

May 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.”



“Vocation does not come from willfulness. It comes from listening...Vocation does not mean a goal that I pursue. It means a calling that I hear.”

- Parker Palmer, *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This month in our Zoom Book and Bible study, we are reading a wonderful short book by a Christian author by the name of Parker Palmer. (And it’s not too late to join us in this journey – see below!)

When I first read his book in seminary, it seemed like just one more book about being faithful to one’s self – a worthy read, and a quick one. I was in a place in life where I thought my vocation and career (they are not the same) were on a pretty definite path. Often, we see our work as being central to who we are. *Yet Palmer encourages us to see the opposite: **that who we are is central to our work.***

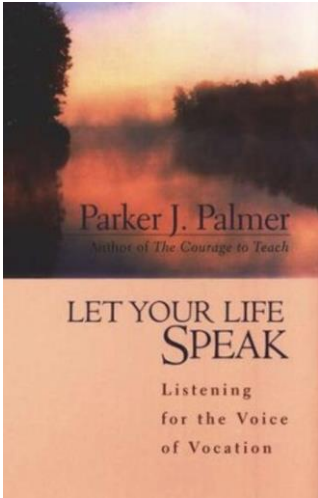
That distinction may seem trivial, or even non-existent, but it is real: God has made each one of us uniquely. Our careers or work may be shaped from outside influences, but our calling comes from within. And how others believe we should be can get in the way of how the Holy Spirit inspires us to live fully. In other words, thoughtful prayer about vocation is for everyone – whether “working” or “retired”! Perhaps this book, or our conversations about it, are calling your name. ☺

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to say thank you to all of you...and not just for the Sabbatical time this summer (where vocation meets rest!) I was floored this past Sunday (April 23rd) to experience a surprise 50th birthday celebration, and I appreciate always the “agape” love we share!

So as we approach this summer together, may we give thanks for Sabbath and invite a listening heart for God and how Christ journeys with us always. Shalom!

-Pastor Paul

May book study via Zoom
(Wednesdays from 1:30-2:45pm)

<p>Apr. 26: Chapter 1 (Listening to Life) and Chapter 2 (Now I Become Myself)</p> <p>May 3: Chapter 3 (When Way Closes)</p> <p>May 10: Chapter 4 (All the Way Down)</p> <p>May 17: Chapter 5 (Leading from Within)</p> <p>May 24: Chapter 6 (There is a Season)</p>	
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A Word from the President

Jesus Christ has Risen, he has Risen indeed, Hallelujah!

We are so blessed as Christians to know that Jesus loved us so much, he would die such a horrible death so he could rise again for our sins. So we can live an eternal life with him.

I especially feel so blessed as I have such a wonderful Christian family. I have my 2 sons, their wives and my 2 beautiful granddaughters. But we have additions to our family. My oldest son, Nathan and his wife Jessica are now licensed for foster care. They have 2 adorable little boys in their care. I was able to meet them and spend Easter with them.

I want to thank so many of you for the care you have given me during my health issues. There were so many prayers, card, gifts, flowers and rides to appointments. It all meant so much to me. I love you all.

Have a wonderful month of May. At the end of the month, Pastor Paul will be going on Sabbatical and we wish him well. We will miss him and look forward to hearing about his adventures on his return.

Blessings to you All.

Gail

SHEPHERDING A SABBATICAL

Here we are at the beginning of May, the month Pastor Paul's Sabbatical will begin. The Sabbatical team has worked hard for the last year and a half to bring this to fruition. The pulpit supply is in place, there are many activities planned and sign up sheets are in the Narthex.

The congregation will have some wonderful activities for their Sabbatical as well as Pastor Paul and his family.

At each activity, there will be evaluations for the participants to complete. This will give the council ideas of what people liked, or didn't like and an opportunity to share new ideas.

At the end of the Sabbatical there will be a Survey Monkey emailed to members of the congregation and those questions will be the start of the visioning process for Bethlehem. There will also be paper surveys available for those who do not prefer the technology version.

The Council and Pastor Paul will appreciate all of your input.

So please enjoy your Sabbatical and we will all be refreshed and renewed at the end.

Dear Bethlehem Family:

The first activity for Shepherding a Sabbatical begins with the Send Off Sabbatical Luncheon for Pastor Paul.

We hope that you will be able to attend this time of fellowship that will be held on:

- Sunday, May 21, 2023 immediately after service
- Please bring your favorite side dish
- Brats and hot dogs grilled by the Men's Group
- "Sunday Sundaes" served for dessert by Y2A
- Coffee & lemonade will be provided

It would be greatly appreciated if we could have more volunteers to assist The Sabbatical Team with this festivity. Please contact Gail Goldsmith.

Blessings and Thank you,
The Sabbatical Team

SUMMER SABBATICAL ACTIVITIES: Please take a moment to review the activity sheets on the table in the Gathering Space and SIGN-UP!! Two activities (beginners' Pickleball and Cookie decorating) request you to write in your availability so we can schedule the activity for when the most people can participate. Please remember to complete that portion of the activity also.

Freedom Builds Needs Our Help:

Freedom Builders is a wonderful ministry in our area. They help to build ramps and make homes accessible for people in need.

Now they are in need of a large building to store their supplies. If you have such a space or know of one for sale at a reasonable price they would appreciate your input. If they have to purchase a place they will need size-able donations dedicated towards their building fund. For any questions or assistance contact Skip Brown at 231-642-7140 or skip@fbmissions.org.

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 Luke. Bring your bibles and come, share, learn and grow with us.
 - **Zoom Bible Study**: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30pm—3:00pm. This group is studying *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation* by Parker Palmer. Contact Pr Paul for Zoom information.
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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 has some cool music planned for the Lent and Easter season. We will be Warm greetings to you! You're still invited to join the choir! We will rehearse on May 2 as we prepare to sing, "He Is Alive!," by Joel Raney on May 7 (the fifth Sunday of Easter). In May, we will rehearse on Thursday, May 11, as we prepare to sing, "For All Good Things," by J. Paul Williams, Joseph M. Martin, and Vicki Tucker Courtney. That anthem will be sung on May 21 as a musical send-off for Pastor Paul as he begins his sabbatical. After that, we will be on summer break until Thursday, September 7. We hope to see you become part of the fun. Lastly, I will be providing music at the upcoming Synod Assembly. If you will be there representing Bethlehem, stop by and say hello! Peace be with you - Tony Bero.

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!!! Please note that they do not expire. Thank you so much!!!

BLC Book Club: The BLC book club's May meeting on the 23rd at 5:30 via ZOOM or IN-PERSON!!!. There are copies of the book *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah in the Book Club bin just outside the front door of the church. If you want to ZOOM and are not on the email list send your information to cmonroe@chartermi.net. Otherwise, just come to the church office conference room at that time.

Photo Directory: We have a chance to make a new directory the final week of Sept., but with any project like this we need volunteers. Please leave your name in the office if you can help on this project in any way. Thanks to those who have already volunteered. And please, try to be in town that week. We want everyone's smiling faces in our new directory.

2023 Relay for Life: The American Cancer Society will be holding their annual 24-Hour Relay for Life event on Saturday, June 10, 2023 starting at 10 AM with an opening ceremony to Sunday, June 11, 2023 ending at 10 AM at the Grand Traverse Mall. As a long-time volunteer with the organization, I would like to request your support in the form of monetary donations to the American Cancer Society in support of this great cause, which will impact so many wonderful people who need your help. Thank you very much for your generous donations in the past, which helped the American Cancer Society provide more programs and do more research and advocacy for cancer patients and their caregivers. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is really appreciated! Shelly Nellist

Food Pantry: With the return of good weather we will also be opening up our outdoor food pantry to the community. Please be watching for special deals so you can help us restock our pantry for the warmer months.

BABY PANTRY: Suggested donations for April are: tissues, toilet paper, cleaning products such as hand soap, all purpose cleaner, laundry soap. Thank you!

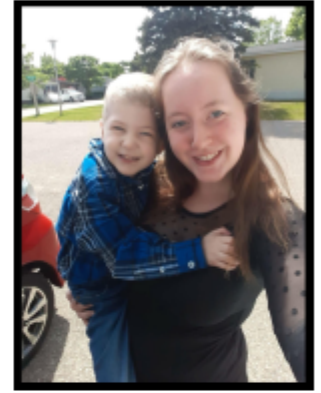
Contra Dancing by Bayside Travellers

Bayside Travellers held a contra dance here at BLC on April 15th, which had a wonderful turnout of around 100 people. Contra dancing is similar to square dancing, and each of their dances feature live music by local folk bands. They will be back with us for dancing on May 13th, June 10th, and monthly dances through the rest of the 2023 year. All are welcome to attend, no partner or experience is necessary! The dances are by donation. For more information or further dates, please reach out to Alanna at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org

Notes from Alanna...

Hello everyone! We have many exciting things coming up at BLC - so many new opportunities and experiences to be part of. I hope you see something that interests you!

Bayside Travellers will be back for contra dances on May 13th and June 10th. They had an incredible turnout for the April dance (around 100 people!) and we can't wait to have them back to do it again. If dancing isn't your thing, you are always welcome to come listen to the music and watch!



Another Community Movie Night is scheduled for May 20th! We are very excited to welcome community families back for another fun evening with a movie and popcorn. All ages are welcome!

Pastor Paul's Send-Off Picnic will be on May 21st. There will be lots of food and ice cream, and hopefully beautiful weather for us all to enjoy time outside together and wish him and his family the best for their time away this summer! Lots of fun sabbatical activities are planned over the summer as well, so make sure to look for info on those.

-Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Psalms 118:24

Christian Education News May 2023



Join Us

Join us May 28th for our final Sunday School before we take a summer break... Then plan to join us again in September!!!

Happy Mother's Day!



-Christian Education Committee



FINANCIAL NEWS

March income was \$27,627 compared to budgeted income of \$30,869 resulting in receiving \$3,242 less than budgeted. Expenses were \$34,486 compared to budget of \$32,298 resulting in spending in \$2,180 more than budgeted. On a cash basis expenses exceeded income by \$5,429.

Year to date income was \$81,339 compared to budgeted income of \$90,582 resulting in receiving \$9,243 less than budgeted. Expenses were \$89,056 compared to budget of \$97,724 resulting in spending \$8,669 less than budgeted. On a cash basis expenses exceeded income by \$7,718.

ATTENTION: At the June annual meeting there will be four openings for Council membership. If you would be interested, would like to know more about membership or you know someone who would be interested, please contact one of the nominating committee.

Nominating Committee: Gail Goldsmith, Carl Lehto, Leonard Graf

Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years. They are proud people and do not like to be given charity but they will accept help in the form of donated cans that they can recycle for money. Please bring in your recyclables in for them. Leave them by the garage. These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.





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

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

About three hours from Lae, Papua New Guinea, a water project in Sokam village has yielded unexpected and surprising outcomes. The village lacks sufficient water, and though the distance to Lae, the country's second largest town, is not terribly far, rough roads into the mountains make travel and transportation difficult.

Lutheran Development Service (LDS) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG) initiated the project, supported by ELCA World Hunger, by first organizing a project committee with local leadership. LDS provided the material and a plumber, whereas the village provided the labor, contributed toward the cost of a vehicle to haul the material and constructed a guesthouse.

Water taps at every home eliminate the need for people (usually children) to haul water from the stream every morning and afternoon for cooking, washing and irrigation. Now children can get to school on time. All this has opened up other new opportunities.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea is one of the companion churches of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod.



WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM MAY 2023

GATHER BIBLE STUDY: "Love In Action: The Art of Intergenerational Hospitality" by Sarah Carson. How we can use our gifts to share hospitality in the church.

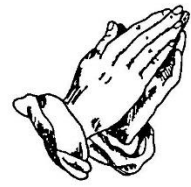
BABY PANTRY PROJECT FOR MAY: Items you may bring in during May would be cleaning/paper products plus tooth paste and shampoo - especially baby shampoo.

KITCHEN CLEANING: To be resumed in the Fall.

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY: Keep an eye open for a Bible Study during the summer.



Health Concerns*



The Power of Prayer

*Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Tom & Lee Miller,
Margie Whitney, Ellie Tacke,
Julie Lapeer, Alvin Kober, Milt & Carol Bowes,
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 Hutchison, Carol Collins,
Patience Lambert, Dale Leider,
Jennifer Mowers, Jan Schmidt, Debbie Knopf,
Gail Goldsmith, Beverly Richardson*

French Manor South: Brenda Denoyer **Orchard Creek:** Jan Waisanen, Gail Goldsmith
Grand Traverse Pavilions: Margie Whitney **Boardman Lake Glens:** Inge Thomas
Evergreen Cottage: Milt & Carol Bowes

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
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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
Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator	Alanna.Steffunick@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).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters(FH) 9am - Property Work Group 10am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Choir Rehearsal	9:30am - Adult Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 11:30am - WELCA Board meeting 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	5:30pm - ACA		11am - Funeral - Kathy Myers 12pm - Luncheon -Kathy Myers
	7	8	9	10	11	12
Synod Assembly in Mt Pleasant 10am - Worship Service(S) 11:15am - Worship and Music 12:30pm - Confirmation Class	1pm - Finance Cmte.	Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters(FH) 9am - Property Work Group 12pm - Sarah Circle - FH 1pm - Friendship Bible Study 6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting 6:30pm - Executive Comte.(CR)	9:30am - Adult Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	9am - Baby Pantry Setup 10am - Baby Pantry-FH 1pm - Rebecca Anna Circle 5:30pm - ACA 7pm - Choir Rehearsal	12pm - XYZ Potluck	7pm - Contra Dance - Bayside
	14	15	16	17	18	19
10am - Traditional Worship		Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters(FH) 9am - Property Work Group 6:30pm - Council Meeting 7pm - Lautner SG @ at the home	9:30am - Adult Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	5:30pm - ACA 7pm - Third Thursday service	STAR articles due today 10am - Sew Pieciful 6pm - All Star DE	6:30pm - Community Movie Night
	21	22	23	24	25	26
10am - Worship Service(S) 11:30am - Send-off Lunch 11:30am - Sundays on Sundays		Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters(FH) 9am - Property Work Group 5:30pm - Book/Supper Club 6:30pm - Newcomers	9:30am - Adult Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite)	5:30pm - ACA 6pm - All Star DE		
	28	29	30	31	1	2
10am - Worship Service(S)	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY	Bulletin articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters(FH) 9am - Property Work Group	9:30am - Adult Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal			



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Personal Risk Manager

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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.

Lots of cool information inside

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Bible Studies
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Book Club
2023 Relay for Life
Bayside Travellers Contra Dancing
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