

AUGUST 2019



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880



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

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

Office Hours
Monday – Thursday, 9am to 3pm

Worship Times:

Saturday: 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.”



Dear friends,

I am thinking of the gospel lesson for later this month. It's the one in chapter 13 of Luke's gospel where Jesus heals on the sabbath. Luke writes:

"Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years...When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ...immediately she stood up straight and began praising God."

I recall this story for two reasons. One, because it was by his healing touch, and also his healing words, that Jesus healed. In times of great pain and turmoil in our lives and in our world, it is good to be reminded that Christ's healing touch often comes through *our* hands, in *his* name. Said another way, as we are saved to love through the gospel, and as that love is shared with us, will we be "set free from our ailments" by God. It is God's work. Often through the hands of belief. Even on the sabbath.

That is the second reason I share this story. The sabbath day is meant to be a day of rest from the work of *the world*. But it is not a day to refrain from efforts made toward love, healing, and peace. In fact, many of my own sabbath days have consisted of the greatest healing moments of my life...

But my story is something for a later day. **OUR story this August is one of new life, new vision, and new leadership seeds planted during these sabbath summer months.** Here are just a few:

- For the **second year in a row**, Bethlehem has "in-sourced" Vacation Bible School (VBS), building our leaders from within, and doing so with vitality and joy. We give thanks.

- This July, even as we said a tearful goodbye to Alexis, we welcomed a **new "Youth and Outreach Director" Annie Slabaugh**, who has hit the ground running with energy and a sense of mission. We give thanks.

- This August, we have teamed up with Pastor Adam from Buffalo, New York to create a pre-Vision survey (see the next page) to prepare for his visit on **God's Work, Our Hands Weekend (September 6-8th) to help us kickoff our new vision of mission and ministry moving forward.**

We encourage you to fill out and return these surveys by August 25th and join us on September 8th for an all-church listening and brainstorming forum after the 11am service. Lunch will be served. Let us give thanks together...

Much is happening. Even on the Sabbath. God heals and enlivens.

In peace,
Pr. Paul

Congregational Survey

Dear Bethlehem friends,

We are asking for your input soon, as we prepare for our guest facilitator (Pr. Adam from Buffalo, NY) to help us kick off our visioning process for 2020 and beyond. **Pr. Adam visits Bethlehem on Rally Day (God's Work, Our Hands) Weekend this September 6th – 8th and will work with our church council, Bethlehem Visions Committee, and most importantly, YOU! We are hoping you will fill out this survey online or on paper and return it to us by the weekend of August 24/25.** We are hoping for feedback from everyone, knowing that we will not reach 100% but desiring to have 75-85% of average weekly worship attendance complete this short but important survey. Thank you!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church has many programs that touch our lives. Thinking about all of these programs, please rank each of them in the order of importance to you and your family.

- Music
- Christian Care Giving
- Christian Education
- Fellowship
- Property
- Youth Programs
- Elder Care
- New Member Recruitment/Retention
- Small Group Formation and Support
- Other: _____

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being not excited and 10 being the most excited, how excited are you about the idea of Bethlehem having a seminary intern as part of the leadership of the congregation?

Thinking about the programs offered at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, what two things do you believe Bethlehem does well?

1. _____

2. _____

What two things do you believe Bethlehem should work to do better?

1. _____

2. _____

Becoming a "Teaching Congregation" is a commitment for both the staff and congregation. How comfortable are you with the "Teaching Congregation" concept?

- Yes, very
- Not sure

How many times per month have you or your family participated in Bethlehem's programs, services, and activities during the past year?

Congregational Survey

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being not excited and 10 being the most excited, how excited are you about the idea of Bethlehem having a part-time, semi-retired pastor as part of the leadership of the congregation?

Please share with us your age range

- Under 25
- 26 – 30
- 31 - 40
- 41 – 50
- 51 – 65
- Over 66

Please list your four favorite or most meaningful aspects of being a part of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church family.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Thinking about your overall experience with Bethlehem Lutheran Church, is there an immediate need that you feel the church needs to address.

Financial Support for new ministries is critical to its ongoing success. Thinking about this necessary additional level of giving, which amount you feel represents your potential level of additional giving. Please understand this is not a commitment.

1. \$50.00 - \$100.00 additional dollars per year
2. \$100.00 to \$150.00 additional dollars per year
3. \$150.00 to \$200.00 additional dollars per year
4. Over \$200.00 additional dollars per year
5. A one-time donation of over \$100.00
6. Other _____

Consider Bethlehem and its many programs and activities; what would you be willing to give up or focus less on for the sake of the congregation going forward?

Please share with us your gender

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to answer

Thank you again for your time and input. We will report the results of this survey in late August or early September. We hope to see you for our Visioning “kickoff” discussion forum with Pastor Adam on Sunday, September 8th directly after the 11am service!

Greetings Everyone!

If I had an office at the church there would be a sign on the door that says "On Vacation". During the Summer months I like to take some time away from routine activities and enjoy the sunshine and warm weather, along with all the fun things there are to do. As we all know summer goes by fast, so enjoy it and be safe.



See you next month,

Chuck

Bethlehem Visions Committee

A vision is not just a "picture" of what could be.
It goes deeper, to our better selves.
It is a calling to become something more than we are now.

Your Bethlehem Visions Committee has been busy working with Pastor Paul on setting the groundwork for our vision of Bethlehem in the next three to five years. We held a Facetime conference call with Pastor Adam Miller-Stubbenick to discuss how we can prepare for his visit in September. The fruit of that conversation was the Congregational Survey that was rolled out August 3rd. Your input via this survey is of critical importance to this project. We need to hear from you so our programs are in sync with your wishes. We would like to get a participation rate of 80-100%. That means every adult member is urged to participate! Surveys are available at the back of the sanctuary. Completed surveys can be placed in my mailbox by the office or in the Completed Survey box in the back of the sanctuary. We need the surveys back by the weekend of August 25th.

The Bethlehem Visions Committee will be compiling your responses. By early September, we hope to provide the congregation with a written report. We will also share the results with Pastor Adam so he can better prepare to lead us in the visioning process.

Our prayer is that this process will help us become something more than we are now!

Bethlehem blessings,

Phil Anderson
Bethlehem Visions Committee, Chair

To My Bethlehem Family,

It's hard to believe that it's been two years since I first walked in the doors of Bethlehem and began serving as your Director of Youth and Outreach, even harder to believe all of the incredible memories I've had here, and all the wonderful people I've met...Is someone cutting onions??

From the bottom of my heart, I want to say thank you for your support in my time here. Change is difficult, and letting go can be even harder. I know how frustrating it can be to lose staff, but despite this, I have felt so much encouragement in my YAGM pursuit. Your financial support has been especially positive, as BLC alone helped me to achieve my fundraising goal. That is, in a word, humbling!

In addition to all of the 'formal' things you all have contributed to our youth programs, you've given me a community, a family... a place to call 'home'. After all, "home is the people, not the place". I am so grateful for this gift, and for all of you.

I'm very excited to 'pass the baton' on to Annie Slabaugh, a hard-working woman of faith and very close friend of mine. I have every confidence that she will take care of the kids here, and be genuine in her pursuits to grow our ministry. It will be a challenge (such is the nature of youth ministry), but I pray that you will all accept Annie's vision and support her as you have so lovingly supported me!

I know that she will be in good hands with all of you, and on the flip-side, you are in capable and loving hands with Annie.

Thank you for everything! Miss you guys already!

Peace and Blessings,

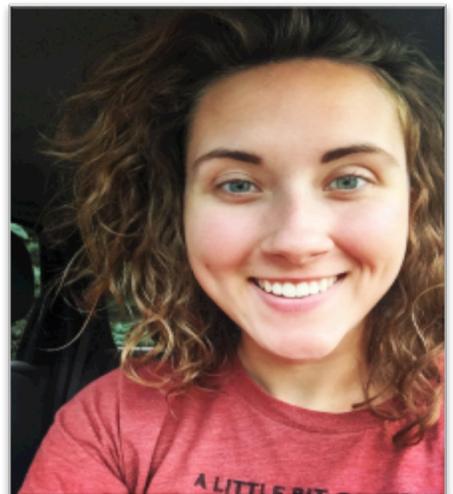
Alexis Steig

Keep in Touch!

Email: alsteig1996@gmail.com

Blog: godandgoulash.home.blog

Website: support.elca.org/goto/alexissteig



WELCOME ANNIE!



Hi there! My name is Annie and I'm very excited to be joining Bethlehem's ministry as the new Youth and Outreach Director!

Let me tell you a bit about little ol' me. I was raised in Cadillac, MI with elementary school educators for parents and a solid foundation in my home church of Zion. The example my parents led by based off of their professions as well as my place amongst a faithful community played pivotal roles in shaping me into who I am.

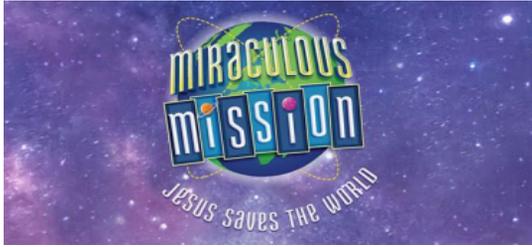
This led me to attend Cornerstone University, where I graduated with a theatre arts degree. It was at this point while I was living in Grand Rapids that I met my husband, Trent. We made a lot of great memories together in Grand Rapids, right up until our wedding day, but it was almost a year later that I realized that I started to get homesick for Northern Michigan. I mean, who can blame me!? This seemed like a steep proposition at first, seeing as Trent is a city boy at heart. But as soon as Traverse City came onto our radar, we latched onto it and didn't look back. It's a great combination of the environments we both thrive in and we love to be able to call this place home! I am so happy to be back in Northern Michigan and can't wait to raise our future family in this community.

Community is a very important thing. You don't have a community without strong relationships and I have always been a person who has had a strength and strong passion for cultivating relationships. I love them and I am a strong believer that is one of the things that connects us all. Most importantly, our relationship with Christ is at the center of these relationships. After all, love began when God created us. Without God, there wouldn't be love and His greatest commandment is for us to love Him and to love one another. I hope to cultivate this in the youth at Bethlehem not only within the church and each other--but also the Traverse City community as a whole.

I'm really looking forward to getting to know you all and worshiping together!

Christian Education News

August 2019



Vacation Bible School (VBS) was a **HUGE** success thanks to all our fantastic volunteers!!!

Whether you contributed your time during the week, or whether you donated supplies, we cannot thank you enough for all your help 😊



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 2nd.

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

Sunday School needs teachers for all our classrooms:
Pre-K
K-2nd grade
3rd-6th grade

This very brief commitment runs between services approximately 9:45am-10:45am Sunday mornings, and simple lessons are pre-scripted with all the material.

Please prayerfully consider this service ministry for our children.
Call Nancy Ammann 946-8433 for more details.

VOLUNTEER
all that's missing is U!



Christian Ed. is looking for musicians to accompany our Sunday School opening songs from September through May. We love piano music, but guitar, ukulele, or other instruments are also welcome! This short commitment is approximately a 15-30" time slot approximately twice per month with very simple songs; please prayerfully consider this service ministry for our children. Call Nancy Ammann 946-8433 for more details.



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
"ART & CRAFT SHOW"
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019
9:00a.m. – 3:00p.m.
1050 Peninsula Dr.,
Traverse City, Mi. 49684
Featuring 50 local & original
Handcrafted artists and crafters

Reminder---All are welcome at our Council Meetings: Tuesday, August 20 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, August 14

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 1/16th 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 and/or Barbara Wright 231-735-3227/mzbright9006@yahoo.com in the office if you are interested.

Your Stewardship Committee

COUNCIL SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

Two of the issues that stood out to me at our July 16th Church Council Meeting were as follows:

1) The Bethlehem Visions Committee is putting together a short survey to get a feel for the Congregation's thoughts on their vision for Bethlehem. This survey is extremely important as we as a Church look to continue to grow and prosper. Please take time to complete the survey and encourage your fellow members to do so also. This survey gives you the opportunity to express your vision and state how you see Bethlehem now and in the future. This survey will assist the Visions Committee and Council as they work on a road map for Bethlehem's future.

2) Pastor Adam, a colleague and friend of Pastor Paul from Buffalo, New York, will be at Bethlehem the weekend of September 6-8, to give us his thoughts and speak about his experience working on visioning for various congregations. Please plan to attend one of the three services on that weekend

Tim Fox, Council Secretary

June & YTD 2019 Financial Results:

June income of \$27,456 was \$3,766 under budgeted income of \$31,222.

June expense of \$29,012 was \$1,826 over budgeted expense of \$27,186.

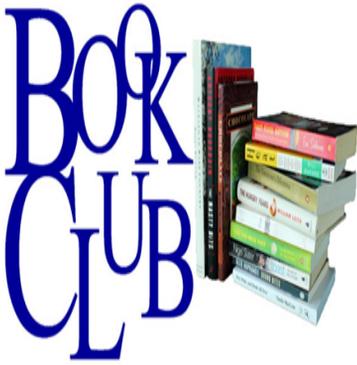
June was budgeted to have a surplus of \$4,036. The actual deficit was \$1,556. This was a decrease of \$5,592 against budget. The bottom line in June was challenged by lower than expected donations and numerous unexpected expenses.

YTD income of \$196,050 was \$3,520 above budgeted income of \$192,530.

YTD expense of \$191,363 was \$1,642 over budgeted expense of \$189,721.

YTD we budgeted to have a surplus of \$2,809 as of the end of June. We ended June with a surplus of \$4,687 which means we are \$1,878 ahead of where we budgeted to be at this point in time. With contributions under budget YTD, this surplus is primarily from higher non-operating income (e.g., Grant Income, Star Ad Revenue, Building Use).

To net this out, after the first six months of the year we have a surplus cash flow of \$4,687. Our budget over the remaining six months shows a deficit cash flow of \$10,017. Said another way, we will have a deficit of \$5,330 at year end compared to the \$7,209 deficit that was originally projected. This of course assumes our giving and non-operating income levels remain strong and no large unexpected expenses are incurred.



Has taken its meetings into the Community. We now meet on the 4th 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.

Anchor of Hope Haiti: Thanks to all who found some water bottles and donated them to Anchor of Hope Haiti, the school for 500 children. The collection is now over. There will be a photo coming of the collection of all of those bottles. Those of you on the prayer chain know that the drilling for a water well was unsuccessful so the group must continue to pay for the trucking of water to their site. Anyone who would like to donate to the water fund can make a check to Anchor of Hope Haiti and place in Cindy Monroe's box and the money will be given to the group.

Finger-Food Fellowship!

Finger Food Fellowship is taking a break during this summer. If you have some extra finger food left over from a house of company, feel free to bring it in to share. There are always small napkins with the coffee supplies. Please be thinking of when you want to sign up in the Fall. This is definitely an equal opportunity ministry at Bethlehem.



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

Shop at Family Fare, 905 E. 8th 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 Conce



The Power of Prayer

*Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Hazel Lautner, Tom Miller, Margie Whitney,
Jo Hasse, Mary Gordon, Ruth Boerman, Ellie Tacke,
Bev Attwood, Roy Stowe, Priscilla Thompson,
Marlene Baesch, Alvin Kober, Bill Gourdie, Bill Gibson, Lynn Hoyt, Jacque
Rossfeld, Jan Waisanen, Alvin Kober, Roy Dumond, Lisa Schlagel,
Molly Eastman, Harper Wiemerslage, Brenda Denoyer and Richard Oster*

Grand Traverse Pavilions: Bev Attwood, Bill Gourdie

Homebound: Hazel Lautner, Ruth Boerman

Traverse Manor: Margie Whitney

French Manor LaFranier: Jo Hasse, Roy 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

*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?

You saw Norm and others take the photos...be sure you see them at www.bethlehemtc.org!

Good News...and great news...at www.bethlehemtc.org...

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PAGE

HONORING GOD'S CREATION

God speaks to us in many places

It is not only in church that God speaks to us. There are many places and times where we feel close to God. If we share some of our special places, it may inspire others to look for places that they feel God's presence. We hope to publish a list of people and special spots that they feel a oneness with God in a later issue of the Star. If you are willing to share, please send your name and special spot to admin@bethlehemtc.org or contact Judy Strickland.

Shopping Local

There are many reasons that people are encouraged to shop locally including building community, strengthening local economy and the uniqueness of the community. We, however, will concentrate on lessening the impact on the environment in the following three points:

Reduction of the pollution and use of resources needed to transport long distances.
Reduction of urban sprawl. When products are distributed from established stores, there is less need to use land that might have remained farms or open spaces. Downtowns can be the shopping centers instead of being under used and unattractive.
Eating fresh seasonal food means we are eating high quality food picked at the height of freshness. Local farms grow a wider variety of food than large industrial farms. A variety of plants helps the environment.
Of course, we cannot always shop locally. We are part of an integrated and diverse society, but we should be aware to the reasons to consider the local options.



There are many places besides church that we feel close to God. God speaks to us through his creation. We would like to make a sharing list in the September STAR where members feel in touch with God. Please send your name and special spot to admin@bethlehemtc.org or to Judy Strickland.

THIS PAGE IS WAITING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CONGREGATION. EX. Gardening, Recycling, Saving the Planet.
Please email to admin@bethlehemtc.org and indicate you would like your ideas in the Monthly Star



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

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

Hope Toward Christian Unity

Leaders from five Christian traditions — Lutheran, [Roman Catholic](#), [Methodist](#), [Reformed](#) and [Anglican](#) — gathered in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 16 to highlight the 20th anniversary of the [Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification \(JDDJ\)](#). It was both a celebration and a reaffirmation of their commitment to unity, joint witness and service as they co-presided over a special prayer service in [Geneva's St Pierre Cathedral](#). LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr. Martin Junge joined with others in giving thanks for the journey the five Christian traditions have “traveled together.” Read the full account of this historic event on the [Lutheran World Federation](#) web site.

Speaking to One's Heart in Hungarian

The Rev. Rachel Eskesen and the Rev. Zach Courter serve as coordinators of the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program in Central Europe. In addition to their work as YAGM program coordinators, **they also serve** alongside our companions in **Hungary** through congregational planning and pastoral leadership. Language and cultural learning are at the center of all they do and have become a way for them to connect deeply with the community that is hosting them. Zach highlights language exchange as an important aspect of accompaniment. See:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrXoFXYksL0&feature=youtu.be> –

for a video of Zach explaining this. You can learn more about Rachel and Zach and their ministry by reading their [newsletters](#) at: <https://zachandrachel.wordpress.com/>

In future months we hope to hear stories from Alexis as she ministers to the people in Hungary.

May the Lord bless and guide you on your life journey Alexis!

To learn more about what ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGMs) are doing across the globe, *follow and “like” ELCA Global Church on Facebook!* This page offers photos, links to stories, and all the most recent updates.

In 2018, the ELCA launched an endowment fund to sustain the ministry of the [Young Adults in Global Mission](#) program. This is a new opportunity to invest in our church's young leaders as they embark on a year of faith formation, learning and service. To donate to the fund, visit the “Global Mission Donation Fund” on the ELCA web site.

Once again, our youth have been blessed by our location providing us the opportunity for another successful Parking Lot Fundraiser. The biggest thank you goes to the Branch family who is the backbone for this event having been there for every single part, including setup for four events, and tear down after the final fireworks. Thank you Mat, Shannon, Quentin, and Landon. Also included in our thank you are Byron and Katie Pearce (these two were also there for multiple times), Monica, Jacob, & Aleah Graf, Tina, Makena, & Lincoln Dohm, Shelly Carpenter, Austin, Courtney, and Allie Leatherman, and Alexis. Also thanks to Annie for coming and meeting some of her future youth and their families.--Renae Wells & The Y2A Committee



Come One Come All
Bethlehem 8th Annual Fall Family Campout
September 20-22

At the beautiful **Turtle Lake Campground**

In the outskirts of Beulah

Come for one night, two nights, or Saturday only

Or join us for Saturday evening meal (bring a dish to pass)

Or just a campfire, "S'mores"

Give Barb or Leonard Graf a call, 946-5120.

They have set aside some sites for us (lake view).

Make your own campsite reservation.



Scripture Reading: Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

—*Corrie ten Boom*

A wise, old farmer was considered rich by the villagers because he owned a horse. One day the horse ran away and the villagers said to the farmer, “How unfortunate your horse ran away.”

He responded, “How do you know it’s unfortunate?”

The next day, the horse returned, bringing with it a wild horse, thereby increasing the farmer’s wealth. The villagers exclaimed, “How fortunate!”

The farmer said, “How do you know it’s fortunate?”

The following day the farmer’s son was thrown while trying to break the wild horse and broke his leg. The villagers commiserated, “How unfortunate!”

Once again the farmer responded, “How do you know it’s unfortunate?”

The following day, the king’s men rode through the village conscripting all the young men for the army. They didn’t take the farmer’s son because of his broken leg.

The moral of this little fable is that things are not always as they appear. Life presents us with situations or conditions which in themselves are neither good nor bad.

Sometimes, we are too hasty in deciding whether circumstances are good or bad.

As Christians, however, we know that only One has the wisdom and knowledge to know what is good and bad. We know that our lives are in the hands of God.

We also know that “No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly” and that “the LORD will give what is good” (Psalm 84:11; 85:12). Further, “we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

So the next time we’re tempted to complain about this or that, let’s remember that “every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” (James 1:17 NIV).

—Melanie Silva

Prayer: O God, it is a relief to be able to put my life in your hands. Thank you for your faithfulness to me yesterday, today and tomorrow. Amen.









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	
Website	www.bethlehemtc.org

Church Council

Chuck Ardingo, President	president.council@bethlehemtc.org
Leonard Graf, Vice President	vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org
Tim Fox, Secretary	secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
Katie Fox, Treasurer	treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org
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, Christian Ed.	christianeducation@bethlehemtc.org
, Fellowship	fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Cindy Monroe, Membership/Evangelism	membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org
, Property (Carl Lehto-Not on Council)	property.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Mark McPherson, Stewardship	stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Nancy Downer, Worship and Music	worship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Paul Wiemerslage, Youth/Y2A	youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org

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, Entire BLC, Event Held Outside of BLC, Fellowship Hall, Gathering Space, Aug 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)
 Lower Room 3, Nursery Room 1, Nursery Room 3, Nursery Room 4, Nursery Room #, Sanctuary, Youth Room

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:30am - Worship Service 9:45am - Membership & 11am - Modern Worship - S 6pm - Grandparents	9am - Drive My Way 10am - AIAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 10am - Staff Meeting 12pm - All Star DE 3pm - Lessons/Weller 6:30pm - Gamblers	9am - Drive My Way 9am - Property Work Group 12pm - All Star DE	9am - Drive My Way 12pm - All Star DE 3pm - Lessons/Weller 6pm - Steel Pan Rehearsal 6:45pm - Worship Team	9am - Baby Pantry-FH 9am - Drive My Way 12pm - All Star DE 1pm - Rebecca/Ann Circle	10am - AIAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 2:30pm - Front Street Jazz 6pm - Faith and Family	5pm - Celebrate! Worship 5pm - Worship-S 12pm - Smith Wedding 5pm - Worship-S
8:30am - Worship Service 9:45am - WELCA Board 11am - Modern Worship - S 6pm - Grandparents	9am - Drive My Way 10am - AIAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 10am - Staff Meeting 12pm - All Star DE 3pm - Lessons/Weller 6:30pm - Gamblers	9am - Drive My Way 9am - Property Work Group 11:30am - Finance-CR 12pm - All Star DE 12pm - Sarah Circle 2pm - All Star DE 3pm - Executive Committee 6pm - Y2A Mtg. 7pm - Ruth Circle	9am - Drive My Way 12pm - All Star DE 3pm - Lessons/Weller 6pm - Steel Pan Rehearsal 6:45pm - Worship Team	9am - Drive My Way 12pm - All Star DE 12pm - Staff Luncheon	10am - AIAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 2:30pm - Front Street Jazz	5pm - Worship-S
Youth Group Beach Party 8:30am - Worship Service 11am - Christensen SG 11am - Modern Worship - S 6pm - Grandparents	9am - Drive My Way 10am - AIAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 10am - Staff Meeting 12pm - All Star DE 2pm - All Star DE 3pm - Lessons/Weller 6:30pm - Gamblers	9am - Drive My Way 9am - Property Work Group 12pm - All Star DE 6pm - Council Meeting 7pm - Lautner SG @ the	9am - Drive My Way 12pm - All Star DE 3pm - Lessons/Weller 6pm - Steel Pan Rehearsal 6:45pm - Worship Team	9am - Baby Pantry-FH 9am - Drive My Way 12pm - All Star DE 1pm - Lehto SG	10am - AIAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 2:30pm - Front Street Jazz	5pm - Worship-S
8:30am - Worship Service 11am - Modern Worship - S 6pm - Grandparents	9am - Drive My Way 10am - AIAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 10am - Staff Meeting 3pm - Lessons/Weller 6:30pm - Gamblers	9am - Drive My Way 9am - Property Work Group 5:30pm - Book/Supper Club 6pm - Christian Ed Mtg.	9am - Drive My Way 1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite) 3pm - Lessons/Weller 6pm - Steel Pan Rehearsal 6:45pm - Worship Team	10am - AIAnon-B 10am - Alanon-LR3 2:30pm - Front Street Jazz	5pm - Worship-S	



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