

# August 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

Sunday School will return in September  
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.”*



*“(Listen!) Listen, God is calling,  
through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness,  
comfort, and joy!” – ELW 513*



Dear brothers and sisters at Bethlehem, I love the refrain from the above song in our ELW hymnal. Its lyrics remind me that even though we may face times of transition and growing pains (like the bittersweet news of Annie and her family), **God is still awakening us all to newness and life!** We give many thanks for Annie, Trent and Caleb! We rejoice in the wonderful ministry they have co-created with BLC and the dreams they are soon to follow. Holding the sadness and joy, we wish “Team Slabaugh” the very best.

On a very different “note,” for the last 2+ years of Covid, we have consciously chosen to offer alternatives to Sunday in-person worship – from Sunday Parking Lot Communion to Wednesday night virtual “2.0” worship and other offerings. It is time also to transition from Wednesday’s pre-recorded “2.0” to a new and in-person mid-week worship alternative. So, starting this fall, **each “Third Thursday” of the month we invite you to a full worship service, starting September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm with Holden Evening Prayer.** These services (with communion, song and scripture) will continue each month with Taize, Holden, Jazz Vespers, Celebrate!-style liturgies and hymn/song sings to follow. “Third Thursdays” will also feature our new shared choir director, Tony Bero, along with other musicians, September through May. Please mark your calendars for this new time of gathering and celebrating once/month!

Other exciting beginnings are the August 20<sup>th</sup> event Gail Goldsmith is championing (below), in addition to what I’m calling our **“2<sup>nd</sup> annual ‘End of Summer Saunter’,” a spirit-led hike with our friends from Central United Methodist, Saturday, August 27 on the Empire Bluffs Trail.** Our “first annual” such hike with Methodist friends was in 2019. We resume in partnership and “holy wandering” on this moderate trail together. We will meet at 10am at the trailhead, ending with a brownbag picnic lunch for those who wish to stay and eat. Happy trails and a blessed August to all as we journey together!

- Pastor Paul

### **A word from the president:**

I would like to thank our Church Council for their support for voting me in as the president. I will try my best to do right by our congregation. One of my goals is to help to grow the church and bring in new members. I would like to take our “show on the road” and be out and more visible in the community. I hope and pray to have your support in doing this. ***One quick new way we can increase our visibility is to partake in the “Last Slice of Summer” event in downtown Traverse City, Saturday, August 20 (10am-7pm).*** BLC’s booth could provide crafts, bottled water and some fun materials to pass out for our Service day (September 11th) and Ice Cream Social (September 18th) after worship. We will publicize our “Third Thursday” worship and Sunday School times, when finalized (Sunday worship remains at 10am), among other fun conversation and interaction! Let’s keep the summer joy alive into the fall this year!

Speaking of the road, I just returned from a 3 week road trip across our great country. I traveled Route 66 and had the opportunity to see 6 of our National Parks. We are so blessed to live in such a beautiful land. I highly recommend, if you have the chance to see the splendor, please do so. But I have to say our Great Lakes can’t be beat.

On a separate note, Bethlehem finds out at the end of this month whether we have been awarded a sabbatical grant from the Lilly Foundation – for both Pastor Paul and the church for the summer of 2023. We hold this hopeful sabbath news in prayer and faithful discernment. Finally, I really want to Thank Maureen Bauer and Cindy Monroe for covering my last duties of secretary for the June council so I could go on my Great Adventure.

God’s Blessings to you all,  
Gail Goldsmith

## 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 date for this month is August 21<sup>st</sup>. 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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**Our Parking Lot Fundraiser 2022 is complete!** We earned a total of \$3,139 for the entire holiday weekend! The money earned will go toward youth activities. Thank you so much to the following individuals who helped out with our fundraiser this weekend. We couldn't have done it without you. (in alphabetical order by last name:)

Pastor Paul Busekist  
Lincoln Dohm  
Tina Dohm  
Makena Dohm  
Norm Fred  
Martin Graf



Jacob Graf  
Aleah Graf  
Jim Hinds  
Steve Kramer  
Owen Munger  
Christine Munger

Lilliana Munger  
Annie Slabaugh  
Trent Slabaugh  
Renae Wells



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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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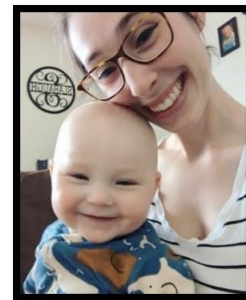
## Monthly STAR

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 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER...

Hi all! This month is a sleepy month for the youth program but that's just because we are gearing up for the start of the Fall Semester! Check it out below! (Also please note a very important note from me at the very bottom)



## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS ...

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Whole Month of August  | Gearing up for the Fall 2022 Semester!             |
| Saturday November 17th | All Youth Kickoff Semester Event (details coming!) |

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!

On a more personal but important note, some of you may have already heard that my husband, Trent has been offered a great opportunity with Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids. After much discussion, prayer and consideration we have come to the conclusion that this opportunity will benefit our family in a variety of different ways. Therefore, we will be returning to Grand Rapids at the end of fall and I will be leaving Bethlehem at that time. We have arranged it with Butterworth that we will not leave until our lease here is up in November so my final day at Bethlehem will be Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

I wish to emphasize that our return to Grand Rapids has nothing to do with *anyone* at Bethlehem. The community here is amazing and wonderful and this is the best job I have ever had, but this opportunity for Trent is too good to pass up. You have welcomed my family with open arms and we are so blessed and thankful that you have been (and I hope continue to be) in our lives. Trent, Caleb and I thank you for your understanding, grace and your support. I will keep you updated about the transition as we get closer but if you have any questions or concerns, I encourage you to reach out to me directly.

Cheerfully in Christ,

*Annie Slabaugh*

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



Christian Education would like to extend **MANY THANKS** to all our VBS volunteers! Our Jerusalem Marketplace was a HUGE success!!!

It's not too early to think about  
Sunday School – watch for more details soon!



**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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**As you may have noticed, the Council minutes are not included in the STAR. You will be able to access the minutes from the BLC website as follows:**  
**[bethlehemtc.org/council-minutes](http://bethlehemtc.org/council-minutes) Or, you may call the office to request a copy.**

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**Book Club:**

The BLC book club continues to meet during the summer. Our meeting in August is on the 23th at 5:30 via ZOOM. The book which has yet to be decided will be available in the Book Club box outside of the church. Be on the lookout for the name of the book. 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:**

Remember to take advantage of BOGO offerings and bring your extras of staple foods for our outdoor food pantry. Those who are hungry will be appreciative. There is a teal bin below the table by the mailboxes for placing your goodies.

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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 7:00pm 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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**Tony Bero's theatre troupe, Mashup Rock & Roll Musical, is producing their latest mashup, "A Midsummer Night's California Dream," August 4-6 and August 11-13 (first two weekends in August).** Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at [mashuprockandrollmusical.com](http://mashuprockandrollmusical.com)

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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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### **Refresh Committee Update:**

Our Committee would like to thank those who have pledged to help us in our efforts to update the look of our church. We know the economy is presenting challenges for all of us. If you are able to make a pledge, any amount would be welcome. As we discussed during our open meetings, we indicated we would keep the Congregation updated on reaching our \$10,000 goal. As such, here are the current totals:

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Pledges            | \$3450 |
| Received Donations | \$4300 |
| Total so far       | \$7750 |

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## **FINANCIAL NEWS**

June income was \$28,157 compared to budgeted income of \$29,454 or a shortfall of \$1,297. Expenses were \$30,048 compared to budget of \$33,999 resulted in spending \$3,951 less than budgeted. On a cash basis expenses exceeded income by \$1,891.

Through June, income was \$174,339 compared to budgeted income of \$181,112 for a shortfall of \$6,772. Expenses were \$183,376 compared to budget of \$184,304 resulted in spending \$928 more than budgeted. On a cash basis expenses have exceeded income by \$9,037.



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

# ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

## New YAGM Volunteers!

The next group of volunteers for Young Adults in Global Mission is preparing for service! Beginning in August 2022, 24 young adults will walk alongside communities in four country programs: Senegal, Argentina/Uruguay, United Kingdom, Israel/Palestine.

The ELCA is excited to welcome new volunteers into the YAGM program after a two year hiatus. Learn more about the volunteers and support their journeys on the ELCA web site: [www.elca.org/yagm](http://www.elca.org/yagm). Gifts may be given for their support through this site.

## Situation Report: Ukraine and Eastern Europe

Lutheran Disaster Relief and the Lutheran World Relief continue with ongoing support for Ukraine and Eastern Europe. Their web sites offer regular updates enabling donors to see the tasks being accomplished and where funds are needed.

## God's Work! Our Hands!

BJ Christensen's mom is turning 100 on July 29. She loves birthday cards!!! Please consider sending a card to Ann Mazurek in c/o BJ at 10255 S. Cedar, Cedar, MI 49621



## Grief Workshop

In the Informational Meeting we had in March to discuss Pastor's Sabbatical activities, grief counseling was brought up as a need in our congregation.

In some of our discussions with the Sabbatical Team and the Church Council we thought this is a need to be met now and not in a year. Munson Hospice is willing to come in and do some workshops free of charge. We are calling them workshops as it will be once a month from September through March with a break in December. They can provide group counseling, music and/or art therapy. What we need to know is who is interested? The time you would like to have it, afternoon or evening? And also are there any children you would like to have join you. Munson Hospice is willing to meet our needs and maybe small groups, separate children's groups or possibly a combination. We would have it at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and if you know someone outside of our church family with this need, they would be welcome to come. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex or call Gail Goldsmith at 231-633-2630.

## 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, Denoyer Family, Chuck Wolterink*

**Traverse Manor:** Margie Whitney  
**Boardman Lake Glens:** Inge Thomas

**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?**

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)**



# 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> |
| Chuck Ardingo, (not on Council), Property | <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).



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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                                |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|--|--|------------------------------------|
| 31   |                              | 1<br>Bulletin articles due today<br>9am - Property Work Group<br>10am - Staff Meeting(CR)   | 2<br>12:45pm - Rehearsal-12:45 for                                | 3<br>5:30pm - ACOA   | 4  | 5<br>12pm - C. Stabaugh Bday Party |
| 7<br>10am - Worship Service(S)<br>11am - Parking Lot Communion<br>11:15am - Worship and Music    | 8<br>5pm - Finance Cmte.(CR) | 9<br>Bulletin articles due today<br>9am - Property Work Group<br>10am - Staff Meeting(CR)<br>1pm - Friendship Bible Study<br>4:30pm - Executive Comite.(CR)<br>6pm - Y2A Christian Ed Meeting | 10<br>12:45pm - Rehearsal-12:45 for                               | 11<br>9am - Baby Pantry<br>2pm - Rebecca Anna Circle - FH<br>5:30pm - ACOA | 12   | 13                                 |
| 14<br>10am - Traditional Worship<br>11am - Parking Lot Communion                                 | 15                           | 16<br>Bulletin articles due today<br>9am - Property Work Group<br>10am - Staff Meeting(CR)<br>6pm - Council Meeting<br>7pm - Lauther SG @ the home  | 17<br>12:45pm - Rehearsal-12:45 for                               | 18<br>5:30pm - ACOA  | 19<br>STAR articles due today<br>10am - Saw Piecetul | 20                                 |
| 21<br>10am - Worship Service(S)<br>11am - Parking Lot Communion<br>2:45pm - Children's Message   | 22                           | 23<br>Bulletin articles due today<br>9am - Property Work Group<br>10am - Staff Meeting(CR)<br>5:30pm - Book/Supper Club (O)   | 24<br>12:45pm - Rehearsal-12:45 for<br>1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite) | 25<br>5:30pm - ACOA  | 26   | 27                                 |
| 28<br>10am - Worship Service(S)<br>11am - Parking Lot Communion<br>11:15am - WELCA Board Meeting | 29                           | 30<br>Bulletin articles due today<br>9am - Property Work Group<br>10am - Staff Meeting(CR)  | 31<br>12:45pm - Rehearsal-12:45 for                               |  | 2  | 3                                  |

# 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:

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Love Thy Neighbor</b>                         | <b>Keys to Freedom</b>            |
| <b>Safe Harbor</b>                               | <b>Habitat for Humanity</b>       |
| <b>Lutheran Immigrant &amp; Refugee Services</b> | <b>Generations Ahead</b>          |
| <b>ELCA World Hunger</b>                         | <b>Food Rescue of NW Michigan</b> |
| <b>ELCA Disaster Relief</b>                      | <b>Womens Resource Center</b>     |
| <b>Meals on Wheels</b>                           | <b>Salvation Army</b>             |
| <b>Father Fred Foundation</b>                    | <b>GT Conservation District</b>   |
| <b>Boardman River Clean Sweep</b>                | <b>Freedom Builders</b>           |
| <b>NW Michigan Supportive Housing</b>            |                                   |

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 |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|---------------|

