

# APRIL 2020 STAR



**Bethlehem**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880



**Happy  
Easter,  
friends!**

*This newsletter contains the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of our “Hope Spreads Further” Blog entries. See also online or our “Shooting STAR Box” outside the church building for Week 1 entries and later weeks.*

Website: [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)  
Email: [bethlehem@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:bethlehem@bethlehemtc.org)

Building Hours: (Building closed – COVID-19)  
Monday – Thursday, 9am to 3pm

Office Hours (Building closed – COVID-19)  
Monday – Thursday, 9am to 3pm

## Worship Times:

All services are online until May 10th

Visit “Real Church Virtual” at

<http://www.bethlehemtc.org/real-church-virtual-bethlehem-podcasts>

Saturday: 5 pm Celebrate! Worship  
Sunday: 8:30 am Traditional Worship  
9:45 am Education Hour  
11 am Modern Worship

## 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 friends at Bethlehem,

We have all wondered these last few weeks just where we are as a church during this era of COVID-19 and how we hope to *live into* and *through* it. Our Council has chosen unanimously to follow our state governor's Executive Order and (beyond that) the recommendation of our synod bishop, by *postponing in-person worship until May 10<sup>th</sup>*. This will not be easy, and your pastor, Council and staff have been prayerfully seeking to transform their roles and efforts to help us all stay connected to one another and God's word and presence in our lives.

Among other things, we've created two big new pieces of our website – our **“Hope Spreads Further”** blog and our pre-recorded videos called **“Real Church Virtual.”** Both are accessible via the scrolling web banner at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org), under the “Our Stories” drop-down menu, on Facebook and on YouTube. We continue to search for new avenues of outreach and creativity, from building a temporary outdoor mailbox to putting STAR newsletters and other BLC printed materials (and DVD worship recordings) into the new “Shooting STAR Box” outside the church door. We also actively reach out to each other one on one. All of these help, as we can all do something big or small to avoid social isolation, despite our physical distance.

Bethlehem **has also re-drawn the schedule for Holy Week (below)** and the events shortly after. Perhaps this list, and the special note from Stewardship we are mailing this week may serve as *something helpful to post on your fridge or home office wall*. We hope to see and hear from you soon, and we give thanks for your prayers and words each day as we walk this journey together... We can't be church without you!

### **Events of Holy Week:**

**Palm Sunday, 4/5:** Virtual service posted online in a.m.; Facebook “Live Watch” 10am

**Wednesday, 4/6:** Facebook “Live Watch” of previous Sun **@7pm (note: time change)**

**Maundy Thursday, 4/9:** Virtual service posted by 3pm; Facebook “Live Watch” at 7pm

**Good Friday, 4/10:** Virtual service posted mid-day; Facebook “Live Watch” at 7pm

Pastor Paul preaching at Central United Methodist's “Last 7 Words of Christ” service, also virtually this year **noon-3pm** ([www.tccentralumc.org](http://www.tccentralumc.org) for more)

(PLEASE NOTE: NO EASTER VIGIL THIS YEAR)

**Easter Sunday, 4/12:** Virtual service online early a.m.; Facebook Live Watch 10am

*Worship services after Easter and before May 10<sup>th</sup> will have a similar format to the last several weeks: virtual, abbreviated and online.* Other hopeful and potential new additions in the days and weeks ahead may be a new FB live Bible Study with Pastor Paul and other leaders after Easter (Luke/Acts, perhaps?); (if there's interest) watching the full “Last Days in the Desert” film via online “group watch,” if possible... Other ideas and outreach may develop organically.

So let's stay connected and hopeful, friends. We listen for the Spirit. **This is how we overcome.**

Shalom, and do not be afraid.

Pastor Paul and Your Church Council

# **ABRIDGED WITH ANNIE: A SUMMARY OF YOUTH EVENTS FOR APRIL...**

Hey Bethlehem! I hope that everyone is doing well given recent circumstances. I was very saddened that we were unable to come together during Lent and finish the month of March. But let's remember that God is Good and a church isn't the building...it's the people!

## **APRIL HAPPENINGS ...**



**Holy Week** will be a little different this year. You will be able to find special **Virtual Church Services** on Facebook, YouTube and on our Website during the days of Holy Week. I invite you to gather with your families and join us.

Due to the church extending its closing date to May 10<sup>th</sup> we will be doing all Youth Nights this month in a virtual capacity! We will be getting together via Google Hangout to catch up and pick a movie of the group's choice via Netflix! If your child is interested in joining please let me know and I can give them the login information.

**Junior High School Night** will be on **Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**High School Night** will be on **Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>**.

**BLUES** will be on **Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>**.

In April we had been planning to announce our **2020 VBS theme: Great Bible Reef!** The plan had originally been to have the first **VBS Volunteer Introduction Meeting on Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>** but now that will change. If you are interested in being part of VBS this summer please let me know so I can keep you posted on changes to this meeting as we get it figured out.

Be sure to mark your calendars for all these fun events!

As we "spring" into April with a feeling of uncertainty, I ask that you keep Bethlehem's youth and families in your prayers as we wait for the chance to come together again. Pray for them as they work on school from home. That they are able to finish strong no matter what is thrown at them with a song in their heart!

*"...for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land."  
(Song of Solomon 2:11-12)*

Cheerfully in Christ,  
*Annie Slabaugh*

Director of Youth and Outreach/ Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Traverse City

# Hope Spreads Further: From Crisis to New Life (Week 2)



(Week 1 was published last week in a separate packet – available online or in the “Shooting STAR box” outside the church.)

I took this picture last month as I walked out of the Meijer in Acme after a shopping trip. I look at it now and ponder how I had NO idea what life would be like six weeks later! These days of lockdown and social distancing make me long for a leisurely trip through the (well stocked) aisles of that giant store. But if you had asked me then what I thought of my trip, I probably would have complained that it took entirely too long and that I was glad to be done with it. Everything depends on perspective, doesn't it? If boredom has set in, here's a few ideas for things to do: start your spring raking; drive up to Mission Point Lighthouse and walk around the grounds; drive to another town and walk around downtown; set a challenge for yourself to accomplish that project you always dread! During these days of “forced-relaxation” we should all take some time to be kind...to ourselves and especially to others. Be sure to stay in touch, but with phone calls, not visits! Most of all, remember that this is only a temporary situation! I'm sure I will soon be dreading my trips to Meijer once again.

Stay healthy.

Peace,  
Sharon



## "Anchor of Hope"

When I was a child, my church was Hope Lutheran in Detroit. As an adult, I belonged to Hope Lutheran in Dearborn. The symbol for those congregations was the “anchor of hope,” as described in the book of Hebrews. From the time I was a young teenager, I have claimed the promise that “we have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope ... where Jesus a forerunner on our behalf has entered...”

(Hebrews 6:19-20a)

There are many examples of how this assurance has been helpful to me through the years – sometimes involving people – sometimes involving incidents in my daily life.

There was one time at Christmas I will always remember. The congregation my husband was serving was a small one and although congregational giving was excellent, oftentimes there were financial struggles. David commented to me that the church needed \$8,000 and would be in dire straits at the end of the year unless there was a miracle. We needed to hope and pray. That same evening, a couple from church stopped by the house. They had received a settlement from an auto accident and wanted to tithe it. Their gift was \$8,000!

My main point in sharing this information is so that, despite the upset in our lives now, despite the fears we may have about health or money, or loved ones, remember to trust the anchor in our lives – Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Cling to the anchor of hope. Jesus has promised to be with us until the close of the age. Be grateful for this reassurance. The Lord is with each of us at Bethlehem.

Carolyn Mann





## Take Time for the Small Things

While I sit at home, I truly wish I could see you folks for worship or in the Fellowship Hall knitting, making quilts, or the work group gathering for coffee, cookies and conversation. I miss you folks – each one of you!

I stop and remember how important each one of you are to me and we are to each other. I thought about a Mac Davis song, Stop and Smell the Roses. A snippet of the lyrics go like this:

You got to Stop and Smell the roses  
You've got to count your many blessings everyday  
You're gonna find your way to heaven is a rough and rocky road  
If you don't Stop and Smell the roses along the way...

One of my favorite golf guys is Walter Hagen. In his 1956 book "The Walter Hagen Story", there is a line that has always resonated with me: "You're only here for a short visit. Don't hurry. Don't worry." To be sure, God is still on the throne and He is watching over us every day.

In this time of social distancing and sheltering in place, it's so very important to stay connected and take time to slow down and appreciate all of the good things we have. I took a hike through the woods with my puppies and just took the time to look around at the trees and the leaves on the ground and listen for the birds in the trees. I then walked along the shore of East Bay and took time to look for Petoskey stones.

While I was walking along, I saw my first robin! A sure sign that spring is around the corner. I'm also excited to see the first of my crocuses poking their heads up through the ground. It won't be long and they will be in full bloom. Not to be outdone, my daffodils are starting to show some signs of life. Perhaps by Easter they will be in bloom! A sure sign of joy and spring time! I pray for each of you while we are apart – knowing we are together in Christ.

Peace and Aloha,  
Phil Anderson



## Hope for All

Volunteers are an important part of our Bethlehem community. I cannot express enough how much they are appreciated. Up to now we see them all around the church, not only on Sundays but every day of the week. You may have seen them maintaining the grounds, making quilts, knitting prayer shawls, working in the office, counting the offering, attending committee meetings, providing coffee and cookies at services, setting up Communion, greeting our members and visitors, running the PowerPoint for the service, ringing the bell, preparing the worship folders, assisting ministers and lectors at every service, singing in the choir, or playing hand bells or steel pans. Bethlehem Lutheran Church is not just a building, it is the people. With the current situation, we are without our “building” but Bethlehem still exists. Bethlehem is thriving. All of us can be volunteers. For now we will not be doing the jobs listed above but everyone can volunteer to keep in touch with other members by telephone or if possible, volunteering to do errands for those who are not able to leave their home. Do what you can. I know it will be appreciated.

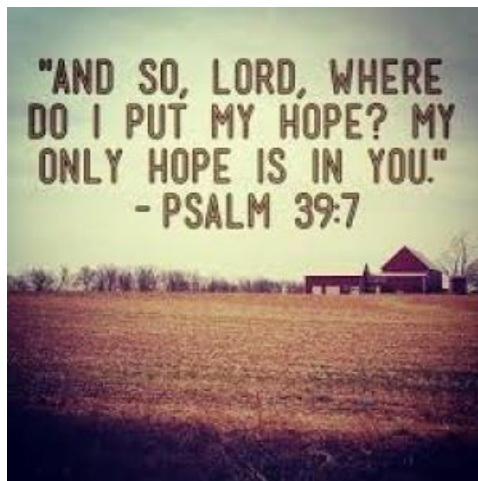
I have read that the hymn, Now, Thank We All Our God, was written by a Lutheran minister in Germany during a devastating plague in the 1600s. The second verse speaks well about what happened then and is happening now. God is with us now and forever.

*“Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.”*

I will close with a “National Distress” prayer from our Evangelical Lutheran Worship, pg. 76.

“Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In this time of danger and trouble, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation with your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.”

-Barbara Oster



## Kindness in Crisis

I'm incredibly close to my mom and talk to her multiple times throughout the day. Even before all of this craziness happened I always call her on my way into and home from work. I called her this morning to have our daily chat and she shared with me a beautiful story that I wanted to share with you all.

My mother loves to walk. In the woods, by the lake, in circles in the living room you think of it she's probably walked it. So naturally, you can imagine that this stay at home order is making her pretty ancy--like it is all of us. The other day was too nice to just sit around the house and she found herself walking down the road in the subdivision where my parents live. She was pleasantly surprised to see so many people in their yards or walking as well. While on a nice day this wouldn't be abnormal, what caught my mom's attention was that everywhere she turned people were being kind to each other. Of course, they were maintaining the 6 feet policy and practicing social distancing but every single person my mom came across that day had a smile on their face and gave her a wave. Usually, we've both found that people don't speak or smile at each other anymore. They are just in their own little worlds and keep to themselves. She's noticed during the few times that she's ventured out since the Stay Home Order that people are keeping their distance but are now waving, smiling and talking to each other. There is more kindness and noticing of others around us.

Psalm 31:21 states "Blessed be the LORD for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me when I was beset as a city under siege." I like to think that in times of crisis, people's kindness comes bursting out of them. We've been experiencing so much fear and negativity on top of being cooped up in our homes, it gives my heart hope to hear that people are showing God's love for others in the little ways that they can.

Cheerfully in Christ,  
Annie Slabaugh

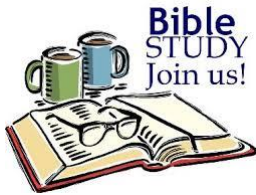




## **American Cancer Society's 24-hour Relay for**

**Life:** Our loyal runner, Shelly (McAllister) Carpenter, is once again looking for walkers/runners, as well as, sponsors and donors for this event. It runs from 10am on Saturday, June 20 through 10am on Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. at the Northwestern Michigan Fairgrounds. PLEASE call or text her at 231-631-4346 or [smcallister3@hotmail.com](mailto:smcallister3@hotmail.com) to help her support this worthy cause.

---



## **The Wednesday Morning Drop-In Bible Study**

is studying the "good news" of Matthew. Come. Bring your bible and share at 9:30 on Wednesday mornings in the Youth Room. All are welcome.  
**POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER MAY 10TH**

---

## **From Your Bookkeeper Making Cents of it All**

One day we will tell the story about how we overcame this trial we are going through now, and it will be someone else's guide to survival.

I am encouraged when I see how people have worked together to help each other move forward! People helping people with donations of everything from groceries, to homemade masks convinces me that the human spirit is alive and well. We have not all hunkered down in the bunker and turned off the lights.

Your church is doing wonderful things to keep the candles lit and the Word being preached. Many thanks to Pastor, Annie, Trent, Sharon, Barbara and everyone else who are putting in extra hours to publish the Star, tape worship services, and get the message out that God is still with us.

I do want to make an appeal to each of you to please keep your church in mind as we social distance. We are diligently holding down every possible expense and delaying those that are not immediate. However, we do need your contributions going forward. We have set up a Pay Pal feature on our website for you to make a donation fast and uncomplicated. Mailing in your contribution is another way you can stay current. Many people are mailing in their contributions to the church. To those I say a big, "THANK YOU!"

### **"I Can Do It"**

**We all need motivational self-talk to encourage ourselves in life. These words are our motivational force to keep the spirits high when we struggle with the feeling of self-doubt. Repeat these words when you lack the confidence to do something that you want to achieve.**

**Stay strong, stay healthy, and stay positive! If I can be of any help during these weeks and days of separation, don't hesitate to contact me. We are here for each other!**

Phil Anderson  
Bookkeeper, Bethlehem Lutheran Church

# Christian Education News

## April 2020



### FIRST COMMUNION

The Christian Education Committee looks forward to the day soon when

**Aleah Graf**

celebrates

her First Communion with BLC!!!

God's richest blessings, Aleah.

Special thanks to Mrs. Lehto and Pr. Paul for teaching these classes!

Please join us!

Sunday School opening runs  
from 9:45am-10:00am  
every Sunday morning  
before the children are dismissed  
to their classes.

Please join us for an introduction to the  
lesson, songs, birthday celebrations,  
offering,  
and special prayers!



### Care Package Project

The Christian Education Committee  
packaged boxes

for

9 college students

and

1 military family member

last month

to let those who are far away from us  
know that Jesus loves them, and so do we!



### Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Dive in with us!!!

Make plans to join us  
at

"Great Bible Reef"

July 20<sup>th</sup> to July 24<sup>th</sup>  
this summer!

We need MANY volunteers  
in MANY areas ☺



# WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM

APRIL, 2020



*We don't develop courage by being happy every day.  
We develop it by surviving difficult times and challenging adversities.*

**Barbara DeAngelis**

*If you don't like something, change it.  
If you can't change it, change your attitude.*

**Maya Angelou**

Our country, our world is going through trying times. It seems every day we read or hear about more and more negative happenings, the biggest right now is the coronavirus. The only way we can get through this is to put our faith and trust in God. He IS here in the midst of all of this; He's got our back. We need to put all of our faith and trust in Him. Later on it seems every devotion I read tells me not to worry, to put everything in God's hands. That is the only way we are going to get through this with our minds and souls intact. I know and you know this but maybe if we read it often enough, we will do it more often:

**Read Scripture; Pray unceasingly; Trust in our God.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**SPRING FLING: Cancelled**

**SPRING GATHERING IN MARLETTE, MI: Cancelled**

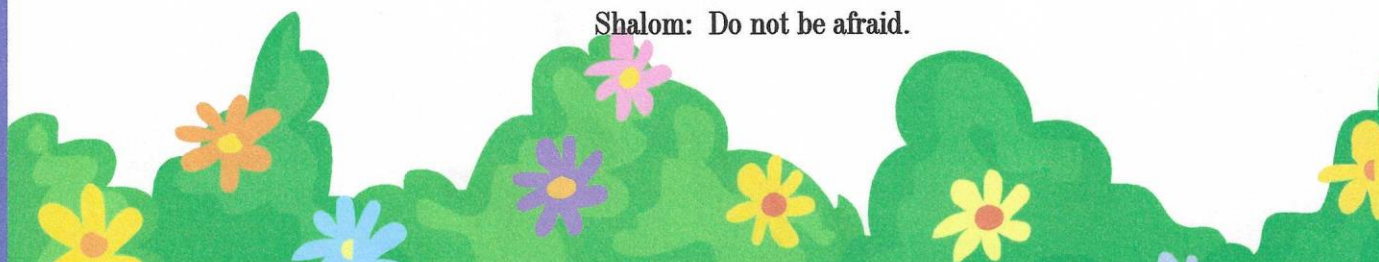
**CIRCLE BIBLE STUDIES FOR APRIL: Cancelled**

**CIRCLE BIBLE STUDIES FOR MAY: TBD**

**TRIENNIAL CONVENTION IN PHOENIX IN JULY: TBD**

**Please read the letter elsewhere in the Star from Laura Halbakken, President of the N/W Michigan's Synod.**

**Shalom: Do not be afraid.**







March 18, 2020

Greetings to my sisters in Christ of the N/W Lower Michigan Synod,

Along with everyone else you are receiving emails and updates from, I wanted to touch base with you regarding our WELCA Spring Gathering. To say that these are trying times and a true test of our faith and trust in our Savior is an understatement. I personally take nothing more seriously right now than the health, safety and wellbeing of each of you and your families. At this time, based on the guidelines of the federal government and the CDC's recommendation to cancel all in-person activities, your board of the N/W Lower Michigan Synod has unanimously decided to cancel our Spring Gathering scheduled for April 25, 2020. I will keep you informed of a future date.

We know that people across the United States and the world are faced with challenges after so many things of great importance have been postponed or canceled. With WELCA, our faith and our sisterhood however, is never cancelled. Please prayerfully choose to view this time as an opportunity to rise above the challenges we are facing and make the most of the situation at hand. Since WELCA's inception in 1987, the Women of the ELCA have been there for every major event our country has faced. It is during these most challenging times that we as women exhibit the resilience and faith in our Lord that will instill the same in others.

Our faith and our sisterhood with each other becomes more vital for us in order to focus on what matters most in this most uncertain of times. It is both during and after this crisis that the foundation of our faith and trust in the grace and mercy of Jesus must be at the forefront of our lives. Knowing and trusting that our lives are in God's hands will help alleviate some of the stress we all feel now that our lives feel so out of control. Take time for deep, meditative prayer. Pray for those you love, those you don't know, and those who are mourning the loss of their loved ones due to this virus. Pray for our country's leaders and the health organizations that oversee the implementation of regulations we must follow in order to stop this pandemic. Pray for yourself for peace, strength and comfort as you care for yourself and those in your own homes. Make phone calls to family and friends to keep in touch with each other's lives and families. Keeping in communication with each other is vital right now. With that being said, if you have any concerns on how all this affects us as Women of the ELCA, or want to talk about where we go from here, please feel free to call me. My number is 517-281-3133 and please know that I am here for you and your unit.

With God's hand on all that is happening right now, we can trust that we will get through this together and come out on the other side with a stronger faith and resilience than we had before. I pray God's greatest blessings on you all.

Peace for your day,

Laura Halbakken  
President of the N/W Lower Michigan Women's Synod



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

# ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

This month, “Food for Thought” is offered as we celebrate the gift of salvation through the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ – the Living Bread from Heaven.

## **A Note from ELCA World Hunger**

The hope for sufficient livelihood that could provide for her family inspired Mrs. Kamela to join a village savings and loan group through Evangelical Lutheran Development Service (ELDS) in Malawi, [Africa], which is supported by ELCA World Hunger. With the combined savings of the group and additional training in business management, Mrs. Kamela was able to start a small business. The income she earned through her hard work and the support of ELDS and ELCA World Hunger helped her provide for her children and improve her home. Now, instead of a dilapidated thatch house, she has a brick home with iron roofing — a safe and secure dwelling that will withstand the rain.

Our gifts to ELCA World Hunger matter. God's work. Our hands.

## **Thoughts from Two ELCA Missionaries Serving in Tanzania Africa**

In a recent blog post, ELCA missionaries Cynthia Holder Rich and Mark Rich reflect on confronting white privilege in Tanzania. “Being white in Africa has changed us,” they write. Cynthia and Mark share how they've wrestled with the complexities of that privilege in their work. Their moving comments challenge us to rethink our attitudes and assumptions. See:

<https://mcintz.wordpress.com/2020/02/19/being-white-in-africa/>

## **Accompaniment in Australia**

In a new video, Kim Crawford, who serves alongside Henry Martinez as Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) country coordinator for Australia, shares how volunteers walk alongside companions in a spirit of accompaniment. Pete Schilling, camp manager for Luther Heights Youth Camp, describes what a powerful experience that can be. “They are opting in and choosing to take on challenges and grow,” Pete says. View the video at:

<https://vimeo.com/383742092/4587e1d457> [Reminder: Alexis Steig, former BLC staff served as a YAGM in Serbia this year. She is home now due to the current worldwide situation].



## Stewardship

As we prepare for Holy week and Easter Sunday more has been on our minds this year than in years past. The following is from the ELCA Stewardship Resources: “How do we respond to God’s call to serve and love our neighbors? We faithfully steward the gifts God has so abundantly given to us. Although some think of stewardship as only a financial response to God’s love, stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is about how we use all that God has entrusted to our care — our time, our talents and our treasures — to love God and our neighbors, both inside and outside of the church walls and our homes.” We here at Bethlehem are blessed. In time we will return to our daily routines as well as our congregation. Please remember the pledges that we made. This is extra important this Lenten season with the closures for worship.

---

A big thank you to all who turned in Oleson’s receipts. We just received a check from Oleson’s for \$278.79. Please continue to drop your Oleson’s receipts off at church.

---

## 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!*

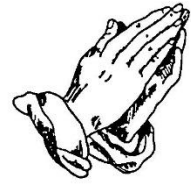
Questions? Please call Betty Rutila at 231-947-1013

---



**Did you know Love Thy Neighbor 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 Thy Neighbor office 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!

## Health Concerns\*



# The Power of Prayer

*Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Hazel Lautner, Tom Miller, Margie Whitney,  
Jo Hasse, Ellie Tacke, Bev Attwood, Roy Stowe,  
Priscilla Thompson, Marleen Baesch, Alvin Kober,, Lynn Hoyt,  
Jan Waisanen, Molly Eastman, Harper Wiemerslage, Chuck Hanson,  
Roy & Marilyn Dumond, Roy Weller, Emily Wilson, and Brenda Denoyer*

**Grand Traverse Pavilions:** Bev Attwood

**Medilodge:** Julie LaPeer

**Homebound:** Hazel Lautner, Ruth Boerman, Marleen Baesch

**Traverse Manor:** Margie Whitney, Marinan Bradford

**French Manor LaFranier:** Jo Hasse, Roy Stowe

**Boardman Lake Glens:** Inge Thomas, Bill & Dee Springer, Emily Wilson

**Samaritas (Acme):** Priscilla Thompson

**Munson Hospice House:** Ruth Boerman

**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](mailto: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.

Are you checking for the latest BLC updates at: [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)?

You saw Norm and others take the photos...be sure you see them at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)!

Good News...and great news...at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)...

# HONORING GOD'S CREATION

We honor God's creation by allowing it to care for us. As we all hunker down to face the challenge of the current pandemic crisis, we need to use the tools that God has given us through nature.

Being in nature or viewing pictures of nature reduces fear, stress, anger and improves your mood.

Taking walks in nature decreases blood pressure, heart rate and muscle tension.

Take time to thank God for the beauty of nature.

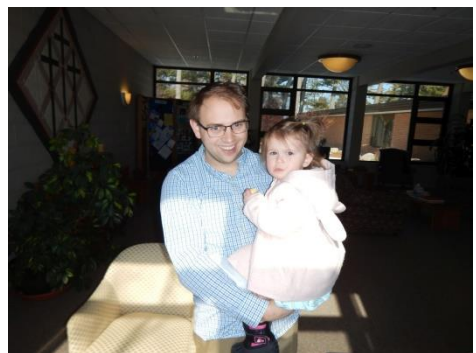


First day of spring and a skim of ice on Torch Lake. Spring will be here one of these days.



# Faces of Bethlehem

We look forward to seeing them in person!





Norm Fred buying a vacuum cleaner for the Safe Harbor crews to use.

It was paid for by members of BLC, BRCS and the Community Quest Club.



Bethlehem Lutheran members who attended the Traverse City High School Maverick Minds All Arts Fair in February.



We give thanks to Tracey Moyer who made the beautiful quilt hanging in the Narthex.



# BLC Contacts

PLEASE NOTE SEVERAL ADDRESS UPDATES

## Church Office

Pastor Paul Busekist [paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org)  
Admin. Asst. Sharon Weller [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org)  
Admin. Aide Barbara Oster [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org)  
Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson [bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org)  
Sharon Weller, Music Director [sharon.weller@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:sharon.weller@bethlehemtc.org)  
Annie Slabaugh, Youth & Outreach Director [annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org)  
Website [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

## Church Council

Chuck Ardingo, President [president.council@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:president.council@bethlehemtc.org)  
Leonard Graf, Vice President [vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org)  
Tim Fox, Secretary [lsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:lsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org)  
Katie Fox, Treasurer [treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org)  
Jim Monroe, Financial Sec. [financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org)  
Phil Anderson [Bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:Bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org)  
Jan Stretlien, Christian Care Giving [christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org)  
, Christian Ed. [christianeducation@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:christianeducation@bethlehemtc.org)  
, Fellowship [fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org)  
Cindy Monroe, Membership/Evangelism [membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org)  
, Property (Carl Lehto-Not on Council) [property.committee@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:property.committee@bethlehemtc.org)  
Mark McPherson, Stewardship [stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org)  
Nancy Downer, Worship and Music [worship.committee@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:worship.committee@bethlehemtc.org)  
Paul Wiemerslage, Youth/Y2A [youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org)  
Pastor Paul Busekist [paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org)

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



**REYNOLDS JONKHOFF**  
*Funeral Home & Cremation Services*

305 Sixth St. 947-6347

[www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://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.



1029 Carver Street  
Traverse City, MI 49686

(231) 947-7670

Fax (231) 947-7199

[www.deweesehardware.com](http://www.deweesehardware.com)

**BLOXSOM** ROOFING & SIDING

*Generations of Knowledge and Trust*

3733 Blair Townhall Road - Traverse City, MI 49684

Ph: 231.943.8781 - Fax: 231.943.9146

[www.bloxsomroofing.com](http://www.bloxsomroofing.com)



DELIVERING ENERGY EFFICIENCY SOLUTIONS  
**Temperature Control, Inc.**

1623 Northern Star Drive • Traverse City, MI 49696  
Control Systems • Air Conditioning • Heating  
Commercial • Industrial

Phone (231) 922-1862



Funeral Homes  
Phone: (231) 946-6515  
Fax: (231) 946-1099



**Our Locations:**

232 E. State Street  
Traverse City, MI 49684

200 N. Brownson Avenue  
Kingsley, MI 49649

312 Pine Street  
Elk Rapids, MI 49629

[www.CovellFuneralHomes.com](http://www.CovellFuneralHomes.com)

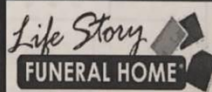
We can help with Cemetery Burial, Natural Burial in the green section of the cemetery, Body Donation, and Cremation.

Cost friendly,  
Locally owned and  
not franchised

*Be an informed consumer... Call to see why  
your friends and neighbors choose Life Story*

**231-941-9034**

**400 Hammond Rd. W.,  
Traverse City, MI**  
East of Garfield and next to  
Traversefield Industrial Park



Traverse City

Levon M. Seavolt, Owner/Manager

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 Barbara Wright 231-735-3227 or [mzbright9006@yahoo.com](mailto:mzbright9006@yahoo.com) or Renae Wells at 616-204-8900 or [wellsrenae17411@gmail.com](mailto:wellsrenae17411@gmail.com). Make checks payable to BLC...put Renae Wells name on envelope.