November 2023



Bethlehem

Pastor Paul Busekist Traverse City, MI 49686 (231) 947-9880



Website: <u>www.bethlehemtc.org</u> Email: <u>bethlehem@bethlehemtc.org</u>

<u>Building Hours</u>: Monday – Thursday, 9am to 2:30pm

<u>Office Hours:</u> 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/Adult Education: 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."



"You have been sealed by the (power of the) Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ, forever." - Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Hymnal, p. 231



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Maybe I have baptism on my mind. Or maybe it is Reformation Sunday. (By the time you read this, we will have had both!) But whenever we say the above words from the baptismal sacrament, we are calling upon God to walk with both the baptized and the baptizers. I love what the devotion writer for Christ in Our Home says about this phrase on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>'s entry: " 'Marked with the cross of Christ' is the promise that bookends our lives.."

Each day we are called to remember our baptisms. And each day Christ walks with us, from the "green pastures" and "still waters" to the sometimes-harrowing valleys where darkness makes us ever-aware that we want Christ "our light" to be with us...and God always is (Psalm 23).

This past month has seen unspeakable darkness in the world, but God continues to light the way. **How has Christ been your light?** In a month like November, where we celebrate both the "saints" who've gone before us and the Thanksgiving spirit of love and God's providence, how might we celebrate the light that shines before and ahead of us?

This month we welcome and give thanks for the community at the Craft Fair on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. We honor the saints in song and candlelight that very next day on the 5th. And we give thanks on our Pledge Sundays for Stewardship (Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> and 12) and during the WELCA Thankoffering Sunday on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

We have much to be thankful for, and we ask God each day to be our book beginning and book ends...With faith, hope and love.

Have a blessed month, and be well!

-Pr. Paul

**PROSE FROM THE PREZ:** The house has sold!!! What a blessing to all of us! We had some lowball \$200,000 offers of those who planned to raze the house in order to use the space. But, fortunately we had two offers that reached our asking price. We accepted the cash offer and the money is in the bank earning us a good interest rate.

Some of you have asked, "Did we immediately pay off the mortgage?" Council carefully considered this, but also has to be realistic. If we were to pay off the whole mortgage and try to set aside money for all of the other needs we had discussed (roof, carpeting, boiler, paving of alley) we would still be over \$100,000 short! We need to use some of this money to make us more money since there are currently high interest rates with no risk. We have directed our bookkeeper to make an immediate payment of \$30,000 on the mortgage. This will save us \$2,200 in interest and advance our payoff to May 2025. We plan to continue to pay monthly payments from the general fund, but if we cannot, the money can easily be transferred from the Asset Replacement Money Market fund. What we do going forward depends on the results of the current pledge drive and our budget for 2024. If you have concerns or questions be sure to contact any council member listed towards the rear of the STAR. On that list you may notice that Gail Goldsmith has accepted a 1-year appointment as head of Fellowship. Thanks, Gail!

Blessings, Cindy Monroe BLC Council President

Yes, friends, we have Flowers mostly all the year long here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Traverse City! If You enjoy seeing smiles, greeting people and doing a very small bit of local traveling - this new Ministry is for YOU!

Christian CareGiving has expanded into welcoming and greeting new folks, needy folks, homebound, and nursing home folks. We are always looking for new ways to share kindness and help each other .

One of the most creative things that we do is very reciprocal. It brings smiles and those warm feelings you get when you do something nice for another human being ! This is making a bouquet from our altar flowers and delivering them personally to shut in friends and new people in our congregation.

We have about four people on our "Flower Team" and two others that take Communion to those who ask to receive. This means that we each only have to help - one Sunday per month. We are very well organized and work out of the kitchen after each service. We have also divided our " home bound" recipients into different groups for logistics. Putting the little bouquets together is easy peasy and we have all the tools you'll ever need ! If you think Flowers and Sharing Kindness might be just the right ministry for YOU..... Please contact James Hinds our liaison and Council Member ( 231-342-8485 or email Jim at hindstone@outlook.com.

Matthew (7:12): "In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you....".

<u>New member orientation</u>: Arrangements are in the works for a gathering in November or December. Please contact membership chair, Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or the office at 947-9880 if you are interested in joining Bethlehem.

**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 11/1—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00 Fri 11/3—Middle Coast Traverse City at 6:00 Wed 11/8—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00 Wed 11/15—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00 Wed 11/22—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00 Sat 11/25—Hotel Indigo at 6:00 Wed 11/29—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00

**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

<u>The Safety and Security Committee</u> held a Fire Drill on October 15th. We were very pleased with the participation of the congregation. Everyone was out of the building in 2 1/2 minutes. Thank you all so much for your participation. You are amazing!

We are so pleased the security cameras will be installed starting November 6th by EPS Security. There will be 5 cameras installed three inside and two overlooking the parking lot.

EPS Security will be servicing the cameras and be able to save video if an incident should occur. They will be training individuals to monitor the videos 24 hours per day by computer or through Smart Phones.

The Safety and Security Committee would love to have more participants on the committee. We meet at the church on the first Wednesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. Please contact Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer, Jana Rockne or Jan Stretlien if you have any questions.

<u>A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts.</u> 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. <u>Please note they do not expire</u>. 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 **November 11<sup>th</sup>** 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:** We will NOT be closing our outdoor pantry for winter this year. We have a new member who ran an outdoor pantry downstate and she has given us lots of ideas of foods that can be stored there during the cold months including: hamburger helper, stuffing mix, dry milk, instant potatoes, cookies, and rice. Also, there is always room for dry goods such as toilet paper, paper towels etc. Please start looking for some of these items when they are on sale and bring your extras to the coat room. Your generosity is so appreciated.

#### Wednesday Bible Studies:

<u>Adult Bible Study</u>: meets in the Youth Room from 9:30-11:30am, with the Gospel of John. <u>The Zoom Book and Bible Study</u>: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00pm. The group will study the Mitch Albom book, *Have a Little Faith* on November 1, 8 & 15th. If you are interested in obtaining this book, please contact Barbara Oster or Pr Paul.

#### Adult Education in the Youth Room plus Sunday School - every Sunday at 9:15am

The next Third Thursday service will be a Taize 2 service on November 16th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed. The BLC Fellowship Committee will be providing a light meal at 6:00 p.m. There will be sandwiches, salad and drinks. Please come early and share in fellowship and stay for the service.

**<u>XYZ Potluck:</u>** Join us for good food, laughter and fellowship on <u>Friday</u>, <u>November 10th at 12 Noo</u>n. While predominately geared toward seniors, we welcome any adult who would like to attend. For this month, we will have a Thanksgiving Dinner. Turkey, dressing and beverages will be provided. Please bring side dishes to share. After lunch, we will have a program from Victoria Stone of the Grand Traverse region of Habitat for Humanity.



#### FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS AND ANY WHO LOVE TO READ:

The book for **Nov 28** discussion is *The Christmas Train* by David Baldacci which has been a New York Times Bestseller. This is a more light-hearted book to get a jump on the holiday spirt. <u>If you want to join the BLC discussion it will be at 5:30 that Tues with a pizza meal.</u> 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...

#### Youth in Action Returns!

Youth in Action is a wonderful program designed to support the youngest generation of Bethlehem by attending some of their special events, concerts, performances, or games. Our kids are involved in so many exciting things, and attending their special events is a great way to support them and encourage them as they grow! The Youth in Action program has returned this month with periodic emails, letting you know about events that the kids have going on.



#### XYZ Potluck

XYZ (EXtra Years of Zest) potlucks this fall have been wonderful gatherings of good food and fellowship! The presenters that have joined us to share have been absolutely fantastic. I hope you will join us at 12pm noon on November 10th for a potluck lunch, followed by a presentation by Victoria Stone of Habitat for Humanity!

#### Bayside Travellers Contra Dancing Dates Extended!

Bayside Travellers have extended their dates with us! In addition to the November 11th and December 9th dates already scheduled, they will also have dances at BLC on January 13th, February 10th, and March 9th. If you're interested in listening to beautiful live music, or getting a taste of traditional folk dance, please join us on any of these dates!

### -Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator

"...with that hymn he softly sang, of God's good grace." The Soldier and the Oak, Elliot Park



### FINANCIAL NEWS

September income was \$26,223, compared to budgeted income of \$29,769. This resulted in receiving \$3,545 less than expected. Expenses were \$25,717, compared to a budget of \$39,047. This resulted in spending \$13,330 less than budgeted. For the month, the church brought in \$505 more than we spent.

Year-to-date income is \$284,198, compared to budgeted income of \$272,326. This resulted in the church receiving \$11,872 more than budgeted. Expenses were \$291,076, compared to a budget of \$296,539. This resulted in spending \$5,462 less than budgeted. For the year, the church has spent \$6878 more than we brought in.

**Giving Statements Available** Your individual giving statements will be available in your mailbox in the Narthex beginning Sunday October 15, 2023. The statement covers giving from January 1st through September 30, 2023. Please pick them up at your convenience. To save on postage, I will mail out the ones not picked up by the end of November 2023. Thank you for your generous support for the programs and ministries of your church. We are all blessed by your faithful giving. Your Bookkeeper

#### <u>Reminder: Daylight Saving Time goes away on Sunday, Nov. 5th so set your clocks BACK one</u> <u>hour on Saturday night – FALL BACK</u>

#### Please Note:

Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. <u>Alanna</u> Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on Wednesday

#### Here's your quick update on Safe Harbor:

-Safe Harbor opened for the season on 15OCT. Area churches have now filled the calendar through next April. Bethlehem Lutheran will handle January 27. 28, and 30.

-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. Or sign up to prepare the coffee.

# BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH ART & CRAFT SHOW SATURDAY, NOVEMBER. 4, 2023

# 9:00am to 3:00pm

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

ELCA Global Links - God's Work. Our Hands.



A new school year has begun, and International Women Leaders (IWL) scholarship recipients are studying at ELCA colleges and universities across the country. At a virtual gathering on October 11 a few of them spoke about this life-changing program. The students were also blessed as they embark on a new academic year!

### WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - NOVEMBER, 2023

THANKOFFERING SUNDAY: November 12th - Women of the congregation will take part in most of the service. This is also the day we receive a special offering. Jars are available in the Narthex. Watch for more information coming soon.

CHRISTMAS TEA: Sunday, December 3rd from beginning at 2pm. The theme this year is 'Nativity'. We are asking attendees to bring a Nativity scene to share with us and tell us a little about where it came from, what it means to you, etc. We will also have a gift exchange plus collecting items for food baskets for the baby pantry families. Watch for more information coming soon!

NOVEMBER GATHER STUDY: "Holy Places: Pilgrimage" Pilgrimage, a journey to a sacred place, is a spiritual practice with a long history in Christianity (and many other religions). It is not only about a destination but also about the 'holy place' of the journey itself. We will consider the journey of the Magi, the walk to Emmaus and Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. If interested in joining us, please call Nancy Ammann at 946-8433.

HAVE A BLESSED THANKSGIVING!

## Health Concerns\*



# **The Power of Prayer**

Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Tom & Lee Miller, Margie Whitney, Judy Fenton, Julie Lapeer, Alvin Kober, Milt & Carol Bowes, Lynn Hoyt, Tom Woodworth,, Ron Hellenga, Molly Eastman, John Stretlien, Harper Wiemerslage, 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, David Suby, 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

Are you checking for the latest BLC updates at: <u>www.bethlehemtc.org</u>?

You saw Norm and others take the photos...be sure you see them at <u>www.bethlehemtc.org</u>!

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 Admin. Asst., Barbara Oster Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson Tony Bero, Music Director Alanna Steffunick, Ministry Coordinator Website **Church Council** Cindy Monroe, President Paul Wiemerslage, Vice President Jana Rockne, Secretary Gary Ancinec, Treasurer Jim Monroe, Financial Sec. Jim Hinds, Christian Care Giving Tina Dohm, Christian Ed. Gail Goldsmith, Fellowship , Membership/Evangelism , Property Maureen Bauer, Personnel Scott Farley, Stewardship Denice Bossardet, Worship and Music Tina Dohm, Youth/Y2A Pastor Paul Busekist

paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org admin@bethlehemtc.org bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org bero.tony@gmail.com Alanna.Steffunick@bethlehemtc.org www.bethlehemtc.org

president.council@bethlehemtc.org vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org christianeducation.committee@bethlehemtc.org fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org property.committee@bethlehemtc.org personnel.committee@bethlehemtc.org stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org worshipmusic.committee@bethlehemtc.org

If you have an interest in serving on any of the above Committees, Please contact the Committee Chairperson(s).

4 8 35 Ξ 2 7pm - Contra Dance - Bayaide ä Sam - Craft Fair 6 2 Þ BLC - Nen assigned mig. space, Conference Room, Entire BLC, Event Hald Outside of BLC, Feltowship Hall, Gashering Space, Lower Room 3, Lower Room 4, Namery Room 1, Namery Room 3, Namery Room 1, Namery Room 3, Namery Room 1, Namery R n RCE You'h Event at Great Wol 1pm - Lehto SG - Library STAR articles due today 10am - Sew Pieceful z 12pm - XYZ a 2 8 8 2 5:45pm - Third Thursday Meal 7pm - 3rd Thursday/Taize 2 1pm - Rebecca Anna Circle -1pm - Inside Out - Library 1pm - Inside Out - Library 1pm - Inside Out - Library CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Jam - Baby Panity Setup HAPPY THANKSCIVING 10am - Baby Pantry-FH **Npm - Choir Reheamuel Npm - Choir Nehearsel** 8pm - Choir Neheansel **7pm - Choir Nehearsel** Ē 5:30pm - ACA -22 8 80 2 7pm - Indian Woods Neighborhood 1-30pm - Zoom Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1-30pm - Zoom Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal Ipm - Johnson SC (Official) 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 9-30am - Adult Sible Study 1:30pm - Zoom Bible Study 9-30am - Adult Bible Study 2-30am - Adult Bible Study 9-30am - Adult Bible Study 9-30am - Adult Bible Study Med ŝ Bulletin articles due foday 21 2 2 ~ 6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting 7pm - Lautner SC @ at the home 8:30pm - Executive Comte.(CR) 1pm - Friendship Bible Study 12pm - Sarah Circle - Library 6:30pm - Council Meeting -Sam - Property Work Group 5:30pm - Book/Supper Club Sam - Property Work Group Sam - Property Work Group Sam - Property Work Group Suffetin articles due loday es due today ethn articles due today ulletin articles due today 10:45am - Staff Meeting Sam - LWR Quilters (FH) å Craft Fair Set-Up 3pm - AAUW 92 20 ø 13 52 1pm - Finance Cmte. Mon 3pm - Chair Yoga 3pm - Chair Yoga 3pm - Chair Yoga 61 5 36 'n 12 CHARGE Youth Event at Great 11:15am - Worship and Music ELCA Thankoffering Sunday 12:30pm - Confirmation Class 10am - Traditional Worship 10am - Worship Service(S) 10am - Worship Service(S) 10am - Worship Service(S) 2:15am - Adult Education 2:15am - Adult Education 2:15am - Adult Education 9:15am - Sunday School 2:15am - Adult Education 2:15am - Sunday School 2:15am - Sunday School 2:15am - Sunday School 2 Vapung abor

Nov 2023 (Eastern Time - New York)





305 Sixth Street 947-6347

www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com For six generations... the Jonkhoff family and caring staff are the ones you can trust and depend on... today and tomorrow.



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.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1050 Peninsula Drive Traverse City, MI 49686 231.947.9880



Lots of cool information inside Pr Paul's Page Council President's notes Council officers and committee liaisons November Craft Fair info Third Thursday service Christian Care info 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