

# JUNE 2019



**Bethlehem**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Traverse City, MI 49686**  
**(231) 947-9880**



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

Building Hours:  
Monday – Thursday, 9am to 3pm

Office Hours  
Monday – Thursday, 9am to 3pm

## Worship Times:

Saturday: 5 pm Celebrate! Worship  
Sunday: 8:30 am Traditional 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.”*



## Ascensions, and Pentecosts, and Trinity, Oh...!



Dear friends,

Last month we began to re-examine what God is calling us to do here at Bethlehem, in the Traverse City community, and beyond.

The short answer to that question is “we are called to proclaim the gospel and witness to Jesus Christ.”

And that is true indeed. (Christ is risen...Alleluia!)

But Christ's presence in this place and in the world is more than words, and more than proclamations. Witnessing happens with our mouths, hands and feet. The tagline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is by association also *our* tagline: “God's work. Our hands.” And the 2012 mission statement of Bethlehem is its close cousin: “We journey with God, to serve with love.”

So on May 19<sup>th</sup>, between services, we began a conversation that helped us (1) remember how far we have journeyed together in the last eight years, (2) where we are now, and (3) some ideas for how to begin a new vision moving forward. The presentation was called “2 Forks in the Road” (we have re-printed the slides in both this STAR (after the President's report on the following page) and in the Congregational report. Please take a few moments to look at those two pages and feel free to call (231.645.2064) or email me ([paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org)) anytime or contact Phil Anderson, chair of the Bethlehem Visions committee, for more details or conversation.

We also talked about the present, and how we want to renew the Y2A model of filling our ministry staff moving forward. Other, additional staffing may come in the (near?) future, but we are excited that this very week we have interviewed multiple candidates for the job, and hope to find a fit soon!

And, finally, we are entering the season of Pentecost with a “trifecta” of celebrations, starting this coming weekend. The first is **Ascension Sunday** (also the first weekend of June), as we celebrate Christ's return in the flesh to heaven, but his pledge to be with us (in Spirit) always. The following Sunday we celebrate **Pentecost**: the call of the Holy Spirit to speak – in all tongues to all people – of the Good News of Christ's life, death and resurrection...for us. And finally, we celebrate **Trinity Sunday** – the day we focus on how God demonstrates community within the Godhead itself (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and promises to be with us in all ways.

So, in that vein, I leave you with these awesome words from Acts chapter 1, as the angel at His ascension encourages Christ's followers to *not* always look UP to Jesus, but look AROUND ourselves to love one another: “11 They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’”

...Looking to God and neighbor, together in peace...

Pr. Paul

# President's Corner

## June 2019

The Lord watch between you and me, when we are out of one another's sight.

Genesis 31:49

Summer is upon us! At last, the warm days are here and the beauty of God's creation is in full bloom. With the summer comes family time, vacations, road trips, cookouts, campouts, and tourists. Please be safe as you enjoy this special time of year. Our prayer is that this summer is filled with wonderful memories and carefree days. Your church family, Bethlehem Lutheran Church will miss you when you are gone and will be anxious to hear about all your adventures when you return.

Leaving Church Council as of the Congregational Meeting 9 June will be some very dedicated members. I want to thank the following people who have served with love, distinction, and plain old hard-work. We thank Shelly McAllister who has given years of time and dedication to the position of Financial Secretary. She has done a fantastic job in her usual low keyed manner. She will continue to work scheduling Counters and for that we are all blessed. We also thank Barbara Wright for her service. She took on the daunting task of chairing the Stewardship Committee. With her steady hand and great ideas, she led three successful campaigns. All of Bethlehem Lutheran Church needs to take their hats off and give a collective hug to Dave Pepler our outgoing Treasurer. For the past three years he has worked tirelessly to keep the congregation informed and the council updated on revenue and expenses. He has spent countless hours preparing reports, budgets, and presentations on our financial condition. He will be missed for his rare insights and keen eye for details. The Council also thanks Barb Graf for accepting a one year appointment. She graciously took on double duty as representative of the Y2A and the Christian Education Committees. She worked hard as an advocate for both committees and also provided excellent insights on other council matters. These folks will be missed and long remembered for their contributions. Lastly, I am leaving council after three exciting years of service. I have learned a lot about Bethlehem and all the wonderful people that make it successful. Even long time members can learn what makes Bethlehem "tick". Thank you for your support this past year as Church Council President. We have many challenges going forward. The "forks in the road" that Pastor talked about are real and we need your input and support to guarantee success. God bless each of you and be gracious unto you when we are together as well as when we are apart.

Bethlehem blessings,

Jim Parkinson

Church Council President

# Pastor's Report: "A Strong Year, with '2 Forks in the Road" Ahead

Dear Friends at Bethlehem, first I would like to say "thanks!" Thank you for **your hard work and collaboration** in ministry, and thanks for all things in Christ! The 2018-2019 year was a good one in many ways. This year, we witnessed new ministry, transition, grief and joy. Our **new ministries** were many. From a new fall Craft Show and "Little Arms Open" Health and Wellness Fair last fall, to a new "in-sourced" Vacation Bible School and the powerful and ecumenical "Living Last Supper" in Lent... Bethlehem has made good on our pledge to open our doors as a growing "Campus at the Crossroads" (i.e. our 4<sup>th</sup> ministry focus from our 2012 visioning exercise as a congregation) – and we have accomplished all this together with good faith and practice.

We also saw some **transition**. Though we were sad to say goodbye to our Christian Ed. Coordinator Meghan Denton last fall, we gave thanks together for the transitional help of Alexis, followed in February by the gracious assistance of volunteer Laura Acker to shoulder the C.E. load moving forward. This May, Renae Wells retired as our part-time Administrative Aide, a position now held by Barbara Oster. Again, thanks be to God!

Bethlehem also said *goodbye to many beloved members* as they entered the eternal embrace of Jesus. Amidst the sadness of those memorials we held firm to the promise of the resurrection and the road that lies ahead for us all – in grief, and also in celebration of God's journey with us, now and forever.

I now **invite you to (re)-read the slides from our May 19<sup>th</sup> "Pre-Vision" Vision presentation**, as we look ahead once more to what challenges and exciting opportunities alike that we face, as a strong and loving church, growing together with Christ at the center.


- In thanks and peace, Pr. Paul

## "2 Forks in the Road":

1

*A Way to Inspire a 'Pre-Vision' Vision for Bethlehem Moving Forward*

*\*Please note: these are just ideas and not the result of a formal visioning process – that hopefully comes later.*



## Vision

2


Let's start with our history:  
Before August of 2011, there were 2 key factors in our Vision together:

1. **Positive:** BLC had just spoken with their pocketbooks: a successful **\$10k matching (\$26,000 total) Challenge Fund** completed for Youth & Family ministry
2. **Lacking:** BLC's *pre-2011 mission and vision* statements were sound theologically but *not strategic and concrete with goals...* so a new one was needed.

## ...so how did we respond?

3

1. **To the challenge**, we left the \$26K raised, untouched in the next 2 years (except for a little \$ for the 2012 National Youth Gathering) > good stewardship.
2. **To the lack of concrete mission/vision**, we kicked off a 2012 "Listening for God" visioning with help from the synod. This led to the following...



## Vision: 5-part vision to growth\*

4

- Premier Y2A >> new staff
- Vibrant (VIE)Worship>> tech & style
- Enlivened Discipleship>>Apprentice...
- Campus@Xroads>>New bldg use/events
- Creation Care & Outdoor Ministry (my passion and the only untackled portion\*)



\*5 overlapping vision areas; "growth" in all directions, at "center" of ministry

**Mission:** *"We journey with God, to serve with Love."*



## With Y2A, we have “held our own” 5

- Pros:
  1. We have shown young families and young adults that we care w/action.
  2. Pr. Paul has been able to focus more on his ministry (when the position is filled) and needs of the whole church.
  3. Stewarding previous Challenge fund (26K) 5 years, running out 4Q 2018

The main “Con”: Inconsistency/turnover of Y2A position.

Y2A is crucial, and staffing at that level (30 hrs/week) will help us hold our own, but it is not enough to grow and meet the church’s needs. 7



One Question we all should ask together, and discern in the coming months: 9

**How badly do we want (or not want) to become a “Teaching Congregation”?**

- A Teaching Congregation involves hosting, teaching and learning from a seminary intern at BLC; please contact Pr. Paul or a member of Bethlehem Visions if you have any questions.

...A3. We are an aging congregation, and though many of our new members are also retired (which can be a strength) we need to look at ministry for ALL ages, esp. retired folks. 11

A4. We are also ready for a new vision\* before our vision’s (and pastor’s) 10-year mark: \*The norm for visions now = 3-5 years ahead, not 10. Look to the fall.

So, you may know that much, and this: 6

- We pivoted last fall (looking for longevity in a recurring 1-year intern program for 2019/20+)
- We did not get an intern.
- So, I am proposing we pivot again...for two reasons:
  - Exciting Y2A prospect now
  - We need to go beyond our previous strategy (2018).

 “FORK” #1: Staffing 8

Here are 2 options (is there a 3<sup>rd</sup>?) for “stretching to build” (i.e. beyond part-time Y2A & volunteer C.E.) directors:

### Option A:

- 1-time, 4-Yr Collaborative Learning Intern
- 20-25 hrs/week
- Teaching Congr.
- Slightly less \$\$

### Option B:

- Part-time (retired?) pastor
- 15-25 hrs/week
- Experienced
- Ordained
- Slightly more \$\$

Q. Why would we bite off something this size? 10

A1. We are growing in many ways and are *not far from* the point where our worshipping numbers (of families) alone would justify this increase in staff...but we’re not there yet.

A2. We are ripe for a challenge, and we *have the means to take a bold step* if we look at our resources & set a goal...

 “FORK” #2: How to begin... 12

- Kick off a new visioning process this fall, perhaps with some outside guidance (We need a solid effort from the congregation on this.)
- As of June 9<sup>th</sup>, we will already have a “Vision Fund” seed of \$6,500.
- Our mortgage matures in 2024, freeing up approx. \$60k per year in income” (assuming those funds aren’t needed elsewhere.)
- New Vision Fund Challenge in 2019/20?
- Other assets, other thoughts...Q&A

June greetings! Here's hoping for some nice, consistently warm weather for us this month...

## UPCOMING JUNE EVENTS

- June 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Noisy Offering (for VBS!)
- June 9<sup>th</sup>—VBS Safety Meeting @12:30pm
- June 16<sup>th</sup>—21<sup>st</sup>: CAMP at Stony Lake
- June 29<sup>th</sup>—July 6<sup>th</sup>: Cherry Fest, Parking Lot Fundraiser!

## OTHER IMPORTANT SUMMER DATES

- High School Mission Trip—July 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>
- Vacation Bible School—July 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>
- “Alexis’ Send Off”—July 28<sup>th</sup> (between services)



This month, I want to talk about the importance of **healthy intergenerational relationships** in our congregation. As I mentioned in my Temple Talk last month, these relationships are how we sustain and grow the church. Adults: go to some sporting events for our youth, send them cards, talk with them, volunteer your time to help with events... every little bit counts! And youth, it's up to you too! Be open minded, accept the love you are given, and recognize the gift of community. All healthy relationships are a two-way street.

As we approach the big transition in July/August, it's important that our kids have YOU (the congregation) to lean on. And youth, you are the future, so step in! It's time!

**A Brief YAGM Update:** I am overwhelmed at the outpouring of generosity that I have experienced in this last month. I have not only reached my initial fundraising goal, but have blown past it! More so than the money, I am so encouraged by all of your words and your belief in me. Bethlehem is a family that I could never forget, and the past 2 years here have held some of my favorite memories. Thank you. *(A more sappy article will come in July or August, don't worry.)*

**Pray with me:** *Gracious Lord, you sacrificed everything for us; you show us every day what it truly means to love one another, to forgive; you give us the tools we need to live a good life—perhaps most of all, you give us your Spirit. Let us be inspired and driven by that Spirit to SERVE and be vulnerable with one another, because that is what makes community, and the church, so wonderful. Our collective brokenness is made beautiful in You. Thank you for another day to live, and to see you in all things. Amen.*

Peace and Blessings,

*Alexis Steig*

Director of Youth and Outreach  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, TC, MI  
[alexis.steig@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:alexis.steig@bethlehemtc.org)

# Christian Education News

## June 2019

Although we've concluded our official Sunday School season, there will still be children's activities this summer during the 11:00am late service, starting Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Children are invited to "The Well" during a brief portion of the service while the adults enjoy Pastor's message.



### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS):** CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!

VBS runs 7/22 to 7/26 this summer!

We had our first introductory meeting on Sunday 4/28 @ 10am, but **we're still looking for many more volunteers even if you couldn't attend!**

We will have two more full-group planning meetings:  
6/09 @ 12:30pm (safety, guidelines, emergencies, etc.)  
7/21 @ 12:30pm (\*final\* strategizing meeting)

Contact Alexis Steig or Laura Acker for more details and to learn all the different opportunities for involvement!

### **BIBLES FOR (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) STUDENTS:**

Congratulations to our two most recent students:

Makena Dohm  
Landen Branch

They worked very hard and studied with Mrs. Blair to learn about our Lord's Word and receive their very own Bibles!



### **"NOISY OFFERING"**

To help with our VBS fundraising, we will be taking a "Noisy Offering" at all three services on the weekend of June 8<sup>th</sup> (5pm) and June 9<sup>th</sup> (8:30am, 11:00am).

All we're asking is for any spare pocket change you might have to help fill our buckets, so clean out those couch cushions, car doors, jacket pockets, or anywhere you keep extra coins, and we'll jingle our baskets very loudly to thank you for each and every donation!

Christian Education would like to wish a fond farewell to the Wiedenhoef family as they depart from Bethlehem this month!

Greta, Edith, Lynette, and Paul:  
You've been such a special part of our Bethlehem family these past few years, and we thank you for journeying and serving with us.

*The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace (Numbers 6: 24-26 NKJV)*



## Wiedenhoef Family

### **SEE THE BACK AD PAGE**

In the 2019 budget, we created a couple of 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 [616-204-8900/wellsrenae17411@gmail.com](mailto:616-204-8900/wellsrenae17411@gmail.com) and/or Barbara Wright [231-735-3227/ mzbright9006@yahoo.com](mailto:231-735-3227/mzbright9006@yahoo.com) in the office if you are interested.

Your Stewardship Committee

**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) and Y2A (needs parents of youth and children for future programming Alexis Steig— Church office).

**IN YOUR SPRING CLEANING,** have you found some old water bottles you no longer use? Please donate them to support a local group which runs a school for 500 students in Haiti. Children at Anchor of Hope Haiti need water bottles so they do not all have to drink from a common cup. There is a box by member mailboxes for your donation of reusable bottles. Any questions contact Cindy Monroe, 231-941-0788.

### **Dear Friends,**

In these past weeks and months your support and caring has been a gift to our family. Your beautiful cards, your presence at Pastor Fred’s Memorial “Celebration of Life,” your ongoing prayers are so appreciated. Pastor Fred loved you. Your tributes to him complete that circle of love.

Heartfelt thanks to you, and blessings,  
With love,  
Pastor Ruth and the Overdier family

**Reminder---**All are welcome at our Council Meetings: Tuesday, June 18 at 6 pm. is our next meeting. There is a time slot for guests to speak at the beginning of the meeting.

**DEADLINE FOR COUNCIL REPORTS IS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12**



### **April & YTD 2019 Financial Update**

April income of \$40,296 was \$2,516 above budgeted income of \$37,780. April expense of \$30,777 was \$428 under budgeted expense of \$31,205. April was budgeted to have a surplus of \$6,575. The actual surplus was \$9,520. This was an improvement of \$2,945 against budget. April was a very good month for income.

YTD income of \$137,814 was \$7,716 above budgeted income of \$130,098. YTD expense of \$132,062 was \$1,274 over budgeted expense of \$130,788. YTD we budgeted to have a deficit of \$690 as of the end of April. We ended April with a surplus of \$5,752 which means we are \$6,442 ahead of where we budgeted to be at this point in time.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY'S COMMENTS**

We at Bethlehem are truly blessed! You may be saying to yourself, "I already know we are blessed." A couple of things struck me after our May 21st Church Council Meeting that continued to confirm, we are blessed. First, though we are sad to see Alexi Steig prepare to leave us for her calling to YAGM, we are blessed that we have two candidates to interview for her position in Y2A. Secondly, as you have read here in this space, in our Sunday bulletins or heard from our Church announcements, we are/were short on volunteers to fill our open positions on Church Council. We have 4 -5 people who have stepped forward to give their time and effort to Council, that is a blessing. The above two issues were of great concern for Council, filling Alexis's position and getting new volunteers for Council, we thank the Dear Lord for our blessings. Tim Fox Council

Tim Fox  
Council Secretary



# WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM

## JUNE, 2019



### HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

'A dad is someone you look up to no matter how tall you grow.'  
'Fathers hold their kids' hands for a while, their hearts for a lifetime.'

'You're the best, Dad. Plain and simple.'

'Life doesn't come with a manual - it comes with a father.'

'If I didn't have you as a dad, I'd want you as a friend.'

"Daddies don't just love their children every now and then";  
it's a love without end." *George Strait*

**WELCA PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT & TREASURER NEEDED:** The POSITIONS for President, Vice President and Treasurer here at Bethlehem are opening up for 2020. There will be an election at our September 18th general meeting for these positions. Please prayerfully consider how you could fill one of these spots. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433. Note that as a member of Bethlehem you are automatically a member of WELCA.

**JUNE BIBLE STUDY:** The Bible study for June is taken from the *Gather* magazine and is entitled: '*For just such a time as this; Esther the Queen: Voices in the King's Court*', written by Kay Ward. In the first of three sessions for the summer, we meet the women who will shake up king Ahasuerus' kingdom.

**JULY BIBLE STUDY/PICNIC:** Barb Graf will host the July Bible study at her home , 7429 E. Fouch Road on July 17th at 6PM. Bring a dish to pass and a lawn chair; burgers/hot dogs and beverages will be furnished. A BIBLE STUDY LEADER IS NEEDED! If you are willing to be leader, please contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433.

**WELCA CONVENTION/RETREAT:** The Fall convention/retreat will be held on the weekend of September 27-28 at Zion Lutheran Church in Cadillac, MI. A block of rooms have been set aside at a motel in Cadillac. Please watch for further details in the church bulletin, Star and Living Threads.

**'WE KNOW WE DON'T SAY IT ENOUGH SO WE'LL SAY IT EXTRA TODAY;  
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, DAD.'**



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

# ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

## Sharing the Goodness of God

The [Lutheran Church in Malaysia](#) (LCM), a companion of the ELCA, works alongside the indigenous Orang Asli people of West Malaysia. In this south-to-south partnership, Christ's love between the LCM and the Orang Asli is lived out in many ways, including worship life, education, sustainable farming, land-rights awareness and income-generating projects. The [ELCA works with the LCM to support these important evangelism ministries](#), helping to build relationships rooted in the love of Christ so that God's goodness is shared far and wide.

## A New Era of Storytelling

Over the next few months you might notice some changes in Global Links and other places where we share the stories of God's global church. We will transition to new ways of lifting up the ministries of our global companions. ELCA Global Church Sponsorship has been an important way to support these global ministries – including our ELCA missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission, International Women Leaders and global ministries. As we transition into a new era as a church, we will continue to support the same critical ministries and lift up the stories of global engagement and the work of our companions under the name: Global Mission. Thank you for being part of this journey – we look forward to the road ahead!

## Love Along the Journey

“Love Along the Journey” is the title of a blog written by Erica Bryer, who recently began a three-year term as an ELCA missionary in Japan. In a recent [newsletter](#), Erica shares insights into Japanese culture, as well as her six months of in-country orientation and the experience of living into her call as a missionary. Erica will be working with two congregations, Murozono Lutheran Church and Kumamoto International Service, helping with worship, music, their children's program and congregational planning.

## Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

In March, the Rev. Saïd Ailabouni, area desk director for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and Andrew Steele, director for global mission funding, led 10 ELCA members on a mission immersion trip to the Holy Land in Jerusalem and the West Bank. They spent time with our companions at the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy and](#) (ELCJHL). They spent time in family homes, in schools, churches and other spaces where they witnessed how the occupation is adversely affecting life for Palestinians, both Christian and Muslim. The group is now discerning how to invest in ministries of the ELCJHL and other companions through the ELCA and how to share the important stories of the Holy Land with others.



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.

**A HUGE THANK YOU FOR THE OLESON'S RECEIPTS:** Please continue to bring in your Oleson's cash register receipts. We recently received a check for \$247.33. 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. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.**



## **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



**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 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!



### **Habitat for Humanity**

Habitat for Humanity is always looking for volunteers:

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

## Health Concerns\*



# The Power of Prayer

*Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Hazel Lautner, Tom Miller, Margie Whitney, Jo Hasse, Mary Gordon, Ruth Boerman, Pastor Dan Deutsch, Ellie Tacke, Bev Attwood, Joy Johnson, Arline & Roy Stowe, Kate Holtfreter, Priscilla Thompson, Marlene Baesch, Alvin Kober, Bill Gourdie, Bill Gibson, Lynn Hoyt, Jacque Rossfeld, Jan Waisanen, Nancy Downer, Bill Allen, Molly Eastman, Harper Wiemerslage, Brenda Denoyer and Joy Johnson*

**Grand Traverse Pavilions:** Bev Attwood, Bill Gourdie

**Homebound:** Hazel Lautner, Ruth Boerman

**Traverse Manor:** Margie Whitney

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

**French Manor:** Mary Gordon

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

**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](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)...



# **WELCOME TO OUR NEW PAGE**

## **HONORING GOD'S CREATION**

Where did all the fireflies go? Can we get them back?

Did you know?

Fireflies are beetles that attract their mates with flashes of glowing lightbioluminescence. Each firefly species has a specific flash pattern. Fryflies even glow in their eggs and larvae stages.

Fireflies need:

- \*warm wet conditions
- \*rooting wood
- \*leaves on the forest floor
- \*dense gardens
- \*meadows

Firefly larvae eat slugs that arrive after May rains. Adult beetles feed on nectar and pollen and live for 2 months (June-August).

### KEY FACTS

Fireflies are indicators of the health of the ecosystem. The world's 2,000 firefly beetle species are declining.

Fireflies are decreasing in numbers due to:

1. Loss of habitat - Landscaped lawns do not provide adequate nutrition and shelter.
2. Use of pesticides. These chemicals kill beetles, their larvae and food source(slugs)
3. Loss of dark night skies-Exterior lighting around a home causes a decrease in male beetle flashing. This makes it difficult for the males signal and attract mates. Consequently, there are fewer firefly offspring the next season.

What can we do to show we care?

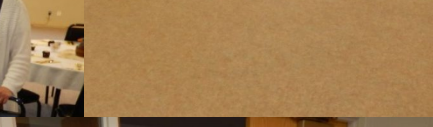
1. Plant native trees, shrubs, grasses and plants especially along lakes and streams.
2. Use natural pesticides rather than chemical pesticides.
3. Turn off your exterior lights when not needed to keep the night sky dark.

**THIS PAGE IS WAITING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CONGREGATION.** EX. Gardening, Recycling, Saving the Planet.

Please email to [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) and indicate you would like your ideas in the Monthly Star







# BLC Contacts

**PLEASE NOTE SEVERAL ADDRESS UPDATES**

## **Church Office**

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Website	<a href="http://www.bethlehemtc.org">www.bethlehemtc.org</a>

## **Church Council**

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Chuck Ardingo, Vice President	<a href="mailto:vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org">vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
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Barbara Graf, Youth/Y2A	<a href="mailto:youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org">youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
8:30am - Worship Service 9:45am - Membership & 9:45am - WELCA Board 11am - Modern Worship - S 12:30pm - Wor. & Mus. 1pm - Drive My Way 6pm - Grandparents	10am - AIAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 10am - Staff Meeting 3pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Drive My Way 6pm - A/V Operator 6:30pm - Gamblers	9am - LWR Quilting 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Property Work Group 3pm - Lessons/Warne 3:30pm - Stewardship Mtg. 4pm - Drive My Way 6pm - Christian Ed Mtg.	3pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Drive My Way	3pm - Lessons/Warne 4pm - Drive My Way 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Choir Rehearsal	10am - AIAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 2:30pm - Front Street Jazz	12pm - Wedding Kyro/Cole 1pm - Drive My Way 5pm - Celebrate! Worship 5pm - Worship-S  5pm - VBS Noisy Offering 5pm - Worship-S
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30am - Noisy Offering 8:30am - Worship Service 9:45am - Congregational 11am - Modern Worship - S 12:30pm - VBS Safety Mtg 6pm - Grandparents	10am - AIAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 10am - Staff Meeting 3pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Drive My Way 6:30pm - Gamblers	9am - LWR Quilting 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Property Work Group 11:30am - Finance-CR 12pm - Sarah Circle 3pm - Executive Committee	3pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Drive My Way	9am - Baby Pantry-FH 1pm - Rebecca/Ann Circle 3pm - Lessons/Warne 4pm - Drive My Way 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Choir Rehearsal	10am - AIAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 1:30pm - Bridge-GS 2:30pm - Front Street Jazz 6pm - Faith and Family	10am - Ruth Bandlow 11am - Ruth Banlow 12pm - Ruth Bandlow 1pm - Ruth Bandlow 5pm - Worship-S
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
LWM CAMP @ Lutheran Outdoor & Retreat, 7598 W Stony Lake Rd, New Era, MI 49446, USA						
8:30am - Worship Service 11am - Christensen SG 11am - Modern Worship - S 12:30pm - Monroe SG 6pm - Grandparents	9am - Drive My Way 1 10am - AIAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 10am - Staff Meeting 12pm - All Star DE 1 2pm - All Star DE 2	9am - Drive My Way 1 9am - LWR Quilting 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Property Work Group 12pm - All Star DE 1 2pm - All Star DE 2	9am - Drive My Way 1 12pm - All Star DE 1 3pm - Lessons/Weller	9am - Drive My Way 1 12pm - All Star DE 1 12pm - XYZ 3pm - Lessons/Warne 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Choir Rehearsal	10am - AIAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 12pm - All Star DE 1 2:30pm - Front Street Jazz	10am - Altar Gullid 5pm - Worship-S
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30am - Worship Service 11am - Modern Worship - S 6pm - Grandparents	10am - AIAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 10am - Staff Meeting 12pm - All Star DE 1 2pm - All Star DE 2	9am - LWR Quilting 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Property Work Group 12pm - All Star DE 1 3pm - Lessons/Warne 5:30pm - Book/Supper Club	12pm - All Star DE 1 1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite) 3pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Rombouts Funeral 5pm - Rombouts Funeral	9am - Baby Pantry-FH 12pm - All Star DE 1 1pm - Lehto SG 3pm - Lessons/Warne 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Choir Rehearsal	10am - AIAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 12pm - All Star DE 1 1pm - Drive My Way 2 2:30pm - Front Street Jazz	1pm - Drive My Way 2 5pm - Worship-S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
8:30am - Worship Service 11am - Modern Worship - S 1pm - Drive My Way 2 6pm - Grandparents	3pm - Lessons/Weller	3pm - Lessons/Weller	3pm - Lessons/Weller	7pm - Choir Rehearsal	2:30pm - Front Street Jazz	6pm - Grandparents





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