



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880

JUNE 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.”



*"O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.
God's love endures forever."*



The above is a quote from Psalm 107 verse one. You might know it better with the translation of "His *mercy* endures forever" (as the old King James Version says). Mercy is good - great, in fact - as we all would fall far short without it. But love, specifically God's love, is bigger and far more inclusive than mercy. Love holds mercy as well as forgiveness, grace, patience and everything in between. And though we rejoice that love lasts forever, and that God is good, I choose to focus this coming month on the subject of thanks ("O give thanks...")

So, what do I give thanks for? I give thanks for God's grace, the gifts of family and friends, and the community of Bethlehem – to name a few. For God's grace, that I wake up every morning a sinful human being who needs, asks for, and receives forgiveness. For the amazing support and care from my wife, my sister, in-laws and other family and friends who know that Meredith and I are in the middle of a most amazing (and wonderfully challenging) new phase of our lives – parenthood! We also give thanks for the Bethlehem community, who have allowed Meredith and me a generous and well-timed parental leave so that we can enjoy and adjust to our newest family member, Parker John Busekist! To be as "present" as possible, we have split up the parental leave into three segments – essentially small chunks in April, one in May, and one in June. And for this "team effort" with Bethlehem, we say a resounding THANK YOU to you all! (And I suppose a special thanks to the colleagues who have helped with worship and other duties too! ☺)

June 18 will mark the official end of my segmented leave, though I'm guessing you will have seen me several times before that.

In the meantime, may God bless you richly with many good things as we enter summer 2016 together, and let us take a moment to give thanks.

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

"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

This scripture message the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians resonates deep within my call to ministry & I like to hope it resonates deep within the ministries I get to be a part of too. It takes the crazy and the serious to be the church. That is to say it is crazy serious work to be church for all of God's creation.

One piece of the crazy serious work we are called to do at BLC is that of confirmation. What is confirmation? Is it affirming somebody for who they are? Is it saying yes to God? Is it a mix of crazy serious faith formation for all ages? The answer is a big resounding YES! Confirmation is a way of affirming someone in their walk as a Christian, especially as they learn to live out their baptism.

What does it look like to live out one's baptism?! We live out our baptisms through such actions as prayer, serving others, invitation, encouragement, giving of our time & talents, worshipping, and studying God's word. These actions are known as faith initiatives & they give us concrete ways of being church for all of creation. It takes all ages and all understandings of these practices to be church for all of creation.

Why do we do all this? It is a chance for all of us to come together to learn, & potentially re-learn, the basics of our foundations as Lutherans, and more importantly as Christians. Did you know the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has a definition for 'confirmation?' It is:

Confirmation ministry is a pastoral and educational ministry of the church that helps the baptized through Word & Sacrament to identify more deeply with the Christian community and participate more fully in its mission.

Each piece of the topic of confirmation brings us to another cluster of words to take apart and understand more deeply as a community of people who care for the youth, families, and lifelong formation of our entire congregation no matter our age or family size.

Please take part in this ongoing conversation with me one-on-one, but especially on Sunday, June 12th in between services at 9:45am for the Congregation Wide Confirmation Conversation!

President's Corner



June 2016

Dear Bethlehem Friends,

Our quilters gained a little notoriety this past year when the story of their 12,000th quilt was featured in the Traverse City Record – Eagle and also picked up by other publications across the country. I am happy to report that the glare of the spotlight has not gone to their heads. I peeked in on them in the Fellowship Hall recently and they were busy- cutting, sewing, and talking. Fueled by a little coffee, a few cookies, and an embracing and fulfilling spirit, they are simply carrying on with this wonderful ministry.

The disciples of Bethlehem are at work everywhere. Knitters, Tuesday Work Group, Altar Guild, Bible study leaders, counters, and every other band of Bethlehem. No pay. Little recognition. But they are reflecting the love of Christ with their own hands in many, many ways. “And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.”

As I end two years as Council President I can attest to the love Bethlehem shares. We share with each other; we proclaim it to passers-by; we both reach out to our community and invite them in; and through our support of our synod and the worldwide programs of the ELCA, we span oceans and continents with our love.

Our vision to renew and strengthen Bethlehem continues. And Bethlehemers are rallying. Thanks be to God.

With you on the journey,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Rockne'.

Tom Rockne

Council President



Construction Begins on the Lutheran Center and Clinic in South Sudan!

We have been sharing information about the Lutheran Center and Clinic that will be built in Juba, South Sudan, for a number of months and are thrilled to share some pictures of the work that is now under way. After the groundbreaking ceremony last fall, construction has begun and some of the substructures are now up. Go to Facebook - **ELCA Global Church** - and see photos of the construction progress.

Do You Know About AMMPARO?

AMMPARO is the ELCA's comprehensive strategy for "Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities." This strategy was forwarded by the Church Council to the Churchwide Assembly for its adoption in August. Learn more about it at ELCA.org/AMMPARO. There you will find the full strategy document as well as some video resources, including a mother and child's story and how one synod is responding. In addition, you will find program opportunities for your congregation to get involved! ELCA Advocacy, Welcoming Congregations and the Guardian Angels program are options to check out.

Walking Together

Erik and Tauna Roth have been called to serve in Tokyo, where Erik leads the English-speaking congregation. Recently, they came to understand accompaniment through a story about their daughter, Nozomi. As they reflect on what it means to be a missionary and to serve around the world, the importance of being fully present *with one another* trumps all else.

Sights, Smells, Sounds, Touch

Heidi Gerrish is spending her Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) year in Montevideo, Uruguay. As is often the case, it can be difficult sometimes for YAGM volunteers to write a full blog post about all that is happening around them. Visit Heidi's recent blog post at: <https://sehacecaminoyagm.wordpress.com/2016/03/22/5-senses-in-montevideo/> - She writes about her senses, which have the power to transport us to Montevideo alongside her. This is a super site to see a sampling of what young adults in the ELCA do as they serve around the world!

Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. Recently, Lutheran Disaster Response has begun working on responding to the earthquakes in Japan and Ecuador and the spring storms in the U.S. Want to learn more? Visit the Lutheran Disaster Response website to learn about the ways this church is providing fast and effective support to communities in need.



180 YEARS OF LIVING AND SERVING

These two gentlemen represent 180 years of living and almost that many years of service to their church and their Lord. What faithful servants! If only we all were so faithful. Of course you recognize them as **Bill Springer** (left) and **Cal Cole** (right). They have been part of the Tuesday morning work group for many, many years. We are thankful for their devoted service and we ask that you please also express your thanks and appreciation to them.



Thank you to all who have attended the XYZ pot luck lunches. A special thanks to Ron & Sherryl Hellenga, Roy & Arline Stowe, Jim Rumbach, Betty Rutila, Fay Miller and everyone that pitched in to make each lunch a success. Thank you also to Fred Tank for his presentation on Power Island. We will be taking the summer off. The next XYZ lunch will be on September 16th at noon. Please let us know if you have any ideas for programs or thoughts on how things can be improved. You can touch base with Butch & Jan at 231-271-3802 or etwaisanen@centurytel.net

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.



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.

The Bell Choir and Parish Choir have finished their season. We thank them for their hard work, both in rehearsals and performances. They will be back in September (with bells on, so to speak). Please consider joining them in the fall!

The Worship Assembly & Sanctuary Prep team is looking for a few new members. Your commitment will be once a month, for 1-2 hours. Please contact Diane in the office if you'd like to volunteer or get more information.

With a heavy heart...

Mary Louise Beasley, 96, of Traverse City, passed into eternal life on Friday May 6, 2016. Her devotion to her family and her firm belief in God supported Mary in her journey on earth. Mary's final resting place will be at the Leelanau Township Cemetery in Northport with her husband and her son. A full obituary may be read at [Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services website](#). For a more lasting memorial rather than flowers, the family would like you to consider the Traverse City District Library 610 Woodmere Ave Traverse City, MI 49686 or the Northport Public Library P.O. Box 235 Northport, MI 49670 in Mary's honor.

Ruth Boerman's daughter Jane, passed into eternal life on Monday, May 23, 2016. The funeral service is tentatively set for June 11 in Ionia, MI. Please keep the Boerman family in your prayers.



**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.**

June 28	Lila by Marilyn Robinson
July	No Meeting
Aug. 23	My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry By Fredrik Backman



“THE WELL” will return on Sunday, June 5th at the 11am service right after the children’s sermon and will continue through the end of August. This will take the place of our regular 9:45 Sunday School during the summer months. Children will return to the Sanctuary after the Pastor’s sermon so they can be included in communion and closing. Children through 5th grade are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Summer Vacation Bible School dates are Monday, August 8 to Friday August 12!



COMMUNION PARTIES

Wednesday, June 1st, at Bay Ridge East Bldg. in the Private Dining Room. Time: 2-3 pm.

Coffee and homemade cookies, good fellowship and mini sermon. Maybe even a song or two. The residents love to see us come each month and our group is growing.

Monday, June 6, at Pavilions on the second floor. Time 2-3 pm.

Come and join us, the residents love to see us and hear the word, songs and prayers. Mary Beasley was a member of this group.

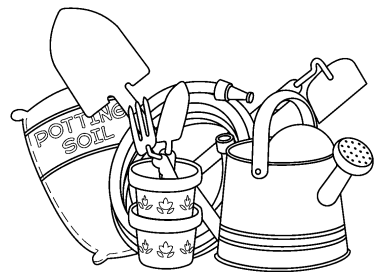
Don't delay, **Sign up Now** for the big WEEKEND –Independence Day, the 4th of July parking lot fundraiser! We want **YOU** to help direct cars, collect funds and maybe answer some touristy sorts of questions— “is there a public bathroom?” Call Diane at the office at 947-9880, or email at diane.mcwethy@bethlehemtc.org



We owe a big thank you to Tom Rockne, who managed to make our Caring Table look like we really mean it! The tablecloth and the baskets, along with the signs look terrific, and make it easier for all to see how they can help.

THANKS!

Have you seen the newly planted flower bed in the Memorial Garden? Phil Anderson spent an afternoon prepping the soil, planting the flowers and cleaning up. Tell him thanks when you see him. It's a beautiful flower garden.





Teddy Bear Thank you Lunch



BLC Contacts

Church Office

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Sharon Weller

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Church Council

Tom Rockne, President

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Phil Anderson, Vice President

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Judy Strickland, Secretary

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Mary Lou Deutsch, Treasurer

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Shelly McAllister, Financial Sec.

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Carl Lehto, Property

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Judy Strickland, Stewardship

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Barbara Oster, Worship and Music

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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
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
6:45am - Worship-S 8:45am - WELCA-C 11am - Modern Worship - S	6:30pm - Conf. Planning 6:30pm - Wor. & Mus. Mtg-	8am - LSSM-LWR Sewing 8am - Prayer Shawl 8am - Work Group 3pm - Music Lessons-DW-S 6:30pm - AAUW mtg 6:30pm - Evangelists/Min	8:15am - BAAC Mtg-OS 6:30pm - Senior High Youth	3pm - Music Lessons-DW-S 6:15pm - Steel Pan Band 7:30pm - Worship Team		8pm - Worship-S
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6:45am - Worship-S 8:45am - WELCA-C 11am - Modern Worship - S	6pm - Social Mtg. MTC-OS 11am - Modern worship - S	8am - LSSM-LWR Sewing 8am - Prayer Shawl 8am - Work Group 12pm - Sarah Circle (OS) 12:30pm - Finance-CR 3pm - Executive	4pm - WELCA Potluck &	6:15pm - Steel Pan Band - 7:30pm - Worship Team	12pm - XYZ-FH 2pm - Garin Rehearsal (S) 4pm - Hubbell Rehearsal 6pm - Rehearsal Dinner	11am - Garin Wedding (S) 2pm - Hubbell Wedding (S) 8pm - Worship-S
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
6:45am - Worship-S 11am - Modern Worship - S	7pm - Oyster SO (FH)	8am - LSSM-LWR Sewing 8am - Prayer Shawl 8am - Work Group 4pm - Council Meeting 7pm - Hughes/Denay SO (YR)	6:30pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Anny Task Force	8am - Baby Pretry-FH 6:15pm - Steel Pan Band - 7:30pm - Worship Team	6pm - Food for Thought	8pm - Worship-S
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
6:45am - Worship-S 8:45am - Cong 11am - Modern Worship - S 7pm - Christenes SO	4pm - Sew Picnic!	8am - LSSM-LWR Sewing 8am - Prayer Shawl 8am - Work Group 4pm - Council Meeting 7pm - Hughes/Denay SO (YR)		6:15pm - Steel Pan Band - 7:30pm - Worship Team		
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

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.