

E-Weekly

December 19, 2025

Volume 9 Number 4

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GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA

Christmas Poinsettias



*This year, we are doing
things differently.*

Thanks to Jacob & Crystal at Johnson's Foods for donating all of the poinsettias to Bethlehem this year!

We are requesting donations to support
our **Grocery Card Ministry**.

Plants are **free** to anyone and may be picked up after 5:00pm service on **Christmas Eve**.

Please fill out this form with your
donation and return to the office by
Monday December 22nd



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
417 First Avenue West, PO Box 638
Grand Marais, MN 55604
218-387-2227
www.sharingchrist.org | blc@boreal.org



Sunday December 21st
Worship and Sunday
School
at 10:00am

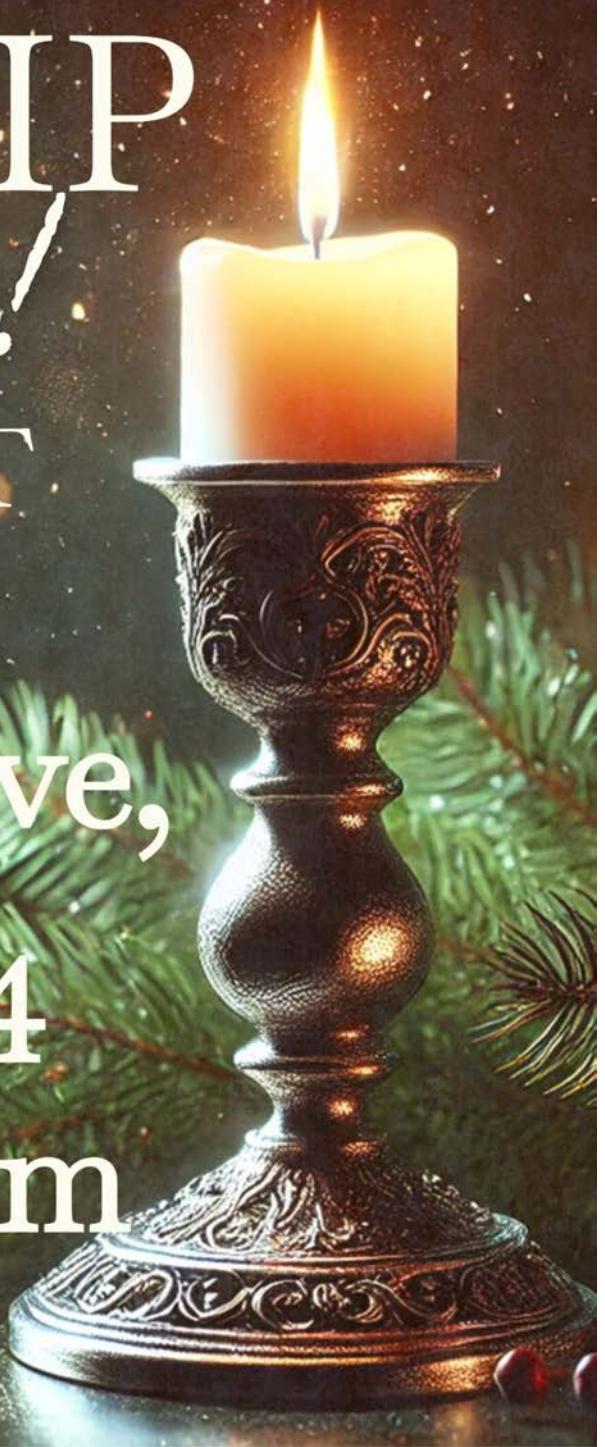
WORSHIP *with us!*

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Christmas Eve,

December 24

3:00 & 5:00 pm



Bring your family!

Invite your friends and neighbors!

This Week at Bethlehem:

| | | |
|--------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Sun Dec 21 | 8:40 AM | Choir practice |
| | 10:00 AM | Worship Service & Sunday School |
| | 2:00 PM | Worship at Care Center |
| Mon Dec 22 | 3:30 PM | Girl Scouts |
| Tues Dec 23 | 8:30 AM | Staff meeting |
| Wed Dec 24 | 3:00 PM | Worship |
| | 5:00 PM | Worship Christmas Day |
| Thurs Dec 25 | | Office closed |
| Fri Dec 26 | | |
| Sun Dec 28 | 8:40AM | Choir practice |
| | 10:00AM | Worship Service |



SUNDAY SCHOOL HOLIDAY BREAK:

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON
DEC. 28 & JAN. 4

CLASSES RESUME JAN. 11



ANNUAL Committee REPORTS

Annual Reports from all
council members, staff, groups,
and committee chairs are due to
the office **NO LATER THAN**
JANUARY 5, 2026 ←

PRAYER elist...

Healing prayers are requested for:

Karen Shannon & Brad Shannon family; Linda Zenk; Lois Johnson; Jane Gellner; Luke Gulstrand; Sarah, Cam, Barb & Paul Coe; Lynn & Craig Schulte; Butch Schulte; Christy Buetow; Clayton Koss; Patty Nelson; Annalisa Winje; Joan Bieber; Gene & Barbara Erickson; Bruce & Stacey Johnson; Paulina Backstrom; Shae Lindholm; Rhonda Schulte; Char Anderson; Betty Jones; Stacey Schulte; Hank Ferland; Ramiro Acero; Margaret Dahl; Katrina Crouse; Tom Christiansen,

This week we lift up these members
living in the Care Center
& Assisted Living facilities:

Joan Bieber; Char Anderson; Linda Johnson; Emily Ulhorn; Janet Elmquist; Joyce Hagen, Joyce Drouillar, Anita Gavic; and Sally Arntsen. *May God walk with these faithful friends in their Advent Journey.*

NEED PRAYER?

Contact:

Pastor Calvin 763-226-5425
or Laura Popkes, Prayer Chain Leader
218-370-0721

Church in Society announces December's



Damiano Center
serving people in need

206 W 4th St. Duluth, MN 55806
info@damianocenter.org 218-722-8708

The December Mission of the Month will support the Damiano Center in Duluth.

The Damiano Center "welcomes people in need and serves them without judgment" as the largest emergency meal provider in our region and a source for comprehensive services including clothing, health realization, hygiene access, and more.

Member Challenge

In addition to financial support, please contribute winter wear to the hat and mitten tree in the narthex. Donations will be delivered to the Damiano Center!



Confirmation Food Drive



Wednesday night the Confirmation youth went door to door in Grand Marais collecting nonparishable food for the Food Shelf. They collected over 200 items.

If they did not make it to your house and you have items for the food shelf, please bring them to church on Sunday and place them in the bags or shopping cart.

We will get the food to the Food Shelf on Monday. Please remember to bring mittens, hats, scarfs, etc. for the Giving Tree collection for the Damiano Center.

Thanks all

To all the wonderful people at
Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Thank you for the wonderful
generous gift to Care Partners!

Your donation will help us care
for Seniors here in Cook County.

Right now we are putting together
Christmas packages including a food
card and some treats!

Thank you for being a part of our
effort!

Beth Kennedy.
Board Member

pageborders.org



First & Second Thrift Store
is once again requesting
clothing for **displaced people**
in Ukraine, both adults and
children. They need **warm**
outdoor clothing. Drop items
off at First & Second any day
--10 to 4.

Merry
CHRISTMAS



Generous God of grace,
grant us the fullness of
hope, peace, joy and love
this Advent. Guide us to
speak and live in a way
that expresses true hope in
your ongoing work of
reconciliation and healing
in this life, as well as the
life to come. Give us the
strength to work for peace
in our homes, in our faith
communities and across
the world.

I long for the power of
eternal joy within my heart
and mind. Such a treasure
will sustain me, providing a
firm foundation through all
the difficulties of this
season and this life. The
joy that comes from you,
deeper than momentary
happiness, offers an
abiding awareness of your
presence and providence
in all situations. Make me
deeply aware that your
arms of love support and
hold me. Help me to see
those same arms around
others. I want to perceive
them as recipients of the
same overflowing grace
and eternal love that I
receive, so I may act
accordingly toward them.

*This message is excerpted
from "Comfort now your
people" by Julia Seymour
in the November/
December*

Sunday December 21, 2025

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 7:10-16

The sign of Immanuel

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us,
and we shall be saved.

Romans 1:1-7

*Paul's greeting to the church
at Rome*

Matthew 1:18-25

A God near at hand

Livestream link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=lMBcFFyaMQI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lMBcFFyaMQI)

“For what shall we pray?”

This is from a weekly post inviting individuals, groups, and congregations to lift up our world in prayer. This resource is prepared by a variety of leaders in the ELCA.

Prayer prompts:

- For an end to war, conflict, and violence especially in Gaza, South Sudan, Myanmar, Ukraine, Eastern Congo, and Pakistan/Afghanistan...
- For all victims of violence, threats of violence, and communities grieving gun violence, including the Brown University and MIT campuses, Stewartville High School, and victims of the Bondi Beach violence in Sydney, Australia...
- For immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and all who travel...
- For those facing extreme weather, especially blizzard and high wind threats in the Northwestern United States...
- For the community of Holden Village in this season of evacuation and evaluation...
- For children and families who face increased food insecurity during school breaks...
- For accessible and affordable health care...
- For those living with seasonal affective disorder...
- For all who seek shelter...

Events and observances:

December Observances: Universal Human Rights Month, World AIDS/HIV Awareness Month, Spiritual Literacy Month

Hanukkah (Judaism, Dec 14-22)

Las Posadas (Dec 16-24)

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552 (Dec 20)

Nativity of Our Lord (Dec 24 and Dec 25)

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr (Dec 26)

John, Apostle and Evangelist (Dec 27)

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (transferred, Dec 29)

A prayer for peace between nations (ELW)

Gracious God, grant peace among nations. Cleanse from our own hearts the seeds of strife: greed and envy, harsh misunderstandings and ill will, fear and desire for revenge. Make us quick to welcome ventures in cooperation among the peoples of the world, so that there may be woven the fabric of a common good too strong to be torn by the evil hands of war. In the time of opportunity, make us be diligent; and in the time of peril, let not our courage fail; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A prayer before travel (ELW)

O God, our beginning and our end, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star you led the magi to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now as we set out to travel. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with our Lord Jesus Christ and the life-giving Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Upcoming DEADLINES

Monday December 22:
January Newsletter Articles, Events, etc.

Monday January 5:
Annual Reports!! From ALL committees, groups and teams...

A note from Phyllis Olson:

She sent this after her Birthday weekend, November 15-16, in Grand Marais. Denise forgot to include it in earlier publications.



To My BLC Family of Long Standing:

Thank you all for the wonderful service Bethlehem, and for the warmth we felt there. I'll treasure the card that was signed by so many of you. This note is a thank you from my heart.

It was joyful to see new members and many young children in church. It was heartwarming to see and hear the choir and Karina, where I sang also.

New leaders have joined familiar leaders. Pastor Calvin is a gift as succeeding pastor. Pastor Mark and Janet Ditmanson were at my birthday event on Saturday. Many of you were there also. I was as happy on those two days, as I was when I still lived in Grand Marais.

Love, Phyllis Olson.



Nursing
Home
Worship
Service

Join us at the Care Center on
Sunday, December 21
at 2:00 pm
for a **Christmas Celebration**
Service with our friends at the
Care Center.

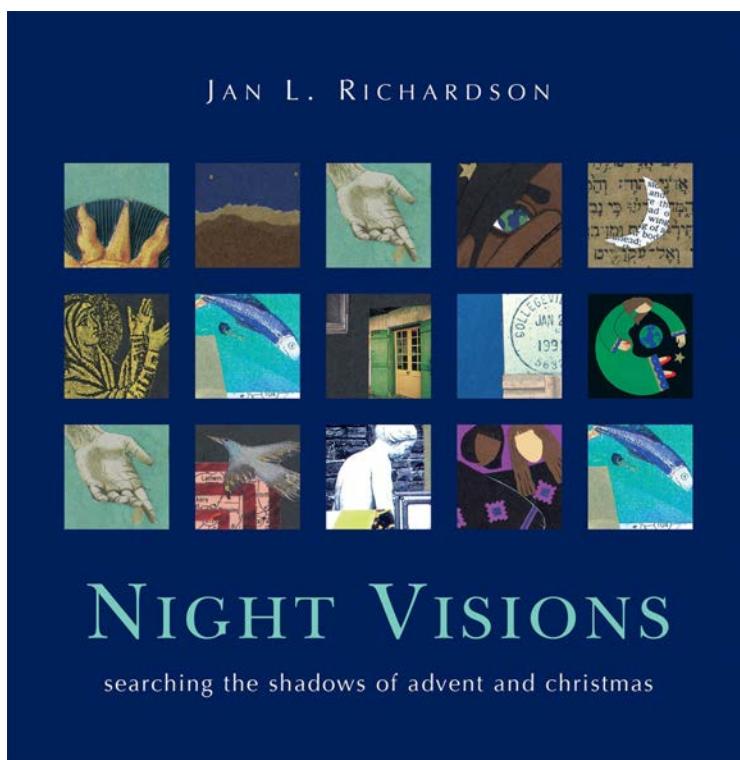
All are welcome!



It's poetry time! This is from my favorite poet & artist Jan Richardson. This poem is taken from her book "Night Visions" - Week 3: Preparing a Space. (Below is information on her book.)

These days bathe us in images
of abundance and happiness,
but we pray for those
who do not find in this time
a season of goodness
and light.

Give us eyes to see
into the shadows
cast by the millions of
blinking lights;
ears to listen
beyond the carols
to hear
the anguished weeping;
and hearts that long
for the liberation
your advent truly brings.



Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas

By Jan L. Richardson

Jan's original artwork, reflections, poetry, and prayers accompany the reader from the beginning of Advent through Epiphany Day, inviting us to encounter the God who dwells in darkness as well as in daylight. Treasured by readers who return to it each Advent, *Night Visions* makes a beautiful gift for yourself and others.