

October 2022



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



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

Building Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9am to 2:30pm

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9am to 2:30pm

Worship Times:

Sunday: 10 am Modern Worship including
Communion with service Livestreamed on
Facebook and YouTube

Sunday School/Adult Ed: 9:15-9:45am

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.”

"Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved." – Philippians 4:1



At first glance, it may look like a mere walk through Philippians chapter 4. But the verses in the paragraphs above and below are more than an academic invitation...

"4 Rejoice* in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." Paul begins his chapter with a call to be thankful and have joy for the spirit of fellowship and the gifts God has given the church in Philippi. We can certainly do the same. As a congregation and community, we have weathered many storms – from pandemics to economic and geo-political strains on local and global freedom and stability. Yet, we remain one in love for neighbor and thanks to the Lord. Rejoice! says the apostle.

"13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Though we are always careful not to equate our actions as gaining salvation (that only God can give), we do see our deeds as real reflections of the faith and love given us freely by...you guessed it... God. Ours is a God who gives us the courage, clarity and comfort of God's inspiration and grace. And the phrase **"All things through Christ"** is both the theme for our 2023 (fall of 2022) Stewardship campaign and perhaps a seed for the new visioning process that we are beginning to discuss in earnest at the Council level, along with the season of Sabbath we will enter less than a year from now together.

Paul's salutation is always a good place to end faithfully... **"8 Finally, beloved,* whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about* these things."** As we enter an October full of encouraging temple talks, confirmations of awesome students on Reformation Sunday (Jacob Graf and Julia Acker!) and the beginning of fall – let us rejoice, live into the strength of God's providence and grace, and embody that which is pleasing in God's sight, together!

Shalom!

Pr. Paul

A Word from the President:

Oh how I love autumn, the harvest is coming in, all of the seeds that were planted in the spring are now all grown and ready to use. I love the fresh fruits and vegetable this time of year. I love to go to the farmers market and see the bouquets of flowers, the pumpkins and the apples. I remember as a child and with my own children going to the pumpkin patch to pick out the best pumpkin. And coming up with the ideas of how to make the jack-o-lantern. But the best is the apple cider and donuts. Thank you God and the farmers who work so hard to bring us to this wondrous time of year.

I can't help but sing the prayer I learned so many years ago, I'm sure you remember it well also. "Jonny Appleseed" Oh, the Lord is good to me and so I thank the Lord, for giving me the things I need the sun and the rain and the apple seed, the Lord is good to me.

Thank you God, for giving us the seeds for life and teaching us how to use them.

Enjoy your autumn and God Bless you all,
Gail

Children's Message Corner

We will be taking a break from Children's Message Corner for the foreseeable future. If you would like to schedule a one on one with Annie instead, please reach out to her directly.

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!

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.

Two Wednesday Bible Studies:

- **Adult Bible Study:** 9:00am-11:00am. It is a casual discussion of the Gospel of Mark. Bring your bibles and come, share, learn and grow with us.
 - **Zoom Bible Study:** 1:30pm—3:00pm. Discussion of the Book of Revelations from the Book of Faith. If you are interested, please contact either Pr Paul or Barbara Oster.
-

Sunday Mornings:

- **Sunday School:** 9:15am-9:45am
 - **Adult Education:** 9:15am-9:45am. Discussion will be about the Lessons/Gospel for the day. If you are interested in leading one or more Sundays, please call Barb Graf 946-5120.
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Sunday Sundae: Wasn't it fun to join together for a Sunday "Sundae" on Sept, 18? Special thanks to a Thrivent Financial Action Team for funding the cost of all of our supplies and treats, for those who donated items for the food pantry, and to an anonymous donor who gave a large gift of money to help with keeping the food pantry stocked in the future.



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
"ART & CRAFT SHOW"
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022
9:00a.m. – 3:00p.m.
1050 Peninsula Dr.,
Traverse City, Mi. 49686
Featuring 50 local & original
handcrafted artists and crafters

"Many Hands make work light."

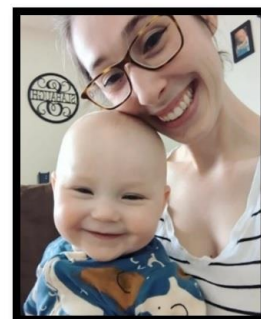
Please sign up in the Narthax hallway to volunteer for the largest church fund raiser of the year. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Again, there will be a Craft Raffle to support the Grand Traverse Baby Pantry. In 2022, we are adding a Silent Auction with gifts donated from the crafters. Our Christian Education Team will have baked goods tables with items for sale. Please help with a baked good donation. Per the BLC Council, appropriate COVID protocol will be followed.

Thank you.

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

Hello there, Bethlehem! It's finally feeling like fall! While I'm always a fan of the October season we've got lots going on!

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS ...



Sunday, October 2nd	Confirmation Class (starting at 1:00PM)
Friday, October 14th – Saturday, October 15th	Confirmation Retreat
Sunday, October 16th	Intergenerational Event: Bowling & Pizza at Lucky Jack's (starting at 12:30PM)
Sunday, October 30th	Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) of Julia Acker & Jacob Graf

IMPORTANT MOVING UPDATE:

As you might have heard, my end date ended up getting bumped up to the end of October due to us finding an amazing apartment. My final day as an employee at Bethlehem will be Sunday, October 30th so that I can attend Julia Acker & Jacob Graf's confirmation. (I wouldn't miss that for the world!)

Don't worry, there will still be a sappy note from me in the November STAR. It will also include our new contact information if you want to keep in touch! (I certainly hope you do!)

Cheerfully in Christ,

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

Christian Education News October 2022



NOVEMBER 5th – BAKE SALE AT BLC'S ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR
Donations of baked goods would be very much appreciated!
Thank you for your support of our ministry!

Thank you, Pastor Paul – we "donut" know what we'd do without such an awesome pastor as you!!!



Due Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screen Announcements:

- **STAR:** The third Friday of the month sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Please note STAR in subject line)
- **Bulletin/Verbal Announcements:** **Tuesday** of the week sent to 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 (Annie works Sunday – Wednesday)
- =====

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 Or, you may call the office to request a copy.

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Book Club:

The BLC book club's Oct meeting is on the 25th at 5:30 via ZOOM. The book will be available in the Book Club box outside of the church. Check the October bulletins for the book title. If you are not on the email list and want to be involved send your information to 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:

IT'S BACK!! The choir will be singing during the service on Oct 2. Come add some music into your life! Rehearsals are 2-3 Thursdays per month at 7:00. Contact Tony Bero at bero.tony@gmail.com or 942-1162.

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Name tags:

Your name tags are back in your mailboxes. Please walk a little farther and retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors 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 received a check from Olesons for \$187.74. So far this year we have received a total of \$464.62 just for people turning in their Olesons' receipts. Please continue to drop your Olesons' receipts off at church.

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Hoop's Pet Food Pantry: This is the only pet food pantry in NW lower Michigan. They primarily provide dry food, wet food, treats, cat litter and toys for mostly dogs and cats but they will support any type of pet to the best of their ability. Please visit them at the Square Deal Country Store, 900 Woodmere Ave, TC from 1100am – 2:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month with your donations. They accept in-kind donations of pet food, cat litter & treats. Clean, gently used pet items are also accepted. While there check out their "animal art"! If you can't get to the site on Saturdays, you may leave donations in the tub on our "donations" table next to the mailboxes.

Stewardship News: "All Things through Christ" (Part One)

Our god is a good and gracious god, showering his love and grace on us, his unworthy children. We have been preserved and strengthened. We revel in the abundance of the grace of god . His outpouring of energies to us as blessing, strength and victory. In this crazy mixed-up world let our prayers for healing our world be an expression of our gratitude to god for his abounding mercy showered on us through our church.

This is the time of year when we plan for the future. Since fundraising is an important part of being able to do our ministry, we again ask for your generous contribution to our wonderful church. We find ourselves behind in the budget and ask you to contribute what you can to help Bethlehem keep doing all the wonderful things that we do. **Keep on the lookout for temple talks this month and pledge Sunday shortly thereafter.** We do "all things through Christ," journeying together with love!

Thank you all for being an important part of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We Appreciate you!



Bethlehem Week at Safe Harbor Coming in February: Yes, Bethlehem Lutheran will be joining with Northern Lakes Community Church (a Presbyterian congregation) to provide a week of evening meals again this winter. We will be serving from February 4 through February 10. Bethlehem will take Saturday February 4, Sunday February 5, and Tuesday February 7. "Five Loaves; Two Fish" of Leland is taking February 6- and all Mondays throughout the winter! Northern Lakes will handle the 8, 9, and 10 February. We are coordinating menus as we can to assure variety. Here are a couple other updates:

-I already have the Tina Dohm group committed to February 4th with a lasagna dinner and the Cindy Monroe group signed up for February 5th with a chicken and rice dinner. Still looking for a lead for the February 7th, but I do already have kitchen workers ready to assist. Reach me anytime at 631-0040. Come January we will have sheets to sign-up to assist in a number of ways outside of the kitchen with guest interaction and providing breakfast and other items. You may have also seen that Safe Harbor is going to be open days on the weekends. Safe Harbor will be looking for volunteers to assist the professional staff with supervision on Saturdays and Sundays during the day. Those shifts will be from 8AM to 1PM and 1PM to 6PM. If you have never volunteered at Safe Harbor before, this could be a good place to start. I can assist you in signing up for one of these opportunities. Look forward to a regular great response from Bethlehem members. More to come.

Mark your calendars! Thank you. Tom Rockne/Bethlehem Safe Harbor Coordinator
M.231.631.0040

FINANCIAL NEWS

August income was \$26,504 compared to budgeted income of \$29,454 or a shortfall of \$2,950. Expenses were \$32,421 compared to budget of \$30,642 resulted in spending \$1,779 more than budgeted. On a cash basis expenses exceeded income by \$5,917.

Through August, income was \$228,841 compared to budgeted income of \$240,019 for a shortfall of \$11,177. Expenses were \$251,127 compared to budget of \$246,942 resulted in spending \$4,185 more than budgeted. On a cash basis expenses have exceeded income by \$22,286.



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

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

"Snapshot" -- from ELCA Global Mission



"Patients come with a lot more than their illnesses," said **Dr. Victoria Adonicam** of Marangu Lutheran Hospital in the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). "They come with their lives, their family problems. The process of healing makes me feel like we are healing together." She was able to complete her medical training through an ELCA-funded program of the ELCT that prepared students to serve rural hospitals where doctors are hard to retain. The ELCT health department also operates an extensive home-based care program for recovery and end-of-life care. [ELCA Global Mission Directory]

Last Slice of Summer

God's Work. Our Hands.

Council / Sunday "Sundae"



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 and the Denoyer Family,
Patti McCracken, Sharon Vanmeter,
Margaret Hutchinson, Carol Collins,
Patience Lambert, Chuck Wolterink,
Jennifer Mowers, David Peppler*

Grand Traverse Pavilions: 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.

Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain:** Please contact Jan Stretlien at jstretlien@gmail.com or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar:** Please call the Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880

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...

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

BLC Contacts

PLEASE NOTE SEVERAL ADDRESS UPDATES

Church Office

Pastor Paul Busekist	paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org
Admin. Asst.	admin@bethlehemtc.org
Admin. Aide Barbara Oster	admin@bethlehemtc.org
Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson	bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org
Tony Bero, Music Director	bero.tony@gmail.com
Annie Slabaugh, Youth & Outreach Director	annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org
Website	www.bethlehemtc.org

Church Council

Gail Goldsmith, President	president.council@bethlehemtc.org
Maureen Bauer, Vice President	vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jana Rockne, 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
Paul Wiemerslage, Christian Ed.	christianeducation.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Laura Hahn, Fellowship	fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Cindy Monroe, Membership/Evangelism	membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Chuck Ardingo, (not on Council), Property	property.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Maureen Bauer, Personnel	personnel.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Scott Farley, Stewardship	stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Denice Bossardet, Worship and Music	worshipmusic.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Paul Wiemerslage, Youth/Y2A	youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Pastor Paul Busekist	paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org

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



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kristen.rivard@cbgreatlakes.com 402 East Front Street • TC, MI

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 Scott Farley 231-920-8333 or swfarley@charter.net Make checks payable to BLC...put "Star Ad" on envelope.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
10am - Worship Service(S) 11am - Parking Lot Communion 11:15am - WELCA Board Meeting 11:15am - Worship and Music	3	4 Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters(FH) 9am - Property Work Group 10am - Staff Meeting(CR)	5 9am - Adult Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	6 5:30pm - ACOA 7pm - Choir Rehearsal	7	8 9am - All Star DE
9	10 5pm - Finance Cmte.(CR)	11 Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters(FH) 9am - Property Work Group 10am - Staff Meeting(CR) 12pm - Sarah Circle - FH 1pm - Friendship Bible Study 5pm - Executive Comts.(CR) 6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting	12 9am - Adult Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	13 9am - Baby Pantry 1pm - Rebecca Anna Circle - FH 5:30pm - ACOA 7pm - Choir Rehearsal	14 12pm - XYZ Potluck 5pm - Faith & Family -FH	15
16 10am - Worship Service(S) 11am - Parking Lot Communion 12:30pm - All Youth Event:	17	18 Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters(FH) 9am - Property Work Group 10am - Staff Meeting(CR) 6:30pm - Council Meeting 7pm - Lutheran SG @ at the home	19 9am - Adult Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1pm - WELCA Kitchen Cleaning 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	20 5:30pm - ACOA 7pm - 3rd Thursday-Taize Service	21 STAR articles due today 10am - Sew Pleasant	22 5pm - Grand Traverse Audubon
23 10am - Worship Service(S) 11am - Parking Lot Communion	24	25 Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters(FH) 9am - Property Work Group 10am - Staff Meeting(CR) 5:30pm - Book/Supper Club (O) 6:30pm - Newcomers	26 9am - Adult Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite) 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	27 5:30pm - ACOA 7pm - Choir Rehearsal	28	29 9am - All Star DE
30 10am - Worship Service(S) 11am - Parking Lot Communion	31	1	2	3	4	5

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (ELCA)
1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686