



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880

August 2016



Website: www.bethlehemtc.org
Email: bethlehem@bethlehemtc.org

Building Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9am to 3pm

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday, 9am to 3pm

Worship Times:

Saturday: 5 pm Celebrate! Worship
Sunday: 8:45 am Traditional Worship
9:45 am Education Hr.
11 am Modern Worship

Communion at all services

Follow the STAR to Bethlehem!

Our Mission...

“We journey with God, to serve with love”

Our Vision...

“As a community of believers journeying with God together, we at Bethlehem are called to serve with love by growing a premier youth ministry; enlivening Christian discipleship through lifelong learning, care, and spiritual formation; fostering a vibrant and inspiring worship experience; utilizing our natural setting and location for faithful creation care and outdoor ministry; and opening our doors always to be a “campus at the crossroads” for the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.”



"...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks..."

This is the middle portion of the gospel text for Sunday, August 7th (Luke chapter 12:32-40), and at first glance, there is more than one theme in its message. First is that of verse 34, a continuation of Christ's call in verse 31 before this reading - to **"strive first for the kingdom of God"** and not material possessions: "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34)

But after that, the theme changes to **readiness**...a readiness for God's knock upon our door. This may seem a different sort of readiness than the other "knock" from Luke's text from two weeks ago ("Ask and you shall receive...knock and the door shall be open to you.") After all, this knock is not our **own prayers** this time, but instead **readiness for Christ's arrival in our lives, knocking on our door** - often in the form of a stranger or neighbor in need of our love and friendship. Is there a difference between our prayers and God's kingdom in our hearts and the world around us?

That's why these themes (readiness, prayer, and our true treasure) are less different from each other than we might think. As we look toward August, and the new church/school year that lies quickly ahead, perhaps we hear the voice of Jesus telling us to "be ready"...for all the wonderful, and "disciple-ful" (yes, that's a made-up word!) things in store for us together...

With that in mind, I hope you will join me and the "Discipleship Task Force" (the new nickname for ECD, or Enlivening Christian Discipleship) in making this coming year one of new discovery, as we delve into our faith differently than before: perhaps with more depth or a new type of readiness. First up: The Apprentice Series (application deadline 8/29!), then more in store...

The Savior knocks...

Are you ready, my friends? :)

In peace, Pr. Paul



Diaconal Ministry - exploring the intersections of our world & the church together, with the Trinity leading the way. **Diaconal Minister Julia Nelson**

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-3

July started with the festivities of the National Cherry Festival which put many of us to work with the Annual Parking Lot Fundraiser. The first day we were ready to park cars, was a practice run for not only the Blue Angels air show, but also for those of us working the parking lot fundraiser. Thank you to the many individuals and families that helped with the variety of shifts to make this a truly great fundraiser for our youth ministries!

During the same week a group of us participated in the first go at BLC Days of Service by volunteering with Habitat for Humanity at the annual Depot Neighborhood Picnic. We played lawn games, hung out with Sunburn & Sun Tan from the Beach Bums, participated in the sidewalk chalk competition, and painted many faces. One of the great moments of outreach at this event was welcoming new families to Traverse City. Many were visiting for the festival, but a number of people were new in town too. It was a great opportunity to invite them all to BLC. We may see some of them in worship and hopefully at our VBS Day Camp this month! We capped off our 2016 BLC Days of Service with a community clean-up and one last shift for the parking lot fundraiser. The Community Clean Up events are a great way to see our community in new ways, get to know more people in the community, and take care of creation.

The month then moved into a 3 week series of adult education offerings through the ELCA Practice Discipleship initiative workshops that help us to “wonder” together. And together we wondered about children & youth, through service learning, and about the church. We continue forward in the race prepping for the year ahead and continuing to learn to be church with and for each other.

Coming up...

•**August 8-12 Day Camp** 9am - 3pm for ages 5 - 12. The ELCA Living Water Ministry team will lead us in learning about “Fearless Faith; Courage in Community.”

•**August 14 Youth & Parent Gathering** 9:45am in the Youth Room! Bring your calendars & extracurricular events so we can coordinate & share life together during the 2016/2017 school year! This is of utmost importance for all youth & families to attend!

President's Corner

Dear Bethlehem friends,

We journey with God, to serve with love. That is our mission and as I begin my journey as your Council President, I ask for your prayers. I am here to serve you and act as your voice on the Council. I have very large shoes to fill as Tom Rockne did a magnificent job for two years. For those of you I have not met, I hope to do so in the coming weeks and months.

The Church Council needs your help and support. There are many challenges that lie ahead, but I feel we have the people and the resources to spread the Good News and be The Good Samaritan. The world is a marvelous place and we have an obligation to live our Christianity every day in the real world. Reach out and touch a life this month in a way that lifts a burden or brings joy to others. As we say at the end of each service...Go in Peace – Serve the Lord.

My hand in yours,

Phil Anderson, Council President

The Countdown Begins

August 10th is the 124th anniversary of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and it marks the beginning of special events throughout the year to celebrate our 125th anniversary in 2017.

Some highlights will include:

- a kick off with our historic Scandinavian Smorgasbord in October, 2016.
- tree-planting in the Brown Bridge Quiet Area and a celebration tree at BLC in April, 2017 .
- a congregational picnic at the Civic Center in August, 2017.
- a celebration worship and dinner to close out our year in September, 2017.

We are also:

- creating an anniversary quilt with names of family members.
- interviewing members to share special memories at BLC in video snippets.
- creating a banner to be displayed outdoors to share our joy with “the world.”
- inviting former pastors, interns, sons and daughters of the congregation and former members to share in our events as they are able.

We are working hard to offer a year of celebrating so we can share in the excitement of our ministry together for the last 125 years. Who is the we?

Christine Hubert	Steve Hubert	Kay Rumbach	Tracey Moyer
Jim Hutchison	Barbara Graf	Neal Kibby	Patti Friedlli
Suzanne Lehto,chair			

Watch for more information as the years commences. Join us in celebration!

APPRENTICE SERIES

The Apprenticeship Series is the first big initiative of the Discipleship Task Force (see also **the following page**), and we really want to see this program thrive! We are looking for 6-8 BLC-ers to join this very structured and well-known inter-denominational small group program. It has a finite beginning and end (September 2016 through November 2017, with a big break over the summer of 2017). **Please note: sign-up deadline is this August 29th!**

Though it requires a commitment of roughly 30 two-hour weeknight time slots over the course of a year and a half, it does have some very helpful flexibility. Several other well-known congregations in the area are participating with us, and the beauty of this program is that – while you can't "skip" entire sections – to stay on track you can choose to attend a different venue for the same session on a given week if the time slot at another church works better for you. For example, if you've been coming to the Bethlehem time slot on Mondays at 6:15pm, and you just happen to have a conflict on a particular Monday, you can attend the Thursday night session that week at the First Congregational Church.

Also on deck for Discipleship at BLC: a Confirmation Retreat for all ages, some "Outdoor Church," and new Wednesday night programming! Keep on the look-out, folks... 😊

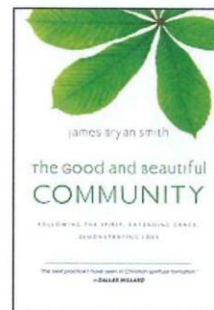
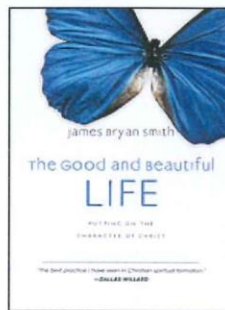
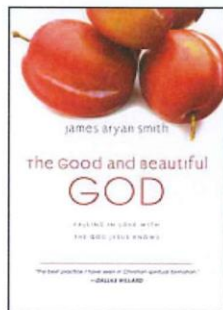
Please note, if you sign up, this is not necessarily a commitment to the program. It is also an opportunity to be sure to have your questions answered by Pastor Paul or D.M. Julia.

THE APPRENTICE SERIES

based on the books

*The Good and Beautiful God,
The Good and Beautiful Life, and
The Good and Beautiful Community*

by James Bryan Smith



The Apprentice Series is a small-group experience involving discussion of the reading, sharing, & encouragement during weekly 2-hour gatherings. It is a practical process for bringing healthy change to our lives and discovering the God Jesus revealed.

Brochures detailing the series (including an application to participate) are available from any of the host sites listed. You may attend any session at any of the participating host sites. The series is open to the public.

Please submit your application no later than August 29, 2016.

Knowing the Good and Beautiful God

Opening Session on **Saturday, September 10, 2016**, at First Congregational Church (Center Road), 8:30-12:30.
Small Group Sessions Begin the Week of September 11, 2016.

Please contact Jo Panter, Apprentice Series Director, (231-947-8929) or Lynn Katsaros, Series Coordinator, (231-947-6201) with any questions.

A Christian Formation Collaborative between
First Congregational Church, Advent Lutheran Church, Bay Ridge Senior Living Center, West Side Community Church, Presbyterian Church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Christ Church

Costs for this program will be subsidized by BLC. Questions regarding the program should be directed to Jo Painter. Questions regarding potential costs directed to BLC.



A big thank you to all who contributed their Oleson's receipts to Bethlehem. We just received a check from them for **\$217.84**. Please continue to drop off your Oleson's receipts at church.



T-SHIRTS--\$10.00--order 8/6 or 8/6, 8/14 or 8/15. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex after services.

T-SHIRTS! "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday is September 11th. It is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ, to serve & love our neighbor. At Bethlehem we will celebrate "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday as our Fall Rally Day with service project opportunities on site & out into the community with our matching t-shirts. Place your orders today for a golden "God's Work, Our Hands" T-shirts for only \$10.00 & join in a movement with the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Want Ads WANTED!

Committees, Ministries, Circles, Small Groups, wanna be Small Groups-- Here's a chance to get your message out! Tell everybody what you do, why you do it, and why you need recruits! Send this information to Diane at diane.mcwethy@bethlehemtc.org, or drop it in her mailbox.

Photos/images may be included. It will be published in the September STAR newsletter.. Want ad content/details due Tuesday 8/16.

2 Adult Confirmation Mentors needed for 2016/2017 school year!



Attendance requested at the following:

- *Classes on the second & fourth Wednesdays of the month
6pm – 7:30pm starting in September
- *Confirmation Reviews on the third Sunday of the month
during the Christian Education Hour
- *Fall & Spring Retreats

Join the youth, D.M. Julia, & Pr. Paul in affirming our baptisms through the confirmation program at BLC. Contact D.M. Julia today at 947-9880 to join in the Confirmation adventure!

Youth & Parent Gathering Sunday, 8/14/16!!!

Bring your calendars & extracurricular event schedules & join Y2A Leaders & D.M. Julia between services @ **9:45am** for a VERY important gathering to schedule the 2016/2017 BLC Youth Year! Let your voice be heard!



Programming Calendars will be available via e-mail prior to this meeting.



Pianist needed for Saturdays, occasional Sundays and various special occasions. Please contact Billie Thompson or Sharon Weller at 231-947-9880.

JUBILEE

Now I know that some of you circled the food tables several times and took home a lot of extra chicken. That was the best chicken we've had in a long time! The recipe is at the end of this article.

It was great worshiping God in his outdoor sanctuary with life all around us. From an AMEN sermon to babies and animals in the background to a large bake sale, it is a Sunday to remember.

It took a lot of people to put this all together (and tear it down.) Here are some names:

Mat Branch

Patty Leibenguth

Shelley Miller

Maggie Pearce

Carl Lehto

Ken & Kris Smith

Jim Rumbach

Gloria Pyne

Katie Pearce

Dan Hahn

Barb Wright

Barbara Oster

Ron Hellenga

Kim Mende



The **Discipleship Committee** would like to extend a heartfelt thanks for making our Bake Sale such a huge success! \$469.00 was raised for the new Adult Ed Program at BLC. We especially want to thank all the bakers who contributed such a wonderful variety of baked goods to choose from, and all those who shopped or contributed monetarily. Volunteers were Barb Wright, Linda Gokey, as well as others who are on the committee including Julia Nelson, Mike VandeLeest & Tyler Bevier.



August 8th – 12th for

Ages 5 -12

9am -3pm

Together we have “Fearless Faith - Courage in Community.” Led by BLC Christian Education Committee & an ELCA Living Water Ministry Team. Call the church office at 947-9880 or email diane.mcwethy@bethlehemtc.org to register.

All campers are expected to bring their own lunch each day & all campers need to bring a recyclable plastic water bottle & a white t-shirt

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM

God has certainly been gracious to us again. What a beautiful summer we are having! I hope it's been good and restful for you. Let us all continue to give Him praise and thanks.

There will be an **all-circle gathering** on Wednesday, August 17th at 6:30 at the home of Barb and Leonard Graf, 7429 E. Fouch Road (left on Cherry Bend Road for 5.2 miles, home is on the right).

We will meet at church at 6PM to car pool. All you need to bring is your Bible and a lawn chair. A light supper will be provided, including hot dogs/burgers, fruit, veggie tray and cookies.

The Bible Study will be taken from the July/August *Gather* magazine. It is a continuation of the study begun in June, *Treasure in clay jars*. We will do both lessons.

Please contact your circle chairperson prior to August 12th with your plans to attend.

All women of the congregation are most welcome to attend these circle meetings at any time throughout the year. If you have any questions, contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433.

The **FALL RETREAT** titled "**Gifts of the Spirit**" will be held at the Kettunen Center in Tustin on September 23-24, 2016. There will be people going down on Friday and also a car leaving on early Saturday morning. Pre-registration is a must so if you are interested in attending this retreat, please check the kiosk for further information and/or call Nancy Ammann 946-8433.

It's a great time of fellowship all around. There will be a quilt/craft auction on Saturday to benefit the Scholarship Fund, and they are asking for congregations to furnish a quilt or craft.

If anyone is interested in donating something for this auction, please contact Nancy Ammann at 946-8433.

125th BLC ANNIVERSARY TIME CAPSULE

In 1885, more than **125 YEARS AGO**, a group of Swedish people gathered in Traverse City, Michigan for the first time to hold organized worship services. On **August 10, 1892**, the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized here with 20 communing members and 15 children. Seven years later, our first church building was completed and dedicated on Washington Street.



Book/Supper Discussion Group meets from 5 to 7 pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month in the Church Office & Conference Room. Join Us. If you have any questions, please contact Ellie Long at 935-4595.

- Aug. 23 **My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry** (novel)
By Fredrik Backman (in the Fellowship Hall)
- Sept. 27 **The Last Runaway** by Tracey Chevalier (novel)
-

Save this date - **September 16th. XYZ pot luck lunches** will be back. Lunch will be at noon with a program to follow. Jim Anderson of Anderson Aerial Photography will share with us how he is able to fly his airplane and take photographs at the same time. You can also learn more by visiting him at

www.andersonaerialphotography.com

Questions, comments and program ideas can be shared with Jan or Butch at 231-271-3802 or etwaisanen@centurytel.net

Hoping to see you all in September.



Bethlehem Family Camping September 16-18

Let's Go Camping!

Bethlehem's 5th Annual Family Camp is scheduled for September 16, 17 & 18 at Turtle Lake Campground near Beulah.

The campground is 22 miles from Traverse city and offers a playground, swimming, fishing, canoe/kayaking, and if there are enough people, a tractor pulled wagon ride!

Come for a day, an evening potluck (Saturday night), a campfire or the whole time; whatever your schedule allows. Prep your own meals except for the Saturday Potluck.

Most campsites are shady and grassy. Please call Monica Graf if you plan to camp or have any questions—we will try to reserve a group of campsites near one another.



Health Concerns

*Jeri Boike, Richard Fernholz, Karen Anderson, Bob Jahnke, Christian Stretlien, Carol Collins,
Martin Graf, Mary Ann Tanis, Imogene Gray, Dan Morley, Jon Perkins,
Nikki Juntunen Manquen*

Grand Traverse Pavilions: Walter & Jenni Goff, Donna Scanlon

French Manor: Martha LaVire, Helen Arnston

Culver Meadows AFC: Janet Hinds

Cherry Hill Haven: Paul Oppliger

Southridge: Jo Hasse

Traverse Manor: Juanita Lautner, Jane Witkop

Boardman Lake Glens: Ken and Ingie Thomas

Hospital Visits: Please let the church office know if you are going into the hospital for a scheduled procedure or an emergency so Pastor Paul can visit you.



BLC's PRAYER CHAIN is always seeking partners in prayer.
More volunteers are needed for this crucial ministry.
For more information or to set the Prayer Chain in motion,
call Jan Stretlien @ 947-3265 or email jstretlen@gmail.net.

Are you checking for the latest BLC updates at:
www.bethlehemtc.org?

You saw Norm and others take the photos...be sure you see them at
www.bethlehemtc.org!

Good News...and great news...at www.bethlehemtc.org...



**BJ & Tom
Christensen &
Family**



Parker's Baptism



Sharon & Zack

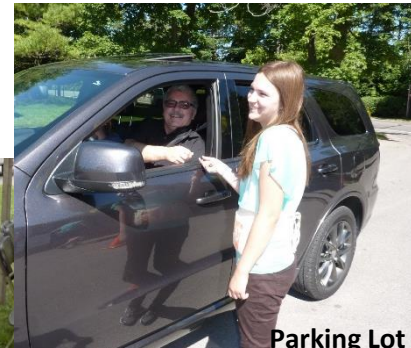


**Derek & Evelynne Pyne
and Family**

**Jim & Cindy
Monroe**



David & Pastor Paul



**Parking Lot
Fundraiser**



Neil & Janet Kibby

BLC Contacts

Church Office

Pastor Paul Busekist

paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org

Julia Nelson

julia.nelson@bethlehemtc.org

Diane McWethy, Admin. Asst.

diane.mcwethy@bethlehemtc.org

Judy Conant, Bookkeeper

judy.conant@bethlehemtc.org

Sharon Weller

sharon.weller@bethlehemtc.org

Billie Thompson

billie.thompson@bethlehemtc.org

Website

www.bethlehemtc.org

Church Council

Phil Anderson, President

president.council@bethlehemtc.org

Jim Parkinson, Vice President

vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org

Tom Rockne, Secretary

secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org

Dave Pepler, Treasurer

treasurer@bethlehemtc.org

Shelly McAllister, Financial Sec.

secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org

Jan Stretlien, Christian Care Giving

christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org

Dianne Blair, Christian Ed.

christianeducation@bethlehemtc.org

Barbara Overdier, Evangelism

evangelism@bethlehemtc.org

_____, Fellowship

fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org

Barbara Overdier, Membership

membershivevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org

Leonard Graf, Personnel

personnel.committee@bethlehemtc.org

Carl Lehto, Property

property.committee@bethlehemtc.org

_____, Social Ministry

socialministry.committee@bethlehemtc.org

Judy Strickland, Stewardship

stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org

Barbara Oster, Worship and Music

worship.committee@bethlehemtc.org

Jodi, Youth/Y2A

youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org

If you have an interest in serving on any of the above Committees,

Please contact the Committee Chairperson(s).

BLC - Non assigned mtg. space, Contacts, Conference Room, Entire BLC, Event Held Outside of BLC, Fellowship Hall, Gathering Space, Sanctuary, Youth Room Aug 2016 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
		9am - Work Group 10am - Stewardship 6pm - Christian Ed 6:30pm - ECD 6:30pm - Evang/Me	2pm - ComPartyBay	6:15pm - Steel Pan 7:30pm - Worship		5pm - Worship-S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:45am - Worship-S 11am - Modern	9am - VBS	9am - Work Group 12:30pm - Finance- 3pm - Executive	10:30am - Stewards	9am - Baby Pantry- 6:15pm - Steel Pan 7:30pm - Worship	7pm - Bridge-GS	5pm - Worship-S
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:45am - Worship-S 11am - Modern		9am - Work Group 6pm - Council				5pm - Worship-S
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:45am - Worship-S 11am - Modern		9am - Work Group 5pm - Book/Supper		9am - Baby Pantry-		5pm - Worship-S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
8:45am - Worship-S 9:45am - WELCA-C 11am - Modern		9am - Work Group				

Because of the many activities here at BLC, this is only a partial calendar. You can view the entire calendar at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/community-calendar> or call the office at 947-9880 for more information.