

AUGUST 2021



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880



AUGUST

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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
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.”



⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. – Philippians 1:9-11 (NRSV)



Greetings, Bethlehemers.

I offer you salutations from the final days of my renewal time, which began on July 14th and concluded on August 3rd...Now with those three weeks behind us, I can tell you they were abundant with refreshment, reflection and a true sense of renewal. I plan to share some deeper thoughts moving forward in the next few weeks and months, but a few ideas seem appropriate to share early on.

First, I am thankful. The opportunity for pause and rejuvenation simply would not have been possible without a supportive church, council, staff and colleagues willing to assist in making this happen. Perhaps it goes without saying, but I am truly thankful also for my family, who both accompanied me and adjusted their lives for parts of that time as well.

Second, I would like to encourage you all to take some time – whether it's an hour, or a day, or any duration you can afford – to **pause and reflect on how much you have been affected by** the last year and a half, how the Holy Spirit sparked creativity in you personally to adapt and grow during that time, and how God may be speaking to you now.

And finally, it is only after reflection that true discernment can begin. Those exercises and states of mind are not one and the same, as I once thought; nor can discernment be short-circuited. **I believe that Bethlehem may be entering a state of discernment and rich pause for what lies ahead.** After exactly ten years in ministry together (as of August 4th), reflection and discernment are both necessary and healthy for how best to enter a new chapter of ministry as a church. The moment is also ripening for us to re-group and emerge from Covid with a new sense of purpose and pondering.

In other words, the Spirit calls us all to re-invent ourselves, with and through the power of Christ. With our mutual sense of vision and ministry hopefully once again on the horizon, I look forward to embracing that conversation with you soon.

With much peace and joy,

Pr. Paul

p.s. One somewhat random and fun thing of note: I went to seminary with Christie Manisto and her husband Steven Saari, the Lutheran missionary featured in this month's Global Link (on page 11 of this STAR newsletter.) They are wonderful people, and what a joy to see Steve participating in such a bright and fun "Hollywood" spot!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City Michigan

"We Journey with God to serve with Love"

MINUTES TO CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: June 15, 2021

CALLED TO ORDER: Leonard Graff at 6:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Mark McPherson read from the book When God Winks on the coincident that Adams and Jefferson both died on July 4th.

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

VISITOR/S OR CONGREGATIONAL COMMENT: none present

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: the agenda was approved with additions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM May 18, 2021: Mark McPherson made the motion to approve the minutes with corrections, Cindy Monroe seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with corrections

REPORTS:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT; Leonard Graf would like to thank Barbara Oster who sent him the Call to Order for the congregational meeting. He also gave an update on the Trapp Grant for the food kiosk. Leonard and Norm Fred will work on the building and have it completed by December. The cost will be \$220 to \$250 with the rest of the \$200 going to supplies.

PASTOR'S REPORT: 1.) Pastor thanked the 20-21 Council in granting him Renewal Time this summer to refresh , recharge and re-tool with family (and in retreat). This past year and a half with COVID and transition was a challenging year but also a transformative one. He will begin his renewal time on a Wednesday and return on August 4th. The timing is symbolic it is a milestone to reflect upon and celebrate the exact 10 year anniversary of his first day on the job at Bethlehem. The only day he plans on dialing in will be for the July 20th Council meeting, if his flight back from St. Louis is on time. That is an important meeting and he hopes to be present for that moment of transition.

Sunday worship and pastoral care urgencies/emergencies will be covered by different ministers as follows:

Week 1; July 14th-20th

Worship Leader, Sunday July 18th, 2021: Rev Lucy Wachter Webb (Presbyterian) preaching and presiding

Pressing pastoral needs coverage: Pastor Jonathan Reed (ELCA, Immanuel- Suttons Bay

Week 2; July 21st-27th

Worship Leader, Sunday July 25th, 2021: Reverend Dick Morrison (Methodist) preaching and presiding,

Pressing pastoral needs coverage: Peggy Burns SAM (Synodically Authorized Minister)(ELCA Lutheran From Advent- Lake Ann)

Week 3; July 28th- August 3rd

Worship Leader Sunday August 1st, 2021: Peggy Burns preaching (ELCA SAM) and Reverend Ruth Overdier presiding.

Pressing pastoral needs coverage: Peggy Burns SAM.

Music selections for worship Pastor has been getting out ahead of the upcoming weeks and plan to have all the music for the 3 weekends and the weekend of his return planned and rehearsed with the band by July 8th.

Pastor's plans during his renewal time will be spent largely in visiting, relaxing and various forms of prayer and renewal.

2.) Pastor reported that Yellow Wood Media has made a video with interviews of those involved with the Sacred Ground Garden and he will do the editing. It will go out on Facebook and Youtube and it was recommended that it go out on the news media also. 3.) New Normal are discussing how 2 services will look and will invite Christian Education to meet with them so see how it will look. Also how the services will look with Media Staff and the electronic age.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT: Jim Monroe stated June funds are running low, but that is not unusual for the past 3 years it has been low.

CONSENT CALENDAR: COMMITTEE REPORTS: The committee reports are:

Financial Secretary's report; Financial and Executive Committee report; Christian Care Report, Jan Stretlien gave her report orally before submitting it to council As she is leaving the Council after 7 years. Jan wants to make sure that when a member passes that that person is recognized, not to forget anniversaries and ask the congregation of what they want for services on Saturday and Sunday. Christian Care is important to the community, have the flowers to honor, remember and memorializes our congregational members and homebound member, offer communion to our homebound members, make sure the Christian Care representative is on Council, and to thank Sue Ellen for her wonderful caring cards that she sends; Membership and Evangelism; Personnel Report; Property Report; Stewardship Report; Worship and Music; Youth/Y2A Report; Fellowship Report; Visions Report; Endowment Fund Report (Quarterly) and Sustaining Endowment Memorial Fund Report (Quarterly). All reports submitted on file.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Update on Sacred Ground update from Leonard Graf: The garden was planted June 5th with 12 volunteers. It went very quickly with so much help. We would like to have the sign explaining the garden in place by the August open house/ice cream social.
- B. Update on Payroll Protection Plan from Jim Monroe: The funds have been spent and it is time to apply for the loan forgiveness. Cindy Monroe made the motion to file the application for the forgiveness for the PPP loan and to authorize James Monroe to certify and sign for the application for forgiveness, which will be online. Jan Stretlien seconded the motion and the motion carried. Phil Anderson stated he will keep the documents for 4 years.
- C. Update on Pastoral Renewal; Maureen Bauer reports, Pastor will be taking 3 consecutive weeks in July to recharge. ; Maureen Bauer wanted to thank Pastor Paul for his working out coverage for his Renewal Time.

- D. Worship Services restrictions: Mark McPherson made the motion to end contact tracing as of July 1st, 2021 when the state restrictions are lifted. Maureen Bauer seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- E. Mark McPherson made the motion to end the caps on persons in the sanctuary and the building on July 1st, 2021 when the state restrictions are lifted. Jan Stretlien seconded the motion, the motion carried.
- F. Anne Franko's communication: Leonard stated the communication to have Anne remove her belongings from the nursery did not reach her by email. Cindy Monroe made the motion to extend her time until July 15th. Maureen Bauer seconded the motion, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Air Conditioning request for the Fellowship Hall per driver's education: Mark McPherson made the motion to allow the Driver's Education class purchase 2 air conditioning units for the Fellowship Hall and have the men's group install them. Cindy Monroe seconded the motion, the motion carried. Discussion: there will be an increase to the church electric bill, however the class pays for the use of the Fellowship Hall. Leonard will talk to the instructor about who will have ownership of the air conditioners, Driver's Ed, or the church?
 - B. Nominations for the Mission and Sustaining Endowment Fund Committees: Maureen Bauer made the motion for Patti Friedli to be nominated for the Mission Endowment Fund Committee. Cindy Monroe seconded the motion. Cindy made the motion to have Chris Ardingo be nominated to the Sustaining Endowment Fund Committee. Maureen Bauer seconded the motion. The nominations are closed at this time. Discussion: Lisa Schlagel will be contacted as she has not been to a meeting of the Sustaining Endowment Fund Committee. Paul Ton is willing to be on the committee to fill the vacancy.
 - C. Annual Meeting: Maureen Bauer made the motion to have the Congregational meeting outside unless it rains. Jan Stretlien seconded the motion, the motion carried. Discussion: Leonard asked to have a podium set up with 2 microphones for the congregation comments, he will have sign-up sheets, and ballots ready. Barbara Graf and Gail Goldsmith will sign people in for the meeting. There are 3 people to collect and count ballots
- C-1. Fellowship Committee, Congregational picnic: It was discussed to possibly have a picnic around the time of Rally Day in September, suggestions were to possibly go to a park, possibly the Garfield Township Park on Silver Lake Road.
- D. Cindy Monroe made the motion to go into Executive Session, Jan Stretlien seconded the motion, the motion carried.

VISITOR OR CONGREGATIONAL COMMENT: none

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: Cindy Monroe made the motion to adjourn, Gail Goldsmith seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Goldsmith, Council Secretary

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

Hello there, Bethlehem! By the time you are reading this, the Slabaugh Family will hopefully have a new member! I can't wait to introduce little Caleb to you all but until then, I am away on maternity leave. Below, along with the August Happenings you will find some information in regards to people you can contact about Youth or Outreach related things while I am away!



AUGUST HAPPENINGS ...

The **Youth/Family Camping Trip** that is happening **Thursday, August 26th – Sunday, August 29th at Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes D.H Day Campground!** Please reach out to Pastor Paul for more information, questions or concerns.

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

MATERNITY LEAVE CONTACTS ...

Until I return from maternity leave, general inquiries about Youth or Outreach can be directed to Rebecca Eaton or Barbara Oster at admin@bethlehemtc.org OR 231.947.9880 and they will be able to assist you.

If you have a specific Youth or Outreach related inquiry, please contact the appropriate individual below.

September All Youth Event: Paul Wiemerslage - 612.210.3135 - wiepau@gmail.com

October Junior High Youth Group: Martin Graf - 231.645.4610 - martingraf@charter.net

October High School Youth Group: Meghan/Sarah Denton - 231.590.1007/231.944.0511

Confirmation: Pastor Busekist - Contact Office

Chili CookOff: Renae Wells - 616.204.8900 - wellsrenae17411@gmail.com

Weekly Email Blast: Rebecca Eaton - Contact Office

Screen Announcements: Barbara Oster - Contact Office

As we go into August, I ask that you keep Bethlehem's youth and their families in your prayers that they are finishing the summer strong and healthy!

Cheerfully in Christ,

Annie Slabaugh

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

FINANCIAL NEWS

June income came in at \$22,011 compared to budgeted income of \$33,313 resulting in a shortage of income against budget of \$9,301. On the expense side we came in at \$27,750 compared to budgeted expense of \$31,495 resulting in spending \$3,745 less than budgeted. The June budget anticipated a shortfall of \$182...basically a breakeven month. In reality we were \$5,739 short making the variance for June against budget \$5,556. From a cash flow (i.e., money in the door vs. money out the door) perspective actual income of \$22,011 was below actual expense of \$27,750 leaving us short \$5,739 for the month. This is a significant cash shortfall for one month.

Year to date income came in at \$169,279 compared to a budget of \$191,709 resulting in a shortage of income against budget of \$22,430. On the expense side we came in at \$174,011 compared to a budget of \$192,109 resulting in spending \$18,098 under budget. From a purely budget perspective we received \$4,332 less income than needed to cover budgeted expense. From a cash flow perspective income of \$169,279 is short of expense of \$174,011 leaving us behind \$4,733 year to date. Said another way over the first six months of this year BLC fell short of covering expenses by \$4,733.

BLC has incurred the necessary \$27,125 in payroll expense under the Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) loan taken out in March 2021. Huntington Bank approved BLC's request for loan "forgiveness" and forwarded the request to the Small Business Administration for final loan forgiveness. We anticipate final SBA approval within the next 60 days.

Choir news:

The choir hopes to continue singing one time per month on weekends when the majority of singers are in town. If you are interested and have not already been contacted by Cindy Monroe, please leave her a voice or text message at 231 631-0887 or send an email cmonroe@chartermi.net



Ice Cream Social

An Ice Cream Social is planned for September 12 after the service. Come hungry, enjoy a treat, and chat with some people you may not have seen in a while. Your council members for 2021-2022 will be installed that day. Greet them and let them know your vision for Bethlehem.

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 when she works in the office on Mondays.

Also note that if you want an announcement on the weekly PowerPoint, please send to annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org.

The BLC book club will meet via ZOOM at 5:30 on Aug 24. We will be discussing *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman which is currently a bestselling book. If you are not already on the list and want to be added to the group for August just send your email to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net.



Congratulations to the 2021/2022 Church Council. Check out the names on the BLC Contact page here in the Star.

A big thank you to all who turned in their Olesons receipts to Bethlehem. We just received a check from them for \$255.62. Please continue to turn in your receipts to church.

BLC's Art & Craft Show has returned for 2021. Mark your calendar for Nov. 6th. The show will feature 50 local & original handcrafted artists and crafters.



Christian Education News August 2021



A note from Paul Wiermerslage about Sunday School:

Keep your eyes peeled for a survey regarding Sunday School. We are interested to learn the congregation's ideas, thoughts and preferences moving forward. Also, please expect a short call from one of our committee members. We are eager to hear from you.

**We are fervently praying
each and every day
for our precious
Sunday School children
and their families!
May God bless all of you
with safety and good health
until we can meet again!!
Jesus loves you VERY much,
and
so do we!!!**



Enjoy the rest of your summer!

"From the rising of the sun to its
going down the Lord's name is to
be praised."
Psalms 113:3



-Christian Education Committee



Casting Call: ELCA Missionary Serving in Egypt



This month's "Global Link" features Steven Saari who visited BLC virtually during the pandemic. At the time, he was waiting for clearance, in order to travel to Egypt. His missionary service, is with St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo. The congregation has an outreach ministry called StARS which is an effort to improve quality life of refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants. ELCA Global Mission in Chicago sent the following clip.

Watch out Hollywood, there is a star in our midst! Our very own Steven Saari, a long-term missionary serving in Cairo, Egypt, received a call from an Egyptian television casting director looking for an older male to play a British doctor on a Ramadan series evening drama. Not only was he cast, but he got to spend a day filming and standing with two of Egypt's biggest television stars, Dina El Sherbiny and Sabry Fawwaz.

Steve, who had a short speaking role, said of his experience: "The building used for filming was just like those scenes of Hollywood — rows of boring industrial-style hangers with trailers of clothes and teams of specialty people everywhere. The difference, of course, being the very real backdrop of Egypt: pyramids in the far distance, wild dogs searching the building corners for lunch, men riding donkeys which are pulling hobbit-carts of hay, random cats sleeping anywhere and everywhere, and the classic technicolor food cart of Egyptian breakfast known as "Arabeya Fuul." The show itself was a time-period piece (1940s) with much drama and mystery, think Christmas Hallmark TV special mixed with that *One Clue* movie."

Steve got to spend a long day of shooting and learned what it is like to be an actor, as well as have a great experience with other actors helping him with his part! Congratulations to Steve!

Health Concerns*



The Power of Prayer

*Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Tom & Lee Miller,
Margie Whitney, Ellie Tacke, Sue Allen,
Priscilla Thompson, Julie LaPeer,
Marleen Baesch, Alvin Kober, Lynn Hoyt
Jan Waisanen, Molly Eastman, John Stretlien,
Ben Farley, Jennifer Mowers, George Ammann,
Roy & Marilyn Dumond, Shawn Rivard, Brenda Denoyer,
Betty Evans, Patti McCracken, Jeffrey Hentschel, Jon Waters,
Robert & Carman Waters, Sharon Vanmeter*

Homebound: Marleen Baesch

Traverse Manor: Margie Whitney

Boardman Lake Glens: Inge Thomas, Bill & Dee Springer

Samaritas (Acme): Priscilla Thompson

Grand Traverse Pavilions: Roy Dumond

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@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	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).



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WELCOME BACK to all
who feel comfortable!!!😊

Shalom, and do not be afraid.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church (ELCA)
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