



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

417 First Avenue West, PO Box 638

Grand Marais, MN 55604

218-387-2227

[www.sharingchrist.org](http://www.sharingchrist.org) | [bhc@boreal.org](mailto:bhc@boreal.org)

**December 6, 2024**

*Worship Schedule:*

**SUNDAYS 10:00AM**

**WEDNESDAYS 6:00 PM**



*Second Sunday  
of Advent*

## The Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible.

The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

Advent is a season of hoping, waiting, yearning, and preparing. The word "advent" is from the Latin *adventus*; it means "arrival" or an awaited coming. It's a season of big promises. We wonder, "Will God keep ancient promises or has God forgotten us?"

During these four weeks of Advent, the future and the past mingle together as we celebrate the Christ who came and is yet to come. Memories, inherited through scripture and tradition, are sparked in order to feed tomorrow's hope. The Spirit nudges the discovery, "If God came once, maybe God really will come again."

Advent is a season largely forgotten by our culture of immediate gratification, and likewise we've forgotten what it means to wait well. In all of this waiting, God is creating desire within us. And we trust it's worth the wait. Along the way, there are a few things for which we're not yet ready, because when God comes close it's almost always accompanied by surprise or scandal.

This is God's story. This is our story. Welcome to the season of Advent.

Live Stream Link for

Sunday December 8, 2024

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLCJ9PT-w9g)

[v=RLCJ9PT-w9g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLCJ9PT-w9g)

 **Mission  
Of the Month  
For November:**

**ELCA Good Gifts  
program**

**Goal: \$715  
Family Farm**

**Amount  
received: \$1,875!!**

**You're awesome  
in your  
generosity!**

*May our God of  
glory continue to  
richly bless your  
lives and you  
bless others with  
your gifts.*

# Prayer Requests

**Darold Rosbacka**

In GM hospital with liver & kidney failure

**Dick Kayser**

Upcoming knee replacement surgery

**Kati Kristenson Stieler & family**

Living with painful cancer

**Barb Coe**

Dealing with health issues

**Gene Erickson**

Dealing with health issues.

**Cathy Hawkinson**

Continues to recover from neck surgery

*How can we pray for you?*



## Ukraine Assistance Event December 10<sup>th</sup>

Lutsen Lutheran Church has been instrumental in supporting the Ukrainian people over the past year, hosting two **'Ray of Life' solar light kit build events**, and supporting the purchase of food and supplies for families living in frontline villages.

Dave Nonnemacher will be with us next Tuesday, **December 10th at 6:00 PM** to share information of his recent visit to Ukraine and his work with the Mariupol Chaplains Battalion, located in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine.

This is an opportunity to learn about what's happening in Ukraine first hand, and to talk about how we can help families in need.

All are welcome to attend. We'll have the coffee on!

**Lutsen Lutheran Church** is located just east of the Clearview Store in Lutsen.



## Advent



Luncheon, Bake Sale & Raffle

Saturday, December 7,

11 am to 2pm

Luncheon will be served 11:30 am

Followed by the raffle...All are welcome!

Adults \$10. Child \$5. Luncheon Includes:

Chicken Salad Croissants, fresh fruit, chips,

Coffee & Dessert!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women

417 First Ave. West, Grand Marais, MN

218-387-2227



Please bring your donations to church on Friday Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> or by 10am on Saturday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.  
Thank you!



# Second Sunday of Advent

December 8th

10:00 am Worship & Sunday School



*Readings and Psalm for Sunday December 8th:*

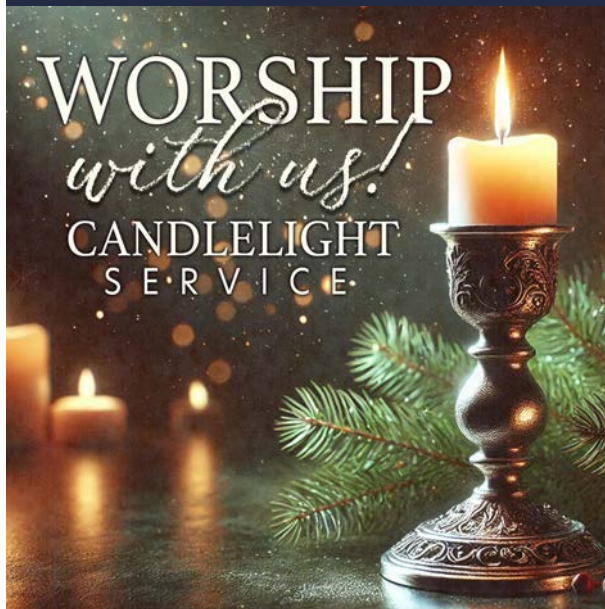
*Malachi 3:1-4 My messenger is a refiner and purifier*

*Luke 1:68-79 In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)*

*Philippians 1:3-11 A harvest of righteousness on the day of Jesus Christ*

*Luke 3:1-6 Prepare the way of the Lord*

WORSHIP  
*with us!*  
CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE



**CHRISTMAS  
EVE WORSHIP  
SERVICES:  
3:00 AND 5:00 PM  
CANDLELIGHT  
LESSONS & CAROLS**



## Christmas Pageant: Calling All Kids

Pre-K through 5th Grade kids....little ones are welcome too, but we will need more hands-on assistance by parents.

For this year's Christmas Pageant, we will be creating a slide show to be presented in church on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

On **Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00-2:30 pm**, we will be gathering at Brent and Marja Erickson's farm, WE Farm, on 1430 Wahlstrom Road(\*). We will have a fun afternoon of dressing in our Christmas Pageant costumes and staging photos with Erickson's animals to recreate the nativity scene and other scenes from our Christmas story.

Dress warmly!!! The costumes will fit over snow boots and snowpants and the halos look amazing over stocking hats:) Parents: this is a great time to get some family keepsake photos of your kids for making ornaments or sending in family Christmas cards!

Hot cocoa, cider, and a snack provided. For questions, contact Hilja Iverson at 218-370-1326.

(\*) Directions: Go up Gunflint Trail approximately 4.5 miles. Turn Right on Wahlstrom Road. At the T-intersection, turn left (still on Wahlstrom Road). Erickson's farm is on the right.

# YAGM SUNDAY

## YOUNG ADULT GLOBAL MISSIONS DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, we have a guest speaker, Shannon Baker, from YAGM (Young Adult Global Missions) through the ELCA. Shannon will be guest preaching and leading an adult education opportunity. She works for YAGM doing circuit preaching and speaking, trying to get the word out about YAGM to young people. Below is Shannon's bio and a short description of YAGM.

*My name is Shannon Baker, and I have recently returned from a YAGM year of service in Guadalajara, Mexico, where I served in a migrant center and two member churches of the Iglesia Luterana Mexicana (Mexican Lutheran Church). My service leaned into themes of migration, storytelling, and theological education. Inspired by the boots-on-the-ground, love-in-action Catholic priest who runs the migrant shelter--and after about three years of debate with God on the subject--I'm starting my first semester of graduate school at Denver Seminary (online). I hope to complete my Master's of Divinity, concentrating on Social Justice, Advocacy, & Theology.*

*In my free time, you'll likely find me writing fiction or poetry, reading the same, playing a ball sport of any kind, verbal sparring with family and friends, or trying to find woods/trails/lakes/mountains/nature-of-all-kinds to explore. I'm looking forward to pouring back into the YAGM program as a Short-Term Recruiter in the East/Midwest!*

The **ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program** invites ELCA young adults ages 21-35 into a transformative, year-long journey in international service. Young adults serve in the spirit of accompaniment, walking alongside global companions in a manner that practices mutuality, interdependence and solidarity. Areas of service include, but are not limited to, health and development, congregational ministry, human rights, education, homelessness, addiction recovery, women's issues and children and youth. All site placements provide opportunities for young adults to confront issues of wealth and poverty, racial privilege, economic disparity and globalization, all through the lens of faith.



Care for our neighbors experiencing homelessness and poverty by supporting Chum (Churches United in Ministry), our December Mission of the Month. Chum is "People of faith working together to provide basic necessities, foster stable lives, and organize for a just and compassionate community," serving people from the Duluth area and beyond with Stabilization Services (drop-in center, medical clinic, helping people in crisis transition), Food Distribution Services (operating Duluth's largest food shelf), Housing Services, and Congregational Outreach, Advocacy, and Organizing. In addition to financial contributions, we encourage you to consider supporting Chum's mission by volunteering, joining Chum's advocacy efforts, or donating warm winter hats and mittens to the tree in the narthex.

## Chum Is Made Up Of 4 Big Parts



Stabilization Services  
*Helping those in Crisis transition*



Food Distribution Services  
*Making sure everyone stays fed*



Congregational Outreach, Advocacy, and Organizing

*The backbone of our organization*



Housing Services  
*Responding to the housing shortage in the area*

## DECEMBER

## MEMBER

## CHALLENGE:



The season of snow and cold is upon us! Please help our neighbors stay warm this winter by filling up the tree in the narthex with hats, mittens, scarfs and warm socks. Collected donations will be shared with CHUM and Damiano Center in Duluth. The tree will be up until Epiphany, January 5, 2025.



*I wonder what this year's theme will be.....*

*I guess you'll have to come and help out!*



## **Hangin' Of The Greens:**

**Help decorate Bethlehem for Christmas!  
Saturday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:00  
p.m. If you have any questions, seek  
out Janet Simonen (218-387-5189) or  
Hilja Iverson (218-370-1326).**

***Many hands make light work.***

# Borealis Orchestra & Chorale Community Concert

ΠΡΟΣΑΡΧΑ, ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ 13

και

ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΜΑΧΗΡΙΟΣ ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ 14

7:00 πμ αρχι

ΒΕΘΛΕΗΜ

LUTHERAN CHURCH



Come to enjoy this marvelous Advent experience, where our community comes together for a fabulous night of marvelous music that will warm your hearts and soul as you prepare for Christmas.

*I know many of you live out of city limits, but it's important that we all observe these parking rules. Think of those that have to live here and may have to hike over the mounds of snow drifts left on our street because parking rules aren't considered when in town.—Thanks so much, Denise.*

# WINTER PARKING ORDINANCE CHANGES

**WINTER IS HERE, AND SO ARE THE NEW PARKING RULES TO KEEP OUR STREETS CLEAR AND SAFE! HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO AVOID GETTING SNOWED IN OR TOWED:**

## **NEW HOURS FOR OVERNIGHT PARKING:**

Remember, parking on Highway 61 is now prohibited from 2 AM to 7 AM. Give those plows room to work their magic!

## **CALENDAR PARKING IN EFFECT:**

Starting November 15 at 12:01 a.m. through April 15 at midnight, follow this rule daily:

- **Odd days:** Park on the side with odd-numbered addresses
- **Even days:** Park on the side with even-numbered addresses

## **ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS:**

Some areas will be off-limits for parking all winter long.



**Thank you  
for your help keeping our  
roads cleared and safe!**



# Christmas Poinsettias



*If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve services, please fill out a form and bring it to the church office or place it in the offering plate no later than Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024. The cost for each poinsettia is \$12.00.*

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall  
be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
**Wonderful Counselor,**  
**MIGHTY GOD,**  
**Everlasting Father,**  
**PRINCE OF PEACE.**

- Isaiah 9:6

**Did you fill out and return your commitment card? We'd sure appreciate your help to develop next year's budget.**

**Please fill out the form and drop it off.**



BECAUSE OF  
GOD'S GREAT MERCY



In support of the ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church:

I/We will give \$\_\_\_\_\_ per week/month/year for the coming year. (circle one)

- This represents an increase of at least ½ of 1% or more of our household income. (check box if this is true)
- I/We would like offering envelopes. \_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_ Holiday (check your choice)
- I/We do not need envelopes. I will send or place my offering in the plate at church.
- I/We would like to set up automated giving. (Complete the Authorization Form.)
- Please update my/our automated giving to reflect the above amount. I already have an authorization form on file.

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_ Signature/s \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

This commitment can be changed at any time by contacting the church office.



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## AUTOMATIC CONTRIBUTIONS AUTHORIZATION FORM

Powered by VANCO

Last Name		First Name	
Address			
City		State	Zip
Email Address			
<b>DATE OF FIRST DONATION:</b> ____ / ____ / ____		<b>FREQUENCY:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 <sup>st</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 <sup>th</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – Mondays	<b>FUNDS:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
		<b>AMOUNTS:</b> \$ _____ \$ _____ <b>Total</b> \$ _____	
<b>CHECKING / SAVINGS</b>	Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check or account verification letter below)		Routing Number:  <b><i>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</i></b>  Account Number:   41 234567890 123 45678 90001 └── Routing Number ─┘ └── Account Number ─┘ └── Check Number ─┘
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.  Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____		
<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>		<b>ENVELOPE/DONOR #</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Effective date of authorization: ____ / ____ / ____			
<b>Type of authorization:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date			

If using a checking account, please attach a voided check or account verification letter to the bottom of this page.



On-line giving is encouraged using this QR Code or through automatic transfer using this form.