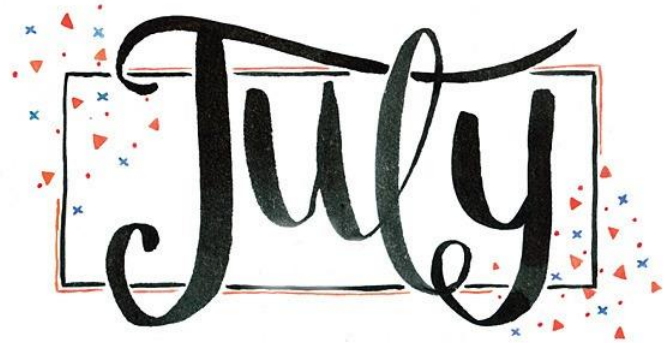


July 2023



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/Third Thursday

Worship: Will resume in the Fall

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.”



**Pr. Paul is on Sabbatical and wishes you all a wonderful summer.
In his stead will be favorite passages from scripture**

Luke 24:13-35

The Walk to Emmaus

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' 19 He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' 25 Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. 28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

A Last Word From This President

I have been on council for 3 years, 2 as council secretary and one as president. It is hard work and I have to admit, harder than I thought it would be, but I loved every minute of it. I loved the relationships I built with my other Council Members, with Church Staff, with Pastor Paul and with all of you. I am proud of what we have accomplished.

I will continue to be involved and who knows maybe someday I'll be back on Council.

I am encouraged to see the New Council and what all they will do for you, with you and for the Church.

God Bless You All!
Gail Goldsmith

SHEPHERDING A SABBATICAL

We are a little over one month into our Sabbatical. I hope you are enjoying the activities so far. Time is going very fast, but there is still time to sign up for activities. Signup sheets are still in the Gathering Space at the Church.

For the month of July: we continue to have Chair Yoga with Jeana Seidelman almost every Monday at 4:00 (we will not have it on July 3rd, due to the Cherry Festival) in the Fellowship Hall, a great way to stretch and do gentle exercise. We have had a lovely group in attendance. All are welcome!

There are a number of people volunteering to help at the Cherry Festival Ice Cream and Pie Tent. This will be happening on July 3rd from 1:45 until 6:00. This sign up is closed now as we had to have the information into the Cherry Festival Office. We have 9 people signed up and this is a fund raiser so BLC will receive a check for \$200 from the NCF.

Dale Wentzloff is teaching Pickle Ball on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 4:30 at the courts by the dog park off of Division Street. Please sign up in the Narthex or talk to Dale.

Hiking with Cheryl Wegener, on Sunday July 16th after church. The hike will take place in Kalkaska at Freedom Park/7 Bridges. Please bring a packed lunch and water for the hike.

Freedom Builders: Bethlehem's week for volunteering at Freedom Builders will be July 17-22. Please indicate your day or half-day that you can assist the very vital work of Freedom Builders in our community. The sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

The Wine Tour is scheduled for Saturday, July 22 from 11:00 until 3:00. The Brew Bus will leave from the BLC parking lot promptly at 11:00 so be here early. We will go to 3 wineries; Peninsula Cellars, Bowers Harbor and Bonobo. Our Bus is the Hawaiian Bus so wear your Hawaiian shirts or bright colors. There will be water bottles and snacks on the bus. The Sabbatical Funds will not be paying for alcohol, but participants may partake in samples or purchase wine on the tour and bring the bottles on the bus to take home.

Sundaes on Sunday will continue on July 23rd immediately after church.

One more month of activities scheduled for August, so let's have more fun.

The following is the list providing the pulpit supply in Pastor Paul's absence for the month of June:

Date	Preaching	Worship Leader	Communion
July 2nd	Pastor David Sprang	Pastor David Sprang	yes
July 9th	Andrew Monroe	Pastor Ruth Overdier	yes
July 16th	Annie Slabaugh (tape)	Pastor Richard Anderson	yes
July 23rd	Pastor Chris Lane	Pastor Chris Lane	yes
July 30th	Tom Rockne	Jana Rockne	no

Please call the office Monday through Thursday for any pastoral care needs you may have. Barbara Oster has graciously said people may call her home phone after hours in cases of emergency that cannot wait until the next work day.

Enjoy our Sabbatical also!

Special music will be provided by some children joining with our band for pre-service songs on July 9. Be sure to be in the sanctuary early or have your Facebook or youtube ready to watch and listen. It should be a special treat as part of our Sabbatical.

A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts. We just received a check from them for \$304.88. Last year received \$651.20. Let's see if we can do even better this year! Please continue to drop off your receipts at Bethlehem. Please note they do not expire. Thank you!

BLC Book Club: The BLC book club is taking a summer vacation!!!! Please keep reading and bring your suggestions back to the group on Sept. 26 or send them in advance to cmonroe@chartermi.net. We hope to share meals at our meetings again besides discussing wonderful books.

Contra Dancing by Bayside Travellers 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 July 15th 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

Food Pantry: With the return of good weather we have re-opened our outdoor food pantry to the community. Please be watching for special deals so you can help us restock our pantry. The shelves are labeled so if the church is not open you can put your gifts right in. Or, when the church is open you can bring them to the "offering" table in the coat room. PLEASE CONSIDER BRINGING A FOOD OFFERING IN TRADE FOR THE WONDERFUL ICE CREAM SUNDAE YOU WILL RECEIVE ON JUNE 25.

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.

The Two Wednesday Bible Studies: Adult Bible Study and Zoom Bible Study along with the Sunday School and Sunday Adult Education are taking the summer off and will resume in the Fall.

Spotlight on Zeke: In a recent NMC Extended Education email our own Zeke Clemons was the subject of their "Instructor Spotlight: Eric "Zeke" Clemons is a musician and sought-after music instructor in Traverse City. We're so lucky to have him teach College for Kids! His popular guitar and ukulele classes are always fan favorites. New this year, we're adding Songwriting! July 31-August 4 is 'Zeke Week!' Classes include Songwriting for grades 6-12; Fun Play the Ukulele Way for grades 3-5; Ukulele University for grades 6-9; and Beginning Guitar for grades 5-12." Information on the classes can be found at <https://nmc.augusoft.net//index.cfm?fuseaction=1010> – click on Music.

Another Spotlight on Zeke: So many of us enjoy Zeke's talents with religious music, but did you know that he plays other kinds of music at various locations around town?

Here is a list of his engagements in the next 5 weeks that are close to TC:



Fri 6/30 Bel Lago Winery in Cedar at 5
Sat 7/1 Bel Lago Winery in Cedar at 3
Tues 7/4 Bel Lago Winery in Cedar at 5
Fri 7/7 Brady's Bar at 6:30
Sat 7/8 Hotel Indigo at 6
Sat 7/22 Brady's Bar at 6:30
Thurs 7/27 Park Place at 8
Sat 7/29 Hotel Indigo at 6

Notes from Alanna...

Hello everyone! I hope you're enjoying the summer season! Remember that there are multiple volunteer opportunities and fun activities happening within Bethlehem...

The Annual Parking Lot Fundraiser is at the end of this week on July 1st, 2nd, and 4th. I will happily still accept volunteers for this. Remember - all proceeds for this fundraiser go toward supporting Bethlehem's youth! Sign up now to support our wonderful kiddos!



Freedom Builders Missions Week is July 17th - 22nd, and there is still lots of time to sign up for this as well. Volunteering with Freedom Builders is a great way to support our neighbors in need in the local community, and share the love of Christ through service to others!

Bayside Travellers Contra Dances are still happening every month, and it would make me SO happy to see more members of BLC attend. It's an amazing experience of traditional folk music and dance. I promise that it's easy to catch on, and you'll be dancing like a pro in no time!

Please reach out if you have questions - I'd love to chat with you!

-Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator

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

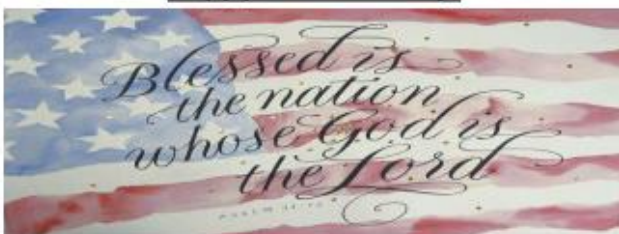
Psalms 118:24

Christian Education News July 2023




Many Hands Make LIGHT Work
We have SO MUCH happening this summer & fall
but we can't do it without you!!!
Will you join us to do great things?

Happy Fourth of July!



-Christian Education Committee



FINANCIAL NEWS

May income was \$29,459.94 compared to budgeted income of \$29,319 resulting in receiving \$140.94 more than budgeted. Expenses were \$33,364.17 compared to budget of \$30,658.78 resulting in spending in \$2,705.39 more than budgeted.

Year to date income was \$145,920.21 compared to budgeted income of \$150,150 resulting in receiving \$4,229.79 less than budgeted. Expenses were \$151,945.52 compared to budget of \$159,224.88 resulting in spending \$7,279.36 less than budgeted. Year to date income is \$--6,025.31.

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.

Safe Harbor is closed for the summer. We are committed to assist at Safe Harbor in January 2024 on the 27/28/30. Our superb kitchen Team Leaders B.J Christensen, Cindy Monroe, and Tina Dohm had again advised they are ready to prepare meals. And I am sure that as you all talk with those who "checked people in" and accomplished other tasks, you will find that those tasks were very doable and the staff support was always there. Plan to join the Bethlehem group at Safe Harbor in January! Thanks!
Tom Rockne, BLC Safe Harbor Coordinator, 231.631.0040 Here are some numbers on those served this past season:

Guest Demographics

338 individuals entered shelter	81 women
22 veterans	5 reported they identify as transgender or no single gender
24 young adults	93% from the Greater Grand Traverse area
252 men	

SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

The Safety and Security Committee have been busy. We continue to meet once a month, usually the 1st Wednesday of the Month at 4:30 at the church. If you are interested in joining us we would love to have you

Recently we have completed the new Safety and Security Policies, Procedures and Guidelines and they are available in the office if you would like a copy.

In the new policy and procedure and guidelines we are really focusing on safety while you are in the church. It is best to lock rooms up when you leave it. This is to keep intruders from sneaking into the church. To keep the doors closed is also best to help if there were a fire so the fire would not spread so quickly.

You may have noticed there are new evacuation plans in every room in the church. So please look at them when you are in a room and see what the safest exit is out of building.

We will be having a Temple Talk soon and begin having Fire, Tornado and Emergency Drills.

We will be having an Active Shooter presentation from a police officer in August. This had been scheduled much earlier, however it had to be postponed.

We are looking for volunteers to be on an ad hoc committee to do some fundraising to purchase security cameras. We have one quote from EPS a long standing company in the area. If you are interested in being on this committee, please contact Gail Goldsmith 231-633-2630.



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

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.


International Leaders Program Scholar



The Rev. Danielle Dokman, working toward her doctorate at Luther Seminary with support from an ELCA International Leaders Program scholarship, has been invited to give the opening sermon at the Lutheran World Federation Thirteenth Assembly in Poland in September. Rev. Dokman is from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname.



WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM

JULY - 2023 

"BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD." PSALM 33:12

BABY PANTRY NEEDS: The focus for July is: Tissues, laundry soap, baby shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, and regular cleaning products.

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY - UPDATE:

WHEN? AUGUST 16TH AT NOON

WHERE? LEHTO HOME, 15793 SMOKEY HOLLOW ROAD **(Meet at church at 11:30 to car pool)**

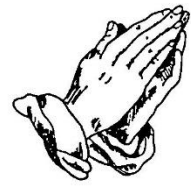
WHAT? POTLUCK LUNCH - BRING DISH TO PASS (HAMBURGERS, BUNS AND BEVERAGES PROVIDED) , LAWN CHAIR, BIBLE AND STUDY FROM *GATHER*

MAGAZINE (If you do not receive the magazine and wish to join us, please contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433 for a copy) We will review the both July & August studies.

RSVP TO NANCY AMMANN BY SUNDAY, AUGUST 13TH

"LORD JESUS, THOU WHO ART THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE, HEAR US AS WE PRAY FOR THE TRUTH THAT SHALL MAKE ALL FREE. TEACH US THAT LIBERTY IS NOT ONLY TO BE LOVED BUT ALSO TO BE LIVED. LIBERTY IS TOO PRECIOUS A THING TO BE BURIED IN BOOKS. IT COSTS TOO MUCH TO BE HOARDED. HELP US SEE THAT OUR LIBERTY IS NOT THE RIGHT TO DO AS WE PLEASE BUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT." (PETER MARSHALL)

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,, Dan Deutsch,
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, 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

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
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
9:15am - Parking Lot 10am - Worship Service(S) 11:15am - Worship and Music	Bulletin articles due today 1:45pm - National Cherry Festival	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY 4TH OF JULY 6pm - Parking Lot Fundraiser	11:30am - Music Rehearsal 11:30am - WELCA Board meeting	6:30pm - ACA		10am - Parking Lot Fundraiser
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10am - Traditional Worship	Bulletin articles due today 1pm - Finance Cmte. 4pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 12pm - Sarah Circle - FH 1pm - Friendship Bible Study 6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting 8:30pm - Executive Comte.(CR)	11:30am - Music Rehearsal	9am - Baby Parby Setup 10am - Baby Parby-FH 1pm - Rebecca Anna Circle 5:30pm - ACA		7pm - Contra Dance - Bayside
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10am - Worship Service(S) 12:30pm - Hiking with Cheryl	Freedom Builders Missions Week 4pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 6:30pm - Council Meeting 7pm - Luther SG @ at the home	11:30am - Music Rehearsal	5:30pm - ACA		12pm - Wine Tour
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10am - Worship Service(S) 11:30am - Sundries on Sunday	4pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 6:30pm - Book/Supper Club	11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite)	5:30pm - ACA		9am - All Star DE
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10am - Worship Service(S)	4pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today				
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
10am - Worship Service(S)	4pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today				



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Scott W. Farley
ASSOCIATE BROKER
231-920-8333
scott@themittengroup.com

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

Pr Paul's Page
Sabbatical activities for July
Book Club info
Food Pantry info
Bayside Travellers Contra Dancing
Notes from Alanna
Christian Education News
Financial News
ELCA Global Links
Women of Bethlehem 2023
Photos
The Power of Prayer

