October 2023



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:

<u>Sunday:</u> 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."



"Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."



- Genesis 1:26 (NRSV

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ at Bethlehem,

I'm not sure if it's because I have our upcoming Blessing of the Animals (October 8th at 2:15pm) on my mind, or if its our upcoming Stewardship Campaign (entitled "Thankfulness and Love"), but I have stewardship on my brain!

Stewardship is more than a season where we have temple talks (yup - two in October!) and pledge Sundays (two in November!) The "dominion" God gives us in Genesis involves more than keeping the lights on and ministry going. It is a life of thankfulness and care for all that God has given us. Stewardship is literally how we live our lives and spend even our most precious gift: time. How we spend our time is a direct reflection of how we give thanks to God who provides all things.

Also, later this month, the synod will be hosting a webinar for how churches might better steward their power needs and the needs of the earth through exciting and inexpensive solar power partnerships (see the box to the right)...

So, thank you for all you do! And keep on the lookout. Exciting things happening at Bethlehem!

Toward a Brighter Future

Bishop Emeritus John Schleicher, Environmental Stewardship Task Force

Worldwide, we just experienced the hottest month ever recorded. Yet in Christ we know that in the midst of this and other ominous signs, the future of Earth, our common home, will be renewed. We, members of his Body, the Church, are called to be agents of that renewal.

One increasingly accessible witness to that coming promised renewal is the use of solar energy. To learn more about solar energy and how you can use it in your congregation, the Synod's Environmental Stewardship Task Force will be hosting a one-hour webinar with Rob Raison of Solar Faithful. This webinar will be held on October 26, 2023 at 7:00pm ET.

Register now: https://bit.ly/468ZUeT

You can learn more about the options available from Solar Faithful here: https://bit.ly/3Rlfhg1

One of the options, a no upfront cost power purchase agreement, is already used by First Lutheran in Muskegon and Faith in Okemos.

New federal legislation makes it more feasible than ever to start moving now toward minimizing the impact of climate change. Going solar can be an important witness to God's promise to make all things new.

Shalom, Pr. Paul

PROSE FROM THE PREZ:

I plan to use this space to thank many of the members of Bethlehem who work behind-the-scenes to help in so many ways. This month I salute Carl Lehto and "Carl's Crew" of Frank Wall, Chuck Ardingo, Paul Ton and Norm Fred who carefully completed the checklist for the Seller's Disclosure Statement on the rental house. These men and others have also completed maintenance and repairs on the residence as needed over the years. It's hard for me to realize that this house was Bethlehem's property for over 18 years.

Hopefully as you read this newsletter the council will have already considered some offers on the house and made their decision....and the sale will be moving forward. Please keep this process in your prayers.

Blessings, Cindy Monroe BLC Council President

From the Inside Out Discovering a Deeper, More Transformative Life with God

Through the joint efforts of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Christ Church and facilitator Jo Panter, President of TST, a program on Christian spiritual formation, Inside Out, is being offered. This experiential offering is intended for those who are interested in revisiting their faith from the point of view of six big questions. For those trained in discipleship and who have practiced following Jesus for many years, this may be a helpful refresher. For those new to the idea of Christian spiritual formation based on the life and model of Jesus, this will be an exciting introduction. You need not be a member of either church to participate. Anyone hungry for a deeper life with God is encouraged to come. Six sessions will explore six big ideas.

What Is Spiritual Formation?
What Is My Picture of God?
What Is My Picture of Myself?
What Is My Picture of the Gospel?
How Do People Change?
How Do I Follow Jesus?

COST: There is no participation fee except for the expectation of attending all six sessions. All resources will be provided free of charge.

<u>FORMAT</u>: The program will be a combination of a teaching video*, small group discussions, weekly recommendations for reflection, and handouts.

SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS:

CHRIST CHURCH: CONSECUTIVE WEDNESDAYS FROM 6-7:30PM, BEGINNING OCTOBER 11TH.

Registration: Call 231-392-9687 before Monday, October 9th

<u>BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN</u>: CONSECUTIVE THURSDAYS AFTERNOONS FROM 1-2:30pm, BEGINNING OCTOBER 12TH. Registration: Call 231-645-5796 or 231-947-9880 before Monday, October 9th

*Carolyn Arends will be the primary video presenter. She is the Education Director for Renovare and leader of the Renovare Institutes. Renovare is an ecumenical Christian nonprofit that models, resources, and advocates fullness of life with God experienced by Grace, through the spiritual practices of Jesus and the historical Church.

<u>New member orientation</u>: The next gathering for new members will be <u>Sunday Oct 8</u> immediately after the service. This meeting will last a little over an hour. If most can attend new members will be accepted the following Sunday during the service.

Fall is here! Do you have things left "unfinished" during your "summer fun"? Do you have a Gift, Talent, or Skill that you would like to SHARE with someone in our Congregation? NOW is the Time! Our Care Giving Committee has put up a "Communitas" Board on the wall of our Coat Room! This "BOARD" is needed and helpful for ALL of us!

Here are some of the things YOU can do to "interact" with the board and the members of our congregation: The purpose of our "Auxilium Communitas" BOARD (Latin for "Community/Congregation Assistance") is to SHARE our gifts, talents, or skills to others that might be in NEED of something like: Gardening, Organizing, Painting, Racking leaves, Shoveling, Household tasks, Carpentry, Manicures, Pedicures, Companionship, Care giving, etc. - This list is Endless!

The advantage of TWO surfaces is that some folks might want to post BUSINESS CARDS and the Magnetic Dry Erase for SHORT NOTES and MESSAGES to each other that can be erased!

You never know when YOU will be in need of some extra help personally, in your home or yard – let's make this "reciprocal" - All ages are Welcome to Help Service our Congregation!

Please, take advantage of our Christian Care "Communitas Board"!

Thank you! Bethlehem Lutheran Care Giving Committee

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 in the Traverse City area? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC:

Wed 10/4—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00
Sat 10/7—Hotel Indigo at 6:00
Wed 10/11—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00
Wed 10/18—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00
Fri 10/20—Hotel Indigo at 6:00
Wed 10/25—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00

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!

<u>Contra Dancing by Bayside Travellers</u> 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 **October 14**th 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

<u>Food Pantry: HELP</u>!!! 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: meets 9:30-11:30am, with the Gospel of John.

<u>The Zoom Bible Study</u>: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00pm, 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 starts at 9:15am

Adults: DON'T MISS OUT...COME JOIN IN!!!! Adult Education has started and we are getting ourselves organized for a great year. We will begin by looking at each Sunday's lessons and as the year ensues...we may want to try other resources...we are open to options! You are an important part of the plan...you are an important part of the Body of Christ! Please come and see; join in the learning and sharing! We hope you will consider making this a priority!! Sunday morning from 9:15 to 9:45 in the Youth Room! See you there!! All are welcome!!! Sherri Helman

<u>Third Thursday services return this month.</u> <u>Join us on October 19th at 7:00pm for Holden Evening Prayer.</u>

XYZ Potluck: Join us for good food, laughter and fellowship on Friday, October 13th at 12 Noon. While predominately geared toward seniors, we welcome any adult who would like to attend. After lunch, we will have a program Hali McRoberts of Northern Health Care Management. NHCM's mission is to walk with people and assist them to live their most independent life possible while ensuring choice, dignity, and quality of life. We serve elderly and disabled persons and their caregivers, and also offer assistance with navigating Medicare and Medicaid.

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS AND ANY WHO LOVE TO READ:

The book for **Oct 24** discussion is *Firekeeper's Daughter* which has been a New York Times Bestseller. This book was been named the Great Michigan Read book for the year!!!! Thousands in Michigan will be reading the book at the same time. Even if there are no books left in the book club box in front of church if you live in Michigan you will be able to download an audio or print version of the book FREE by going to ReadMichigan.org. There will also be many extra books available at the library. This book is a mystery centered in Sault Ste Marie and tells the tale of a biracial female Ojibwe member who helps in an undercover investigation. If you want to join the BLC discussion it will be at 5:30 on that Tues. If you want to join but cannot be there in person please send a ZOOM request to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net.

Notes from Alanna...

Hello everyone! We are finally making our way into cooler fall weather, and my favorite season of the year! We have so many wonderful things happening at BLC - here's details on just a couple of them!

XYZ Potlucks Return With Programming!

XYZ (EXtra Years of Zest) meets monthly on the second Friday for good food and fellowship. This year we are excited to bring back programming! We have some great presenters and speakers lined up for the next few months that I'm very excited about. Please join us for the potluck on October 13th, where we'll be hearing from Hali McRoberts of Northern Health Care Management!



Bayside Travellers Contra Dancing - Celebrating 40 Years in October!

Contra dancing continues every month, but in the month of October there is something extra exciting - Bayside Travellers will be celebrating 40 YEARS of music and dance! The original founders are invited to join us, and in addition to our normal workshop and dance, we will also be having a celebration potluck at 5:30pm. I hope you'll join us for a dance on October 14th!

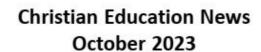
Dinner and a Movie!

Movie Night returns! On Friday October 20th at 6:30pm, we invite you and everyone in the local community to join us for hotdogs, balloons, and a movie. We'll be watching the Disney Pixar favorite, Monsters INC., so bring your friends and family. Wear your comfy pajamas, bring a blanket or sleeping bag, and be ready to get cozy for a super fun time!

-Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator

"...with that hymn he softly sang, of God's good grace."

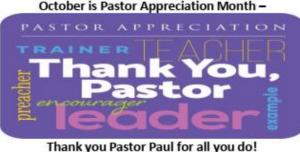
The Soldier and the Oak, Elliot Park







Join us for a family movie night!
WHEN: 6:30pm Friday, October 20th
WHAT: "Monsters, Inc." from Disney Pixar
Movie, Popcorn, Hot Dogs, & Drinks –
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!!!





FINANCIAL NEWS

August income was \$39,307, compared to budgeted income of \$29,319. This resulted in receiving \$9,988 more than expected. Expenses were \$39,435, compared to a budget of \$32,040. This resulted in spending \$7,394 more than budgeted. On a cash basis, expenses were more than income by \$128.

Year-to-date income was \$257,974, compared to budgeted income of \$242,557. This resulted in the church receiving \$15,417 more than budgeted. Expenses were \$265,156, compared to a budget of \$257,491. This resulted in spending \$7,664 more than budgeted. On a cash basis, expenses were more than income by \$7,181.

Here's your quick update on Safe Harbor:

- -Safe Harbor opens for the season on 15OCT. Area churches have now filled the calendar through next April. **Bethlehem Lutheran will handle January 27. 28, and 30.**
- -<u>There will be an Open House at Safe Harbor 7OCT 10AM to 1PM</u>... If you have never volunteered or have not in the last couple years...it would be good to stop by. You'll be impressed...and much more at ease about volunteering.
- -Our team of Kitchen crews led by Cindy Monroe, B.J. Christensen, and Tina Dohm are again leading the way...and I am sure our past volunteers for other positions will share how rewarding that experience is. Plan to join us!

Tom Rockne / BLC Safe Harbor Volunteer Coordinator / M.231.631.0040

<u>Cookies on Sunday</u>: Remember that those treats on Sunday are appreciated by all. Please take a moment to sign up to bring cookies or some other tasty treat on the Sunday that works best for you.

<u>BUGs for Christmas</u>: "BUG" otherwise known as the Bethlehem Ukulele Group may be playing during the Christmas season. Details are still being arranged. Could you attend class right after the Sunday service on the last Sunday of Nov. and first 2 Sundays of Dec? The group could play on Dec 17 and/or Christmas eve. Please check your schedule and let Denise Bossardet know as soon as you can. Even if you could not play this summer you can still join this fun group. Denice's contact info: 231-499-7523 or denice.bossardet@gmail.com

<u>UPDATE ON GOOD SAMARITAN FUND</u>: Thanks so much to all of you cheerful givers! As of Sept 13 the total amount received for the Good Samaritan fund was \$1,914 easily surpassing our goal of \$1,275. Bless all of you who participated in the extra giving project.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER. 4, 2023 9:00am to 3:00pm

Featuring over 40 local artists and crafters with original, handmade goods!

Please sign up in the Narthex hallway to volunteer for our fundraiser. Your help would be greatly appreciated. As in the past years, there will be a Quilt Craft Raffle and a Silent Auction of items donated by the crafters. Both the raffle and auction support the Grand Traverse Baby Pantry and Bethlehem's ministries.

Our Christian Education Team will have a baked goods table with items for sale. In support of Christian Education, please help with a donation of a baked good.

"Many hands make work light".



ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.



Meet our new missionaries! This summer our church welcomed 10 new missionaries who are now on their way to serving in eight countries around the world. They bring different skills, interests, and experiences, but they share a deep passion for global service.

ELCA missionaries are serving as teachers, health care workers, communicators, pastors and more. The relationships they form build the foundation of our global community of faith.



WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - OCTOBER 2023

WELCA FUN DAY - Wednesday, October 18th - 2-4PM - Fall Crafting fun! Potluck: bring some healthy snacks to share. AND bring a friend!

BABY PANTRY: Items needed: toothpaste and brushes; baby and regular shampoo; soap (dish, hand and bath); body wash; deodorant (men and women); baby oil and lotion; AND all kinds of cleaning, laundry and paper products. They are all needed and all welcome! Place in the coat room.

THANK OFFERING SERVICE COMING UP: Keep the date of November 12th open to celebrate WELCA'S Thank Offering Service. More information in next month's Star.

GATHER BIBLE STUDY: "Holy Places" - Session #1: Home: In Jesus, God makes God's home with us on earth. Contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433 if interested in joining us.

Health Concerns*





Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Tom & Lee Miller, Margie Whitney, Ellie Tacke, Judy Fenton, Julie Lapeer, Alvin Kober, Milt & Carol Bowes, Lynn Hoyt, Tom Woodworth,, Ron Hellenga, 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, Daavid Suby, Jennifer Mowers, Debbie Knopf, Gail Goldsmith, Beverly Richardson

<u>French Manor South</u>: Brenda Denoyer <u>Grand Traverse Pavilions:</u> Margie Whitney

Evergreen Cottage: Milt & Carol Bowes **Boardman Lake Glens:** Inge Thomas

<u>Hospital Visits</u>: 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

Church Office

Pastor Paul Busekist <u>paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Admin. Asst., Barbara Oster <u>admin@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson <u>bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Tony Bero, Music Director bero.tony@gmail.com

Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator <u>Alanna.Steffunick@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Website <u>www.bethlehemtc.org</u>

Church Council

Cindy Monroe, President <u>president.council@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Paul Wiemerslage, Vice President <u>vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Jana Rockne, Secretary <u>secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Gary Ancinec, Treasurer treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org

Jim Monroe, Financial Sec. financial secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org

Jim Hinds, Christian Care Giving christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org

Tina Dohm, Christian Ed. christianeducation.committee@bethlehemtc.org

, Fellowship fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org

, Membership/Evangelism membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org

Chuck Ardingo, (not on Council), Property property.committee@bethlehemtc.org

Maureen Bauer, Personnel <u>personnel.committee@bethlehemtc.org</u>

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).

Oct 2003 (Eastern Time - New York) BEC. - Non assigned mtg. space, Conference Room, Entire BEC, Event Held Outside of BEC, Fellowship Hell, Gathering Space, Lower Room 3, Lower Room 4, Nansey Room 1, Nansey Room 3, Nansey Room No #, Sanchusty, Youth Room

4 2 24 58 4pm - Contra Dance - Bayside a/DeHAven Wedding Spm - Audubon Group 23 6:38pm - Movie Night 10am - Sew Pieceful 6:30pm - All Star DE 12pm - XYZ 12 7pm - 3rd Thursday/Holden EP Ipm - Rebecca Anna Circle Jam - Baby Pantry Setup 10am - Baby Pantry-FH 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Choir Rehearsal Spm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - All Star DE 1pm - Inside Out 1pm - Inside Out 1 Dom - Inside Out 5:30pm - ACA 5:30pm - ACA 5:30pm - ACA 5:30pm - ACA -= 82 11:30am - WELCA Board meeting 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 11:30am - Music Rehearsal (pm - Johnson SG (Offsite) 9-30am - Adult Bible Study 9-30am - Adult Bible Study 9-30am - Adult Bible Study 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study 9-30am - Adult Bible Study 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study 10 15 12 7pm - Lautner SG (8 at the home 6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting 6:30pm - Executive Comte.(CR) 1pm - Friendship Bible Study Sum - Property Work Group 5:30pm - Book/Supper Club Sum - Property Work Group Sam - Property Work Group Sam - Property Work Group Sam - Property Work Group Bulletin articles due today fulletin articles due today Bulletin articles due today 6:30pm - Council Meeting Sum - LWR Quilbers (FH) 10:45am - Staff Meeting Sum - LWR Quilbers (FH) 12pm - Sarah Circle - FH Sum - LWR Quilbers (FH) Sum - LWR Quilbers (FH) Sam - LWR Quilbers (FH) 52 1pm - Finance Cmfe. 3pm - Chair Yoga 55 11:15am - Worship and Music 2-30pm - Memorial Gathering 10am - Worship Service(S) 10am - Traditional Worship 10am - Worship Service(S) 10am - Worship Service(S) Idam - Worship Service(S) 9:15am - Adult Education 9:15am - Adult Education 9:15am - Adult Education 9:15am - Adult Education 2:15am - Adult Education 2:15am - Sunday School 9:15am - Sunday School 2:15am - Sunday School 9:15am - Sunday School 9:15am - Sunday School



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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

Pr Paul's Page Council President's notes Council officers and committee liaisons November Craft Fair info Christian Care info Inside Out Bible Study Book Club info Food Pantry info XYZ News Bayside Travellers Contra Dancing Spotlight on Zeke Notes from Alanna Christian Education News Financial News ELCA Global Links Women of Bethlehem 2023 The Power of Prayer



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Bethlehem Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1050 Peninsula Drive Traverse City, MI 49686