

January 2023



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...

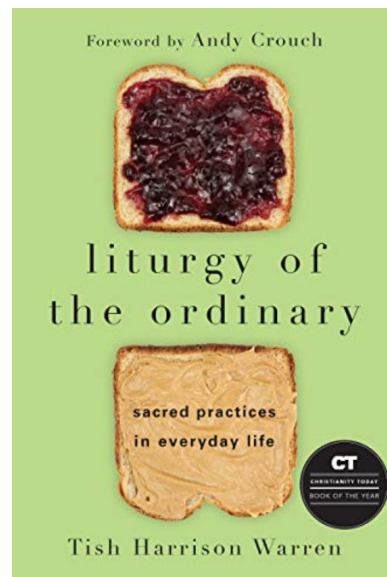
“As a community of believers journeying with God together, we at Bethlehem are called to serve with love by growing a premier youth ministry; enlivening Christian discipleship through lifelong learning, care, and spiritual formation; fostering a vibrant and inspiring worship experience; utilizing our 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.”



Dear Bethlehem brothers and sisters in Christ,

If I were to make a "title" for this STAR blurb, I would name it "New Year Blessings, Extra Ordinary Times!" For new year blessings, as Gail states in her thoughts below, Bethlehem looks forward to a time of sabbath this summer – for pastor and church alike – that may awaken new possibilities and inspiration. We hope to fill our Ministry Coordinator position soon, which is drawing new interest. BLC comes off a festive Advent/Christmas season with many end-of-year positives... So we have much to be thankful for, and thanks be to God, who "is about to do a new thing" for all those who perceive it.

One "new thing" I'm particularly excited about is the new book we are studying from mid-January to mid-February via Zoom on Wednesdays, written by the same author of *Prayer in the Night*, highlighted during Advent and Christmas. Tish Harrison Warren's other book is called *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life* (2016). Here Warren takes our sacred elements of worship and faith and weaves them through our daily rituals (eating, waking, etc – see below) by using everyday language describing the God we worship and the lives we lead.



If you'd like to partake in our Zoom book study, contact Pr. Paul. Here are the Wednesdays (1:30-3pm) and the chapters we will cover:

- **Jan. 11th** – Intro, Forward & Ch. 1 Waking: Baptism and Learning to be Loved
- **Jan. 18th** – Ch. 2 Making the Bed: Liturgy, Ritual, and What Forms a Life; Ch. 3 Brushing Teeth: Standing, Kneeling, Bowing and Living in a Body
- **Jan. 25th** – Intro, Forward & Ch. 4 Losing Keys: Confession and the Truth About Ourselves; Ch. 5 Eating Leftovers: Word, Sacrament, and Overlooked Nourishment
- **Feb 1st** – Ch. 6 Fighting with My Husband: Passing the Peace and the Everyday Work of Shalom; Ch. 7 Checking Email: Blessing and Sending
- **Feb 8th** – Ch 8 Sitting in Traffic: Liturgical Time and an Unhurried God; Ch 9 Calling a Friend: Congregation and Community
- **Feb 15th** – Ch 10 Drinking Tea: Sanctuary and Savoring; and Ch 11 Sleeping: Sabbath, Rest and the Work of God

Perhaps we'll see you there, and a blessed new year to all!

- Pr. Paul

A Word from the President

Happy New Year to All,

I am wishing you all the warmest wishes for the New Year. I pray 2023 will be a prosperous year for Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

We have a lot to look forward to with Pastor Paul going on a much deserved sabbatical. There will be some new and fun activities for the congregation to take part in.

I also wanted to thank everyone for so many prayers, cards, flowers and well wishes during my time of rehabilitation. I hope to be back to church and activities again soon.

Blessings to you all!

Gail Goldsmith

Two Wednesday Bible Studies:

- **Adult Bible Study** gets together on Wednesdays from 9:30am-11:30am. It is a casual discussion of the Gospel of Mark. Bring your bibles and come, share, learn and grow with us. This group will take a break until January 4th with the new time noted here.
 - **Zoom Bible Study**: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30pm—3:00pm. This group will begin on Wednesday, January 11th and will study the book, *Liturgy in the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life*. Contact Pr Paul for Zoom information.
-

Sunday Mornings:

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

Choir announcement: The choir will be taking a break during the beginning of Jan. and will resume rehearsals on 1/26 at 7:00. Make a resolution to 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.

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

NEW BABY PANTRY SUPPORT PROJECT: We are continuing to support the baby pantry here at Bethlehem with needed laundry (including laundry baskets), cleaning and paper products as well as packaged food items for the food cart. Featured items will vary each month although you can bring anything at any time. January's featured items are facial tissues and sanitizing wipes plus a food item. Please place items in the basket provided in the gathering space. Items can be brought in at any time. Thank you.

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!!!

Tom and Beverly Christensen have given a beautiful tree from their property to Bethlehem for the sanctuary Christmas tree. Bethlehem owes them a huge thank you for sharing the bounty of their land. THANK YOU.

The four beautiful wreathes on the sanctuary windows have been donated to Bethlehem by Jan Schmidt. She too is deserving of a big THANK YOU from everyone.

The Salvation Army is deeply appreciative and thankful to the following people who rang bells for them at Tom's East Bay Market on December 9 and December 10. In those two days a total of \$1,417.92 was collected. The people who rang the bells were: Jim Hinds, Sherri Helman, Sue Allen (two shifts), Mary Ann Tanis, John Halstead, Donna Novak (two shifts), Peggy Goebel, Tim Goebel, Dan Hahn, Leonard Graf, Kevin Kurkowski, April and Jane Kurkowski, Don Sheehan, Julie Cole, Scott Farley, Pastor Paul and Parker Busekist, and Carl and Suzanne Lehto. Fortunately the weather was quite good and it is very likely we will ring bells again next year. At least two people have already indicated they will be happy to ring again.

KITCHEN CLEANUP: Join us on January 11th - 1-3PM to wash the plates in the kitchen. In case of inclement weather, we will meet on January 18th.

BLC Book Club: The BLC book club's Jan meeting is on the 24th at 5:30 via ZOOM. The book is *The Sunflower* by Paul Evans. If you are not on the email list and want to be involved send your information to cmonroe@chartermi.net.

Safety and Security of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

The Safety and Security Committee did not meet in December. We will be meeting on January 4, 2023 at 4:30 at the church. You are welcome to join us if you are interested in being on this committee.

The Church Council is planning on having a presentation from Officer Mike Makowski of the Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department in January. This presentation will be looking at active shooter situations. Once he meets with the council we will be providing information to the congregation.

We pray nothing like this would happen, but we must be prepared just in case.

If you have any questions or suggestions please talk to anyone on the committee: Gail Goldsmith, Jan Stretlien, Jana Rockne Chuck Ardingo and Maureen Bauer.

SHEPHERDING A SABBATICAL

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Congregational Meeting and discussed Pastor Paul's Sabbatical.

The Sabbatical Team did not meet in December. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 9th at 6:30 on Zoom.

The discussion will focus on pulpit supply for the sabbatical and the budget. We will then present the information to the Church Council on January 17th.

Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions. The committee members are: Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer, Cindy Monroe, Barbara Wright, Carolyn Mann, Pastor Paul Busekist and Mark McPherson.

Name tags: Your name tags are back in your mailboxes. Please 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.

New Members: Many of you have been visiting for some time and the start of the new year may be the time to make your presence here "Official". Feel free to contact membership chair, Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or the office at 947-9880

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.

Kathi's Y2A Korner

Wow! What busy time of the year – to be sure! We must remind ourselves to put Christ first – He IS the Reason for this Season :) Speaking of “Busy Times” here is our latest listings from Y2A :

January 15th Registration begins for 2023 Summer Camp in New Era at Stony Lake - presented by Living Waters Ministry a Lutheran Evangelical Group from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

January 21st will be our next Inter-Generational Sledding event at Twin Lakes from 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm. If you don't want to join in sliding down a hill on Saturday, you can always enjoy some Hot Chocolate, Snacks, Cookies and Fellowship !

January 22nd before church from 9-10 am will be our Pancake Breakfast. What a Yummy Fundraiser for our next Skiing Event at Crystal Mountain.

February 5th We will meet “on the slopes” at Crystal Mountain in beautiful Benzie County after church from 12:30 – 4:00 pm for this Inter-Generational Skiing event! Remember, you don't have to ski to have Fellowship and Fun this Winter Season :)

March will see another Fundraiser with our beloved Chili Cook Off. This event has been sadly missed by all and what fun we have had with it in the past. So get your recipes out and start “testing”!

April we are planning another Inter-Generational event – Family Movie Night – complete with Popcorn and Beverages. Feel free to bring other snacks to share, if you'd like.

We would enjoy YOUR participation and help – Kids of ALL ages :) Let us work together and have fun together, We are all part of the “Communal Family” at Bethlehem Lutheran.

Christian Education News January 2023



Join us for an intergenerational sledding party!
WHEN: Saturday 1/21/2023 from 12:30pm-2:30pm
WHERE: Twin Lakes Park
Dress warm & bring a sled – ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!
We'll have hot cocoa & snacks!!!

Pancake Breakfast - join us for food & fellowship to help raise funds for our upcoming February ski trip!



Sunday 1/22/2023 from 9am-10am



FINANCIAL NEWS

November income was \$42,361 compared to budgeted income of \$29,569 resulted in receiving \$12,792 more than budgeted.. Expenses were \$26,610 compared to budget of \$30,429 resulted in spending \$3,820 less than budgeted. On a cash basis income exceeded expenses by \$15,751.

Through November, income was \$330,809 compared to budgeted income of \$328,883 resulted in receiving \$1,826 more than budgeted. Expenses were \$333,222 compared to budget of \$334,965 resulted in spending \$1,743 ** less than budgeted. On a cash basis, expenses have exceeded income by \$2,413.

**** NOTE:** Traverse City has not billed the church for electricity for 3 months. The billing for the 3 months would be between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

Laura Hahn thanks everyone who participated in the Advent Service meals. We fed 28, 18, and 16 people over the three Thursday evenings. Thank you, Jacque Rossfeld, for being the steadfast pillar in the BLC kitchen. It couldn't have happened without you! Thank you to everyone who pitched in to help in ways big and small. It all adds up. The payoff is in seeing people gathered around tables, enjoying a meal and the company and conversations of others. Wishing everyone God's Peace this Christmas!



Bethlehem Docks at Safe Harbor! The primary responsibility for Bethlehem volunteers will be to prepare and serve a meal on three nights- February 4, 5, And 7. That food preparation talent is largely set as I have previously noted. A number of other jobs are available that are simply opportunities to interact with the Safe Harbor guests. We will also offer a sign-up to provide snacks, milk, and more in the Gathering Space January 8th. The change of Safe Harbor to it's own staff- that we will assist- is a positive. As you will see on the sign-up sheets- most require no training...just your friendly face and outgoing personalities to offer a welcome.

As you know, we are sharing our week with Northern Community Church and "Five Loaves; Two Fish" of Leland that does every Monday night through the winter season. We have jointly coordinated our meal plans so guests do not have the same meals day by day. I plan on being there each night to help where needed. Come join me!
Tom Rockne, Bethlehem Lutheran Safe Harbor Coordinator M231.631.0040

Pecan Sale: The Worship and Music committee thanks you for your continued support during our annual Schermer Pecan sale. We also appreciate the seed money received from Thrivent again this year. We are sold out of the Dark Chocolate and Caramel Clusters Pecans but we do have a limited supply of Cinnamon Glazed, Milk Chocolates and Mammoth Halves. If you need more or did not get your pre-order in, please contact Barbara Oster at 231.668.7038 or beo6475@yahoo.com or call her at the BLC office (Monday, Tuesday or Thursday – 947.9880).



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

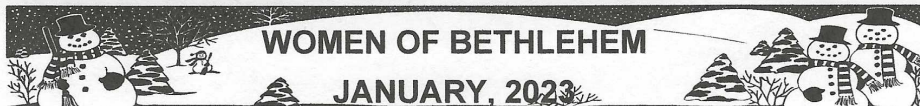
ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.



Mission rooted in relationship means growth — for everyone involved. In response to God's liberating grace, we listen, learn and deepen our understanding of and love for one another. The ELCA organizes its global engagement around the theology and practice of accompaniment, walking together with Lutheran, ecumenical and interfaith siblings around the world. We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together.

Take a few moments to review the ELCA Global Mission Personnel Directory to see the ministries taking place all across the globe on behalf of all of us here in the ELCA. You will find the information at: www.elca.org/globalmission. There are 131 missionary households serving in 45 countries.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*****NEW BABY PANTRY SUPPORT PROJECT:** We are continuing to support the baby pantry here at Bethlehem with needed laundry (including laundry baskets), cleaning and paper products as well as packaged food items for the food cart. Featured items will vary each month although you can bring anything at any time. January's featured items are facial tissues and sanitizing wipes plus a food item. Please place items in the basket provided in the gathering space. Items can be brought in at any time. Thank you - one and all.

*****KITCHEN CLEANUP:** We are setting up the date of Wednesday, January 11th - 1-3PM - to wash the plates in the kitchen. In case of inclement weather, we will meet on January 18th. Join us if you can.

*****WELCA DONATIONS:** Donations from WELCA offerings are being sent to The Traverse Health Clinic, ELCA Good Gifts to benefit leadership training for women, and to help curb human trafficking in Michigan.

*****NEW WELCA BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN IN JANUARY:** We will be having a 4 month study on the Ten Commandments. Studies are found in the *Gather* magazine. Contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433 if interested in joining us.

A Sunday at Bethlehem Lutheran Church



WELCA Christmas Tea



Cutting down the Christmas tree for
Bethlehem's sanctuary

Health Concerns*



The Power of Prayer

*Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Tom & Lee Miller,
Margie Whitney, Ellie Tacke, Rose Taylor,
Julie Lapeer, Alvin Kober, Milt Bowes,
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, Dale Leider, Craig Bauer,
Jennifer Mowers, David Peppler
Jan Schmidt, Scott Schlagel
Dan & Mary Lou Deutsch*

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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