



LUTHERAN CHURCH

Traverse City, MI 49686 (231) 947-9880

Website: www.bethlehemtc.org Email: bethlehem@bethlehemtc.org

Building Hours: (Currently closed due to Covid 19) Monday – Thursday, 9am to 3pm

Office Hours: (Currently closed due to Covid 19) Monday – Thursday, 9am to 3pm



Worship Times:

(In-person worship currently postponed; offering "virtual worship" due to Covid-19)

Saturdav: Sunday:

5 pm Celebrate! Worship 8:30 am Ire dit on I Worship 9:45 am Education Hour 11 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."





"The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" "

Friends at Bethlehem,

A favorite Advent reading for many of us is the first passage in Mark's gospel above – a gospel opening second only perhaps to John's gospel introduction in mystery and preparation for Christ to enter our midst. Mark's version defines the very gospel itself (i.e. "Good News") and sets up the story of Jesus by first focusing on his predecessor, or "prepare-er": John the Baptist.

In addition to Mark 1:1-3 also harkening back to the prophetic words of Isaiah 40 in the Old Testament, this passage also serves as the gospel text for the second week of Advent. And here we are... entering December, Advent, and the Christmas season during times like no other.

With this month's Wednesday night virtual "**Collaborative Advent Season**" services (partnering with three sister churches) and our virtual and outdoor "**Story and Carols**" **Christmas Eve worship** offerings, we look toward 2021 with a sense of hope and promise, and we strive to emerge from this unusual era with new ways of coming together and being church in our community and world. You can expect us to keep innovating, reaching out and praying for openness to the Spirit together in the days and weeks ahead.

One way for us all to prep for the outdoor "Story and Carols" is to consider donating empty **plastic gallon milk jugs and help create luminaries for the service** (see instructions a few pages later.) **New approaches to ministry in early 2021** might look like increased outreach to our neighbors in need, live streaming, "live recordings" for virtual worship and other efforts. All of these can help make our ministry more sustainable and increase our time together, as we hopefully move toward more in-person offerings again soon... all within our mission to "journey with God and serve with love."

Until then, we prepare for the birth of Christ together and wish you every blessing, continued prayer and peace. Merry Christmas!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City Michigan "We Journey with God to serve with Love"

Minutes from Special Church Council Meeting November 8, 2020

CALLED TO ORDER: Leonard Graf at 11:36 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Leonard Graf

ROLL CALL: Gail Goldsmith; present in person: Phil Anderson, Pastor Paul Busekist, Nancy Downer, Gail Goldsmith, Leonard Graf, Laura Hahn, Jim Monroe, Jan Stretlien. Present by Zoom Maureen Bauer, Mark McPherson, Cindy Monroe, Paul Wiemerslage.

VISITOR/S OR CONGREGATIONAL COMMENT: none.

REPORTS:

Presidents Report:

Churches are exempt from the wearing masks in the building. Leonard discussed that 46 people were in church today and feel it is important to be there. The death rate from COVID-19 in Grand Traverse County is very small. According to DHHS director continued in person services is possible. There are 40 times less deaths from COVID-19 than all other deaths.

PASTOR'S REPORT: 1.) Pastor Paul shared the Bishop's letter prior to the meeting. Bishop Satterlee sent a letter to the congregations recommending indoor in person worship be suspended due to the increase in COVID-19 cases across the state. This should begin on November 15th.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Mark McPherson made the motion to accept the Bishops recommendations to not have person worship. Maureen Bauer seconded the motion.

Pastor Paul amended the motion with: we suspend in person worship for 3 weeks and to revisit this before 3 weeks. Gail Goldsmith seconded the motion to amend. The motion to amend carried.

VISITOR OR CONGREGATIONAL COMMENT: none

LORD'S PRAYER: was said by all.

ADJOURNMENT: Leonard Graf adjourned the meeting at 12:20

Respectfully Submitted, Gail Goldsmith, Council Secretary

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Traverse City Michigan "We Journey with God to serve with Love"

Minutes from Church Council Meeting October 20, 2020

CALLED TO ORDER: Leonard Graf at 6:06 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Paul; Daniel 3:19-30 From Christ in the Home.

ROLL CALL: Gail Goldsmith; Phil Anderson, Maureen Bauer, Pastor Paul Busekist, Nancy Downer, Gail Goldsmith, Leonard Graf, Cindy Monroe, Jim Monroe, Jan Stretlien, Paul Wiemerslage all present. Absent: Laura Hahn and Mark McPherson, both excused.

VISITOR/S OR CONGREGATIONAL COMMENT: Dave Peppler to present the preliminary 2021 Budget.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Gail Goldsmith made the motion to approve the Agenda, Maureen Bauer seconded the motion, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM September 15, 2020: Jan Stretlien made the motion to approve the minutes, Cindy Monroe, seconded the motion, the motion carried.

REPORTS:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: no report

PASTOR'S REPORT: 1.) Pastor Paul would like to take a small vacation in November, it has been difficult to take time off, to find someone to take over on Sundays while he is off. 2.) Members have been asking about having Saturday services, and it is too difficult at this time. 3.) Annie and Pastor each do about 50% of the Sunday Virtual Service. Pastor does 100% of Wednesday Virtual Services. He is stocking up on virtual services so parts can be used in the future 4.) Planning for Christmas 1 to 3 services and Blue Christmas. 5.) Pastor is hoping things will taper off early 2021 if we look at Live Streaming services. 6.) Pastor Paul and Paul Wiemerslage were discussing a book for Book Club "Be a Healthier Pastor".

FINACIAL SERCRETARY REPORT: Jim Monroe reported we are ¾ of the way through 2020. Overall for the year through September, contributions are running about 93% of the amount needed for the budget. Offerings YTD are short \$18,463. The trend for October is positive.

CONSENT CALENDAR: COMMITTEE REPORTS: The committee reports are: Financial Secretary's report, Financial and Executive Committee report, Christian Care Report, Christian Education Report, Membership and Evangelism, Personnel Report, Property Report, Stewardship Report, Worship and Music, Youth/Y2A Report, Fellowship Report, Visions Report, Endowment Fund Report (Quarterly) and Sustaining Endowment Memorial Fund Report (Quarterly). All reports submitted were accepted as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Update on Worship Services: Attendance since having in person worship was 38 attendees for the 1st week and 58 for the second week. Virtual and in person services will continue with Parking Lot communion at 11:00.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Fellowship Re: Advent Activities. There has been no cost for 2020

- B. Video for Christmas Eve Service: There are 3 quotes, Yellow Wood Media gave a bid for \$360.00. We will ask about videoing Blues Christmas as well as Christmas Eve. Maureen Bauer made the motion to authorize \$500 to Yellow Wood Media for videoing Christmas Eve and Blues Christmas. Nance Downer seconded the motion and Thanked Pastor for all the work he has done on the Virtual Services. The motion carried.
- C. Live Streaming for Sunday Worship Services 2021: There is a bid for Live streaming equipment and hardware from Bradley Eddington. Maureen Bauer made a motion to have Pastor Paul look into other options for Live Stream information. Jan Stretlien seconded the motion. This item will be tabled until next month after researching more information and other options.
- D. Request for a meeting: Pastor Paul made a motion that he and Paul Wiemerslage craft a letter to invite a member into a conversation. The letter will be sent in good faith, by the Council so the letter can be sent to the member prior to the next council meeting. Maureen Bauer seconded the motion, the motion carried.

VISITOR OR CONGREGATIONAL COMMENT: Dave Peppler attended the meeting to discuss the 2021 budget and comparison with 2020 budget. Discussion was on the 2020 budget with changes due to the church building being closed for much of the year. Items were discussed that are needed for 2021.

GOOD TO THE ORDER: A time for general/undocumented comments by each Council Member if so desired.

LORD'S PRAYER: was said by all.

ADJOURNMENT: Leonard Graf made a motion to adjourn, Jan Stretlien seconded the motion, adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Goldsmith, Council Secretary

Volunteers are needed to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Tom's East Bay Store on December 11, and December 12, 2020. The first shift starts at 10:00 am and the last shift starts at 6:00 pm. Each shift is 1 hour long. If you are willing to ring, please call Carl Lehto at 231-223-7187 home or 231-944-9640 cell. We need 18 ringers. You can bring a friend with you to ring. Please dress warmly and wear a mask. The needs are greater than ever, so your help will be appreciated more than ever. Merry Christmas. Thank you.

Covid hits our congregation! Please keep praying for all who are being hit by this illness especially one of our own council members. Even though all in that household were being careful, someone who was ill came to their home without wearing a mask and all are now very sick. Through the wonders of ZOOM this person was able to participate in the most recent council meeting, and the rest of us saw how ill someone could be even without being hospitalized. And another council member had to be in work/home only quarantine for 2 weeks due to recent multiple exposures in that person's essential job. Know that any of the tough decisions that the council is making are with the well-being of all members in mind.



BETHIEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2020 Programming

ADVENT WEEK 1: WED, DEC. 2ND - 7PM VIRTUAL ADVENT NIGHT FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

ADVENT WEEK 2: WED, DEC. 9TH - 7PM VIRTUAL ADVENT NIGHT FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

ADVENT WEEK 3: WED, DEC 16TH- 7PM VIRTUAL BLUE CHRISTMAS FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

ADVENT WEEK 4: WED, DEC. 23RD - 7PM VIRTUAL ADVENT NIGHT FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

THURS, DEC. 24TH - 4PM VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

THURS, DEC. 24TH - 6PM CHRISTMAS EVE "STORY & CAROLS" BETHLEHEM'S EAST LAWN

THURS, DEC. 24TH - 8PM VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

Leadership for Advent Nights will be shared by: Advent Lutheran Church of Lake Ann, Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Traverse City, Immanuel Lutheran Church of Suttons Bay, Feast of Victory Lutheran Church of Acme

Safe Harbor in the Time of Covid

The Safe Harbor Emergency Shelter began the winter housing season in November. Operating procedures have been thoughtfully (and, we might add, prayerfully) designed to minimize the spread of the Covid-19 among guests, volunteers and staff. As one of the 20 supervising congregations, BLC will support the Emergency Shelter for the period Saturday, February 6 through Tuesday, February 9, 2021, sharing a full week of service with the Great Lakes Community Church.

Several features of the 20-21 operations are:

- Overnight and morning hours will be supervised by Goodwill Inn staff without volunteers.
- Bunk beds are wrapped with transparent sheeting providing sleeping isolation.
- During evening hours guests will lounge in an outside heated tent.
- Evening meals will be served and eaten in 45-minute shifts beginning at 6:15 pm. Guests will pick up their dinner in a container from the kitchen window and eat in a separate interior eating space.
- Morning meals will be provided and served by Central Methodist Church.

We will be expected to prepare the dinner meal for at least three evenings; a local restaurant will provide the Monday meal. Church volunteers (4 or 5) will be needed as hosts for evening hours. We will begin asking for volunteers and food donations in January.

So, what are the risks of participation? Your immediate reaction may be that the biggest risk is contacting the virus from a guest. However, evidence doesn't seem to support this. The Safe Harbor Shelter was open for day use, without meal service, over the summer and as the overnight shelter for several weeks. Daily temperature checks and frequent testing have discovered no virus cases in the guest population. Some have suggested that the guests are at greater risk of catching the virus from volunteers and supervisors than the other way around.

We ask that you to ponder Jesus' words in the gospel message of several Sundays ago, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Please pray that the Safe Harbor ministry will continue in spite of the rising Covid-19 threat and pray for the continuing safety of both volunteers and guests.

Your Safe Harbor ministry coordinators,

Jim Hutchison, <u>hutchison@alma.edu</u>, 231-668-1916 and Chuck Ardingo, <u>dingo457@msn.com</u>, 206-919-7487



ABRIDGED WITH ANNIE: A SUMMARY OF YOUTH EVENTS FOR DECEMBER...

Hi Bethlehem! It's finally Advent and Christmas time! I don't know about you, but I'm ready to celebrate the Reason for the Season! While this year has been a difficult one I take comfort in the fact that our Lord is good and He is with us every single day!

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS ...

We will be filming a special Children's Message for the



Christmas Eve Virtual Service on Thursday December 3rd. We will be joined by a special guest! Please reach out to me to find out how to obtain the Zoom link if you are interested in joining us for this special message.

This semester all of the **Youth Groups** will be doing something similar. For the month of December, we will be having a Christmas Party! Now, due to increasing COVID numbers our Christmas Party this year may end up virtual, but we will be able to celebrate together wherever we are, virtual or in person. I will let families know if our parties will be in person or in the virtual realm **after December 6th**. If you have a youth interested in attending, please reach out to me in order to obtain and read the **Youth Gathering Guidelines** for this current COVID season and to find out if we are meeting in person or virtual.

The **BLUES Group** will have a Christmas Party **Friday December 18th.** Regardless if it's in person or virtual, there will be fun Christmas themed games to help spread the holiday cheer! I am watching the COVID numbers and will reach out to families after December 6th to let them know if we will be in person or virtual.

The Junior High School Group and the High School Group will have a joint Christmas Party Saturday December 19th. Regardless if it's in person or virtual, there will be fun Christmas themed games to help spread the holiday cheer! I am watching the COVID numbers and will reach out to families after December 6th to let them know if we will be in person or virtual.

I am still offering **One on Ones** to all of the youth in a virtual capacity. These can be done and be arranged when it is convenient for you and your families! Just reach out to me if you are interested and we can figure out a time.

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

As we go into December I ask that you keep Bethlehem's kids and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare for this Advent and Christmas Season.

"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

Cheerfully in Christ,

Annie Slabaugh

Director of Youth and Outreach, Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Traverse City

POINSETTIAS: Despite the cancellation of indoor church services, we are still decorating for the possible Christmas eve outdoor 'story and carols'. Please call Kate Holtfreter at 231-590-3946 before December 13th to order a plant and say who it is in honor of, in celebration of, etc. You can send her a check for \$10.00 made out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church (or BLC) and write poinsettia in the memo line.

As you read on a previous page, Christmas Eve will have an in-person service called "Story and Carols". Please join us on the East Lawn at 6:00 pm on December 24th.

We are looking for gallon milk jugs to use as luminaries which will help light the area. If you have clean gallon milk jugs, you may drop them off at BLC . A receptacle will be available near the kitchen door. If you are able to cut the top off , please cut as noted in these photos. It is important to keep the handle intact. Sand and tea lights will be provided by BLC.





Finance Update – October Financial Results:

October income came in at \$32,248 compared to our budget of \$32,328. This creates a negative variance of \$80 against budget for the month. On the expense side we came in at \$28,020 compared to our budget of \$30,354. This creates a positive variance of \$2,334 against budget. From a cash flow perspective income of \$32,248 exceeded expense of \$28,020 leaving us ahead \$2,254. From a pure cash flow perspective, it was a good month. Comparisons against budget don't mean much during this year of Covid. Without Sunday services our income and expenses do not match up well with what we budgeted last year. A better barometer of how we are doing is to look at cash flow...are we bringing in enough to cover our expenses.

For the first ten months of the year our income was \$304,544 against a budget of \$324,498 leaving us short \$19,954. Our expense was \$299,042 against a budget of \$327,009 leaving us under budget by \$27,967. The good news is income of \$304,544 exceeds expense of \$299,042 by \$5,502. There are several repair bills (e.g., parking lot, shed roof, heating and skylight) that are expected to hit in November that may erase any YTD surplus.

Property News for Bethlehem

Three significant property projects were recently completed this fall.

- 1. Shingles on the garage roof were replaced. The shingles were nearly 40 years old and were in such poor condition our insurance company would not insure them. Leonard Graf took the "bull by the horns" and with the help of men from the Tuesday morning work group removed the old shingles and installed new shingles. The whole project was completed in two and one half days.
- 2. The parking lot was restored. In accordance with the proposal they submitted, Molon Asphalt removed the areas of broken asphalt, sealed cracks with rubber sealant, and put a fresh seal coat over the whole parking lot. Then they came back a few days later and painted the parking space stripes, handicap parking spaces, and curb for FREE. The painting was not part of their proposal because we thought we could do that ourselves and save some money. Needless to say we were surprised when we came to church and saw that the painting had been done. Our thanks go out to Molon Asphalt for a job well done.
- 3. The leak we have had for some time at the top of the sanctuary skylight has been repaired. Bloxsom Roofing made the repair. We had attempted to repair it ourselves but we didn't have the know how, proper materials, or ladders long enough to reach the top of the skylight. We appreciate that Bloxsom Roofing always comes through for us when we have roof problems.

<u>Pecans are SOLD OUT!!!!</u> The Worship and Music committee thanks all who participated in our Fall Fundraiser. We also appreciate the support of Thrivent in this endeavor.



BLC Book Club News

The BLC book club will take a Christmas break and not meet again until Tuesday, January 26th. More information on the book to be discussed will come later.



STAR and Bulletin Deadlines

To be sure that your article or announcement is in STAR or Bulletin issue that you want, please note the following deadlines:

STAR: by the third Wednesday of the month

Bulletin: by the Wednesday before each weekend

Submission by email is preferred (<u>admin@bethlehemtc.org</u>) with either the word STAR or Bulletin in the subject line. Please write exactly what you want in the article or announcement. Be sure to include all pertinent information about your event, i.e. dates, time, location, etc. You can put it in the body of the email or as an attachment as a Word doc or .pdf. Also, please include the month(s) for the STAR issue or the date(s) for the Bulletin issue that you need your article or announcement included. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Oster at admin@bethlehemtc.org

Please do not send these to <u>Sharon.Weller@bethlehemtc.org</u> as this is Sharon's music email and Barbara does not have access to this email. Barbara is the only one who prepares the Star and Bulletin and she shares the <u>admin@bethlehemtc.org</u> email with Sharon.

Share your name please

Some of us are finding that not seeing an entire face and dealing with sunglasses causes us to have more difficulty knowing and calling other BLC members by name. If you enjoy being greeted by name please consider placing your name on your dashboard while drive-through communion is occurring. If you have an extra name tag at home you may want to consider wearing it when services occur. And please be sure to wear your name tag when the time comes to re-enter church.

Need some help recognizing those new people behind the masks? There are photo sheets for you to take home showing the new members WITHOUT masks and also giving their contact information. It's the perfect size to stick in the front or back of your church directory. Just pick up the sheet on the table where you can pick up and return your nametag. If you are someone who does not come into the church and would like one, leave a message with the church office or email <u>cmonroe@chartermi.net</u>. We will plan to include one in a future mailing of the STAR.

We're still collecting Oleson's receipts, and we're hoping you've been saving yours for Bethlehem. Please drop them off in the bin under the mailbox counter. Thanks.

STAR delivery

Hasn't it been a blessing to have the STAR delivered to your home the past few months? Thanks so much to 2 cherished members who dedicated their time and monetary donation so this could occur. While we continue to have limited/reduced weekend services the membership committee is proposing the following: The STAR will be available for dispersal the first Sunday of the month. For those of you who can make it to the weekend service and/or communion you will be asked to pick-up your paper STAR. Or, if you prefer to read yours on-line you will be asked to notify the committee. Committee members will mark off those who have received their STAR so paper copies will only be sent to those who do not have one. This way we can make certain that everyone is receiving all of the Hot-off-the-press news and also do this in the most cost-effective manner. Hope to see as many of you as possible on the first Sunday of the month.



-Christian Education Committee

ADVENT READINGS

(Taken from Good Housekeeping November 1952) 'A LIGHT UNTO THY PATH'

During World War II, a United States Marine on Guadalcanal stanched his homesickness around Christmastime by asking his family to read the same passages from the Bible every day that he would be reading. This simultaneous Bible reading has grown into a worldwide movement, and last year people from 38 countries read the same passages from the Bible every day between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The purpose of this movement is not only to draw together members of families who are separated but to draw the people of diverse nations together. If possible, read the Bible aloud, for the beauty and sonority of its poetry and the impact of its message.

November 26 Psalms 67 November 27: Psalms 103 November 28: Psalms 91 November 29: Psalms 121 November 30: Psalms 1 December 3: Psalms 27 December 2: Psalm 46 December 3: Psalms 90 December 4: Isaiah 40 December 5: Isaiah 55 December 6: Matthew 5:1-26 December 7: Matthew 5:27-48 December 8: Matthew 6:1-18 December 9: Matthew 7 December 11: John 14 December 12: John 15 December 13: John 17 December 14: Psalms 23 December 15: Luke 15 December 16: Romans 8 December 17: Romans 12 **December 18: Ephesians 6 December 19: Philippians 4 December 20: Revelation 21** December 21: John 1:1-18 December 22: Isaiah 53 December 23: Hebrews 11 December 24: 1 Corinthians 13 December 25: CHRISTMAS DAY Luke 2:1-20

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM

DECEMBER 2020 AT BETHLEHEM HE BECAME GOD WITH US. AT CALVARY HE BECAME GOD FOR US. AT PENTECOST HE BECAME GOD IN US. (UNKNOWN)



EACH OF US IS AN INNKEEPER WHO DECIDES IF THERE IS ROOM FOR JESUS. (Neal A. Maxwell)

As we seek Christ, as we find Him, as we follow Him, We shall have the Christmas Spirit, not for one fleeting day each year, but as a companion always. (Thomas S. Monson)

The message of the Season is not "Let it snow" or "Let us shop". The REAL message of Christmas is "Let us worship." (Lisa Way)

The same God that placed that star in a precise orbit millennia before it appeared over Bethlehem in celebration of the birth of the Babe has given at least equal attention to placement of each of us in precise human orbits so that we may, if we will, illuninate the landscape of our individual lives, so that our light may not only lead others but warm

them as well. (Neal A. Maxwell)

WELCA will continue to collect Thankofferings throughout December. There are envelopes at church you may use. However, be sure WELCA is written as "Pay to the order of on your check and also on the outside of any other envelope you may use. Thank You! As we journey into Advent toward the manger, may we be sure to place

Jesus at the forefront of our lives. He is here with us - as He promised - and will continue to be here throughout these darker times and beyond. "The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

BLESSINGS TO EACH OF YOU ALWAYS! MERRY CHRISTMAS!



How our Mission Dollars Help Others Around the World



The Blessing of Clean Drinking Water

The Brahmaputra River, one of the great waterways of India, flows through the state of Assam and into Bangladesh. But this doesn't mean the people living along the river are blessed with water. The people of Konsaigaon, in particular, have always had to walk far from their homes to get water. They often have to drink unsafe water, which causes gastrointestinal diseases that can be fatal.

Gaining access to the best water source meant building a road into the hills for equipment to be brought in, and pipes had to be laid to reach the village. Work commenced in mid-May, with a young volunteer, Cholita, managing the project. Within days, workers struck water almost 800 feet below ground. The water is pure, reported Bishop Ichahak Muchahary of the Bodo Evangelical Lutheran Church. "It's been a great day of blessing to those living in that place. Hallelujah," he said.

This new water source will directly affect 300 villagers. But the effects will reach much further, with some 10,000 indirect beneficiaries, including those attending. church trainings, meetings and seminars at the church mission point there

Honoring God's Creation

I have been inspired by nature during this pandemic. Through the changing seasons from spring to fall, I have watched the prairies and woodlands burst forth with beautiful, vibrant colored flowers. Even plants considered weeds by some, have brilliant color, putting forth the message that everything and everyone has a purpose and beauty to behold. The seemingly fragile monarch butterfly journeys thousands of miles to Mexico. This is certainly an example of extreme perseverance. The large trees in the forest intentionally prevent too much sun getting to the saplings. This forces the saplings to grow slowly which results in a stronger tree. The larger tree displays a fine example of nurturing. Tiny sprouts appear through the craggy rocks or asphalt paving. I am exhilarated by that much optimism. I found this poem and thought it was very appropriate for the current times. — Cheryl Callighan

Mighty Oak

Stand tall oh mighty oak, for all the world to see,

your strength and undying beauty forever amazes me.

Though storm clouds hover above you,

your branches span the sky,

in search of the radiant sunlight you

count on to survive.

When the winds are high and restless and

you lose a limb or two,

it only makes you stronger, we

could learn so much from you.

Though generations have come and gone

and brought about such change,

quietly you've watched them all yet still

remained the same.

I only pray God give to me the strength he's

given you,

to face each day with hope, whether

skies are black or blue,

Life on earth is truly a gift

every moment we must treasure,

it's the simple things we take for granted

that become our ultimate pleasures.

-Kathy J. Parenteau

Photo submitted by Barbara Overdier



The Power of Prayer

Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Tom Miller, Margie Whitney, Jo Hasse, Ellie Tacke, Priscilla Thompson, Julie LaPeer, Marleen Baesch, Alvin Kober, Lynn Hoyt, Thad Hellenga, Jan Waisanen, Molly Eastman, Harper Wiemerslage, Ben Farley, Jennifer Mowers, John Stretlien, Roy & Marilyn Dumond, Shawn Rivard, Brenda Denoyer, Betty Evans, Alan Hewett and Jeffrey Hentschel

Homebound: Marleen Baesch <u>Traverse Manor:</u> Margie Whitney, Marinan Bradford <u>French Manor LaFranier:</u> Jo Hasse <u>Boardman Lake Glens:</u> Inge Thomas, Bill & Dee Springer <u>Samaritas (Acme):</u> Priscilla Thompson <u>Cherry Hill Haven:</u> Jerrie Boike

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.com

*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: <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...

BLC Contacts PLEASE NOTE SEVERAL ADDRESS UPDATES

Church Office

Pastor Paul Busekist	paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org
Admin. Asst. Sharon Weller	admin@bethlehemtc.org
Admin. Aide Barbara Oster	admin@bethlehemtc.org
Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson	bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org
Sharon Weller, Music Director	sharon.weller@bethlehemtc.org
Annie Slabaugh, Youth & Outreach Director	annie.slabaugh <u>@bethlehemtc.org</u>
Website	www.bethlehemtc.org
Church Council	
Leonard Graf, President	Email address in process
Mark McPherson, Vice President	Email address in process
Gail Goldsmith, Secretary	Email address in process
, Treasurer	treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jim Monroe, Financial Sec.	financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jan Stretlien, Christian Care Giving	christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org
, Christian Ed.	christianeducation@bethlehemtc.org
Laura Hahn, Fellowship	Email address in process
Cindy Monroe, Membership/Evangelism	membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org
, Property (Phil Anderson) Not on Council)	property.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Maureen Bauer, Personnel	Email address in process
Mark McPherson, Stewardship	stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Nancy Downer, Worship and Music	worship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Paul Wiemerslage, Youth/Y2A	youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Pastor Paul Busekist	paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org

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





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



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 <u>mzbright9006@yahoo.com</u> or Renae Wells at 616-204-8900 or <u>wellsrenae17411@gmail.com</u>. Make checks payable to BLC...put Renae Wells name on envelope.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1050 Peninsula Drive Traverse City, MI 49686 <u>www.bethlehemtc.org</u> 231.947.9880



Shalom, and do not be afraid.

Smile. God loves you. ©