November 2022



Bethlehem

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

Website: <u>www.bethlehemtc.org</u> Email: <u>bethlehem@bethlehemtc.org</u>

<u>Building Hours</u>: Monday – Thursday, 9am to 2:30pm

<u>Office Hours:</u> Monday – Thursday, 9am to 2:30pm



Worship Times:

<u>Sunday:</u> 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

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."



"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." – Philippians 1:3-5



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I guess I'm still on a "Philippians kick!" Last month you saw me quote Paul in his letter to the church of Philippi a few times. The Stewardship team followed suit for our annual fall campaign, themed **"All Things through Christ."** And when you look at how positive and encouraging the apostle is to his fellow saints/sinners in Philippians (even while imprisoned by the Roman Empire!) how could we <u>not</u> quote him heavily? Paul sees the good in his fellow believers. He knows they, like us, struggle with temptation and materialism. But he knows also what we sometimes forget: that it is the life-giving memories, attributes and grace we can find with God, in our planet and in one another that ultimately propel us forward in love... not the negatives, the mistakes, untruths and "quick fixes" that grab our attention and always leave us empty. As Paul says in his letter, he knows what it's like to be well fed, and what it is like to be hungry. Yet he always yearns and hungers for God.

I encourage you this month to read the entirety one of the shortest books in the bible (you guessed it. – Philippians!) Its four short chapters will take you just a few minutes to digest. If you've ever wondered why Luther didn't quote Philippians more often, perhaps it's because he says in chapter 2:12, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." But you need only read the following verse and remember our 1st lesson for October 16th (Jacob wrestling, literally, with God!) to know that we may be called to wrestle with our faith and discernment but <u>we</u> are not "achieving" our own salvation... "for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

So as we continue to have much cause for thanksgiving, even wrestling in the midst of storms (Ian and Fiona), goodbyes (the wonderful Slabaughs!) and whatever unknowns we face, let us "greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The friends who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you... The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit." (4:21-22a)

- Shalom, Pastor Paul

A Word from the President:

November is upon us, a time to reflect on what we are grateful for. I am so grateful that I believe in God and through his love I will have eternal life. I am grateful for family and I was blessed to have 2 sons, who have married wonderful women and I have 2 beautiful granddaughters. All of this was a gift from God. I also have siblings and extended family to be able to spend time with during the holidays. I also have many friends and my church family here at Bethlehem. I am thankful for all of this and for you.

When we see what all is going on in the world, the hurricane in Florida, fires out west this summer and the war in the Ukraine. The people who have lost their homes, their possessions and even some of their families. We must pray for them to have hope and to believe that Jesus Christ will be with them and through him they will have a beautiful life in Heaven.

Psalm 100: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth Worship the Lord, with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us and we are his, we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Blessings to you All Gail Goldsmith



"All <u>Things</u> Through Christ"

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

Dear Bethlehem Friends,

Each and every year we pause first to give thanks to God for all things, and especially *all things* that inspire us and all bind us together through the gospel. At the same time we also give thanks to **you** and your steadfast gifts of time, treasure and talent to the life and ministry of Christ through Bethlehem. We could not actualize the ministry without you, and we look forward to another exciting year ahead, no doubt with new challenges and new joys.

"All Things Through Christ" is the theme of this year's Stewardship Program. This confident phrase stems primarily from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi, in whom the apostle delights in faithfulness and fellowship. (Remember the famous verse "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!" That, too came from Philippi!) We too can rejoice in God's abundance together at Bethlehm, as we continue to emerge from the pandemic with hope and renewed energy together.

We also wanted to have a little fun with the phrase "all things" (Dr. Seuss not withstanding... Think "Oh the places we'll go, oh the things we can do...!") What new things might we pray for this year, as we go forth in love and stewardship?

- "Thing 1": PARTICIPATION prayerfully consider how you can participate in something new either through committees, worship assistance, projects, or small groups perhaps raising your level of time given or spiritual gifts.
- **"Thing 2": PLEDGING** fall stewardship pledges are **no small thing**! Pledging is an important part of creating a balanced budget by eliminating financial guesswork with income and expenses moving forward. We cannot stress enough how this effort by YOU will help create a realistic and sustainable budget. Our hope in 2023 is for each member to challenge themself financially to pledge and consider a 2% growth in your giving over last year.
- "Thing 3": "PATCHing" Finally, we ask you to please consider this fall a **one-time contribution** towards specific BLC expenses to "patch" (or close) any budgetary gaps you will get to designate where those small "patches" will go (e.g. music program, building maintenance, sabbatical funding, or youth and seniors ministry.)
- One last "thing"... Our electronic fund transfer called "Simply giving" is just that simple. As they say, please "fill in the form, and make it the norm." Not only does electronic giving save you from weekly check writing, it eliminates envelopes and is good for the environment by saving trees!

So, enclosed with this letter are forms on which you can make your financial pledge or make automatic contributions. You can make your offerings using either the traditional envelopes or by automatic giving through your bank. For automatic giving please submit a new form provided by our BLC bookkeeper, Phil Anderson. We look forward to sharing more with you in our late October temple talks. Pledge Sundays will be November 6th and 13th, at which time you can place your pledge card in the offering plate or the vase at the back of the sanctuary or use the enclosed envelope and mail it to BLC.

Grace and Peace,

Your Stewardship Committee

Scott Farley, Mark McPherson, Barbara Wright, Carl Lehto, Pastor Paul Busekist



"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.

Two Wednesday Bible Studies:

- <u>Adult Bible Study:</u> 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.
- <u>Zoom Bible Study</u>: 1:30pm—3:00pm. Discussion of the Book of Revelation 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

<u>Choir announcement:</u> Hope you enjoyed the choir anthem on Oct 2. The choir will be singing during the service on Oct 30. Come add some music into your life! Future rehearsals are Thurs Nov 3 & 10 and Tues Dec 6 and 13 at 7:00. The choir is excited with its new Advent and Christmas music. We would love to have more singers!! Contact Tony Bero at bero.tony@gmail.com or 942-1162 so he can have music ready for you.

Fresh off the press: You are invited to a mini-fundraiser to support the quilt makers at Immanuel Lutheran in Suttons Bay on Sunday November 13 at 1:00. Some of the choir members from BLC will be joining with the full choir of Immanuel on some of the songs which were sung during the past year. When Tony joined us as choir director it was hoped that there would be some possible combination of singers in the future and this with be the first attempt. Hope to see some of you BLC faces there.

Refresh Committee Update: We are moving along with refreshing the last classroom. We have walls washed and painted and cove base will be installed in the next week. We have replaced all the light fixtures with new LED lights which provides a cleaner light than fluorescent lighting. As we said earlier, there are a few things we needed to replace due to wear, such as a new faucet and some plumbing. We hope to move the books from the office into the new library/conference room by the end of October.

We would also light to ask if anyone has a Home Carpet Cleaner we could use for a few hours to clean the carpet. If you are able to help please contact Chuck Ardingo, 206-919-7487 or email, dingo457@msn.com

24 hr food pantry closing for the winter: The outdoor pantry will be closing for the winter after the craft show on Nov 6. If you or someone you know needs some extra food please take some before it closes. There will be extra food set out on the day of the show. Before April anyone in need can contact the office to arrange a pick-up from the indoor storage. If you find a deal too good to refuse from Nov to Apr the teal bin will be available below the table by the mailboxes for placing your goodies.

<u>A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts</u>. 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.

Safety and Security of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

There has been a committee formed to work on the Safety and Security for our staff, members and visitors of our church. The purpose of the committee is to look at the church building and ways to keep everyone safe who enters our building. The meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the church; the next meeting is November 2nd at 4:30. The members of the committee are Gail Goldsmith, Jana Rockne, Chuck Ardingo, Jan Stretlien and Craig and Maureen Bauer. If you would like to be a member of this committee, please come to the next meeting or talk to a committee member. Also if you have any questions or concerns please talk to one of us.

The committee will be looking at the current safety protocols and updating them. We will be looking at weather related protocols as well as fire and a plan of action for active shooter situations.

The committee will be having representatives from the police department and fire department come and do a walk through the church and give us input as to what we should do to make our church safe for everyone. We will be getting NARCAN in the instance there would be an overdose emergency on our premises. A training will be provided on how to use NARCAN for anyone interested.

In addition, the committee is looking at the AED to make sure it is updated and to have people trained on this devise as well as CPR. There is a Family and Friends CPR Training Class offered, free of charge, on the 3rd Tuesday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Metro Fire Department 11 on Albany St. (Off Veterans Drive). You may go online to https://gtmetrofire.org/cpr/ or call 231-947-3000 ext.1234 to register. If there is a group who would like to take it all together, we will have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you are already trained in AED and CPR please let Gail Goldsmith 231-633-2630 know as we would like to see how many people are already trained. You do not have to have a course completion card, but have had the course within the last 2 years.

Peace and blessings to all!

SHEPHERDING A SABBATICAL

The Sabbatical Team would like to thank everyone who came to the Listening Forum on October 2nd to give your input on the Sabbatical. This is not just a sabbatical for Pastor Paul, but a time for all of us. Pastor Paul will be having some much needed and deserved time off with his family and meditation. At the same time our church will experience new plans and activities. You were such a big help to the Sabbatical Team to come up with ideas for activities and fund raising to be able to do the activities and provide some funds to Pastor Paul. We will be doing a monthly article in the "Star" to keep you updated on what the plans are and an update on the fundraising. Please feel free to reach out to any member of the team to ask any questions or provide more ideas. The team members are Pastor Paul Busekist, Gail Goldsmith, Carolyn Mann, Cindy Monroe, Barbara Wright, Maureen Bauer and Mark McPherson.

Thank you especially to Tom Christiansen and Sherri Helman for taking the lead on calling people to ask for financial assistance. One fundraiser will be happening very soon, we will be selling some of the unused pews, a piano and 6 of the tables from the Fellowship Hall, (we recently purchased 6 new tables). We will be doing this at the Craft Show on November 5th. If you are interested in any of these items, please talk to a team member. Shalom

THANK YOU FROM THE SLABAUGH FAMILY!

Friends! It's bittersweet that I write this final STAR Article to you all. It's been a wonderful 3 years serving as Director of Youth and Outreach here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. It was an adventure from start to finish—especially with that pandemic thrown in there.

My time here at Bethlehem has filled my heart with a sense of purpose and belonging. While we are excited about the new adventures that await us in Grand Rapids, we feel sad to be leaving this community of such wonderful people.

I would like to thank you all for the support you have given our family over the last few years. My transition into the Director of Youth and Outreach wasn't easy especially as I started only 8 months before the COVID shutdown and was still learning the ropes at the time. You all were always there to lift me up. I will always be grateful for your guidance and your support. I have not only become a better leader and person, but I've also grown as a follower of Christ. Thank you for your mentorship and your support throughout this time we have had together. Most importantly, thank you so much to the families who have allowed me to be part of their children's lives. It has truly been my pleasure, and I feel I have learned from them as much they have learned from me…if not more! You all have become a tremendously important part of my life and we hope you continue to keep in touch.



The Slabaugh Family New Contact Info:

1848 Preston Court NW Apt B95 Grand Rapids, MI 49504

annieslabaugh17@gmail.com

Cheerfully in Christ, Annie, Trent & Caleb



News from Norm Fred: I was asked by Garfield Township to help out with a grant funded tree planting project they were doing along with ReLeaf Michigan, DTE and Consumers Energy. At the last minute one of their volunteer crews canceled due to Covid so we stepped in with 5 BLC members. We had planted lots of trees before, but we learned a lot about how it is done correctly and we will use these new skills in the future. Today, we planted 8 of the 20 trees.



Giving Statements Available: Your individual giving statements will be available in your mailbox in the Narthex beginning Sunday October 23, 2022. The statement covers giving from January 1st through September 30, 2022. Please pick them up at your convenience. To save on postage, I will mail out the ones not picked up by the end of November 2022. Thank you for your generous support for the programs and ministries of your church. We are all blessed by your faithful giving. Your Bookkeeper



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, the Cindy Monroe group signed up for February 5th with a chicken and rice dinner, and the B.J. and Tom Christensen group planning a ham dinner on February 7th.

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. Reach me at any time at 631-0040. 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

September income was \$24,785 compared to budgeted income of \$29,904 or a shortfall of \$5,119. Expenses were \$30,095 compared to budget of \$28,757 resulted in spending \$1,339 more than budgeted. On a cash basis expenses exceeded income by \$5,310.

Through September, income was \$253,626 compared to budgeted income of \$269,923 for a shortfall of \$16,296. Expenses were \$281,222 compared to budget of \$275,698 resulted in spending \$5,524 more than budgeted. On a cash basis expenses have exceeded income by \$27.596.



ELCA mission personnel attended the first in-person Missionary Conference (SMC) since 2019. The gathering included all patterns of service including long-term and two-year global mission personnel, volunteers, global mission associates, companion synod personnel and global mission co-workers.

Together they:

- Renewed their call to service and justice.
- Connected their experiences with the ELCA future church emphases.
- Imagined new ways to collaborate in the future as they listen, welcome, advocate, witness and work for peace, reconciliation and justice with their neighbors, locally and globally.

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - NOVEMBER 2022

THANK OFFERING SUNDAY: November 13, 2022. Women of our congregation will be handling all the positions of the worship service on this day. There will be a free will offering taken which supports ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. You may have a Thank Offering jar from previous years to collect your offering (there will be jars available at a display in the Narthex). There will be envelopes availabe for those who don't have a jar. Please join us!

LAUNDRY ITEMS NEEDED: There is still a huge need for laundry and cleaning items (including toilet paper, kleenix and paper towels) for our project. Please leave in the basket in the Narthex.

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY: All women of Bethlehem are invited to join one of our Bible study groups; one meets at noon on the second Tuesday and one meets at 1PM on the second Thursday. We take our study from the Gather magazine. If interested, please call Nancy Ammann at 946-8433. If you don't have a copy of <u>Gather</u>, we can set you up with a copy of the study. Join us, won't you?

CHRISTMAS TEA: Keep an eye out for information on the Christmas Tea. We haven't been able to celebrate this event for a couple of years so we are 'working our way back', albeit a little bit more simplified. It will still be a great way to prepare for the Season of Christmas

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 Jan Schmidt, The Palson and Palmer Family

Orchard Creek: Jan Waisanen 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 <u>www.bethlehemtc.org</u>!

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 (or call the office for a copy:

bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes

BLC Contacts PLEASE NOTE SEVERAL ADDRESS UPDATES

Church Office

Pastor Paul Busekist Admin, Asst. Admin. Aide Barbara Oster Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson Tony Bero, Music Director Annie Slabaugh, Youth & Outreach Director annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org Website

Church Council

Gail Goldsmith, President Maureen Bauer, Vice President Jana Rockne, Secretary Leonard Graf, Treasurer Jim Monroe, Financial Sec. Jim Hinds, Christian Care Giving Paul Wiemerslage, Christian Ed. Laura Hahn, Fellowship Cindy Monroe, Membership/Evangelism Chuck Ardingo, (not on Council), Property Maureen Bauer, Personnel Scott Farley, Stewardship Denice Bossardet, Worship and Music Paul Wiemerslage, Youth/Y2A Pastor Paul Busekist

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

	BLC MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND	SION EN	IDOWMI	ENT FUN	D
	Mehe	MER	ling A	We're Welking A Difference!	encel
	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:	., the BLC Mission I bjects on a local and ras disbursed to ma	îndowment Fund Cc 1 global level. Using 11y organizations in	mmittee has worked only profits on our in support of our missic	hard to follow its ivestments, more m, including:
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	Safe Harbor			Habitat for Humanity	mity
	Lutheran In	Lutheran Immigrant & Refugee Services	igee Services	Generations Ahead	ad
	ELCA World Hunger	l Hunger		Food Rescue of NW Michigan	W Michigan
	ELCA Disaster Relief	ter Relief		Womens Resource Center	e Center
	Meals on Wheels	ieels		Salvation Army	
	Father Fred	Father Fred Foundation		GT Conservation District	District
	Boardman F	Boardman River Clean Sweep	da	Freedom Builders	8
	NW Michiga	NW Michigan Supportive Housing	busing		
	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!	years ago we g us well and c BLC Mission r Year-End G	granted out ab ontinue to grov Endowment	out \$6000. Our ^v v! PLEASE consi Fund in your po	Vanguard ider ersonal
	If you would like to serve on this incredible committee, or have further questions about giving, please contact any of the current members:	to serve on this șiving, please c	s incredible corr ontact any of th	imittee, or have f e current membe	urther rs:
	Jim Hutchison	Norm Fred	Barb Wright	Patti Friedli	Chuck Ardingo
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1050 Peninsula Drive Traverse City, MI 49686

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (ELCA)