

September 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: 9:15am

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 sisters and brothers in Christ,

“Everything has become new!” That is the belief of the apostle Paul when he wrote his second letter to the new church of Corinth, and that is the feeling I have upon my return from a wonderful sabbatical. As was shared this past Sunday, **my first response is always a hearty “Thank you!”** – to all of you for helping make such a sabbath possible, for the leaders at Bethlehem, for my family, and thanks be to God! The summer was abundant with moments of rest, purpose, family and time with the Lord. Wonderful. Many thanks again!

If we unpack Paul’s message further from 2 Corinthians chapter 5, we notice that verse 17 is part of a larger message that scholars refer to as the “Ministry of Reconciliation.” Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus we have been reconciled as “ambassadors for Christ” and indeed, Paul says, we become the very “righteousness of God.”

Those righteous shoes would be big ones to fill if they were not already ours, but here we are... walking in old shoes with new faith and goodness given by God to our hearts and minds to share with the world, standing on our own two feet! In other words, in Christ, Jesus is alive through us, and “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” (Romans 10:15b)

So how do we live, re-newed in Christ’s new creation?

Before and during sabbatical, I asked God in prayer and thought to embody a new creation in my life in the form of new habits, re-newed relationships and a new vision for my family, self and ministry. This month I pray specifically that the Holy Spirit might ignite something wonderful, positive and transformative in our re-newed journey together. For we know that Paul echoes the words of Jesus (Matthew 19:26) when he says that “with God all things are possible.” (Philippians 4:13)

Shalom, and may a wonderful new autumn season begin with us together!

- Pr. Paul

Paragraphs from the Prez:

Much has happened in one month regarding the rental house and I will always strive to keep you well-informed. The renters were aware that we at BLC were considering selling the property and as of this writing the house should be empty. The management company has been informed that their services are no longer needed. The finance committee gently reminded the council that every month without that rental income is NOT good for the current budget, indicating that work on selling should commence.

So...first the executive committee completed some research with professional realtors about the best “next steps”. Some of the members of the special rental house research committee were also questioned. After discussion the council voted to request BLC’s own Scott Farley a member of the Mitten Group to take charge of selling the house. Scott accepted this request and is moving forward with listing this property. The council will vote on any offer which is presented, and you as a church member can make your desires known to any of the council members listed at the end of this STAR. Scott did NOT and will NOT be allowed to vote on any matters regarding the sale of this house.

Blessings, Cindy

SHEPHERDING A SABBATICAL

This is the last Shepherding a Sabbatical article for the Star. It has been quite a journey.

This all started in November of 2021 to gather the team. Our first official meeting was January of 2022. We started by applying for the Lily grant and worked hard on that, gathering information and discussing plans. We met with the congregation and spoke with pastors who had received the grant in the planning process. The application was sent in by the deadline in April of 2022. We found out in August we did not receive the grant. We were heart broken, but knew we had to press on.

Thank you to Tom Christiansen and Sherri Helman for contacting people and collecting funds for the sabbatical activities. We could not have done it without them for making the calls and you for donating the funds.

We have had a wonderful summer filled with a variety of activities and gatherings. We hope this can continue as there have been so many positive remarks on the evaluations. It has been great being an active church again.

The Sabbatical Team would like to thank so many people for a successful sabbatical. First of all the Staff: Barbara Oster, Phil Anderson and Alanna Steffunick for all of their extra work. Also a special thank you needs to be given for the volunteers that have covered the office during times when our Bookkeeper has been out of the office this summer; Maureen Bauer, Jim Hinds, Laura Hahn, Barbara Oster, Gail Goldsmith, Leonard Graf, Kate Holtfreter, Alanna Steffunick. Also a thank you to the Property Committee for all the moving of the tables and chairs for different events.

We would like to thank the people who have volunteered to plan, coordinate and lead the activities, especially; Paul Wiemerslage, Phil Bossardet, Cheryl Wegener, Kathi Ivany-Mort, Sandy Parkinson, Dale Wentzloff, Gail Goldsmith, Zeke Clemons, Barbara Wright, Patty Liebenguth and Kris Smith.

The Sabbatical Team would especially like to thank those who were worship leaders and preachers in Pastor Paul's absents; Dr. Gary Hogue, Pastor Richard Anderson, Pastor Ruth Overdier, Pastor David Sprang, Pastor Chris Lane, Pastor Christine Bright, Sherri Helman, Barbara Oster, Tom and Jana Rockne, Cindy Monroe, Skip Brown, Kate Holtfreter, Peggy Burns, Annie Slabaugh and Andrew Monroe. All of the services were delightful with so many wonderful messages.

WELCOME BACK PASTOR PAUL, MEREDITH AND PARKER! We missed you and happy to have you back. We hope you had a restful and refreshing sabbatical.

The Sabbatical Team; Gail Goldsmith, Carolyn Mann, Maureen Bauer, Cindy Monroe, Barbara Wright, Mark McPherson and Kathi Ivany-Mort.

Join us to celebrate Rally Day and welcome in the start of the school year! Sunday, September 10th, 2023, 11:30am - 1:00pm. We will have a variety of games set up (hopefully outside, if we are blessed with good weather!) and will be providing hotdogs, cookies, chips, and drinks for everyone. We are welcoming families from the communities to this event as well! Come join us, have some fun, and get a little bit of info about our Sunday School and Adult Education! We invite YOU!

While some of the adults and all of the kids are outside enjoying special fun activities after the service on Sunday 9/10, we hope many of the rest of you will wear your casual clothes and come prepared to spruce up the inside of BLC. This has been done twice before in the past year and it really makes a difference in our church. Feel free to bring your own special cleaning supplies or use what is available here at the church. We will work for 45-50 mins and anyone who would like to can stay to share a meal with the kids. Jana Rockne has agreed to be the "Queen Merry Maid" who will direct you to the needed locations.

Third Thursday services return this month. Join us on September 21st at 7:00pm for Taize 1 service.

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!

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 **September 16th** 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

BLC Book Club resumes: The TC library has upgraded their book club bag selection so there are more choices!!! For Sept 26 the book *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver is in the book club box outside the front doors of church. This book is a Pulitzer Prize winner and has been on the "Best seller" list for weeks. Please try to join in person in the office conference room at 5:30 that Tues. If you need us to include you via ZOOM please contact Cindy at cmonroe@chartermi.net so a connection can be established.

Food Pantry: HELP!!! Our outdoor food pantry has finally been found by those in need and there is hardly anything left in it!!!! Please take some time and buy some extra staple items when you go shopping. The shelves in the pantry are labeled. You can place your items right in the cupboard or you can bring them inside church and leave them on the CARE table in the coat room.

Wednesday Bible Studies:

Adult Bible Study: will resume on September 20th with the Gospel of John.

The Zoom Bible Study: will on September 13th with a study the Book of Isaiah. Contact Pr Paul or Barbara Oster if you are interested in attending.

Sunday Bible Studies:

Children: Sunday School will resume on September 17th at 9:15am

Adults: WE NEED YOU!! We are looking for someone who would be willing to lead the Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 9:15. Last year we discussed the readings for the day which was very well received. You would be responsible for finding people who would be willing to lead the discussion. For further information, contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433.

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 month that are close to TC:

Fri 9/1—Brady's Bar at 6:30

Sun 9/10—Bel Lago Winery in Cedar at 3:00

Sat 9/23—Bel Lago Winery in Cedar at 3:00

Fri 9/29—Brady's Bar at 6:30

Sat 10/7—Hotel Indigo at 6:00

IMPORTANT NOTICE: We often find the front door and/or the kitchen door unlocked when there is no one in the building. Please be sure that the doors are locked when you leave.

XYZ Potluck has returned! Join us for good food, laughter and fellowship on Friday, September 8th at 12 Noon. After lunch, we will have a program by our very own Tom Rockne who will speak on "Africa is a Huge and Diverse Continent." He will speak on his travels across Africa. While predominately geared toward seniors, we welcome any adult who would like to attend.

Notes from Alanna...

Happy Fall! Here are just a few updates from me as we head into a new season.

Thank you to our Freedom Builders volunteers!

Cindy and Jim Monroe, Lisa Schlagel, Tina Dohm, Lincoln and Makena Dohm (youth volunteers!!), Mark and Kathie Bair, Steve Kramer, and Carl Lehto - thank you to all of you, for your hard work in serving our community and showing God's love to our neighbors! You are so appreciated. Special shout-out to Mark and Carl, who volunteered for multiple days!



Join us for a Rally Day Party!

-Sunday, September 10th, 2023, from 11:30am - 1:00pm-

Join us for hotdogs, cookies, games, and more! Let's have a fun time together to welcome in the fall season and the start of a new school year. We will be providing food and games for everyone - the community is invited to this event as well, and we welcome all ages to join us. Bring a lawn chair or picnic blanket, and plan on joining us for lunch and games, and lots of fun for everyone!

-Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator

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

Psalms 118:24

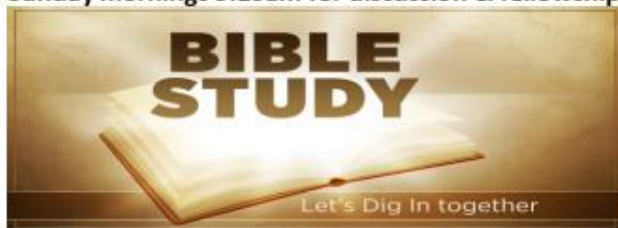
Christian Education News September 2023

Christian Ed and Y2A committee members will be installed during the service on Sunday 9/24 - please join us & get to know these fun folks!



Join us at Rally Day for our Sunday School kickoff!
WHEN: 11:30a-1p Sunday 9/10 after the service
WHAT: Games, Hot Dogs, Cookies, Chalk, & Bubbles
Bring a lawn chair or blanket for some fun outside -
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!!!

Adult Bible Study - Volunteers Needed!
Sunday mornings 9:15am for discussion & fellowship



Contact Nancy Ammann 231-946-8433



Sunday School classes start at 9:15am on 9/17



FINANCIAL NEWS

July income was \$31,856.80 compared to budgeted income of \$29,319.00 resulting in receiving \$2,537.80 more than budgeted. Expenses were \$35,786.63 compared to budget of \$31,058.06 resulting in spending \$4,728.57 more than budgeted. On a cash basis, expenses exceeded income by \$3,929.83.

Year to date income was \$213,244.76 compared to budgeted income of \$213,238.00 resulting in receiving \$6.76 more than budgeted. Expenses were \$225,675.76 compared to budget of \$225,450.86 resulting in spending \$224.90 more than budgeted. On a cash basis, expenses exceeded income by \$12,431.00.

Photo Directory News

Now scheduling for directory photography sessions. Please stop by our table and make your appointment on Sundays after the service, 9/3 through 9/24. Online scheduling will be available Monday-Friday. Photo dates will September 27th, 28th, 29th from 2pm - 8:30pm, and September 30th from 10am - 4pm. Each family photographed receives a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory! You can schedule your appointment online at: www.ucdir.com. Click on the appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter mi1773 in the Church Code field and enter photos in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family, please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is only available Monday - Friday. Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time. Questions? Please contact Kathy Ancinec (989) 906-2764 or Christine Hubert (231) 357-7722.

Choir News from Tony Bero

Greetings, friends! I hope you've been having a great summer. This summer has been a busy one; I taught a session at Interlochen Arts Camp, my wife and I purchased a home in Grawn. With that purchase came lots of home improvement projects that have kept me busy in addition to teaching my piano students, working with the choir at Immanuel Lutheran, and squeezing in our annual family camping trip. As summer begins its wind-down, I invite you to consider joining the choir as we resume our rehearsals on Thursday, September 7 at 7:00 pm. We will begin preparing, For the Beauty of the Earth, by John Rutter. We will also set dates and times for September rehearsals. I hope you can attend!

Some Sabbatical Activities





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

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

This year the evangelical **Lutheran churches in Cameroon (EELC)** and the **Central African Republic** celebrated 100 years of ministry. Lutherans from both churches and from the ELCA gathered in Minneapolis, Minn., at the Sudan Mission Centennial Celebration to mark a century of partnership. The conference featured discussions with the president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic and the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon, as well as former missionaries to the region.



Two church bodies working together providing medical care and care for refugees.

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - SEPTEMBER 2023



WELCOME SEPTEMBER: New month, new chapter, new page and new wishes.

May this month give you courage, strength, confidence, patience, self-love and inner peace. May every day in September fill your days with hope, love, sunshine and energy. Let there be Joy, Fun and Laughter!

*****SARAH CIRCLE** meets on the second Tuesday of each month at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

*****REBECCA/ANNA CIRCLE** meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1PM in the new conference room. Bible study for both groups is taken from *Gather* magazine. Contact Nancy Ammann if interested in joining us: 946-8433

FALL RETREAT IN CADILLAC: September 29 & 30 - cost \$50. Motel Rooms available for overnight stay. Watch for bulletin, weekly email and poster with all information. You can also contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433.



Health Concerns*



The Power of Prayer

*Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Tom & Lee Miller,
Margie Whitney, Ellie Tacke, Judy Fenton,
Julie Lapeer, Alvin Kober, Milt & Carol Bowes,
Lynn Hoyt, Tom Woodworth,,
Molly Eastman, John Stretlien, Ron Hellenga,
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, Craig Bauer,
Jennifer Mowers, Debbie Knopf,
Gail Goldsmith, Beverly Richardson*

French Manor South: Brenda Denoyer **Grand Traverse Pavilions:** Margie Whitney

Evergreen Cottage: Milt & Carol Bowes

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
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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

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

Cindy Monroe, President	president.council@bethlehemtc.org
Paul Wiemerslage, Vice President	vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jana Rockne, Secretary	secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
Gary Ancinec, Treasurer	treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jim Monroe, Financial Sec.	financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jim Hinds, Christian Care Giving	christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Tina Dohm, Christian Ed.	christianeducation.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Scott Schlagel, Fellowship	fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
, 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
Tina Dohm, 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
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
<p>10am - Worship Service(S)</p> <p>11:15am - Worship and Music</p>	<p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>HAPPY LABOR DAY</p>	<p>BULLETIN ARTICLES due today</p> <p>9am - LWR Outlets (PH)</p> <p>9am - Property Work Group</p> <p>10:45am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>11:30am - Music Rehearsal</p> <p>11:30am - WELCA Board meeting</p>	<p>5:30pm - ACA</p> <p>7pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12pm - XYZ</p>	
<p>10am - Traditional Worship</p> <p>11:30am - Rally Day Party</p>	<p>1pm - Finance Combs.</p> <p>3pm - Chair Yoga</p>	<p>BULLETIN ARTICLES due today</p> <p>9am - Property Work Group</p> <p>12pm - Sarah Circle - PH</p> <p>1pm - Friendship Bible Study</p> <p>6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm - Executive Combs. (CIR)</p>	<p>11:30am - Music Rehearsal</p>	<p>9am - Baby Pantry Setup</p> <p>10am - Baby Pantry PH</p> <p>1pm - Rebecca Anna Circle</p> <p>5:30pm - ACA</p>	<p>BULLETIN ARTICLES due today</p> <p>10am - Sew Pleasant</p>	<p>7pm - Contra Dance - Bayville</p>
<p>10am - Worship Service(S)</p>	<p>3pm - Chair Yoga</p>	<p>BULLETIN ARTICLES due today</p> <p>9am - Property Work Group</p> <p>6:30pm - Council Meeting</p> <p>7pm - Leanne SG @ the home</p>	<p>11:30am - Music Rehearsal</p>	<p>5:30pm - ACA</p> <p>7pm - Third Thursday</p>		
<p>10am - Worship Service(S)</p>	<p>3pm - Chair Yoga</p>	<p>BULLETIN ARTICLES due today</p> <p>9am - Property Work Group</p> <p>5:30pm - Book/Supper Club</p>	<p>11:30am - Music Rehearsal</p> <p>1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite)</p> <p>3pm - Directory Photos</p>	<p>2pm - Directory Photos</p> <p>5:30pm - ACA</p>	<p>2pm - Directory Photos</p> <p>7pm - All Star DE</p>	<p>10am - Directory Photos</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



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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
Council President's notes
New Council officers and committee liaisons
Upcoming BLC Photo Directory info
Book Club info
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Bayside Travellers Contra Dancing
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Christian Education News
Financial News
ELCA Global Links
Women of Bethlehem 2023
The Power of Prayer

