

JANUARY 2021



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880



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

Building Hours: (Currently closed due to Covid 19)
Monday – Thursday, 9am to 3pm

Office Hours: (Currently closed due to Covid 19)
Monday – Thursday, 9am to 3pm

Worship Times:

(In-person worship currently postponed;
offering “virtual worship” due to Covid-19)

Saturday: 5 pm Celebrate! Worship
Sunday: 8:30 am Traditional Worship
9:45 am Educational Hour
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.”



*Oh, star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

-Traditional Hymn ("We Three Kings...")



Dear friends at Bethlehem,

As we enter this new year together, we do so looking East for our morning light, but like the Magi from Matthew's gospel we head Westward toward the Son of God for our Life.

It's a tricky turn of direction and metaphor, but it works. We are guided by the Bethlehem Star always, because it points to our searching ever for the true Light: the Way, Truth and Life of Jesus Christ.

I am sure we all have a lot we would like to leave behind from last year – the challenges of a global pandemic, the stresses of isolation and societal strife, and the economic and other hardships of families, communities and loved ones. But Christ is here, our Savior is born, and we have much to look forward to for 2021!

Here are a few of the ways we are “Westward leading” in the coming weeks at Bethlehem:

- **Hopefully getting back into the sanctuary for in-person worship sometime soon**, *when it is safe to do so*. (I know we all want this, myself included. Believe me, it is much easier to plan for worship when we aren't taping and producing all the time!)
- In the meantime, **we have shifted to a new format for our Real Church Virtual taping that will take up less of Pr. Paul and Annie's time**. These past 10 months, Pr. Paul and Annie have shared the load of taping, editing and producing for Sunday virtual worship, and Pr. Paul has produced the Wednesday content. Staff and volunteers remain very important for readings, assisting ministers and music for both endeavors. Our efficiency will improve by about 50% when we switch to “live recordings” for Sunday virtual worship. That will also serve as a bridge to Live Streaming, with both scenarios less polished but more sustainable – allowing Pr. Paul and Annie get back to their core ministries and what they hope to do most: share moments with you!
- **Live Streaming**, hopefully in place sometime before or during our 2021 Lenten season. Live streamed worship will allow us to have an online presence but do far less recording, because our camera and audio will shift to a setup that requires less precision and hands-on recording; this new way of **streaming and recording** would also be automatically uploaded to the web.
- Finally, **a bylaw revision to modernize our gatherings: see the President's Corner on the next page**. This will allow us to take some of the blessings of online participation we have benefited from during COVID and officially incorporate that potential into our meetings of all types at BLC.

We have much for which we can give thanks, and as always we journey together, with Love!

In peace, Pr. Paul

President's Corner

Seasons Greetings,

I hope that all of you had a merry and blessed Christmas. For about 70 of us, it started with a delightful but somewhat chilly Christmas Eve service on the east lawn of the church.

On January 24, Bethlehem will have its Winter Congregational Meeting to approve its 2021 annual budget. The budget and a bylaw amendment to allow "Electronic Meetings" will be the only items on the agenda. The proposed budget and bylaw changes are included in this "STAR" for your review. This will be an in-person meeting so if you are comfortable with this, please attend.

Bethlehem is still in need of a treasurer. If you have some background in finances and might be interested fulfilling this need, please contact me or anyone on the Council.

My wish for the New Year (in addition to seeing lots of birds) is that Bethlehem will have, sooner rather than later, in-person worship services.

Have a very happy 2021,
Leonard G.

NOTICE for Winter Congregational Meeting

Bethlehem Lutheran Church will hold its Winter Congregational Meeting to approve its 2021 budget on **January 24, 2021 at 10:00a.m.**

Also on the agenda will be an amendment to Bethlehem's bylaws as follows:

BL11.01. Electronic Meetings

The Church Council may approve the use of Electronic Meetings for meetings of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

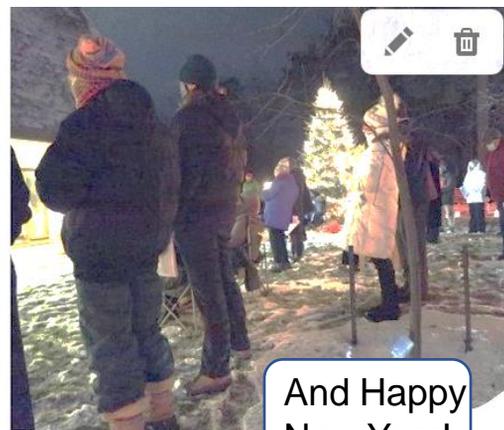
***Members will be able to view and listen to the January 24th meeting, but they will **not** be allowed to vote or fully participate at this time. We will need an in-person quorum to pass both items on the agenda. Check your church email for Zoom login and other electronic details.*

Year End Financial Report

December income came in at \$26,876 compared to a budget of \$36,256 resulting in a shortage of income against budget of \$9,380. On the expense side we came in at \$36,710 compared to a budget of \$32,886 resulting in spending \$3,824 over budget. From a cash flow perspective, income of \$26,876 did not cover expense of \$36,710 leaving us short \$9,834 for the month. The shortfall is largely due to \$7,926 lower monthly/weekly giving, \$1,956 lower Christmas giving and higher expense from three payroll periods in December.

Year to date results paint a much better picture. For the full 12 months of the year our income was \$371,788 against a budget of \$393,322 resulting in a shortage of \$21,534. Expense was \$371,496 against a budget of \$393,300 resulting in lower expense by \$21,804. Comparing actual income and expense against a pre-Covid budget is really meaningless. Life and worship has been turned upside down so a more accurate way to look at how we did is to focus on cash flow...the same as we do in our personal lives. From a cash flow perspective we ended up the year in a breakeven position. Our income covered expense in a very difficult year. While income was significantly down...our expenses were correspondingly also down enabling us to live within our means.

2021 Giving envelopes are available. Please call the church office to make arrangements to pick up your box. Those boxes not picked up will be mailed.



And Happy
New Year!

Merry Christmas from Bethlehem to YOU!!!

Photos from our outdoor Christmas Eve "Story and Carols" service... What a wonderful night!

Safe Harbor is looking for volunteers soon. Please see the page further in this STAR for more details! 😊

PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET

Income

Council Presentation 12.15.2020

	2021 Proposed Budget	2020 Budget	Variance
41000 · Contributions			
41001 · Offerings-Congregational	330,244	338,689	(8,445)
41002 · Offerings-Congregation-nonELCA	14,732	15,072	(340)
41200 · Offerings-Advent & Christmas	1,750	3,375	(1,625)
41300 · Offerings-Lent & Easter	1,800	2,074	(274)
41500 · Offerings-Initial	254	254	-
41600 · OfferingsThanksgiving	125	104	21
41700 · Receipts-Budget Gap	0	-	-
41800 · Offering-VBS	50	1,000	(950)
Total 41000 · Contributions	348,955	360,568	(11,613)
41900 · Other Operating Income			
41910 · Receipts-Other	5,400	8,400	(3,000)
41921 · Receipts-Fellowship	460	453	7
41922 · Receipts-Altar Flowers	1,705	2,159	(454)
41923 · Receipts-Key Deposits	0	-	-
41924 · Receipts-Special Events	0	-	-
41940 · Receipts-The Lutheran	75	51	24
41941 · Worship & Music Fundraising	0	510	(510)
41950 · Receipts-Addtl Principal Pmts	60	40	20
41953 · Designated Gifts-Sustaining End	0	-	-
Total 41900 · Other Operating Income	7,700	11,613	(3,913)
41990 · Transfers In-Budgeted			
41992 · Transfer In-Music & Worship	544	545	(1)
41994 · Transfer in-Challenge Grant	0	-	-
Total 41990 · Transfers In-Budgeted	544	545	(1)
42000 · Donations to be Distributed			
42001 · Donations-Special	0	170	(170)
42002 · Donations-World Hunger	0	180	(180)
42003 · Donations-Missionary	0	60	(60)
42004 · Other Receipts Due	0	798	(798)
42005 · Perquisites to be Distributed	0	-	-
42006 · Donations-Sunday School	0	329	(329)
Total 42000 · Donations to be Distributed	0	1,537	(1,537)
49000 · Non-Operating Income			
41901 · Grant Income	250	750	(500)
41906-Special Donation-Safe Harbor	800	-	800
41902 · Revenue-Craft Fair	550	1,600	(1,050)
41903 · Building Use-Coop Nursery	0	3,600	(3,600)
41904 · Star Ad Revenue	1,008	2,304	(1,296)
41955 · Rent Income-Rental Property	11,340	-	11,340
41998 · Interest Income-General Fund	204	195	9
48010 · Anonymous Groups	900	1,800	(900)
48015 · Drivers Education	5,400	5,200	200
48020 · Sun Radius	0	550	(550)
48090 · Other Building Use	2,230	3,068	(838)
Total 49000 · Non-Operating Income	22,682	19,067	3,615
Total Income	379,881	393,330	(13,449)

PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET

	2021 Proposed Budget	2020 Budget	Variance
51000 · Contribution Expense			
51001 · Support-Synod	20,295	20,654	(359)
51002 · Mission Support/Designated	404	1,129	(725)
Total 51000 · Contribution Expense	20,699	21,783	(1,084)
51400 · Administration			
51401 · Delegate Expenses	0	700	(700)
51402 · Insurance-Workers' Comp	744	736	8
51403 · Insurance-Building/Umbrella	4,860	4,324	536
51404 · Mailings and Postage	3,110	2,100	1,010
51405 · Office Supplies	1,800	2,886	(1,086)
51407 · Telephone	4,524	3,312	1,212
51408 · Maintenance Contract	7,680	6,648	1,032
51409 · Bank Service Charges	372	420	(48)
51410 · Administration Expense	20	3,600	(3,580)
51412 · Rental Expenses	5,225	1,800	3,425
51413 · Computer Service	125	600	(475)
51414 · Website Expense	384	432	(48)
51417 · Principal Payments-Additional	60	40	20
51418 · CRM Software	480	360	120
51440 · Web Development	0	-	-
51450 · PR Processing Fee	1,508	1,615	(107)
51451 · Asset Replacement - Blds & Impr	3,600	-	3,600
51460 · Debt Reduction-Principal	49,002	47,921	1,081
51461 · Debt Reduction-Interest	10,590	11,674	(1,084)
Total 51400 · Administration	94,084	89,168	4,916
51500 · Personnel-Pastoral Staff			
51501 · Pastor-Salary	36,544	35,132	1,412
51502 · Pastor-Housing	25,681	24,935	746
51503 · Pastor-FICA Contribution	4,760	4,595	165
51504 · Pastor-Health/Salary Increment	11,016	9,100	1,916
51505 · Pastor-Pension/Health	18,389	18,829	(440)
51507 · Pastor-Car Reimbursement	660	650	10
51508 · Pastor-Continuing Education	1,000	1,000	-
51510 · Pastor-Professional Library	500	500	-
51521 · Dir of Youth & Outreach-Salary	24,967	24,650	317
51529 · Dir of Youth & Outreach-FICA	1,910	1,886	24
51540 · Pastoral Supply	2,000	2,025	(25)
Total 51500 · Personnel-Pastoral Staff	127,427	123,302	4,125
51700 · Personnel-Music & Program Staff			
51701 · Wages-Organist	9,012	9,767	(755)
51702 · Wages-Choir Director	0	-	-
51703 · Stipend-Hand Bell Choir	500	1,881	(1,381)
51704 · Stipend-Celebrate Pianist	0	4,601	(4,601)
51706 · Stipend-Special Musicians	3,840	2,912	928
51707 · Salary-Music Coordinator	14,130	16,594	(2,464)
51708 · Stipend-Steel Pans Director	425	1,076	(651)
51780 · FICA Employer	1,770	1,782	(12)
Total 51700 · Personnel-Music & Program Staff	29,677	38,613	(8,936)
51800 · Personnel-Support Staff			
51801 · Wages-Administrative Assistant	17,290	13,567	3,723
51802 · Office Assistant Wages	0	-	-
51803 · Wages-Administrative Aide	4,966	5,409	(443)
51805 · Wages-Bookkeeper	12,500	10,944	1,556
51806 · Wages-Nursery Attendant	516	1,000	(484)
51807 · Office Staff Coverage	0	-	-
51808 · Audit/Accounting Assistant	325	400	(75)
51810 · FICA Employer	2,678	2,627	51
51820 · Stipend-Custodian	0	10,613	(10,613)
51830 · Staff Increases	0	3,401	(3,401)
51821-Live Streaming Tech. Support	2,520	-	2,520
Total 51800 · Personnel-Support Staff	40,795	47,961	(7,166)
52000 · Property Management			
52003 · Custodial Supplies	1,535	2,700	(1,165)
52004 · Electricity	18,680	18,970	(290)
52005 · Waste	756	756	-

52006 · Heat	11,770	11,700	70
52008 · Maintenance Fees	2,335	2,930	(595)
52009 · Snow Removal	4,920	4,100	820
52010 · Equipment Purchases	1,605	1,400	205
52012 · Miscellaneous Repairs	5,450	8,550	(3,100)
52013 · Grounds Upkeep	740	4,200	(3,460)
52020 · Custodial Services	10,560	-	10,560
Total 52000 · Property Management	58,351	55,306	3,045
52100 · Christian Education			
52101 · Sunday School Supplies	1,150	1,600	(450)
52102 · Confirmation	100	100	-
52103 · Adult Education	300	300	-
52105 · Vacation Bible School	1,000	1,000	-
52110 · Wednesday Church Night	450	450	-
Total 52100 · Christian Education	3,000	3,450	(450)
52200 · Social Ministry			
52201 · Local Social Concerns	0	-	-
54006 · Special Donation - Safe Harbor	800	-	800
Total 52200 · Social Ministry	800	-	800
52300 · Stewardship			
52302 · Program Expense	100	250	(150)
52303 · Giving Envelopes	390	450	(60)
Total 52300 · Stewardship	490	700	(210)
52400 · Worship and Music			
52402 · Literature	0	-	-
52403 · Altar Supplies	530	600	(70)
52404 · Music	100	100	-
52405 · Repair/Tuning-Piano/Organ	1,700	2,000	(300)
52406 · Jubilee	0	400	(400)
52407 · Special Music-Guitar Group	275	-	275
52408 · Music Supplies	610	500	110
52409 · Flowers	1,880	1,298	582
52410 · Special Occasion Flowers	610	602	8
Total 52400 · Worship and Music	5,705	5,500	205
52500 · Christian Caregiving			
52501 · Caregiving Expense	0	283	(283)
Total 52500 · Christian Caregiving	0	283	(283)
52600 · Long Range Planning			
52601 · Long Range Planning	0	40	(40)
Total 52600 · Long Range Planning	0	40	(40)
52700 · Membership			
52702 · Membership Expenses	120	300	(180)
Total 52700 · Membership	120	300	(180)
52800 · Fellowship			
52801 · Fellowship Expenses	720	1,320	(600)
52802 · Coffee	540	1,140	(600)
Total 52800 · Fellowship	1,260	2,460	(1,200)
52900 · Evangelism			
52902 · Publicity	820	1,560	(740)
52903 · Christ in Our Home	540	600	(60)
52904 · Evangelism Program Expense	100	150	(50)
52905 · The Lutheran	400	435	(35)
52906 · Small Groups	0	150	(150)
Total 52900 · Evangelism	1,860	2,895	(1,035)
53900 · Distribution of Contributions			
53901 · Distributions-Special	0	215	(215)
53902 · World Hunger Distribution	0	180	(180)
53903 · Distribution-Missionary	0	60	(60)
53904 · Other Distributions	0	798	(798)
53905 · Perquisite Distribution	0	-	-
53906 · Sunday School Offerings Dist	0	316	(316)
Total 53900 · Distribution of Contributions	0	1,569	(1,569)
Total Expense	384,268	393,330	(9,062)
Total Income	379,881	393,330	(13,449)
Net Income / Loss	(4,387)	-	(4,387)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City Michigan

"We Journey with God to serve with Love"

Minutes from Church Council Meeting: November 17, 2020

CALLED TO ORDER: Leonard Graf at 6:07 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Maureen Bauer read from "Encourage Each Other Daily" by Brian Kyper, Book of Hebrews.

ROLL CALL: Gail Goldsmith; Phil Anderson, Pastor Paul Busekist, Nancy Downer, Gail Goldsmith, Leonard Graf, Laura Hahn, Mark McPherson, Jim Monroe present. Present by Zoom: Maureen Bauer, Cindy Monroe, Paul Wiemerslage. Absent: Jan Stretlien,

VISITOR/S OR CONGREGATIONAL COMMENT: Chuck Ardingo to discuss Safe Harbor: BLC will be providing Safe Harbor staffing for the week of February 6th through the 9th, 2021. Due to COVID-19 changes, there is a need for 12 volunteers per day for 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 for breakfast; dinner volunteers are only in the kitchen due to dinners being packaged up; volunteers also needed from 6:15 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Trainings are on line this year, everyone will wear masks and gloves. There is a need for Coordinator's for Safe Harbor during this week.

Dave Pepler to present the 2021 Budget update: The budget is not balanced yet, but we will need the Congregational Pledge information. There have been a few changes in the budget since last Council meeting with projections for the needs for 2021.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mark McPherson made the motion to approve the Agenda, Nancy Downer seconded the motion, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM: October 20, 2020. Mark McPherson made the motion to approve the minutes, Leonard Graf seconded the motion, the motion carried. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM November 8th Special Council meeting: Nancy made the motion to approve the corrected minutes, Leonard seconded the motion, the motion carried.

REPORTS:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Leonard thanked Pastor Paul for all of the work he does setting up to have the Zoom meeting.

PASTOR'S REPORT: 1.) Pastor Paul stated he attended a Pastors' meeting and they are dealing with change in their primary rolls. The Government Restrictions on COVID-19 all counties in Michigan are at Level E, the highest level of COVID cases. In the pastors' meeting they discussed strategies and they don't feel they can go back to In-Person Worship until the numbers go back to Level C.

2.) Zoom is working well after much work and purchased an IT cord. 3.) Virtual Worship takes taping 3 times Anne can help on Wednesdays, and there is Choir and Virtual Worship. He is able to do Worship and Bible Study, however fatigue is setting in. 4.) Live Stream could be with an empty sanctuary. The Network, WIFI is not working well, the firewall is old. Steve from Netsmart indicated that to install the switch and firewall is approximately \$1000.00 an additional cost for Live Stream. 5.) The Pastor from Suttons Bay does Live Stream with a remote and has a single camera and can move to focus where they want it. Anne and Pastor Paul will look for alternative ways this may work to have something we can afford. 6.) We have to figure what we will do

for Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve so we can start advertising for them. 7.) Pledge Sunday was going to be in person, but that is changed now, due to no In-Person Worship. Stewardship Committee will look into how we will do it now. The message needs to be simple and try to get the pledges back by December 1st. 8.) Pastor will check with Carl Lehto to see if the Ionizer will work with the church's system. It will cost about \$1000.00. 9.) Advent and Blue Christmas will be with 3 other pastors and BLC. We are joining with Suttons Bay, Acme and Lake Ann for the virtual services. 10.) At this time WBLC will end on Wednesday evenings.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT: Jim Monroe the Financial Report stands on its own. The trend is close to projected budget, it is strong. The short fall is in the non-pledged income.

CONSENT CALENDAR: COMMITTEE REPORTS: The committee reports are: Financial Secretary's report, Financial and Executive Committee report, Christian Care Report, Christian Education Report, Membership and Evangelism, Personnel Report, Property Report, Stewardship Report, Worship and Music, Youth/Y2A Report, Fellowship Report (no report due to no activity due to COVID-19), Visions Report, Endowment Fund Report (Quarterly) and Sustaining Endowment Memorial Fund Report (Quarterly). All reports submitted were accepted as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Criteria for opening In-Person Worship services including Christmas Eve Services. Discussion: New Normal Workgroup can help in the planning of these services. Maureen Bauer made the motion to have Virtual Services through Christmas with an outdoor mini service on Christmas Eve with a reading, prayers and Christmas Carols. There will be music for Parking Lot Communion weekly. Cindy Monroe seconded the motion, the motion carried.
- B. Live Stream update, no update at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Set date for winter congregational meeting. Mark McPherson made the motion to set the date of January 24, 2021 for the Congregational meeting. Leonard seconded the motion and the motion carried.

VISITOR OR CONGREGATIONAL COMMENT: see above.

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

LORD'S PRAYER: was said by all.

ADJOURNMENT: Mark McPherson made a motion to adjourn, Laura Hahn seconded the motion, adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Goldsmith, Council Secretary

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

Howdy Bethlehem! It's here! It's finally 2021! I hope you all had an amazing Christmas and New Years and are looking forward to an exciting year.

JANUARY HAPPENINGS ...

We are continuing to film **Children's Messages every other Thursday at 6:15PM!** If you are not receiving the Zoom link and would like to please reach out to me!



Just like the fall semester, during the spring semester this year all of the **Youth Groups** will be doing something similar. For the month of January, we will be having a game night at Bethlehem unless we have to switch to virtual upon which we will go on a virtual field trip instead! If you have a youth interested in attending, please reach out to me in order to obtain and read the **Youth Gathering Guidelines** for this COVID season and to find out if we are meeting in person or virtual.

The **BLUES Group** will have their Game Night on **Friday, January 29th.**

The **Junior High School Group** will have their Game Night on **Wednesday, January 13th.**

The **High School Group** will have their Game Night on **Saturday, January 16th.**

I am still offering **One on Ones** to all of the youth in a virtual capacity. These can be done and be arranged when it is convenient for you and your families! Just reach out to me if you are interested and we can figure out a time.

We will be resuming **Confirmation** this semester on **Sunday, January 31st.** We will begin this semester by doing virtual classes and then after Lenten Season we will transition to a hybrid virtual/in person class scenario as long as the COVID numbers show that it is safe enough to do so. Any questions feel free to reach out to Pastor Paul or myself.

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

As we go into this New Year I ask that you keep Bethlehem's kids and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare for the upcoming year along with all of it's challenges!

"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

Cheerfully in Christ,

Annie Slabaugh

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

BLC Book Club News

The BLC book club is excited that another author is going to join us for a discussion of their book on ZOOM. On Tuesday Jan 26 at 5:30 we will discuss *The Marsh King's Daughter* by Karen Dionne. The author lives part of the time in northern Michigan and the setting of the book is in Michigan. There are still 2 library copies of the book in the big box on the ground by the front door of the church if you want to borrow one. Just let Cindy Monroe know if you take one or if you want to join in the fun of the discussion at cmonroe@chartermi.net



STAR and Bulletin Deadlines

To be sure that your article or announcement is in STAR or Bulletin issue that you want, please note the following deadlines:

STAR: by the third Wednesday of the month

Bulletin: by the Wednesday before each weekend

Submission by email is preferred (admin@bethlehemtc.org) with either the word STAR or Bulletin in the subject line. Please write exactly what you want in the article or announcement. Be sure to include all pertinent information about your event, i.e. dates, time, location, etc. You can put it in the body of the email or as an attachment as a Word doc or .pdf. Also, please include the month(s) for the STAR issue or the date(s) for the Bulletin issue that you need your article or announcement included. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Oster at admin@bethlehemtc.org

Please do not send these to Sharon.Weller@bethlehemtc.org as this is Sharon's music email and Barbara does not have access to this email. Barbara is the only one who prepares the Star and Bulletin and she shares the admin@bethlehemtc.org email with Sharon.

The Bethlehem Bell Ringers, totaling 23 people, did very well in ringing bells for the Salvation Army red kettles on December 11 and December 12 at Tom's East Bay Market. The ringers were Mary Ann Tanis, Sharon Weller, Phil Anderson, Jim Monroe, Dale and Barbara Wentsloff, Sue Allen, Sandy Parkinson, Kay Rumbach, Chuck and Kris Ardingo, Jason and Shelly Carpenter, Cindy Monroe, Donna Novak, Janet and Betty Cole, Patty Leibenguth, Erin Freye, Jim Hinds, and Carl and Suzanne Lehto. Had we needed another ringer Don Sheehan was willing to ring also. On Friday the donations totaled \$920.00, on Saturday when it was very windy and snowy the total was \$567.68, making the grand total \$1,487.68. The Salvation Army greatly appreciates our efforts very much. I have talked to several of the ringers and they all said they enjoyed ringing and would like to do it again. To all of them I say thank you and Merry Christmas.

Carl Lehto

A big thank you to those who have turned in Oleson's receipts. For 2020, we received a total of \$545.66. Please continue saving your Oleson's receipts for Bethlehem. Please drop them off in the bin under the mailbox counter. Thanks.

STAR delivery

Hasn't it been a blessing to have the STAR delivered to your home the past few months? Thanks so much to 2 cherished members who dedicated their time and monetary donation so this could occur. While we continue to have limited/reduced weekend services the membership committee is proposing the following: The STAR will be available for dispersal the first Sunday of the month. For those of you who can make it to the weekend service and/or communion you will be asked to pick-up your paper STAR. Or, if you prefer to read yours on-line you will be asked to notify the committee. Committee members will mark off those who have received their STAR so paper copies will only be sent to those who do not have one. This way we can make certain that everyone is receiving all of the Hot-off-the-press news and also do this in the most cost-effective manner. Hope to see as many of you as possible on the first Sunday of the month.

Christian Education News January 2021

did you know?



Sunday School Ministry:

Although we are not having in-person Sunday School yet, the Christian Education Committee is continuing to mail materials for at-home Sunday School lessons! If you would like to receive a January packet for your child(ren), please contact Nancy Ammann.

Christian Education is covering the postage costs for this special ministry to our own BLC SS Kids, but we've also been able to reach out and share these special lesson resources! Bethany Lutheran Church in Northport has been unable to hold Sunday School and heard about our efforts; as a result of our planning, Bethany Lutheran Northport began following our "long-distance" program model, and they are mailing our special SS packets to their own young children! We feel so blessed to share God's love with others!!!

Christmas Care Packages:

Christian Education mailed a lovely Christmas surprise for each of our BLC Sunday School children with an ornament, card, candy, and coloring sheets to remind them of the love of Jesus during this special season!

We love & miss all of you so very much!



Happy New Year!

May the faith of God be with you this year.
May the peace of God surround you, ☩
and may you be blessed each day!

Happy New Year

-Christian Education Committee

Christian Education

Christmas Care

Packages

Were received

and enjoyed



Makena

and

Lincoln

Dohm

Safe Harbor Volunteer Service

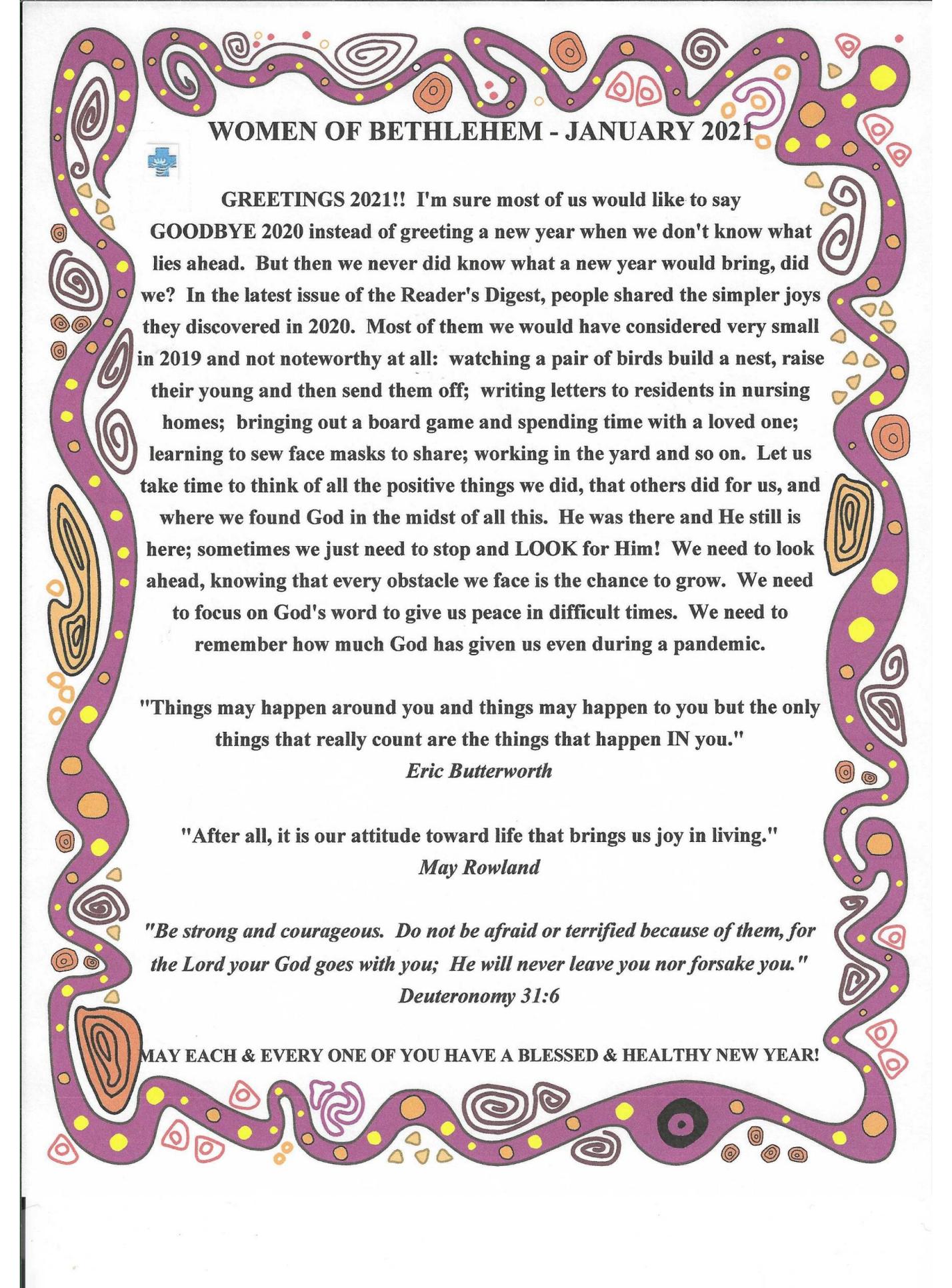
BLC will provide volunteer support at the Safe Harbor Emergency Housing Shelter for the period Saturday, February 6 through Tuesday, February 9. This is our part of a shared full week of service with the Northern Lakes Community Church. The shelter has been operating successfully since November. Goodwill staff are present to directly supervise guests during the 6 pm to 10 am period the shelter is open. Volunteers serve in the following two ways:

Evening meal preparation. Groups in the congregation have already committed to provide these meals. Those involved with meal preparation and dinner service will not have duties outside the kitchen.

Evening Hosts. Four volunteers, men or women, are needed each evening from 5:00 to 10:00 pm. Evening Hosts work with the Goodwill staff to assist the check-in of guests, to dispense medications, to support coffee service and to sanitize the dining area. Guests will eat in shifts at tables divided by plexiglass shields. Otherwise, guests will lounge in an outside heated tent and sleep in bunks that are separated from one another by plastic sheeting.

It is not expected that BLC will provide all the needed volunteers. Community volunteers are available to assist our efforts. Our goal is cover as many evenings as possible with groups of four BLC volunteers who are comfortable working with persons they know. To volunteer please send an email Jim Hutchison, hutchison@alma.edu specifying what evenings you are available to serve. He will organize our volunteers into service groups. You will not be asked to serve for more than one evening. Please respond as soon as possible, but no later than January 25 to allow time to recruit community volunteers to fill vacancies. Please call Jim, 231-668-1916, for more information and consult the volunteer handbook on the web site gtsafeharbor.org/volunteers/.

Shelter operating procedures are designed to provide a safe environment for both guests and volunteers. Guests and volunteers are given temperature checks before they are admitted. To date no guest has been diagnosed with the Covid-19 virus. We are not asking you to volunteer out of a sense of obligation to our congregation. Rather we seek volunteers who are comfortable with working at the shelter and who are motivated by a personal desire to participate in this ministry of service to others in this difficult time.



WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - JANUARY 2021



GREETINGS 2021!! I'm sure most of us would like to say **GOODBYE 2020** instead of greeting a new year when we don't know what lies ahead. But then we never did know what a new year would bring, did we? In the latest issue of the Reader's Digest, people shared the simpler joys they discovered in 2020. Most of them we would have considered very small in 2019 and not noteworthy at all: watching a pair of birds build a nest, raise their young and then send them off; writing letters to residents in nursing homes; bringing out a board game and spending time with a loved one; learning to sew face masks to share; working in the yard and so on. Let us take time to think of all the positive things we did, that others did for us, and where we found God in the midst of all this. He was there and He still is here; sometimes we just need to stop and **LOOK** for Him! We need to look ahead, knowing that every obstacle we face is the chance to grow. We need to focus on God's word to give us peace in difficult times. We need to remember how much God has given us even during a pandemic.

"Things may happen around you and things may happen to you but the only things that really count are the things that happen IN you."

Eric Butterworth

"After all, it is our attitude toward life that brings us joy in living."

May Rowland

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:6

MAY EACH & EVERY ONE OF YOU HAVE A BLESSED & HEALTHY NEW YEAR!



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

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

Boundless: Stories of Christ's Abounding Love and Grace Our Continuing Global Response to COVID-19

Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission in the United States

In Rock Point, Arizona Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission responded to COVID-19 by providing meals and clean Drinking water for people in need. Watch the video at: www.ELCA.org/ChurchTogetherRockPoint.

Safe spaces for Children in Serbia

Once the state of emergency for COVID-19 was lifted in Serbia, Church World Service's Safe Space for Street Children program focused on providing children with food, clean clothes and bathing at its drop-in shelter. The program has also run COVID-19 prevention workshops and individual counseling sessions. The ELCA is a participant in the Safe Spaces for Street Children Program.

Gloria Dei Lutheran church in the United States

In Huntington Station, N.Y., Gloria Dei Lutheran church doubled the work of its food pantry in response to COVID-19. Gloria Dei grew its ministry by working with food banks and other partners in its community – and with the help of an ELCA World Hunger Daily Bread Matching Grant. Watch the video at: www.ELCA.org/ChurchTogetherNewYork.

The "Infohut" Project in Namibia

The "Infohut" project of the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa trains youth in computer skills, life skills and HIV prevention. "Infohut" has also trained teachers in using online platforms and new technology amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants were involved in the "Infohut" project last winter, before the onset of the pandemic.

**Gifts to ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response and the COVID-10 Response Fund are making an impact around the world.
More information is available at: www.elca.org**

Honoring God's Creation

Ways to Help save God's Creation when online shopping

1. Try to give a flexible delivery date. This makes it possible for trucks to combine orders with others
2. Order carefully . Returns cause pollution.
3. Try to place all orders from the same company at the same time. This saves on packaging and transportation.
4. Recycle

Regulating Ballast Water on the Great Lakes

The time for ballast water regulation in the Great Lake System has not been extended This may be in the news soon. Ballast water is water that the ship adds for balance it when it is not carrying a load. Regulations prevent ballast water from the ocean to be discharged in the Great Lake system. This helps to prevent invasive species. The regulations being considered are discharge of ballast water from one part of the Great Lakes to another. For example, there could be a species in Lake Erie that would not be welcome in Lake Superior.



Health Concerns*



The Power of Prayer

*Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Tom Miller, Margie Whitney, Jo Hasse,
Ellie Tacke, Priscilla Thompson, Julie LaPeer,
Marleen Baesch, Alvin Kober, Lynn Hoyt, Thad Hellenga,
Jan Waisanen, Molly Eastman, Harper Wiemerslage,
Ben Farley, Jennifer Mowers, John Stretlien,
Roy & Marilyn Dumond, Shawn Rivard, Brenda Denoyer,
Betty Evans and Jeffrey Hentschel*

Homebound: Marleen Baesch

Traverse Manor: Margie Whitney, Marinan Bradford

French Manor LaFranier: Jo Hasse

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. Sharon Weller	admin@bethlehemtc.org
Admin. Aide Barbara Oster	admin@bethlehemtc.org
Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson	bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org
Sharon Weller, Music Director	sharon.weller@bethlehemtc.org
Annie Slabaugh, Youth & Outreach Director	annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org
Website	www.bethlehemtc.org

Church Council

Leonard Graf, President	Email address in process
Mark McPherson, Vice President	Email address in process
Gail Goldsmith, Secretary	Email address in process
, Treasurer	treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jim Monroe, Financial Sec.	financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jan Stretlien, Christian Care Giving	christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org
, Christian Ed.	christianeducation@bethlehemtc.org
Laura Hahn, Fellowship	Email address in process
Cindy Monroe, Membership/Evangelism	membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org
, Property (Phil Anderson) Not on Council)	property.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Maureen Bauer, Personnel	Email address in process
Mark McPherson, Stewardship	stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Nancy Downer, Worship and Music	worship.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).



REYNOLDS JONKHOFF
Funeral Home & Cremation Services

305 Sixth St. 947-6347

www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com

For six generations... the Jonkhoff family and caring staff are the ones you can trust and depend on... today and tomorrow.



We can help with Cemetery Burial, Natural Burial in the green section of the cemetery, Body Donation, and Cremation.

Cost friendly,
Locally owned and
not franchised

Be an informed consumer... Call to see why your friends and neighbors choose Life Story

231-941-9034

**100 Hammond Rd. W.,
Traverse City, MI**
East of Garfield and next to
Traversefield Industrial Park

Levon M. Seavolt, Owner/Manager



Monthly donation: 1/16 page \$25; 1/8 \$50; 1/4 \$80. Pay for a year in full---get 1 Month Free Questions??? Please contact Barbara Wright 231-735-3227 or mzbright9006@yahoo.com or Renae Wells at 616-204-8900 or wellsrenae17411@gmail.com. Make checks payable to BLC...put Renae Wells name on envelope.

Smile. God loves you. 😊

Shalom, and do not be afraid.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church (ELCA)
1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
www.bethlehemtc.org
231.947.9880