



# Bethlehem

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880

# September 2016

**Make a COMMITMENT...  
Make more of yourself!!**

Website: [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)  
Email: [bethlehem@bethlehemtc.org](mailto: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.”*



"A new command I give you:  
Love one another. As I have  
loved you, so you must love  
one another..."



That is the famous quote that Jesus tells his followers from John 13:34 (NIV translation). But what is ever MORE interesting to me is the quote immediately following: ***"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."***

Why is that second verse (John 13:35) so important? What is the "this" referring to? It is (because of) the word we so often hear in church, but perhaps do not experience often in the week *days* that follow the weekends... "disciples." We as followers of Christ are called to love one another, for the sake of Christ, for the sake of the world, and for the sake of love itself... But for one other reason: so that we will be *known as Jesus' disciples*... Not so that we can boast, my friends, but so that we can serve as examples of love in the world, and sow the seeds of love to grow beyond our lives and efforts.

To be known as disciples takes more effort than merely church attendance, as vital as attendance is for us all. The people we engage with outside of church cannot tell whether or not we attend worship. There is no "attendance sheet" in the break room at our jobs, or on the mailboxes in our front yards. (Thank goodness!) Instead, the "evidence" of our discipleship is far more subtle, far more personal, and far more ordinary and sometimes obvious – in the way we treat one another, even (or especially) with those who may not attend church with us. It's that old adage from that Christian Song hymn: "They'll know we are Christians by our love." Love is a product of discipleship.

This year marks the beginning of our 6<sup>th</sup> year together as disciples on the journey of ministry at Bethlehem. And to that I say first THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE WONDERFUL MEMORIES, GIFTS AND THOUGHTS THESE LAST FEW WEEKS REGARDING OUR 1<sup>ST</sup> FIVE YEARS TOGETHER!! ☺ Meredith and I have truly been blessed to be in your midst – leading, co-leading and following Christ with you.

I hope you join me this year in a new effort of relationship and discipleship: not just because it's the next focus of our shared Vision together. Not just because we have new "Apprentice(s)" of discipleship starting this year. And not just because God's Work Our Hands Weekend (formerly Rally Day weekend) is coming September 10 and 11. But because of something bigger and more amazing: ***now that we are hitting our stride together, we can truly begin the relationship building and discipleship that Christ has been calling us to be and do from day one.*** By this everyone will know that we are Christ's disciples, if we love one another!

In Peace, Pr. Paul



**Diaconal Ministry now unified to be Deacon - exploring the intersections of our world and the church together, with the Trinity leading the way.**



“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.” Romans 8:14-17 NRSV

It is with much joy that I share with you the news of my new rostered leader title ‘Deacon Julia.’ For many the title ‘Diaconal Minister’ was hard to remember or to even say, thus I hope that my new title of ‘Deacon’ will prove to be easier on all of us. This Romans scripture is my favorite explanation of how we have all received a spirit of adoption as children of God. Similarly, through this recent change of title, that occurred officially at the ELCA Church wide Assembly in New Orleans, Louisiana last month, all Diaconal Ministers, Deaconesses, and Associates in Ministry are now under the same umbrella of being referred to as ‘Word & Service Ministry’ and called Deacons. There are no longer four rosters to remember, but two! We are reminded of this adoption from the same Spirit that is in Jesus as we are adopted into this new title for ministry. No matter our vocational title, we are “heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.”

To further explain this change... At the ELCA Church wide Assembly, that happens every three years, our church modified our governing documents to improve clarity, uplift collegiality, and foster complementary ministries in the ELCA. The work of the ELCA requires every member, each of whom has different calls, skills, and passions, and some of those to lead us in being Church for the sake of the world. The Constitutional changes overwhelmingly passed at the 2016 Church-Wide Assembly confirming two rosters of leadership in the ELCA: Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Pastors) and Ministers of Word & Service (Deacons).

So, what is a Deacon exactly? Ministers of Word and Service are public leaders of this church, grounded in community and rooted in the word of God, who stand in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, proclaim God’s love, and commit to innovative service on the frontiers of the Church’s outreach ministries. Deacons advocate in prophetic service (diakonia), which invite us to ministries of accompaniment, that equipping all baptized Christians for ministry in God’s mission. (Source: Summary of section 7.61.02. Of the ELCA Constitution as adopted).

In the Early Church, the Apostles struggled to distribute food to the poor with fairness and equality. Prayerfully, Church Fathers discerned it appropriate to call Stephen and others with particular skills for such service and administration to be public leaders (deacons) of the Church. Then as now, deacons proclaim God’s love by ‘waiting on tables, meeting the physical needs of the poor, hungry, sick, the disenfranchised and others living at the margins of society. Ministers of Word and Service of the ELCA continue this work, living in the role of servant leaders, equipping service members of the Body of Christ for accompaniment ministries in the wider world.

Please feel free to ask clarifying questions regarding the ministry of Deacons as we grow with this new title in the days and weeks ahead.

Peace,  
Deacon Julia Nelson

# President's Corner

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Dear Friends at Bethlehem,

September is here and with it comes the change of the seasons and new beginnings. While it is not quite time to put away the sandals and straw hats, it is time to look back and cherish the memories and look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead.

August was a very special month for the congregation of Bethlehem and for our shepherd, Pastor Paul. It was a month of celebration as we mark five years with Pastor. We have come so far under his care and our hearts are filled with gratitude for all he has done. We look forward with joy and anticipation to the months and years ahead. I am sure we will all be truly blessed with his words, enthusiasm, and preaching.

Relationship building will be a large part of the church going into the fall and for 2017. For new members and visitors, we want this church to be a place of welcoming; a place you look forward to going and putting down roots. The warm handshake, the encouraging word, and the kind smile: these are the things Bethlehem should be famous for. For the established member, I encourage you to be an ambassador for Bethlehem. For the visitor and new member, reach out and become involved. God will bless your time at Bethlehem, abundantly.

With each visit, I think you will feel the vitality, the energy, the message of hope and forgiveness that comes with being an engaged member. Bethlehem Lutheran Church is a place where you will be fed, your spirit renewed, and your faith strengthened. Be a part of us and bring a friend to share the joy of a Christ filled life.

My hand in yours, our hearts with Him,

Phil Anderson  
Church Council President



## Float Builder Needed

The Anniversary Celebration Task Force came up with another brilliant way to celebrate our 125th anniversary: build a FLOAT for the 2017 Cherry Festival Heritage Parade! All we need is a LEADER to take on the project. Surely we can find help once we have a dedicated leader. Have you just been waiting for the right project to let your talents shine? Please call Suzanne Lehto (223-7187) before you get cold feet. God bless you in advance for volunteering.

**NEED A BOOST TO YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE? WANT TO SEE THE LORD'S WORK UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL?? DO YOU NEED A SMILE ON A WEEKLY BASIS??? DO YOU JUST LIKE TO LAUGH????**

Then come and join the Christian Education Committee. We meet the FIRST TUESDAY of the month at 6pm.

We are awarded the privilege of sharing God's Love with our youngest members each Sunday during the school year. We also oversee other educational activities and Summer VBS. You'll experience joy in the loving faces, comments, and fellowship with our BLC kids. They strengthen our faith regularly and remind us of the most important thing, LOVE. Come join us, for the rewards are many. Call Dianne Blair for more info at 231-223-7237.



Wow your circle of friends - when they hear that you can play the **Steel Pans**. Tuesday night rehearsals and/or lessons. It's free. Go ahead and impress yourself. Call the office for info at 947-9880.





## Tuesday Knitting Group

wants YOU to meet with them on Tuesday mornings at 9am in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome, whether you have skills to share, or are a beginner. You will make prayer shawls and more for those facing a variety of challenges. Call the office for more info at 947-9880.



## Wanted - Beautiful Flower Gardener

**Now that I have your attention, Bethlehem needs 1 more person to take care of a neglected flower bed and make it beautiful again. This is a privileged position that you can use to fill a couple of hours of your time every couple of weeks on whatever day/time of day you choose. Tools are available or you can bring your own. You will have freedom to choose how you restore the beauty of this flower bed. Bring a partner with you and you will have twice the fun in half the time. For details please contact Carl Lehto at 223-7187.**



## The Bethlehem Book & Supper Club

meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month—the next session is Sept. 27, at 5pm. Our September book is **The Last Runaway**, by Tracey Chevalier.

## **BLC office hours M-Th, 9am-3pm**



Do you look good in an apron? Do you enjoy a good cry?  
(while chopping onions)

Do you love surrounding yourself with a fun group?

If you can answer "yes" to at least one of these questions..... we have the perfect fit for you. Call

**Marilyn Dork**  
**231- 620-7393**

for your special place on the **Fellowship Committee.**

The first 10 callers will get double benefits!!

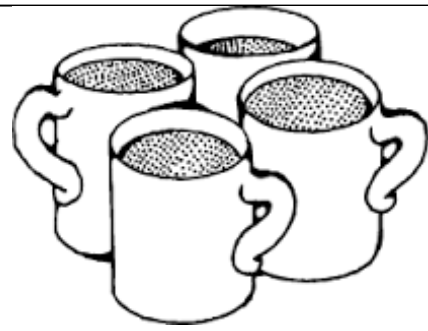
Looking for volunteers to work the audio visual program, once every other month at the Saturday 5pm or Sunday 11am services. You will be trained. It's an easy volunteer job with a lot of impact.  
Call the office...947-9880

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



## **ONE TIME VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!**

**Volunteers needed to  
assemble information for the  
Fall Stewardship Campaign  
on Thursday, September 29  
@ 10am. This is a fun  
project that allows chatting  
with other cheerful people.  
Contact Judy Strickland at  
231-620-6765.**



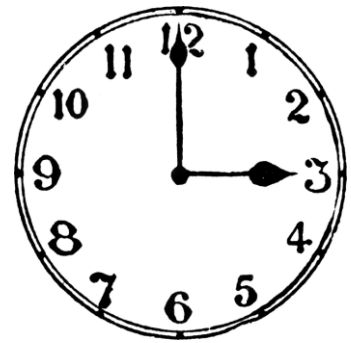
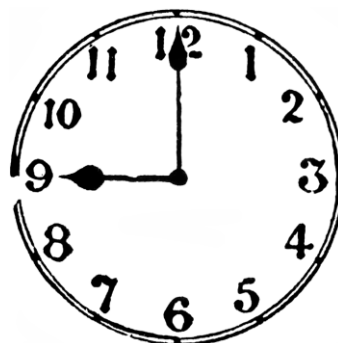
Help needed to take turns making coffee on  
Sundays, 8:45 am service. Jan and John  
would like occasional weeks off, but others  
need to be able to make coffee while we are  
gone. In the past, Betty Rutila and Barbara  
Graf have stepped up to the coffee pots (2  
regular and 2 decaf) and one pot of hot  
water for tea. It would be nice to have a  
schedule of several people to share in this  
"mini" but vital service to our  
congregation. Training is available and so  
easy. Won't you please consider and call Jan  
or John Stretlien at (231) 947-3265 for  
a fifteen minute demonstration?



**KNIFE SHARPENER** wanted: to  
sharpen all the knives in the church  
kitchen; approximately 30. You will  
need your own sharpening  
equipment. Repeat performance  
guaranteed! Call the office for more  
info at 947-9880.

## **Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office Hours:**

**Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm  
Office Phone: 947-9880**



## Worship Volunteers Needed!

What is it like to truly see and feel God's presence in someone as you give them the body or blood of Christ? What is it like to bring the readings to life as you share them with your church family? The Worship & Music Committee is seeking **lectors and/or assisting ministers** for all service times. If service "in front" of the congregation is not your calling, there are openings at each service for **Hospitality, Welcome Table, Bell Ringer, Altar Guild, and Worship Prep**. Please call Barbara Oster at 231-668-7038 if you have any questions or would like to experience the gift of service.



Join the **Parish Choir** or **Bell Choir** through the end of the year. You might surprise yourself and have some fun. It's good to spread your wings. Isn't that what you'd tell your children? Try it yourself. Call the office for rehearsal information at 947-9880.



Come help us count money! We're a small group of friendly people and would like to have you join us. If you would like to learn more about counting the church's weekly offering, please contact Shelly McAllister at 631-4346.

**BLC office hours M-Th, 9am-3pm**



## NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!!

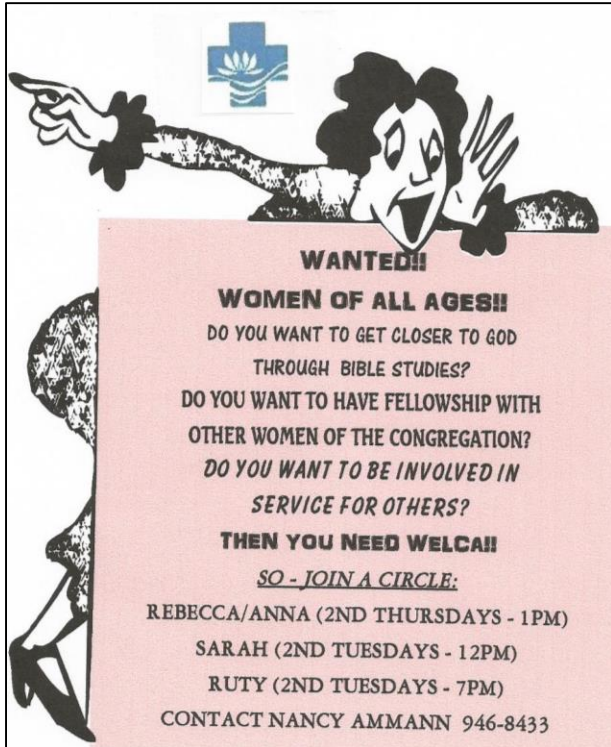
Have you always wanted to learn how to quilt? **THIS IS YOUR CHANCE!** Consider joining us on Tuesdays, 9am-11:30am beginning September 6, 2016. We will be preparing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. With many hands we have sent more than 12,000 quilts and would love for you to share our joy in doing them.

**\*\*BONUS:** fellowship & a coffee break with goodies!!

Call or email Sandra Osgood if you have any questions at 938-5938 or [giggles59tc@charter.net](mailto:giggles59tc@charter.net)



Project planner and project volunteers needed! Give back to God some of our resources of time, energy & treasure. Contact Judy Strickland (Stewardship Committee) at 231-620-6765



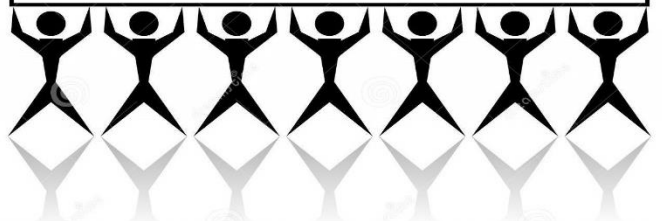
**WANTED!!**  
**WOMEN OF ALL AGES!!**  
DO YOU WANT TO GET CLOSER TO GOD  
THROUGH BIBLE STUDIES?  
DO YOU WANT TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH  
OTHER WOMEN OF THE CONGREGATION?  
DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN  
SERVICE FOR OTHERS?  
**THEN YOU NEED WELCA!!**  
SO - JOIN A CIRCLE:  
REBECCA/ANNA (2ND THURSDAYS - 1PM)  
SARAH (2ND TUESDAYS - 12PM)  
RUTY (2ND TUESDAYS - 7PM)  
CONTACT NANCY AMMANN 946-8433

**BLC SCRAPBOOK CLUB** Let's start a Scrapbook Club at BLC! We'll meet monthly, beginning in September with dates & times to be determined by members. All skill levels are welcome, beginner to advanced. Bring any or all of your supplies. Come with a friend, or come on your own—it's a great opportunity to meet new people who share your interests. Consultants welcome! Call Diane at 947-9880 or email [diane.mcwethy@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:diane.mcwethy@bethlehemtc.org)

## PROPERTY TEAM NEEDS YOU

Join the team. You can be a first stringer, second stringer or a substitute but there are no bench warmers. You can even be captain if you want. All skill positions open. We have a very good team but we could be better. With additional players we could perform at a higher level. Join the team and enjoy the camaraderie along with good coffee and delicious treats. The team plays every Tuesday morning from 9:00 am to 11:00am at various fields of play on the Bethlehem campus. If interested in trying out for the team contact Carl Lehto, 231-223-7187. Go Team!

**GO TEAM!**



## WRITER WANTED

If you care about the world we live in, then maybe you can help with The Caring for God's Creation "column" in the STAR Newsletter. We need writers! (editing services are available). Also needed are announcements of church & community activities that help Care for God's Creation. Contact Diane in the church office at 947-9880 for more info.



Wanted! Office Volunteers for occasional desk coverage. You too can **Sit at a Desk! In front of a computer! Greet people! Speak with people! TAKE PHONE MESSAGES!** We need a few more volunteers to be part of our "on Call" team! TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED! Please contact Diane McWethy at 947-9880 or email at [diane.mcwethy@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:diane.mcwethy@bethlehemtc.org)



## BRIDGE

Bethlehem's Bridge group meets at 7pm at BLC on the second Friday of most months. If you would like to play FUN bridge, we would love for you to join us. Anyone interested, please call Leonard or Barb Graf at 946-5120

## DON'T FORGET!

Fall Rally Weekend is 9/10-9/11! Service opportunities are both onsite here at BLC between services on Sunday 9/11, and at Safe Harbor's new building (cleanup). Details are in this issue. Contact Deacon Julia for more info at 947-9880.

## 2 ADULT CONFIRMATION MENTORS WANTED!

Join the youth, Deacon Julia, & Pr. Paul in affirming our baptisms through the confirmation program at BLC. Contact Deacon Julia today to join in the Confirmation adventure! 947-9880 or email at [julia.nelson@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:julia.nelson@bethlehemtc.org)

*Dear Humans,  
I used to be the Internet.  
Sincerely, The Library.*

But seriously, we need a Library Committee! The list of "current" Committee volunteers is dated 2001! We need you, the Library needs you! Decisions need to be made—which books will stay, which will go; the Library location; and Library circulation procedures & policies—if you want to join the New Library Committee, call the office at 947-9880, or email [diane.mcwethy@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:diane.mcwethy@bethlehemtc.org). Library experience is not required!

## Senior High Youth Leaders Wanted!

Meetings are the first Weds. of the month, beginning 9/7 at **Incredible Mo's**, from 5:30-7:30. Light dinner included.





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

## Seeing the Ordinary in a New Way

The Rev. Eric and Wendolyn Trozzo (and their children) are serving as long-term missionaries in Malaysia. They share how a visitor helped them see a new place that has become normal and routine can still surprise them with new learning and lessons. Pastor Eric writes, "The reality is that most of our time is in the humdrum grind of daily life. ... Life is life, wherever you go. But what a gift when someone comes to visit and you have an excuse to see what is around you in a new way!"

## Prayers and Support for our 85 New Young Adults in Global Mission

As one ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission group ends a year of service, another group begins. In mid-August, a new group of **85 young adults** traveled to Chicago for orientation and will go to their placements at the end of the month. Please keep these young adults in your prayers and consider supporting them as they embark on this year of service.

## What Are the ELCA Global Ministry Projects I am Hearing About?

You may have heard folks talk about the ELCA Global Ministry projects, but did you know that the ELCA, through ***Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*** is raising support for 13 evangelism and capacity building projects around the world? Visit the ELCA/Global Mission web site to learn more about these ministries in countries such as Senegal, Myanmar, Honduras, Costa Rica and Russia and learn how you can support these initiatives.

## Note: Companion Synod Pictures – BLC Bulletin Board Election of Head Bishop, Rev. Jack Urame Evangelical Lutheran Church – Papua New Guinea

Bishop Urame spoke at Zion Lutheran Church, Cadillac last month. He shared news from his church, including programs to re-energize connections between church people and those in communities beyond the church doors. Bishop Urame challenged us in the ELCA *to be active* in our witness to the Gospel so that others may know the saving love of our God, through Jesus Christ. He emphasized ongoing strengthening of family life here and in his country and also a stronger relationship between our two churches.

Those of us attending the event had a time of worship and prayer with our visitor, a question and answer session, followed by a pig roast sponsored by Samarits Senior Living [formerly Lutheran Social Services - Lakeview Lutheran Manor].



## WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF AMERICA



Well, here we are. Summer is over (for the most part anyway) and we are looking to settle into our 'normal' routine. Here are some 'back to school' rules for the Christian:

1. Get enough sleep. *"Rest in the Lord."* – Psalm 37:7
2. Get a healthy breakfast. *"Have prayer and bible study"* – Psalm 5:3
3. Follow the rules. *"Use the Bible as your guide."* – Luke 11:28
4. Develop good work and study habits. *"Do not be ashamed."* --2 Timothy 2:15
5. Try your best. *"Do your best for Christ."* – Colossians 3:23-24
6. Get along with your classmates. *"Have fellowship with other Christians."* – 1 John 1:7
7. Get to know your teacher. *"Know Christ more."* – 1 Chronicles 28:9

Fall is always a busy time but if we follow the above rules, we can be assured of success in everything we do.

### HAPPENINGS

1. **GENERAL MEETING:** September 21<sup>st</sup> (**note change of date!**) 6:30 pm potluck in the Fellowship Hall (**bring dish to pass and your own table service**) Included in the program will be elections for Secretary and Vice-President.
2. **RETREAT IN TUSTIN:** September 23-24 – "Gifts of the Spirit" - Great Fellowship with women of the Northwest Lower Michigan Synod. Including Bible Study, art projects, sunrise kayaking available, and a quilt and craft auction to benefit the Scholarship Fund. There will be a car going down on Friday for an overnight and a car going early Saturday morning for the day. If interested in attending or for further information, contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433
3. **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED:** CWU will be having their October meeting at Bethlehem on October 6<sup>th</sup>. All women are invited to attend. Watch for further information.
4. **THANK OFFERING WEEKEND:** The annual Thank Offering Weekend will be held on November 5-6<sup>th</sup>. More details as it draws near.
5. **TRIENNIAL GATHERING:** Held in Minneapolis, Minnesota on July 13-16, 2017. "We will gather under the theme *All Anew*, inviting every woman to explore personal and communal transformation. Through Bible Study, worship, learning opportunities, song, film and art, we will dig into our gathering verses and explore what it means to become All Anew and how we can carry our transformation into a world that seeks renewal." If you are interested in attending this event or want more information, contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433.

God's Blessings to you all,

Nancy Ammann  
WELCA President





## **Our Countdown Continues...**

For a couple of months now, you as a congregation have been hearing about an event that will be taking place in October as part of our 125th Anniversary celebration. This event is the hosting of a Scandinavian Smorgasbord on October 29th, by Connie Barrow, Laura Hahn, Kim Mende, and Christine Hubert, as a subcommittee of the Anniversary Celebration Task Force.

Laura has given you a nice description of what a smorgasbord is in this month's bulletins. You may have noticed pictures of heavily laden tables appearing on the walls around our gathering area, put up by Connie, to help inspire you with what to expect at our own smorgasbord.

You may be asking yourself, "What can I do for our feast?" Two things come to mind. First and foremost, decide what recipe you will choose. It can be your own choice or with our help, if you like. Our committee has gathered many wonderful recipes from the four Scandinavian countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark to help you with choosing a recipe.

Second, you will be asked to sign up for this event, which is free, but we need to know the numbers for seating and to guarantee that we will have enough food. Sign up for this event will begin October 8/9, after services.

If you would like to bring a former member of Bethlehem to this event, wonderful, or perhaps a neighbor, you may do so. We just ask that you bring enough food for any extra people you may bring to assure that we have enough food for everyone. It will be a wonderful time for old and new to gather for the renewal of what was a yearly event for many years.

# 125 YEARS

WE'RE GETTING READY!

BLC  
Anniversary

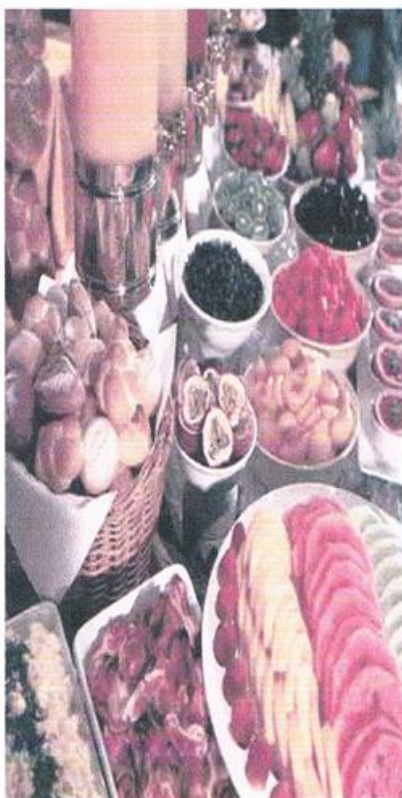
UPCOMING EVENTS

## August 1892 - August 2017

On August 10, 1892, our church began. Bethlehem Lutheran Church will celebrate it's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year! We want to celebrate all year long with many special events and activities. If you are interested in becoming involved, speak with Suzanne Lehto, our committee chair. Others on the committee include Christine Hubert, Steve Hubert, Kay Rumbach, Tracey Moyer, Patti Friedli, Neal Kibby, Barbara Graf, and Jim Hutchinson.

### What is a Scandinavian Smorgasbord?

A traditional Swedish smorgasbord is a special meal. It is not the usual church potluck. Foods of Scandinavian heritage are served in a specific format, including hot and cold dishes, bread, butter, and cheese.



We will have our historic  
Scandinavian  
Smorgasbord in October  
2016!

Please watch for sign up!

### Other Events in the works:

- A tree planting in the Brown Bridge Quiet Area, and an additional SPECIAL CELEBRATION TREE planting at Bethlehem are scheduled for April 2017
- A congregational PICNIC will be held at the Civic Center in August 2017
- A CELEBRATION WORSHIP and dinner will be held in September 2017

## 2016 BLC DAY CAMP Highlights

Day 1: Fearless Faith - The Courage to Trust  
Day 2: Fearless Faith - The Courage to Forgive  
Day 3: Fearless Faith - The Courage to Do Justice  
Day 4: Fearless Faith - The Courage to Change  
Day 5: Fearless Faith - The Courage to Connect

Ask any of our 40 participants, volunteers, or leaders what having fearless faith is & you may get one of the above answers about courage. BLC had another great week of Day Camp VBS in early August & we can't stop thanking all those who made it happen.

We especially want to thank volunteers & leaders...

Host Homes: Betty Rutila, Tom & Jana Rockne

Christian Education Committee: Nancy Ammann, Dianne Blair, Jane Passmore

BLC Staff: Deacon Julia Nelson, Diane McWethy

Living Water Ministry Staff: Katie Dykstra, Alison Jamrog, Nicole Sundemeier, Ilvita Veinsteine

Junior Counselors: Taylor Brown, Courtney Leatherman, Ally Leatherman, Austin Leatherman

All Other Great Helpers: Barb Graf, Monica Graf, Helen Rafeld, Billie Thompson, Norm & Jane Fred, Cal Cole, Deborah Millard & Design a Theme Party Rentals, Brett & Natalie Schrader, Lisa Brown, Danna Bugai, Ron & Sheryl Hellenga, Tina Dohm, Connie Christopherson, Carolyn Mann, Marilyn Skay, Sandy Parkinson, Barb Wright, Kris & Ken Smith, Linda Gokey, Judy Strickland, Dick & Lois Gray, Suzanne Lehto, Maggie Pearce, and Shelly McAllister.





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.



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

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](http://www.andersonaerialphotography.com)

Questions, comments and program ideas can be shared with Jan or Butch at 231-271-3802 or [etwaisanen@centurytel.net](mailto:etwaisanen@centurytel.net)  
Hoping to see you all in September.

**The BLC Green Team has received a Grant from Thrivent to purchase a kayak that will be first be used at the Upper Manistee River clean-up on September 24 from 9-1:30! Talk to Norm Fred to sign up for this fun event—Picnic included!**

THANK YOU - To the anonymous donor who provided the money for the window blinds in the Fellowship Hall. I have received many comments about them. People have said “they really look good, the room feels more hospitable and warmer, cooler because the sun’s heat is kept out, the room now has a finished look”. Carl Lehto, Property Chairperson



# **Bethlehem Family Camping**

## **September 16-18**

### **Let's Go Camping!**

Bethlehem's 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

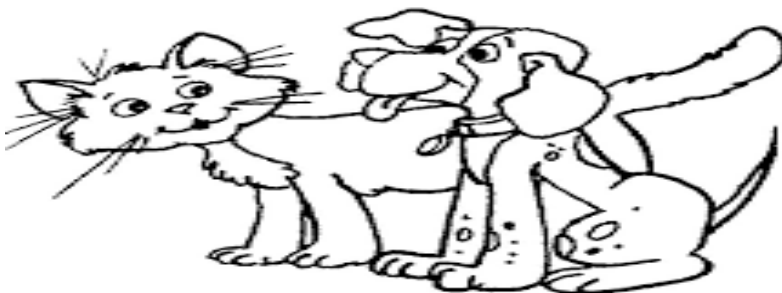
Most campsites are shady and grassy. Please call Monica Graf if you plan to camp or have any questions—we will try to reserve a group of campsites near one another.



# **SOME September Events/Announcements!**

- 9/7 **Senior High Night** kicks off with an evening at Incredible Mo's! First Wed. of the month, from 5:30-7:30pm. Text Julia at 260-615-0407 if you & your friends are coming! Check the BLC TC Y2A Facebook page for announcements.
- 9/9 **Food for Thought** 6-8:30, Youth Room
- 9/10 **Safe Harbor building clean up** A chance for you to wear your new t-shirt--Help Safe Harbor in cleaning up their new building. From 9am-3pm, lunch provided. For more info, call Deacon Julia at 947-9880.
- 9/10 **Apprentice Kick-Off** Saturday, 9/10 from 8:30am-noon at the First Congregational Church
- 9/11 **God's Work, Our Hands Task Force Sunday**  
Service opportunities include creating Thank You cards for Habitat for Humanity to distribute, making Thank You banners for our Police & Fire departments, and there will be a rubbish pick up on the grounds of BLC & Bryant Park. All of this activity will happening from 9:45-10:45. Wear your new T-Shirt!
- 9/14 **Confirmation Class** for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and older at 6pm. Meetings will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the each month from 6-7:30pm. There will be a Confirmation Highlight Sunday on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month starting in October. Light snacks & treats provided. **Parents & Youth Attendance requested at the 9/14 class.**
- 9/16-9/18 **Bethlehem Family Camping Trip at Turtle Lake.** (see article within this issue for more information)
- 9/18 **Regular Sunday School** begins for kids Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grades at 9:45am in the Chapel (in the Fellowship Hall)
- 9/26 **BLUES (Bethlehem LUTheran Elementary Students)** Nights, 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, for 3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grades, from 5:30-7:30pm Sept, Oct, Jan, Feb April & May.

**SAVE THE DATE! Blessing of the Animals, Sunday October 2 with a special afternoon service. Bring your important non-human companion—created by God—for a blessing. Watch your weekly bulletin for details.**



## Health Concerns

*Jeri Boike, Richard Fernholz, Karen Anderson, Bob Jahnke,  
Christian Stretlien, Carol Collins, Imogene Gray, Dan Morley,  
Hazel Lautner, Nikki Juntunen Manquen, Margie Whitney,  
Brenda Denoyer, Tom Miller and Virginia Fleming*

**Grand Traverse Pavilions:** Walter & Jenni Goff

**French Manor:** Martha LaVire, Helen Arnston; French Manor/Lafranier: Jo Hasse

**Culver Meadows AFC:** Janet Hinds

**Cherry Hill Haven:** Paul Oppliger

**Southridge:** Jo Hasse

**Traverse Manor:** Juanita Lautner, Jane Witkop, Margie Whitney, Hazel Lautner

**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](mailto:jstretlen@gmail.net).**

From the Family of Carole Jahnke:

Thank you so much for your caring prayers, comfort, friendship, and support.

Bethlehem is truly a very caring family.

Yours in Christ,

Bob, Debby, Bryan, and Bob

**Are you checking for the latest BLC updates at:**

**[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)?**

**You saw Norm and others take the photos...be sure you see them  
at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)!**

**Good News...and great news...at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)...**

# BLC Contacts

## **Church Office**

Pastor Paul Busekist	<a href="mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org">paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Deacon Julia Nelson	<a href="mailto:julia.nelson@bethlehemtc.org">julia.nelson@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Diane McWethy, Admin. Asst.	<a href="mailto:diane.mcwethy@bethlehemtc.org">diane.mcwethy@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Mary Lou Deutsch, Interim Bookkeeper	<a href="mailto:judy.conant@bethlehemtc.org">judy.conant@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Sharon Weller	<a href="mailto:sharon.weller@bethlehemtc.org">sharon.weller@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Billie Thompson	<a href="mailto:billie.thompson@bethlehemtc.org">billie.thompson@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.bethlehemtc.org">www.bethlehemtc.org</a>

## **Church Council**

Phil Anderson, President	<a href="mailto:president.council@bethlehemtc.org">president.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Jim Parkinson, Vice President	<a href="mailto:vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org">vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Tom Rockne, Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org">secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Dave Peppler, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@bethlehemtc.org">treasurer@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Shelly McAllister, Financial Sec.	<a href="mailto:secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org">secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
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Dianne Blair, Christian Ed.	<a href="mailto:christianeducation@bethlehemtc.org">christianeducation@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Barbara Overdier, Evangelism	<a href="mailto:evangelism@bethlehemtc.org">evangelism@bethlehemtc.org</a>
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Leonard Graf, Personnel	<a href="mailto:personnel.committee@bethlehemtc.org">personnel.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Carl Lehto, Property	<a href="mailto:property.committee@bethlehemtc.org">property.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
_____, Social Ministry	<a href="mailto:socialministry.committee@bethlehemtc.org">socialministry.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
_____, Stewardship	<a href="mailto:stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org">stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Barbara Oster, Worship and Music	<a href="mailto:worship.committee@bethlehemtc.org">worship.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Jodi, Youth/Y2A	<a href="mailto:youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org">youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>

If you have an interest in serving on any of the above Committees,  
Please contact the Committee Chairperson(s).



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
8:45am - Worship-S 11am - Modern	OFFICE CLOSED	9am - BabPantryInv 9am - LSSM-LWR 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Work Group 6pm - Christian Ed Mtg.	2pm - ComPartyBay/Rid 5:30pm - SeniorHiYout	7:30pm - WT Rehearsal 9am - Baby Pantry-FH 9am - Car Seat Check 1pm - Rebecca/Anna 7:30pm - WT Rehearsal	6pm - Food for Thought 7pm - Bridge-GS	5pm - Worship-S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:45am - Worship-S 11am - Modern	2pm - ComPartyPavillo 6:30pm - Wor/MusMtg	9am - LSSM-LWR 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Work Group 11am - C-JahnkeFuneral 12:30pm - Finance-CR 12:30pm - Luncheon 3pm - Executive 6:15pm - SteelPansReh 7pm - Ruth Circle 7:30pm - WT Rehearsal	10:30am - Stewardship 6pm - Confirmation	6:15pm - BellChoir 7:30pm - ChoirRehears	12pm - XYZ	9am - AAUW Mtg 5pm - Worship-S
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:45am - Worship-S 11am - Modern	10am - Pine Needlers 7pm - Oster SG (FH) 7:30pm - Monroe SG	9am - LSSM-LWR 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Work Group 6pm - Council Meeting 6:15pm - SteelPansReh 7pm - Hughes/Gray SG 7:30pm - WT Rehearsal	7:30pm - WT Rehearsal	9am - Baby Pantry-FH 6:15pm - BellChoir 7:30pm - ChoirRehears		5pm - Worship-S
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:45am - Worship-S 11am - Modern		9am - LSSM-LWR 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Work Group 6pm - Council Meeting 6:15pm - SteelPansReh 7pm - Hughes/Gray SG 7:30pm - WT Rehearsal	6pm - Confirmation	6:15pm - BellChoir 7:30pm - ChoirRehears		
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
8:45am - Worship-S 9:45am - WELCA Mtg - 11am - Modern		9am - LSSM-LWR 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Work Group 5pm - Book/Supper 6:15pm - SteelPansReh 7:30pm - WT Rehearsal	6pm - Confirmation	6:15pm - BellChoir 7:30pm - ChoirRehears		

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 (and corrections/additions).



VBS Fun & Church  
Celebration

