

MAY 2022



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 during worship service

Nursery open during worship service

Parking Lot Communion: 11:00 am

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.”



"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen." –Luke 24:5b



"Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!"

I love saying these words together, back and forth, in Easter joy and worship. They are words of affirmation that death no longer has power over us, and that Christ's tomb is not the only cave that is now open. Our hearts follow, and the Son shines anew through each of us. Perhaps this Easter season is an invitation to break out and try something new. Truly.

Perhaps it's volunteering to help Bethlehem with the many hands, feet and voices we need to make worship happen each weekend. Do you think you would like to read scripture or assist with prayers? Would your friendly face help us greet and shepherd the visitors and members in our sanctuary? Or maybe there is some other way your amazingness can brighten someone's day, in the name of Christ.

Exciting new beginnings are happening. More coming soon. Much peace to you all, and remember...

Shalom,
Pr. Paul

**“HE
RISEN!!”** 


Lots of empty space here, you say? Council has invited us to see how we can save a little paper and resources this summer with our printed materials. Soon you may see new ways to include our messaging, with a little more brevity. 😊

A Word from the President...

When you read this we will be in the 50 day period of time in the church calendar between Easter and Pentecost. Pentecost is celebrated on the seventh Sunday from Easter which this year falls on June 5th. This is also the longest period of time that we will see the color of white for the joy of the Resurrection on the altar. The liturgical colors used on Sunday was always an interest to me. From a kid looking at the differences (usually during the sermon), in confirmation class teachings to an adult seeing the meanings.

At one time Thrivent would have on their calendar the liturgical colors for each Sunday. They stopped doing that a few years ago. Not sure as to why. The bright red on Pentecost is a stark contrast to the white of Easter. Kathy and I work on a red outfit for that day. The other red Sunday Lutheran's celebrate is of course for Reformation!

As we progress through the Sunday's of Easter, celebrate the Resurrection. Let us remember those still impacted by the pandemic. Pray to end the suffering of war. Spread joy in our community. Look at the colors of spring that pop up from the earth around us and give thanks.

Of an added note I want to give special thanks to Pastor Paul and all the persons who worked on and made donations to the updated sound system. It "Sounds" great!

Mark McPherson

New Church Keys

The church council has authorized the rekeying of all locks in the church building. To receive a new key, everyone must complete a signature form, even if you have completed one before. Forms are available weekday at regular office hours. On Sundays, see Leonard Graf. The change over date has not been determined. More information will follow.

Children's Message Corner

Children's Message Corner on Zoom takes place every other Sunday on Zoom at 2:45PM and all are invited. We take a few minutes of Fellowship before going over the Children's Message and have a more in depth discussion of the gospel lesson and message. To be put on the email list to receive the Zoom link please see Annie after worship or contact her at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org. Our next Children's Message Corner will be on Sunday, May 1st!

We are looking for volunteers and leaders to join us on a fun faithful adventure with Jerusalem: Marketplace! Join Jesus' faithful friends and followers during His final days on earth. You'll travel back into Bible times--without setting foot outside your community! We are looking for volunteers to participate! VBS is currently being planned for the week of Monday July 25th but participation will be crucial in determining what VBS will look like this year! We have sign up sheets in the Narthex but please see Annie after service or reach out to her at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org for more information! There will also be a Volunteer Informational Meeting on Tuesday, May 10th 6:00PM - 6:45PM where you can ask questions, and get more information as to what will be required of our volunteers and you can sign up then as well if you wish.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City Michigan

"We journey with God to serve with love"

MINUTES TO CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: March 15, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Mark McPherson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Leonard Graf read from Jeremiah 31

ROLL CALL: Gail Goldsmith, Secretary; Maureen Bauer, Denice Bossardet, Pastor Paul Busekist, Scott Farley, Gail Goldsmith, Leonard Graf, Laura Hahn, Jim Hinds, Mark McPherson, Cindy Monroe, Jim Monroe, Paul Wiemerslage.

VISITOR/S OR CONGREGATIONAL Comments: No visitors present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Leonard Graf made the motion to approve the agenda, Scott Farley seconded the motion, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM February 15, 2022: Cindy Monroe made the motion to approve the minutes, Denice Bossardet seconded the motion, the motion carried.

REPORTS:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Mark McPherson, stated he will be on vacation from March 17th until the 28th.

PASTOR'S REPORT: March is here and so is Lent. Our Theme: "The Message and the Messenger" is underway. We seek ways to invite Christ into our hearts and homes, in hope of embodying the gospel.

Last month's focus areas are gaining traction. As mentioned, Lent is underway, and so is the First Communion class, taking place Wednesday evenings and one Sunday after worship during Lent. That class is going well, and we have 5 students. On a separate note Pastor Paul has begun calls and visits with parishioners to check in as we re-emerge from Covid, but this will take time.

Pastor continues to work with the Sabbatical Team on the Lilly Foundation paperwork.

Pastor's "Discern by Doing" class wrapped up in early March and he is considering participation in another round that starts in April.

Pastor wants to circle back to the Refresh initiative and Visioning, as we look at a very tight budget this year, and sabbatical efforts that will involve the congregation for many aspects. He is wondering if focusing on Refresh in 2022 alone makes sense, along with some pivots we can discuss at Council (finding new tenants, beefing up the food pantry/kiosk, etc.) then moving into more robust 3-5 year Visioning in late 2022 and 2023 might work best to help dovetail sabbatical reflection by BLC into our hopes for new mission/vision at the same time.

Pastor will be heading to Chicago for family events in March (25-30th), returning in the evening of Wednesday March 30th for Lent night: also likely to take time off in May (around the weekend of May 13th). Pr. Ruth Overdier will be preaching and presiding for him in March.

Finally he prays for this church and sense of re-awakening. Emerging from Covid has been full of ups and downs. We will get there together. We have much to be thankful for. Shalom, Pastor Paul

TREASURER'S REPORT: Leonard Graf reports the Year to Date budget is expenses are \$5200 over budget. The heat bill is running \$2400 per month, there were equipment purchases and the Sound System. Leonard talked to Carl about the heat in the church. The thermostat had been turned up, but he will check if there is a problem with the furnace.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Jim Monroe reports income has been down for the first 2 months of the year. Pledges vs money received is down 84%. This is lowest in the last 5 years. Normally April income goes up. Stewardship should put a message in the Star to encourage people to give what they have pledged. Also possibly have Phil Anderson put the monthly budget in the bulletin. And possibly do a Temple Talk.

A message will be given to Barbara Oster to have the Ushers start to pass the offering plates.

COVID update: Covid has leveled off to 8 ½ % for the last 14 day average, this week there were only 5 or 6 new cases in Grand Traverse Co. Munson has changed their threat level from orange to yellow.

CONSENT CALENDAR: COMMITTEE REPORTS: The committee reports are; Treasurer's report; Financial Secretary's report; Financial and Executive Committee report; Christian Care; Fellowship; Membership and Evangelism; Personnel; Property; Stewardship; Worship and Music (correction, they are purchasing mic stands with clip); Youth/Y2A; Endowment Fund (quarterly); and Sustaining Endowment Memorial Fund (quarterly). All reports are submitted and on file.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Sunday School/Services Ad Hoc Committee update:** Paul Wiemerslage reports the Sunday school class will continue at least until after Easter.
- B. **Refresh Committee update:** Paul Wiemerslage reports he has talked to Chuck Ardingo and they will ask the Sustaining Endowment Memorial Fund for \$5000.00, Asset Replacement for \$5000.00 and raise \$10,000 for the Refresh plan. It may take multiple years to complete due to increased costs. The committee may look at getting things started with lower cost items and that can make a higher impact.
- C. **Sabbatical Committee update:** Gail Goldsmith reports the Sabbatical team continues to meet a couple of more times to complete the Lilly Foundation application. The Congregational Information Forum will be March 20th to ask the congregation what they would like to do while Pastor Paul is on Sabbatical. There have been articles in the "Star" about the sabbatical as well as Temple Talks.
- D. **Sound System update:** Pastor reports a large donation is possible to help with the sound system. We may also save money on the rental equipment if the Sound Board arrives earlier than planned.
- E. **Building Locks update:** Leonard Graf made the motion to hire Northwest Lock to rekey the church, not to exceed \$1000.00. Maureen Bauer seconded the motion. Discussion. Leonard met with Byron from Northwest Lock to look through the building. Leonard has the paperwork to be completed for those needing keys. It will be a flat fee of \$721.00 to re-key 42 doors plus \$4.00 per key, starting with 50 keys at \$200.00. There will be a \$50 deposit charged for groups outside of the church using the building. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Appoint nominating committee:** The Executive Committee appoints the nominating committee.
- B. **Security Plan:** Mark McPherson discussed the church is in need of items and a plan for security such as: security cameras, check AED, snow removal, cyber threats, glass in office door, we have to look at new threats that are happening.
- C. **Delegates to the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly:** There can be 2 delegates plus the pastor go to the assembly. It will be virtual again this year, names must be in by April 20th for the May 14th Assembly. Barbara Oster will put the information in the bulletin.
- D. **Easter Services:** Discussion was to have 2 services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Easter with a continental breakfast from 9:00 until 10:00. Laura Hahn and the Fellowship committee will take care of the breakfast planning.

GOOD TO THE ORDER: A time for general/undocumented comments by each Council Member, if so desired.

LORD'S PRAYER: said by all

ADJOURNMENT: Cindy Monroe made the motion to adjourn, Denise Bossardet seconded the motion, adjourned at 7:58.

Respectfully Submitted,


Gail Goldsmith,

Council Secretary

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD STEWARD (With Updated Financial Information)

- ~A good steward is trustworthy. 1 Corinthians 4:2, 2 Kings 12:15
- ~A good steward is faithful regardless of the size of the job he's been given
- ~A faithful steward remembers that ultimately we work for God and everything belongs to him. Colossians 3:23, Psalm 24:1

After God created man, he planted a garden and put Adam there to tend and keep it. He made Adam a steward.

We are all stewards of BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  And as such we need to keep you updated to how the funds and resources needed to run our church are doing.

March income was \$28,315 compared to a budgeted income of \$29,598 or a shortfall of \$1,283. Expenses were \$31,843 compared to a budget of \$30,153 resulting in spending \$1,689 more than budgeted. On a cash basis, expenses exceeded income by \$1,689.

Through March income was \$77,819 compared to budgeted income of \$89,615 for a shortfall for \$11,796. Expenses were \$97,751 compared to the budget of \$90,871 resulting in spending \$6,880 more than budgeted. On a cash basis, expenses exceeded income by \$18,676.

As you can see above from the finance committee we are behind in income because the donations have been down so far in 2022. We appreciate everyone and every donation received but we kindly ask if you are able to contribute to our wonderful church it would be especially appreciated in these tough financial times we are currently experiencing.

Thank you very much for your consideration

Scott Farley
Stewardship Chairman

[illegible]

Dollars and Sense

Bethlehem Lutheran Church has greatly expanded our outreach into the community and the world with our live streaming programing. We feel blessed to be able to do this and all of our ministries here at Bethlehem. We need your support to continue this work.

Through mid-March our contributions are running behind where we should be by \$13,585.00. That is a significant shortfall that we as a congregation need to address. We encourage you to stay current with your pledge. Together we can do more and accomplish our vision for the future. Thank you for your support.

Jim Monroe, Your Financial Secretary



SHEPHERDING A SABBATICAL

The Sabbatical Team would like to thank all of the participants in the Informational Forum on March 20th. We would also like to thank Tom Rockne for leading the conversation. He did a wonderful job.

First we are looking at Pulpit Supply Pastors for preaching and presiding as well as additional assistance from the church staff to fill in while Pastor Paul is gone. We need the church to run smoothly in his absence.

We are hoping to have someone be an Activities Director to have events run smoothly and to schedule volunteers for the activities.

We had a lot of great input from the Forum and here are some of the ideas we are including in the Lilly Endowment application:

We are planning sendoff and welcome back picnics for Pastor Paul, before and after his sabbatical.

The plan is to have ice cream sundaes after church every Sunday for the summer of 2023.

Social activities to include starting bereavement groups for adults and children at the church.

Creation care to plant trees and plants in the community.

Health and creativity to provide Yoga and Painting classes at the church.

All of these ideas should provide Shalom for the people of the congregation and so we will all be refreshed during Pastor Paul's Sabbatical.

The Lilly Foundation Application is to be turned in by April 27th and it is nearly completed and will be on its way soon.

Shalom,

The Sabbatical Team

LAUNDRY BASKET PROJECT

FOR 2022: We are collecting cleaning items to be given out during the Baby Pantry here at Bethlehem. There is an example basket in the Narthex along with a list of items needed. You may fill an entire basket OR bring single items if you prefer. This is a year-long project. Thank you for your participation!



BLC Blessings

After being shelved for a year, due to COVID, the Lenten Dinners returned this year, on a somewhat smaller scale. The idea of a “Simple Soup” meal preceding the Wednesday night service was suggested. So far there have been 20-25 people attending the Wednesday night meals. We have some excellent cooks at BLC that need to be acknowledged for their delicious donations to the “Simple Soup” meals.

March 16, Barb Graf – Veggistrone Soup

Gail Goldsmith – Brownies

March 23, Renae Wells – Potato Cheesy Bacon Soup

March 30, Betsy Morley – Famous Morley Soup

Cheryl Wegener – Potato Rolls

Connie Christopherson – various pies

April 6, Jackie Rossfeld – Bean and Ham Soup, and various quick breads

It has been nice to gather again around a meal that feeds not only our bellies, but also our souls and relationships. Many thanks go out to our generous cooks! Along with preparing and providing the food are the tasks required to serve a meal. The Men’s Group took on the task of setting up the tables and chairs. Paul Wiermerslage, Craig and Maureen Bauer, and Dan Hahn volunteered to help with serving and cleanup. Gail Goldsmith and Jackie Rossfeld were indispensable in offering their time and past experience to pull it all together. Thank you to all of these gracious helpers, and to everyone who grabbed an extra dirty dish or wiped off a table.

ABRIDGED WITH ANNIE: A SUMMARY OF YOUTH EVENTS FOR MAY...

As I write this, the sun is shining and the snow is melting. Friends, we are now in spring...which means lots happening and we are gearing up for summer!

MAY HAPPENINGS ...

Confirmation Classes resume on **Sunday, May 1st** here at Bethlehem and led by me. Our other classes in May will be **Sunday, May 15th** led by Pastor Carolyn and **Sunday, May 22nd** led by Pastor Paul.



Our **Youth Groups** for the month of May will be as follows:

The **Junior High Youth Group** will meet on **Wednesday, May 11th** at Incredible Mo's for Laser Tag.

The **High School Youth Group** will meet on **Saturday, May 21st** at Bethlehem for our annual Start of Summer BBQ and Picnic!

The **BLUES Group** will meet on **Friday, May 27th** at Historic Barns Park for our annual End of Semester Hike!

Stony Lake Camp Registration is open and free to all young campers interested! We have good news! The deadline has been extended and there is still room! Please register online as soon as possible and let me know! **The week we will have Bethlehem Adult Leaders is Week 1 (June 19 – 24) so make sure you register for that week!** Reach out to me with any questions.

We will be doing a **local mission trip** this summer and will be teaming up with **Freedom Builders** during their **Missions Week which is July 18th – 23rd**. Reach out to me for more information. I hope to have a Mission Trip meeting sometime soon but at the time of writing this article we haven't finalized those details! I hope to have some information for you soon.

I'm so excited to announce our **Vacation Bible School** theme for this year is: **Jerusalem Marketplace** and we are planning on having it the **week of July 25th!** We are currently looking for volunteers. **Sign up sheets are in the Narthex but we will also be having a Volunteer Informational Meeting on Tuesday, May 10th at 6PM in the Youth Room** that will be very low key but an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Be sure to mark your calendars for all these fun events!

Cheerfully in Christ,

Annie Slabaugh

Director of Youth and Outreach, Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Traverse City

Music news at BLC:

Many of you commented how much you enjoyed the choir music during Holy Week. The choir members appreciate the nice comments and we relay them to our new director, Tony Bero. It is sad that he is not on-site so he can hear from you himself.

If you want to make certain he knows how much his skill in selecting the anthems and preparing the choir is appreciated, feel free to drop him a note in the "choir director" mailbox by the office or send him an email at bero.tony@gmail.com.

And for all of you budding vocalists out there...just think...if he can make the 4 of us sound that good, what could he do with you?!? Don't hesitate...the choir always wants more singers.



Monthly STAR

Thanks to all of you who have said that you will read the STAR on line or pick it up at church. Those of you who come to church, be thinking if there is any member close in your neighborhood that you could deliver their copy to them. If you have recently decided to read on line or pick-up at church please call the office and let them know.

Due Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screen Announcements:

STAR: The third Friday of the month sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Please note STAR in subject line)

Bulletin/Verbal Announcements: Wednesday of the week sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Bulletin/Worship Folder is printed on Thursday morning.) (Please note Bulletin or Announcement in subject line)

Screen Announcements/Weekly BLC Emails: Tuesday of the week sent to annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org (Annie works Sunday – Wednesday)

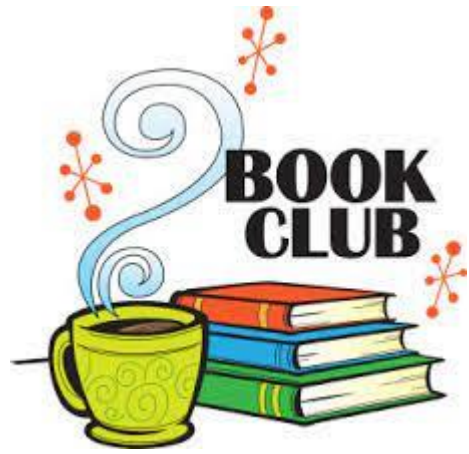
FOOD PANTRY SET TO REOPEN:

Northern Michigan weather is NOT cooperating so the opening of the BLC outdoor 24/7 food pantry will be postponed to May 1. If you see special deals at the stores you can be buying them and place them in the teal container under the table by the mailboxes. The community will appreciate your generosity.



Book Club:

For May the BLC book club will be reading "The Book of Lost Friends" by Lisa Wingate. THIS BOOK IS AVAILABLE IN A LIBRARY BOOK BAG SO YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND A COPY IN THE BIN OUTSIDE THE FRONT DOOR OF THE CHURCH. Plan to join us on ZOOM on Tues, May 24 at 5:30. If you are not already on the list send your email to cmonroe@chartermi.net.



Church Council Elections We are going to be having our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday June 12th. A part of this meeting is the election of Church Council members for a three-year term to fill expiring vacancies. The Nomination Committee is looking for referrals to contact. If you are interested in serving on the council (yes, you could submit your own name) or if you know someone else would be a good referral, please make your thoughts known. You will find a white box on a table in the entry to the Narthex for the referral. You will also find a brief form to fill out and place in the box. The Nomination Committee will contact the referrals and then nominate a slate for the election. Don't worry if someone thinks you would be a good candidate and you're not ready. Just let the committee know when contacted and be honored that someone thought of you! If you have any questions, please contact Mark McPherson at markandkjo@sbcglobal.net or 860-658-1554

There are two Bible studies on Wednesdays –

9:00am-11:00am in BLC Youth Room – studying the Gospel of Matthew – Barbara Graf is the leader

1:30pm-3:00pm by Zoom – studying "Home by Another Way" by Barbara Brown Taylor. . It contains sermons that walk us through the church year. The book can be ordered through Amazon - if necessary, Barbara Oster can help with ordering. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining.

Stony Lake Camp Registration is open and free to all young campers interested! The deadline has been extended indefinitely and there is still room! Please register online as soon as possible and let Annie know! The week Bethlehem Adult Leaders will be there is Week 1 (June 19 – 24) so make sure you register for that week! Reach out to Annie either after worship or at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org with any questions or concerns.

A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons receipts. We have received \$276.88 from Olesons so far this year. Please continue to drop your Olesons receipts off at church.

Christian Education News May 2022



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING!!!

The Christian Education Committee
is excited to announce
Jerusalem Marketplace for VBS this summer!

Watch upcoming STAR issues
for more details on how you can be involved!



The Christian Education Committee
extends blessings & congratulations
to our 5 students

that celebrated their First Communion:

Megan Acker

Lincoln Dohm

Aleah Graf

Brady Thomson

Kate Word

We are very grateful
to Pastor Paul, Suzanne Lehto, and Tina Dohm
for leading them on this special journey
to the Lord's Table!



Happy Mother's Day!



-Christian Education Committee

"Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" (Joel 2:17)



The ELCA has partner churches and organizations in distant places. Countries in Eastern Europe are dealing with many crises. This page will detail a few of them: Christ's church in action

"Why should it be said among the peoples. "Where is their God?" (Joel 2:17)

The Rev. Amy Reumann, senior director for **ELCA Witness in Society**, wrote about the Putin regime's brutal invasion of Ukraine. "The valiant resistance of Ukrainian leaders, the courage of civilians fighting back and resilience of so many inhabitants are inspiring. They do not ease my deep dismay as Russian air strikes and ground fighting continue, and civilian casualties mount." Reumann ponders the words of the prophet Joel & the question "Where is our God?"

"God is still present in the midst of war and injustice. God's love is seen in everyone around the world stepping forward in solidarity with Ukraine — especially within the church. Members of the ELCA community have responded to the crisis with prayer, advocacy and financial support through **Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and the Lutheran World Federation**. In our Lutheran family, I can glimpse God's action and can testify that in the gloom and horror of war, God is here!"

Gifts are at work in Ukraine as well as in the border countries of Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. They are providing crucial resources such as cash support for refugees; emergency items such as beds and shelter, food and clean water; protection for vulnerable individuals and groups; psychosocial care; and the prevention of sexual abuse.



A reflection from Naomi Sveholm, ELCA education coordinator, Central Europe: "The **Central Europe Teachers (CET)** program brings American teachers into Slovak and Polish classrooms. "My role as education coordinator is primarily communication: preparing new teachers for the classroom and culture, supporting volunteers pedagogically and emotionally, teaching half time in Bratislava, visiting and maintaining contact with all our partner schools, and maintaining a public face through social media.

We have also spent class time discussing the violence in Ukraine and its ramifications, along with what students are thinking and doing. Listening, caring and guiding are key aspects of the CET program. To learn more about CET and its partner schools, follow ELCACET on Facebook."

God's Work. Our Hands.

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - MAY 2022

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



There is no love like a mother's, Her heart is filled with care.
With Christ as her example, Her Savior's love she'll share.
A mother's love is endless, Not changing for all time.
When needed by her children, A mother's love will shine.
God bless these special mothers, God bless them every one.
For all their tears and heartaches And special work they've done.
When days on earth are over, A mother's love lives on,
Through many generations, God's blessings on each one.
Be thankful for our mothers Who love with higher love,
From power God has given And strength from up above.

LAUNDRY BASKET PROJECT - UPDATE: We want to thank you all for the wonderful response to filling the baskets to be given to patrons of our baby pantry. (We gave 9 in April!) Please note this is an ongoing project for the entire year. We would like to be able to donate several baskets each month so please continue filling them. There is a flyer in the gathering space listing items needed. Again, thank you so very much!

ANOTHER 'FUN' DAY COMING UP! Be sure to put Tuesday, June 21st on your calendar for our next 'fun' day! We'll meet at the home of Suzanne Lehto at 1PM for a potluck lunch (meat and beverages provided) and spend the afternoon playing lawn games. Bring a friend!

MAY BIBLE STUDY: Our Bible Study for May is titled "Across the Generations"
One act of welcome can beget another. (written by various authors)

Bible study times are: Sarah Circle at noon on Tuesday, May 10th in the Fellowship Hall OR Rebecca/Anna Circle at 1PM on Thursday, May 12th in the Fellowship Hall. If interested, please contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433

**The Christian Mother doesn't love Jesus instead of loving her children.
She loves Jesus by loving her children. by Jen Wilkin**

Health Concerns*



The Power of Prayer

*Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Tom & Lee Miller,
Margie Whitney, Ellie Tacke, Rose Taylor,
Priscilla Thompson, Julie LaPeer, Dirk,
Alvin Kober, Lynn Hoyt, Tom Woodworth,
Jan Waisanen, Molly Eastman, John Stretlien,
Russ Luttinen, Sherry, Leroy Schlagel,
Roy & Marilyn Dumond, Sean Rivard, Brenda Denoyer,
Patti McCracken, Jeffrey Henschell,
Sharon Vanmeter, Margaret Hutchinson,
Carol Collins, Patience Lambert,
Denoyer Family, Chuck Wolterink*

Traverse Manor: Margie Whitney

Boardman Lake Glens: Inge Thomas, Bill & Dee Springer

Samaritas (Acme): Priscilla Thompson

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 jstretlien@gmail.com

*If you would like your name, or the name of a loved one, to appear on this list which appears here and in the weekly bulletin, please call the church office at 947-9880.

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...

BLC Contacts

PLEASE NOTE SEVERAL ADDRESS UPDATES

Church Office

Pastor Paul Busekist	paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org
Admin. Asst. Rebecca Eaton	admin@bethlehemtc.org
Admin. Aide Barbara Oster	admin@bethlehemtc.org
Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson	bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org
, Music Director	
Annie Slabaugh, Youth & Outreach Director	annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org
Website	www.bethlehemtc.org

Church Council

Mark McPherson, President	president.council@bethlehemtc.org
Maureen Bauer, Vice President	vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org
Gail Goldsmith, Secretary	secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
Leonard Graf, Treasurer	treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jim Monroe, Financial Sec.	financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jim Hinds, Christian Care Giving	christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Leonard Graf, Christian Ed.	christianeducation.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Laura Hahn, Fellowship	fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Cindy Monroe, Membership/Evangelism	membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org
, Property	property.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Maureen Bauer, Personnel	personnel.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Scott Farley, Stewardship	stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Denice Bossardet, Worship and Music	worshipmusic.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Paul Wiemerslage, 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).



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>10am - Worship Service(S)</p> <p>11am - Parking Lot</p> <p>11:15am - WELCA Board</p> <p>11:15am - Worship and</p> <p>1pm - Confirmation Class</p> <p>2:45pm - Children's</p>	<p>4pm - Drive My Way</p> <p>6pm - Drive My Way (FH)</p>	<p>9am - LWR Quilters(FH)</p> <p>9am - Property Work Group</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting(CR)</p> <p>4pm - Drive My Way</p> <p>6pm - Drive My Way (FH)</p>	<p>Bulletin articles due today</p> <p>9am - Bible Study(YR)</p> <p>11:30am - Music Rehearsal</p> <p>1:30pm - ZOOM Bible Study</p> <p>4pm - Drive My Way</p> <p>6pm - Drive My Way (FH)</p>	<p>4pm - Drive My Way</p> <p>5:30pm - ACOA</p>		<p>12:30pm - Faith & Family -</p>
<p>10am - Worship Service(S)</p> <p>11am - Parking Lot</p>	<p>4pm - Drive My Way</p> <p>5pm - Finance Cmte.(CR)</p>	<p>9am - LWR Quilters(FH)</p> <p>9am - Property Work Group</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting(CR)</p> <p>12pm - Sarah Circle - FH</p> <p>1pm - Friendship Bible</p> <p>4pm - Drive My Way</p> <p>4:30pm - Executive Comte.</p> <p>6pm - VBS Volunteer Info</p> <p>6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed</p>	<p>Bulletin articles due today</p> <p>9am - Bible Study(YR)</p> <p>11:30am - Music Rehearsal</p> <p>1:30pm - ZOOM Bible Study</p> <p>4pm - Drive My Way</p> <p>5pm - Junior High Night</p>	<p>2pm - Rebecca Anna Circle</p> <p>4pm - Drive My Way</p> <p>5:30pm - ACOA</p> <p>7pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>		
<p>10am - Worship Service(S)</p> <p>11am - Parking Lot</p> <p>1pm - Confirmation Class</p> <p>2:45pm - Children's</p>	<p>4pm - Drive My Way</p>	<p>9am - LWR Quilters(FH)</p> <p>9am - Property Work Group</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting(CR)</p> <p>4pm - Drive My Way</p> <p>6pm - Council Meeting</p> <p>7pm - Lautner SG @ at the</p>	<p>Bulletin articles due today</p> <p>9am - Bible Study(YR)</p> <p>11:30am - Music Rehearsal</p> <p>1:30pm - ZOOM Bible Study</p> <p>4pm - Drive My Way</p>	<p>4pm - Drive My Way</p> <p>5:30pm - ACOA</p> <p>7pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>STAR articles due today</p> <p>10am - Sew Pieciful</p>	<p>5pm - High School Night</p>
<p>10am - Worship Service(S)</p> <p>11am - Parking Lot</p> <p>1pm - Confirmation Class</p>		<p>9am - LWR Quilters(FH)</p> <p>9am - Property Work Group</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting(CR)</p> <p>5:30pm - Book/Supper Club</p> <p>6:30pm - Newcomers</p>	<p>Bulletin articles due today</p> <p>9am - Bible Study(YR)</p> <p>11:30am - Music Rehearsal</p> <p>1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite)</p> <p>1:30pm - ZOOM Bible Study</p>	<p>5:30pm - ACOA</p>	<p>5pm - BLUES Night</p>	<p>9am - All-Star DE</p>
<p>10am - Worship Service(S)</p> <p>11am - Parking Lot</p> <p>2:45pm - Children's</p>		<p>9am - LWR Quilters</p> <p>9am - Property Work Group</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting(CR)</p>				

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BLC MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

We're Making A Difference!

During 2021, the BLC Mission Endowment Fund Committee has worked hard to follow its mission of funding projects on a local and global level. Using only profits on our investments, more than **\$18,000** was disbursed to many organizations in support of our mission, including:

Love Thy Neighbor

Safe Harbor

Lutheran Immigrant & Refugee Services

ELCA World Hunger

ELCA Disaster Relief

Meals on Wheels

Father Fred Foundation

Boardman River Clean Sweep

NW Michigan Supportive Housing

Keys to Freedom

Habitat for Humanity

Generations Ahead

Food Rescue of NW Michigan

Womens Resource Center

Salvation Army

GT Conservation District

Freedom Builders

In comparison, 5 years ago we granted out about \$6000. Our Vanguard funds are serving us well and continue to grow! PLEASE consider recognizing the **BLC Mission Endowment Fund** in your personal **Estate Plans or Year-End Giving!**

If you would like to serve on this incredible committee, or have further questions about giving, please contact any of the current members:

Jim Hutchison

Norm Fred

Barb Wright

Patti Friedli

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