



My son Kevin has an appointment at 12:15pm. He doesn't need ride home. He has an appointment also on Monday and plans to take bus on Tuesday! (He is too young to qualify for Care Partners!)

Thanks! Lois Johnson 218-387-1799



Special Holiday Treat

December 20th at 5:30 pm

Kris Hedstrom will serve a Traditional Holiday meal with Oyster Stew and Jul Kaga (cardamon sweet bread) before our last Holden Evening Prayer Advent Service.

“For the faint of heart: there will also be Chicken Noodle Soup.”

The Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2023 Readings and Psalm:

Isaiah 40:1-11

Good news of God's coming to a people in exile

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God.

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Waiting for and hastening the day of God

Mark 1:1-8

John appears from the wilderness



For What Shall We Pray?

Prayer Requests

Gwen Lenz
Hank Ferland
Joyce Heiskari
Emily Ulhorn,
Bruce Johnson,
Lynn Schulte,
Vera Finn,
Lois Johnson,
Barbara Erickson,

For Healing:

Char Anderson,
Rhonda Schulte
Paulina Backstrom,
Les Donek,
Carly Hawkinson-Sohm;
Emi Heikkinen
Betty Jones,
Kristi (Speck) Perales,
Dorothy Peterson



“All Earth is Hopeful” Borealis Chorale and Orchestra Annual Concert

Friday, December 8 &
Saturday, December 9

7:00 PM nightly

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Free will offering, \$10+ suggested

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH SET
UP, SERVING AND CLEAN UP FOLLOWING
THE CONCERTS.**

Contact Chel Anderson: johnalt@boreal.org,
phone: 218-475-0147

**For peace among nations,
especially among Israel/
Palestine and Russia/
Ukraine...**

**For resolution and
reconciliation in all areas of
persistent violence and
conflict...**

**For victims of Indonesia’s
Mount Marapi volcano
eruption...**

**For victims of a drone attack
in Nigeria...**

**For those facing excessive
rain and flood threats in
Seattle, WA, and for all
facing winter storms...**

**For aid, compassion, and
protection for refugees and
all migrants...**

**For the easing of political
tensions in our nation and
around the world...**

**For Jewish neighbors and
friends as they prepare for
Hanukkah...**

**Taken from ELCA Worship website:
<https://blogs.elca.org/worship/8167/>**



Confirmation Youth are doing a Food drive

Wednesday December 13th
Starting at 6:30 pm (after worship)

The Confirmation youth will knock on doors throughout the community asking for donations to the Cook County Food Shelf. If you don't want to be disturbed in the evening, you may set your donations on your front step with your front light on. If you live out of town or if we miss going to your house, please bring your donation to church on Sunday.





Mission of the Month

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Bethlehem's December Mission of the Month is **Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR)**.

LDR shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

When selecting our December Mission of the Month, the Church in Society Committee felt it was important to consider an organization who is directly working to support the humanitarian crisis in the Holy Land. We knew LDR would be a trusted organization for our funds. On November 17th, LDR posted the following on their Facebook page:

Situation: *The humanitarian crisis continues to worsen - almost 70% of Gazan residents are displaced, and resources such as food, water and medical supplies are in short supply.*

Response: *Lutheran Disaster Response is supporting Augusta Victoria Hospital, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and ACT Alliance to provide relief for people impacted by the crisis in the Holy Land. In the United States, Lutheran Disaster Response is supporting Salam Arabic Church and Mother of the Savior Church to provide emotional and spiritual care to Palestinian communities.*

While the crisis in the Middle East was our initial reason for selecting Lutheran Disaster Response, LDR will direct Bethlehem's Mission of the Month offerings to where it is needed most at the time, they receive our financial gift. LDR is currently providing support in the following areas:

Internationally:

- Easter Europe Crisis Response
- Horn of Africa Drought
- Middle East Crisis
- Middle East & Europe Refugee Crisis
- South Sudan Relief
- AMMPARO: Protecting Migrants

Domestically:

- Flooding
- Hurricanes
- Severe Storms
- Tornadoes
- Wildfires



Want to follow along? Like Lutheran Disaster Response on Facebook, follow @ELCALDR on Twitter and follow @ELCA_LDR on Instagram.

If you would like to give a financial gift to LDR this December, please note "Mission of the Month" or "LDR" on your special offering.

Thank you to all who have supported our Mission of the Month program in 2023!

In peace,

Jessica Markusen, on behalf of the Church in Society Committee



Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.



DECEMBER MEMBER CHALLENGE:

While it was certainly an unusually mild November, the season of snow and cold will soon be upon us! Please help our neighbors stay warm this winter by filling up the tree in the narthex with hats and mittens. In partnership with the First Congregational Church in Grand Marais, collected donations will be shared with the Damiano Center in Duluth. The tree will be up until Epiphany, January 6, 2024.

Thanks!
 Libby Larson
 on behalf of the
 Church in
 Society Committee



DECEMBER QUILT SALE

YOUTH-SIZE QUILTS ONLY \$30

YOUTH-SIZED QUILTS
ARE ON DISPLAY IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL

BABY QUILTS = \$25
TWIN/FULL QUILTS = \$55
LARGER QUILTS BY
QUOTE

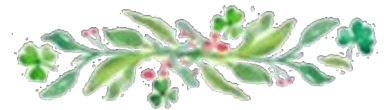
Questions answered by any Quilter,
Thursdays at 10am or Sundays after Church

*Thank you
Dear Bethlehem Lutheran
Church Family,*

*How can we adequately
express our thanks to you for
your kindness & thoughtfulness
to our mom (Sharon Eliassen)
and our family during her recent
illness & death? It was so
encouraging to know you were
praying.*

*Blessings,
Janis Eliassen Viren
Christy Lindell
Karin Bronstein &
Donn Eliassen*

Janis E. Viren
2632 Ranchette Rd
Billings MT 59105
jeviren@live.com 406-696-1355



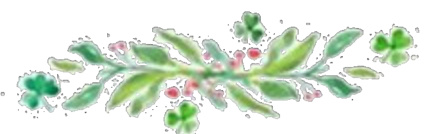
Irish Christmas Blessing

The light of the Christmas star to you,
The warmth of home and hearth to you,
The cheer and good will of friends to you,

The hope of a childlike heart to you,
The joy of a thousand angels to you,

 The love of the Son,
And God's peace to you.

Amen





It's that time of the year again!

Would you like to sponsor a
Poinsettia plant that will
color our sanctuary for
Christmas Eve Services?

Cost of each plant is \$12.00

Forms will be available on Sunday in the Narthex

Deadline is Monday December 18th.



**THE BLUE CLIPBOARD
NEEDS YOUR ATTENTION!
WE NEED HELPERS
EVERY SUNDAY!**

**FROM OPENING & CLOSING
THE CHURCH, MAKING
COFFEE, GREETING,
USHERING, READING
LESSONS, HELPING WITH
COMMUNION, AND
SERVING COFFEE AN'
OR, PROVIDING
SPECIAL MUSIC**

**IF YOU COME TO CHURCH,
YOU ARE MOST WELCOME
TO HELP WITH ANY OF
THESE JOBS.**

**CLIPBOARD IS ON THE
GREETERS TABLE
OR CONTACT DENISE AT**

218-387-2227

BLC@BOREAL.ORG



Worship Schedule FOR CHRISTMAS

Sunday December 24, 2023

10:00 am *

3:00 pm

5:00 pm

*live streamed



**Special
Music**

10 am: *Lanet Simonen & Hilja Iverson*

3 pm: *Bethlehem Choir*

5 pm: *Eric & Sue Anderson, and
Amelia & Greta Roth*



Advent Reflection

by Pastor Bob Lehner,
Chairperson, St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation Work Group
For Green Blade Rising <https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/>



“Tell me the weight of a snowflake,” a sparrow asked a wild dove.

“Nothing more than nothing,” was the answer.

“In that case, I must tell you a marvelous story,” the sparrow said. “I sat on the branch of a fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow, not heavily, not in a raging blizzard, no, just like in a dream, without any violence. Since I didn't have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741,952. When the next snowflake dropped onto the branch-nothing more than nothing, as you say-the branch broke off..”

Having said that, the sparrow flew away.

The dove thought about the story for awhile and finally said to herself: “Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come about in the world.”

As we approach winter, I thought it might be timely to talk about falling snowflakes instead of green blades rising. And so I ask this question. Do we dare to dream today that maybe there is just one more word or action needed to make good and loving creation care a reality? At this moment what we are doing is more like a bunch of snowflakes falling on the branch-nothing more than nothing-as the dove said. Still, the branch would not have broken except for the 3,741,952 snowflakes that had fallen on it before the last snowflake broke the branch..

This month, a new church year begins as we observe Advent, a time of waiting with anticipation. We remember that the people of Israel had been waiting for their Messiah for many centuries and had not given up hope. The city of Bethlehem was waiting to receive him. The angels were waiting to announce his birth to shepherds in the field, of all people. And, on that first Christmas night over two thousand years ago, it happened. The Christ child came into our world. The hopes and dreams of all people were fulfilled.

The Advent season and its message reminds us to hold onto our hope. We know that we are snowflakes falling on the branch. We know that not enough has yet fallen to break the branch. We wait with anticipation for the day when that last snowflake falls. We don't know yet what the last snowflake will be. It might just be an accumulation of all that has come before. It might be a scientist who finds a new way to sequester carbon in the atmosphere. It might be that the youth of today will produce the type of leadership and commitment to make it happen. But hope is what we have. It is as necessary for life as is breathing. That is why we do what we do. We have a creator God who has redeemed all of his creation and continues his creative and redeeming work among us.

A blessed Advent and Christmas season to all. May hope continue to abound with you!



A conversation on scripture with a creation justice lens.

Check out the Green Lectionary Podcast!

Creation Justice Ministries produces a podcast that it describes as "a conversation on scripture with a creation justice lens." Check it out

<https://www.creationjustice.org/green-lectionary-podcast.html>

Trying to figure out how Faith and Science work together every week?

Listen to The Faith and Science Podcast, following the Revised Common Lectionary each week and try to answer that question. It can be found at wherever podcasts are found or at <https://thefaithandsciencepodcast.podbean.com/>



How to Support Bereaved Children Over the Holidays: A Tip Sheet for Parents and Caregivers



The holidays can be a particularly difficult time of year for children grieving the loss of a loved one. For most children and families, the holiday season is a happy time that they look forward to all year. But after experiencing the death of a loved one, holiday gatherings can be especially difficult. Being around people, places, or situations that are reminders of the deceased can be emotionally painful for bereaved families, including both parents and children. Being a bereaved parent can be especially challenging because it involves dealing with your own grief reactions while also managing your child's grief. Based on our work with bereaved families and recent research findings, this tip sheet provides suggestions about how parents and other caregivers can help their bereaved children cope with the holiday season. Although some suggestions may seem overwhelming at first (especially if you have lost someone recently), trying each suggestion out, one by one, can help both parents and their kids.

This post shares tips for parents and caregivers from a few of our research partners/ grief experts.

By Julie B. Kaplow, Christopher M. Layne, and Donna Gaffney

