

NOVEMBER 2020



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880

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

Building Hours: (Currently closed due to Covid 19)
Monday – Thursday, 9am to 3pm

Office Hours: (Currently closed due to Covid 19)
Monday – Thursday, 9am to 3pm



Worship Times:

(In-person worship currently postponed;
offering “virtual worship” due to Covid-19)

Saturday: 5 pm Celebrate! Worship
Sunday: 8:30 am Traditional Worship
9:45 am Educational Hour
11 am Modern Worship

Communion at all services

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.”



“Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.”

– Baptismal rite, ELW p.231



Greetings, friends in Christ at Bethlehem:

The above blessing came to mind recently, as I was reflecting upon the times we face together. It first came to mind because of the “full name” we call the Confirmation rite: Affirmation of Baptism. Baptism is the beginning of our lives of faith, and its affirmation later is the time we can put new words to that faith journey. We affirm our baptismal calling after study, communion and conversation with peers and leaders. So first and foremost, we give thanks and **congratulations to our 2020 Confirmands Jane Kurkowski and Quenten Branch**, who publicly professed their faith last weekend on Reformation Sunday. God’s peace to you both and continued blessings!

There was a second reason why those baptismal words struck a chord this week. The phrase “moving target” is one pastors and other leaders use a lot these days, because if ever there was an era when we all felt life was a “moving target” it is now, my friends. Questions swirl around us regarding when we can more safely gather, what life will look like when we can, who our nation’s future leaders will be, and how will important times like Christmas look for all of us? My favorite answer is something like “God is good, and God will be with us all no matter what.” Another answer is: just how that all looks is...well...a moving target.

A search for “moving targets” in the bible came up with some interesting results. None were a “bullseye.” Some mentioned the word “target,” and some – like the ones in Job – seemed a little less than positive. 1 Timothy 1:5 used the word “goal” instead and was the most encouraging: *“The goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”* Timothy’s verse pointed me to that very same goal/target of confirmation and the heavenly + the Holy Spirit places on our hearts and minds: the seal of and mark of the cross of Christ. Forever.

So, what are some of the “targets” we hope for together in the coming months, and how might we get there?

- **Advent nights:** We are planning to have Advent Nights **online each Wednesday evening for December 2nd, 9th, and 23rd, with “Blue Christmas” on Wednesday the 16th** (see below). We will modify our “2.0” content on Facebook and Youtube online and hope to team up with area churches for this effort.
- **Blue Christmas** is tentatively **scheduled for the Wednesday night of December 16th**, online (and perhaps in-person, watching that service together) with those very same friends in collaboration.
- **Christmas Eve:** Assuming it is safe enough for us to gather in-person on Christmas Eve, we will likely have three abbreviated services, spread out by 3 or 4 hours (possibly noon, 4pm and 8pm) to allow time for us to “air out” the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall between services. We are also exploring mitigation strategies like relatively **low-cost air purifiers and ionizers** to remove harmful particles from the most used gathering areas like the sanctuary. Regardless of any in-person service, the wheels are already in motion for a special online Christmas Eve worship service, working with Yellow Wood Media, a production company out of Grand Rapids, to enhance our production capabilities for Christmas Eve.

There are other “moving targets” we face together with bold confidence and hope. Please see the next page for more, and may God bless us all in these sacred and wonderful days of Thanksgiving and new life!

- Pastor Paul

President's Corner

First and foremost, congratulations to Jane Kurkowski and Quenten Branch on your confirmation.

It has been great having church in the sanctuary and seeing faces, or half faces, we haven't seen in such a long time. Prayerfully it will not be too long before everyone will feel comfortable worshipping together.

During this past week a group of volunteers replaced the 35+ year old roofing on the garage. The old shingles were so bad that the insurance company would not insure the building. Thanks to Chuck Ardingo, Carl Lehto, Jim Hinds, Suzanne Lehto, Frank Wall, Jim Monroe, Paul Ton and any that I missed. Also kudos to the octogenarians who spent considerable time on the roof.

Have peace in the Lord,
Leonard Graf.

Stewardship, Vision and Pivot for 2021

Friends, it is that time of year again, and despite our limitations of time and space, our thanks for your support is bountiful and our eyes are always set on ways we can grow in faith together! Normally, we spend a lot of time in the October or November STAR talking of a comprehensive vision for the church. However, during COVID times we prefer to think of our forward-thinking efforts as “pivots,” so keep looking for ways we can adjust faithfully moving forward, in this era of “moving targets” and blessings! **One very important “pivot” we see necessary is the investment into Live Streaming technology at Bethlehem for 2021 and beyond, allowing us to (1) increase our live worship reach to our members and larger community, and (2) decrease the work load on our staff for virtual worship preparation.**

Our 2020-2021 Stewardship Campaign is already underway and consists of virtual and in-person video temple talks by *Property Chair Carl Lehto (October 25th)*, *Council Vice President and Stewardship Liaison Mark McPherson (November 1st)* and *Pastor Paul (November 8th)*.

Pledge Sunday will happen two Sundays back to back, as **“Faithful Bookends of Thanksgiving,” on Sunday, November 22nd and November 29th.**

Letters with pledge cards will be mailed out on or about November 10th. Be well, be safe, and God bless!

- Your Stewardship Committee

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

Hello Bethlehem! The air is getting crisper by the minute! Hopefully you are all bundling up and keeping healthy! Although Thanksgiving may look a little different for a lot of us this year, I'm still personally still excited for Turkey and Stuffing! Plus, we've got some fun things planned this month. November is going to be awesome!



NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS ...

This semester all of the **Youth Groups** will be doing similar. For the month of November we are going to have a fun filled movie night at Bethlehem! There will be a customized devotion, then pre packaged popcorn & a movie that the group chooses. If your youth has a movie in mind, please let me know and I will add it to the list for us to all vote on. If you have a youth interested in attending, please reach out to me in order to obtain and read the **Youth Gathering Guidelines** for this current COVID season.

The **Junior High School Group** will have their Movie Night on **Wednesday November 11th**.

The **BLUES Group** will have their Movie Night a little earlier this month due to the Thanksgiving Holiday! That will be on Friday **November 20th**.

The **High School Group** will have their Movie Night on **Saturday November 21st**.

I am still offering **One on Ones** to all of the youth in a virtual capacity. These can be done and be arranged when it is convenient for you and your families! Just reach out to me if you are interested and we can figure out a time.

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

As we go into November I ask that you keep Bethlehem's kids and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they continue their semesters, and as they prepare for the winter months ahead.

"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

Cheerfully in Christ,
Annie Slabaugh

Director of Youth and Outreach/ Bethlehem Lutheran Church/Traverse City

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City Michigan
“We Journey with God to serve with Love”

Minutes from Church Council Meeting September 15, 2020

CALLED TO ORDER: Leonard Graf at 6:04 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Paul

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

VISITOR/S OR CONGREGATIONAL COMMENT: none

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: There were a few changes moving the Update on Worship Services from Old Business to New Business and adding D. Giving to schools to support the student’s needs with supplies. Mark McPherson made the motion to approve agenda and Maureen Bauer seconded the motion, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM August 11, 2020: Nancy Downer made the motion to approve the minutes, Cindy Monroe, seconded the motion, the motion carried.

REPORTS:

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Leonard Graf stated he wants to get the Treasurer position filled as soon as possible. He placed the need in the Star, and has asked people personally. Dave Peppler has asked the Finance Committee Members if anyone was interested. He also reminded Committee heads to get their financial needs in as soon as possible.

PASTOR’S REPORT: 1.) Pastor Paul met with 12 churches via Zoom today, only 4 churches have gotten in their buildings or have a plan to get into their churches. BLC is in the middle of the process as many churches don’t have a plan. Some churches are terrified to open. 2.) Pastor thanked the Council for the support he receives. As the Pastor, he feels he is responsible for the parishioners’ health and it can truly be life and death decisions. 3.) Pastor also stated the Treasurer position is truly needed as soon as possible.

FINACIAL SERCRETARY REPORT: Jim Monroe stated the ELCA giving Pledge is at 91% where is should be. The non-ELCA giving is at 94% where is should be. The Non-Pledge contribution is up by \$2,424 over the budgeted amount. Overall for the year (through August), the contributions are running about 93% of the amount needed to meet the budget. As expected the August income is down, September tends to come back as seen last year. Members are tending to meet their pledges. Statement letters will be going out at the end of the 3rd quarter so members will know where they stand.

CONSENT CALENDAR: COMMITTEE REPORTS: The committee reports are: Financial Secretary’s report, Financial and Executive Committee report, Christian Care Report, Christian Education Report, Membership and Evangelism, Personnel Report, Property Report, Stewardship Report, Worship and Music, Youth/Y2A Report, Fellowship Report, Visions Report, Endowment Fund Report (Quarterly) and Sustaining Endowment Memorial Fund Report (Quarterly). All reports submitted were accepted as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Treasurer, no one has come forward. Leonard put the position in the Star, and people have been asked, no one is interested. Leonard suggested someone else take the President position and he possibly take the Treasurer position. Council members will continue to invite member for either position.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Approval of bid by Molon Asphalt, Inc. to repair and seal the parking lot for \$6,051.00. Another bid was received, but Molon Asphalt was the lowest bid and they could get it done this fall. Cindy Monroe made the motion to approve the bid, Jan Stretlien seconded the motion, the motion carried.
- B. Approval of quilting group to use the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday mornings. 6 to 8 women are a part of the group and they will clean up when they are done. The motion carried.
- C. Update on Worship Services. Pastor Paul presented a draft letter to go the congregation, which includes a survey with 3 questions to be returned by September 27th. It includes the process of returning into the church building. Mark McPherson included a section from the Stewardship Committee. The survey and the letter includes the names and numbers of the New Normal Workgroup if there are any questions. Funding for Live Stream services need to be looked at for 2021. There may be a possibility for 2 services on Sundays in time, but it will take time and work to get to this point.
- D. Approval of funding to some schools to help purchase supplies. Pastor is planning on purchasing supplies for Blair Elementary school with the Good Samaritan Funds, it was suggest that a noisy offering be taken during worship services. It was decided to hold the noisy offering for 2 weeks and ask the Mission Endowment fund to also match the funds. To increase the schools to purchase supplies for Traverse Heights, possibly Silver Lake Elementary and a Middle School. It will depend on the amount that is collected at the noisy offering. Gail Goldsmith made the motion for the noisy offering, Jan Stretlien seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- E. Funds to repair the organ. Nancy Downer stated the Organ is in need of repairs and updates. Pastor reported this is in the budget and there is a process for funding for the organ repairs and updates.

VISITOR OR CONGREGATIONAL COMMENT: none

GOOD TO THE ORDER: A time for general/undocumented comments by each Council Member if so desired.

LORD'S PRAYER: was said by all.

ADJOURNMENT: Mark McPherson made a motion to adjourn, Nancy Downer seconded the motion, adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Goldsmith, Council Secretary

Finance Update – September Financial Results:

September income came in at \$28,422 compared to our budget of \$32,388. This creates a negative variance of \$3,966 against budget for the month. On the expense side we came in at \$27,154 compared to our budget of \$29,667. This creates a positive variance of \$2,513 against budget. From a cash flow perspective income of \$28,422 exceeded expense of \$27,154 leaving us ahead \$1,268. From a cash flow perspective it was a good month. Comparisons against budget don't mean as much during this year of Covid. Without Sunday services both our income and expense streams are far from normal. A better barometer of how we are doing is to look at cash flow...are we bringing in enough to cover our expenses.

For the first nine months of the year our income was \$272,295 against a budget of \$292,170 leaving us short \$19,875. Our expense was \$271,053 against a budget of \$296,654 leaving us under budget by \$25,601. The good news is income of \$272,295 is almost dead on with expense of \$271,053. Although our income is down, our expenses have also been down allowing us to breakeven from a cash flow perspective. Several one-time repair expenses (e.g., parking lot, shed roof, skylight) are expected to hit in October which will challenge our balance of income and expense.

Of concern is YTD contributions are down \$19,524 from our normal rate of giving. Eventually as the Covid crisis gets under control, the church will return to a more business as usual basis. When that occurs, our expenses will likely return to its historical run rate. When that happens, our income will need to return to its historical level as well.

Budgeting for 2021 is underway. No one knows how Covid will impact income and expense making budgeting difficult. The first cut of the budget was reviewed at the October Council meeting. As is often the case getting to a balanced budget is challenging as income assumptions are contingent on current giving rate and a successful stewardship drive in 4Q20.

Pecans are ordered but are still available The Worship and Music committee, with the help of Thrivent, are selling the popular Schermer pecans this Fall. Instead of having a table set up inside the church, we are still taking orders for Dark Chocolate Pecans, Caramel Cluster Pecans and Cinnamon Glazed Pecans. The \$12 bags are perfect for holiday or hostess gifts or just plain munching. **Please note that we have less than 10 bags available of the Caramel Cluster Pecans and between 15-20 of the Dark Chocolate Pecans and Cinnamon Glazed Pecans.** Please contact Barbara Oster (231-668-7038 or beo6475@yahoo.com) if you still want to order.



For the foreseeable future, the questions below will be asked of you each time you enter the church building for services, along with taking of temperatures.

Covid-19 Screening Questions

Please read each question carefully and answer Yes or No to each

1. Have you experienced any of the following symptoms in the past 48 hours:
 - fever or chills
 - cough
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - fatigue
 - muscle or body aches
 - headache
 - new loss of taste or smell
 - sore throat
 - congestion or runny nose
 - nausea or vomiting
 - diarrhea
2. Within the past 14 days, have you been in close physical contact (6 feet or closer for at least 15 minutes) with a person who is known to have laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 or with anyone who has any symptoms consistent with COVID-19?
3. Are you isolating or quarantining because you may have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 or are worried that you may be sick with COVID-19?
4. Are you currently waiting on the results of a COVID-19 test?

Did you answer NO to ALL QUESTIONS? Welcome to Bethlehem, you may enter the Sanctuary (or overflow to Fellowship Hall). Thank you for helping us protect you and others during this time.

Did you answer YES to ANY QUESTION? Please avoid contact with others and go straight home immediately. If you are not feeling well, we hope that you feel better soon! Thank you for helping us protect you and others during this time.

Bethlehem Pics



Virtual worship
prep and
In-Person
worship
screening as
we adapt to
life together!



New
Ministries at
BLC



Outdoor photos from Confirmation retreat "Scavenger Hunt" – October 17th



Reformation Sunday 2020 Confirmation

Quenten Branch

Jane Kurkowski



STAR and Bulletin Deadlines

To be sure that your article or announcement is in STAR or Bulletin issue that you want, please note the following deadlines:

STAR: by the third Wednesday of the month

Bulletin: by the Wednesday before each weekend

Submission by email is preferred (admin@bethlehemtc.org) with either the word STAR or Bulletin in the subject line. Please write exactly what you want in the article or announcement. Be sure to include all pertinent information about your event, i.e. dates, time, location, etc. You can put it in the body of the email or as an attachment as a Word doc or .pdf. Also, please include the month(s) for the STAR issue or the date(s) for the Bulletin issue that you need your article or announcement included. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Oster at admin@bethlehemtc.org

Please do not send these to Sharon.Weller@bethlehemtc.org as this is Sharon's music email and Barbara does not have access to this email. Barbara is the only one who prepares the Star and Bulletin and she shares the admin@bethlehemtc.org email with Sharon.

Share your name please

Some of us are finding that not seeing an entire face and dealing with sunglasses causes us to have more difficulty knowing and calling other BLC members by name. If you enjoy being greeted by name please consider placing your name on your dashboard while drive-through communion is occurring. If you have an extra name tag at home you may want to consider wearing it when green space services occur. And please be sure to wear your name tag when the time comes to re-enter church.

Need some help recognizing those new people behind the masks? There are photo sheets for you to take home showing the new members WITHOUT masks and also giving their contact information. It's the perfect size to stick in the front or back of your church directory. Just pick up the sheet on the table where you can pick up and return your nametag. If you are someone who does not come into the church and would like one, leave a message with the church office or email cmonroe@chartermi.net. We will plan to include one in a future mailing of the STAR.

We're still collecting Oleson's receipts, and we're hoping you've been saving yours for Bethlehem. Please drop them off in the bin under the mailbox counter. Thanks.

STAR delivery

Hasn't it been a blessing to have the STAR delivered to your home the past few months? Thanks so much to 2 cherished members who dedicated their time and monetary donation so this could occur. While we continue to have limited/reduced weekend services the membership committee is proposing the following: The STAR will be available for dispersal the first Sunday of the month. For those of you who can make it to the weekend service you will be asked to pick-up your paper STAR. Or, if you prefer to read yours on-line you will be asked to notify the committee. Committee members will mark off those who have received their STAR so paper copies will only be sent to those who do not have one. This way we can make certain that everyone is receiving all of the Hot-off-the-press news and also do this in the most cost-effective manner. Hope to see as many of you as possible on the first Sunday of the month.

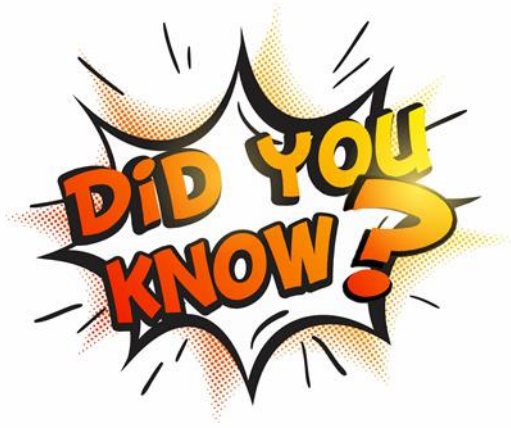
BLC Book Club News

The BLC book club will be meeting by ZOOM on Thursday Nov. 24 at 5:30. We will discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. If you are not already on the list to receive the ZOOM link just send an email to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net. Also contact her if you would like to borrow a book. We have the Book club bag checked out from the library and there are some extra copies available.



Christian Education News

November 2020



Packet lessons & BLUES:

Although we are not having in-person Sunday School yet, the Christian Education Committee is mailing materials for at-home Sunday School lessons! If you would like to receive a November packet for your child(ren), please contact Nancy Ammann.

Bethlehem Lutheran Upper Elementary Students (BLUES) is a special Youth Group for children in 3rd – 6th grade that meets approximately every month, in-person or virtually, depending on the activities. Please contact Annie Slabaugh for details.

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



Happy Thanksgiving!



-Christian Education Committee



ADVENT READINGS

(Taken from Good Housekeeping November 1952)

'A LIGHT UNTO THY PATH'

During World War II, a United States Marine on Guadalcanal stanchd his homesickness around Christmastime by asking his family to read the same passages from the Bible every day that he would be reading. This simultaneous Bible reading has grown into a worldwide movement, and last year people from 38 countries read the same passages from the Bible every day between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The purpose of this movement is not only to draw together members of families who are separated but to draw the people of diverse nations together. If possible, read the Bible aloud, for the beauty and sonority of its poetry and the impact of its message.

**November 26 Psalms 67
November 27: Psalms 103
November 28: Psalms 91
November 29: Psalms 121
November 30: Psalms 1
December 1: Psalms 27
December 2: Psalm 46
December 3: Psalms 90
December 4: Isaiah 40
December 5: Isaiah 55
December 6: Matthew 5:1-26
December 7: Matthew 5:27-48
December 8: Matthew 6:1-18
December 9: Matthew 6:19-34
December 10: Matthew 7**

**December 11: John 14
December 12: John 15
December 13: John 17
December 14: Psalms 23
December 15: Luke 15
December 16: Romans 8
December 17: Romans 12
December 18: Ephesians 6
December 19: Philippians 4
December 20: Revelation 21
December 21: John 1:1-18
December 22: Isaiah 53
December 23: Hebrews 11
December 24: 1 Corinthians 13
December 25: CHRISTMAS DAY
Luke 2:1-20**

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - NOVEMBER 2020



THANKSGIVING is the holiday of peace, the celebration of work and the simple life, a true folk festival that speaks the poetry of the turn of the seasons, the beauty of the seedtime and harvest, the ripe product of the year, and the deep, deep connection of all these things with God. (unknown)

WELCA THANKOFFERING: Life is different this year. Because of the global pandemic, every expression of our women's organization has had to postpone or even cancel meetings and gatherings. Many of us can't gather with our families, let alone with our friends in our circles or congregations as we have always loved to do. It's really hard. But as the Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Rome so many years ago, "...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor thing present, nor things to come...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (8:38-39). And I take that 'anything else in all creation' to include the coronavirus, don't you? Not even a global pandemic can separate us from the love of God in Christ. And to that we say, "Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!" Lutheran women have a time honored way of giving thanks for blessings received - Thankofferings. Some women keep the practice of setting aside daily Thankofferings throughout the year and then holding a Thankoffering service near the end of the year, joining our daily offerings with those of other women throughout our church and throughout our history - and well, it's powerful. In ordinary times some of us may be able to hold Thankoffering services just as we always have and our treasurer gathers up all the offerings given at the Thankoffering service and forwards the total amount to the churchwide expression of Women of the ELCA.

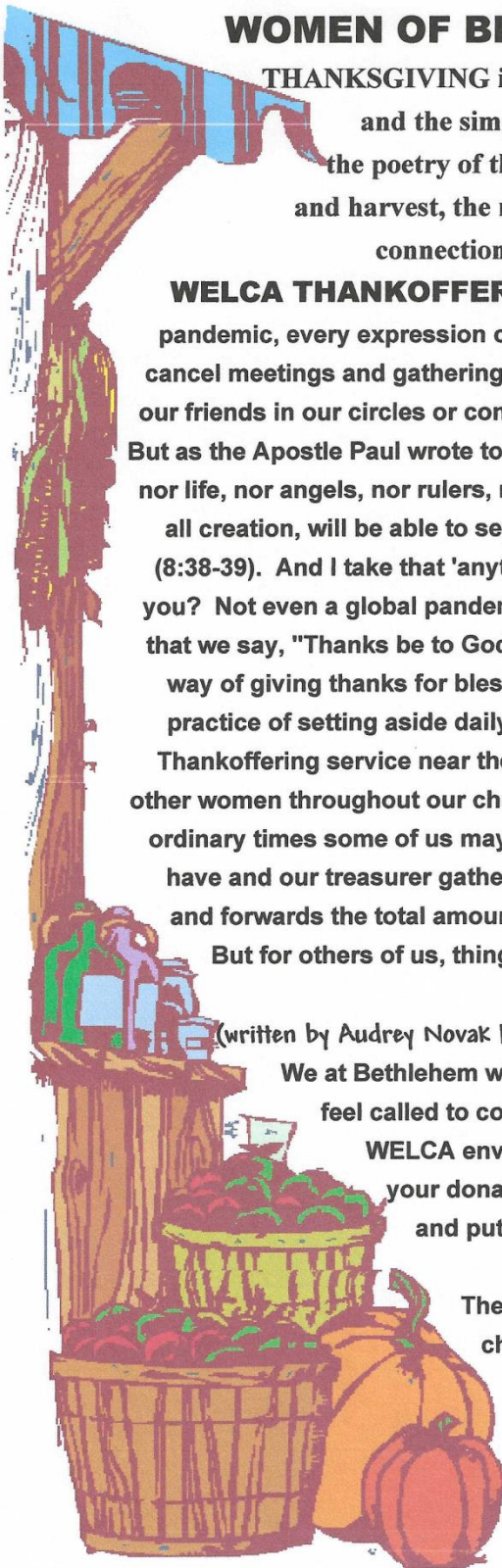
But for others of us, things are different this year so we'll be making our 2020 Thankofferings differently.

(written by Audrey Novak Riley, Director for stewardship for Women of the ELCA)

We at Bethlehem will be doing our Thankofferings differently this year. If you feel called to contribute to our Thankoffering, please use the attached WELCA envelope and return to the church office. If you wish to make your donation by check, please make it out to "Women of the ELCA" and put "Thankoffering" on the memo line.

These offerings support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization including the website, justice and advocacy work, training and development for elected leaders throughout the organization, grants, scholarships, and much, much more. Remember, together we do more than we could ever do apart!

THANK YOU!





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

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

COVID-19 Brings New Forms of Ministry

Amid physical distancing and isolation, the diakonia department of the Protestant **Christian Batak Church (HKBP) in Indonesia** has initiated many new forms of ministry outreach.

There are already an estimated 81.87 million smartphone users in Indonesia, roughly a third of its population. Taking advantage of this, one church department has produced materials for YouTube and Facebook and other virtual resources that can be used not just during the pandemic but at other times as well.

Activities online are pastoral care training on Zoom, building awareness of gender-based violence, staging an online art competition for children, providing health care resources, posting video blogs from children and youth, and offering spiritual encouragement through music and song.

According to the Rev. Debora Sinaga, director of the diakonia department, "Many people have been economically affected by the pandemic, in addition to many women and children hit by the violence of the situation." These social media resources give people the opportunity to "freely express their situation."

The COVID-19 Crisis – Latin America and Caribbean

Suddenly, a global health crisis has exploded, changing everything. The pandemic has impacted the work of the **Latin America and Caribbean Desk of Global Mission** and the companions as well. Some of our missionaries returned to the United States while others remained in their country of service.

In April and May, Global Mission supported over \$150,000 in emergency requests from companion churches in nine Latin American countries — Brazil, Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela. These emergency projects provide food and basic hygiene supplies to support families in poor communities where COVID-19 infection rates are higher and the pandemic has made the economic situation even more precarious. Amid stringent quarantine measures, companion churches have identified responsible ways to deliver basic humanitarian assistance to affected families.

Three leaders of the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala (ILAG) participated in the EPES International School on popular health education in January. Within weeks of their return to Guatemala, the first cases of COVID-19 began to appear in remote rural areas, but there were no basic educational materials on the virus in the local Indigenous language. Two of the participants were able to find translated materials through the International Mayan League, edited those translations and began distributing those resources in Indigenous communities where the ILAG has a church presence.

HONORING GOD'S CREATION

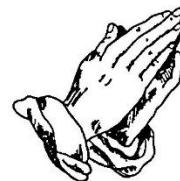
In this time of Thanksgiving we should honor God for his greatest creation---Us.

*Thank you Father
For having created us and given us
to each other in the human family
Help us to love and honor each other
as you did by creating us
In Jesus name
Amen*

As a Thanksgiving exercise lets think of all the loving and honoring things (big and small), members of the human race have done for each other during this pandemic. Do not forget to remember the things that you done. Let's be grateful for the goodness of humankind.



Health Concerns*



The Power of Prayer

*Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Tom Miller, Margie Whitney, Jo Hasse,
Ellie Tacke, Bev Attwood, Priscilla Thompson, Julie LaPeer,
Marleen Baesch, Alvin Kober,, Lynn Hoyt, Thad Hellenga,
Jan Waisanen, Molly Eastman, Harper Wiemerslage,
Ben Farley, Jennifer Mowers, John Stretlien,
Roy & Marilyn Dumond, Shawn Rivard, Brenda Denoyer,
Betty Evans, Alan Hewett and Jeffrey Hentschel*

Grand Traverse Pavilions: Bev Attwood

Homebound: Marleen Baesch

Traverse Manor: Margie Whitney, Marinan Bradford

French Manor LaFranier: Jo Hasse

Boardman Lake Glens: Inge Thomas, Bill & Dee Springer

Samaritas (Acme): Priscilla Thompson

Cherry Hill Haven: Jerrie Boike

Hospital Visits: Please let the church office know if you are going into the hospital for a scheduled procedure or an emergency so Pastor Paul can visit you.

BLC's PRAYER CHAIN is always seeking partners in prayer.

More volunteers are needed for this crucial ministry.

**For more information or to set the Prayer Chain in motion,
call Jan Stretlien @ 947-3265 or email jstretlien@gmail.com**

***If you would like your name, or the name of a loved one, to appear on this list which appears here and in the weekly bulletin, please call the church office at 947-9880.**

Are you checking for the latest BLC updates at: www.bethlehemtc.org?

You saw Norm and others take the photos...be sure you see them at www.bethlehemtc.org!

Good News...and great news...at www.bethlehemtc.org...

BLC Contacts

PLEASE NOTE SEVERAL ADDRESS UPDATES

Church Office

| | |
|---|--|
| Pastor Paul Busekist | paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org |
| Admin. Asst. Sharon Weller | admin@bethlehemtc.org |
| Admin. Aide Barbara Oster | admin@bethlehemtc.org |
| Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson | bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org |
| Sharon Weller, Music Director | sharon.weller@bethlehemtc.org |
| Annie Slabaugh, Youth & Outreach Director | annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org |
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Church Council

| | |
|---|--|
| Leonard Graf, President | Email address in process |
| Mark McPherson, Vice President | Email address in process |
| Gail Goldsmith, Secretary | Email address in process |
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| 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,
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Shalom, and do not be afraid.



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