



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2016



Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880

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.”



And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." (Mk 1:17)



Discipleship, Discipleship, Discipleship!!

What is this month's, this summer's, and you might even say this entire next year's theme at Bethlehem? **Discipleship.**

As the famous gathering of the disciples text (above from Mark) states, Jesus builds his group of disciples by calling us all to be "fishers of people" - to gather and provide spiritual food to one another through Christ. What could be better? As we now enter fully into our third focus area of our 10 year (2012-2022) vision, Discipleship, a few things are evident:

1. Feedback from members tells us that our Enlivening Christian Discipleship (ECD) Task Force name may fit with our vision area title, but the name is too long! So we invite you to just refer to our team of faithful "ECD" folks as simply "The Discipleship Task Force" – knowing also that the objectives (below) are calling (y)our name!!

2. The Apprenticeship Program is our first big initiative. (See next few pages) We are looking for six to eight or more BLC-ers to join this structured and well-known inter-denominational small group program, hosted at BLC and other churches. It has a finite beginning and end and requires a commitment (see next two pages for more details.)

3. While Confirmation has always been about middle schoolers (and their parents), our Congregation-Wide conversation on Confirmation in June gave us great insight...Stay tuned for innovative ideas for more than just kiddos!

Please let Discipleship chair Tyler Bevier, or Mike Van de Leest, Linda Gokey, Barbara Wright, Bonnie Newhouse, Julia or myself know if you have any questions...Peace!

-Pr. Paul

Developing Ministry. Beyond Worship.

- 1** Discipleship & Volunteerism: January - Feb. 2017
Focusing on new & existing members & Discovering Spiritual Gifts
- 2** Reimagined Small Groups
Apprenticeship Series
Sept - Nov. 2016, Jan - March 2017, & Nov. 2017
- 3** Refreshed "TWINS" Night
October/November 2016
- 4** Church Outdoors: Summer 2016
Outdoor Worship, Bethlehem Bike Group,
Farmers Market Meet-up
- 5** Reinvigorated
Confirmation Group

**Enlivening
Christian
Discipleship**



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

"If I acted crazy, I did it for God; if I acted overly serious, I did it for you. Christ's love has moved me to such extremes. His love has the first and last word in everything we do." 2nd Corinthians 5:13

The Message

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matt 28:19-20

We have fearless faith! The echoes of camp in my mind bring joy to my heart. Each day at morning worship & evening campfire worship, you could hear the call & response to owning our fearless faith. The great commission, as Matthew 28:19-20 is often called, is a fitting closing scripture to this summer's Bible study curriculum for Living Water Ministry. It is a great sending, it is THE great sending. The twist that makes it unique for the study around fearless faith is the emphasis on togetherness.

At both week long church camp and day camps, the buddy system is used. To keep track of all campers (& leaders) each person is to have a buddy at all times. Yes, all times. This means when you go to skill shops, swimming, the bathroom, and anywhere else, you are to have a buddy. The buddy system assures safety and creates community. This system leads by togetherness.

As the closing Bible study scripture of Matthew 28 shares, we are to bless all nations. To truly bless all nations together, we must listen as we are called by Jesus to cross borders & cultures. Not only are we to take our gifts & skills across borders & cultures, but we are to be open & willing to accept the others and their cultures in us. The Bible study the youth participated in acknowledged the challenges of crossing these borders and taught that together we are better than alone; thus emphasizing that Jesus is always with us, just as he says in the scripture.

BLC had a great week at camp learning about togetherness with new friends, each other, animals, & nature. The youth got to ride horses, experience low & high ropes elements, sing goofy songs, play games, swim in both Stony Lake & Lake Michigan, and make memories that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. When all of our group wished we had 2 or 3 more days at camp (which could easily turn into 2 or 3 more days after that), you know that God has blessed their experience and that we have been on sacred ground. Praise be to Christ!

Days of Service Opportunities:

- ❖ **Annual Parking Lot Fundraiser! Sign up today to work shifts during the National Cherry Festival**
- ❖ **Game Leaders for Habitat for Humanity at Depot Neighborhood Picnic in Hull Park!
7/7/16 11:30am - 3:30pm**
- ❖ **Community Clean Up! 7/8/16 from 9am - 12pm. Join Norm Fred for clean-up & lunch!
Sign up today!**

Developing Ministry. Beyond Worship.

1

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Enlivening
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Discipleship

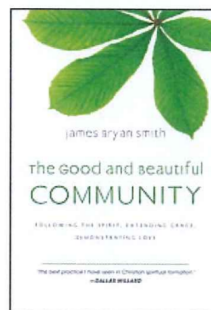
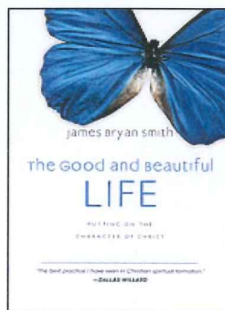
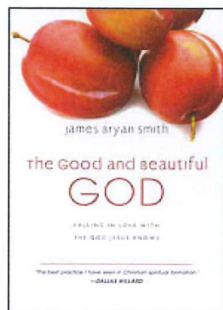
The Apprenticeship Series is the first big initiative of the Discipleship Task Force (see also the following page), and we really want to see this program thrive! We are looking for 6-8 BLC-ers to join this very structured and well-known inter-denominational small group program. It has a finite beginning 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... ☺

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

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton: From Persecution to Witness

For many months now people have been asking for some kind of statement about the persecution of Christians around the world. It seems to be a straight-forward issue. Christians are suffering in Iraq and Syria, in Nigeria and Egypt. Palestinian Christians encounter intense pressure. Christians in some parts of India are threatened. Some would even claim that U.S. Christians are under siege. Atrocities committed against Christians by the Islamic State, Boko Haram, al-Shabab and others are regularly in the news. We hear that more Christians have been martyred in recent years than in the first three centuries of the Christian movement.

Each circumstance of violence against Christians is deeply painful. There are brothers and sisters around the world whose lives are part of the passion of Christ. People are targeted in some countries because they are Christians. But this is a complex issue. Are Christians suffering and dying as witnesses to the faith? Yes. But in many places interreligious conflict has been used as a calculated pretext for political gain. A narrative of religion vs. religion, or religion vs. society, is an effective way of generating support for one's cause. And, regrettably, suspicion and fear of the "other" leads to intolerance and discrimination.

The persecution of Christians is not new. Martyrs have existed since the beginning of the church. Stephen was martyred with the consent of Paul, who was martyred by the Roman Empire. Paul quoted the psalms, writing: "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered" (Romans 8:36).

Outrage is a natural reaction to beheadings and crucifixions. The instinct to strike back is understandable. Many Lutherans accept that in a broken world deadly force might be needed. Revenge, however, is not an option for a Christian.

I pray that none of you ever suffers violence for the faith, but every generation has faced hostility. German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: "To endure the cross is not a tragedy; it is the suffering which is the fruit of an exclusive allegiance to Jesus Christ."

"Martyr" is a Greek word that means "witness," "to give testimony." A witness can also be a symbol that testifies a promised action has been accomplished. When we speak about the persecution of Christians, the real question is: "What will be our witness?"

Here is a story about how some Lutherans in Ethiopia answered that question. It happened in one of our companion synods. Some Muslims burned down a church, thinking they were attacking Roman Catholics. Instead, they burned down a Lutheran church by mistake. They were arrested and sent to jail. In that region it's the responsibility of families to take care of prisoners' hygiene and food. Instead, members of the Lutheran church asked authorities if they could dig the prisoners' latrines and feed them. That was their witness in the face of persecution.

Christians aren't the only ones being targeted and persecuted. More Muslims have reportedly been killed by the Islamic State than any other group. Our witness must be as peacemakers and as defenders of religious minorities in our country and around the world. We must be the ones who speak out when entire religions are falsely characterized by the actions of extremists. We would not accept Christianity being defined by the Ku Klux Klan or the Christian Identity movement. We should not define entire communities by the distortion of their religion.

The cross is God's visual symbol that a promised action has been accomplished. It is God's stake in the sand. It is God's witness to the truth that "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:37-39). (A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her email address: bishop@elca.org.)



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

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

Why are we building a Lutheran Center and Clinic in South Sudan?

In a recent report from the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs titled “2016 South Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview,” it was reported that in South Sudan an adolescent girl is three times more likely to die in childbirth than to complete primary school. The Lutheran Center in Juba, South Sudan that is currently being constructed will provide health care and support for some of the most vulnerable people in South Sudan, including pre and post-natal care.

We are church for the sake of the world

In this year’s synod assembly video, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton reflected on what it means to be church for the sake of the world. She says, “We as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America believe that we are church for the sake of the world because we have been seen and known by Jesus and our eyes are opened so that we can see Christ in others.”

Reflecting on Rwanda

Laura Hermanns – a YAGM volunteer serving in Rwanda – recently reflected on the similarities and differences between school life in the U.S. and in Rwanda. Laura writes, “I think university life here in Rwanda can teach us that all the campus-life activities and all the online resources in the world can’t compensate for human to human interaction. I think it can teach us that instead of leaving it up to the ‘Welcome Center,’ we each have a responsibility to welcome the stranger in our midst.”

YAGM in Cambodia

The Rev. Sarah and Adam Erickson – our long-term missionaries who are serving in Cambodia as the country coordinators for the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program – recently produced a video that shares pictures and stories of the YAGM program in Cambodia. They also share the ways in which YAGM has walked with the Lutheran Church in Cambodia and with “Life With Dignity” this past year. Go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qqjIQsNcVo> - to watch the video.

Myanmar: Strengthening the Emerging Church

As part of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, a new initiative to help support and strengthen the four Lutheran churches in Myanmar has been created. Through this project, ELCA members and congregations can help build up the capacity of the Lutheran churches in Myanmar, provide support for leadership training, support joint ventures across the four Lutheran churches and help bring them together in more collaborative efforts.

CHRISTIAN CARE GIVING IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

As God's stewards, we have the opportunity and responsibility to make a difference by serving the Lord. God has empowered us to faithfully use our gifts, passions and talents to positively impact our church, community and the world.

As Romans 12:4-5 says, "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we form one body and each member belongs to all the others."

When we choose to give our time, energy and talents to serve others, we are taking part in God's work to share the love of Christ and give God the glory. "With God working in us and through us, we can make a difference." (Thrivent)

THANK YOU MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN CARE GIVING COMMITTEE FOR ALL YOU DO TO MAKE THIS COMMITTEE A SUCCESS!!

THANK YOU BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CONGREGATION AND THRIVENT FOR SUPPORTING OUR LATEST TEDDY BEAR PROJECT WITH 101 BEARS, OTHER CRITTERS, AND MONIES. Reports have already been made, by new recipients, about the love and caring felt after receiving their bears. God's Blessings and Thank You,

Jan Stretlien
CHRISTIAN CARE GIVING Chair

SING
DANCE
PERFORM
SPEAK
EXPRESS



OPEN
MIC

Join in an Open Mic this summer at Pre-Prelude

You are welcome to perform at the Pre-Preludes this summer. You'll have 10 minutes before a service starts to give your special talent to God.

Perhaps you're a good reader, or dancer, or sermonizer, or musician, or writer, and you want to honor God. Just let Billie Thompson know and you can give your talent in the Pre-Prelude time.

For instance: you're a poet and you'd like someplace that is non-judgmental to read your poetry; or you're a 9 year old pianist with just two songs you can really play; or you're a repressed actor with something great you want to read.

Talk to Billie Thompson to make arrangements to give your talent during the Pre-Prelude. You can reach Billie through the church office at 947-9880 or by email: billie.thompson@bethlehemtc.org

Health Concerns

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

Grand Traverse Pavilions: Lillian Couturier, Walter & Jenni Goff, Donna Scanlon

French Manor: Martha LaVire, Helen Arnston

Culver Meadows AFC: Janet Hinds

Cherry Hill Haven: Paul Oppliger

Southridge: Jo Haase

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.



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

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...



Something special will be happening here at Bethlehem the end of October. As we get closer to the time, you will hear more and more about this event. Do you know what **janssons frestelse** is or perhaps **isterband**? Would you like to know or to be able to tempt your taste buds?



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.

July

No Meeting

Aug. 23

My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry
By Fredrik Backman



ALL AMERICAN BASEBALL & HOTDOGS!

BLC is hosting a picnic at Silver Lake Park on 7/19, at 4:30pm. Bring your own table service and beverage, and a dish to pass. Hot dogs & condiments will be provided.

You can visit the website

<http://garfield-twp.com/silverlakepark.asp> to get a virtual tour of the park. It is located at 1785 E. Silver Lake Rd. Hiking, basket ball & tennis courts, tee ball field, a dog park and more await!



After the picnic, head over to Wuerfel Park to catch the Traverse City Beach Bums game—we're playing the Gateway Grizzlies, from Sauget, Illinois. Tickets are \$6. Sign up after services July 2 & 3, 9 & 10. Signup deadline is 7/12! Ticket payment due at time of signup!

The Endowment Committee will meet at 8:00 on Tuesday, July 12, 2016 @ 8:00 am in the Conference Room



Jubilee

Mark your calendar for another glorious Jubilee, Sunday, July 31, at 10am with a potluck to follow. This Jubilee you'll be able to sit outside under our beautiful trees or under a special tent and enjoy God's creation. A Jubilee "Summer Tent Revival" right here at Bethlehem July 31, 10am!!!!!!!!!!!!

Watch for more details in upcoming Sunday bulletins.

Do you want to be more involved in your church? There are many volunteer opportunities available, ranging from a weekly or monthly commitment, or perhaps a short term or rotating commitment...call the church office at 947-9880 to get more information, or email Diane at diane.mcwethy@bethlehtmtc.org



Volunteers Needed

Summer Vacation Bible School dates are Monday, August 8 to Friday August 12! It will be from 9am-3pm, for ages 5-12.

Let's Go Camping!

First a story about a friendly campground:

A very proper lady began planning a camping trip for her church. She wrote a letter to the campground for reservations for the week. She wanted to make sure the campground was fully equipped and modern, but couldn't bring herself to write the word "toilet" in her letter. So she decided to use the old-fashioned term "bathroom commode." But this even made her feel uncomfortable, so she shortened it to "B.C." When the campground owner received her letter, he couldn't figure out what she meant. Asking some of the staff about it, they suggested she must be referring the Baptist Church nearby. So he sent this reply:

Dear Madam, The B.C. is located nine miles from the campground in a beautiful grove of trees. I admit it is quite a distance if you are in the habit of going regularly. No doubt you will be pleased to know that it will seat 350 people at one time, and it is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. Some folks like to take their lunch and make a day of it, especially on Thursday when there is organ accompaniment. The acoustics are very good, so everyone can hear even the quietest passages. Perhaps I could accompany you the first time you go, sit with you and introduce you to all the other folks who will be there.

*I look forward to your visit. We are a very friendly campground.
--Camp Owner.*

Needless to say the campground we have chosen, Turtle Lake - just west of Interlochen - is equipped with great facilities right on site. There are many amenities for families as well as adults. We have had a good time camping together for the past four years and look forward to having even more people join us since it is a comfortable distance from T.C. (not B.C.). Details to this point:

Bethlehem Family Camping September 16-18

- Prep your own meals except for a Potluck Supper on Saturday
- (If you can't come to camp, join us for this time of fellowship.)
- Contact people: Barb or Monica Graf, or Suzanne Lehto
- More info later but put it on your calendar now!



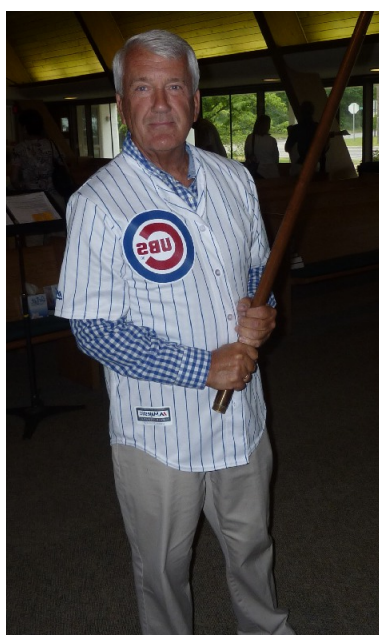
Carl Lehto, Norm Fred
& Paul Ton



Graduates, left to right:
Meghan Denton, Nick Friedli,
Maggie Hahn Jake Sheehan,
John Sheehan



New Members, left to right:
Claudia Heindl, Ken & Kris
Smith, and (lower right) Chuck
& Eileen Rubino



Tom Rockne,
Cubs Fan



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

Tom Rockne, President	president.council@bethlehemtc.org
Phil Anderson, Vice President	vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org
Judy Strickland, Secretary	secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
Mary Lou Deutsch, 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
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_____, Fellowship	fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Danna Bugai, Finance	finance.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Barbara Overdier, Membership	membershipevangelism.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@bethlehemttc.org
Bill Froehlich, Youth	youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org

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
8:45am - Worship-S 9:50am - Cong 11am - Modern Worship - S 4:30pm - Pool & Patio	6:30pm - Confirmation	9am - LSSM-LWk Sewing 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Work Group 5pm - Book/Supper Club		6:15pm - Steel Pan Band - 7:30pm - Worship Team	5pm - Worship-S	
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
ParkLot Fundraiser				ParkLot Fundraiser	Area CleanUP	
8:45am - Worship-S 11am - Modern Worship - S		9am - Work Group 6:30pm - Evang/Membershi	2pm - Communion Party	11:30am - HullPark Days of 6:15pm - Steel Pan Band - 7:30pm - Worship Team	7pm - Bridge-GS	5pm - Worship-S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:45am - Worship-S 11am - Modern Worship-S	2pm - Communion Party 6pm - Social Min. MTG-GS	8am - Endowment Com. 9am - Work Group 12:30pm - Finance-CR 3pm - Executive 6pm - Christian Ed Mtg. 7pm - Ruth Circle	10:30am - Stewardship-CR	9am - Baby Pantry-FH 1pm - Rebecca/Anna Circle- 6:15pm - Steel Pan Band - 7:30pm - Worship Team		5pm - Worship-S
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:45am - Worship-S 11am - Modern Worship - S		9am - Work Group 6pm - Council Meeting		6:15pm - Steel Pan Band - 7:30pm - Worship Team	5pm - Busboom/Eggers	2pm - Busboom/Eggers 5pm - Worship-S
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:45am - Worship-S 11am - Modern Worship - S		9am - Work Group 5pm - Book/Supper Club		9am - Baby Pantry-FH 6:15pm - Steel Pan Band - 7:30pm - Worship Team		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10am - Jubilee Service -S 12pm - Jubilee Potluck - FH	6:30pm - Wor. & Mus. Mtg-	9am - Work Group 6pm - Christian Ed Mtg. 6:30pm - Evang/Membershi		6:15pm - Steel Pan Band - 7:30pm - Worship Team		5pm - Worship-S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

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.