



stayCONNECTED

E-Weekly December 12, 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)

ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE

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 17, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 10:00 AM

Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

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

Nothing is planned for December.

Next meeting: January 11th. Time to be announced

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.



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.





Now is The Time for you, your family, and your friends To Take your turn at Decorating our (Mammoth) Beautiful Christmas Tree!

Kent and Lyndsay Anderson have provided BLC's trees for many years and we are looking for a changing of The guard on for decorating it.

Kent will deliver The tree This Wednesday following The worship service.

Lyndsay will provide tricks of The Trade for decorating to a new crew of decorators.

We require able bodies That can climb a ladder, and people on The ground who will handle The ornaments.

This is an **Urgent situation!** Please let me know how you can help! 218-387-2227

We dont even want to think of The alternative!



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



This Week at Bethlehem

Tues. Dec. 12	6:30 PM	Worship Committee
Wed. Dec. 13	12:30 PM	Text Study
	5:30 PM	Community Meal – Pizza
	6:00 PM	Advent Service: Holden Evening Prayer
	6:00 PM	Confirmation—Food Shelf Collection Community-wide
Thurs Dec.14	8:00 AM	Bible Study
	9:00 AM	Quilting
Fri. Dec. 15	-----	Clarity Hearing
Sat. Dec. 16	1:00 PM	Memorial Service for Janelle Larsen
Sun. Dec. 17	8:40 AM	Choir Practice
	10:00 AM	Third Sunday of Advent Worship & Sunday School
	2:00 PM	Care Center Worship Service
Mon. Dec. 18	3:30 PM	Girl Scouts
	6:30 PM	Church Council meeting

For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a Savior which
is Christ the Lord
Luke
2:11



The Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

Readings:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden

Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Kept in faith until the coming of Christ

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A witness to the light

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.”

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Stick around after worship on **Sunday Dec. 17** for a presentation from Trinity's youth Naomi Tracy-Hegg and Martine Redshaw on their efforts to pass a **Cook County Climate Action Plan**. The presentation will be held in the library and will touch on the girls' history with local climate action, a message about stewardship in the Bible, and opportunities for individual action.



As a community of great faith, we are honored to host the service for a daughter and friend of many in this community.

The Memorial Service for Fanelle Larsen will be on Saturday December 16, 2023, at 1:00 pm.

This service will be live streamed and can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uo4sYf13o-ppU>

A fellowship meal will be served at the Evangelical Free Church immediately following the service.

Our sympathies and prayers are with Jackie & Jim Larsen and the many family members and friends of Fanelle.

12 Christmas PRAYERS

Joy
May the joy of Christ be let through us. Luke 1:44

FAITH
Increase our faith so we fully trust in Your promises. Matthew 1:24

LOVE
Help us see ways to turn love into action this Christmas. Matthew 25:40

LIGHT
May the light of Christ shine from within us. Isaiah 9:2

PEACE
May the peace of Christ cover the busyness of this season. Isaiah 9:6

PROMISE
Thank you for the promise of eternal life through Jesus. John 3:16

GRATITUDE
Thank you for all of our blessings, not just the gifts under the tree. Luke 1:49

SIMPLICITY
You came as a baby in a manger, help us find value in the simple things. Luke 2:7

OBEDIENCE
Help us to be obedient to You even when we don't fully understand. Luke 1:38

GENEROSITY
Show us what gifts we have to offer and help us give them generously. Matthew 2:11

HOPEFULNESS
Fill us with hope for the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ. Daniel 2:44

TOGETHERNESS
Thank you that the gift of Jesus makes us one family together in Christ. John 1:12

AMEN!





BOREALIS CHORALE AND ORCHESTRA

“ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL” CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Did you take pictures at the Borealis Concerts that you would please share with us?

Please send them to: blc@boreal.org. Thank you.

“The concert was incredible. I haven’t seen since 2000.

It has grown in size and quality!” - Concert attendee

Dear Pastor Calvin, Staff & Volunteers Supporting the Borealis Choir Concert,

Thank you for doing everything necessary in support of the December 8th & 9th concerts at your church! The effort required to plan for and keep your doors open to enable the choir and orchestra to practice over the past two months and perform Friday and Saturday nights were a service to the community in helping focus its attention on the One whose birth we celebrate this season. The concerts are not a simple thing to pull off from either a musical or organizational perspective, but something your team and volunteers pulled off with grace, enthusiasm, and devotion. Please extend the community's appreciation to absolutely everyone involved and let them know the impact of their efforts is likely to have a ripple effect they may have to have patience to see but one our Lord and Savior will certainly accomplish in His perfect timing. Thank you again!

Bob Evans

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

Prayer Requests

For Healing:

Hank Ferland
Joyce Heiskari
Emily Ulhorn,
Bruce Johnson,
Lynn Schulte,
Vera Finn,
Lois Johnson,
Barbara Erickson,
Char Anderson,
Rhonda Schulte
Paulina Backstrom,
Les Donek,
Carly Hawkinson-
Sohm;
Emi Heikkinen
Betty Jones,
Kristi (Speck)
Perales,
Dorothy Peterson





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.



***Lots of Volunteers
needed for
Christmas Eve Services!***

***Each service needs:
2 - Ushers
6 - Readers
3-Communion Assistants***

***Please figure out which
service you will be
attending, and sign up on
the clipboard in the
Narthex.***



Worship Schedule FOR CHRISTMAS

Service of Lessons and Carols
with Holy Communion

Sunday December 24, 2023

10:00 am *

3:00 pm

5:00 pm

*live streamed



10 am: *Janet Simonen & Hilja Toerson*

3 pm: *Bethlehem Choir*

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