

December 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

Third Thursday Worship 7:00pm

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.”



***"And since we live in present tense
The only hope of making sense
All depends on the source of light."
-Fugazi, "Closed Captioned"***

(Part Two – The Way of the Vulnerable from
Tish Harrison Warren's *Prayer in the Night*)



Dear Bethlehem sisters and brothers in Christ,

This is the season of Advent and the dawning of something new. Advent's generic definition is "the anticipation and arrival of a notable person, thing or event." Jesus Christ can aptly be described as all three (a *person* – a baby; a *thing* – salvation; and an *event* – the birth of "the Word made flesh," John 1:14). As in every year of our lives, the culmination of our Christian Advent is full of many emotions and much goodness, as we journey toward Christmas.

This year we have three new "twists" to Advent:

- 1. We celebrate each week this year on Thursday nights** (note, not Wednesday), with dinner at 6pm, perhaps a few topics of dinner conversation, and a brief worship service at 7pm.
- 2. Our 4th Advent Night on Thursday, December 22nd is a much different format** than in years past. Instead of dinner or worship, our "Blue Christmas" activity will be a guided evening hike with our friends from Central United Methodist Church. Our Winter Solstice Hike will likely begin at 7pm, and we'll meet in the Grand Traverse Commons (Keep watching for details.)
- 3. Speaking of watching, our theme/s this year will be based on Episcopal priest Tish Harrison Warren's book *Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work or Watch or Weep*.**

For each week, we have the following:

- **Week 1 (12/1): "In Advent, We Work..."** Dinner at 6pm, with Holden Evening Prayer at 7pm
- **Week 2 (12/8): "In Advent, We Watch..."** Dinner at 6pm, with a Taize Service at 7pm
- **Week 3 (12/15): "In Advent, We Wait..."** Dinner at 6pm, Advent/Christmas Hymn Sing at 7pm
- **Week 4 (12/22): "In Advent, We Wonder..."** Blue Christmas "Winter Solstice Hike" (spot TBD)

Other things "advent-ing" into the new year await, like teaming up with (wait for it...) ADVENT Lutheran Church in Lake Ann for confirmation classes starting in January. ☺ And so we embark together toward the Christ child, who is the light...together.

In peace always,
Pastor Paul

A Word from the President:

On behalf of the Church Council, Staff, Musicians and Volunteers,
wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

Blessings to you All
Gail Goldsmith



2022 BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH Art & Craft Show Thank You! "Many hands make work light"

A heart filled "thank you" goes out to volunteers that participated in the November 5th "Art & Craft Show" fundraiser. Our goals of organizing a productive fundraiser, providing a community event, which gives more exposure to Bethlehem, and brings in new faces to our church, were overwhelmingly reached for the fourth time. From the planning stages to the day of the show, there have been many hands working together that made this event happen. We were blessed with a fundraiser totaling ~\$4,000.00.

SPECIAL THANK YOU! - Nancy Ammann & the Christian Education Team, Phil Anderson, Chuck & Chris Ardingo, Maureen Bauer, Dorene Boyd, Pastor Paul Busekist, Betty Cole, Julie & Tom Cole, Cindy Cuba, Gail Ericson, Barb Graf, Gail Goldsmith, Laura Hahn, John Halstead, Sheryl Hellenga, Janet Hinds, Jim Hinds, Deb Hissong, Kate Holtfreter, Pam Kerns-Quilt Donation, Janet Landis, Carl & Susan Lehto, Emily Leibenguth, Cindy & Jim Monroe, Tracy Moyer-Lap Quilts, Barbara Oster, Dave & Peggy Peppler, Jana & Tom Rockne, Eileen Rubino, Kay Rumbach, Betty Rutila, Lisa Schlagel, Ken Smith, Mary Ann Sparks, Mary Ann Tanis, Paul Ton, Pat & Frank Wall, Barb & Dale Wentzloff, Judy Wieske, Barb Wright and all those who brought in baked goods for the Christian Education Bake Sale. A special kudos goes out to my sister, Sue VanZee, for helping map off the church building layout for the vendors. Also, thank you to all church members that came to check out the 45 artists and crafters to support the fundraiser.

Faith is taking on all challenges with an open heart and mind, with no doubts, total trust in His Word. Thank you, Bethlehem, for hosting the 4th "Art & Craft Show" and making it happen.

Blessings, Patty Leibenguth, Kris Smith and the Craft Show Team

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:** 1:30a break during Advent and Christmas and start up again in January. Look for more information of the study topic pm—3:00pm. has concluded its discussion of the Book of Revelation this week. Then the group will take as we get closer to January.

Sunday Mornings: (please note there will be no Sunday School/Adult Ed on 12/25/22 and 1/1/23)

- **Sunday School:** 9:15am-9:45am
- **Adult Education:** 9:15am-9:45am. Discussion will be about the Lessons/Gospel for the day

Choir announcement: Hope you have enjoyed the recent offerings from the choir. New members are always wanted so come add some music into your life! Future rehearsals are Tues Dec 6 and 13 at 7:00. The choir is excited with its new Advent and Christmas music. The choir will take a break during the beginning of Jan and resume rehearsals on Thurs Jan 26. Contact Tony Bero at bero.tony@gmail.com or 942-1162 so he can have music ready for you.

Refresh Update: Refresh is winding down this year. We have begun sanding and painting cabinets in our new Library/Conference Room. We hope to have the floor stripped and cleaned in the next few weeks along with some minor touch up items. We have also installed some new lighting in the gathering space. The new lights are LED and are brighter and provide a cleaner look to our gathering space. We do have some small items to finish up but most of our work in the gathering space will begin in 2023. Please let us know if you have any questions about our ongoing projects. Thanks to all who have made contributions and continue to support our work. Thanks, Chuck Ardingo

24 hr food pantry closing for the winter: The outdoor pantry has closed for the winter but food will be stored inside **for visitors to the monthly baby pantry and anyone else who stops at our church. 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 in the coat room for placing your goodies.**

A big thank you to all who have turned in Oleson's receipts. We just received a check from them for \$186.58 for a grand total of \$651.20 for the year 2022. Please continue to drop off your Oleson's receipts at Bethlehem!!! Thank you so much!!!

Safety and Security of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Our Safety and Security committee met in November and are making some positive changes in the church building.

Jan Stretlien and Gail Goldsmith walked through the church with the Fire Marshall and an officer from the Sheriff Department to look at what we need to do to be safe while gathering in the church.

An exit light has been replaced, batteries in the exit lights were replaced and the fire extinguishers have all been upgraded. (Some were missed in the annual inspection.)

New adult pads and battery have been ordered for the AED in the Narthex next to the coat room. Gail will be asking people if they are trained in AED/CPR and First Aid. It would be nice to have a list of those already trained.

There are now Narcan boxes in the box with the AED and in the office, in case we would ever have an overdose situation in the church. There are videos on line to watch how to administer Narcan. The Safety and Security Committee members have watched the video and we recommend members of the church watch the video to familiarize yourself with this life saving device.

In the walk through with the police officer we were looking at what to do if there was an active shooter situation. He had some great ideas and felt our church is doing well in the fact that we are looking at making a plan. We will have Office Makowski come back to talk to the council, office staff and volunteers in the greeter and host and Welcome Table positions.

The committee has discussed having fire drills and active shooter discussions in the near future. The committee will be working on the Security Policy for BLC starting in our January meeting. Our next meeting will be December 7th at 4:30 at the church. Please join us if you would like to become a member of this committee or have any questions or concerns.

Please be safe as the weather is changing.

SHEPHERDING A SABBATICAL

The Sabbatical team met in October, after the Listening Forum. We made a determination of percentages to go toward the four areas we need to fund during Pastor Paul's Sabbatical; Pulpit Supply, Office Responsibilities, Church Activities and Pastor's Activities. The two key areas that funds are needed are Pulpit Supply and Office Responsibilities.

The team is concentrating on the Pulpit Supply area; to have people from the congregation do sermons or skits, have some of the Synod staff come and preside and preach. There will be substitute pastors to preside and some will preach. There may be outside groups to come and present about their organizations to us. We will be starting to put the calendar together in January, 2023 to have it all decided by mid-March.

Tom Christensen and Sherri Helman are continuing to make calls to ask for funds for the Sabbatical. The team is also planning several fundraising activities. Possibly the Cherry Festival fundraiser for Non-profit organizations. We are looking to Thrivent Grants to pay for supplies for super bowl subs. There may be a golf tournament in the spring. The Worship and Music Committee is looking at a special concert. So stay tuned, we will be advertising soon.

The next team meeting will be December 12th at 6:30 on Zoom. If you are interested in joining the team please let Pastor Paul know so he can add you to the Zoom meeting invitation. If you have any questions or ideas please let any of the team members know. Again the team is Pastor Paul, Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer, Cindy Monroe, Barbara Wright and Carolyn Mann.

Kathi's Y2A Korner

Allow me to fill you in on our "happenings" at Y2A

As you all know, we sadly said "God Speed" to Annie, Trent and Caleb at the end of October. I heard it said that, "Annie could never be replaced..." While this is true, I would like to remind you that each of us is difficult to "replace" - we all must work together and that is exactly what God calls us to do ! That is why in this Pledge Month of November, we ask you to please give of your time – wherever you feel called.

Lately, I've found myself in a comfortable corner of the couch in our Youth Room. I feel cozy and needed there. I am not Annie, but I appreciate children of all ages !

I enjoy using my educational, creative, and dramatic background when it is useful. We ask you to think about your God Given talents and use them – as the "grapes on the vine" in our congregation.

Y2A is still planning to do Inter-generational Events, upcoming events in 2023 : Pancake Breakfast, Intergenerational Sledding Party, Ski Trip and a Chili Cookoff – details to follow."

The last event I personally took part in was CHARGE ! 2022. This event happens every November at the Great Lakes Wolf Lodge. The summer 's June camp at Stony Lake in New Era are two events programmed by Living Waters Ministries. This year's theme at CHARGE ! 2022 was: BELIEVE ! We were all asked to Believe in what we can't really see – under, over, and around us.

Shawn Antol and I chaperoned our small group of 3 – Hunter Antol, Owen Mungor and Aliyah Biek. We were among 250 youth of ALL genders, disabilities, and faith attitudes. We with Lake Ann's Pastor Tim and Advent Church made up our own special COMMUNITY, that was wrapped in music and ministry. In this space of Faith - in small groups and in our congregational worship time – we unconsciously shared our God Given Talents! We as Christians ALL need to be CHARGED !

Thank You, Annie and Y2A for this wonderful opportunity and experience!

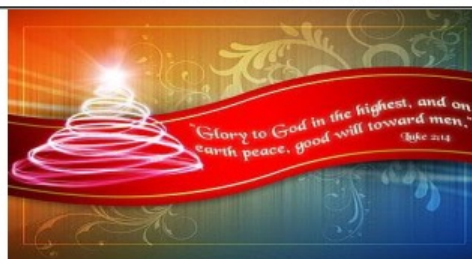
Finally, I would like to mention that we will have a Christmas Program at our Christmas Eve afternoon service. It will be an "inter-generational event" :) You are invited to wear Pajamas, some of us will be wearing them and there will be some "music" involved. You are all invited ! This will be a Christmas surprise for YOU !

Yours "Cheerfully in Christ", Kathi Ivany Marht

Christian Education News December 2022



Join us on these 3 Advent Thursday nights at 5:30pm
for special activities, dinner, and worship:
12/01 – making gifts for the homebound
12/08 – decorating cookies
12/15 – special lesson with Tina



FINANCIAL NEWS

October income was \$34,822 compared to budgeted income of \$29,492 resulted in spending \$5,331 less than budgeted.. Expenses were \$27,158 compared to budget of \$28,837 resulted in spending \$1,680 less than budgeted. On a cash basis income exceeded expenses by \$7,664.

Through October, income was \$288,448 compared to budgeted income of \$299,414 resulted in spending \$10,966 more than budgeted. Expenses were \$306,711 compared to budget of \$304,536 resulted in spending \$2,176 more than budgeted. On a cash basis expenses have exceeded income by \$18,263.



Advent is here, and we hope that you will join us for a meal before the Advent services on December 1, 8, and 15. There will not be a meal before the December 22 activity.

Here is our menu:

December 1 – Chef Salad with Cheryl Wegener’s legendary rolls and Connie Christopherson’s home-baked pies.

December 8 – Tacos and refried beans.

December 15– Pizza and Caesar Salad.

At each meal we will also offer PBJ and bread, punch, water, coffee, and dessert.

The meal begins at 6:00 followed by the service at 7:00. Please note that Advent Services are on Thursday nights. We hope to see you there!

Help is still very much needed for the three Advent Dinners on December 1,8, and 15. You don’t need to commit to all three meals. ANY help is very much appreciated. For more information, please contact Laura Hahn at dandlhahn@gmail.com, or 929-1339. Thank 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, 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



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

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

The newest Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) volunteers have begun their year of service abroad. The YAGM program invites young adults aged 21-29 into a transformative, year-long journey in international mission. Rev. Gabi Aelabouni, who serves in Jerusalem as ELCA director for the Middle East and North Africa, says he rejoiced with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Holy Land (ELCJHL) to receive seven new volunteers as the YAGM program resumed. These volunteers are serving in the ELCJHL's schools and other ministries.



Rev. Gabi Aelabouni blesses a new group of YAGM volunteers preparing for service in Jerusalem and the Holy Land. Photo: Maddi Froiland/ELCJHL



CHRISTMAS TEA SOCIAL

DECEMBER 4, 2022

2:00 TO 4:00 pm

GATHERING SPACE AT BETHLEHEM

PLEASE BRING:

1 DOZEN GOODIES TO SHARE

1 WRAPPED GIFT TO EXCHANGE - \$5-7

1 CANNED/PACKAGED FOOD ITEM FOR

BABY PANTRY FOOD CART

(TURKEY PROVIDED BY WELCA)

PLEASE SIGN UP BY POSTER IN NARTHEX TO
GIVE US AN IDEA OF HOW MANY TO PLAN FOR.

COME JOIN US!



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, Suzanne Williams,
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, Scott Schlagel*

French Manor South: Brenda Denoyer

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 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 (or call the office for a copy:

bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes

BLC Contacts

PLEASE NOTE SEVERAL ADDRESS UPDATES

Church Office

Pastor Paul Busekist	paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org
Admin. Asst. 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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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

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

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:

Neal Kibby	Dave Peppler	Barb Wright	Patti Friedli	Chuck Ardingo
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