

September 2022



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Pastor Paul Busekist
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880

Website: www.bethlehemtc.org

Email: bethlehem@bethlehemtc.org

Building Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9am to 2:30pm

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9am to 2:30pm

Worship Times:

Sunday: 10 am Modern Worship including Communion with service Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube

Sunday School/Adult Ed returns Sept 18th

Nursery open during worship service

Parking Lot Communion: 11:00 am

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 brothers and sisters at Bethlehem,

Perhaps I've got sabbath on my mind...Because Sunday is a work day for pastors, we joyfully attempt to find other times to rest from our labors. That is nothing new. Bethlehem has graciously voted to grant your pastor a sabbatical next summer, and for that I am truly grateful. By the time you read this STAR newsletter, BLC may also have found out whether we receive a Lilly Foundation grant for that time next summer. To say I am eager to hear is an understatement. ☺

But the practice of sabbath goes far beyond Sunday worship or sabbatical times for leaders. Sabbath practice is also a way of life. In a recent sermon I shared how a friend of mine offers the same two thoughts each night before bedtime: "Am I on the right path?" and "Jesus, show me the way."

In similar fashion, hopefully each of us takes time and space to (1) let our minds, bodies and spirits rest, (2) thank God for creating us, and (3) allow God to show us "how its done." I enjoy Paul's statement in Hebrews 4 so much because it does just that. God's rest at Creation models for us the need to cease from our work and live into the absolutely necessary break from our toils - to be present to our neighbor, friends/family, self and God.

I hope your summer provided you some sabbath, despite how busy it can be hosting company, finishing projects or attempting a vacation. Yes, there are lots of important things to do as we enter this fall together ("God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday on the 11th, the "Sunday Sundaes" Ice Cream Social and dedication of Sunday School Teachers on the 18th, and so on.)

But this year, I encourage us all to enter the fall – with a newness of heart, and a quest for God to help us envision something new together. Peace to you always, and God bless.

- Pastor Paul

A word from the president:

Autumn is almost upon us. We think of autumn as the summer reaching the end, the leaves will be beautiful, then fall from the trees. The air will be crisp, then cold. We will all start bundling up more. I really love the Fall, it reminds me of a child playing in the leaves and school starting. New clothes and new shoes to start the year.

I see the church calendar getting busier as Sunday School starts up, committees get going again. The Refresh Committee is starting on upgrades in our church. We have so many things to do and we could use as many hands as possible to get it all done.

Please keep the church in mind, if you have a few spare minutes we could use your time and your talents. Even if it's once a month, to be a greeter, help set up communion, or bring in some cookies for Cookies, Coffee and Conversation to helping with the building refresh and the Tuesday Morning group. Please remember the church is not only for us, it is us with the help of God. We keep the church going to spread the word of God.

May God Bless you and your day

Gail

Children's Message Corner

We will be taking a break from Children's Message Corner for the foreseeable future. If you would like to schedule a one on one with Annie instead, please reach out to her directly.

LAUNDRY BASKET PROJECT FOR 2022

We are collecting cleaning items to be given out during the Baby Pantry here at Bethlehem. There is an example basket in the Narthex along with a list of items needed. You may fill an entire basket OR bring single items if you prefer. This is a year-long project. Thank you for your participation!

Monthly STAR

Thanks to all of you who have said that you will read the STAR on line or pick it up at church. Those of you who come to church, be thinking if there is any member close in your neighborhood that you could deliver their copy to them. If you have recently decided to read on line or pick-up at church please call the office and let them know.

Adult Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, September 21st from 9:00am-11:00am. It is a casual discussion of the Gospel of Mark. Bring your bibles and come, share, learn and grow with us.

The Wednesday Zoom Bible Study will begin on September 14th from 1:30pm—3:00pm. We will discuss the Book of Revelations from the Book of Faith. If you are interested, please contact either Pr Paul or Barbara Oster.

Christian Education committee is seeking discussion leaders for adult education on Sundays from 9:15am-9:45am, starting on September 18th. Discussion will be about the Lessons/Gospel for the day. If interested, please call Barb Graf 946-5120.

Sunday “Sundae”: Join us on Sept, 18 after the service for the 2nd annual Sunday Sundae. We will all have “dessert first” as we celebrate the installation of all council members and Christian Ed staff. Please consider bringing an item for the food pantry to “pay” for your treat.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

“ART & CRAFT SHOW”

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022

9:00a.m. – 3:00p.m.

1050 Peninsula Dr.,

Traverse City, Mi. 49686

Featuring 50 local & original
handcrafted artists and crafters

“Many Hands make work light.”

Please sign up in the Narthax hallway to volunteer for the largest church fund raiser of the year. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Again, there will be a Craft Raffle to support the Grand Traverse Baby Pantry. In 2022, we are adding a Silent Auction with gifts donated from the crafters. Our Christian Education Team will have baked goods tables with items for sale. Please help with a baked good donation. Per the BLC Council, appropriate COVID protocol will be followed.

Thank you.

ABRIDGED WITH ANNIE:

A SUMMARY OF YOUTH EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER...

Hi all! We're back to school and back to our typical programming! Check it out below.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER HAPPENINGS ...



Sunday, September 11th	Kick Off Confirmation Intro Class (directly after God's Work Our Hands project)
Sunday, September 18th	Intergenerational Event: Service Project with AuSable after Ice Cream Social Event (starting at 12:30PM – more details to come!)
Sunday, October 2nd	Confirmation Class (starting at 1:00PM)
Friday, October 14th – Saturday, October 15th	Confirmation Retreat (more details to come soon!)
Sunday, October 16th	Intergenerational Event: Bowling & Pizza at Lucky Jack's (starting at 12:30PM)

On another note, don't forget that CHARGE was rescheduled for Saturday, November 4th – Sunday, November 6th here in TC at the Great Wolf Lodge! If you're already signed up you don't have to do anything more but if you have a youth who is still interested let me know! We are also looking for an adult male chaperone to be with the boys at night so please reach out to me if you are interested.

Be sure to mark your calendars for all these fun events!
Reach out to me annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org for more information!

Cheerfully in Christ,

Annie Slabaugh

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

Christian Education News September 2022



Christian Education wishes abundant blessings for all our students and families as we start school again!
We pray for health, safety, peace, and joy to you!



train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6



Sunday School begins September 18th at 9:15am!!!
We need volunteers – any amount of time from once monthly to every week – please join us!

Back To School Week of Prayer	
Monday	Students
Tuesday	Educators & Staff
Wednesday	Parents & Guardians
Thursday	Safety at School & Home
Friday	Technology that Works Well
Saturday	For Smooth Transitions
Sunday	For Peace and Hope

Due Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screen Announcements:

- **STAR:** The third Friday of the month sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Please note STAR in subject line)
- **Bulletin/Verbal Announcements:** Tuesday of the week sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Bulletin/Worship Folder is prepared on Wednesday and printed on Thursday morning.) (Please note Bulletin or Announcement in subject line)
- **Screen Announcements/Weekly BLC Emails:** Tuesday of the week sent to annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org (Annie works Sunday – Wednesday)
- =====

As you may have noticed, the Council minutes are not included in the STAR. You will be able to access the minutes from the BLC website as follows: bethlehemtc.org/council-minutes Or, you may call the office to request a copy.

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Book Club:

The BLC book club's Sept meeting is on the 27th at 5:30 via ZOOM. The book, Isadore's Secret, a local mystery by Mardi Jo Link, will be available in the Book Club box outside of the church. If you are not on the email list and want to be involved send your information to cmonroe@chartermi.net.

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24 hr food pantry:

Remember to take advantage of BOGO offerings and bring your extras of staple foods for our outdoor food pantry. Those who are hungry will be appreciative. There is a teal bin below the table by the mailboxes for placing your goodies.

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Choir News:

IT'S BACK!! Come add some music into your life. The adult choir will resume rehearsals 2-3 Thursdays per month at 7:00 on Sept 8. Return to a favorite pastime or start a new one. Plan to come to the first rehearsal or contact Tony Bero at bero.tony@gmail.com or 942-1162.

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Name tags:

Your name tags are back in your mailboxes. Please walk a little farther and retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it.

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A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts. We received a check from Olesons for \$187.74. So far this year we have received a total of \$464.62 just for people turning in their Olesons' receipts. Please continue to drop your Olesons' receipts off at church.

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XYZ (Xtra Years of Zest) Organizational Potluck will be held on Thursday, September 15th at 12 Noon. We have not met since before COVID so we need to plan so we would like to get together to discuss plans for this year. Please bring a potluck selection for lunch (i.e. meats, sides, dessert). Any questions, please contact Barbara Oster. Hope to see you there.

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Hoop's Pet Food Pantry: This is the only pet food pantry in NW lower Michigan. They primarily provide dry food, wet food, treats, cat litter and toys for mostly dogs and cats but they will support any type of pet to the best of their ability. Please visit them at the Square Deal Country Store, 900 Woodmere Ave, TC from 1100am – 2:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month with your donations. They accept in-kind donations of pet food, cat litter & treats. Clean, gently used pet items are also accepted. While there check out their "animal art"!

Last month we gathered with Jesus' faithful friends and followers during His final days on earth. We had a great time with a HUGE turnout - averaging 27 kids each day! It was also great getting to know members from our VBS Partner Church, Christ Church! A special thank you to the following people who made it happen...(in alphabetical order by last name)

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Chris Ardingo | Norm Fred | Barbara Oster |
| Chuck Ardingo | Gail Goldsmith | Nixon Pierce |
| Rico Bastain | Katie Goodkenecht | Betty Ponder |
| Phil Bossardet | Eli Goodwin | Susan Roskelley |
| Lauren Brennan | Barb Graf | Annie Slabaugh |
| Pastor Paul Busekist | Leonard Graf | Mary Ann Tanis |
| Zeke Clemons | Valerie Hanson | Rose Taylor |
| Betty Cole | Kathi Ivany-Mort | Paul Ton |
| Tina Dohm | Corbin Johnson | Dana Tuller |
| Makena Dohm | Stephen Kramer | Renae Wells |
| Margaret Eley | Kayleigh Kuehling | Barb Wentzloff |
| Kegan Fernow | The Lewllens | Dale Wentzloff |
| Nathan Fernow | Joe Muha | Jessie Williams |

We couldn't have done it without any of you!



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FINANCIAL NEWS

July income was \$27,998 compared to budgeted income of \$29,454 or a shortfall of \$1,456. Expenses were \$35,368 compared to budget of \$31,995 resulted in spending \$3,373 more than budgeted. On a cash basis expenses exceeded income by \$7,370.

Through July, income was \$202,337 compared to budgeted income of \$210,565 for a shortfall of \$8,228. Expenses were \$218,744 compared to budget of \$216,299 resulted in spending \$2,445 more than budgeted. On a cash basis expenses have exceeded income by \$16,407.



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

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

Facts About the ELCA You May Not Know . . .

- The ELCA Churchwide Assembly met in Columbus, Ohio, August 8-12 to determine and affirm plans and programs for the next triennium (2023-2025).
- **240 missionaries serve in 40 countries around the world.**
- There are 37 languages spoken in ELCA congregations across the United States.
- A new ELCA staff person, Vance Blackfox of the Cherokee Nation serves as Director of Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations. He will be building relationships with tribes and tribal leaders while partnering with and supporting the Indigenous and Native ministries that have existed and been working in Indian Country for many years.
- The ELCA is affiliated with 20 Lutheran colleges and 7 seminaries.
- Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton serves as regional vice president of the Lutheran World Federation for the Lutheran Communion in North America.
- Mr. Imran Siddiqui was elected vice president of the ELCA. He is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Atlanta and has served as vice president of the Southeastern Synod since 2018. He grew up Muslim and became a Lutheran in 2011.



WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - SEPTEMBER, 2022

SYNOD RETREAT! "Such a time as this" - Saturday, September 24th in Big Rapids -

9:30-4pm - Bible study, lunch, worship service & fellowship Cost \$ 10

- car pooling available -

RSVP Ann Rundhaug 231-938-1607 prund@freeway.net

LAUNDRY BASKET UPDATE: This project is still ongoing. We are in need of all cleaning items. You may leave them in the Narthex.

SEPTEMBER BIBLE STUDIES: Bible Study taken from *Gather* magazine.

Rebecca/Anna Circle: Thursday, September 8th - 1PM at church

Sarah Circle: Tuesday, September 13th - Noon at church

Contact Nancy Ammann for further information 946-8433

Health Concerns*



The Power of Prayer

*Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Tom & Lee Miller,
Margie Whitney, Ellie Tacke, Rose Taylor,
Julie LaPeer, Dirk, Alvin Kober,
Lynn Hoyt, Tom Woodworth,
Jan Waisanen, Molly Eastman, John Stretlien,
Russ Luttinen, Sherry, Leroy Schlagel,
Roy & Marilyn Dumond, Sean Rivard,
Brenda Denoyer and the Denoyer Family,
Patti McCracken, Sharon Vanmeter,
Margaret Hutchinson, Carol Collins,
Patience Lambert, Chuck Wolterink*

Grand Traverse Pavilions: Margie Whitney

Boardman Lake Glens: Inge Thomas

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.

Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain:** Please contact Jan Stretlien at jstretlien@gmail.com or 231-947-3265
 - Prayers read from the altar:** Please call the Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880
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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...

Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes?

Type this address/url into your web browser to get the latest approved minutes from Council:

bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes

BLC Contacts

PLEASE NOTE SEVERAL ADDRESS UPDATES

Church Office

Pastor Paul Busekist	paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org
Admin. Asst.	admin@bethlehemtc.org
Admin. Aide Barbara Oster	admin@bethlehemtc.org
Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson	bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org
Tony Bero, Music Director	bero.tony@gmail.com
Annie Slabaugh, Youth & Outreach Director	annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org
Website	www.bethlehemtc.org

Church Council

Gail Goldsmith, President	president.council@bethlehemtc.org
Maureen Bauer, Vice President	vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jana Rockne, Secretary	secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
Leonard Graf, Treasurer	treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jim Monroe, Financial Sec.	financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jim Hinds, Christian Care Giving	christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Paul Wiemerslage, Christian Ed.	christianeducation.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Laura Hahn, Fellowship	fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Cindy Monroe, Membership/Evangelism	membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Chuck Ardingo, (not on Council), Property	property.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Maureen Bauer, Personnel	personnel.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Scott Farley, Stewardship	stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Denice Bossardet, Worship and Music	worshipmusic.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Paul Wiemerslage, Youth/Y2A	youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Pastor Paul Busekist	paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org

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



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 ASSOCIATE BROKER
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scott@themittengroup.com

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
10am - Worship Service(S) 11am - Parking Lot Communion 11:15am - Worship and Music	Church Office Closed Happy Labor Day	BULLETIN articles due today 9am - LWR Quilters(FH) 9am - Property Work Group 10am - Staff Meeting(CR) 6:30pm - Christian Ed Mtg. (GS)	11:30am - Music Rehearsal	5:30pm - ACOA 9am - Baby Pantry 1pm - Rebecca Anna Circle - FH 5:30pm - ACOA 7pm - Choir Rehearsal	6pm - Faith & Family -FH	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
God's Work Our Hands Sunday 10am - Traditional Worship 11am - Parking Lot Communion 11:15am - Service Day	9pm - Finance Cmte.(CR)	BULLETIN articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 10am - Staff Meeting(CR) 12pm - Sarah Circle - FH 1pm - Friendship Bible Study 4:30pm - Executive Cmte.(CR) 6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting	11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1:30pm - oom Bible Study	12pm - XYZ Potluck 5:30pm - ACOA 7pm - Holden Evening Prayer	STAR articles due today 10am - Sew Pieced	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10am - Recognition of Church 10am - Worship Service(S) 11am - Parking Lot Communion 11:15am - Ice Cream Social 12:30pm - All Youth Event: Au		BULLETIN articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 10am - Staff Meeting(CR) 6pm - Council Meeting 7pm - Laudner SG @ at the home	9am - Adult Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1:30pm - oom Bible Study	5:30pm - ACOA		NW Lower MIWELCA Synod Min
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10am - Worship Service(S) 11am - Parking Lot Communion		BULLETIN articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 10am - Staff Meeting(CR) 5:30pm - Book/Supper Club (O) 6:30pm - Newcomers	9am - Adult Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite) 1:30pm - oom Bible Study	5:30pm - ACOA		
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
10am - Worship Service(S) 11am - Parking Lot Communion		BULLETIN articles due today 9am - Property Work Group 10am - Staff Meeting(CR) 5:30pm - Book/Supper Club (O) 6:30pm - Newcomers	9am - Adult Bible Study 11:30am - Music Rehearsal 1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite) 1:30pm - oom Bible Study	5:30pm - ACOA		

BLC MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

We're Making A Difference!

During 2021, the BLC Mission Endowment Fund Committee has worked hard to follow its mission of funding projects on a local and global level. Using only profits on our investments, more than **\$18,000** was disbursed to many organizations in support of our mission, including:

Love Thy Neighbor

Safe Harbor

Lutheran Immigrant & Refugee Services

ELCA World Hunger

ELCA Disaster Relief

Meals on Wheels

Father Fred Foundation

Boardman River Clean Sweep

NW Michigan Supportive Housing

Keys to Freedom

Habitat for Humanity

Generations Ahead

Food Rescue of NW Michigan

Womens Resource Center

Salvation Army

GT Conservation District

Freedom Builders

In comparison, 5 years ago we granted out about \$6000. Our Vanguard funds are serving us well and continue to grow! PLEASE consider recognizing the **BLC Mission Endowment Fund** in your personal **Estate Plans or Year-End Giving!**

If you would like to serve on this incredible committee, or have further questions about giving, please contact any of the current members:

Jim Hutchison

Norm Fred

Barb Wright

Patti Friedli

Chuck Ardingo

