

# E-Weekly

January 2, 2026

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## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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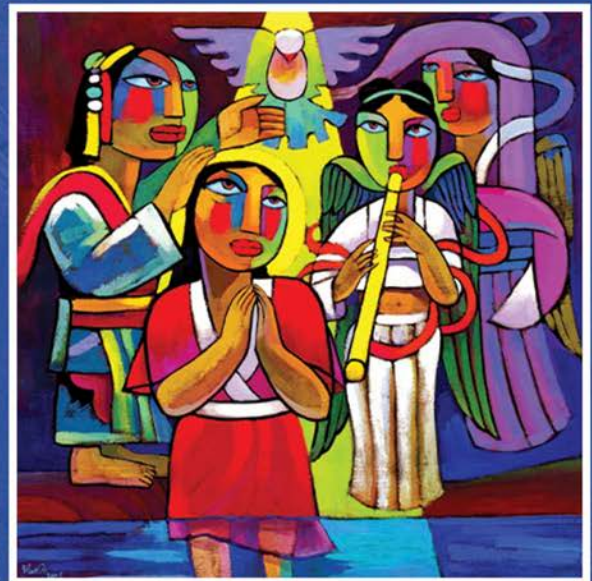
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PUBLICATION OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH | GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA

THIS IS  
MY SON,  
THE BELOVED

## MATTHEW 3:17



Sunday January 11, 2026

# Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

Live stream link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G\\_cosz8Mb\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_cosz8Mb_M)

## This Week at Bethlehem:

Sun Jan 11	8:40AM	Choir practice
	10:00AM	Worship Service & Sunday School
	11:15 AM	Lutheranism 101
Mon Jan 12	3:30 PM	Girl Scouts
	6:30 PM	Executive Committee
Tues Jan 13	8:30 AM	Staff meeting
Wed Jan 14	12:30 PM	Text Study
	5:30 PM	Meal
	6:00 PM	Worship
	6:30 PM	Confirmation
Thurs Jan 15	8:00 AM	Bible Study
	9:00 AM	Quilting
	6:30 PM	Table Tennis
Sun Jan 18	8:30 AM	Choir practice
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:15 AM	Lutheranism 101
	2:00 PM	Worship service at Care Center

Upcoming  
**DEADLINES**

**Council  
Members:  
Monthly  
reports are  
due Tuesday  
Jan. 13th.**

Sunday January 11, 2026

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 42:1-9

*The servant of the LORD  
brings justice*

Psalms 29

The voice of the LORD is upon  
the waters.

Acts 10:34-43

*Jesus' ministry after his  
baptism*

Matthew 3:13-17

*Revelation of Christ as God's  
servant*

Livestream link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G\\_cosz8Mb\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_cosz8Mb_M)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**CLASSES RESUMES**

**THIS SUNDAY JAN. 11**



**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-  
from 10 to 4.





# PRAYER list

Healing prayers are requested:

Kamryn Johnson; Ed Bolstad;  
Butch Schulte; Karen Shannon;  
Linda Zenk; Lois Johnson; Luke  
Gulstrand; Sarah Coe; Lynn  
Schulte; Christy Buetow; 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: Ashley Berglund; Wally &  
Sandy Everson; Tony, Andrea, Paige  
& Taylor Everson; DJ, Andrea,  
Tanner, Taylor & Talon DeBoer;  
Trent, Diedre, August, Elliot &  
Sylvie Anderson; . May God walk  
with these faithful friends in their  
journey into the new year.

## Need PRAYER?

Contact:

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

## “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, Thailand and Cambodia, Iran, Venezuela, and China and Taiwan...

For those grieving victims of the Swiss New Year's Eve fire...

For immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, especially those who face discrimination and violence...

For tourists and travelers stranded in Yemen, Venezuela, and across the Carriibbean...

For earthquakes in the Pacific Ocean and nations concerned about tsunamis...

For children and those who nurture them...

For rebuilding and recovery following flooding and its effects in the northwestern United States, Maine, and California...

For Roman Catholic siblings marking the end of the Jubilee Year...

For Orthodox Christians celebrating Christmas...

### Events and observances:

January Observances: National Blood Donor Month, National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Poverty in America Awareness Month, Mental Awareness Month

Orthodox Christmas Day (Jan 7)  
Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710 (Jan 9)  
Baptism of Our Lord (Jan 11)  
Orthodox New Year (Jan 14)  
Pongal, (Hindu festival, Jan 14)  
Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968 (Jan 15)

### Prayers from ELCA resources:

*A prayer in time of crisis, conflict, or disaster (ACS)*  
God most mighty, God most merciful, our sacred stories tell us that you help and save your people. You are the fortress: may there be no more war. You are the harvest: may there be no more hunger. You are the light: may no one die alone or in despair. God most majestic, God most motherly, grant us your life, the life that flows from your Son and the Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*A prayer for peace (ACS)*  
Holy God, out of your great love for the world, your Word became flesh to live among us and to reconcile us to you and to one another. Rekindle among us the gift of your Spirit so that we seek to live in unity with all people, breaking down the walls that divide, ending the hostility among us, and proclaiming peace to those who are near and to those who are far away; through Christ Jesus, in whom we all have access in the one Spirit to you, both now and forever. Amen.

Dear siblings in Christ,

There is concern across this church about the Jan. 3, 2026, U.S. military action in Venezuela and what has or will follow. I believe that this Sunday's celebration of Jesus' baptism, and our own, can provide understanding, guide our prayers and promote faithful action at this time. The baptism of our Lord reminds us that Jesus is God's own beloved child, who has come to fulfill an age-old promise to bring justice and peace to the nations (Isaiah 42:1).

As God's beloved, Christians share in Jesus' ministry and compassion for the vulnerable. Our prayers remain with the people of Venezuela. We pray for their safety and well-being, for their livelihoods, and for reliable access to food, health care and clean water. Our church walks in solidarity with them through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela — their people, pastors, deacons and ministries. Support is also expressed in the broader Christian community, both in Venezuela and among the Venezuelan diaspora, who have long called for and worked toward peace, democracy and human rights.

As baptized children of God, Lutherans are set free to seek the well-being of our neighbors. Over 600,000 Venezuelans in the United States face uncertainty without renewal of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and deportations of Venezuelan migrants continue despite these anxious times in their homeland. As Venezuela navigates a tenuous situation, our nation has a responsibility for a mindful humanitarian response.

We continue our call for humanitarian support for migrant-serving organizations in neighboring countries and pathways to asylum in the United States for Venezuelans and all with credible fears of persecution.

As followers of Jesus, we seek justice for the nations. As a church in this country, we call for what transpires next to center the Venezuelan people and their right to self-determination. We, as a country, must resist any temptation to use this occasion to foster special or corporate economic interests. As Venezuela faces continued instability, more people are likely to face displacement.

Let us avoid further polarization as we respond to what is unfolding. Lutheran theology affirms that two things at once can be true. The removal of Nicolás Maduro, a corrupt authoritarian, and the end of his brutal repression are causes for celebration for many. At the same time, U.S. action in Venezuela without the constitutionally mandated authorization of the U.S. Congress violated international law and created a dangerous precedent that weakens global peace and security. Our social teaching tells us that any conflict must meet strict moral criteria rooted in the principles of "right intention, justifiable cause, legitimate authority ..." ([For Peace in God's World](#), page 11).

In this highly complex and dangerous moment, Christians remember that Jesus is God's beloved child. Through our baptisms, this identity and mission forms us and calls us to civic action. We are called to speak the truth in love but with clarity about accountability for any abuse of power. In this time, we can advocate boldly for a peaceful way forward and urge the U.S. Congress to exert its authority over war powers and ensure due process is followed. This action is especially critical when risking U.S. troops' lives and the lives of civilians around the world.

As we remember the meaning of baptism for action in the world, let us be fervent in prayer for our siblings in Christ in Venezuela. Let us also support and accompany Venezuelans and their families worldwide. Born in Venezuela, Bishop Pedro Suárez of the ELCA Florida-Bahamas Synod wrote the following prayer:

*By your Holy Spirit, kindle hope that does not disappoint and peace that surpasses all understanding. We entrust Venezuela, its people and your church into your loving hands, trusting not in our own strength but in your steadfast love made known in Jesus Christ, who is our peace. Amen.*

In Christ,  
The Rev. Yehiel Curry,  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
[Bishop Curry Issues Statement on Venezuela](#)



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

# Subject: A new year to volunteer at Ruby's Pantry on Tuesday January 13th

## HAPPY NEW YEAR RUBY'S VOLUNTEERS!!

We enter this new year with new resolutions and all good intentions. Let one of your resolutions and good intentions be your continuing service to Ruby's Pantry.

We will need you next Tuesday, January 13 (and all the second Tuesdays hereafter) to help your neighbors get the food they need.

It's also a good idea to help your co-volunteers to get that food out the door and into the vehicles.

We will, again, be at Great Expectations School. Please arrive anytime between 3:30 (no early arrivals please - we need to allow the students and buses time to leave before we arrive) and 6:30.

Please have a look at the details below and let me know about when you plan to arrive and how long you can stay.

Volunteer parking for the first shift (3:30 - 5:00) will be available on the West side of the Gunflint Trail - South of the school entrance.

Parking will also be available on the North side of 5th St E.

Volunteer parking for the second shift (5:00 - 6:30) will also be available in the school staff parking lot off 5th St E.

The most important part is: THERE IS NO PARKING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF 5TH ST E.

Here are the shift details:

The first shift will start at 3:30 and run until the packing is completed.

The second shift will start with the distribution to the vehicles at 5:00 and run until 6:30 or when the food runs out.

Packing duties: unpack the large boxes from the truck, verify that what we received is what is listed on the sheet for that food item and place the individual food items on or under the table provided.

Pack the table items into plastic bags or reuse boxes and work your way down the line of tables. Stack the packed bags/boxes at the end.

Loading duties: take ownership of one of our wagons, move down the line of packed items placing bags into the wagon and roll the wagon out to the line of cars (there will be helpers in the parking lot), and bring your wagon back in to do it again.

Please remember to sign in and sign out at the *cookie* table.

Looking forward to seeing you again,

Carol Stender, Volunteer Coordinator

Cook County Ruby's Pantry



Stretching Your Grocery Dollar