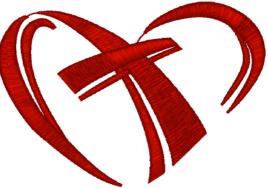
# FEBRUARY 2019



Traverse City, MI 49686 (231) 947-9880



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

<u>Building Hours</u>: Monday – Thursday, 9am to 3pm

<u>Office Hours</u> Monday – Thursday, 9am to 3pm Saturday: Sunday: 5 pm Celebrate! Worship 8:30 am Traditional Worship 9:45 am Education Hour 11 am Modern Worship

Communion at all services

Worship Times:

## 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."



" I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert– Isaiah 43:19 (NRSV)



Friends at Bethlehem,

I am going to jump right in, hop on the trail (yes, I am anxious for Spring!) and get right to it: Lent is around the corner, and I have an adventure for YOU!

**Here's the good news:** you don't have to leave the comfort of home, or church, to assist me...but you might have to open your bible! For the month of February I am inviting 40 people (or 80 if we can get two people per Lenten text) to pick one of the purple pages on the tables in the Gathering Space and write a paragraph on what the text means to you. The theme for Lenten and Sunday morning discussions this year is

#### "The Passion of Jesus, the Wilderness of Faith"

Each of the 40 days of Lent has a different text, whereby you can pick a text, email me your thoughts, and I will assemble all of the devotions into a compact, 8.5x11 devotional by the week of Ash Wednesday.

Please don't feel like you need to write a novel: a simple paragraph will do. You can take guidance from the questions printed below each devotion, or the Lenten questions I have proposed on the back of each sheet. In essence, the Spirit will lead you! <sup>(3)</sup>

I will send out an email with more information, but you can sign up in the Gathering Space or via email, and please send me your reflection by February 27<sup>th</sup> to either of my email accounts: paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org or bethlehempastor@gmail.com. <section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text>

A glimpse at the Devotional sign-up tables in the Gathering Space: Just pick a purple sheet & sign your name!

Peace and be well! -Pr. Paul

## New Adult Ed. Series: Through the Eyes of a Comic

**SUNDAY, February 10<sup>th</sup>,** marks the start of our new Adult Ed series: **"Through a Comic's Eyes"**. In these four remaining Sundays before Lent, we will take a light "breather" and examine some of our shared habits and faithful stories through the perspectives, videos and works of well-known Christian comedians and artists! **Stop in between services (10am-11am) to see what it's all about! All are welcome!** 

- Wk1: Sun, 2/10 Michael, JR: "Finding Your Punchline"
- Wk2: Sun, 2/17 John Crist: "Finding the Light(Hearted) in a Christian Life"
- Wk 3: Sun, 2/24 Robert Short & Charles Schulz (and The Gospel According to... Charlie Brown?)
- Wk4: Sun, 3/3 Tim Hawkins: "Humor in Worship and Elsewhere"

## President's Report February 2019



I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

This verse tells us that God is the strength that drives us forward. Relying on God, we can overcome any difficulty. Often we tend to walk away from difficult situations. Sometimes, we are given do a job to do that we feel we are not good at. The job or situation may require us to learn things that we might think are too hard. At that time, we may feel frustration or living in torment. With no courage to move forward, we only want to escape, feeling that we really couldn't do it. That's where the miracle of prayer come forward! Calling upon the name of God and giving the problem to Him, we feel the peace that passes all understanding. God cares for you and wants you to let Him into your life and direct you in all things.

Please become involved and enjoy your life in the family of Bethlehem. We have so many activities going on at the church. We are always in need of volunteers to share the load. Don't be nervous or anxious that you can't make a contribution. Turn to God in prayer and ask for guidance. Then, step back and let God direct you and strengthen you in your journey. You will be amazed – God will take you to places you never dreamed possible.

Try to enjoy the rest of the winter – either here or wherever life takes you. Be safe and know that your Bethlehem family is always here to support and love you.

Be like a tree, planted by the water and flourish,

Jim Parkinson

Church Council President

## FROM THE DESK OF YOUTH DIRECTOR AND OUTREACH



Hello, all! I hope your 2019 has gotten off to a great start, we're hoping for a great February!

**Confirmation** classes started up again in January, and we've got an exciting semester ahead of us! If you have students who will be entering confirmation age in the fall (7<sup>th</sup>—9<sup>th</sup> grade) please get in touch with me!

Our **BLUES** sledding day was unfortunately cancelled due to the chilly temps, but our **movie night on February 22<sup>nd</sup>!** There will be snacks, a movie, and plenty of fun! New friends always welcome!

Please also note that our **Annual Family Ski Trip** is approaching quickly, on **February 10<sup>th</sup>!** We will be departing BLC right after the 11am service and traveling to Crystal Mountain. If you would like more details, please give me a call.

**High School Nights** kick off on **February 17<sup>th</sup>** with a sledding trip in Leelanau (**As long as the weather cooperates**). We will be carpooling from BLC at 4:30... Keep your eyes peeled for updates!

Preparations are underway for our **2019 YouthWorks** trip to **Marvell, AR from July 7<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup>!** We will be raising funds over the next few months to help cover transportation costs for the trip, so please consider that as we gear up for the **Chili Cook-off** on **March 31<sup>st</sup>!** 

**New Tradition: Youth in Action!** You may have noticed a different kind of email in your inbox last month with the title "Youth in Action"... and I hope you read it! I will be sending out these emails on a **regular monthly basis** so you folks know how you can be in touch with our youth! We received lots of positive feedback, so the hope is that next month we can get some cheerleaders on the benches for our kiddos! © Remember... "it takes a village"!

**Do you have a heart for kids?** I am seeking adults who can **volunteer** their time to lead youth events... this could be hanging out with the BLUES or high school kids, being a chaperone on a mission trip, helping with confirmation, or even serving as a mentor! Now is the time to use your gifts, and the kids need you! Send me a text or email if you think this may be a good fit for you.

Peace,

Alexís Steig

Director of Youth and Outreach Bethlehem Lutheran Church, TC



## Following is a snippet from a devotion by Martin Luther:

"Why should I search far and wide to find Christ? I see so many Christians and their children who are the mirror and dwelling place of my dear Lord Christ. When I see children, , I see Christ; when I hear them, I hear Christ; when I give them a drink of water, I give it to Christ; when I feed them, I feed Christ. When I clothe them, I clothe Christ. Thus I have in the Christian church the world full of God and full of Christ. Whenever I look and see Christian children, I see Christ." Take a moment to look at the children of Bethlehem and you will see Christ!

**COLLEGE BOXES - LOVE PACKAGES**: Due to inclement weather we have moved assembling the boxes to February 17th at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall. There is still time for you to bring items we can include in these boxes. Look for an 'idea note' on the table near the mailboxes. We can always use your help to assemble, too!

**LENTEN WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:** Following dinner at 5:30 the children will be able to come together to learn about prayer following A.C.T.S.: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Prayer is so important in the Christian life and we want children to know how important it is and different ways they can talk to the Lord. Please bring your children!

**FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES:** Suzanne Lehto will be teaching this class during the Lenten Wednesday nights. Look for further information in the bulletin. If anyone is interested in having their children take part in this class, please contact Suzanne Lehto for further information.

PALM SUNDAY: There will be regular Sunday School on Palm Sunday.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** There will be no regular Sunday School classes on Easter Sunday; hwever, we will have an 'event' during the Easter breakfast. Children may eat with their families and then take part in the 'event' which will highlight Holy Week. Please join us!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO ALL!

### Safe Harbor: Our Ministry to Persons Experiencing Homeless, February 9-13

In February our week of Safe Harbor service will be shared with Northern Lakes Community Church. As a result we will cover only four days beginning Saturday evening February 9 and ending Wednesday morning February 13.

Several changes in volunteer service are in effect for the second year of operation of the shelter building. The most significant change is that a paid staff supervisor will be on duty for the overnight hours, reducing the number of overnight volunteers needed to one man and one woman.

Safe Harbor is a faith-based ministry offering love and service to those experiencing homelessness in the Grand Traverse region, through emergency shelter, meals, and encouragement to move forward toward permanent housing. Our congregation has joyfully participated in this ministry since 2009. If you have volunteered in the past, thank you for your service, and we hope that you will continue. If you haven't volunteered we hope this year you will join us in this ministry. It's a great experience, and we have many past volunteers who are willing to be a mentor. We will begin volunteer sign-up on January 12. For further information please contact Jim and Margaret Hutchison, (hutchison@alma.edu, 231-714-6062) or Chuck and Chris Ardingo (dingo457@msn.com, 206-919-7487).

#### Ways You Can Volunteer

**Overnight:** Be present during the night to assist the staff supervisor with security and assistance for guests. May sleep in shifts during the night. 10 pm-6 am.

**Evening:** Assist with guest check-in. Eat with guests. Interact with guests during the evening. Assist with dining area cleanup. 5:30-10 pm

**Morning Cleaning:** Clean dining and sleeping areas and bathrooms after the departure of guests. 7:30-9:30 am

Breakfast: Lay out and supervise the continental breakfast. Clean kitchen. 6-8:30 am

**Dinner:** Food preparation and service. 4-8 pm. Small groups, women's and men's groups, or families are encouraged to volunteer. BLC will pay for food.

Grocery Donation: Food items for snacks and breakfast are needed.

**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**: With 2019 now upon us, it is a good time to remind those memebers that utilize Thrient Fianancial of their Choice Dollar program. Basically, eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars to Bethlehem Lutheran Church for our General Fund. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurancxe premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. Several BLC members currently use this program to direct dollars to our church. Every dollar helps and is much appreciated. Feel free to contact our Treasurer—Dave Peppler or Bookkeeper—Phil Anderson if you have questions.

## **Qualified Charitable IRA Distributions** A way to make charitable donations tax-free and still use the standard deduction when filing taxes. Written by Jim Hutchison

This year Margaret and I have elected to make our donations to the church and other charities using a provision the IRS calls a Qualified Charitable IRA Distribution. These withdrawals from my IRA are not subject to income tax. If you qualify, you may wish to investigate this form of giving. To qualify

- You must be age 70 ½ or older.
- The donation must be transferred directly from a traditional IRA to the charity.

To set up our donation I use the web site of my IRA manager - in my case TIAA/CREF. I fill out a form listing the amount of my withdrawal with the name and address of the charitable origination to which they will directly send a check. I need to complete the form every time we make a donation. We plan to make quarterly donations to the church and annual donations to other charities.

This donation is not counted as part of the taxable income we receive from the IRA, hence we lower our tax bill, and we will be able to take advantage of the new higher standard deduction when we file our taxes. Even though the donation does not count as taxable income, it does count toward satisfying the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Please note I am only describing my understanding of this type of IRA withdrawal. I am not qualified to offer tax advice. You should consult a tax advisor or IRA manager. A web search for *Qualified Charitable IRA Distributions* will generate useful information.



#### **NEWS FLASH**

In the 2019 budget, we created a couple small line items for new revenue/contributions to address our tight budget moving forward. One of those ideas is hosting an "Ad Page" on the back page of the STAR newsletter. We have volunteers who will help make this happen and would like to get the word out that if you or someone you know would like publicity for an organization or business, we will offer 1/16<sup>th</sup> of a page for \$25/month or 1/8 page for \$50/month or 1/4 page for \$80. A parishioner with graphic design experience has graciously offered members a free, one time layout for their ad (i.e. the equivalent of about 20 minutes of work to get set up) and another member has offered to lay out the page. Our bookkeeper, Phil Anderson will track and document the contributions/donations to help us move forward. Please contact Renae Wells <u>616-204-8900/wellsrenae17411@gmail.com</u> and/or Barbara Wright <u>231-735-3227/mzbright9006@yahoo.com</u> in the office if you are interested.

Your Stewardship Committee

### **DEADLINE FOR COUNCIL REPORTS IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13.**

**CALLING ALL NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS:** In no time, it will be time for reception of new members on March 31 at our Jubilee service at 10 am. You are asked to attend New Member Orientation on Thursday, March 7 at 6:30pm. Please contact Cindy Monroe--Membership Committee at

cmonroe@chartermi.net/231-631-0887.

### **RESTRUCTURING S-P-Qs**

S-P-Qs = Sew-Pieceful-Quilters ... and we're anything but 'peaceful.' We make a lot of 'joyful noise' when we work on projects and help each other with guilting guestions. We are at a point of needing a change. Since we're growing 'older,' night meetings are less desireable. And we are looking for new people to join us. So here our thoughts:

- We will continue doing our long-standing projects of making baptismal quilts and graduation pillows.
- We will have uncomplicated, smaller quilting projects to entice beginning quilters to join us. (We always have some 'expert' quilters among us to help those in need of some assistance.) What fun it is to work on a common design, and just by using different fabrics and changing piece layouts at times, each one's end product is uniquely beautiful!
- We will begin at a new time starting on April 12, once a month on the second Friday from 10:00am to 1:00pm. (Next month's STAR will tell you about our first project in April.) For February and March we will meet still on the second Monday evening, 6-9pm.

Would you like to try us out? You are most welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please call Suzanne Lehto (223-7187) or Chris Hubert (357-7722). SEEKING MEMBERS: 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).

**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! ③

**HELP NEEDED:** We have a young couple in the congregation needing an economical place to live. (EX. A mother-in-law guarters or extra room). Please contact Pastor Paul for additional information. VERSE ON TAP—Monday, February 11 at 6 pm at the Workshop Restaurant & Brewery. Our focus is on Beatles music by George Harrison.. Please Join the fun!!!!

**<u>Reminder-</u>**--All are welcome at our Council Meetings: Tuesday, February 19 at 6 pm. There is a time slot for guests to speak at the beginning of the meeting,.

#### End of the year financial information is still being tabulated and received. Look for updated information on this in your March Star.

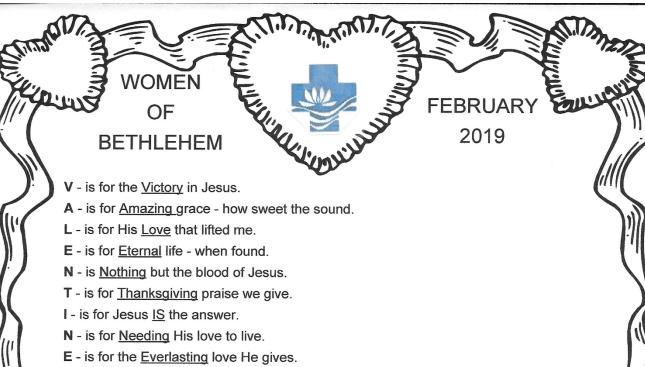
<u>NEW ADULT ED COMING</u>: Beginning Sunday, Feb. 10 at 9:45 am, we invite all from 7<sup>th</sup> graders and above to "Through a Comic's Eye"—Viewing our Christian habits and stories through the eyes of well-known comedians!!

## FROM OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

The main message that I carried away from our January Council Meeting was the commitment of each Council Member to ensure the growth of Bethlehem. What made me feel this way was the following: 1) There was a lot of dialogue and discussion on all topics at our meeting; 2) There have been separate meetings away from Council meetings that included Committee Chairpersons and Bethlehem members talking about ways to grow Bethlehem; 3) We have movement in advertising in the STAR for additional revenue; 4) Thrivent Choice Dollars as a revenue source is moving forward; 5) Amazon Smile is coming together as an avenue for revenue; 6) There was discussion on a task force to be formed in February to look at a Challenge Fund for Bethlehem.

I am sure that I have missed some other examples but you get the idea. Council is working to ensure growth and is focused. One of the main messages that has been brought up at each meeting is not to just have an idea, but lay out the plan for that idea and report back to Council, this structure will help to ensure that the growth idea has a better chance of being successful. I will continue to keep you informed on Council's Mission of further growth for Bethlehem.

Tim Fox Council Secretary



(written by Susan Y. Nikitenko)

#### How wonderful is this Love of Jesus! Spread it around!

The WELCA Board will begin the new year with our first meeting on February 3rd between services. We are still in need of a vice president. Please prayerfully consider this position and contact Nancy Ammann to volunteer. Thank you.

Just another reminder that we have three circle groups who meet each month: Sarah Circle meets on the second Tuesday at noon; Ruth Circle meets the second Tuesday at 7PM; Rebecca/Anna Circle meets the second Thursday at 1PM. Pleace contact Nancy Ammann for further information 946-8433.

Church Women United is hosting it's annual Lenten luncheon series at the Presbyterian Church on Westminster on the following Thursdays during Lent: March 7th, 14th, 21st & 28 and April 4th & 11th. For further information, contact Betty Coons 941-8912.

February's Gather Bible Study (from the gospel of John): What can we learn about God from Jesus' life and ministry? We will ponder the mystery of God with Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, two people seeking healing and a hungry crowd. (written by Julie A. Kanarr)



Head Bishop, Jack Urame, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea



#### Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea

The edited message below is a portion of one sent to the 1 million Lutherans in Papua New Guinea. It seems to be appropriate for us in the United States during these turbulent times. It is a Christmas message from Head Bishop Jack Urame, ELC-PNG, one of our Companion Synods. . .

I encourage you to join the multitude of God's family around the world to thank God for his goodness, care and protection. . . I encourage you to work towards peace building in the families, communities and society. . . God brings us the message of peace through the birth of the peace-child, his Son, our Jesus Christ. When we allow the peace . . . to fill our hearts we can be real agents of peace-building. For God calls us to live in peace with one another. . .

We cannot live in a peaceful community or society if we do not build peace among ourselves. We can overcome violence, greed, hatred, division, inequality and injustice by promoting peace and love. I encourage you to continue seeking for freedom, justice and peace because a just and peaceful community or society can never be created without our effort. We need to create it in order to enjoy the benefits by respecting each other, loving each other, caring for each other and sharing with each other.

This is what it means to live together as God's children.

God reconciled us with himself through Christ. We are also called to live in reconciliation within our families and communities. Do your best to see your neighbors through Christ and forgive each other. . .

As we seek for a peaceful and reconciled world, we should be driven by the reformation message of "Salvation by Grace" and we must remind ourselves that we are accountable to God, to God's creation, to our fellow humans and to the entire creation...



Has taken its meetings into the Community. We now meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 5:30 at the Cottage Café (During the summer only back at church. You can choose a meal or just join in the discussion. ALL ARE WELCOME & bring a friend. On January 22, we will discuss "Before We Were Yours" by Wingate, and on February 26, we will discuss "A Gentleman in Moscow" By Towles.

### XYZ

Our next XYZ pot luck lunch will be Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at noon. Our program will feature Joe Charlevoix of the TV 7/4 Weather Team. All are welcome. Questions and/or comments can be directed to Butch or Jan at 231-271-3802 or etsaisanen@centurytel.net. **MANY THANKS** to those of you who have been attending and helping---We had a good turnout in January. We would also like to thank Rex Holden & Beth Dole from FYZICAL Therapy & Balance Center for the very informational program. They gave us ideas and exercise tips on how to live a safer life as we age. It was one of our best programs ever.

**<u>OLESON'S RECEIPTS</u>**. Please continue to bring in your Oleson's cash register receipts. We recently received a check for \$253.70. Thanks to all, especially Oleson's

#### Finger-Food Fellowship!

Any person or group can sign up to bring Cookies or a Finger Food (requiring only a napkin) to serve on Sunday. One tray needs to be ready after both Sunday Services with someone to clean up after late service. PLEASE WRITE DOWN YOUR DATE—there is no reminder system for this. A wonderful ministry for members, but also to welcome visitors.

## MANY THANKS TO: Cindy & Jim Monroe, Rebecca/Anna circle ladies, and Food for Thought Small Group for providing snacks in January.



## SHOP AT FAMILY FARE AND HELP RAISE *MO*NEY 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.

## Conservation Ideas from Paul Wiemerschlage

Four things mark the arrival of winter. The days get shorter, the temperature gets colder, the snow gets deeper, and the energy bills get higher. We can't do much about the first three, but we can and should do something about the last one. Using less energy is not only good for your wallet, it's good for the earth. Consider these energy (and money) saving techniques this winter.

#### Take Advantage of Heat from the Sun

• Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

#### **Cover Drafty Windows**

- Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.
- Install tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades on windows that feel drafty after weatherizing.

#### Adjust the Temperature

- When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable.
- When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills. A smart or programmable <u>thermostat</u> can make it easy to set back your temperature.
- If you have a heat pump, maintain a moderate setting or use a programmable thermostat specially designed for use with heat pumps.

#### Find and Seal Leaks

- Seal the air leaks around utility cut-throughs for pipes ("plumbing penetrations"), gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.
- Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

#### **Maintain Your Heating Systems**

- Schedule service for your <u>heating system</u>.
- Furnaces and heat pumps: Replace your filter once a month or as needed.
  Find out more about maintaining <u>furnaces or boilers</u> and <u>heat pumps</u>.
- Wood- and Pellet-Burning Heaters: Clean the flue vent regularly and clean the inside of the appliance with a wire brush periodically to ensure that your home is heated efficiently. Find other maintenance recommendations for wood- and pellet-burning appliances.

#### **Reduce Heat Loss from the Fireplace**

- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.
- If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue.
- Check the seal on the fireplace flue damper and make it as snug as possible.

#### Lower Your Water Heating Costs

• Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.

#### Resources:

https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/fall-and-winter-energy-saving-tips

THANK YOU. LORD ... FOR EACH NEW DAY YOU GIVE FOR EARTH AND SKY AND SAND AND SEA FOR RAINBOWS AFTER SPRINGTIME SHOWERS. AUTUMN LEAVES ND SUMMER FLOWERS. SNOWSCAPES SO SEREI JTER DF GOLT FIELD O GREEN. SHINING ALL AROUND BEAUT C SCENT AND ROBIN SOUND THAT TWINKLE HIGH ABOVE STARS THE PEOPLE THAT AND ALL -1+ XX



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

## <u>Health</u> Concerns\*



Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Hazel Lautner, Margie Whitney, Jo Hasse, Mary Gordon, Ruth Boerman, Tom Miller, Ellie Tacke, Vern and Bev Attwood, Cheryl Clark, Arline & Roy Stowe, Kate Holtfreter, Joyce Rombouts, Priscilla Thompson, Marlene Baesch, Alvin Kober, Bill Gordie, Dee Springer, Bill Gibson, Lynn Hoyt, Jacque Rossfeld, Jan Waisanen, Pastor Fred Overdier, & Bert Plumley

Grand Traverse Pavilions: Vern & Bev Attwood, Bill Gourdie
 Homebound: Hazel Lautner, Ruth Boerman
 Traverse Manor: Margie Whitney
 French Manor LaFranier: Jo Hasse, Joyce Rombouts, Roy & Arline Stowe
 French Manor: Mary Gordon
 Boardman Lake Glens: Inge Thomas
 Samaritas (Acme): Priscilla Thompson
 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.

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...



### **OPTIONS FOR OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES**

**\*\*\*BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT:** Munson Hospice Bereavement Support Groups and Programs are available to the general public free of charge. Many groups and dates are available. (See flier on outside of Office) There is a workshop starting January 16 in Traverse City—"Understanding Your Grief" which meets for 10 weeks.

**<u>\*\*FATHER FRED:</u>** Wednesday morning volunteers now needed. The typical shift is 10-2pm 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 <u>ekeaton@fatherfred.org</u>

**\*\*GRAND TRAVERSE BAY AREA STROKE CLUB:** Provides Monthly opportunities. Next event: "Family Love Letter" Feb 23, 2019. Most meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 2:30-4:30 at the Presbyterian Church located on Westminster Road. Contact Melinda Hollands, at 935-6380

**\*\*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 janerobertalippert@gmail.com or 231-946-5191

\*\*IMPORTANT NAME CHANGE: Love, Inc will now be known as "LOVE thy Neighbor" All phone #'s and emails for contact remain the same. Upcoming events: Feb. 6—Time Management/Colors of Childhood. Classes are held at Journey Wesleyan Church on S. Airport—Register by call 231-941-5683.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** Love Thy Neighbor Grand Traverse\_Region (formerly Love INC) is looking for an Executive Director (25 hr/wk). We have been a partner in the community and with local churches for 30 years and are looking for the next leader for our local ministry work. We are looking for a goal oriented, independent worker with a commitment to building relationships in the community and developing program supports. Experience in grant writing and fundraising preferred. A commitment to working to serve our neighbors in need as well as promoting the gospel message of grace and forgiveness as a means of change are the underpinnings of this job. Submit resumes to **lovethyneighborgt.org.** 

## **BLC Contacts** PLEASE NOTE SEVERAL ADDRESS UPDATES

#### **Church Office**

Pastor Paul Busekist Admin. Asst. Sharon Weller Admin. Aide Renae Wells Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson Sharon Weller, Music Director Alexis Steig, Youth & Outreach Director Carmen Yoder, Director Christian Ed Website

#### Church Council

Jim Parkinson, President Chuck Ardingo, Vice President Tim Fox, Secretary Dave Peppler, Treasurer Shelly McAllister, Financial Sec. Phil Anderson, Bethlehem Vision Jan Stretlien, Christian Care Giving Barbara Graf, Christian Ed. Evangelism Chuck Ardingo, Fellowship Membership Chuck Ardingo, Property Barbara Wright, Stewardship Nancy Downer, Worship and Music Barbara Graf, Youth/Y2A paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org admin@bethlehemtc.org admin@bethlehemtc.org bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org sharon.weller@bethlehemtc.org alexis.steig@bethlehemtc.org carmen.yoder@bethlehemtc.org

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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 Feb 2019 (Eastern Time - New York) , Lower Room 3, Lower Room 4, Nursery Room 1, Nursery Room 3, Nursery Room No #, Sanctuary, Youth Room 9:45am - Sunday School 8:30am - Worship Service 11:30am - SKI TRIP 11am - Modern Worship - S 9:45am - Sunday School 5:30am - Worship Service 1:15pm - Confirmation 12:30pm - Wor. & Mus. 11am - Modern Worship - S 9:45am - WELCA Board 9:45am - Sunday School 9:45am - Membership & 8:30am - Worship Service Sun 17 10 i. 27 10am - AlAnon-B 10am - AlAnon-B 4pm - Drive My Way 7pm - Verse OnTap 6:30pm - Gamblers 6pm - Sew Pieceful Quilters 5:15pm - Apprentice 4pm - Drive My Way 3pm - Lessons/Weller 10am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Gamblers 6:15pm - Apprentice 3pm - Lessons/Weller 10am - Staff Meeting 10am - Alanon-LR3 10am - AlAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 10am - Alanon-LR3 Mon 28 18 \* 9am - LWR Quilting 3pm - LessonsWarne 9 am - Fire Equipment 7 pm - Ruth Circle (GS) 7 pm - RUTH CIRCLE 6pm - Y2A Mtg. 4pm - Drive My Way 3pm - Executive Committee 12pm - Sarah Circle 10am - Finance-CR 9am - Property Work Group 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - LWR Quilting 6pm - Christian Ed Mtg 4:30pm - AAUW 4pm - Drive My Way 3pm - LessonsWarne 9am - Property Work Group 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - LWR Quilting Tue 12 28 i, 19 3pm - Lessons/Weller 3pm - Lessons/Weller 2pm - ALS Support Group 5pm - Worship Team 3 pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Drive My Way 6pm - Worship Team 4pm - Drive My Way 2pm - Communion Party-BR 4pm - Drive My Way Wed 3 8 30 20 3pm - LessonsWarne 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:30pm - ACOA (LR) 4pm - Drive My Way 3pm - LessonsWarne 1pm - Rebecca/Ann Circle 9am - Baby Pantry-FH 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:30pm - ACOA (LR) 4pm - Drive My Way 3pm - LessonsWarne 12pm - XYZ Thu 21 14 3 2:30pm - Front Street Jazz 6pm - Faith and Family 2:30pm - Front Street Jazz 10am - Alanon-LR3 10am - Alanon-LR3 10am - Alanon-LR3 10am - AlAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 10am - AlAnon-B 10am - AlAnon-B 2:30pm - Front Street Jazz 10am - AlAnon-B Ξ 22 15 1pm - Drive My Way 5pm - Worship-S 5pm - Worship-S 5pm - Worship-S 5pm - Worship-S 5pm - Celebrate! Worship Sat å . 23

11am - Christensen SG 10am - Staff Meeting 9 am - Prayer Shawl 6pm - Worship Team 4pm - Drive My Way 2:30pm - Front Street Jazz

1pm - Drive My Way 11am - Modern Worship - S 9:45am - Sunday School 8:30am - Worship Service

10am - Staff Meeting

10am - Alanon-LR3 10am - AlAnon-B

6:30pm - Gamblers 6:15pm - Apprentice 3pm - Lessons/Weller

5:30pm - Newcomers

7pm - Choir Rehearsal 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:30pm - ACOA (LR) 3 pm - LessonsWarne 1pm - Lehto SG

3pm - LessonsWarne

9am - Property Work Group 9am - Prayer Shawl 9 am - LWR Quilting

6pm - Worship Team 3pm - Lessons/Weller

5:30pm - Book/Supper Club

5pm - HS Night 1:15pm - Confirmation 1pm - Crankun T's 12:30pm - Monroe SG 11am - Modern Worship - S

> 6:15pm - Apprentice 4pm - Drive My Way 3 pm - Oster SG

6pm - Council Meeting 4pm - Drive My Way 3pm - LessonsWarne 9am - Property Work Group

7pm - Lautner SG @ at the

6:30pm - Gamblers

3pm - Lessons/Weller

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7pm - Choir Rehearsal 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:30pm - ACOA (LR)

5pm - BLUES @ BLC

4pm - Drive My Way

1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite)

9am - Baby Pantry-FH

## NEW STAR ADS

## PAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION Goes Live in March Star



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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 Well name on envelope.