

June 2025



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Paul Busekist
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880



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

Building Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9am to 2:30pm

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9am to 2:30pm

Worship Times:

Sunday: 10 am Modern Worship
including Communion with service
Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube
Sunday School/Adult Education/Third

Thursday: will return in September
Nursery open during worship service

Follow the STAR to Bethlehem!

Our Mission:

We worship, work and welcome... Sharing God's love and grace with all.

Our Vision:

Together, we embody our mission by BOLDLY following Jesus, serving the needs of the world and one another, and caring for all of God's Creation. ALL ARE WELCOME.



Friends, there is a lot to be thankful for! First, a wonderful "school year" of ministry,

visioning, and fellowship together as God makes a new creation in our midst each day! Happy summer to you all!

Second, we are making progress with our efforts to care for creation with solar energy! Months ago, a BLC member asked if we could show some solar statistics in real time on our Gathering Space "Welcome/Trailhead Kiosk." But until recently this was not possible. Last week we discovered an MS Windows application that ties directly into our solar monitoring app – just in time for our one-year anniversary of solar! This is what we hope to provide – monthly snapshots (see below) and daily real-time data – both available on the Gathering Space kiosk. We hope you enjoy keeping track of this blessing as much as those who helped make this possible!

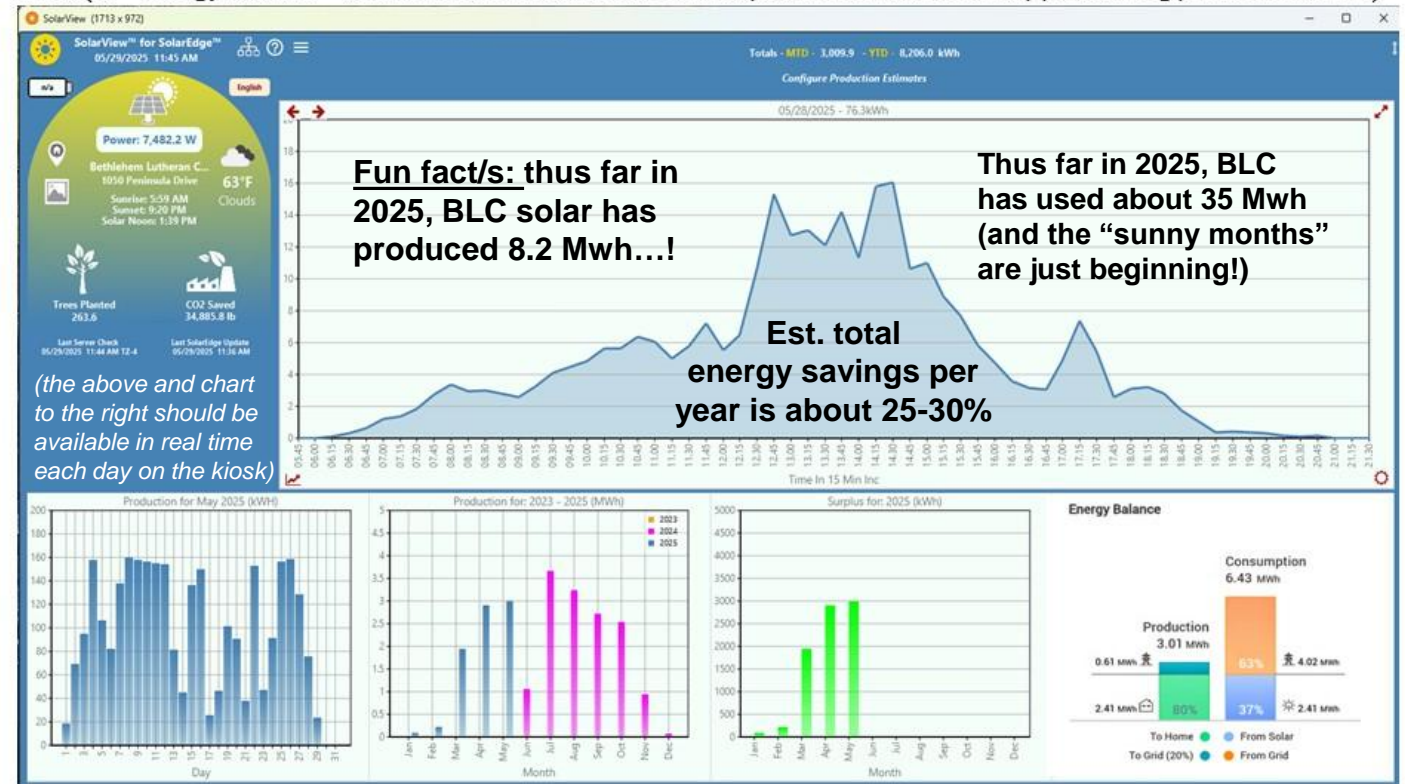
Shalom, and be well! – Pr. Paul

Your monthly solar stats slide! (This screenshot covers most of May 2025)

Please note: the big graph shows the solar energy brought in for a given day (in Kilowatt Hours (Kwh))

Some perspective: the avg. household uses 30Kwh per day, and 1Megawatt Hour (Mwh) = 1,000 Kwh.

The four smaller charts below show: (A) the solar energy collected each day in May, (B) months compared over the last 3 years, (C) our "surplus" energy sold back to TCLP (tracking started last September) and (D) "Power Flow" for the last 24hrs (or "Energy Balance" when Pastor Paul is able to cut and paste from a different app. covering previous month.)



FINAL PROSE FROM THIS PREZ:

Did 2 years really whiz by that fast? I wouldn't have thought it possible. My president's message in the annual report will look back at where we have been so here I want to look forward at what is to come: completion of the lower level....paying off our mortgage (in November!)...bringing an updated constitution to the congregation for approval after it has the "ok" from the synod... fixing the broken/cracked concrete in front of our main entrance...writing a grant and applying for rebates to make our building more energy efficient especially with a changeover to LED lighting. I'll now be in the background but I know that I like any BLC member can make an appearance at any council meeting if I have major ideas or concerns. I hope I have fulfilled your expectations as president as my effort has been, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil 4:13

Blessings as we begin our visioning adventure together.

Cindy Monroe BLC Council President

April 2025 FINANCIAL NEWS

April income was \$33,189 compared to budgeted income of \$32,293. We received \$896 more than budgeted. Expenses were \$39,199 compared to a budget of \$32,594. Although it looks like we spent \$6,605 more than budgeted...our May 2nd payroll was unexpectedly processed thru the bank on April 30th. This resulted in a third payroll hitting in April, instead of two, resulting in spending \$6,010 more than we brought in. Take out the extra payroll hit, we pretty much had a breakeven month.

Year to date income was \$132,056 compared to budgeted income of \$122,448. We have received \$9,608 more than budgeted. Expenses were \$152,626 compared to a budget of \$135,262. We spent \$17,364 more than budgeted. For the year, the church has spent \$20,570 more than we have brought in. Remember the extra payroll hit in April is factored into this YTD number.

What IS GRIEVING? Could it be the loss of a marriage, your home, or community, good health, a dream or something else? The list can go on and on. No matter the loss you have a family here at Bethlehem that loves you, wants to support you, and be here for you! **We meet here on the first Monday of the month from 3:30-4:30 and on the third Monday from 5:30-6:30.** If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns 231-392-6913.

More Chair Yoga: Bethlehem has added another Chair Yoga class per week. You now have two opportunities to attend: Monday and Wednesday at 3:00pm. The cost is \$5 and Janet Weaver will be the instructor. People can attend one or both classes per week. Gail Goldsmith will continue to be the church representative for the Monday class and Cindy Monroe will be the church representative for the Wednesday class. It is a great opportunity to stretch and work on balance issues.

Bethlehem's support of Safe Harbor's Summer has begun.

On May 20, we assisted Safe Harbor professionals with check-in, dispensing guest's medications, allocating shower and washing machine time, and helping them find their places and get settled for the night. The following morning, we assisted with coffee brewing and serving, packing and storing their gear, and getting them ready for the day. We will do this again on 17June, 15July, 19August, and 16September. Please help us fulfill our commitment by volunteering for one of these evenings. Again, about 5:30-8:30PM...or for the following morning at about 7:00AM-9:30PM. We really need your participation. Please call, text or e-mail Tom Rockne to volunteer... Thank you!

PROTECT OUR CARPET: spills always happen, but we now have **TWO** consistent ways to deal with them. Thanks to an anonymous donor we now have an actual carpet cleaning machine stored in the maintenance closet. If you cause one or see a spot, please grab the spot cleaner in the squirt container below the sink in the fellowship hall. Just follow the directions on the bottle and we should be able to keep our carpet in good condition. But, if the stain is too big or too resistant, please use the carpet cleaning machine. Thank you!!

HOW DO WE CARE AND SERVE? John 12:26 "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant will also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me".
YOU ARE LOVED BY YOUR CHURCH FAMILY. If you would like to have a visit and you would like to receive Communion, Christian Care Giving is here for you! Please let Peggy Burns at 231-392-6914 know and we will have one of our Care Givers come and see you.

National Cherry Festival Volunteer Opportunity Bethlehem

Lutheran Church has the opportunity to volunteer 3 times at the National Cherry Festival to earn money for Pastor Paul's future Sabbatical. We are asking for 5 volunteers for each event to earn \$200 per shift from the Community Share Group. The sign up to volunteer has changed this year. Every person who volunteers will need to go online to the Festival Foundation Website and complete the waiver form and read the volunteer handbook.

This year we have volunteered for Monday, June 30th from 9:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Souvenir tent.

We are also signed up for Tuesday July 1st from 9:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Pepsi tent.

And Thursday July 3rd from 9:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Pie and Ice Cream tent. We will need 7 people for this tent.

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex for each event. You can sign up for one or more events. Each day after our work shift we are invited to go to the Oasis to have lunch. It is nice to be able to sit down as a group and eat and have time to talk. If you have any questions please talk to Gail Goldsmith.



Book Club



BOOK CLUB NEWS: We are uncertain of our location but our date this month is the 4th Wednesday, June 28 at 5:30. We will be reading "*Caste, The Origins of Our Discontent*" by Wilkerson. If you plan to come please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net and watch the bulletin and email blast for the location.

A big thank you to all who have turned in Olesons' slips. On March 31st, we received a check from Olesons for \$275.60 from receipts turned in. This makes a grand total of \$592.66 for the year 2025. Olesons' slips never expire. Please continue to turn in your Olesons receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks so much!!! Also, the area for the Oleson receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside. Unfortunately, we are no longer collecting the receipts from Family Fair.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS Finally we are seeing glimpses of Spring. Hopefully it will stick around. The food pantry supplies are running low and could certainly use some donations. When shopping for donations, please consider items with protein like peanut butter, canned ravioli or spaghetti, tuna, and chicken. The items that we do not need any more of are dried beans, peas, and lentils. Right now we have plenty of soaps but can always use feminine care products. We don't have to worry about items in the pantry freezing any more so anything you donate can be used immediately. Thank you all for your continuing generosity and willingness to serve our community. Suzanne and Kathie
REMEMBER, YOU CAN GET A THRIVENT GRANT FOR UP TO \$250 FOR FOOD PANTRY ITEMS.

DRIVING VOLUNTEERS?: Thanks to those who have already said "yes" to being a regular or substitute driver to transport a delightful member couple to church. They have good mobility but due to other health issues currently cannot drive. They live just north of the east end of 14th street. If you would like to be added to the list of volunteers please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or 231 631 0887.

BLC partners with Old Town Playhouse for the musical telling the story of Moses in THE PRINCE OF EGYPT: How exciting that this summer we will have rehearsals for this amazing musical here in this building! If you want to audition to be on stage or be part of the supporting community choir you can follow this link to sign up: www.oldtownplayhouse.com/egypt Performances will be Aug 21 and 22 at 7:00 and Aug 23 at 2:00 at Milliken Auditorium. The youth will be running the concessions on Thursday, Aug 21 and their youth fund will receive the benefits. We need other volunteers for the two other performances and the funds earned can be designated to the charity or cause recommended by the volunteers. Bethlehem's Good Samaritan Fund? Project Feed the Kids? Safe Harbor? Grand Traverse Baby Pantry? Another idea? It's easy to sell items before the show and during intermission. Sign up in the gathering space or contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or 231 631 0887 if you can help one of those days. Also, do you want to reserve tickets to see the show? If tickets are purchased in groups of 6 each will cost \$42 for an adult and \$18 for youth under the age of 18. Sign up sheets for the tickets will also be in the gathering space.



The Grand Traverse Baby Pantry works out of our church to provide a variety of baby items to almost 100 families each month. You may not know it, but they also provide food items and cleaning products when they are available. Right now the pantry is in critical need of household cleaning products. They have completely run out. Next time you're out shopping, please consider picking up a few cleaning products for the baby pantry. You can leave your donations in the coat room on the table. On behalf of the Grand Traverse Baby Pantry, thanks to all who continue to donate so that we can provide this much needed resource to the community.

We are wanting to update the list of people we pray for. If everyone could look at list and let us know of any changes, whether it is people who can be taken off, or should be added, we would appreciate it. Please respond by email to admin@bethlehemtc.org

Congregational Meeting: Hope as many of you as possible can attend the annual Congregational meeting on Sunday June 8 immediately after the service. We will be voting for new council members, members for the endowment committees and hear reports from Visioning, Solar, and the lower level.



SUMMER BREAK: Please note that Sunday School, Sunday's Adult Education along with the two Wednesday Bible Studies will not meet during the summer months. Look for the September start dates in the weekly email, bulletins and the STAR at the end of summer.

Notes From Alanna

Parking Lot Fundraiser - Raise Funds for Youth!

The youth of Bethlehem will be leading their annual Parking Lot Fundraiser again this year, and we are in need of volunteers! The dates are:

Saturday June 28th 10am-1pm

Sunday June 29th 9am-1pm

Friday July 4th 6:30-10:30pm



This fundraiser is always a ton of fun, and all money brought in goes directly to supporting Bethlehem's youth and their activities. Let me know ASAP if you'd like to sign up!

-Alanna Steffunick-Boomer, Ministry Coordinator

Christian Education News June 2025

Plan to join us this summer 7/28, 7/29, and 7/30
for VBS next month –
watch for more details soon!!!



Join us June 8th for our final Sunday School
before we take a summer break...
Then plan to join us again in September!!!



We have LOTS of summer opportunities –
parking lot fundraisers, VBS, and so much more ...
get involved & don't miss out!!!

☆ HAPPY FATHER'S DAY ☆
**THE STEPS OF A
GOOD MAN
ARE ORDERED BY THE LORD**
PSALM 37:23

ELCA Global Links



Empowering Refugees in Cairo

When a civil war broke out in Sudan, Ali and Ala, teenage brothers, fled to Cairo, Egypt. There, they heard about St. Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS), a longtime partner of ELCA World Hunger. At StARS, the brothers were assigned a caseworker and, due to their status as unaccompanied minors, received emergency food boxes, clothing, blankets and financial assistance.

Ali and Ala were eager to return to school and were able to enroll in classes. In addition to regular courses, they attended group therapy sessions with other refugee students. They soon made friends and became acclimated to their new community.



WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - JUNE 2025

ODE TO FATHERS

Be watchful. Stand firm in the faith. Act like men. Be strong.

Let all you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

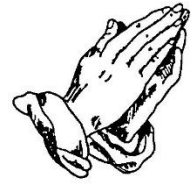


JUNE BIBLE STUDY: "Where 2 or more are gathered: Flourishing in relationships" by Rev. Brooke Peterson. Session 1: "Relationships that form us: All in the family." Some of our most beloved Bible stories involve siblings and the trials and tribulations of relationships within families. We will examine the stories of Jacob & Esau and Mary & Martha as well as our own families to help us explore how our early family relationships shape how we think about the every day relationships in our lives. Call Nancy Ammann 946-8433 if interested in joining us for this study.

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY: Our summer Bible study will be on August 7th at the home of Carl & Suzanne Lehto beginning at noon. It will begin with a potluck meal followed by the Bible study which will be Sessions 2 & 3 from the *Gather* magazine (written by our own Rev. Brooke Peterson!) Watch for any further information in the bulletin and July Star. This time together is always a blessing of fellowship and searching God's Word. We hope to see you there!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL!

Health Concerns*



The Power of Prayer

*Mary Woodring, Jerry Hill,
Richard Fernholz, Tom & Lee Miller,
Judy Fenton, Julie Lapeer, Milt & Carol Bowes,
Lynn Hoyt, Ron Hellenga, Cindy Hitesman,
John Stretlien, Harper Wiemerslage,
Sherry, Leroy Schlagel, Roy Dumond, Sean Rivard,
Patti McCracken, Sharon Vanmeter, Dale Thiel,
Julie, Steve, Christine,
Debbie Knopf, Janet Burmeister,
Jim Rumbach, John Block, Bob Pierce,
Earl Manuel, Marianne
Norm Fred, Kyle Scheunaman, Ben*

Meadow Valley: Milt & Carol Bowes

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.

Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain:** Please contact Jan Stretlien at jstretlien@gmail.com or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar:** Please call the Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880 or email admin@bethlehemtc.org

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...

Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes?
Type this address/url into your web browser to get the latest approved minutes from Council (or call the office for a copy:

bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes

BLC Contacts

Church Office

Pastor Paul Busekist	paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org
Admin. Asst., Barbara Oster	admin@bethlehemtc.org
Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson	bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org
Anthony Bero, Music Director	bero.tony@gmail.com
Alanna Steffunick-Boomer, Ministry Coordinator	Alanna.Steffunick@bethlehemtc.org
Website	www.bethlehemtc.org

Church Council

Cindy Monroe, President	president.council@bethlehemtc.org
Gail Goldsmith, Vice President	vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org
Paul Wiemerslage, Secretary	secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
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Bethany Uhl, Stewardship	stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Denice Bossardet, Worship and Music	worshipmusic.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Tina Dohm, Youth/Y2A	youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Pastor Paul Busekist	paul.busekist@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
9:15am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service(S) 11:45am - WELCA Men's	3pm - Chair Yoga 3:30pm - Grief Group	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 10:45am - Staff Meeting	11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study 3pm - Chair Yoga 6:30pm - Old Town Playhouse	5:30pm - ACA 6:30pm - Old Town Playhouse	6:30pm - Old Town Playhouse	6pm - LifeRing Recovery Group 8pm - AA
Steve's Birthday: Steve and 9:15am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service(S) 11:30am - Congregational	1pm - Finance Cmte. 3pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 1pm - Friendship Bible Study 6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting 6:30pm - Executive Comte.(Zoom)	11:30am - Music Rehearsal 3pm - Chair Yoga	9am - Baby Pantry Setup 10am - Baby Pantry-FH 1pm - Rebecca Anna Circle - 5:30pm - ACA		6pm - LifeRing Recovery Group 7pm - Contra Dance - Bayside
10am - Worship Service(S)	3pm - Chair Yoga 5:30pm - Grief Group	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 12pm - Sarah Circle - Library 6:30pm - Council Meeting -	11:30am - Music Rehearsal 3pm - Chair Yoga 5:30pm - Book/Supper Club	5:30pm - ACA	STAR articles due today 10am - Sew Pieciful 1pm - Lehto SG - Library	3:30pm - Parking Lot 6pm - LifeRing Recovery Group 8pm - AA
10am - Worship Service(S) 11:30am - Craft Show meeting	3pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group	11:30am - Music Rehearsal 3pm - Chair Yoga	5:30pm - ACA		6pm - LifeRing Recovery Group 8pm - AA
10am - Worship Service(S)	3pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today				



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Questions??? Please contact Alanna Steffunick-Boomer at 231-947-9880 or
alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org Make checks payable to BLC...put "Star Ad" on envelope.

Lots of cool information inside
Pr Paul's Page
Council President's notes
Council officers and committee liaisons
Grief Group
Book Club News
XYZ News
Vision News
Cherry Fest Volunteer Opportunities
Prince of Egypt at OTP
Chair Yoga
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Christian Education News
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The Power of Prayer

