

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
333 East Ridge Street, Ishpeming, MI 49849
bethellutheran333@yahoo.com
Interim Pastors Steve & Evelyn Weston

January Evangel Newsletter

"Here am I,
the servant
of the Lord;
let it be
with me
according to
your word."

LUKE 1:38, NRSV

Looking ahead to the new year and thoughts of resolutions, there's an important principle of Christian living that's worth giving some attention to, namely *stewardship*. The principle is this: We do not own the things we happen to have control over; they belong to God, and we are stewards (managers, caretakers) of those resources. We are responsible to God for what we do with our stuff. There's really no such thing as giving to God, since God is already the owner of everything.

Once during Steve's Air Force days, one of the guys he used to hang out with, Dave, was in a panic. Dave had some commitments he was going to have trouble meeting while his car was in for repairs. Another guy, Bob, handed Dave the keys to his second car and said he could use that until he got his back. Dave objected that this was much too generous, and he couldn't possibly accept. Bob said, "Hey, it's not my car. It's God's car. You need it, so take it." That's stewardship. Everything we have is really just on loan to us while we inhabit this earth. When we realize that the stuff we have really belongs to God, not to us, it becomes easier to loosen our grip on those things and to use them for God's purposes.

Part of the practice of stewardship is financially supporting the church. The nonprofit organization known as Bethel Lutheran Church, incorporated under the laws of Michigan, needs money to operate, and contributing to the church organization is part of Christian stewardship. When we contribute to the church, we're not giving to God; we're pooling God's resources to do God's work together – the work of caring for our neighbors and proclaiming the good news of God's love for all people.

The traditional standard for Christian giving is a *tithe*, or 10% of one's income. It's a representative portion that helps us remember that it all really belongs to God. If you're not giving away 10% of what you receive to the church and other worthy causes, you might ask yourself if you're being generous enough.

If the church is hurting for money, and if there are still friendless people in need with no one to help them, the problem isn't a shortage of Christian giving but an excess of unchristian keeping. Greed is harmful, hurting the greedy person at least as much as it hurts those who are deprived of help by a lack of generosity.

Jesus had something to say about this: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Luke 12:34 and Matthew 6:21). We tend to become attached to whatever we put our resources, time and effort into. So if you want your heart to be attached more firmly to God, put more of your treasure into doing God's work. Good stewardship means using a significant portion of your resources (God's resources) for God's work, in a way that doesn't directly benefit you. When we do this, we experience the truth that "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Peace & blessings!
Pastors Steve & Evelyn

Calendar for the week

Sunday, December 19	8am – Worship 9am – Coffee & Fellowship 9:15am – Sunday School 10:30am – Worship 11:30am – Chancel Choir 6pm – Confirmation
Monday, December 20	Pastors' Day Off
Tuesday, December 21	Winter Begins
Wednesday, December 22	5:45pm – Coffee & Fellowship 6:30pm – Advent Mid-week Worship
Thursday, December 23	9am – Quilters
Friday, December 24	Office Closed 3pm – 4:30pm – 7:30pm – Candlelight & Caroling Worship 10pm – Candlelight & Caroling Worship with Holy Communion
Saturday, December 25	No worship
Sunday, December 26	8am – Worship 9am – Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am – Worship No Confirmation
Monday, December 27	Office Closed Pastors on Vacation

Office: 906-485-5533; bethellutheran333@yahoo.com
Pastor Steve Weston: 906-204-0256; steve.weston@ecunet.org
Pastor Evelyn Weston: 906-204-4979; eweston@luthersem.edu
Sunday School Director: Jennifer Juntunen: BethelSS@yahoo.com
Chancel Choir: Sue Pohlman – 906-271-1737
Bell Choir: Lucas Wickstrom – lucas@lucas.net
Connie Kangas: Administrative Assistant

Treasurer's Report

December 11 & 12: Actual = \$6,436 / Budget = \$5,556 / 116%
YTD: Actual = \$241,596 / Budget = \$277,800 / 87%
Attendance: 87

If you cannot attend worship, please remember to mail your offerings to Bethel Lutheran Church, 333 E Ridge St., Ishpeming, MI 49849

***Ushers are still needed for the 3:00, 7:30 & 10pm
Christmas Eve worship services.
Please sign up at the back of the church.***

***St. Vincent's food pantry wants to thank you
for your generous food donations. We will be able
to fill a lot of Christmas baskets thanks to you.***



2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If your number was above 650, you have a new number! There are alphabetical lists to reference if you do not know your number, or have been assigned a new number. It is helpful if you are able to take envelopes for family who cannot pick them up themselves. Thank you!

The Church Office will be closed on Friday, December 24
and Monday, December 27 and
Friday, December 31 and Monday, January 3.



Friday, December 24

3:00, 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.
 Caroling & Candlelight Worship

10:00 p.m.
 Candlelight Holy Communion
 Worship



A van ride is available for the 4:30 p.m. service. Call the church office (485-5533) by noon on Thursday, December 21.

The 4:30, 7:30 & 10:00 services will be broadcast on radio station WJPD 92.3 FM.

'Undecorate' the Church

Thursday, January 6, at 1pm.
 Time to put away our beautiful Christmas decorations. If you can spare 30-45 minutes, your help will be appreciated!

Meetings in January

Tuesday, January 4, 6:30pm – Nominating Cmte.
 Wednesday, January 5, 6:30pm – Worship & Music Cmte.
 Tuesday, January 11, 2pm – Altar Guild
 6:30pm – Council
 Friday, January 14, 10am – Outreach (Evangelism) Cmte.
 Thursday, January 20, 6pm – Social Ministry Cmte.
 Sunday, January 30, 11:30am – Annual Congregational Meeting

END-OF-YEAR INFORMATION

2021 Contributions must be turned in to the church office by **Wednesday, December 29, 2pm**, to be credited to 2021.



Year-End Reports must be turned in to the church office by Thursday, January 13, 2022.

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held at 11:30am on Sunday, January 30, 2022.

All confirmed members are encouraged to attend and participate.



“All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ.”

—David Jeremiah

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

The camp invites you and your families to participate in the following retreats:

* **Winter Wonderland, January 14-16 - All Ages**

Lots of outdoor recreation, cozy fireside moments, and an optional day at Ski Brule at a reduced rate. May stay over through January 17 for an additional fee.

* **Disconnect to Reconnect, February 4-5 –
Grades 7-12 and adult chaperones**

* **Nurturing Wholeness, February 11-13 –
Young Adults 18-26 (must be high school grads)**

In partnership with campus ministries at NMU, Tech and Finlandia. Limited scholarship money is available. Contact the camp office or campus pastor for info.

* **Building on Faith, February 25-26
Grades 3-6 and adult chaperones**

There are flyers on the bulletin board in the hall with more specific information. Registration is open at fortunelake.org.



ENDOWMENT FUND INFORMATION

Christians can give and have given to Bethel gifts in the forms of bequests in wills, assignment of life insurance, and transfers of property, such as cash, securities, bonds and real estate. At the annual meeting on January 25, 1998, the Bethel Lutheran Church Endowment Fund was established. The purpose of the fund is to enhance the mission outreach of Bethel Lutheran Church, apart from the general operation of the congregation. No portion of the income generated by the fund can be used for annual operating expenses and budgeted mission support. The principle is always retained, and only the income is expended. The Endowment Fund Committee is the custodian of the fund.

Since its beginning, Bethel's Endowment Fund has distributed more than \$550,000 both locally and world-wide. The distributions are recommended each year by the committee, and approved by the Congregational Council. If you would like a complete explanation of where the monies may be used and a listing of what organizations have been given monies, contact the church office.

Please consider The Bethel Lutheran Endowment Fund in your estate planning.

December 14th Meeting:



- Approved the Endowment Fund Committee's distribution recommendations for a total of \$30,000.
- Approved new missionaries support for Daudi and Kellan Msseemmaa.
- Property Committee secured plowing and will be installing emergency lights.
- Radio broadcast upgrade is complete.
- There will be a Saturday evening worship service on January 1. Pastor Dave VanKley will serve us that weekend.
- We will be looking for people to participate in the "Faithful Innovations" series. See the flyer on the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary.

Council Members: President-Julie Luehmann, Vice President-Kay Tupala, Secretary-Carol Holmgren, Stephanie Nelson, Warren Heikkila, David Holli, Katie Barron, Bernie Mattila, Kay Johnson, Scott Perry, Ron Oja, Joyce Anderson, Dean Maki, Willow Lake

Treasurer Position Open

Bethel is looking for a Treasurer. This position is part-time, taking approx. 5 hours per week (**it can be done in the evening or weekend hours**). The treasurer serves as the financial officer of the congregation; is responsible for payment of all bills and payroll, performs all bookkeeping functions, prepares the financial reports for the church council, files all federal and state tax forms, and assists in the preparation of the annual budget for the church council.

You must be proficient in bookkeeping & accounting, have computer skills in Excel, and you will be utilizing Church Windows, the church accounting and payroll software.

If anyone is interested in applying, please submit a resume to the church office. If you have questions regarding the position, call Connie in the church office at 906-485-5533 between 9am and 2pm Monday – Friday.

Serving Us in January

Date	Day	Time	Acolyte
—	Saturday	6:30pm	Kaya Etelamaki
Jan 2	Sunday	8:00am	Joseph Giroux
	Sunday	10:30am	Abby Williams
Jan 8	Saturday	6:30pm	Caden Balzarini
Jan 9	Sunday	8:00am	Mason Burke
	Sunday	10:30am	Payne Etelamaki
Jan 15	Saturday	6:30pm	Josie Mechling
Jan 16	Sunday	8:00am	Levi Nicholls
	Sunday	10:30am	Nicholas Parkinen
Jan 22	Saturday	3:00pm	Darren Arsenault
Jan 23	Sunday	4:30pm	Ellen Balzarini
	Sunday	7:30pm	Lauren Carlson
Jan 29	Saturday	6:30pm	Logan Cox
Jan 30	Sunday	8:00am	Kaya Etelamaki
	Sunday	10:30am	Joseph Giroux

Offering Tellers: Scott Perry and Ron Oja

COFFEE SERVERS

Jan 2 Tina Anderson & Shirley Luoma
 Jan 9 Shirley Luoma (a volunteer is needed)
 Jan 16 Karen Marietti & Marilyn Mahoski
 Jan 23 Anita Mattila & Lisa Rautio
 Jan 30 Two volunteers needed



Van Drivers

Jan 2 – Earl Eliason
 Jan 9 – Gary Thibeault
 Jan 16 – Duane Palomaki

Van Maintenance:

Bob Lake



Jan 23 – Earl Eliason
 Jan 30 – Gary Thibeault

Memorial Gifts

In memory of **Ruth Ann Smith and Sharon Kathleen Atkins** on their December birthdays from Betty Heikkinen.
 In memory of **William and Barb Sheldon** from their children.
 In memory of **John E Heidemann** from Ruth Heidemann and family.
 In memory of **John R Heidemann** from Jeff & Ann.
 In memory of **Ida (Emily) Torma** from Marv & Laura Kantola.
 In memory of **Lori Butler** from Gail Mattson and Dave & Patt Holli.

Funeral Service

December 2 – Liisa Ann McBee (nonmember), died November 28.
God bless Liisa's memory among us.

Radio Broadcast Sponsors

November 21 – In memory of Betty Phillips from Bill Phillips.
November 28 – In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard & Impi Saari, parents of Ethel Dobson, given by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dobson.
December 12 – In loving memory of John & Lorraine Adams from their children.

Flowers

December 5 – In loving memory of William A. Eliason from Michael Eliason and Kathy Merrill.

Welcome Visitors!

Jill Bouza, Matt Barron, Amy Diedrich, Amanda Heikkila, Bob Nardi,
Mike Mariuzza, Tom Poggione, Wendy Claus, Julie Kangas, Jana & Levi
Nicholls, Savannah Sevegney, and Marilyn Meyer



JANUARY

Birthdays

- 1 Katelynn Anttila, Lisa Rautio
- 3 Logan Hart
- 4 Richard Bjerne, Jordann Grigg, Quinn Juntunen, Connie Kangas,
Kristin Laitinen
- 5 Diana Hallum, Keel Stine
- 6 Berkley LaFreniere, Brenda Maddock, Christine Prusi,
Amber Ramsden, Judy Saari
- 7 Liam Kangas, Chris Ogea
- 8 Jason Chapman, Linda Denofre, Lauren Rautio, Jennifer Terres,
Mavis Wiitanen
- 9 Joshua Kitto
- 10 Talon Goethe, Briella Hart, Curt Voegtline, Jr.
- 12 Lynn Mattila, Barbara Woodruff
- 13 Keira Hooper, Dianne Leppanen
- 14 Julie Luehmann, Kyler Perrault
- 15 Eileen Bonetti, Mary Kari, Quinn Lancour
- 16 Kristy Hemmila, Christie Pruett, Michael Wommer
- 17 Levi Giroux, Joyce Koski, Marlene Ombrello, Denise Roberts
- 18 Eric Etelamaki, Jennie Oja, Jennifer Williams, Nathan Williams
- 19 Angie Eagling, William Jalonen, Jane Maki, Joan Nelson,
Anna Nelson, April Walimaa
- 20 Bernie Mattila, Brooke Peterson, Kristi Poupore, Joshua Ross
- 21 Alexis Lyke, Lexi Mahoski, Bradley Pennala
- 22 Bryan Brewer, Laurel Lammi, Bradley Mahoski, Bradley Mattson,
Karen Ostlund, Emma Poirier, Kasey Raisinen
- 23 Allie Barron, Laura Kantola, Kaitlyn Keto, Amber Ostlund,
Eric Uuro
- 24 Becky Abendroth, Shelley Stine
- 25 Tina Anderson, Henry Kulju, Toini Lahti
- 26 Deborah Brouillette, Raegen Peterson
- 27 Kristin Knapp, Linda Quayle

- 28 Christopher Koski, Miles Mattson, Vivian Nykanen
- 29 Henry Lamb
- 30 Rosalie Kempainen
- 31 Josephine Ruona, Camber Stine