## **NOVEMBER 2018**



Traverse City, MI 49686 (231) 947-9880



Website: www.bethlehemtc.org

Email: bethlehem@bethlehemtc.org

**Building Hours**:

Monday - Thursday, 9am to 3pm

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9am to 3pm

#### **Worship Times:**

Saturday: Sunday: 5 pm Celebrate! Worship 8:45 am Traditional Worship

9:45 am Education Hour11 am Modern Worship

Communion at all services

## 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."







12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything **together** in perfect harmony.

-Colossians 3:12-14 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

I just love the above passage from Paul's letter to the Colossians. In this letter he is encouraging many things (forgiveness, compassion, kindness, and so forth), but the over-arching theme is togetherness.

Together. It means harmony and unity, and it fuels ministry in the most life-giving ways. It was also this year's Stewardship Campaign theme (technically our first "subtheme" from last year's 4-year campaign of "Together, Nourished, Weaving a Tapestry... of Ministry")... but who's counting? © "Together" is also the first way we hope to charge into the great unknown of our next century as a congregation... in unison and with a sense of adventure and challenge. In order to accomplish this charge, with God's work and our hands, I would like to encourage us all to focus on these three themes this November:

- 1. Prayer: Having a 24-hour Prayer Vigil at Bethlehem on November 17<sup>th</sup> (through the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup>) is truly an adventure in community, and it has the potential to be not just positive, but positively transforming. As I mentioned in worship announcements last weekend, I encourage us all to think beyond just membership numbers, stewardship goals and budget. While those urgently need our attention, I pray also that each of us might look into our own hearts and the disciples around us, including the visitors in our midst, *their* passions for ministry, and their potential for us here, and together.
- 2. **Teaching Ministry:** As we discussed in our All Church Forum in late September, Bethlehem may soon answer the call from within, and for the larger church, as we continue the process this fall of discerning whether to become a "teaching congregation" and once again take on ministry interns from an ELCA seminary. Three or four decades ago, Bethlehem was **an internship site** and it gave them a renewed sense of identity and shared education in the faith. What exciting directions and potential would await a return to that model?
- 3. Collaborative Efforts: This year we have witnessed some exciting collaborative ministry between volunteers, committees like Y2A, Fellowship, and others with "insourced" Vacation Bible School, the Craft Show and the "Little Arms Open" event we are co-hosting with the Grand Traverse Baby Pantry this month. Efforts between Christian Education, Worship and Music and the Membership/Evangelism committees are underway to help streamline some Sunday morning activities as well. Be on the lookout for their efforts and calls for teamwork.

Each of these activities would be impossible without faith and a sense of cooperation, and each of these invitations – prayer, teaching, and collaboration – point to the power of discipleship in our midst and the world. Together.

#### President's Report November 2018

Challenges. This is an important time in the life of our church. We have launched the 2019 Pledge Campaign, celebrated the lives of members who have become saints in Christ, given support to the marvelous work of WELCA, and watched the knitters and quilters create handmade wonders. This only a small list of all the events, activities, and groups that make up the fabric of this church we call home.

Challenges. All of these activities, events, and visions need to be supported by volunteers, members, dedicated staff, folks with exceptional talents, and of course financial resources. We are blessed with wonderful people who devote countless hours to make our house of worship a gathering place for us and members of our community. God has richly blessed us with time talents and treasure.

Challenges. This is where it gets interesting for all Bethlehem Lutheran Church members. Said directly, we need your financial support. We are seeking an increase in giving via your pledges and offerings. We are also asking for a special one-time donation of \$100.00 from each family to actualize our vision for the next 100 years. Think of the parable of the "mustard seed". Now is indeed the time to inspire and plant. Your contributions symbolize your support of our efforts to move forward, boldly. Thanks to those who have given their pledges. We will still be taking pledges all of November and December. We are praying for wisdom and the Lord's guidance as we finalize the 2019 budget and put into action the big plans we have for the future of Bethlehem.

God's peace be with you,

Jim Parkinson

**Church Council President** 



#### FROM THE DESK OF ALEXIS— DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND OUTREACH

Is it really almost the end of 2018?? Did someone blink?

Some updates for you as we enter November!

**BLUES** met in October to decorate pumpkins and celebrate the fall season! Our next get-together is on **November 16**<sup>th</sup> (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, because of Thanksgiving) and we will be baking cookies for Bethlehem's shut-ins as well as making cards for them! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at **5pm**.



**Confirmation** classes are going swimmingly, and we have a retreat coming up at the end of this month from November 30<sup>th</sup> –December 1<sup>st</sup>! We'll be over at Feast of Victory for some team-building and classes!

**High School Nights** are continuing this month with our meeting on **November 18<sup>th</sup>!** We'll be enjoying an afternoon in at BLC with a Bible study and treats... Starting at **6pm**, be there or be square!

**The 30-Minute Journey: CS Lewis** has been a success! Our last class covering the renowned Christian author was on **November 4**<sup>th</sup>... More adult education details to come soon!

**Upcoming Conferences: The Great Lakes Gathering** registration is still open! If you have a high school student (or young adult) that may be interested, point them in my direction! We will be partnering with Zion in Cadillac for the trip, taking place **December 27**<sup>th</sup>— **December 30**<sup>th</sup>. And registration for **Charge** (Living Water's middle school conference) opens on the first of this month!

Some sad news to share: **November 14**<sup>th</sup> **will be the last THEO meeting.** Given the changing climate at BLC (and in my own life) we have decided that the program is not sustainable as designed, and the demand for the group is too low. We thank you for your support of this experimental program, and we will continue to work towards better programs!

We are also still seeking someone to take over the 7 hour weekly **Christian Education** position! My time in this role will end in December, so we would like a fill-in sooner rather than later! If you have questions, feel free to contact me any time. ©

Peace, and God's Blessings,

Alexis Steig
Director of Youth and Outreach
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, TC

"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." -John 6:35



How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! - Psalm 133:1

Dear Bethlehem Family,

We continually give praise to God and thanks to you all for your contributions of time, talent and treasure. Last year we not only had an amazing staff and year of ministry together, but when we saw a small shortfall and asked you for help, you answered. Our December 2017 "Bridge the Gap" campaign helped balance the 2018 budget and exceeded our goal of \$6,000 by over \$800. This year we have new areas of concern, and a lot of exciting potential directions for ministry.

First and foremost, the Youth Challenge Fund initiated in 2010 has run out, and the funds we used to supplement our Y2A ministry each year (averaging \$6k/year) are no longer available. When you couple that with the obligations we face for outreach, ministry and growth, our financial leaders tell us we need to raise our regular giving by over \$18,000 this coming year to maintain our current programming and staffing.

So, in addition to welcoming more members each weekend, one way to increase our giving is to focus on our vision and mission through an exciting new process of discovery: a call to visualize what we hope to look like in the future, with a clear and bold new set of goals. We have thrived at Bethlehem for 125 years (technically, 126!), so now we ask "How will we begin the next 100 years, or the 'new century' of Bethlehem, together?"

This year we focus on the theme "Together" as we move forward, visualizing 100 ways of...:

- 1.) Welcoming: 100 New Faces in the pews...To keep growing, we do well to focus on one of our biggest strengths our hospitality and sense of community. Starting in 2014, we spent three years building up to our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the goal of welcoming 125 new members. We fell short of that goal, but only by a few (we brought in about 110 new members!) If we made our new goal 100 members over the next 3-5 years, could we not do the same? However, this time we could focus not solely on the numbers, but on new ministry to engage our new friends and help them stay, thrive and lead with a new energy for a new goal: becoming a place of deeper teaching, and a place where disciples make disciples who make more and more disciples.
- 2.) Growing Closer: 100 New Ways to Build Relationship...Growth is not just about getting "bigger" as a church; it is about getting deeper in relationship to God and with one another. At Bethlehem there is a need, and indeed a clamoring, for more small groups, bible studies, and other specialized ministries that might require shorter time commitments (for those not wanting to serve on a committee, for example) with just as much depth and impact. Studies have shown that getting new members involved early and connected to their passions of ministry help strengthen their faith and increase the likelihood they will remain and thrive with the flock.
- 3.) **Building Sustainability: An additional "100" for each family to contribute...** Here we get real about the finances. For us to meet our current budget, we are told that each family at Bethlehem would either need to increase their pledge by 7% more than last year's giving, or for each family to make, on average, a *one-time* contribution of \$100 in addition to their regular giving.

Our vision is clear, and our congregation is strong. But our needs are real. Please consider what the Bethlehem faith community means to you and how you can help us thrive and grow based on the above themes and considerations. The enclosed pledge card can be returned on Pledge Weekend (November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>), via mail, or placed in the office mailbox of Bookkeeper Phil Anderson.

Grace and peace to you,

Your Stewardship Committee

## Statement from Grand Traverse Area Clergy on Recent Acts of Violence (Sent to the Record Eagle, TV 7 & 4, IPR & the Leelanau Enterprise)

October 30, 2018

Contact: Rev. Jody Betten (616) 706-3549

We join together as an interfaith community of leaders to share in the profound grief provoked by the attack on Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh that took the lives of eleven Jews gathered for Sabbath worship and wounded several others, including first responders.

Together, we cry out with the voice of the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted, because they were not." (31:14) And, we take comfort in the prophet's words of reassurance: "The Lord has appeared to me, far away, saying, 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have remained true to you." (31:2)

Together, we are also profoundly affected by the recent spate of bomb material sent to leaders across the United States and we mourn the lives of Maurice Stallard and Vickie Jones, murdered in Kentucky by a white supremacist.

Together, we grieve all instances of daily violence and discrimination faced by members of the wider American community.

Together, we offer our heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and wider communities of the departed and offer prayers for quick and complete healing for the wounded.

Together, we exhort ourselves and all who share a vision of a peaceful, diverse, just, and compassionate American society, to redouble our efforts at reconciliation and recommit ourselves to upholding our country's highest ideals and aspirations.

Signed in love and solidarity (alphabetically) -

Rabbi Chava Bahle Rev. Jose Lopez
Rev. Jody Betten Rev. Melissa Lopez
Rev. Paul Busekist Rev. William Myers
Rev. Kathryn Costas Rev. Dale Ostema

Rev. Phil Garrison

Rev. Patricia Haas

Rev. Kathy Snedeker

Rev. Chris Lane

Rev. Jane Lippert

Rev. Jane Lippert

Rev. Robin Long Carden

Rev. MaryBeth Robertson

Rev. Kathy Snedeker

Rev. Eileen Stulak

Rev. Jeremy Wicks

Rev. Jared Yaple

## Bethlehem Visions Committee November 2018

Road maps and cell phone navigation apps are helpful in getting us to unfamiliar destinations. The Bethlehem Vision Committee is more like the Lewis and Clark Expedition or for you more modern folks, the five year mission of Star Trek. "To boldly go where no man has gone before." We are led by the Holy Spirit to chart a course for our church going forward. We have an excellent committee consisting of Karen Feahr, Renae Wells, Sharon Weller, Pastor Paul, and myself.

Our first project is charting a course of action to bring on an Intern to Bethlehem in 2019. With the departure of Alexis Steig in July, we need to provide the staffing support that Pastor needs to continue our Mission and Vision. We are looking at all aspects of this new staffing position from selecting a seminary to work with to the various resources we need to make this idea a reality. We need the support of many diverse groups, committees, Church Council, and of course you, the members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We will provide the map and you, the congregation must approve it and then walk with us as the Spirit leads us.

The path may be difficult and at times rocky, but with God as the lamp that lights our way, we can and will be successful. The destination is a vibrant church with many new members, programs, and opportunities to serve. With an Intern we will also be teaching new ministers in the faith and at the same time, growing our outreach into our community. Let us never tire of reaching out and preaching Love. Christian love is a call to action and we need bold action, founded in love to move forward.

My hand in yours, our hearts with God, Phil Anderson Committee Chair Bethlehem Visions



Not feeling the 'Christmas spirit' this year? Mourning loved ones or experiencing loss?

You are not alone, and you are welcome here.

In the midst of festivities, shouts, and bright lights, some feel dark sadness in our souls. Join us as we come together to find peace, hope and light in the darkness...together.

#### Saturday, December 8 - 5:00 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1050 Peninsula Drive, Traverse City, MI 49686

Together with our friends from Central United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church of Traverse City, and Immanuel Lutheran Church of Suttons Bay



#### **REFORMATION SUNDAY RECAP:**

On Sunday, October 28th our Sunday School children learned more about Martin Luther through songs, teachings, a 'test', plus each child made a Luther Rose to take home.

We had 12 children this Sunday! What a room full of excitement and energy with a great desire for learning about Jesus their Savior!



BAKE SALE SUCCESS RECAP: Thank you to all who donated baked goods for the Christian Ed Bake sale. We made almost \$300 which will be used for children's activities.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

ADVENT NIGHTS: December 5th, 9th and 19th: Shut-in gifts - Nativity Stories

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: December 16th - Watch for details

SUNDAY SCHOOl will be held on December 23rd during Education Hour

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on December 30th - Jubilee Sunday



There is always something for which to be thank ful:











### TOGETHER: Threads of Giving, Bread of Life PLEDGE WEEKEND

November 3 & 4 was our 2019 Pledge Weekend. "The Pledge Card Vase" will be in the back of the church or you can put your envelope in Phil Andersen's mailbox just outside the Office. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE consider automated giving!!! (It makes me feel so gratified to have my "duty done" each week--Renae).

#### **XYZ**

Our next XYZ Get Together will be THURSDAY, November 15 with a pot luck at noon. Turkey will be provided. Our guest speaker will be Tonya Wildfong, who will tell us about Team Elmers. All are welcome....bring a friend (or two). Direct your questions to Jan or Butch at 231-271-3802 or etwaisanen@centurytel.net.

<u>OPPORTUNITY:</u> We have a paid staffing opportunity!!!! BLC is looking for an individual who would be interested in serving as the Christian Education Coordinator. This position is budgeted for an average of 7 hours per week—understanding that there are busy times in the church year, where more hours will be needed, and slower times where less are needed. This exciting opportunity is integrally involved with, and supported by, the Christian Education Committee. For more information, please contact LoAnn VandeLeest, Personnel Committee Chair at 231-620-5445.

<u>SEEKING MEMBERS:</u> Please consider sharing a bit of your time, input, talent, and LOVE for BLC. The following groups could use your help: The Stewardship Committee (Chair Barbara Wright 231-735-3227), The Altar Guild (Barbara Oster 231-668-7038), and Y2A (needs parents of youth and children for future programming) (Alexis Steig—Church office).

LITTLE ARMS OPEN: Our Baby Pantry is hosting a Family Outreach at Bethlehem on November 8, 10am-4pm. The Grand Traverse Health Department will provide Health & Nutrition events, information on dental services and safe sleep. We will have Outreach Counselors on site to assist families. ACTS in Williamsburg will provide vouchers to families for their food pantry. Contact Chuck Ardingo with questions. Items needed are: Pull Up Diapers sizes 2T and 3T, Baby Wipes, Bibs, Cardboard Books, Toddler Size Winter Undershirts, Children's Boots, Toddler Size Socks, Cold Weather Items (gloves, mittens, hats,etc.) If you are able to assist with a donation, it would be greatly appreciated. Leave items in the Gathering Space on the table marked "Baby Pantry Items." Thank you!

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE has reserved 26 seats for the December 2, 2018, 2:00 PM Matinee of "A Christmas Carol" at the Old Town Playhouse. The price is \$22 per person (adult and youth), provided we fill all 26 seats. We plan to meet in the Fellowship Hall for a "bring your own lunch" get together after the 11 AM service on December 2nd and then go to the show. A sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Space. If you have any questions please contact Chuck Ardingo.

#### DEADLINE FOR COUNCIL REPORTS IS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

#### THANK OFFERING WEEKEND

#### WELCA's Thank Offering Weekend is coming up on November 10 & 11.

All services will be presided over by the Women of Bethlehem and all services will be the same. There will be a special offering taken at these services to support WELCA ministries around the community, nation, and the World. If you took a Thank Offering jar, this would be the time to return it filled in gratitude for blessings received. However, you don't need a jar to contribute. If you would rather give your gift via a check, please make check out to WELCA or Women of the ELCA. Please join us and thank you.

#### BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN ART & CRAFT SHOW THANK YOU

A heart filled "THANK YOU" goes out to all who participated in the October 13<sup>th</sup> "Art & Craft Show". Our goals of organizing a productive fundraiser and providing a community event, which gave more exposure to Bethlehem and brought in new faces to our church, were overwhelmingly reached. From the planning stages to the day of the show, there have been many hands working together to make this event happen. THANK YOU—Nancy Ammann, Phil Anderson, Chuck & Chris Ardingo, Diane Blair, Connie Christopherson, Mary Lou Deutsch, Tina Dohm, Nancy Downer, Norm & Jane Fred, Monica Graf, Kate Holtfreter, Pete Hoopfer, Carl & Suzanne Lehto, Jim Leibenguth, Jim & Cindy Monroe, Donna Novak, Barbara Oster, Jim Painey, Alexis Steig, Frank Wall, Sharon Weller, Renae Wells, Barbara Wright, and those who brought in baked goods for the Christian Education Bake Sale. A special kudos goes out to my sister, Sue VanZee, for the countless hours she put in on the building layout for the vendors and creative ideas for the show. Also, thank you to all the members who took time out of their day to check out the 40 artists and crafters and support our cause. Many THANKS to Thrivent for purchasing the food for our meals. Faith is taking on all challenges with an open heart and mind, with no doubts, total trust in His Word. Thank you, Bethlehem, for hosting this

Historic Event and making it happen. Blessings, Patricia Leibenguth.

**COMMUNION PARTIES AT BAY RIDGE:** Once a month, (currently on the second Wednesday at 2pm) Pastor Paul, John and Jan Stretlien, and occasionally other folks, go to Bay Ridge to offer a Communion Party to the residents. This happens at 2:00 pm and there are songs, communion, a short sermon and fellowship with coffee and cookies after. The congregation is welcome to attend! ©

## 24 HOUR FOCUSED PRAYER VIGIL—For all members to pray for the future of BLC

24 Hours of prayer, done in 20 minute increments at the altar. Kneel, sit, stand or lie—it's up to you, petition scripts will be provided. As the description denotes, this is focused. We are pleading with God to show us his will, and to intervene in moving His church forward!

#### <u>DATE: Saturday, November 17: 7am-7am</u> <u>Sunday, November 18</u>

We are at a crossroads at BLC. Our membership is not growing at the rate we were hoping for. We want to discern what God wants for us, and how to make it happen.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex starting October 28<sup>th</sup>. If you want to arrive as a two-some (strongly suggested during the evening, night, and early morning hours) you can pray together for 40 minutes or each separately for 20 minutes.



MEN'S CLUB: Our next Men's Club meeting is Wednesday, November 7 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This session will be "One Question". You can ask any question on any topic. All Men are welcome to join us.....We always provide great conversation. See you there! Contact Chuck Ardingo@206-919-7487 if you have any questions.

# SAVE THE DATE—Ladies & Children—CHRISTMAS CAROLS—Annual Christmas Luncheon—Saturday, December 1, 2018—12:30pm

**HELP NEEDED:** We have a young couple in the congregation needing an economical place to live. (EX. A mother-in-law quarters or extra room). Please contact Pastor Paul for additional information.

<u>Reminder---</u>All are welcome at our Council Meetings: Tuesday, November 20, at 6 pm. There is a time slot for guests to speak at the beginning of the meeting,.

#### <u>Treasurer Update - September 2018</u>

Although the giving level was below what was budgeted, September cash flow was positive by \$4,718. We had budgeted September cash flow to be positive by \$5,453 so we missed our target by \$735. You never want to complain when cash flow is positive, but when it is less than budgeted there is always concern. Our YTD cash flow is positive by \$1,487.

Again, positive cash flow is always good...but there are clouds on the horizon. October and November are budgeted with large negative cash flows and December of course is positive due to the Holidays. They do not offset each other. The negatives outweigh the positives. Thus I forecast we will be negative come year end. Much can change in the last few months. A strong push is needed on 4Q giving to give us a successful year end.

Dave Peppler – Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair

## A Message from the Church Council Meeting of 10/16/2018

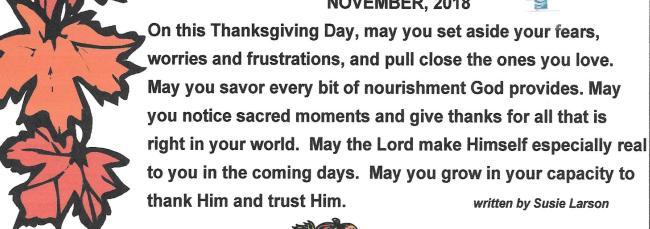
The topic that was front and center during our October Council Meeting was Bethlehem's 2019 Budget. We, as a Bethlehem Family, need all of us to support Bethlehem with both our talents and resources, or Bethlehem will not continue to grow and prosper. I believe that each of us know in our hearts what is needed to be done from our own personal standpoint. As we consider our pledging I offer the following prayer that I found for this article:

"Lord, we thank for Your faithfulness. Thank you that we can always trust in You. Your are an abundant God and out of Your great mercy you have given us so much. We give you this offering today. With it we worship You and give our whole selves to You. Please now take it and use it for Your kingdom and Your glory. Extend and multiple its reach and influence we pray. May it be a great blessing to many. We ask all this in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen."

Tim Fox
Council Secretary

#### WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM NOVEMBER, 2018







#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

NOVEMBER 10-11: THANKOFFERING WEEKEND: All services on this weekend will be presided over by the women of Bethlehem. We will highlight work being done by the women of Bethlehem and women throughout the world. There will be a special offering taken at all services. Many of you took a thank offering jar last year and this will be the time to return it filled with your thanks for the many blessings God has given you. However, you do not need a jar to contribute. (Please note if you desire to give your gift via check, make it out to WELCA or Women of the ELCA.) This special offering will be used to support WELCA ministries that reach thousands of communities. Please join us.

**DECEMBER 1: ADVENT LUNCHEON:** Stay tuned for further information!

NOVEMBER BIBLE STUDY: "Turn, turn, turn: A time for faithful repentance. When we repent as one body in Christ, we open the way to healing and reconciliation." If you would like to be a part of this study please contact Nancy Ammann 946=8433.

Enjoy a most beautiful and blessed

Chanksgiving!

#### ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

#### News from one of our Companion Synods Christian Lutheran Church in Honduras



Iglesia Luterana Christiana de Honduras

We have heard so much recently about the situation in Honduras, a nation often dealing with violence, crime, gangs and fear. The small Lutheran church in Honduras has struggled since its founding in 1951. In the past, two of its pastors were murdered outside their church buildings. Today there are hopeful signs in the midst of those fleeing persecution in Honduras. Many people remain because it is their home country. Faith in the future dwells deeply within.

Despite its struggles, the church remains vibrant and hopeful. Their current president is the Rev. Rolando Antonio Ortez and he leads the church in carrying out its vision.

In the spring, Ortez announced: "[We will be] preparing and practicing preaching - in a workshop of hermeneutics and homiletics. It will be taught by Professor Angela Trejo Hager of Augsburg Lutheran Seminary in Mexico City. The workshop will be a fruitful time of preparation in the ICLH. The Lutheran World Federation provided funds for this project."



Update on Book Supper Club: We will be moving the start time for our meetings to 5:30 to accommodate the schedules of those who still work and cannot be in at 5:00. The group voted that we will TRY a meeting at the Cottage Café (located at 420 Munson Ave.) on November 27. We were able to reserve the large room there. We will be ordering small menu items so as not to tie up too much time with eating. Russ and Carole Luttinen are retiring from set-up/clean-up. We thank them for their years of service! ©

<u>AED CERTIFICATION: STILL ROOM IN THE CLASS:</u> The Christensen Small Group is working on the recertification of BLC's AED Equipment. Ideally, we would like to have People Certified in CPR/AED that represent different groups and times at church. We need to maintain a list of everyone currently certified. Barb is working to set up a training. If you have a current CPR/AED certification or are interested in taking a one-half day class, contact Barb Graf at 946-5120. If you are already certified, please let Barb know.

#### CCC is moving down the alphabet to FFF: Finger-Food Fellowship!

This is a way for any Bethlehem member to be involved! We all know how nice it is to munch a little something on Sunday morning while chatting. Any person, couple or group can sign up to bring cookies OR ANY FINGER-FOOD which only requires a napkin. It could be crackers, cheese and meat cubes, veggies, nuts, candy, mini-sandwiches, or whatever your clever brain and hands can create. One tray should be ready after both Sunday services with someone cleaning up before leaving church. Please feel the spirit moving you and sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. AND WRITE DOWN YOUR DATE BECAUSE NO ONE WILL BE REMINDING YOU. This is a wonderful ministry not only for members but also for welcoming visitors.



# SHOP AT FAMILY FARE AND HELP RAISE MONEY FOR QUILTS!!

Shop at Family Fare, 905 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street here in Traverse City (or at any Family Fare in the area) and help raise money for quilts!

To warm others with more than a prayers,
save register receipts when you shop Family Fare!
Lutheran World Relief quilters need help from you.
Bring Family Fare receipts to us that you could do.
This helps raise money for the supplies it will take...
for fabric, thread, and shipping necessary for the quilts we make!

Questions? Please call Betty Rutila at 231-947-1013

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW PAGE

#### "We Care for God's Creation"

This page will be a monthly feature page in the Star dedicated to taking care of our environment and appreciating the bounty that God has given us. We are going to be looking for your contributions. Help us highlight our gratitude to Him from whom flows all blessings. Please contact Judy Strickland with your ideas or the church office.



#### THE 3 R'S OF CONSERVATION

REFUSE—Say "No Thank You" to unnecessary things, i.e. plastic grocery bags, straws, etc.

REUSE—reuse the bag, donate old sheets to the quilters RECYCLE—Paper, plastic, metal, batteries, etc.



Our battery charger. The microphones and electronics here all use rechargeables.



Bring your "spent" batteries to our caring center (please put tape on the ends for safety purposes).



**Our Caring Center** 

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING----When you see those HUGE packs of batteries while out shopping this month (like on Black Friday), please consider buying rechargeables and a charger. You will be doing your part---batteries that are thrown out emit greenhouse gases which cause climate change.



The Worship & Music Committee has restored the custom of honoring new members of the family of God with a rose at the Altar. Those who wish to celebrate their new child or grandchild can contact the church office. The cost is \$10.00 to be submitted to the church office, or labeled as such and placed in the collection plate. The rose and vase can be taken by the family after the 11:00 service on Sunday.

#### **Musicality**

Another way to support your Bethlehem Music Department is to join one of the music groups. Depending on the one you join, you could be a part of services every 2 months, once a month, once every three weeks, or about every other week. They all have different schedules. What fits you best?

Your choices are steel pans, bells, Worship Team, and choir. They rehearse once a week with trained directors and really build up quite a comradery. It's fun. Think about it.





Did you know Love In the Name of Christ has a Medical Equipment Loan Ministry? If you, a friend or a family members needs a wheelchair, walker, cane, bathroom equipment or more, we can help! We have closet locations at Christ the King in Acme, Grace Episcopal mid-town, St. Patrick in the Grawn area and at the Love INC offices on East Front Street. Call 941-5683 to speak with us about a loan or a donation of equipment. Thanks to our partnership you can have love and care at home!

#### **Habitat for Humanity**

Habitat for Humanity is always looking for volunteers:

- 1. Skilled/Unskilled volunteers to serve as site coaches leading and teaching groups of volunteers in finish carpentry. No experience necessary.
- 2. Committee Members. Time commitment is about three hours a month. Committees needing members are Faith Relations, Family Selection and Events.
- 3. Re-Store volunteers / Donation drives / Pickup and Delivery
- 4. Lunch volunteers to feed construction site crews.
- 5. Deconstruction teams to salvage materials to be sold at the Re-Sale Store. If you're interested in helping out, please call Michelle Reichert at 231-941-4663

#### **Health Concerns\***

Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Hazel Lautner,
Margie Whitney, Jo Hasse, Mary Gordon, Ruth Boerman,
Linda Davis, Ellie Tacke, Vern and Bev Attwood,
Roy Stowe, Kate Holtfreter, Joyce Rombouts,
Marlene Baesch, Alvin Kober, Sharon Stowe, Linda Davis,
Mandy Hitesman, Dee Springer, and Harper Wiemerschlage

**Grand Traverse Pavilions:** Vern & Bev Attwood,

Homebound: Hazel Lautner, Ruth Boerman

**Traverse Manor:** Margie Whitney

French Manor LaFranier: Jo Hasse, Joyce Rombouts

French Manor: Mary Gordon

**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.



BLC's PRAYER CHAIN is always seeking partners in prayer.

More volunteers are needed for this crucial ministry.

For more information or to set the Prayer Chain in motion, call Jan Stretlien @ 947-3265 or email jstretlien@gmail.net

\*If you would like your name, or the name of a loved one, to appear on this list which appears here and in the weekly bulletin, please call the church office at 947-9880.

 $\label{lem:action} \textbf{Are you checking for the latest BLC updates at:} \ \underline{www.bethlehemtc.org}?$ 

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...



#### **OPTIONS FOR OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES**

- \*\* YOU ARE INVITED—The 51st Annual Madrigal Dinner Theater at the Presbyterian Church—December 5th and/or 6th—at 5:30 pm..Tickets are \$20.00/person or \$140 for a table of 8 and available at the church office Phone 231-946-5680
- \*\*LOVE INC is again reaching out with our Adopt A Family Christmas Program. Please consider adopting a family for Christmas. Call the Love INC office at 231-941-5683 or email Tony at tonyn@loveinctraverse.org to adopt.
- \*\*\*FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH is sponsoring "Surviving the Holidays"—Friday, November 16 from 7-9pm. <a href="https://www.divorcecare.org/holidays">www.divorcecare.org/holidays</a>
- \*\*FATHER FRED: Wednesday morning volunteers now needed. The typical shift is10-2pm and you will receive an orientation and work with another volunteer that will help train you. Contact: Elaine Keaton at 231-947-2055 Ext: 118 or <a href="mailto:ekeaton@fatherfred.org">ekeaton@fatherfred.org</a>
- \*\*GRAND TRAVERSE BAY AREA STROKE CLUB: Monthly Activity on November 14. "Personalized Chef Services" by Ken Pault of Bayside Executive Chef Services. On December 12 the Club will host a Holiday Party. These are held at the Presbyterian Church on Westminster Rd. from 2:30-4:30pm. Contact Melinda Hollands, at 935-6380
- \*\*CHURCH WOMEN UNITED: World Community Day, Thursday, November 1, 2018, 11:00am—Bring a dish for Pot Luck Luncheon (& own table service) & boxes of cereal and cans of soup for the Church Food Pantry.
- \*\*CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Volunteers to feed the local homeless and financially insecure, a free meal 7 days a week....any level of commitment is welcome. To volunteer, contact Rev. Jane Lippert at <a href="mailto:janerobertalippert@gmail.com">janerobertalippert@gmail.com</a> or 231-946-5191

#### **BLC Contacts**

#### PLEASE NOTE SEVERAL ADDRESS UPDATES

**Church Office** 

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

Admin. Asst. Sharon Weller <a href="mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org">admin@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Admin. Aide Renae Wells <a href="mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org">admin@bethlehemtc.org</a>

Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson <u>bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org</u>
Sharon Weller, Music Director <u>sharon.weller@bethlehemtc.org</u>
Alexis Steig, Youth & Outreach Director <u>alexis.steig@bethlehemtc.org</u>

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

#### **Church Council**

Jim Parkinson, President <u>president.council@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Chuck Ardingo, Vice President <u>vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Tim Fox, Secretary <u>secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Dave Peppler, Treasurer <u>treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Shelly McAllister, Financial Sec. <u>Secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org</u>

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

Jan Stretlien, Christian Care Giving <a href="mailto:christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org">christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>

Barbara Graf, Christian Ed. <a href="mailto:christianeducation@bethlehemtc.org">christianeducation@bethlehemtc.org</a>

LoAnn VandeLeest, Evangelism <u>evangelism@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Chuck Ardingo, Fellowship <u>fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org</u>

LoAnn VandeLeest, Membership <a href="membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org">membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>

LoAnn VandeLeest, Personnel <u>personnel.committee@bethlehemtc.org</u>
Chuck Ardingo, Property <u>property.committee@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Barbara Wright, Stewardship <a href="mailto:stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org">stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>

Nancy Downer, Worship and Music <u>worship.committee@bethlehemtc.org</u>

Barbara Graf, Youth/Y2A <a href="mailto:youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org">youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>

If you have an interest in serving on any of the above Committees,

Please contact the Committee Chairperson(s).

BLC - Non assigned mtg. space, Conference Room, Event Held Outside of BLC, Fellowship Hall, Gathering Space, Lower Room 2 Nov 2018 (Eastern Time - New York) , Lower Room 3, Lower Room 4, Nursery Room 1, Nursery Room 3, Nursery Room No #, Sanctuary, Youth Room

				5:30pm - Newcomers	6:15pm - Apprentice	
	2:30pm - Front Street Jazz			5:30pm - Book/Supper Club	6pm - Sew Pieceful Quilters	
	10am - Alanon-LR3	7pm - Choir Rehearsal		3pm - LessonsWarne	3pm - Lessons/Weller	1pm - Drive My Way
	10am - AlAnon-B	6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal	6pm - Worship Team	9am - Property Work Group	10am - Staff Meeting	11am - Modern Worship - S
	WELCA Luncheon Set-up	5:30pm - ACOA (LR)	3pm - Lessons/Weller	9am - Prayer Shawl	10am - Alanon-LR3	9:45am - Sunday School
ory Lutheran Church, 4400 Mt	Conf.Retreat @ Feast of Victory Lutheran Church, 4400 Mt	3pm - LessonsWarne	1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite)	9am - LWR Quilting	10am - AlAnon-B	8:45am - Worship Service
	30	29	28	27	26	25
					6:15pm - Apprentice	6pm - HSNight
		7pm - Choir Rehearsal		7pm - Lautner SG @ at the	4pm - Drive My Way	1:15pm - Confirm.
		6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal		6pm - Council Meeting	3pm - Oster SG	12:30pm - Monroe SG
		5:30pm - ACOA (LR)		4pm - Drive My Way	3pm - Lessons/Weller	11am - Modern Worship - S
	4pm - Drive My Way	4pm - Drive My Way		3pm - LessonsWarne	1:30pm - Stewardship	11am - Christensen SG
	2:30pm - Front Street Jazz	3pm - LessonsWarne	6pm - Worship Team	9am - Property Work Group	10am - Staff Meeting	9:45am - Sunday School
5pm - Worship-S	10am - Alanon-LR3	1pm - Lehto SG	4pm - Drive My Way	9am - Prayer Shawl	10am - Alanon-LR3	8:45am - Worship Service
1pm - Drive My Way	10am - AlAnon-B	Thanksgiving/Office Closed	3pm - Lessons/Weller	9am - LWR Quilting	10am - AlAnon-B	Pecan Sale
24:	23	22	21	20	(19	18
	-			4:30pm - AAUW Mtg.	6:30pm - Gamblers	
				4pm - Drive My Way	6:15pm - Apprentice	
***************************************		7pm - Choir Rehearsal		3pm - LessonsWarne	6pm - Sew Pieceful Quilters	
		6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal	6pm - Worship Team	12pm - Sarah Circle	4pm - Drive My Way	11am - Modern Worship - S
	5pm - BLUES @ BLC	5:30pm - ACOA (LR)	4pm - Drive My Way	10am - Finance-CR	3pm - Lessons/Weller	9:45am - Sunday School
	2:30pm - Front Street Jazz	4pm - Drive My Way	3pm - Lessons/Weller	9am - Property Work Group	10am - Staff Meeting	8:45am - Worship Service
5pm - Worship-S	10am - Alanon-LR3	3pm - LessonsWarne	2pm - Communion Party-BR	9am - Prayer Shawl	10am - Alanon-LR3	WELCA Thankoffering
Pecan Sale	10am - AlAnon-B	12pm-XYZ	2pm - ALS Support Group	9am - LWR Quilting	10am - AlAnon-B	Pecan Sale
177	16	15	144	13	12	
	7pm - Bridge-GS	7pm - Choir Rehearsal		3pm - Bethlehem Vision		11am - Modern Worship - S
	6pm - Faith and Family	6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm - Men's Group	2pm - sAMARITAS	6:30pm - Gamblers	10:15am - Adult Ed.
	2:30pm - Front Street Jazz	5:30pm - ACOA (LR)	6pm - Worship Team	1pm - Executive Committee	6:15pm - Apprentice	9:45am - WELCA Board
	12pm - Juanita Lautner-	4pm - Drive My Way	4pm - Drive My Way	1pm - Exec. Mtg.	4pm - Drive My Way	9:45am - Sunday School
	11am - Juanita Lautner-	3pm - LessonsWarne	3pm - Lessons/Weller	10am - Finance Cmte. Mtg.	3pm - Lessons/Weller	9:45am - Membership &
5pm - Worship-S	10am - Juanita Lautner-	1pm - Rebecca/Ann Circle	12pm - Midge Plumley-	9am - Property Work Group	10am - Staff Meeting	8:45am - Worship Service
WELCA Thankoffering	10am - Alanon-LR3	9am - Health Fair	11am - Midge Plumley-	9am - Prayer Shawl	10am - Alanon-LR3	Pledge Sunday
Pecan Sale	10am - AlAnon-B	9am - Baby Pantry-FH	10am - Midge Plumley-	9am - LWR Quilting	10am - AlAnon-B	Pecan Sale
10	9	8	The state of the s	_ 6	= 5	
	12pm - Marvin Grant-	7pm - Choir Rehearsal				
	11am - Marvin Grant-	6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal				
5pm - Worship-S	10am - Marvin Grant-	5:30pm - ACOA (LR)				
5pm - Celebrate! Worship	10am - Alanon-LR3	3pm - LessonsWarne				
Pecan Sale	10am - AlAnon-B	1pm - Christian Care				
	32		<u>31</u>	30	29	[28]
Sat	F.T.	-	Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu		Mon	Sun

Because of the many activities here at BLC, this is only a partial calendar. You can view the entire calendar at <a href="http://www.bethlehemtc.org/community-calendar">http://www.bethlehemtc.org/community-calendar</a> or call the office at 947-9880 for more information (and corrections/additions).