

# OCTOBER 2019



Bethlehem  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880



**“Nourish the Vision”**

Stewardship STAR – Part 1 of 2  
(Part 2 will be in November)

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.”*



**"I am the bread of life."**  
– Jesus, in John 6:35b



## **"Nourish the Vision"**

*Stewardship STAR – Part 1 of 2  
(Part 2 will be in November)*

Friends, it's that time of year again! This is the time when we put on our "stewardship shoes" and talk about our time, talents and treasure. But I would like to suggest that **this year is unique, for two reasons**: For one, as you can see in Chuck's bold and challenging message, 2020 will involve a financial pinch for all of us. At the same time, we are embarking on a new vision together. Keeping in mind and heart the TRUE bread of life (Christ), this year we hope to approach our 2020 Stewardship Campaign with the theme of **nourishment**: for God's vision and mission, with our efforts, in these **three unique aspects**:

*(Stay tuned for the November STAR's revisiting of our stewardship and vision focus!)*

### **"Nourishing" Week One, Oct. 12/13:**

#### **"Developing the Plan" (leaders!)**

This first week we will focus on the need to seek 3 to 5 new volunteers to help us realize our financial goals in 2020:

- **A legacy giving point person** (for families proactively exploring how to honor a loved one's legacy at Bethlehem)
- **One or two grant writers** (helping Bethlehem seek and apply for larger outside grants or smaller, Thrivent-type grants, for specialized ministry in 2020)
- **Possible BLC ambassadors in synod's "Revive" visioning program** (or another such program TBD), working alongside the Bethlehem Visions committee in the months and years ahead

### **"Nourishing" Week Two, Oct. 19/20:**

#### **"Shepherding the Flock" (narrative!)**

Week 2 will focus on the need to share our thoughts, dreams and vision into the near future, keeping our eyes and ears open:

- **Shoring up the needs of today** (balancing our budget, reaching out to members and guests in new ways)
- **Keeping our dreams of new staffing alive** (will we gather momentum on seeking an additional pastor, intern or other scenario in the next 1-2 years? Is there a different staffing or ministry configuration that excites us more?)

*Much peace, and be well, friends!  
-Pr. Paul*

### **"Nourishing" Week Three, Oct. 26/27: "Tending the Soil" (special focus areas!)**

The third and final week we focus on the pinpointing one or two specialized areas, *perhaps* not able to be included in the budget, for Bethlehem to increase or at least maintain its ministry. If specialized giving, this could be for folks who would like to give to areas that are unsustainable otherwise, as we make hard budgetary choices in 2020. This may include:

- **Re-examining the way we provide things like Advent and Lent programming and our 3 distinct weekly worship services** at BLC and how we might continue those unique avenues of evangelism to the larger community, balancing our staff's energy and church resources
- **Supporting our building and grounds** through challenging innovations or raising money (perhaps "on the side" ) to help replenish our Asset Replacement fund and/or help provide routine or specialized upkeep and maintenance in ways we could not otherwise afford



## **“Nourish the Vision”**

Stewardship STAR – Part 1 of 2  
(Part 2 will be in November)

### **Moving Forward / Hard Choices**

Greetings to All,

I want to start off this month with taking a moment to revisit Rally Sunday on September 8th. Sometimes when multiple events happen we do not give enough thanks to those who work so hard to make BLC the special place that it is. Rally Sunday was the beginning of a new Sunday School year for our kids. Our Christian Education program and its leaders, teachers and volunteers do an outstanding job of developing and providing our kids with a strong Christian foundation. The program not only provides education but also teaches outreach in our Community. This year our Kids went to Bryant Park, across the street from our church, to participate in a clean up. The event was intended as an outreach and help our kids understand that we can do things in our community to make it better for everyone. Thank you Kids, leaders, teachers and volunteers for doing a great job!

The Visions Committee also launched its program on September 8th. Visiting Pastor Adam helped to kick off the project by visiting BLC and assisted with the weekend Services.

Our Visions Committee has a large challenge moving forward. The Committee has embarked on a project that has never been done before at BLC. They are growing and developing a program from scratch. As with any program that does not have any prior guidelines, the Committee is trying to develop a commonality that will provide our Church with a path forward to our future. As the Committee moves forward they will be trying new ideas, some will be successful, others ideas may not, its part of the process. I encourage everyone to realize that finding a Vision will take time and to allow the Committee to work through its process.

One other thing that I will comment on is the recent survey. The Visions Committee, in trying to gather some information from the Congregation, created a survey to find a starting point. In that survey, strong opinions, positive and negative were expressed and that is fine. What does not add any value is some of the **disrespectful** comments provided. The Visions Committee understood that not all surveys are perfect, but some of the mean spirited comments that were made have no place in finding a positive Vision forward for BLC.

Moving on, this is the time of year when we work through our Budget for the coming year. At the time of writing this article we are showing a deficit in the 20K range for 2020. As I have shared with you last month, we will most likely need to make some hard choices moving forward. Council got its first look at the 2020 budget at the last Council meeting and will now begin to determine a financial plan for 2020. It is entirely possible that there may be some discomfort in next year's plan. The Finance Committee has provided a financial forecast for the short term and has noted that if we continue to deficit spend, within the next two years we may... *(please turn the page...)*

have difficulty making expenses. Please keep in mind this is a snapshot of where we are at today and things can change.

I know all of us on Church Council will make every effort to be responsible stewards of the resources we have available, but the final decision on whatever plan is put forward will be up to the Congregation. There is more work to be done during October. Please stay informed, read the Council minutes, ask questions and provide comments to those on Council. Your input really does help.

As a final thought, sometimes when I discuss some of the events at BLC it can sound discouraging. Don't be discouraged. Let us take pride in the fact that we are a church with a **lot of great people** who go out of there way to make good things happen everyday! Our BLC Community provides positive outreach programs, events, and activities going on almost everyday. We are a strong Community and working together we will get even stronger.

Chuck

---

## Welcome to Our New Bethlehem Members



Mike and Anne Rivard



(L-R) Jana Rockne, Courtney Worden,  
Katie Fox, Pr Paul



## ***“Nourish the Vision”***

*Stewardship STAR – Part 1 of 2  
(Part 2 will be in November)*

### **Bethlehem Visions Committee October 2019**

It takes humility to seek feedback. It takes wisdom to understand it, analyze it, and appropriately act on it. - Steven Covey

In May of this year, Pastor Paul talked about “Forks in the Road”. He touched on Fork One, staffing for Bethlehem and Fork Two, casting a new vision for the church. The survey was originally designed to determine the level of congregational and financial support for new staffing and the understanding of the term, “Teaching Congregation”. It was later expanded to include questions about programming (What We are Doing Well and Not So Well) and new ministry areas the congregation thinks we should develop. We received 94 surveys from the congregation out of a potential population of about 250.

The following is a partial summary of the survey findings from both the on-line and written versions.

#### Ranking of the Top Three Current Programs or Activities

Christian Education

Youth Programming

New Member Recruitment and Retention

#### Interest in an Intern at BLC

5.8 out of a possible 10

#### Interest in a Part-Time, Semi-Retired Pastor

6.3 out of a possible 10

#### Comfortable with the term “Teaching Congregation” concept

Yes – 41%

Not sure or some other type of negative answer – 59%

More results and analysis will be shared with you in the November Star. You can obtain a complete copy of the survey results by requesting one from the church office. You can also request a conference with a member of the Bethlehem Visions Committee if you wish.

Please make your request to Phil Anderson.

I want to thank each of you who took the time to respond to our survey. Your comments and insights will be most helpful in mapping our way forward.

Phil Anderson

Chair, Bethlehem Visions Committee

# ABRIDGED WITH ANNIE: A SUMMARY OF YOUTH EVENTS FOR OCTOBER...

Hello, Friends! I hope that everyone is settling into their fall schedules and enjoying the season! I for one am loving the crisp air and colors that surround our amazing community during this time. It's always a reminder to me what an awesome God we have and how much He loves us that He blesses us with this beauty.

## OCTOBER HAPPENINGS ...



**The Arts and Crafts Show** is on **Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup>** be sure to stop by the bake sale! Our friends from the Christian Education Committee will be there with tasty treats!

**High School Night** continues for our high school youth. This month we will be meeting with the Grand Traverse Astronomy Club up in Leelanau County to admire the stars! This will be on **Friday October 18<sup>th</sup>**! Meeting location is still up in the air so keep an eye out for more information from me!

**BLUES** will be meeting here at Bethlehem on **Friday October 25<sup>th</sup>** for a spook-tacular time! Come dressed in your Halloween costumes and paint pumpkins, enjoy fun treats and play fun games!

**Confirmation Class** will be held this month on **Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>** here at Bethlehem and also on **Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup>** at Feast of Victory Lutheran Church. I'm looking forward to working with our confirmation students further and watching their knowledge grow!

**Youth in Action** continues! The youth in our congregation have so many different skills and talents that they want to share! Keep your eyes out for the next Youth and Action email at the end of this month!

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

As we go about our daily routines this October I ask that you continue to keep our youth in your prayers as they go about their school year—whether it be extracurricular activities, midterm related testing or just in their everyday lives! This time in their lives is busy, but so short and they deserve to enjoy it to the fullest.

*"For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy." (Psalm 92:4)*

Cheerfully in Christ,

# Annie Slabaugh

Director of Youth and Outreach  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Traverse City

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

Minutes from the Church Council Meeting of August 20, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: Churck Ardingo, President, at 6:01 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Cindy Monroe: Isaiah 41 Verse 10. "Do not Fear I am With You".

ROLL CALL: Tim Fox, Secretary: In attendance, Pastor Paul Busekist, Phil Anderson, Jan Stretlien, Nancy Downer, Cindy Monroe, Leonard Graf, Mark McPherson, Chuck Ardingo, Jim Monroe, Katie Fox, Paul Wiemerslage and Tim Fox

VISITOR/S OR CONGREGATIONAL COMMENT: None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: A motion to approve the agenda for the 8/20/2019 meeting was made by Mark McPherson and seconded by Cindy Monroe. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE July 16, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING: Motion to approve the minutes by Leonard Graf, seconded by Jan Stretlien. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chuck Ardingo, President: 1) 2019 Budget completed by end of October. 2) Deficit spending is an issue and we have difficult choice going forward.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Paul Busekist: 1) Verbal report for this meeting but goal is for a written report. 2) Pastor spoke on the January email asking, what are you involved in? 3) Pastor mentioned he will send an email on the Survey and to be sure that you fill out a survey, 100 surveys completed is the goal. BLC needs the surveys to know what you want of BLC. Cindy Monroe mentioned the first question of setting rankings for programs of BLC. Cindy also mentioned that having a computer available on Sunday for members to use to complete the survey. Mark McPherson suggested having the youth of BLC to help input the paper surveys into Survey Monkey. 4) Pastor spoke of his continuing education in Arizona that it will be the 3rd week of November 16th-22nd. 5) There was discussion of Pastor Adam coming to BLC on Friday, 9/6 and 6:00 P.M. until 7:30 P.M., with a working dinner. 9/8 after the late service there will be a Congregational forum with a lunch from 12:30 – 2:00 sharp. 6) As of this meeting we have only 50 surveys submitted by the congregation, which is a concern with a membership of 300 plus. Pastor mentioned that he hopes that the Holy Spirit can work in us to provide more excitement. Chuck Ardingo then went around the table as asked the Council Members what they are excited about regarding the survey results and vision. 7) Pastor asked, how can we innovate and cover all bases on the Saturday service. Meredith, Pastor's wife, now works Fridays, so no family day. Saturday may have to be that "family day". This would be selfcare for Pastor. Cindy asked could the Saturday service move to another day of the week.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Katie Fox: 1) Prior to the meeting Katie submitted to full Council her July income, expense, YTD income, YTD expense and attendance reports. 1) Attendance was down 6 average year to date as of the August meeting. 2) July was budgeted to have a surplus of \$1,752. The actual deficit was \$1,012. This was a decrease of \$2,764 against budget. The bottom line in July was challenged by lower than expected contributions, unexpected repairs and personnel expenses. 3) YTD we budgeted to have a surplus of \$4,561 as of the end of July. We ended July with a surplus of \$3,475 which means we are \$1,086

behind where we budgeted to be at this time. Contributions being under budget and unexpected expenses continue to challenge the bottom line. 4) Leonard Graf asked if we can change the Gross Profit Account title to Gross Income, as we are a non-profit. Katie to research. 5) Budget numbers can be given to Katie either in hard copy or electronically. 6) The Budget Worksheets given to chairpersons show first 7 months of actual numbers and the remaining 5 months as budget numbers. 7) Asset Replacement is being funded by the Memorial Funds. 8) Katie asked that the first draft of budget be submitted by Monday, 9/9, at the start of business. A full first draft will be discussed at the September Council Meeting. 9) The modification of numbers by 9/30, regarding budget. 10) Final budget Classification: Internal Use due 10/08. The goal is to vote 10/15 at Council. Dave Pepler, finance committee chairperson, spoke on the theory and reasoning of the above schedule for completing the 2019 Budget. 11) Dave said we don't want it as messy as last year. 11) Each chairperson is responsible for their committee budget. 12) Phil Anderson asked about administrative budget, Dave stated he will work on it with Katie. 13) It was mentioned that Nancy Ammann is the Christian Education chairperson and hopefully will handle budget numbers. 14) Pastor asked during the budget process not to forget Stewardship Campaign, Vision Campaign and alternative revenue streams. 15) Phil Anderson to provide budget numbers should there be an Intern Pastor. 15) Regarding the rental property, Chuck Ardingo mentioned that the property will stay with BLC as we need the \$11,000 in income. Selling the property is off the table. We need look at the repair needs and we are talking to contractors regarding repair costs.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Reports asked to be removed from the Consent Calendar were as follows: Membership and Evangelism, to be discussed in New Business and Stewardship. Leonard Graf motioned to remove and seconded by Tim Fox. Motion carried. Stewardship: Mark McPherson stated that there would be a Stewardship meeting on 8/28 at 3:00 and he invited any of Council that would like to attend. He will also be emailing Barb Wright regarding the meeting and upcoming Jubilee service.

## OLD BUSINESS

A. REIMAGINING COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE: Chuck Ardingo: 1) Chuck stated possibly 11 Council members not connected to a committee by June of 2020. Leonard Graf suggested we make the change at the winter Congregational meeting. It would be a By-Law change. Cindy Monroe voiced her concern with no Council member tied to a committee. 2) Chuck stated his concern that there are not enough people to work/volunteer for Advent and Lenten meals and no mentoring program. Mark McPherson agreed with Chuck, stating for himself being on Council he can do it, but being the chair of Stewardship, he cannot. Chuck stated the big challenge is recruiting people. Pastor Paul stated that some Churches have moved committees into teams that meet four times a year. Paul Wiemerslage asked how do we make BLC vibrant. Paul mentioned having Sunday School at the same time of a service may bring in members and fit current members better. Cindy Monroe mentioned that BLC used to have Sunday School during service. There was mention of cutting the Saturday service and having 2 Sunday services. Pastor mentioned that there was a great amount of time used by the youth director for youth summer camp and there were only 2 youths from BLC attending. Chuck reiterated that we may not have Advent and Lenten meals without staff for the meals. Cindy Monroe suggest having small group handle various meals. Mark McPherson suggested we look at the survey results, then look at size of Council, Teams and Groups. Pastor spoke of a raising new leaders event/retreat. Paul Wiemerslage mentioned a goal of new members, new leaders and to be involved outside of our Church to get the word out about BLC. Mark McPherson then mentioned partnering with another Church for Saturday service. Chuck Ardingo stated that the above mentioned are great food for thought over the next month.

B. MARRIAGE POLICY: Chuck Ardingo: 1) Small venue beer and wine, host family has the liability. 2) Small venue not to exceed 75 people. 3) Chuck to write a policy for Council approval.

C. POLICY ON GUNS AND POLITICS: Chuck Ardingo: 1) Solicitation only on sidewalk by street is acceptable regarding anything outside of BLC information. 2) Chuck is looking to put together an Active Shooter Committee, then write a policy for Council approval.

## NEW BUSINESS

A. BUDGET OF 2020: Previously discussed.

B. 3<sup>rd</sup> CHARITY SELECTION: The Salvation Army was selected as the charity. Motioned by Nancy Downer. Seconded by Tim Fox. Motion carried. Classification: Internal Use

C. VISION'S UPDATE: Phil Anderson: 1) Phil mentioned that the Visions Committee has been hard at work with Pastor Paul on the groundwork for our vision of BLC in the next three to five years. 2) The Visions Committee has been having FaceTime conference calls with Pastor Adam as we prepare for his visit in September. 3) Surveys to be completed and due no later than August 25th. The committee will meet August 27th to compile and analyze the results. A written report will be shared with Pastor Adam and the congregation as soon as possible.

D. Membership and Evangelism: Cindy Monroe: 1) Cindy spoke regarding Church Trac and showing who was using Church Trac and the date. Also, that that staff person enter in staff notes who and when they were in Church Trac. 2) Cindy motioned and submitted to Council to remove from active membership Bernie/Helen Lutz, Russ/Sally Miller, Rita Kucera and Bob/Jackie Epps. Seconded by Chuck Ardingo. Motion carried.

E. ELCA RESOLUTION ON SOCIAL STATEMENT: Pastor Paul: 1) Pastor spoke regarding looking out for the forgotten. ELCA being a sanctuary denomination, trying to help people. Phil Anderson mentioned that it is a resolution and non-binding. Pastor Paul mentioned it is up to each congregation to decide.

VISITOR OR CONGREGATIONAL COMMENT: None

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

LORD'S PRAYER: The Lord's Prayer was said by all.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn by Cindy Monroe, seconded by Leonard Graf. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 P.M,

Respectfully submitted by:  
Tim Fox, Council Secretary

# **WELCOME TO OUR NEW PAGE**

## **HONORING GOD'S CREATION**



A big thank you to the Men's Group and everyone else who has "honored God,s Creation" by making the Church grounds beautiful.

**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

# Christian Education News

## October 2019

### BAKE SALE



#### **DONATIONS NEEDED!!!**

Saturday, October 12, during BLC Craft Fair:

- Cookies, cupcakes, brownies, fudge, pies, etc.  
– ALL treats are welcome ☺
  - Please wrap items (for sanitary purposes)
  - Package in small quantities (6 or less per pkg.)
- Call Nancy Ammann 946-8433 for more details.

Christian Ed. is looking for musicians to accompany our Sunday School opening songs. We love piano music, but guitar, ukulele, or other instruments are also welcome!

This short commitment is approximately a 15-30" slot typically twice per month with very simple songs. Please prayerfully consider this service ministry for our children.

Call Nancy Ammann 946-8433 for more details.



Sunday School opening runs from 9:45-10:00am

every Sunday morning before the children are dismissed to their classes.

Please join us for an introduction to the day's lesson, songs, birthday celebrations, offering, and special prayers!

Our 2019 Sunday School Rally Day was a HUGE success!

We had a great Opening with fantastic music and a Backpack Blessing, we cleaned Bryant Park and the beach, we had snacks, and we made get-well cards and crafts! Thanks to all who helped or participated to make it so successful for us!





**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, October 15 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, OCTOBER 9**

**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

## **Council Secretary's Comments Regarding The September Council Meeting**

I know you will see the September Council Minutes after they are approved by Council at the October meeting, but, I still want to give you my thoughts regarding a couple of subjects at the September meeting.

First, Sarah Denton, our Nursery Coordinator during services, attended our Council meeting and addressed the Council during the Visitor/Congregational Comments portion of the agenda. Sarah has a passion for all children to have a safe and healthy childhood. That being said, she asked Council to approve the Children's Advocacy Center's use of our fellowship hall for a training class that would be available to both members and non-members of the community. The class would take place in the spring of 2020 and have 35-40 participants and last for approximately 2 hours. Council approved of the use for Children's Advocacy Center and at no charge.

Second, Chuck Ardingo, our President of Council, mentioned that the Funeral Group has added a couple of volunteers, which is great news, as we are in great need of volunteers.

Lastly, we, your Council, are working hard on the 2020 Budget, reviewing avenues of additional income for 2020 and expense cuts for 2020. I will keep you posted on the Budget process as we move forward.

As always, thank you for all you do for Bethlehem!

Tim Fox, Council Secretary

---

### **August & YTD 2019 Financial Results:**

August income of \$23,608 was \$1,741 under budgeted income of \$25,349.

August expense of \$36,748 was \$1,848 under budgeted expense of \$38,596.

August was budgeted to have a deficit of \$13,247. The month was almost right on budget with an actual deficit of \$13,140. The bottom line in August was challenged by lower than expected contributions, maintenance, and repairs.

YTD income of \$251,580 was \$1,268 above budgeted income of \$250,312.

YTD expense of \$261,227 was \$2,229 over budgeted expense of \$258,998.

YTD we budgeted to have a deficit of \$8,686 as of the end of August. We ended August with a deficit of \$9,650 which means we are \$964 behind where we budgeted to be at this point in time. Contributions under budget YTD and large unexpected expenses continue to challenge the bottom line, but some ground was made up in August due to lower than expected expenses for the month.

To net this out, after the first eight months of the year we have deficit cash flow of \$9,650. Our budget over the remaining four months shows a surplus cash flow of \$1,478. Said another way, we will have a deficit of \$8,171 at year end compared to the \$7,208 deficit that was originally projected. This of course assumes our giving stabilizes and non-operating income levels remain strong along with no additional large unexpected expenses.

# WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM



## OCTOBER 2019

### HOW IS BEING A CHRISTIAN LIKE BEING A PUMPKIN?

God picks you from the patch. He brings you in from the field and washes all the dirt off of you. He scoops out all the yucky stuff from inside you. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, fear and greed and replaces them with seeds of faith, hope and love. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see!



### UPSOMING EVENTS:

**THANK OFFERING WEEKEND - NOVEMBER 9/10 - Women of Bethlehem** will be handling most of all three services. There will be a free-will offering taken. Keep an eye out for Thank Offering Jars!

### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - DECEMBER 7th

More information coming soon



**BIBLE STUDY: Session Two from the Gather Magazine:** "No Hard Feelings? - The Ache of Grief". In the midst of grief, the language of lament can be an expression of our faith. If you are interested in joining us for this study, please contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433



**I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers!**

--Anne of Green Gables

**Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.**

--Albert Camus



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.

Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, Nov 10** between the Sunday services. The membership/evangelism committee is hosting **an intergenerational mini-evangelism event** that should be easy and fun for all. Everyone is invited to attend the opening of the Kids' Sunday School in the fellowship hall at 9:45. At 10 we will divide around tables to prepare the small gifts that each one of us can give to someone who provides us service, and also invite them to "Come to Bethlehem" during the Christmas season. It's the perfect way to thank someone during the Thanksgiving season and extend a welcome to others in our community. We hope you can join us.

#### **Finger-Food Fellowship!**

Finger Food Fellowship is back...but only if you are generous with your time, talent, or \$\$\$\$\$. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for groups or individuals to sign up for treats after each of the Sunday services. As long as it only needs a napkin, you can bring it to share. Please be kind to your fellow church members.



## **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



## Grand Traverse Area Church Women United

Thursday - November 7, 2019  
11 am - 1 pm



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
1050 Peninsula Dr. Traverse City

Colossians 3:12-14

Robert "Bob" Dominic & Molly Tate of Greensky Hill Indian UM Church of Charlevoix, & Cheryl Dinger of Northport Indian Missions UM Church will share their love with Creator's message in a presentation: **"Christ In Culture & Culture in Christ"** with history on the local Native American Odawa peoples of the Harbor Springs area.

Bob is Odawa Indian, retired as a 40-year Chemistry Professor, and the son of renowned Ottawa Rights activists Robert and Waunetta Dominic who founded the Northern Michigan Ottawa Association in 1948. Molly is retired from social work, and was Chairperson of the West Michigan UMC: Prison Ministry & Restorative Justice; she also sings and plays native drum with "Drum Voices" at Greensky Hill.



Cheryl has a passion for Native American culture and considers herself a "white turtle": **W**alk **H**istorical **I**ndian **T**ruth **E**ducation on Turtle Island as a Christian call to serve; she will share her Jesus heart with Native-flute music and prayer-poetry as the newly appointed "Native American Ministry Liaison" for GTA Church Women United.

Please join us to learn and to celebrate our Native American neighbors on..."World Community Day" and enjoy a potluck lunch of cornbread, bean salad, wild rice, baked squash, smoked fish, and berry pie made with love & traditional Native foods!

We appreciate contributions to this In-Gathering Ministry with donation items of: Coffee (regular & decaf), dish soap, paper drinking/coffee cups, toilet paper, dinner napkins, paper towels & dish towels (no paper plates as Greensky strives to be green). To benefit Greensky's Native American Outreach ministries of weekly, free Sunday Morning Hot Breakfast, and Funeral Service ministries. 🙏 Miigwech/Thank you.

~ Who we are and what we do since 1941: [ChurchWomenUnited.net](http://ChurchWomenUnited.net)



**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\*



*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, Lynn Hoyt, Jan Waisanen,  
Alvin Kober, Roy & Marilyn Dumond, Molly Eastman, Suzanne Lehto,  
Harper Wiemerslage, Brenda Denoyer and Byron Pearce*

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

**Homebound:** Hazel Lautner, Ruth Boerman

**Traverse Manor:** Margie Whitney, Marianne Bradford

**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](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)...



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

# ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

## **At the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August, Panti Filibus Musa — Archbishop of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria and president of the Lutheran World Federation —**

issued a call for the ELCA to embrace its local and global witness, especially in times of fragmentation. “Continue singing the powerful melody of God’s liberating presence in this world, which sets us free to serve, love, reconcile and do so much more,” Musa said. [Read about his address here:](#)

<https://www.lutheranworld.org/news/call-bold-witness-amid-withdrawal-and-fragmentation>.

Most notably, the ELCA declared itself a sanctuary denomination at Churchwide Assembly — the first North American denomination to do so. The Lutheran World Federation [welcomed the decision](#), calling it a “visionary and prophetic stand.” Learn more about what becoming a sanctuary denomination means at: [www.ELCA.org/sanctuarychurch](http://www.ELCA.org/sanctuarychurch).

## **YAGM Volunteer Reflects on Silence and Storytelling**

As her year of service in Jerusalem and the West Bank neared an end, YAGM volunteer Hannah J. shared her reflections on the Churches for Middle East Peace blog. In ["Do Not Be Silent,"](#) Hannah wrestles with the call to speak out about injustice. “I am still learning how to hold these stories sacred, how to sit shoulder to shoulder with my companions,” she wrote. Just as Hannah and her cohort have returned, the new YAGM cohort for 2019-2020 has headed out! YAGM volunteers attended orientation this month and have been arriving in their country programs.

## **LWF Shares Stories of Women Humanitarians**

For World Humanitarian Day on Aug. 19, the Lutheran World Federation shared stories of women humanitarians around the world, such as Amrita Rai, who volunteers for the Sanischare refugee camp in Nepal. At the age of 9, Rai came to Nepal after fleeing her home in Bhutan — an experience that has inspired her humanitarian work. “Seeing humans help humans makes my heart happy and gives me hope for humanity,” Rai said. “I know what difficulty is, as I have faced it myself, and I know how much even a tiny ounce of help can do.” See: <https://www.lutheranworld.org/news/fighting-against-injustice-and-inequality>

Giving statements for the time period January through August 2019 are now available in your mailbox in the Narthex. Please pick them up at your convenience. If you do not have a mailbox, please stop by the Bookkeepers cubicle/office and pick up your statement. Thank you for your continued support of the many ministries here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

---

### Your Amazon Purchases Can Generate Contributions to BLC

Do you shop at Amazon? If so, you can generate a contribution to BLC from the AmazonSmile Foundation by using the *smile.amazon.com* website when you place an order. Here's how you can make it happen.

**First.** Using your web browser, sign in to Amazon using the *smile.amazon.com* address. This website looks and acts like the regular Amazon website. Your Amazon account and the procedures for purchasing are identical to what you've always used. The first time you use this site, you will be invited to pick a charitable organization to receive donations from the Foundation. To select BLC, enter *Bethlehem Lutheran Church Traverse City* in the organization search box, and select it when the search results are displayed. BLC only recently became an organization listed by Amazon. Perhaps you've used *smile.amazon.com* before and named another charity to receive your donations. If you wish, you can easily change your designated charity to BLC, by simply selecting "Change your Charity" in "Your Account."

**Second.** Each time you sign in to Amazon use the *smile.amazon.com* address. Only orders placed on this website will generate donations. The donation will be 0.5% of the purchase price of qualified items. Amazon states that "tens of millions" of items qualify to generate donations and those items are marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. You will not pay more when you purchase such items. Once you have used the *smile.amazon.com* address a few times, merely typing *smile* in the address box may cause the browser to automatically fill in the complete *smile.amazon.com* address.

If you wish to use your smart phone rather than your computer, please note the following restriction: Using the Amazon app on your smart phone always directs you to the regular website, and purchases made there do not generate donations. On your smart phone, you must use the standard web browser and enter the address *smile.amazon.com* to generate donations.

So, if you remember to **smile** each time you use Amazon, you may generate a few extra dollars for BLC.

# #BeThe1To Ask.

**Don't be afraid to ask the tough question.**

**When somebody you know is in emotional pain,  
ask them directly:**

**“Are you thinking about killing yourself?”**

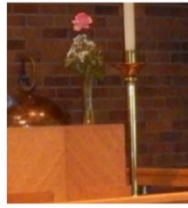
Find out why this can save a life at [BeThe1To.com](https://www.betheto.com).  
If you're struggling, call the Lifeline at

**1-800-273-TALK (8255)**



## **Ask**

Research shows people who are having thoughts of suicide feel relief when someone asks after them in a caring way. Findings suggest acknowledging and talking about suicide may reduce rather than increase suicidal ideation.





# BLC Contacts

## PLEASE NOTE SEVERAL ADDRESS UPDATES

### Church Office

Pastor Paul Busekist	<a href="mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org">paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Admin. Asst. Sharon Weller	<a href="mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org">admin@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Admin. Aide Barbara Oster	<a href="mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org">admin@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson	<a href="mailto:bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org">bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Sharon Weller, Music Director	<a href="mailto:sharon.weller@bethlehemtc.org">sharon.weller@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Annie Slabaugh, Youth & Outreach Director	
Website	<a href="http://www.bethlehemtc.org">www.bethlehemtc.org</a>

### Church Council

Chuck Ardingo, President	<a href="mailto:president.council@bethlehemtc.org">president.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Leonard Graf, Vice President	<a href="mailto:vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org">vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Tim Fox, Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org">secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Katie Fox, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org">treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Jim Monroe, Financial Sec.	<a href="mailto:financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org">financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Phil Anderson, Bethlehem Vision	<a href="mailto:Bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org">Bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Jan Stretlien, Christian Care Giving	<a href="mailto:christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org">christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
, Christian Ed.	<a href="mailto:christianeducation@bethlehemtc.org">christianeducation@bethlehemtc.org</a>
, Fellowship	<a href="mailto:fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org">fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Cindy Monroe, Membership/Evangelism	<a href="mailto:membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org">membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
, Property (Carl Lehto-Not on Council)	<a href="mailto:property.committee@bethlehemtc.org">property.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Mark McPherson, Stewardship	<a href="mailto:stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org">stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Nancy Downer, Worship and Music	<a href="mailto:worship.committee@bethlehemtc.org">worship.committee@bethlehemtc.org</a>
Paul Wiemerslage, 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).

Lower Room 2, Lower Room 3, Lower Room 4, Nursery Room 1, Nursery Room 3, Nursery Room No #, Sanctuary, Youth Room

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>29</div> <p>8:30am - Worship Service 9:45am - Membership &amp; 9:45am - Sunday School 9:45am - WELCA Board 11am - Modern Worship - S 12:30pm - Wor. &amp; Mus. 1:15pm - Confirmation 2:30pm - Blessing of 6pm - Grandparents</p>	<div>30</div> <p>10am - Alanon-LR2 10am - Staff Meeting 3pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Drive My Way 6:30pm - Gamblers</p>	<div>8</div> <p>9am - LWR Quilters 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Property Work Group 4:30pm - AAUW Set-Up 5:30pm - AAUW Meeting 6pm - Christian Ed Mtg.</p>	<div>9</div> <p>2pm - ALS Foundation 3pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Drive My Way 4:15pm - Special CONF Mtg 6pm - Workshop Team</p>	<div>10</div> <p><b>SetUp Craft Fair</b> 9am - Baby Pantry-FH 1pm - Rebecca/Ann Circle 4pm - Drive My Way 5:30pm - ACOA (LR) 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Vocal Choir</p>	<div>11</div> <p><b>SetUp Craft Fair</b> 8am - Set up Arts &amp; Crafts 10am - Alanon-LR2 2:30pm - Front Street Jazz</p>	<div>12</div> <p>7am - ARTS &amp; CRAFTS 5pm - Workshop-S</p>
<div>13</div> <p>8:30am - Worship Service 9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Modern Worship - S 6pm - Grandparents</p>	<div>14</div> <p>10am - Alanon-LR2 10am - Staff Meeting 3pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Drive My Way 6:30pm - Gamblers</p>	<div>15</div> <p>9am - LWR Quilters 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Property Work Group 4pm - Drive My Way 6pm - Council Meeting 7pm - Lautner SG @ at the</p>	<div>16</div> <p>3pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Drive My Way 6pm - Workshop Team</p>	<div>17</div> <p>4pm - Drive My Way 5:30pm - ACOA (LR) 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Vocal Choir</p>	<div>18</div> <p>10am - Alanon-LR2 2:30pm - Front Street Jazz 5pm - High School Night</p>	<div>19</div> <p>5pm - Audobon Society 5pm - Synod Rep. 5pm - Workshop-S</p>
<div>20</div> <p><b>Synod Rep. Preaching</b> 8:30am - Worship Service 9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Christensen SG 11am - Modern Worship - S 12:30pm - Monroe SG 1:15pm - Confirmation 6pm - Grandparents</p>	<div>21</div> <p>10am - Alanon-LR2 10am - Staff Meeting 3pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Drive My Way 6:30pm - Gamblers</p>	<div>22</div> <p>9am - LWR Quilters 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Property Work Group 4pm - Drive My Way 5:30pm - Book/Supper Club 5:30pm - Newcomers</p>	<div>23</div> <p>1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite) 3pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Drive My Way 4:15pm - Special CONF Mtg 6pm - Workshop Team</p>	<div>24</div> <p>9am - Baby Pantry-FH 1pm - Lehto SG 4pm - Drive My Way 5:30pm - ACOA (LR) 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Vocal Choir</p>	<div>25</div> <p>10am - Alanon-LR2 2:30pm - Front Street Jazz 4pm - Drive My Way 5pm - BLUES</p>	<div>26</div> <p>1pm - Drive My Way 5pm - Workshop-S</p>
<div>27</div> <p>8:30am - Worship Service 9:45am - Sunday School 11am - Modern Worship - S 1pm - Drive My Way 6pm - Grandparents</p>	<div>28</div> <p>10am - Alanon-LR2 10am - Staff Meeting 3pm - Lessons/Weller 3pm - Oster SG 6:30pm - Gamblers</p>	<div>29</div> <p>9am - LWR Quilters 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Property Work Group</p>	<div>30</div> <p>3pm - Lessons/Weller 6pm - Workshop Team</p>	<div>31</div> <p>5:30pm - ACOA (LR) 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Vocal Choir</p>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>



## REYNOLDS JONKHOFF

*Funeral Home & Cremation Services*

305 Sixth St. 947-6347

[www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com)

For six generations... the Jonkhoff family and caring staff are the ones you can trust and depend on... today and tomorrow.

**THRIVENT**  
FINANCIAL

**Jeremy W Jackson, CFP®, ChFC®, FIC**  
Financial Associate  
3116 Logan Valley Rd  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
**231-486-6021**  
CA Insurance 0J07681

*Connecting faith & finances for good.®*

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP® and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ in the U.S. 27193 R6-16

**BLOXSOM**  
ROOFING & SIDING

*Generations of Knowledge and Trust*

3733 Blair Townhall Road - Traverse City, MI 49684  
Ph: 231.943.8781 - Fax: 231.943.9146  
[www.bloxsomroofing.com](http://www.bloxsomroofing.com)

**DEWEESE**  
HARDWARE

1029 Carver Street  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-7670  
Fax (231) 947-7199  
[www.deweesehardware.com](http://www.deweesehardware.com)

**Covell**  
Funeral Homes

**Our Locations:**

232 E. State Street  
Traverse City, MI 49684

200 N. Brownson Avenue  
Kingsley, MI 49649

312 Pine Street  
Elk Rapids, MI 49629

Phone: (231) 946-6515  
Fax: (231) 946-1099

[www.CovellFuneralHomes.com](http://www.CovellFuneralHomes.com)

**THE COTTAGE**

**Comfortable food**

**Open daily 7am-10pm**

**472 Munson Ave 231-947-9261**