

# July 2022



**Bethlehem**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Website: [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)  
Email: [bethlehem@bethlehemtc.org](mailto: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

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.”*



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we enter the month of July, often a sabbath month at Bethlehem, I'd like to pose this reflective question: what is the first thing you think of as you awake each day? Maybe it's a question (*"How might today be a better day?"*) Maybe your mind rushes to a list of tasks or a way in which you might be refreshed with a day of rest or sabbath. Maybe your train of thought is something as general as pain relief or parental responsibility. Perhaps it's as simple as "I need coffee!"

This month, we "awake" to a 6-page STAR for the first time in years. After some reflection and a bit of innovation, we are paring down the physical size of our newsletter, for a few reasons: one, for stewardship – both saving money, paper (and trees!). Secondly, we hope to encourage a little brevity and simplicity. We still want all your ideas and articles. Yet, presenting them a little more concisely seems a good way to use both paper (STAR) and website (e.g. for fuller detail) What is "missing," you might ask? Actually, not much. Our leaders have committed to cutting down their pages from full pages to a partial pages, and our monthly Council minutes will now have a link to our website (see below) so that if you wish to read them, you can easily get the full minutes online.

**Moving forward, we have two exciting updates for worship.** First, we have formalized our "Second Sunday" traditional worship service to become official practice at BLC. Every second Sunday of the month, we will have a traditional liturgy, with organ and sung Kyrie and Great Thanksgiving, all four scripture readings, and so forth.

**We are also planning something new in the fall called "Third Thursday."** Here we invite all those looking for an in-person sabbath/worship alternative to Sunday to join us each third Thursday evening of the month for a worship style similar to our "Celebrate" (formerly Saturday) liturgy. We will offer communion with Taize, Holden Evening Prayer, a Jazz Vespers service, a Hymn/Song Sing or "Celebrate" liturgy with all-contemporary music. This arrangement also allows us to utilize the presence and gifts of our new shared choir director, Tony Bero, who cannot normally join us on the weekends. ***We will begin our "Third Thursday" worship at 7pm on September 15<sup>th</sup>.***

Finally, having just returned from the first week of summer camp at Stony Lake since 2019, I am reminded of the process of growing into a "next normal" following a pandemic. As we look to the future, we do so knowing that God is with us always, helping us move forward – changed, transformed and yet very much the same body of Christ for the world. Much peace to you all, and God bless!

- Pr. Paul

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## Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes?

Type this address/url into your web browser to get the latest approved minutes from Council:

[bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes](http://bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes)

## **New Church Keys**

The church council has authorized the rekeying of all locks in the church building. The locks have now been changed. 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.

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## **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. The dates for this month are July 10th and July 24th. 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](mailto:annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org).

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## **VBS Registration from Monday, July 25 - Wednesday, July is OPEN and available to kids PreK - 5th Grade!**

Register online at [myvbs.org/blcvbs2022](http://myvbs.org/blcvbs2022) or reach out to Annie directly. We are still looking for a few volunteers as well so please reach out to Annie on how you can help. We are still in need of:

- Weaving Shopkeeper
- At least 1 Tribe Leader Assistant (small group support, great for older youth!)
- Set Up/Tear Down Crew (day before and end of VBS)
- Decoration Coordinators (day before and end of VBS)

We will also still take Marketplace Shopkeepers if you are interested in one of those roles.

**Want to help with VBS but aren't able to be there in person?** Well you are in luck! Our VBS Volunteers are in need of items such as decor and food! If you'd like to donate or lend an item for Jerusalem: Marketplace please go to the wall in the Narthex close to the mailboxes (you can't miss it!) on the wall. There you will find slips of paper with needed items for VBS. Please take the slip, fill it out, obtain the item and return it to the person who requested the item (that information is on the slip!)

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## **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!

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## **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.

# ABRIDGED WITH ANNIE:

## A SUMMARY OF YOUTH EVENTS FOR JULY/AUGUST...

Happy Summer Bethlehem! I hope everyone is enjoying the warm weather. We had a great June but fasten your seatbelts...July is our busiest month for youth stuff this summer while August is going to be a lot more relaxing and prepping for the upcoming school year. Check it out below.

### JULY/AUGUST HAPPENINGS ...



Saturday July, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday July 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday, July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Youth Parking Lot Fundraiser Sign up sheets in the Narthex or online! See Annie for link!
Monday, July 18 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday, July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Local Mission Trip with Freedom Builders ALL are welcome! See Annie for info!
Monday, July 25 <sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, July 27 <sup>th</sup>	VBS: Jerusalem Marketplace Register your kids NOW at <a href="http://myvbs.org/blcvbs2022">myvbs.org/blcvbs2022</a>
Sunday July 31 <sup>st</sup>	Youth Group Parent Meeting 11:30AM in the Youth Room <i>We will be discussing the future of the Youth Groups!</i> <i>Please come to be part of the discussion!</i>
Month of August	Gearing up for the Fall 2022 Semester!

Be sure to mark your calendars for all these fun events!  
Reach out to me [annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org) for more information!

Cheerfully in Christ,

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

## Christian Education News July 2022

 <p>There's still time to join us!</p>	 <p>Plan to join us at VBS Monday through Wednesday July 25<sup>th</sup> – July 27<sup>th</sup> 8:30am – 1:00pm</p>
<p><b>Happy Fourth of July!</b></p>  <p>"It is for <b>FREEDOM</b> that <b>CHRIST</b> has set us <b>FREE</b>." - Galatians 5:1 -Christian Education Committee</p>	 <p>Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. - 2 COR 3:17 <i>Independence Day</i> BLESSINGS</p>

### **Due Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screen Announcements:**

- **STAR:** The third Friday of the month sent to [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) (Please note STAR in subject line)
- **Bulletin/Verbal Announcements:** **Tuesday** of the week sent to [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) (Bulletin/Worship Folder is prepared on Wednesday and 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](mailto:annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org) (Annie works Sunday – Wednesday)
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### **Book Club:**

The BLC book club continues to meet during the summer. Our meeting in July is on the 26th at 5:30 via ZOOM. The book, Wish, will be available in the Book Club box outside of the church. It is a touching story with a bit of baseball. If you are not on the email list and want to be involved send your information to [cmonroe@chartermi.net](mailto:cmonroe@chartermi.net).

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### **24 hr food pantry:**

Even as we enter July, please continue our “Jump into June” campaign with your offerings of staple foods which can be placed in our outdoor food pantry. Those who are hungry are appreciative.

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### **Choir News:**

The adult choir is taking a break for the summer and will resume rehearsals 2-3 Thursdays per month. Our first will start at 7:00 on Sept 8. It's time to return to a favorite pastime or start a new one. Plan to come to the first rehearsal or contact Tony Bero at [bero.tony@gmail.com](mailto:bero.tony@gmail.com) or 942-1162.

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### **Name tags:**

Yes, your name tags are back in your mailboxes, but please walk a little farther and retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have more visitors in the summer and it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it.

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**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.



## **New Idea for Some New Trees!**

Recently the Bethlehem Mission Endowment Fund bought 5 trees for \$500.00 that we planted at the Old Sabin Dam site near the end of Cass Rd.

The trees are about 75 feet from the river and on a bank that is not that steep and they are near the parking lot. They can be seen from the parking lot so they will be easy to find. They need to be watered once a week for this summer to get them established and then they will be on their own. They will survive and be a blessing to many, both human and non-human.

### IDEA: What if we have 5 people sign up to ADOPT A BLC TREE?

We can call it, "The 5 BUCKET GROUP" Each will get a bucket and they can water their tree any time, either with others or alone. A full 5 gallon bucket of water weighs 42 pounds, so this project is not for everyone.

I (Norm Fred) will volunteer to be the first of the group and I will assist the other volunteers to make sure they know which is going to be their tree. We can also carpool if we get some interest in this idea.

Please contact Norm Fred if you are interested. You can call the office for his contact information.

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**This summer, we will be participating in a weeklong serving opportunity from July 18th - July 23rd with Freedom Builder's Missions Week and all of Bethlehem is invited!** Freedom Builders understands that most people can only serve 1-2 days tops or possibly even only a partial day is perfectly fine. They also understand that not all want to be involved with construction so they have quite a few opportunities for those who wish to serve, but be sure to let Annie know which days you are hoping to attend and if you are looking to serve in a specific capacity. Reach out to Annie at [annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org) if you have any other questions!

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### **Refresh Committee Updates**

The Refresh Committee held several meetings in the past month regarding renovations at Bethlehem. We welcome all questions, comments and ideas. We are asking for your support by making a donation or pledge by July 15, 2022. This will help us to determine our path forward. Pledges or donations can be given to Phil Anderson or placed in the offering plate. If writing a check, please write "Refresh" on the Memo line.



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

# ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

On May 7, the first women pastors were ordained in the **Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland**. The ceremony, which took place in Warsaw at Holy Trinity Church, marked the conclusion of a discussion about women's ordination that has been ongoing for decades. Several ELCA representatives were able to attend and celebrate this joyous milestone with our partner church in Poland.

The nine women who took their vows were already serving the church as deacons. Rev. Karina Chwastek-Kamieniorz, who works in the largest country parish of Golezów in southern Poland, noted that from a practical perspective, she will continue doing the same pastoral work she has done for many years. But she said she hoped the decision to ordain women would bring equality of salaries and an end to discrimination against women in the church.

Rooted and built in Jesus! This is the core of our work as the ELCA walks with more than 80 companion churches in other countries to participate in God's reconciling mission through proclamation and service. Participating in these relationships, ELCA members see how people's lives are touched by the gospel, how their lives are transformed and renewed, and how their communities live in hope.

## WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - JULY, 2022



**UPDATE ON LAUNDRY BASKET PROJECT:** Just a reminder that this is an ongoing, year long project for us here at Bethlehem. There is a list of items desired at the display in the Narthex. There is also a need for extra paper towels and toilet paper. You may purchase an entire basket of items or bring single items. Please drop off your purchases in the baskets provided. These cleaning items are needed have been greatly appreciated.

Thank you all for your participation!



ENJOY  
YOUR  
SUMMER!

## Health Concerns\*



# The Power of Prayer

*Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Tom & Lee Miller,  
Margie Whitney, Ellie Tacke, Rose Taylor,  
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, Betty Rutila,  
Denoyer Family, Chuck Wolterink*

**Traverse Manor:** Margie Whitney

**Boardman Lake Glens:** Inge Thomas, Bill & Dee Springer

**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.

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### Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain:** Please contact Jan Stretlien at [jstretlien@gmail.com](mailto:jstretlien@gmail.com) or 231-947-3265
  - Prayers read from the altar:** Please call the Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880
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Are you checking for the latest BLC updates at: [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)?

You saw Norm and others take the photos...be sure you see them at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)!

Good News...and great news...at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)...

**Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes?**

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**[bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes](http://bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes)**



# BLC Contacts

## PLEASE NOTE SEVERAL ADDRESS UPDATES

### **Church Office**

Pastor Paul Busekist	<a href="mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org">paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Admin. Asst.	<a href="mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org">admin@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Admin. Aide Barbara Oster	<a href="mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org">admin@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson	<a href="mailto:bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org">bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Tony Bero, Music Director	<a href="mailto:bero.tony@gmail.com">bero.tony@gmail.com</a>
Annie Slabaugh, Youth & Outreach Director	<a href="mailto:annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org">annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.bethlehemtc.org">www.bethlehemtc.org</a>

### **Church Council**

Gail Goldsmith, President	<a href="mailto:president.council@bethlehemtc.org">president.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Maureen Bauer, Vice President	<a href="mailto:vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org">vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Jana Rockne, Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org">secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Leonard Graf, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org">treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Jim Monroe, Financial Sec.	<a href="mailto:financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org">financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Jim Hinds, Christian Care Giving	<a href="mailto:christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org">christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Paul Wiemerslage, Christian Ed.	<a href="mailto:christianeducation.committee@bethlehemtc.org">christianeducation.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Laura Hahn, Fellowship	<a href="mailto:fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org">fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Cindy Monroe, Membership/Evangelism	<a href="mailto:membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org">membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
, Property Committee	<a href="mailto:property.committee@bethlehemtc.org">property.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Maureen Bauer, Personnel	<a href="mailto:personnel.committee@bethlehemtc.org">personnel.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Scott Farley, Stewardship	<a href="mailto:stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org">stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Denice Bossardet, Worship and Music	<a href="mailto:worshipmusic.committee@bethlehemtc.org">worshipmusic.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Paul Wiemerslage, Youth/Y2A	<a href="mailto:youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org">youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Pastor Paul Busekist	<a href="mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org">paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org</a>

If you have an interest in serving on any of the above Committees,  
Please contact the Committee Chairperson(s).



# REYNOLDS JONKHOFF

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ASSOCIATE BROKER  
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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](mailto:mzbright9006@yahoo.com). Make checks payable to BLC...put "Star Ad" on envelope.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
9am - Parking Lot Fundraiser TBD 10am - Worship Service(S) 11am - Parking Lot Communion 11:15am - Worship & Music	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY 7pm - Parking Lot Fundraiser	BULLETIN ARTICLES DUE TODAY 9am - Property Work Group 10am - Staff Meeting(CR)	12:45pm - Moved to 12:45 for the	5:30pm - ACOA	9am - All-Star DE	9am - Parking Lot Fundraiser TBD
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10am - Worship Service(S) 11am - Parking Lot Communion 2:45pm - Children's Message	5pm - Finance Cmte (CR)	BULLETIN ARTICLES DUE TODAY 9am - Property Work Group 10am - Staff Meeting(CR) 1pm - Friendship Bible Study 4:30pm - Executive Comite (CR) 6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting	12:45pm - Moved to 12:45 for the	9am - Baby Pantry 2pm - Rebecca Anna Circle - FH 5:30pm - ACOA	START ARTICLES DUE TODAY	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10am - Worship Service(S) 11am - Parking Lot Communion	Youth Mission Trip w/ Freedom	BULLETIN ARTICLES DUE TODAY Youth Mission Trip w/ Freedom 9am - Property Work Group 10am - Staff Meeting(CR) 6pm - Council Meeting 7pm - Laubner SG @ the home	Youth Mission Trip w/ Freedom 12:45pm - Moved to 12:45 for the	Youth Mission Trip w/ Freedom 5:30pm - ACOA	Youth Mission Trip w/ Freedom	Youth Mission Trip w/ Freedom
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30am - VBS 10am - Worship Service(S) 11am - Parking Lot Communion 11:15am - VBS Final Prep Party 2:45pm - Children's Message	8:30am - VBS	BULLETIN ARTICLES DUE TODAY 8:30am - VBS 9am - Property Work Group 10am - Staff Meeting(CR) 5:30pm - Book/Supper Club (O)	8:30am - VBS 12:45pm - Moved to 12:45 for the 1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite) 1:15pm - VBS Tear Down Party	5:30pm - ACOA	9am - All-Star DE	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
10am - Worship Service(S) 11am - Parking Lot Communion 11:30am - Youth Group Parent						

# 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

Chuck Ardingo



231.947.9880

[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

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